



# Calvary Herald

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## Blue Ridge Go Tell Crusade

After many months of prayer and planning, the “Blue Ridge Go Tell Crusade” will take place at Veterans Park in Mount Airy from September 8 to September 11, beginning each evening at 7 pm. Naturally, we encourage you to keep supporting this effort with your prayers, asking God to be at work in the heart of every person who’s going to be part of the event—from the volunteers who set up the venue to the speakers and musicians who lead in worship...and from the attendees who hear the gospel to the local Christians who follow up with those who make decisions.

Of course, we also hope that you and your family will attend some or all of the crusade meetings—and that you’ll invite others to be there, too! But don’t forget that, even after the crusade, we’ll have the chance to reach out to those whose hearts have been touched by the love of Christ. In fact, if you’d be willing to make some calls or send some cards to people who make decisions and who are looking for a church as a result, please contact Pastor Alex.

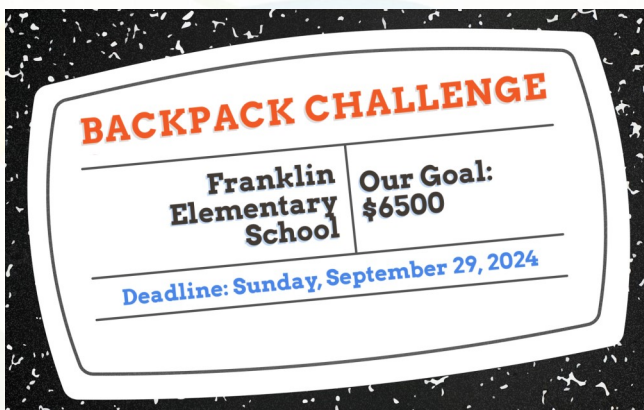
It’s been a long time since a gospel-focused event of this magnitude has come to Mount Airy. But no event, no matter how large, can bear fruit for God’s kingdom unless God’s people are supporting it with their prayers, their service to others, and their personal efforts to share the love of Christ. Let’s “Go Tell” the world that there is a Savior! And let’s show by our lives that we trust and follow Him.



Our church family is planning to bless the residents of Colonial Care Nursing Home on Snowhill Drive by sharing with them a meal and a few rounds of Bingo early in the afternoon on September 22nd. We plan to prepare a hot dog lunch at church immediately after the “One Calvary” Service that will take place that morning. And then, we’ll take the food to the assisted living facility, where we plan to lift the spirits of the residents by playing some games.

This is a great project for folks of all ages—including children and youth. So if you’d like to sign up or learn more about participating, please call Lilnette Phillips at 336-374-9584 or email her at [lilnette1@gmail.com](mailto:lilnette1@gmail.com).”





What do you think it would feel like to be a child who loves going to school...not because of the friends you have there...and not because of what you get to learn there...but because you know you'll get something to eat there?

Sadly, this can be the reality for students from food-insecure families—especially during the weekends, when they don't have access to free or reduced-price lunches. However, for many years now, Calvary has ministered to those children and their families through the Backpack Program at Franklin Elementary. Every weekend of the school year, we deliver somewhere between 80 and 90 bags of healthy and convenient food to the school, so it can be sent home with kids who need it.

Naturally, the cost of that ministry has risen in recent months, just like everything else has. And that's why we're asking you to help us meet the "2024 Backpack Challenge." During the month of September, we hope to raise \$6500 to support our backpack ministry. You can help us reach this goal by making a special gift alongside your regular tithes and offerings. Just mark your check or envelope "Backpack," or designate your online contribution to "Franklin Backpack."

Thank you for enabling our church family to bless others. And don't forget: We're still looking for "shoppers," who can select, pick up, and deliver the food from Sam's Club; "packers," who can help sort the food into bags to be delivered to Franklin; and this year, we have a new need for "distributors," who can go to Franklin on Thursday and help carry the bags to designated classrooms. To learn more about these opportunities, please contact Becky Critz (bcritz1129@gmail.com) no later than September 8.



