



## From the Pastor...

The story of Christmas is much too familiar to most of us to stir within us the awe, the wonder, the sense of mystery that it ought. A virgin gives birth to a baby boy, conceived of the Holy Spirit of God, who's father is the God of heaven, Creator of the universe. Outside of the story of Creation itself – when God spoke into the dark abyss of space and time and brought forth the universe – there is no other more powerful story of God's amazing engagement with creation than story of Christmas. In fact, in the story of Christmas, there is not just engagement with creation, but entanglement. God becomes entangled with creation, becoming part of the created order through the incarnation: God becomes flesh.

And this is what makes the message of Christmas so transformative in the way we understand who God is. God is not just the God of heaven, distant, far-removed from our lives and circumstances. God is "with us." God comes to us in flesh and bone and blood. In wet diapers and tiny little toes. In being nursed and being held and being rocked to sleep. In all the things any little baby would experience. God is forever entangled with creation, not just through Jesus' infancy, but throughout Jesus' life and into all of eternity. Through the birth of Jesus, God expressed to us His nearness to us in our humanity. The divine embraces a lower form of existence in order that we might see the divine more fully and know that God is not so far away after all.

So, for all that is familiar about the story of Christmas – shepherds, angels, wise men – there are those things we can never fully grasp. We cannot understand the "how" of the incarnation, how it was that Jesus is God Incarnate, in the flesh. We cannot understand how a virgin could conceive a child with no earthly father, but rather, through the Holy Spirit. We cannot fathom an embryo that grows into a little baby boy who grows into a man who goes to a cross and dies and three days later is resurrected to new life and who 40 days later ascends into heaven and promises that one day He will come again. The story of Christmas is all too familiar, as is the complete story of Jesus. But for all of its familiarity, if we give pause even for a half a second, it will catch our breath – like that first breath of a newborn baby when He enters the world He created and, with an infant's cry said, "God is with you, now, and forever."

I love Christmas.

— Pastor Rendell

**Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 2022 @ 5pm**

## Upcoming Dates

### Sunday, December 4

- 2023 Budget Vote and MGP Vote
- 2023 Deacons & Leadership Team Elections
- Embrace Grace Luncheon for Love Box Fundraiser

### December 24/25, January 1

- Special Christmas Eve Service @ 5pm
- Christmas Day Worship ONLY @ 10:30am (no Bible Study)
- New Year's Day worship ONLY @ 10:30am (no Bible Study)

Join us in worship for Pastor Rendell's

## Advent Message Series

### "Jesus Is..."

As we more fully discover who Jesus is and what that means for our lives.

## End of Year Giving

Any tithes, offerings, or financial gifts to Calvary that are received in the office before **Thursday, December 29**, will be counted toward the 2022 budget year. Any gifts received in the church office or given on-line after that date will be counted toward the 2023 budget year. If you are planning to make a gift that you wish to be counted toward the 2022 budget, please be sure those gifts are in the church office or are given on-line prior to Thursday, December 29th.

## Embrace Grace Luncheon

Don't forget our Embrace Grace luncheon on **Sunday, December 4**, after worship. For \$15, you will be purchasing a lunch and donating a Love Box to a single, pregnant mother and inviting them to our support group here at Calvary. A sign-up sheet is on the Connection table, or you may contact Kim Poteat or Katha Tasios to sign up. We will be eating in the Hub but, if you are unable to stay, we will have "to-go boxes" so you can take your lunch with you.

## Christmas Bags

### (for At-Home Members)

Our deacons have placed Christmas Gift Bags in The Hub for our At-Home Members. You can help by preparing Christmas cards, small gifts, candies and treats for our 20 recipients. You will find a list of names on the table in the Hub. These will be delivered on **Sunday, December 11**.

## Christmas Card Station

You will find alphabetical collection boxes in The Hub for your Calvary Family Christmas Cards. Use the first letter of the person's last name. Place in correct box. Check for cards with your name and take home. Cards for At-Home members should be placed in their special Christmas bags for delivery to their homes.

## New Member!

Please welcome our newest member:  
Mark McKinney!



## Christmas Angel Tree

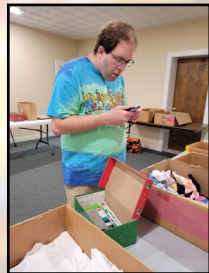
It's in The Hub and it is ready! Take one or more Angels from the Christmas Tree and follow the instructions on the insert. Please be sure to record your name beside the name of the child you pick (sheet is on the table with the tree). Your unwrapped gifts will go to families and children in crisis and should be returned under the tree by **Sunday, December 4th**.





## Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to everyone who made this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project a giant success. We appreciate those who assembled shoeboxes, those who came out for the packing party, those who donated items to put into the shoeboxes, cash donations to purchase shoebox items or shipping cost, those who delivered the shoeboxes to the collection site and certainly the Logan Lawrence Foundation who provided over \$3000 to purchase items and cover shipping expenses. Our final total was 278 boxes delivered to Samaritan's Purse for distribution to children around the world. Great job Calvary! - The Shoebox Team



## Thank You!

Dear Church Family:

Thank you for the Pastor Appreciation gifts and cards that you gave to me and Kelly in November. These gifts reflect your affirmation, love, and support for us and our ministry at Calvary, and we are grateful for those things each and every week. You are such a loving family to us and to one another. Thank you for your expression of that love not just during Pastor Appreciation Week, but every single week we gather together. We love you all.

