



Dear Calvary Church family,

As we enter the month of December and begin to think about celebrating Christmas, what goes through your mind? Is it the busyness of the season that requires your time and attention? Things like office Christmas parties, church Christmas parties, buying the perfect gifts, preparing the perfect meal, deciding whose home or homes you will be going to on Christmas Day, or the many other things that pop up during the season?

However, the core of what Christmas is truly about, is God giving us the greatest gift of all, in that He gave us His only Begotten Son. The Gospel of John states: "And the word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of Grace and Truth."

Jesus came into the world to save mankind from sin, if we would believe on Him. While Jesus was here, His primary example was to serve others. Matthew 20:28 states: "Just as the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

My prayer for each of you, including myself during this Christmas Season, is to find someone who is in need. The best example we, as children of God can demonstrate, is to be like Jesus during this Christmas season, by serving others. Truly it is better to give than to receive.

From my family to each of you, we wish you a "Merry Christmas."

In Christ, Pastor Bruce



CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Saturday, December 6th
at 5:00 PM**

The meal will be provided by the church. Everyone is asked to please bring desserts.

**NO DEACON'S MEETING
IN DECEMBER**



It's December again. Where has the year gone? We have seen a lot of changes in our church in 2025. Some good, some not so good, and some heartbreaking. But through everything, God has been faithful. We give Him praise and honor for His faithfulness and blessings throughout the past year and pray for His will to be done in our lives in 2026.

Speaking of 2026, we have a few men's activities planned throughout the year.

Starting in January with Men's Day and Chili Cookoff.

April 30 – May 3 we will spend some time at Oak Island "Sharpening Iron".

As always, do not forget that the Men's Ministry meets on the first Sunday of each month at 5PM. It is always a blessing to study, worship, and learn with Godly men. And if you are not coming, we miss you.

***Thank you and may God
bless each of you, Doug Bivens***

FOCUS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:



Church Goal: \$5,000



The Women's Ministry will be operating the Christmas Card Post Office again this year. You can "mail" your Christmas cards by placing them in the mailbox located in the fellowship building. There is a suggested donation of twenty-cents per card. Donations will go towards our Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

DV8

We are now entering that cherished period of the year where our focus turns to the first advent of Christ – marking the start to His life of obedience that culminated at the cross and tomb, so that we might have Good News.

However, if we aren't careful, it can turn into just another story, one repeated annually during the Christmas season.

For the longest time, one of the things I overlooked in the Christmas story was the shepherds. They received an extraordinary personal invitation to witness the birth of Christ; but what struck me later was their reaction after encountering Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. Luke records it in 2:17-18, 20: After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them...

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had seen and heard, which were just as they had been told. They couldn't contain the joy of the Good News they had experienced; they felt compelled to share it with everyone they met.

Their response was instinctual – they understood that Good News is meant to be shared. They weren't worried or troubled by the perceptions of others, but driven solely by the magnitude of what they had witnessed and the urgency for others to partake in it too.

My prayer for this Christmas season is that we haven't inadvertently grown numb to the wonder and greatness of the Good News of Christ. It began the evening when Christ was born, but concluded with the realization that salvation awaited us through that same child. Let us emulate the example set by the shepherds. Let's echo the Gospel message we've been entrusted with, rejoicing and glorifying God. May we, too, be unreserved in sharing the transformative power of this message, for in doing so, we reflect the essence of Christmas – a time of sharing love, hope, and the unparalleled joy found in Christ's birth.

Sincerely, Chris Zinicola

Cell: 910-934-2249

Email: chris.m.zinicola@gmail.com

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS:

DV8 Christmas Party, Dec. 12

DV8 Youth Xtreme Winter,

Dec. 29 – Dec. 31

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Needs & News

Soup Kitchen Needs:

Volunteers!!

Toy Collection Give-Away:

CM is collecting NEW and also USED toys for the give away to help families with children receive toys for Christmas.

You can donate NEW or USED unwrapped toys and give them to Shannon Wingate, or you can drop them off at CM. *(These are needed by*

December 15)

Food Collection:

Each church is asked to collect one particular food item and donate it during the month of December *(for the food give out on the 23)*. Calvary's item:

boxes of Mac & Cheese

Clothes Closet:

CM will not be accepting clothes for the clothes closet until after the first of the year, with the exception of hats, gloves, scarves, toboggans, and coats



ADULT CHOIR

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, Dec. 7 @10:30 AM

(note date change from Dec. 14)



CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 21

@6:00 PM

This is always such a special time together as a church family. We hope you'll make plans to be here.

We will observe the Lord's Supper during the morning worship service on Sunday, December 21.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

November was a busy month for the Women of Calvary. On November 8th the Women hosted a breakfast for our Veterans. The women outdid themselves. The food was delicious, and they had gathered gifts from the Veteran Services. The Women of Calvary had also made pens for each of the Veterans. Thank you to Christine Mosteller for taking the lead, and all the other women who assisted.

