

# BEING CHRISTIAN *and* BEING AMERICAN

*Living as Citizens of Two Different Worlds*

Message Series October 25 - November 15  
Calvary Baptist Church - [www.calvarync.org](http://www.calvarync.org)



**calvary**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
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# CrossPoints

The Monthly Newsletter of Calvary Baptist Church

— November 2020 —



## From the Pastor...

“The only thing that is the end of the world is the end of the world.” A pastor friend of mine with whom I served at a previous church used to say that all the time. And he was right. It is not the end of the world, not yet. And, for us in November of 2020, no matter “how bad” we think things are around us... in our personal lives, in our nation, in our world... it’s not the end of the world, not yet.

Consider the Israelites of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC when they were hauled off to Babylon, spending 70 years in exile following the complete sacking of Jerusalem. The suffering was immense. The inhumanity was horrendous. I cannot imagine what they went through. And, when they arrived in Babylon, they were more than in despair. To them, they had been taken away from the core of their faith and belief, Jerusalem, displaced from access to the Temple of God, removed from all that they thought was of ultimate value in their relationship with God. They could not conceive of living in a foreign land apart from all that Jerusalem stood for in their faith. It felt that they lost it all, including their God, since to them at that time, they were convinced that God’s “dwelling” was in the Temple in Jerusalem. In fact, in Psalm 139, the psalmist writes the following while sitting along the banks of the waters of Babylon: “How can we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” They thought it was the end of the world, but the only thing that is the end of the world is the end of the world.

Over time, the Israelites discovered that they could, in fact, sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land. They settled down there in Babylon, they married, they bought fields and planted crops, they lived life, they prospered, they even found God there. In fact, during this period of the exile, some of the most important shifts in Jewish theology emerged. Apart from the Temple in Jerusalem, they discovered the idea of the synagogue, those smaller local gatherings of Jews for worship. It was their version of “church.” Exile, it turns out, wasn’t the end of the world. Not at all. Arguably, much good came during the season of the exile. That didn’t mean getting there was fun, not at all. It was hard; it had its costs. But, even in exile, God was active. In fact, God was active in new ways in the life of Israel. Exile, it turns out, wasn’t the end of the world after all.

No matter what happens around us, it isn’t the end of the world unless it is, in fact, the end of the world. Until Jesus returns, we will have “wars and rumors of wars, but the end is not yet.” And, until Jesus does return, there is time for growth, for positive change, for learning, for expanding, for faith. There is opportunity for something good to come during even the hardest of seasons.

As followers of Jesus, we must keep our faith focused on Jesus, not on what is “wrong” around us. In fact, what is “wrong” around us sometimes turns out to be the very “exile” that God will use to bring about something good in us. Hard, but also good. “God is at work in all things to bring about good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28, paraphrased). So, church, don’t worry. It’s not the end of the world. In fact, it might just be the beginning of something good. After all, “God causes His rain to fall upon the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matthew 5:45, paraphrased). He’s a good God, isn’t He?! - Rendell

**CALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

Voting on 2021 budget, deacons, and leadership team. Absentee ballots available upon request. Details inside.

**ALLED CHURCH CONFERENCE TO VOTE ON BUDGET, DEACONS, AND LEADERSHIP TEAM**

On Sunday November 22, after the worship service, we will have a called church conference to present and vote on the 2021 budget, Leadership Team members and Deacons. *The information is included in this Newsletter for your review.* Due to our COVID-19 restrictions and changes, the Deacons voted to allow absentee voting and an earlier voting date for this year.

If you are not able to attend church on November 22 for this conference and would like a voting ballot, please call the church office (828-253-7301) as soon as possible and request a ballot.

**Your voting ballot must be returned to the church office no later than Wednesday, November 18 in order to be counted.** If you have any questions, please call your deacon or the church office. Thank you!

**WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**

Welcome the Poteat family to Calvary! They joined our church family on Sunday, October 18. Pictured here (left to right) are Bill (age 15), Junior (age 10, to be baptized on November 15), Kim (mom), Zayden (age 3, not joining), and Skyleigh (age 13). Kim and her husband, Mark (not pictured), live in Candler with their children and foster child. We welcome this family to Calvary and look forward to serving our Lord together.

