

# CALVARY CURRENT

Special Edition for November 2020



*“Calvary is a beloved community where all are welcomed, recognized, and embraced.”*

## CHURCH NEWS

### 1. Calvary’s Worship & Ministries

Calvary will continue virtual worship service in Nov. and Dec. through zoom as we consider our members’ safety and well-being a priority. Our spiritual journey continues!

### 2. Calvary Virtual Church on Sundays: Silent prayer at 10:55 am (opening from 10:30 am)

By computer: CalvaryUMCnc.org -> Click Virtual Church Info under Worship

By phone: Call at 301-715-8592 and enter Meeting ID: 854 324 5409

\*Our zoom service will be recorded and posted on the church website.

### 3. Special Prayers

For students, teachers, administrators, staff, and parents in this fall semester!

For June Severs, Preston Savage, Ted and Brenda Alexander, Mary Arnold, Mike Earnhardt, Margaret Bumgardner, Mason Butler, Wade Cobb, Daisy Dunlap, Henry and Lauretta Forrest, Betty Matthews, Betty Pinion, Kathleen Shaw, Faye, Smith, Ray Smith, Ruby Vincent (Calvary); Jackie Davidson, Candy Chastain, Beth Earley, Dina Edwards, Dean McLendon, John Humphrey (Community).

For healing and reconciliation of our nation from the COVID-19 and political divides.

### 4. Let’s be a generous & cheerful giver!

\*Mail your offerings to Calvary UMC at 512 West Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28203.

\*Use “bill pays” at your online banking or visit “Conference Online Giving” at

<https://www.wnccumc.org/online-donations-to-churches> (Calvary UMC, Charlotte / Metro District / Pastor Jae Lee / Your email address)

\*Special offerings:

For R & R (Repair & Replace) Funds – Mary Arnold (twice), Bob Braswell, Pat Little, Betty Matthews (world hunger), Sharyn & Skipper Johnson (in memory of Buck Bailes), Harding Shinn (in memory of Buck Bailes).

In memory of Tom Hoover’s 104<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> and Bill Pressley’s 86<sup>th</sup> birthday on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> by Pat & Herb Tesh.

## **HOME: A PLACE OF PEACE (Philippians 4:4-7)**

Preached on Oct. 11 at Calvary's 155<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Sunday by Rev. Jae Lee

8 years ago, my family went to the West with a clergy renewal grant from Lily Endowment. We flew to Los Angeles, visited Grand Canyon and Sedona, drove up to Yosemite, and flew back to Charlotte from San Francisco. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience through which we enjoyed exotic sceneries, ate delicious food, and awed in front of such gorgeous places. However, during the trip, I was exhausted from driving so many miles in a week. On the returning day, as we neared our home, I suddenly felt comfort and relaxation. "Finally, we are at home!" Even though we had such a fabulous trip, there is no place like home. This is something that you must have felt at least once coming back from your travels.

Today, Calvary United Methodist Church is celebrating its 155 year-journey in the grace of our Lord. As we look back on our journey as a faith community, there have been many ups and downs. As a mature church community, I would like to reflect on the message of Apostle Paul for the church of Philippi. In this text from Philippians 4:4-7, Paul encourages the church community to rejoice, be gentle, and pray all the time in the presence of Jesus Christ.

As a mature Christian, we understand the depth of God's love. While we do not deserve God's redeeming grace, God loved us and gave God's only son Jesus Christ for us. Through that loving grace, we received salvation as a gift from God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we cannot but rejoice, be gentle to one another, and pray to the Lord with thanksgiving.

"Rejoicing always" sounds good and simple, but it's hard to rejoice always in our lives. If we are driven by our emotions or outer circumstances, it is never easy for us to rejoice all the time. For example, nowadays we are experiencing many crises in our families, our church, our nation, and our world. From our life's circumstances, we can barely find joy. Where can we find joy or how can we rejoice even in our challenging circumstances?

True joy comes from God, and it is not controlled by our circumstances. Only those who know God deeply and have an intimate relationship with God can experience joy and rejoice always beyond our life's challenging conditions. Here we come to realize that joy that comes from the Lord is something more than simple happiness. In other words, true joy is based on an intimate and deeper relationship with God, not relying on our emotions or surrounding circumstances.

While rejoicing in the Lord is a more personal issue, being a gentle community is about our relationships with others. Being gentle may be considered "meek, kind, mild, or generous" toward others. Only a gentle community shows its mature attitude toward others. Dear Calvary Church, we are a 155-year-old faith community. As "gentleness" is associated with "tolerance," we must be gentle and tolerant with any challenges or hardships through our life's journey. Since I came to Calvary, I have observed how this congregation has been gentle to our neighboring communities. Through so many challenges and crises, Calvary has shown its gentleness toward our neighbors.

