

Pastoral Care Encouragement

As we grasp this time of year, it reminds us even more of our relationship with Christ and His birth in a manger because there was no room in the Inn. Also, we are reminded that there are many children and families out there that do not know the specialness of the Christ child and our Lord's sacrifice for us. When I look at our Angel Tree in the Cafe', it reminds me of a family who will receive Christmas because people of Calvary have reached out unselfishly giving them Christmas, along with showing this family the love of Christ. There are many more out there that need help from the hands and feet of Christ through us. I ask if you are not already doing so, to find a family struggling and adopt this family. Help them celebrate this time of year. Be those hands and feet I was talking about earlier. It is a twofold gift, tangible and intangible - presents and the love of Christ. In Joshua 24:15 it says, *"But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."* What better time of year to reach out to allow folks to know the Lord through you. Have a great Christmas! God Bless, Butch



Christmas Eve at Calvary
"Candles and Communion"
Join us at 5pm Thursday, December 24th



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CrossPoints

The Monthly Newsletter of Calvary Baptist Church

— December 2020 —



From the Pastor...



The world's population in 1st century was 250 Million. As a frame of reference, the current US population is 331 Million. So, there were about as many people in the world the year Jesus was born as there are currently in the US. That is a lot of people.

The town was Bethlehem of Judea, a small town, population likely a few hundred. The Old Testament prophet Micah said this of Bethlehem: "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)

Similarly, Matthew tells that Jesus was born in Bethlehem: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." (Matthew 2:6)

We sometimes might think that God is impressed with numbers, big numbers. We sometimes might believe that it is in the "big" that God is at work. "Big churches are doing well. Big budgets prove that God is at work. Big attendance proves that God is moving." But, is that the way God works?

God was at work in the "small," a tiny embryo in the womb of a young virgin, a miracle of the Holy Spirit of God. God was at work in the "small," a little baby born in a feeding trough nursing at his mother's breast. God was at work in the "small," one healing at a time: a blind man who received his sight, a leper who was cleansed, a woman who was restored to health, a demon possessed man who was given a brand new life. One at a time, Jesus touched individual lives. He didn't touch the life of all 250 million inhabitants of the earth. God was at work in the "small." Jesus touched the lives of only a few thousand people during his earthly ministry. By percentage, a tiny fraction of the world's population.

God was at work in the "small," one man, on a Roman cross. An everyday occurrence in ancient Rome. One of thousands who were crucified by the Roman machine. No one around at the end, except three women named Mary. Small.

This Christmas, let's not forget that God is at work in the "small." A Christmas card sent to someone who feels alone. A hot meal given to someone who is cold and hungry. A word of kindness spoken in the name of Christ at the Walmart check-out line. A bag filled with gifts delivered to a family in need. A candle. A carol. A scripture. A prayer.

God is at work in the "small." So, let's all do something "small" this Christmas in the name of Christ. It just might change the world... forever.

Blessings this Christmas season—Pastor Rendell

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CALVARY—"CANDLES AND COMMUNION"

December 24, 5:00 —5:45 pm

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY

Christmas Missions Offering for CBF

This year our goal is \$1,500. Start making plans now to give. Envelopes are available in worship. Gifts will be matched from the Logan-Lawrence Endowment up to a total of \$1,500.



Christmas Bags for our Home Bound

We will gather cards and small gifts for our Calvary Family that are not able to worship with us each Sunday. The bags will be available in the café from Nov 29th through Dec 13th when they will be delivered. Linda Farlow has more details.

Christmas Eve Candles and Communion

Calvary will have a service at 5pm on Christmas Eve to reflect and prepare for the Christ Child. Plan to share this beautiful celebration with us and invite your friends and family. Childcare will not be offered.



WE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL!!!

On November 16th we delivered 265 shoeboxes to the local assembly site. Thank you for your participation in this important Missions Ministry.

ELECTION RESULTS

The 2021 Budget passed by 100%
The Deacon Slate passed by 100%
Treasure—Dan Bradshaw
Moderator—Doley Bell Clerk—Janie Green
Our 5 At Large Leadership Team Members are
John Buckner Linda Farlow
Rick Green Tom Mattox
Mona Moore
Thank you all who are willing to serve. All 2020 and 2021 members will meet in December. LT Dec.14@2 Deacons Dec.15@1

ADVENT MESSAGE SERIES

1st Sunday—November 29—HOPE

"Waiting on God"

Isaiah 40:31; Luke 23: 50-56

2nd Sunday—December 6—PEACE

"A Glimpse of God's Future"

Luke 2:25-35

3rd Sunday—December 13—JOY

"The Already but Not Yet"

Luke 1:39-56

4th Sunday -December 20- LOVE

"The Incarnation Means..."