## Midweek Ministries

Calvary's Midweek ministries will move into high gear in September, and we hope that you'll plan to join us each Wednesday evening for this refreshing opportunity to strengthen our bond with one another and to grow our passion for Christ. We'll begin each week in the fellowship hall at 5:45, which gives us a chance to pray for each other and the needs of our church. From there, we'll break out into growth groups for all ages. *Mission Friends* for Pre-K children, *Explorers* for kids in grades 1 to 5, *Youth* for students in middle and high school, and two studies for adults: one on Psalm 23 that will be led by Sheila Wilson and Jan Varney, and one on The Sermon on the Mount that will be led by Pastor Alex. Please plan to join us, and feel free to invite others!

## Blood Drive

Calvary will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on Sunday, September 15, from 11 am to 3:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The drive will be held in memory of Brent Hull, so those who wish to schedule a donation are encouraged to visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use the sponsor code "Calvary" to find our specific drive. We are seeking volunteers to help with registration and snacks. If you'd like to volunteer or learn more, please contact Mary Jane Shelton.



## Adults on Mission

Thirteen adults from Calvary will travel to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky later this month to partner in mission with Crossroads Community Church in Stearns, Kentucky. From Sept. 25 to 29, our team will work primarily with two ministries of that church: "The Lord's Café," a former restaurant that has been converted into a feeding center for folks in need; and the "Tiny Homes Community," a development of small houses that are being built to provide shelter for those who can't afford it. Of course, we'll also share in prayer ministries, outreach, and any other opportunities for service that the Lord provides. So please pray for the safety and impact of our team, which includes the following members: Mike Francis, Beverly Hamilton, Sherry Hiatt, Allison Hiatt, Alex Martin, Jim and Lilnette Phillips, Troy and Becky Payne, Jan Varney, Melissa Vernon, and Doug and Leah Yarboro.



## September Sermons

Do you have some favorite Bible stories that you learned as a kid? Maybe you cherish the story of Noah and the ark, or the story of David and Goliath. We treasure stories about Abraham and Moses, Ruth and Naomi, Jacob and Joseph and so many more. And in most cases, we cling to the “positive lessons” they teach us about faith, obedience, and devotion to God.

But as we grow, we might begin to realize that many of our biblical heroes are not quite as perfect as our childhood Sunday School lessons made them out to be. They struggled with doubt, fear, and disobedience—just like we do. And if you stop and think about it: that’s a good thing! After all, if these heroes can teach us how God’s grace does powerful things even in broken stories, then maybe they can convince us that God is able to use us, too.

It’s with that hope in mind that Pastor Alex’s sermons in September will focus on “Grace in Our Broken Stories.” We’ll look at a few well-known biblical characters to see how even their failings and weaknesses can’t prevent God from working His purposes out. And who knows, maybe we’ll discover that God can write grace into our broken stories, too.



## Let’s Stay Connected

Are you receiving the devotionals, prayer requests, and important updates that go out from the church office? If not, we’d like to help you stay connected! Please contact the church office, tell us the information you’d like to receive, and we’ll get you on the list. Thanks!



One Calvary Sunday has become a wonderful opportunity to connect with the other members of our church family and to celebrate our unity in Christ. Of course, we typically hold One Calvary Sunday whenever a “fifth Sunday” appears in the calendar. And the next one of those falls on September 29. However, because the pastor will be out-of-town with our adult mission team on that date (see the article in this newsletter), we’re going to adjust our schedule a bit and hold our next One Calvary Sunday on September 22.

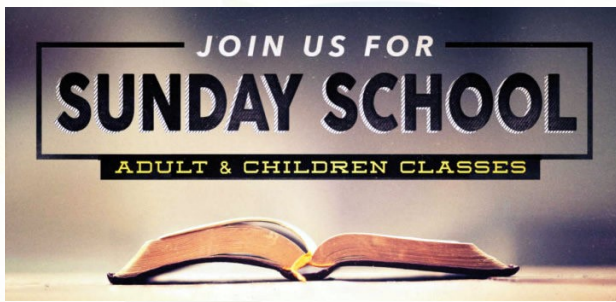
On that date, we urge everyone who’s connected to Calvary to be present so that we can share fellowship, study scripture, and worship God together! A church-wide breakfast will begin in the fellowship hall at 8:30. Sunday School will begin at 9:30. And one combined service of worship will begin at 10:30. Please plan to be with us as we celebrate the one faith, one hope, and one Lord that bring us together!

## Faith, Fun & Fellowship

A lot of folks at Calvary have taken advantage of the opportunities for “Faith, Fun and Fellowship” that we’ve been hosting on a weekly basis this summer. By playing games, sharing stories, watching movies, and so much more, participants have connected with each other and have helped make our church a stronger and more united body of Christ.

