



From the Pastor...

“God gave.” Throughout the Bible, we are presented with various snapshots of God. Each snapshot helps to create a fuller picture and understanding of God, and sometimes, we can wrestle mightily with some of the snapshots and how they fit into the whole picture of God. But if the Bible itself is one masterpiece painting that as a whole depicts a portrait of God, then those snapshots of God throughout the Bible all, in a sense, are like the individual brushstrokes

in the master painting. And while each brushstroke often captures slightly different or unique perspectives of who the Bible is painting God to be, there are some themes that surface that form the most prominent features of the picture of God. One of those defining characteristics is summed up in this brushstroke: “God gave.”

We find this brushstroke boldly taking prominence in brilliant colors in the words of John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that God gave His only begotten Son...” But those same brushstrokes underly the entire portrait of God when we survey the testimony of Scripture. Even in the Beginning, when God breathed life into humanity and creation, God gave. We find brushstrokes layered upon brushstrokes which, all in their own way, are creating this most prominent of features of the picture of God: God is a giving God. God freely gives of Himself: His presence, His power, His personhood. God gives strength to the weak, mercy to the proud, grace to the undeserving. God gives wisdom to those who ask, comfort to those who are broken, peace to those who are fearful or troubled. Each brushstroke painting a picture of a God who is giving.

At Christmas, we see the contours of this portrait of a giving God come into even clearer view. At Christmas, we are reminded that in the coming of the infant Jesus, God gave Himself. At Christmas, we ponder the meaning for ourselves and for the world that the God who gave life to humanity turned around and gave a human form to Himself -- that God put on human flesh so that He could give Himself to humanity. The serenity of the babe born in the manger is overlaid with the bold and mysterious scandal of the incarnation: that the Holy God of Heaven would wrap Himself in skin, would breathe our air and walk our sod, would laugh and weep and bleed. And in doing so, God would give us a new picture of Himself: a God whose flesh would one day be ripped open by the scourging of Roman soldiers, whose body would hang mid-air between heaven and earth, whose breath would be extinguished with a final gasp following the words on his lips: “It is finished.”

If our portrait of God, painted with the red and green colors of the Christmas season, is an accurate image of God, then it must be painted with bold brushstrokes that echo the truth of who God is as a giving God. This is the God of Christmas. This is the God of the Bible. This is the God who loves us. “God gave...” because that’s just who God is.

— Rendell

Christmas Eve Service - Dec 24, 2024 @ 5pm

Upcoming Dates

12/05/24 — Men's Prayer Breakfast
12/06/24 — Shoebox Distribution — Charlotte
12/08/24 — Christmas Caroling
12/10/24 — Deacons' Meeting
12/11/24 — Ladies' Prayer Breakfast
12/14/24 — Christmas Party Drop-In — Hipp's Home
12/15/24 — Church Conference
12/18/24 — Leadership Team Meeting
12/19-20/24 — ABCCM Christmas Shop
12/24/24 — Christmas Eve Service

Advent/Christmas Message Series

The Christmas story is filled with ways God breaks into the lives of ordinary people with his extraordinary message. This Advent season, our pastor is preaching a message series entitled "**Glorious Encounters**" in which we will see how it is that God has come into our lives and what it means when we encounter Him.



Church-wide Christmas Caroling and Hot Cocoa

Sunday, December 8, 4– 6pm. Come along for an afternoon of caroling to some of our At-Home members and neighbors in the West Asheville area. We will carpool together. Meet at 4:00 in the Calvary parking lot behind the Candler Center.



ABCCM Angel Tree

Pick-up an "Angel" off the tree in The Hub. Purchase the item(s) on the angel for the ABCCM Christmas Store. Unwrapped gift items are due to the church office or under the ABCCM tree by **Sunday, December 8.**

(Note that the Christmas Angel program does not provide clothing, shoes, or bedding, as these essentials are available year-round at the Crisis Ministries.)



Thank You!

Dear Calvary Family,
Thank you for the many ways you have expressed your love for Don and all our family. You have been such precious and thoughtful friends. We appreciate all the ways you have lifted us up. Our love and prayers will always be for each of you.

Kayla, Donald & Emily



Thank You!

Thank you, Calvary family, for the cards and gifts of appreciation you gave to me and Kelly for Pastor Appreciation (and my birthday), and for the cake and celebration following worship in November. Kelly and I are blessed by your love and affirmation year-round, and we so very much appreciate the ways you show that to us. Thank you!

Rendell



At-Home Christmas Bags

Our deacons have Christmas Gift Bags in The Hub for you to fill with Christmas cards, small gifts, candies, and treats for our 20 recipients. Bags will be in The Hub through **December 15**.