Col 2:9; John 1:14



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We celebrate the baptism of William Gleason, Jr. (Junior) on Sunday, November 15. Junior is 10 years old and is part of Calvary through the family of Kim Poteat. Let's all pray for Junior as he begins his life-long walk



CHAPEL AREA RENOVATION PLAN

CHAPEL PEWS AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH MEMBERS

Due to a water leak, the "chapel" area under the sanctuary flooded. Our insurance company has assessed the damage and will be covering the cost to repair the damage.

Now is the perfect time to re-envision how the "chapel" space might be used in the future of Calvary. Under guidance by our Pastor, the Leadership Team has approved some changes to the old "chapel" area that will provide greater flexibility and potential uses for the space. First, the pews will be removed to create a large open space that can be used for all types of events, fellowships, meetings, classes, and ministries. Second, several walls between the smaller classrooms will be removed to create larger classroom spaces for our adult Sunday School classes. Third, the paneling walls will be painted in order to brighten the space. Fourth, new flooring will be installed. The Prayer Room will remain in one of the small rooms, adjacent to its current location.

The Leadership Team would like to offer the chapel pews to Calvary members and friends. Several members have already expressed an interest in claiming a pew. Most pews are 7' in length; four pews are 6' in length. Pews can be used on your porch, in your house, or on your deck. If you are interested in a pew, please contact Frank Richardson or Pat Stillwell. If you take a pew, please consider making a donation to Calvary (\$25-\$50 suggested).

Also, the Leadership Team has approved installing a new roof over the education building. The funds for this new roof are being taken out of the insurance claim for the organ.

The church office will be closed Thursday December 24th and re-open Monday December 28th. We will close again Thursday December 31st and re-open Monday January 4th.



MINISTER ON CALL

On the church calendar you will see ministry staff listed as on call and available to take any calls, visitations or prayer concerns. We encourage you to utilize the minister on call when ever needed.

We do not want to miss any birthday or anniversary. Please make sure the office has your information!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Dianna would like to thank all those who have helped in the office. Having reliable assistance with labels, stuffing envelopes, inserts, copies, cutting, really helps to focus on using God's time and resources in the most productive way possible. If you would like to volunteer your time weekly, monthly, or as needed, please let Dianna know. There are always things to do and social distancing is respected!

Christmas Angel Tree

Calvary Baptist Church partnering in the name of Christ with ABCCM—Asheville Buncombe Community Christian Ministry

Through the ABCCM Christmas Angel program, we have selected two local families in need this Christmas season. We will help these families by purchasing Christmas presents.

PLEASE VISIT THE ANGEL TREE IN THE CAFE

Please take an "Angel" card from the tree in the Café, purchase the gift for the child on the card, wrap and label the gifts, and return the wrapped gifts to underneath the tree or to the church office by no later than Sunday, December 6.

Each of our two families has three children as show below:

Hernandez Family: girl age 13, girl age 5, boy age 1

Jones Family: girl age 11, boy age 6, girl age 2

Each child has four "angels" on the tree to guarantee that each child gets at least four gifts. We suggest \$20-\$40 per gift.

PLEASE LABEL YOUR WRAPPED GIFTS WITH THE FAMILY NUMBER AND NAME OF THE CHILD

ALL GIFTS ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6



ABCCM is generously supported by over 289 churches of all denominations and 6,100 trained volunteers and provides emergency assistance to anyone in need regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. ABCCM stimulates doing together what individual congregations and individuals cannot do separately. While responding to meet emergency needs, we develop strategic plans to address root causes of poverty, take steps to achieve independent living skills and restore lives in the community.

Thanks to Brenda Reese for creating the beautiful angels on our Angel Tree

In Sympathy.....

Calvary families that have recently suffered the loss of a loved one.

Doris Welch lost her brother in law, Mike Sharp, on Saturday, October 31st. Please pray for Doris and her sister Susan, Mike's wife, as they go through the grieving process.

Doley Bell's mother, Louise Bell, passed away Wednesday, November 17. Mrs. Bell was 100 years old and lived her life with the assurance of Heaven. Hold this family close in prayer as they mourn their loved one.

Please pray these families through this difficult time as they grieve and adjust.



CORRECTION!! Last month we congratulated the Nix family for the birth of Avery but should have listed Big Brother Oliver! We see that Oliver is indeed a very good Big Brother!

Watch Our Services On-Line

Miss a Sunday? Want to share our Sunday services with someone who could not be here? Videos of our services are available at calvarync.org. Just click on "Sunday Messages" from the media menu.

Your Giving Counts

Thank you for your faithfulness to Calvary and the finances that are needed to support our ministries and maintain our facility. God is honoring your attention to the work here at Calvary.

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