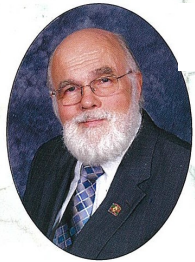


**Operation Christmas Child**

Dan and Margaret Bradshaw are still calculating the boxes and getting them ready for delivery to the regional distribution center, but... **WE EXCEEDED OUR GOAL of 200!!!** Thank you to all who filled a box, bought supplies, provided money for items or mailing, and/or prayed for the recipients.

**Sam Hocking's Retirement**

Sam Hocking will be retiring from the position "Church Host" at the end of December this year. Sam has served faithfully for the past 16 years in this position, and Calvary has been the better for it! His servant heart, willing spirit, and faithfulness have been evident at ever turn. We know you will want to let Sam know what a huge blessing he has been in this role at Calvary through the years. Starting in January, 2021, the duties of the "Church Host" will be divided between Derek Robinson, our Facilities Manager, and a couple of volunteers. Sam has also graciously offered to volunteer in a few of these areas as well, but we cannot lean on him too hard! If you are willing to help out with locking/unlocking doors before/after worship or other events, tidying up the sanctuary before worship, helping us host special seasonal events, or helping prepare our building for weddings or funerals, please contact us in the church office. Again, be sure to say a special "Thank You!" to Sam! We love you, Sam!



Sam Hocking  
Church Host

**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT CALVARY**

Pat Stillwell is coordinating a **decorating party** for the Christmas Season at Calvary. On Sunday November 22, after church and the called business meeting, there will be a provided lunch for all who are willing to carry, lift, place, and ready our Sanctuary and building for the coming Advent and Christmas season. Please let Pat know you are willing, ready and able to be there. 828-337-3500



**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 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.

**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.



**Welcome Jared Gardner**

We welcome a new face at Calvary! For the next year, Jared Gardner will be serving as "worship intern" at Calvary by helping us with a variety of important technology things that will enable us to give our best to God on Sunday mornings in worship. Jared will help with our technology in worship, will assist in doing the "behind the scenes" to help our worship team with music and rehearsals, and will be playing a variety of instruments in worship each Sunday. His musical and technical skills will be a huge asset to us, as will his heart for worship and his love for being part of a Jesus community like Calvary. Please welcome him!

**Pastoral Care Encouragement**

One day this past week, as I was working on the Prayer Board in the sanctuary, I looked at all the names on the prayer list. I thought about each person and the battles they are facing with sickness, loneliness and other situations with themselves and their families. As I sat there and pondered on that, I began to realize how much they need our prayers and the privilege of them entrusting us to pray for them. I know about some of their situations, but some I do not. I bowed and asked God to use Calvary folks to continue to reach out to them through prayer because He knows each situation very well. Then, I thought about how I learned to pray. I know you have heard much about my grandmother over the years, so here is another inspiring thing she taught me how to do – pray. Just as Jesus’ disciples ask him how to pray, I watched and asked my Granny how to pray. She was a busy lady taking care of a farm and nine people daily. However, she would take at least 30 minutes a day, in the middle of the day, to stop and read her Bible and pray - every single day of her life. She would get up at 4am every morning and start the wood stove to cook breakfast for all of us. I remember one morning very well - I got up and quietly eased to the doorway of the kitchen, she was sitting and waiting on the wood stove to get hot so she could cook breakfast. Sitting in the dim light of the kitchen, I heard her say, “God, I don’t know what you have in store for me today, but will you take care of my family, I love them so much and they need you to watch over them.” What I learned from watching and listening to her pray was the pure humility of turning things over to God every day. We at Calvary have the opportunity to pray daily for those on the prayer list, as well as our own personal prayers. Just like my Granny taught me – I bet someone in your life also taught you how to pray. Let’s take time to pray. Blessings, Butch

**The church office** will be closed Wednesday November 25th at noon, and all day Thursday the 26th and Friday the 27th. We hope all our Calvary family enjoys the Thanksgiving holiday with friends and family

**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. Having someone to sit in the office and answer phones while Dianna is away is also an important way to serve at Calvary. Pam, Roberta, Mona, Sam, Kelly, Pat, Butch, Derek—your contribution is very important!!



