

SPECIAL GIFTS

To World Hunger by Harding Shinn.
To Red Bird Christmas Toys by Harding Shinn.
To CUMC in honor of Kathleen Shaw's 103rd birthday by Harding Shinn.
To Red Bird Christmas Toys by Peggy Cromer, Kathleen Shaw, Stella Schlagowsky, Henry and Laretta Forrest, Skipper and Sharyn Johnson.
To Operation Christmas Child shipping by Ray and Marsha Smith.
To UM Student Sunday by Ray and Marsha Smith.
To R and R in honor of my home church and to the glory of God by Ron and Donna Ware.
To Operation Christmas Child shipping by June Severs and Annette James.
To CUMC in memory of Tom Hoover and Bill Pressley on their birthdays by Pat and Herb Tesh.
To R and R by Preston Savage, Ruby Vincent, Ted and Brenda Alexander.
To UMC Student Day by Ted and Brenda Alexander.

Calvary UMC
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Charlotte, NC 28203



CALVARY CURRENT

Calvary United Methodist Church

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BECOMING A MATURE COMMUNITY

Advent wreaths are freshly decorated, and Christmas trees are bright. I love this season. As a child, I loved Christmas because I could get gifts even though they were simple like cookies and candies, socks, and a pair of winter glove or a hat. As an adult, I love Christmas because it reminds me of the love of God through Jesus. *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.* (2 Corinthians 5:18)

I envision that Calvary becomes a mature community where mutual love overflows among diverse God's people. If I simply define a Christian community, it may be a group of believers who experience, share, and grow God's love in and through Jesus Christ. Do we experience the love of God at Calvary? Do we share the love of God among members and guests? Do we grow and become more mature Christians by the love of Christ Jesus?

Christmas is a season of experiencing, sharing, and growing the love of God among people. Through the incarnation of God in Jesus, we must experience the true love of God for us. God so loved the world and became flesh just like us, coming into us as a humble and powerless human form, a baby. Christmas is a season of sharing the good news of God's love for all people beyond their race, gender, age, social status, and other human conditions. By sharing our mutual love, we may be transformed and grow as a mature community.

As I witness that many Calvary members have already experienced the love of God, I would like to introduce two opportunities to share the love of God: **First**, our church will host Wilmore Community dinner on Dec. 4, Monday at 6:30pm. I invite you to come by 5:30 or 6pm and serve the meal and get to know local residents. Building relationship with others is a crucial step for sharing the love of God. **Second**, there will be a special worship and activity on Jan. 13, Saturday, at Bennett College in Greensboro to remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s 50th anniversary of his death. It will become a meaningful gathering of Black, White, Latino, Asian, Native American people.

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I pray that all of you have a precious time of Advent and Christmas. May this season become a moment of experiencing, sharing, and growing the love of God for all of you!

Blessings and love, Jae

ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SEASON

Advent is a new beginning of Christian year. Let us come to the Lord with our joyful hearts!

- * Christmas Party for Kids (Dec. 10)
- * Christmas Cantata (Dec. 17):
- * Candlelight / Children's Handbells (Dec. 24)

We will not have Christmas Eve service this year. May we spend our holy night with family and friends.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Calvary's Outreach Team has supported Society of St. Andrew with various missions. *Lifting Up the Lowly*, a timely devotional booklet from Society of St. Andrew, is available on the front desk in the sanctuary. We pray that all of our members and guests make room in your hearts and in your busy days through this devotional.



CALVARY KIDS WITH CHRIST

We launched a new Sunday school class for kindergarteners to high schoolers. As the class grows, we can start breaking down into small classes more specific to the ages. Please bring your children and grandchildren to this new class for their spiritual growth!



Calvary's Loaves and Fishes Pantry for the month of Nov. fed 98 people with 2,037 meals. Our volunteers worked 87 hours. Thank you for your faithful service and support!



We invite anyone who wants to learn and live the Word of God. We will continue to study *the Book of Hebrews*. Please bring your bag lunch for fellowship after study. Our leader is our own Dr. Jae.



Shirley Weeks, Carl Pinion, Angel Sheridan, Dale and Jack Harton, Annette James, Kathleen Shaw, Brenda Markham, Delores Foster, Valerie Ware, Dina Faquin, Brenda Alexander, Merwin Foard, Henry McCannon, Paul Brackbill, Vernell Dye, Robert Black, Preston Savage, Dillon Webb, Dale and Dawn Hauser, Stella Schlagowsky, Daisy Dunlap, Mary Anne Koon, Mason and Shirley Butler, Faye Smith, Noah Collins, Linda Baucom, Buck Bailes, Mary Grace Covington, Alice Jarrell, Betty Pinion, Margaret Bumgardner, Millie King, Joyce and Johnny Puckett, Tom and Lib Phillips, and all of our sick and shut-ins and those serving our country.

WILMORE COMMUNITY DINNER

On Dec. 4, Monday at 6:30 pm, we will serve dinner for Wilmore community. Please come by 6 pm and help our community dinner. In particular, Vitality Team members and 10/10 SC members are requested to be part of this community outreach.

ADDRESS UPDATE

Mrs. Shirley Butler – Stanley Total Living Center P. O. Box 489, Stanley, NC 28164-2064

Rev. Bob and Pat Boggan, Jr. – 4512 Wilshire Ct. Gainesville, GA



DECEMBER

Jack Harton	4	Gene Lail	16
Margaret Bumgardner	16	Don Mills	18
Autumn Smith	20	Brandi Harton	21
June Severs	23	Beth Phillips	25

2018 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your 2018 Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the vestibule. **Please do not begin to use these envelopes until the 1st Sunday in Jan. 2018.** Using these envelopes is very important, as the envelope number is your account number and all posting is done by account number. To insure accuracy please use only the envelopes that have been assigned to you, and **discard all prior year envelopes** as the numbers change each year. If you are not a member and want to support Calvary with your regular offering, please request Gene Oliver to make your own offering envelop.

SPECIAL THANKS

We thank James and Joanna Lee for their contribution in music to our Sunday worship services. We are grateful for their participation and the sharing of their talents with us. Pray for their continued spiritual growth in music and service.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA



On December 17th the Calvary Chancel Choir will present the cantata "On That First Day of Christmas". This Cantata is a unique combination of songs from various cantatas arranged by Gene Oliver. We hope you will receive a blessing from this musical and put you in just the right spirit for the Christmas Season.

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.

CHURCH HUMOR



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2008
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?