

SPECIAL GIFTS

A very generous donation has been made to Calvary's Loaves and Fishes by Jean Johnson.

To World Hunger by Shirley Weeks.

To R and R by Shirley Weeks, Mike and Patty Pressley.

To CUMC children's fund by Barbara Pressley.

To R and R by Shirley Weeks.

To CUMC budget and R and R in honor of Ray Smith's 85th birthday by Bob and Terry Smith.

To UMCOR One Great Hour of Sharing by Ray and Marsha Smith, Rob Sheridan, Henry and Laretta Forrest, June H. Kim, Stella Schlagowsky, Ted and Brenda Alexander, and Becky Pinion.

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CALVARY CURRENT

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"P"OWER OF GOD - "PREPARE"

In February newsletter, I explained the POWER of God. POWER stands for five acting verbs: Prepare, Organize, Worship, Embrace, and Renew. As we want to move toward God's vision, Calvary will focus on one thing at a time. This year I would like to emphasize "PREPARE." It is a beginning stage that we faithfully prepare our souls and church for God's vision.

What, why, and how can we "prepare"?

What? While there may be many things to prepare, I want to ask you to focus on only one thing: **Being aligned with God!** Why? Our purpose is to live as the people of God. Without God, all activities and plans are meaningless. We must ask a fundamental question: "Is my life aligned with God?" How? In order to be aligned with God, we need to pay attention to spiritual formation to restore the image of God in us. In other words, we must grow our spiritual relationship with God.

From my experience, spiritual formation must be practiced in both individual and communal levels. Individual way can be practiced by personal prayer, devotion, meditation, charity, and spiritual readings. Communal way can be practiced by small groups such as Bible study group, Sunday School class, prayer partner, or spiritual book club, by public worship on Sunday or at special occasions, and by intentional relationship building through spiritual retreats or trainings. I plan to launch **Wesley covenant teams** and lead **spiritual retreats** this year. I will share more details about Wesley covenant teams and spiritual retreats in the coming months.

On April 16th, we will celebrate Jesus Christ's resurrection together. As we prepare Easter, how can we be aligned with God? I invite you to actively participate in Palm Sunday worship, Holy Thursday Tenebrae service and to intentionally develop your relationship with God.

Blessings and love, Jae

LAY SERVANT TRAINING/CELEBRATION

Calvary UMC is blessed with gifted and faithful lay leaders! In particular, we have two Lay Servants. Becky Pinion has served as a Lay Servant through her teaching and preaching. She will take an advanced training and continue to serve as a certified lay servant in our district. Justin Boyd will begin to serve as a Lay Servant as he has passion for young people's ministry. Both Becky and Justin will take lay servant trainings on April 1 and 2 at Central UMC in Charlotte. Let us support their ministry with our prayers!

R & R (REPAIR & REPLACE) LUNCH / CHURCH COUNCIL

"Repair and Replace" Lunch will be held on April 9th after our worship service, and all are invited to this joyful fellowship of supporting our church. Lunch is available at \$5, and your donations are gratefully used to maintain and upgrade our church facilities. Church Council will follow the lunch.

UMW GENERAL MEETING

Our UMW General Meeting will meet today after the worship service. Shirley Hickok, a member of the Metro District's Nominations Committee and Calvary's Nurturing Partner is a guest for our meeting today. As always, husbands are invited to join us for our salad luncheon.

Brenda Alexander, President

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER CELEBRATION

Palm Sunday (April 9, 11am) – We will gather in front of our sanctuary and make a procession with palm branches as we remember Jesus' parade into the city of Jerusalem. During the service, **our choir will present special Easter music** to lift up our spiritual experience.

Holy Thursday Tenebrae Service (April 13, 6pm) – We will have a meditative service to **remember the story of Jesus' passion and share the Holy Communion.**

Easter Celebration (April 16, 11am) – Our Easter service will consist of joyful message and music with **children's handbells and choir's anthem.** During the service, all worshipers will be invited to come to the altar and **decorate the wooden cross with flowers**, symbolizing the Lord's resurrection.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION CLASS

If you want to be part of Calvary UMC, please see our pastor who will meet you at your convenient time and guide you with informal ways. Calvary welcomes all people of God who want to live and grow in the loving relationship with Christ Jesus.

FLOWER CALENDAR

The New Year's flower calendar has been posted in the side entrance of the church. Please sign the chart for the date you wish to place flowers.



Lenten study is at 11:00 am on Wednesdays. This is a time for us to deeply meditate the Word of God so that we may live the Word in our daily lives. After the study, we will eat our lunch together. Please bring a bag lunch for fellowship. Following the Bible study, there is choir rehearsal as well.

NURSERY WELCOMES LITTLE CHILDREN

Our church provides childcare during the Sunday School class and our worship service (10:00am to 12:10pm) at nursery. Taquea Aldamuy and one volunteer from our congregation will take care of your children so that young parents can fully participate in the Bible study and worship service. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Nursery Director, Sharyn Johnson



LOAVES AND FISHES REPORT

Calvary's Loaves and Fishes Pantry fed 71 people with 1491 meals in the month of February. Our volunteers worked 96 hours. We open the pantry only Tuesdays from 10 am to 1 pm.



Betty Matthews, Annette James, Kathleen Shaw, Ruth Pettus, Brenda Markham, Melanie Mason, Delores Foster, Valerie Ware, Doug Hinson, 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, 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.



APRIL

Ted Alexander	4
Ty Lail	23
Jade James	23



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



TOP 10 REASONS GOD CREATED EVE

10. God worried that Adam would be lost in the Garden of Eden because he wouldn't ask for directions.
9. God knew that someday Adam would need someone to hand him the TV remote.
8. God knew that Adam would never make a doctor's appointment.
7. God knew that when Adam's fig leaf wore out, he would never buy a new one for himself.
6. God knew that Adam would not remember to take out the garbage.
5. God wanted man to be fruitful and multiply, but he knew that Adam would never be able to handle labor pains and childbirth.
4. As "keeper of the garden," Adam would need help in finding his tools.
3. The Scripture account of creation indicates that Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden..
2. As the Bible says: "It is not good for man to be alone."

And the No. 1 reason, God stepped back, looked at Adam, and declared: "I can do better than that."

EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN



There will be fun and safe Easter Egg Hunts for children who are from toddlers to 11 years old in front of Education Building on Easter Sunday right after our worship service. We will have two groups: The first group will be toddlers to age 4, and the other group will be ages of 5 till 11. We encourage parents are walking with toddlers. If you have Easter basket, please do not forget to bring yours.