

Hello, God?

Don't miss this three-week message series on the Where, What, and How of following God. January 10, 17, and 24

JOIN OUR SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TEAM

Thank you to those who miss our Sunday worship service to pray for our Pastor and staff, our congregation, our service and those on our Prayer List. If you would like to join the prayer team to pray during our worship service, please contact Butch at 828-768-8313 or care@calvarync.org.



Thank you Calvary team that went to Boone to volunteer at the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Ministry.

Thank you for your faithfulness to Calvary Baptist Church and the finances needed to maintain our ministries and facility. God is honoring your attention to the work here.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7



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CrossPoints

The Monthly Newsletter of Calvary Baptist Church



From the Pastor...



By the time you are reading this article, we will have celebrated the four weeks of Advent leading up to Christmas. Advent is a season about *getting ready* for the coming of the Christ Child. And, I believe Calvary is in a season of *getting ready* for whatever is next for us. We are *getting ready* spiritually and practically for whatever God will do as the scourge of the pandemic will hopefully be lifting in the months ahead.

Here are some ways we are getting ready for what is next. We are praying and worshipping. Butch Stillwell has led this church into a year of prayer in 2020, and I know we all have been praying, whether it is on Sunday morning as part of the prayer team, or before our worship service at 10:00 in the church narthex, or in the quiet of our own homes. We are praying. And we have been worshipping. Our worship services include a wide variety of music and instruments, some new technology like our new screen and projector, and some new faces. We are getting ready for those other worshippers who God will send our way in the months ahead.

We are also getting our facilities ready. We have new signs around the building. We are replacing a roof over the education building. We are upgrading the old chapel area to make new spaces for our Adult Sunday School classes and fellowships and all manner of ministries. We have new nursery and children's classrooms. We are working on replacing some of our heating system. We are considering how to make our Café area more inviting and welcoming and useful to guests and parents and church members. We are getting ready.

Getting ready is exciting, isn't it. It's exciting because we know that God has something amazing ahead of for us. So, how about let's let Advent continue into the new year. Let's not stop celebrating this Advent season as if we are getting ready for the birth of Jesus. Let's make Advent last into the next year, as we are getting ready for the re-birth and renewal of the work of God at Calvary.

Happy New Year! Happy "Getting Ready" Year! - Rendell Hipps

Christmas Ministries at Calvary—Well Done!

Thank you, Calvary family, for all of the ways you have given and shared this Christmas season. We purchased and wrapped gifts for six children in two families through our Christmas Angel Tree partnership with ABCCM. We packed over 261 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child to share the love of God with children all over the world. We filled 27 bags to the top with goodies and cards and gifts of love for our home bound members and our deacons delivered these bags as a reminder that they are thought about and loved by their church family. You have given and shared in an amazing expression of generosity and love this Christmas. Thank you! You are truly "Following Jesus and Friendling the World"!

**"I PETER — A LIVING HOPE" WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
Begins February 3rd at 2pm**

PASTORAL CARE "YEAR OF GIVING—2021"

In each of the past two years, the Calvary family has focused on a particular pastoral ministry theme. In 2019, the church members focused on *Year of Missing Faces*. In 2020, the church members focused on *Year of Prayer*. Both themes have allowed the members to experience a blessing as they have committed to reaching out to the needs of others. The feedback has been awesome! Individuals and families have shared with me how comforted they were of the Calvary family visiting, calling, sending cards, and making time to pray for them. In fact, God has allowed for all of us to experience a double blessing the past two years. After talking with Pastor Rendell and my wife, Pat, we have decided to make the pastoral ministry theme for 2021 the *Year of Giving*.

The *Year of Giving* spurred on ideals from Pastor Rendell, Pat and I on how the Calvary family at home and at church could be part of this **giving** while blessing God's Kingdom.

- 1) **Giving of our time:** *prayer, time in Bible Study, volunteering for ministries (Angel Tree, Shoebox Ministry), reading devotions for spiritual growth and etc.*
- 2) **Giving of our talents:** *calling or sending a cards of encouragement to others, volunteering time in projects around the church (painting or decorating the church) or the community of West Asheville (donating canned foods or clothes for the homeless to ABCCM) and etc.*
- 3) **Giving of our financial resources:** *tithes and offerings, missions (local or global), other needs as they surface and etc.*

Calvary has always been a very **giving** family. I am sure the suggestions above initiates a level of excitement for 2021 at Calvary Baptist. Pray what your part will be. God Be With You Always, Butch

A Living Hope

An eight week study of 1 Peter
Wednesdays at 2 pm beginning February 3
Calvary Baptist Church

Beginning Wednesday,
February 3 at 2:00 pm,
Pastor Rendell will be
leading an eight week
study of 1 Peter entitled
"A Living Hope."