2025 Budget and Deacons/Leadership Vote

On **Sunday, December 15**, we will have a called church conference to vote for our Budget and Deacon /Leadership Team members. A list of nominees will be provided Sunday, Dec 1, along with copies of the proposed budget.



CONTACT US

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ABCCM Christmas Shop Volunteers

The Calvary family will be volunteering at the ABCCM Christmas Shop again this year. Sign-up on the Connection Table for one of the time slots below. We need six volunteers for each time slot. Location is Abernethy UMC, 1418 Patton Avenue.

Thursday, December 19 - 1:00 - 4:00pm

Thursday, December 19 - 4:00 - 6:00pm

Saturday, December 21 - 10:00 - 1:00pm



Operation Christmas Child

OCC Shoebox Distribution Center – Volunteers are going **Friday, December 6, 3-7pm** to Charlotte. See Tom Mattox for details.

Thank you!

Margaret & Tom Mattox



*Give
Online*

www.calvarync.org/give

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service will be Tuesday evening, **December 24, @ 5pm**



LIVE Streaming of Calvary Worship

Each Sunday, our worship service is LIVE on Facebook @ 10:30. If you cannot attend in person, join us online!

www.Calvarync.org



Following Jesus. Friending the world.

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Asheville, NC 28806

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Watch our worship services on Facebook Live.
Services are posted on our website on Sunday afternoons.
www.calvarync.org/messages

2024 December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 1	2	3	4	Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30am Chick-Fil-A Smokey Park Hwy 5	6 Shoebox Distribution Ctr 3-7pm Charlotte	7
9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Christmas Caroling 4-6pm	9	10 Deacon Meeting 4pm LC	11 Ladies Prayer Breakfast 8:30am Chick-Fil-A Smokey Park Hwy 6:30-8:30 Worship Team Rehearsal	12	13 Friday Crafters 11a-2p	14 Christmas Party Drop-In Hipp's Home
9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Church Conference	16 CrossPoints Deadline	17	18 Leadership Team 1 pm LC 6:30-8:30 Worship Team Rehearsal	19 ABCCM Christmas Shop Abernethy UMC Patton Ave 1-4pm, 4-6pm	20 Friday Crafters 11a-2p	21 ABCCM Christmas Shop Abernethy UMC Patton Ave 10-1pm
9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5pm 	25 	26	27	28
9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 29	30	31			Deacon for December: Linda Farlow 828-772-1393 Ushers for December: Linda Farlow and Amanda Dunn	

Calvary Prayer List

Alverta Bolick Home
Deacons & Leadership Team
Robbie Anderson
Margaret Bradshaw
Betty Carter
Jennie Dalton
Amanda Dunn
Mary Ruth Duyck
Linda Farlow
Green Family
Floyd & Donna Hilemon
Neva Hancock
Sam Hocking
Mark McKinney
McGinnis Family
Edith Middleton

Mustafa Family
Nichols Family
Debbie Nix
Annette Perkins
Poteat Family
Gary Rhodes
Jean Rice
Pam Rice
Frank Richardson
Barbara Roberts
Geana Rollins
Lin Dawn Shaw
Smith Family
Smallan Family
Pat Stillwell
Welborn Family
Wyatt Family

Other Concerns

Canterbury Classical School
Robert Atwater
Mike Baker
Kim Brantley
Margaret Brown
Evelyn Carter
Breanna Chambers
Joan Cook
Elijah Frisby
Nick Givens
Cami Green
Colson Gropp
Kimberly Hanna
Keith & Betty Sue Haywood
Gayle Jenkins

Pat Millard
Jamie Miller
Sue Morgan
Chris Pafford
Lynn Queen
Brenda Reese
William Richardson
Bill Rice
Sean Robinson
Donald & Kevin Robinson
Lowell Schultz
Robert Shelton
Bob Snedden
Andrew Sprinkle
Phillip Taylor
Tammy Tweed
Deb Welborn

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

Dec 01 Margaret Morgan
Dec 08 Gary Smallan
Dec 15 Butch Stillwell
Dec 22 Katha Tasio
Dec 29 Bruce Farlow



For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given.

— Isaiah 9:6

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.

Dec Birthdays

02 Edith Middleton
03 Claire Elkin
03 Jason Nix
07 Pat Hoglen
07 Matthew McMahan
10 Pam Elkin
11 Sam Hocking
12 Meghan Linder
19 Dan Nix
23 John Jervis
26 Frank Richardson
30 Tim Nichols
30 Nikki Farlow Shell
23 Linda Ingle
24 Kelly Allen
25 Jack Brown

Hello
December

Dec Anniversaries

04 James & Karla Gay
19 Lennie & Cindy Thornton

Merry Christmas!