**Thank You From Your Ministry Staff**

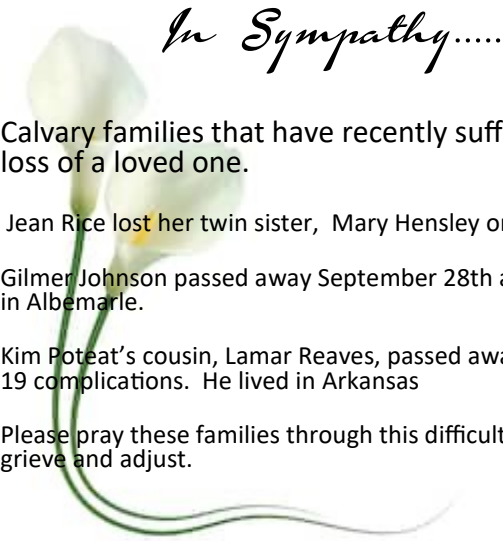
Your ministry staff (Rendell, Jim, and Butch) so much appreciate the "Pastor Appreciation Recognition" on Sunday, October 25 following worship. It is a joy to serve this wonderful congregation. Your love, support, and encouragement are so very much appreciated!

**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.



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

Jean Rice lost her twin sister, Mary Hensley on October 9th.

Gilmer Johnson passed away September 28th at their home in Albemarle.

Kim Poteat’s cousin, Lamar Reaves, passed away from Covid-19 complications. He lived in Arkansas

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

**CONTACT US**  
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Minister of Music  
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828-337-5592 (m)

**Dianna Wyatt**  
Office Manager  
office@calvarync.org  
828-253-7301 (o)

**Jared Gardner**  
Worship and Technology Intern  
technology@calvarync.org

Calvary Baptist Prayer List

- Calvary Members**

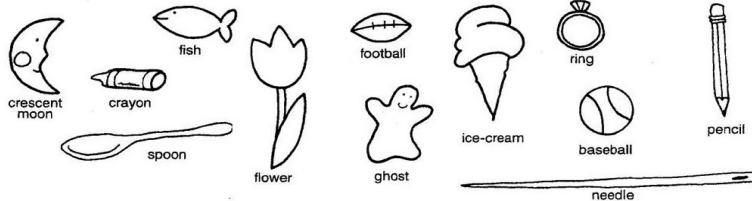
Alverta Bolick Home  
Karen Bartlett  
Lin Berrier  
Ginny Berrier Family  
Evelyn Boone (Sarah McGinnis)  
Margaret Bradshaw  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Juanita Clark  
Mary Ruth Duyck  
Brenda Farlow  
Camden Green (Janie's granddaughter)  
Rick & Janie Green  
Neva Hancock  
Donna Hilemon  
Evelyne Maney (home)  
Sarah McGinnis  
Edith Middleton  
Bobby Moffitt  
Peggy Nichols  
Roberta Petree  
Rachel Queen  
Peggy Ramsey  
Kathy Rhodes  
Jean Rice  
Pam Rice  
Lewis & Geanna Rollins (home)  
Guy Sayles  
Debbie & Gary Smellan  
Don Wellborn (Home)
- Other Prayer Concerns**