The room location will be
announced soon. Plan to
join our church family as
we will study together in
a safe, socially distant
environment.

Please invite friends,
family, and co-workers.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

As a precautionary measure due to the rise in COVID-19 cases that are anticipated during the Christmas holiday, we will not have Sunday services for two weeks following Christmas day. Services will not be held on either December 27 or January 3. We will resume services on January 10.

We will greatly miss being able to be in worship together these two Sundays following Christmas, but your deacons and I feel that these precautions will allow ample time following the gatherings of Christmas for any who might contract the virus to take measures to self-quarantine prior to returning to worship gatherings where others might be unknowingly exposed.

These two Sundays, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, please watch our Facebook page and our web page (under "messages") for a short sermon/message from me. Those messages will be available on Sunday morning each week. Also, while we are not gathering for these two Sundays, be aware that church expenses remain the same. Thank you for your generous and consistent support of the work of Calvary. You may give on-line from our webpage (calvarync.org) by clicking on the "give" tab. Or, you may choose to mail your checks to the church office during those two weeks or bring your tithes on January 10.

Renovations Underway on the Calvary Campus

The renovation of our downstairs area (formerly the chapel) is well underway. All that remains to be done is painting the walls and installing the flooring. We hope to be able to use this newly renovated space by early February! There are several pews left for purchase. Call the church office (253-7301) to make arrangements, and please consider making a donation to Calvary (\$25-\$50 suggested). All money donated will go toward the renovation of the chapel area.

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.

Mission Team coming in January. Calvary will be hosting a team of folks from First Baptist Church, Hickory, NC who will be here as a mission team to paint the walls of the old chapel area as we prepare that space for our adult Sunday School classes, fellowships, meetings, and all kinds of ministry opportunities. The team of 15 - 20 youth and adults will be with us January 15 - 16. They will stay over-night in the Candler Center. We will be providing several meals for this team. If you would like to help with meals (either my cooking or providing funds), please contact Rendell or Kelly Hipps. If you would like to help prime, paint, clean up, or assist with the painting project in any way, please let Rendell know. What a blessing to have this great group come help us as we transform the space into a wonderful area that will serve us well for months and years ahead!

Dollywood Tickets for Shoebox Volunteers

Based on the number of Shoeboxes we packed this year (261) we are eligible for six admission tickets to Dollywood. If you helped with this ministry this year (packed boxes, donated money for supplies or materials, worked at the processing center or helped in any way) and would like to be in the drawing for these tickets, sign the drawing sheet located on the table in the Café. Print your name and phone number on the sign-up sheet. We will hold a drawing once we receive the tickets in the spring.

Reimbursements for Purchases

There is a new process members should use if you need to be reimbursed for purchases made at the request of Calvary Baptist. The office has an Expense Reimbursement Form to be completed and given to the Office Manager. We also need the original receipt and Department information. Please come by the office, or let Dianna know to mail you a copy if you need to submit receipts.

Thank You Calvary

From Jo Johnson and daughters Joy and Janice—
Thank you for the cards, phone calls and other expressions of sympathy we have received since Gilner's death. This has been a great blessing to us. Your loving tenderness is a blessing.

From Imani Milele Children's Choir—
Thank you for your generous contribution to our children's choir. Your gift helped us stay safe during the pandemic and get home once the travel ban was lifted.

From James Gay—
"I'd like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to my Calvary Family for all of your prayers, cards and well wishes during my recent injury. It both touched me and healed me"

In Sympathy.....

... to the family of Juanita Clark. Juanita was the oldest member of the Calvary family at 101. She passed away Sunday, December 13.

Please pray with Juanita's Family.



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.

Congratulations!!

To Jonathan & McKenzie Elkin for the birth of their daughter Claire Riley on December 3rd. Big Sister Madison, is loving her new title. Proud grandparents are Eric and Pam Elkin with Uncle Timothy and Great-grandmother Peggy Ramsey.



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