

## SPECIAL GIFTS

To World Hunger by Shirley Weeks.  
To UMCOR-NC Floods by Earl and Becky Beckham.  
To Operation Christmas Child by Ray and Marsha Smith.  
To CROP children's fund raiser by Nancy Short, Rob Sheridan and Joe Black.  
To Red Bird Christmas Toys by Ted and Brenda Alexander, Kathleen Shaw, Ray and Marsha Smith.  
To R and R in honor of Betty's birthday by Carl and Betty Pinion.  
To R and R by Ted and Brenda Alexander, Ray and Marsha Smith, Harding Shinn, and Joe Black.  
To World Hunger by Stella Schlagowsky.  
To World Hunger in memory of Maxene Shinn by Harding Shinn.  
To UMCOR – NC Floods by June Severs.  
To Red Bird Christmas Toys by Stella Schlagowsky and Harding Shinn.  
To CUMC in memory of Bill Pressley and Tom Hoover's birthdays in November by Barbara Pressley and Pat and Herb Tesh.  
To R and R by Stella Schlagowsky.  
To Red Bird Mission Christmas Toys by Sharyn and Skipper Johnson, Lauretta and Henry Forrest and Kathy and Rich Combs.  
To Red Bird Christmas Toys by June Severs.  
To World Hunger by Stella Schlagowsky.  
To UMCOR NC Floods by Ted and Brenda Alexander. To R and R in memory of John and Mot Black by Melanie Mason

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**10:00 AM Sunday School**  
**11:00 AM Worship Service**



**To attend our Church**  
**Calvary United Methodist**  
**512 West Blvd.**  
**Charlotte, NC 28203**

## CALVARY CURRENT

Calvary United Methodist Church  
Phone 704 333-3388 512 West Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203  
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## GROW YOUNG?

Calvary UMC has endeavored to grow young people's ministry which includes children, youth, and young adults. We are still in the process of strengthening our young people's ministry, and it will take time. Recently I read an interesting article which breaks my "prejudice" on some assumptions. The following is from Kara Powell, Brad Griffin, and Jake Mulder's article, *10 Qualities Your Church Doesn't Need to Grow Young*.

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We need to prune distractions so the only branches remaining are those that help our churches grow young. Thanks to our research team's surveys, interviews, and site visits with churches across the US, we can cross off these ten qualities from our list of what churches need to grow young.

1. **A precise size.** Don't buy into the Goldilocks fantasy that some churches are too big, others are too small, and some are "just right." We saw no statistical relationship between church size and effectiveness. Size doesn't matter.
2. **A trendy location or region.** Did our data unearth churches flourishing near bustling urban centers and dynamic college campuses? Sure. But we also uncovered equally robust ministry in rural one-stoplight towns and middle-class suburbia. Your location does not have to be a limitation.
3. **An exact age.** We applaud how God is working through new church plants. We love what we learned from churches that are less than five years old. But we learned just as much, and recorded just as much life change, in churches over a century old. When it comes to churches that grow young, there is no age discrimination.

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4. **A popular denomination ... or lack of denomination.** When we started our study, we wondered if the churches that rose to the top would skew toward particular denominational, or nondenominational, leanings. While it's true that some denominations are shrinking or aging faster than average, our fear was unfounded. No need to apologize for your tradition or the fact that you are part of a denomination at all. God is working powerfully through churches of all stripes (and plaids too).
5. **An off-the-charts cool quotient.** Granted, several of the congregations and leaders bubbling to the top of our research have a certain hip factor. But those were in the minority. For young people today, relational warmth is the new cool.
6. **A big modern building.** Some of the congregations that are most effective with young people have new, state-of-the-art facilities. But not all. The majority of the effective churches we studied gather in decent, but not spectacular, spaces. Some don't own their facilities and are creatively meeting in local schools, community centers, and living rooms. For teenagers and young adults, feeling at home transcends any building.
7. **A big budget.** Churches that grow young intentionally invest in young people, and most often that translates into a financial investment. But not always. Less resourced congregations creatively support young people in other ways, proving that a small budget does not have to mean small impact.
8. **A "contemporary" worship service.** Our data indicated that while many young people are drawn to "casual and contemporary" worship, others are drawn to "smells and bells" high-church liturgy and everything in between. While the churches we visited were likely to prefer modern worship in some or all of their worship contexts, they didn't depend on that alone as a magnet to draw young people.
9. **A watered-down teaching style.** It's often assumed that we have to whitewash the teachings of Scripture and somehow make them seem less radical in order to appeal to teenagers and young adults. That's not what we found. For today's young people, growing young doesn't mean we talk about Jesus or the cost of following him any less.

10. **A hyper-entertaining ministry program.** The entertainment options available to young people in our culture are endless. We don't have to compete. If we try, we will almost certainly lose. Our research highlighted that faith communities offer something different. Slick is no guarantee of success.

