



## From the Pastor...

A few weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a leader of what used to be called a “moderate” Baptist organization in our state who wanted to connect me with a former Baptist pastor who had some years ago started a company that specializes in repurposing underutilized religious assets (churches) to be used as community resources. This company’s tag-line is: “Repurposing religious assets for the common good.” The idea I gleaned from the company’s website is this: underutilized religious assets (churches) can partner with any number of “interfaith/ interspiritual” organizations to find ways for those assets (churches) to be transformed into community building resources that meet the social needs of the community. Their vision is this: “We see just, equitable, and sustainable communities emerging through sacred/civic placemaking.”

I suppose the e-mail was intended to offer opportunities and encouragement to established or historic churches who are finding themselves with too much facility and too few members. As I read it, however, my heart went in a different direction. I was sad.

I was sad because of the lack of Gospel-centeredness of this endeavor. I’m not saying that our churches should not be fully engaged in the social needs of our communities and neighbors. Jesus is clear: we have a social responsibility for the poor, the oppressed, those who face injustice, the weak, the sick. Love of neighbor is equal, according to Jesus, to love of God. The church of Jesus Christ should be on the front lines of meeting these needs in our communities. But, what is missing in the approach that the e-mail from this Baptist leader offers is the most crucial element in meeting the real needs of our communities: the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The greatest impact any church has in it’s community is its proclamation of the Good News of Jesus. Now, as an “old-school moderate Baptist” myself (ask me what that means sometime), I’m not talking about a fundamentalist version of Christianity. I’m not talking about some hyped-up version of the Gospel that is either far too political, far too superficial, or far too judgmental. I’m not talking about churches that preach only part of the Gospel, or that use the Christian message to rally a crowd to be some type of hot-headed activists in the kingdom of this world. Yes, we do need to engage the social and political aspects of the world in which we live, but we do so always with the fullness of the Gospel in mind, not just part of it, and with the attitude of Jesus in our hearts.

But I stand by this statement: The greatest impact any church has in it’s community is the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus. In our preaching. In our worship. In our ministries. In our outreach. In our discipleship. In our missions. In our social engagement. In our going. In our sending. In our doing, all of it. Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus as it is given to us in the Scriptures and with a reliance on the Holy Spirit is the only way to transform a society into a “just, equitable, and sustainable community.”

Over these last three years at Calvary, we’ve seen folks commit their lives to Christ, renew their commitments to Christ, be baptized into Christ, and find hope and healing in Christ. We’ve heard testimonies from people who have been transformed by Christ who have struggled with substance abuse, emotional health issues, bad life choices, and tragic life crisis. Thanks be to God that God has seen fit to use our little band of believers to be a home for all of us ragamuffins. Why? I am convinced it’s because we are focused on the Gospel... the telling and retelling of the story of Jesus who invites each of us into the community called the Church. It’s an imperfect community, for sure, but when it is at it’s best, it is by far the best community and is the best use of any assets available to it. So, let’s keep using our assets for the bold proclamation of the Gospel. After all, that’s why we are here. — Pastor Rendell

## Upcoming Dates

**February 2, 2023**

- Men's Prayer Breakfast

**February 11, 2023**

- Ladies' Valentine Gathering

**February 13, 2023**

- Leadership Meeting

**February 21, 2023**

- Deacons Meeting

## Baptism In Worship February 12

We will be celebrating baptism in worship on Sunday, February 12th. What a joy to see how God is at work in the lives of people who hear the call to follow Jesus and respond in faith to that call. Join us as we celebrate. If you have felt God's call upon your life to follow Jesus and be baptized, please talk with Pastor Rendell. We would welcome you to join us in the water on February 12th!

### Men's Monthly Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited! Meet with us on **Thursday, Feb 2 @ 7:30a** @ Chick-Fil-A Smokey Park Hwy.



### Thank You!

Thank you so very much for the beautiful gift bags. I appreciate all the nice items and enjoyed all the goodies! May God bless each one of you in the New Year! What a wonderful Church family!

- Neva Hancock

### Thank You!

Dear Members of Calvary: Thank you for all the prayers, phone calls, visits, many cards, and the group that came and sang Christmas Carols. The love you gave me was great.

- Betty Carter

### Thank You!

Dear Calvary Friends: What a nice surprise you left on my front porch... delicious treats and useful novelties..like Christmas morning when I was little. And I loved reading all the cards ...just like meeting everyone at once. Thank you for making a wonderful day. I miss you!!

- Elaine Easter

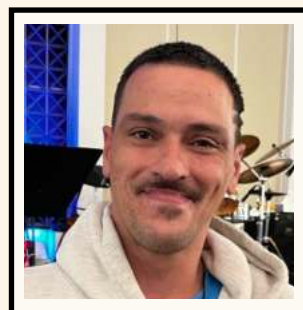
### Thank You!

Thank you so much for all the cards and treats that you sent me over the holidays. I appreciated it so much! It was so good to hear from everyone and be able to stay in touch.

- Evelyn Boone

### New Member!

Please welcome our newest member:  
Andrew Mustafa!