As we move into the Fall, our busy church and family schedules would likely make it a bit challenging to meet on a weekly basis. But we will continue with our fellowship events on a monthly basis. We’ll be meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning at 11 o’clock. And if you’d like to mark your calendar and plan ahead, these are the dates and themes for our get-togethers: Sept. 4 (Camping), Oct. 2 (Halloween), Nov. 6 (Being Thankful), and Dec. 4 (Christmas).





If you're looking for a chance to expand your knowledge of scripture in new directions, two of our Sunday School classes are inviting you to join them as they start new studies as we head into the fall.

Right at the end of August, the Coed 1 Class started a study based on "The Forge," a new movie from the same team that produced "War Room" and other inspirational films. The central theme of this study is the call to *be* and *make* disciples. And you'll be challenged to see how you have been "forged" to participate in the disciple-making mission of Christ. The class meets in Room 117, and if you would like more info you can contact Kim Morrison ([kmorrison50@yahoo.com](mailto:kmorrison50@yahoo.com))

Beginning on Sunday, Sep. 8, the Narrow Gate Class will start a study based on 2 Corinthians. Using insights from several authors, the study covers what God is saying through Paul in his letter and shows how He can work through our shortcomings to achieve His purpose for us. The class meets in Room 121, and if you'd like more info you can contact Becky Critz ([bcritz1129@gmail.com](mailto:bcritz1129@gmail.com)).

## Thanks to Those Who Gave!

The Calvary Baptist family would like to thank everyone who gave gifts this month in memory and in honor of those they love:

- **In Memory of Norris Jarrell:** Johnny & Paulette Surratt, Mary Jo White & Family, Vernell Goins, Roger & Donna Keck, Jim & Lilnette Phillips, Claudia Bryant, Lillian Holder, Owen & Sandra Stone, Jimmy & Sandra Byrd, Roger & Carol Jarrell
- **In Memory of Bill Smith:** Mary Jo White & Family, Johnny & Mary Lynn Goins
- **In Memory of Norris Hodge:** Mary Jo White & Family, Roger & Carol Jarrell, Roger & Donna Keck, Jimmy & Sandra Byrd
- **In Memory of Jeanette Bristol:** Jimmy & Sandra Byrd, Mary Jo White & Family
- **In Memory of Fred O'Neal:** Faye, Chris & Amy O'Neal
- **In Memory of Howard Shelton:** Men's Sunday School Class, Vernell Goins, Claudia Bryant JoLynn Johnson & Tom Forrest, JoAnn Surratt, Jim & Lilnette Phillips, Owen & Sandra Stone, Johnny & Mary Lynn Goins, Johnny & Paulette Surratt, Roger & Donna Keck, Ron Perry, Carolyn Underwood, Glenda Laster, Gray & Mary Jane Shelton
- **In Honor:** Jerry & Sandi Nowlin gave in honor of Tyson Nowlin and Brody Nowlin, their grandsons, who celebrated birthdays in the month of August.

THANK YOU!  
*so much*

## Volunteers Needed

We have a desperate need for folks who can "run slides" in the traditional service. In addition to providing lyrics for all of the hymns we sing, this ministry allows worshipers to see the sermon slides prepared by Pastor Alex, which help all of us—*especially visual learners*—to follow the message. **And get this: If you can read and push a button, you can do this!** If you'd like to volunteer or would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Alex, Becky Critz, Danny Lineberry, Phil Hiatt, or Bodey Fields.



## Dear Calvary...

We cannot begin to thank you enough for all you have done for us. The prayers, support, love, and food we have received these past 2 years has been amazing. We are so blessed to have a church family like you all! Daddy loved Calvary Church and instilled that love in us. We are so thankful he did. Please continue to pray for us as we process our loss.

**Gray, Mary, Jill, Janet, and Bob**

Thank you so much for your support. The meal brought to us at home was a lifesaver. And the meal after my mother's funeral was very nice. We were blessed by you and your acts of service.

**Wendy Simpson and the family of Jeanette Bristol**

Thank you so much for the gift card to Chick-fil-A; it's one of my favorite places to eat! I so appreciate your efforts to help all the families at Franklin! You truly show the Lord's work through your compassion and community partnership. God bless you all!

**Brittany Jeffries, School Counselor**