Sandra Crosslin (Neva's sister)  
Deanna  
Thomas Dillinger (2 y/o with brain tumor)  
Sherry Durham (Janie Green friend)  
Debbie Edwards  
Kim Fravert (Margo Snedden sister)  
Gaye Garner (Janie Green)  
James Gay (Annette Perkins sil)  
Diane Helm (Jean Rice)  
Robert & Fran Horton  
Belinda Jenkins (Jean Rice)  
Cathryn Jones (Molena Poplin)  
Linda Keeling (Jean Rice)  
King Family (Evelyn Ponder)  
Jerry & Debbie Mattox (Tom)  
Justin & Diana Rhodes  
Tracy Rice (Jean Rice)  
Benjamin Ridings (Dan Bradshaw)  
Mike Sharp (Doris Welch brother)  
Sheila Sibeot (Jean Rice)  
Denise Smith (Donna Tennant)  
Madelyn Stevens (Bill Stevens)  
Phillip Taylor (Betty Carter)
- Our Military in Service**

David Brown  
Jacob Rucker  
Graham Tasios



Can you find these hidden pictures in the image above?



- Birthday's and Anniversaries**
- 1 Margaret Bradshaw
  - 6 Rendell Hipps
  - 8 Terry Smith
  - 9 Doley Bell
  - 9 Jim Burnett
  - 9 Bruce Morgan
  - 13 Leowyn Hilemon
  - 14 Bruce Farlow
  - 15 Lucy Lee
  - 16 Roberta Petree
  - 17 Butch and Pat Stillwell
  - 18 Peggy Nichols
  - 21 Dan Bradshaw
  - 23 Linda Ingle
  - 25 Jack Prown

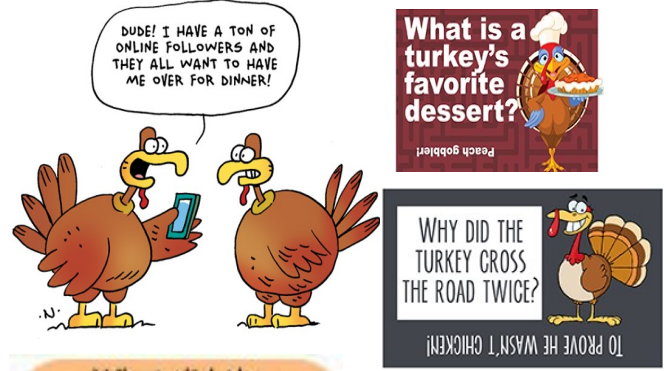


November 2020

Veterans Day 11th November



- AMERICANS**  
COURAGE  
HOLIDAYS  
MEMORIAL  
PARADE  
PRIDE  
RESPECT  
SOLDIER  
WARS
- ARMISTICE**  
HERO  
HONOR  
MILITARY  
PEACE  
REMEMBER  
SACRIFICE  
THANKS  
WOODROW WILSON
- CHARACTER**  
HISTORY  
MEDALS  
NOVEMBER  
POPPY  
REMEMBRANCE  
SERVICE  
VETERANS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MOC Rendell Prayer at the Alter 10am Worship 10:30am	2 MOC Butch	3 MOC Rendell Missio Dei has opened the Candler Center for polling	4 MOC Rendell	5 MOC Butch	6 MOC Butch	7 MOC Butch
8 MOC Butch Prayer at the Alter 10am Worship 10:30am	9 MOC Butch  Leadership 2:00	10 MOC Rendell Staff Meeting 10:30	11 MOC Rendell	12 MOC Butch	13 MOC Rendell	14 MOC Rendell
15 MOC Rendell Prayer at the Alter 10am Worship 10:30am	16 MOC Butch	17 MOC Rendell Staff Meeting 10:30 Deacon Mtg 1:00	18 MOC Rendell	19 MOC Butch	20 MOC Butch	21 MOC Butch
22 MOC Butch Prayer at the Alter 10am Worship 10:30am Business Meeting Christmas Decorating	23 MOC Butch	24 MOC Rendell Staff Meeting 10:30 CrossPoints Deadline	25 MOC Rendell	26 MOC Butch  	27 MOC Rendell	28 MOC Rendell
29 MOC Rendell Prayer at the Alter 10am Worship 10:30am	30 MOC Butch	Deacon on call for November Peggy Brown 828-254-0088 Ushers for November: Peggy Brown Sam Hocking			MINISTER ON CALL: Butch Stillwell 828-768-8313 Rendell Hipps 828-228-8639	