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What a surprise! In fact, this article gives us a hope that Calvary UMC can grow young. Yes, we can grow young because we are a welcoming and friendly church community. We will need to learn together how to welcome young people and build our relationships with them. Personally I hope to see more young and diverse people come, worship, grow, and become disciples of Jesus Christ here at Calvary. While we grow young, I am also anticipating our spiritual maturity toward a love-filled faith community where everyone is welcomed, recognized, and embraced as children of God!

*Blessings and love, Jae*



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Advent Devotion: Every day with a devotional from the Society of St. Andrew's

Dec. 18: Choir Presentation (Christmas Medley)

Dec. 24, 4pm: Christmas Candlelight Service

Dec. 25: 10am a Combined Class at Fellowship Hall (Carols)

11am Christmas Service for All (Children's Bells)

## CHILDCARE EVERY SUNDAY

We are providing childcare service for toddlers (under Kindergarten age) in our nursery every Sunday from 10am to 12:10 pm. We hope that young parents fully participate in their own classes and worship service. Taquea Aldamuy (and Tia Morrison as alternate) will work for our nursery from December.



### WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

A Christian was once asked, "What's it like to be a Christian? He replied: "it's like being a pumpkin. God picks us from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed, and then he carves you a joyful, smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see!

*Submitted by June Severs*

### LAITY SUNDAY CELEBRATION

We had Laity Sunday celebration on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> and renewed our calling as lay ministers in God's ministry. It was a day of celebration and renewal of our spiritual life as lay members in the United Methodist Church.

### THANK YOU

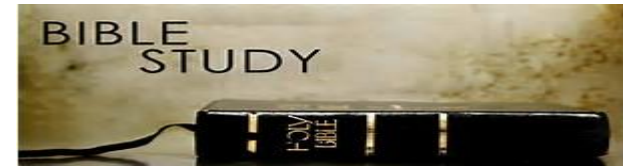
A special thank you to my Calvary family for honoring me with the 2016 Laity Award. *(Marsha Smith)*

Dearest friends and family, I just want to thank each one of you for making my birthday so very special with cards, gifts, cakes, hugs and kisses. I was on cloud nine. I love all of you all! *(Kathleen Shaw)*

I would like to thank Rev. Lee for visits, calls, and prayers. Also, the members of the church for praying for me. It meant a lot. *(Barbara Pressley)*

## SYMPATHY AND PRAYER

Our deep sympathy and prayers are extended to Mike Keeter and his family at the loss of his loving father and our good friend, Dick. As you know, Dick has faithfully served us as a usher on every Sunday.



### WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY / CHOIR REHEARSAL

You are invited to Calvary's Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 am. Bring a sandwich and join us. Choir members will have rehearsal after the Bible Study at 12:45 pm.



### NEW BEGINNING: ADVENT

According to Christian calendar, we began a new journey on Nov. 27 which was the first Sunday of Advent. Our sanctuary was decorated with Advent wreath and Chrismon tree. This year's theme is "Don't Be Afraid." Let us prepare ourselves and wait for the Lord Jesus' coming into our lives!

### 10/10 SPIRITUAL CLUB

There are young Christians who have committed to meet Sundays at 10 am for learning and growing and to give God their 10 minutes every day. 10/10 SC invites young people who yearn to learn and grow as disciples of Christ. Our own Pastor Jae teaches in this small group. .



Annette James, Becca Boyd, Ruth Pettus, Brenda Markham, Dina Faquin, Brenda Alexander, Merwin Foard, Henry McCannon, Paul Brackbill, Michael Gill, Vernell Dye, Robert Black, Preston Savage, The Edwards family, Dillon Webb, J.C. Witte, Dale and Dawn Hauser, Stella Schlagowsky, Beatrice Brown, Daisy Dunlap, Mary Anne Koon, Mason and Shirley Butler, Joyce Beyer, Faye Smith, Barbara Pressley, Noah Collins, Linda Baucom, Buck Bailes, Mary Brotherton, Mary Grace Covington, Alice Jarrell, Betty Pinion, Margaret Bumgardner, Millie King, Shannon Taylor, Joyce and Johnny Puckett, Tom and Lib Phillips, and all of our sick and shut-ins and those serving our country.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER**



Jack Harton	4	Gene Lail	16
Margaret Bumgardner	16	Don Mills	18
Autumn Smith	20	Brandi Harton	21
June Severs	25	Beth Phillips	25



The Outreach Committee has decided to offer a service as part of Helping Hands to anyone in our congregation who may have a need for transportation to a doctor, etc. Marsha Smith will be the transportation contact, and her telephone number is 704-399-8569. Please try to give her a two-week notice before the medical appointment to make the transportation arrangement. If you can volunteer as a driver, please speak with Marsha.

*Brenda Alexander, Outreach Chair*