Praying with thanksgiving is more like paying attention to our relationship with God. Prayer is a deep and honest dialogue in which we talk, listen, wait, cry out, or keep silent. When we were young and immature, we requested God to give us gifts and something we want to have. As a

mature faith community, however, we focus on the heart of God through our prayers. We pray to God and ask not what we want to have, but what God wants us to do and to be. The more we pray with God, the more we know and understand the heart of God who is gracious and just for all God's people.

As we rejoice in our inner being, become gentle toward others, and pray with thanksgiving to seek the heart of God, we gradually become a people of God who fully trust in the Lord and put ourselves in the peace of God! The peace that comes from God is not about what we possess or how much we accomplish. God's peace works even in the cold and dark prison where Paul was located. God's peace touches our heart, mind, spirit, and body even in our weakest moments. God's peace inspires us even in our worst and hopeless situations. God's peace fills us with such joy, gentleness, and gratitude in our everyday life.

Dear church, as we celebrate our 155 year-journey, we humbly recognize those who walked the ways of God before us, who always rejoiced in the Lord even in times of challenges and difficulties, who have been gentle to our needy neighbors, and who have boldly prayed and acted the love of God through their life's journey in the Lord.

In this sense, our spiritual journey is not only ours. Rather, we share our journey with those faithful saints who rejoiced, did good to others, and faithfully prayed and lived their faith in the Lord. Yes, this is the church home where we learned, grew, cried, laughed, and worked together! This is our church home where we can find the peace of God, not because of our greatness and excellent works, but because of God's grace and mercy as a gift. This is our church home where we may find active and living joy, consistent gentleness, and faithful prayers. This is our home, a place of peace where we can always turn from our life's crises. This is our spiritual home where we find comfort and strength whenever we return from our hurts and disappointments.

Welcome, home, dear friends! Refresh your soul and put down your worries and unbelief in the loving hands of our Lord and fully experience the peace that God provides for us here and now.

Welcome home!

In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

### **REPAIR & REPLACE (R & R) FUNDS**

Through the R & R Funds, we have repaired, upgraded, and taken care of our church buildings for many years. Calvary's Trustees ask you to give a special offering and donation to have a new "breezeway." The breezeway project will begin on Nov. 16, and we also ask your prayers for the safe work process. When you donate to CALVARY UMC, please write "R & R Funds" on the memo. Thank you for your generous gifts and prayers!

Earl Beckham, Trustees Chair

### **SYMPATHY & PRAYERS**

Our beloved member and dear friend, Buck Bailes was received into God's eternal home on Oct. 31, and a beautiful graveside service was held at Sharon Memorial Park. We extend our loving prayers for Annie, Buck's children, and the whole family!

## **BLESSING CABINET**

Calvary's missional work continues through the Blessing Cabinet. The Blessing Cabinet is available 24/7. Food from our congregation or outside Calvary will be welcomed, but the expiration date must be at least a year out. Monetary donations to the Blessing Cabinet can be made via payable check to Calvary UMC and on the memo line, you may write "Blessing Cabinet." Thank you for being a blessing to our needy neighbors!

Brenda Alexander, Chair of Outreach Team



Calvary's Annual Charge Conference will be held on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, at 2pm through zoom. All church members are invited to join in the Annual Conference in which we will approve next year's Lay Leadership, Pastor's Compensation, and Church Apportionment. We will also finalize the 2021 Church Budget in the Charge Conference. Your participation will make a difference!

## **ADVENT / CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**



The year 2020 Advent season will be very different from that of other years, but we will still keep awake and wait for the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives. If you want to light an Advent candle at your home, please notify Pastor Jae for additional information. We will light Advent Candles on zoom and share the joy of Christ's coming into our homes! There will be a Christmas Eve zoom service as well. On Dec. 24 at 6pm, there will be a simple celebration of Jesus' birth so that we can rejoice and welcome Christ Jesus on earth!

## **NEWS FOR CALVARY FAMILIES**

Kathleen Shaw turned 106 this month. May God keep Kathleen in God's gracious hands!  
Ray and Marsha Smith's great-granddaughter, Oaklynn, safely arrived! Congratulations!  
Gene and Gaynell Lail have a new phone number: (803) 831-8121  
Preston Savage is at Asbury, and June Severs at Sardis Oaks. Please keep praying for them!  
Becky Beckham's brother, Bob was received into God's eternal home. Please pray for the family.