### Thank You!

To all who gave so graciously of their time and energy to help with decorating our beautiful church for Christmas and then once again to undecorate and put it all away – THANK YOU!! You are all an amazing team of hard workers and I greatly appreciate ALL that you do for Calvary. - Pat Stillwell



### Share Calvary



Be sure to "share" our Church's weekly worship services with your friends on Facebook. This is a great way to reach out to friends and family near and far.



## Ladies' Valentine Gathering

Attention Calvary Ladies! You are invited to a Ladies Valentine Gathering on Saturday, February 11 at 1pm in the Learning Center. This will be a time to socialize with others that you maybe have not seen for a while due to covid, illness or weather. We will have finger foods, singing, and an update on our Embrace Grace Ministry. Please sign up by Sunday February 5 by calling the church office or on the sign-up sheet in the Sanctuary. This is being sponsored by the Calvary Deacons and we are available to pick you up if you need a ride. We hope to see you there!



## Embrace Grace

Embrace Grace started our first semester on January 12, with one young, brave girl. Taking the first step of reaching out to the church brings strong emotions of fear and uncertainty. And then an even braver step to walk through the doors. Please continue to cover Calvary's Embrace Grace ministry with your prayers and pray for our brave girl's strength and courage.



## Thank You!

I would like to thank the family of Calvary Baptist Church for all the cards, letters and phone calls during Lewis' sickness and passing. He loved Calvary and he loved the people of Calvary, and our thanks go out to the whole congregation with all our love.

- Geana Rollins

## Thank You!

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, treats and gifts you gave us. The caroling was beautiful and all the smiling faces warmed our hearts. Thank you for remembering us in so many ways. Please continue to pray for us and we will be very grateful.

With love for such great friends,  
Don & Kayla Welborn



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## Inclement Weather Announcement

In the event of church closing or cancellation of worship services due to inclement weather, check our website (calvarync.org) or our Facebook page. We will also make the announcement by phone via our phone tree. We will not be announcing closings on TV or radio.



WINTER MESSAGE SERIES

# TURNING POINTS

BY PASTOR RENDELL

We all face crucial turning points in life. We can learn a lot by looking at Abraham, a larger-than-life figure in the Bible, who faced many crucial turning points in his life's journey, sometimes with success, sometimes with failure, but always with faith. In this 8-week message series, we will see how God was active in his life and how God is active in our own lives at our most crucial turning points.



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Watch our worship services on Facebook Live.  
Services are posted on our website on Sunday afternoons.  
[www.calvarync.org/messages](http://www.calvarync.org/messages)



# 2023 February

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
<div>Deacon for February: Gary Smallan 828-275-0360</div> <div>Ushers for February: Gary Smallan   James Gay</div>		31	1	Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30am Chick-Fil-A Smokey Park Hwy	2	3	4
5 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11 Ladies' Valentine Gathering 1pm The Learning Center 	
12 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	13 Leadership Team 1 pm LC	14 	15	16	17	18	
19 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	20 President's Day CrossPoints Deadline 	21 Deacon Meeting 2pm LC	22	23	24	25	
26 9:20 Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	27	28	1	2	3	4	

### Calvary Prayer List

Alverta Bolick Home  
Deacons & Leadership Team  
Evelyn Boone  
Barbara Burnett  
Betty Carter  
Mary Ruth Duyck  
Cami Green  
Janie Green's Family  
Sam Hocking  
Patsy Hoglen  
Sarah McGinnis  
Edith Middleton  
Mustafa Family  
Peggy Nichols

Debbie Nix  
Kathy Rhodes  
Jean Rice  
Pam & Norman Rice  
Barbara Roberts  
Geana Rollins  
Gary Smellan  
Heather Skuggen  
Pat Stillwell  
Fred & Donna Tennant  
Don & Kayla Welborn  
Wyatt Family

### Other Concerns

Canterbury Classical School  
Haylee Anderson

Pat & Barbara Bailey  
Rick & Debbie Durham  
Elijah Frisby  
Colson Gropp  
Keith & Betty Sue Haywood  
Gayle Jenkins  
Linda Keeling  
Jared McCanless  
Joe Morrison  
William Richardson  
Joella Rigsby  
Bill Rice  
Donald & Kevin Robinson  
Jane Smith  
Phillip Taylor

Karen Warren  
Janet Wyatt  
Ukraine

### Our Military

David Brown  
Graham Tasios

### Our Front Line

Asheville Fire & Rescue  
Asheville & Buncombe Co. Law Enfr.  
EMT's and Ambulance Drivers  
Hospital & Health Care Workers

*Help us keep our list current by letting us know the status or changes. We love that Calvary is a Prayer Warrior for our church family, community and our world.*

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

Feb 05 Butch Stillwell  
Feb 12 Katha Tasios  
Feb 19 Bruce Farlow  
Feb 26 Glen Jervis

**So** now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.  
**1 Corinthians 13:13**

### 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. Masks optional.

### February Birthdays

01 Abigail Allen McMahan  
01 Oliver Nix  
05 Donna Tennant  
07 Elaine Easter  
11 Gary Rhodes  
12 Lin Berrier  
14 Pat Stillwell  
15 Margaret Morgan  
16 Rick Green  
19 Floyd Hilemon  
19 Matthew Strickland  
20 Timothy Elkin  
23 Neva Hancock  
24 Kelly Hipps



### February Anniversaries

03 Eddie & Dianna Wyatt

*Happy Valentines Day!*