- Rendell and Kelly

## Thank You!

Dear Calvary Family:

Our hearts have been filled with your love. Your outpouring of prayers, cards and sympathy has blessed us beyond measure. Your presence encouraged us as we honored the short life of our great granddaughter, Riley. Truly you have more than fulfilled the meaning "church family." We love you.

- Brent, Linda & Bruce



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## Inclement Weather Announcement

In the event of church closing or cancellation of worship services due to inclement weather, check our website (calvarync.org) or our Facebook page. We will also make the announcement by phone via our phone tree. We will not be announcing closings on TV or radio.



# Men's Monthly Prayer Breakfast

**Thursday, Dec 1**



The first Thursday of each month, 7:30am — 8:30am. Breakfast, fellowship, brief devotional, followed by time of prayer. All men are invited! Meet with us on **Thursday, Dec 1 @ 7:30a @ IHOP Smokey Park Hwy (near Candler).**

## Church Decorating Event — Sunday, Nov 20



**531 Haywood Rd  
Asheville, NC 28806**

**FIND US AT**  
**calvarync.org** 

**Periodicals**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Asheville, NC**  
**Permit No. 672000**

**CrossPoints (672-000)**  
Published monthly by Calvary Baptist Church, 531 Haywood Rd, Asheville, NC 28806. Periodical postage paid at Asheville, NC. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to: CrossPoints, 531 Haywood Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

**Watch our worship services on Facebook Live.**  
**Services are posted on our website on Sunday afternoons.**  
**[www.calvarync.org/messages](http://www.calvarync.org/messages)**

# 2022 December

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

## Deacon for December:

Gary Smellan  
828-275-0360

## Ushers for December:

Anita Smith | James Gay

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH - NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Dec 04 Teresa Kagley

Dec 11 Kim Poteat

Dec 18 Bobbie McMahan

Dec 25 Children Remain

Katha Tasios

Kathy Rhodes

Pat Stillwell

Anita Smith

Men's Prayer  
Breakfast 7:30am  
IHOP Smokey Park  
Hwy (near Candler)

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9:20 Prayer  
9:30 Bible Study  
10:30 Worship  
**Budget Vote**  
**Elections**  
**Embrace Grace Lunch**

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9:20 Prayer  
9:30 Bible Study  
10:30 Worship  
**Deliver At-Home**  
**Christmas Bags**

11

12

Leadership Team  
1 pm LC

13

Deacon Meeting  
2pm LC

14

15

16

17

9:20 Prayer  
9:30 Bible Study  
10:30 Worship

18

**CrossPoints**  
**Deadline**

19

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24

Christmas Eve  
Service @ 5pm 

10:30 Worship  
Worship Service Only  
(no Bible Study)



25

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31



### **Our Calvary Family**

Alverta Bolick Home  
Calvary Prayer Team  
Canterbury Classical School  
Deacons & Leadership Team  
Dan Bradshaw  
Barbara Burnett  
Betty Carter  
Mary Ruth Duyck  
Cami Green  
Rick Green  
Sam Hocking  
Patsy Hoglen  
Sarah McGinnis  
Edith Middleton

Peggy Nichols  
Debbie Nix  
Kathy Rhodes  
Jean Rice  
Pam & Norman Rice  
Barbara Roberts  
Lewis & Geana Rollins  
Gary Smallan  
Heather Skuggen  
Pat Stillwell  
Fred & Donna Tennant  
Don & Kayla Welborn

### **Other Concerns**

Haylee Anderson  
Pat & Barbara Bailey

Rick & Debbie Durham  
Mike Frisbee  
Elijah Frisby  
Colson Gropp  
Keith & Betty Sue Haywood  
Gayle Jenkins  
Linda Keeling  
Ken Ledbetter  
Bob Lee  
Jared McCanless  
Joe Morrison  
Bill Queen  
Rachel Parker Stanczak  
William Richardson  
Joella Rigsby

Bill Rice  
Donald & Kevin Robinson  
Jane Smith  
Phillip Taylor  
Karen Warren  
Ukraine

### **Our Military**

David Brown  
Jeff Burnette  
Graham Tasios

### **Our Front Line**

Asheville Fire & Rescue  
Asheville & Buncombe Co. Law Enfr.  
EMT's and Ambulance Drivers  
Hospital & Health Care Workers

### **Sunday Morning Prayer Team in the Prayer Room in the Learning Center (Praying During Worship)**

Dec 04 Margaret Morgan  
Dec 11 Katha Tasios  
Dec 18 Bruce Farlow  
Dec 25 Butch Stillwell

*For* God so loved the world, that He gave His  
only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not  
perish but have eternal life.  
**John 3:16**

### **Prayer Time on Sunday Morning before Worship**

Please join us for prayer  
time each Sunday morning  
in the Narthex in the rear of  
the sanctuary at 10:20.  
Masks optional.

### **December Birthdays**

02 Edith Middleton  
03 Claire Elkin  
03 Jason Nix  
07 Matthew McMahan  
07 Pat Hoglen  
10 Pam Elkin  
11 Sam Hocking  
12 Meghan Linder  
19 Dan Nix  
23 John Jervis  
26 Frank Richardson  
30 Tim Richardson  
30 Nikki Farlow Shell



### **December Anniversaries**

04 James & Karla Gay  
19 Lennie & Cynthia Thornton  
27 Don & Kayla Welborn

*Merry Christmas*