On November 15 the Women of Calvary held their first annual Craft Show. It was awesome. It began on Thursday night when several of the men took the walls down. Then on Friday, we had a fantastic turnout to help us set up. Then on Saturday, so many were there to help with concessions, with helping vendors unload and load their vehicles, donating baked goods, greeting shoppers, and just doing whatever was needed. I am in awe of how Calvary showed up. So many showed up to help. I am afraid to start naming names as I am afraid that I may forget someone. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Upcoming Events in December:

Dec. 7 – Due to how busy December is, we will not be having our monthly meeting. However, I am asking that everyone who can, bring a plastic jar of peanut butter and a plastic jar of jelly for the Backpack Ministry.

Dec. 14 – Women of Calvary Christmas Party, 3:00 PM until 5:30 PM. We are inviting the men. Please bring a dish to share. The women will be doing a game – My Favorite Things. Please bring 3 of one of your favorite things (3 of the same item). If any of the men want to play the game also, they are to bring 3 of one of their favorite things. The men and the women will be playing separately.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions (704) 530-3322.

*In Christ's Love,
Robin Sams*



BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

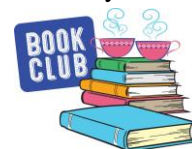
BACKPACK MINISTRY NEEDS

spaghetti o's, ravioli, vienna sausages, soup (*chicken noodle or tomato is preferred*), beanie weenies, chicken or beef ramen noodles, applesauce, mac & cheese cups, mashed potato cups, fruit cups, cereal, pop-tarts, instant grits, instant oatmeal, cheese crackers, juice boxes or juice pouches, Little Debbie-type snack cakes, cookies



OCC SHOEBOXES

Thank you to everyone that helped with Operation Christmas Child this year. Calvary packed 109 boxes and shipping has been covered on all boxes, so we will be able to track them and find out what areas of the world we were able to bless this year.



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Ladies are welcome to join us December 16 in the conference room from 6:30 – 8:00 PM as we discuss the minor prophet – Amos. We each read through and study on our own and come together to discuss our views on it and what we have learned from it.

I ♥ VBS

Please be in prayer for where you can help serve our VBS next year. Our greatest need, currently, is teachers for our 2 – 3 year old class. Their VBS is self-contained in one room. VBS is set for June 1 – 5.

If you have any questions about the OCC Shoeboxes, the Books of the Bible Book Club, or VBS, please see Kathy Bivens.



GREETERS MINISTRY

Greeters for DECEMBER

7 Don & Sandy Jennings

14 Tim & Christine Mosteller

21 Pat Rudisill & Debbie Sherrill

28 Frank & Gail McSwain

Children's Workers for DECEMBER

NURSERY 10:30 AM

Dec 7 Linda Rickman

Dec 14 Tracie Kline

Dec 21 Shannon Wingate

Dec 28 Catherine Cox

CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM

Dec 7 Robin Sams

Dec 14 Kathy Bivens

Dec 21 Kim Jackson

Dec 28 Cathy Williams

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00 PM

Nursery & Preschool

Dec 3 Samantha Zinicola

Dec 10 Pat Lowman

Dec 17 Sandra Jennings

Dec 24 No services

Dec 31 No services

Deacon of the Month LONNIE HESTER

A Look at Our Records

Tithes & Offerings

These figures reflect our General

Fund amounts

Nov 2..... \$9,704.58

Nov 9..... \$4,139.24

Nov 16..... \$8,391.24

Nov 23..... \$7,667.24

Pastor Bruce Brooks, contact info:

cell, 704-745-7077

email: brooks0969@gmail.com

Chris Zinicola

cell, 910-934-2249

email:

chris.m.zinicola@gmail.com

Sunday School Report

Nov 2..... 87

Nov 9..... 76

Nov 16..... 88

Nov 23..... 81

STAFF DIRECTORY

Bruce Brooks.....Lead Pastor

Chris Zinicola.....Youth Pastor

Jerry Saine.....Worship Leader

Leann Osborne.....Administrative Sec.

Kim Bost.....HR/Financial Secretary

Samantha Zinicola....Facilities Manager

~ CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ~

Monday through Thursday

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Friday

9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Phone: 735-9976 FAX: 736-9985

Email address: calvbc@bellsouth.net

SUNSHINE CLUB
Monday, December 15
@11:00 AM



prayer

If you would like to join us for prayer, we meet
in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings at 8:30
am. Everyone is welcome!

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Permit No. 15
Lincolnton, NC 28092

THE MESSENGER
Calvary Baptist Church
493 Calvary Church Road
Lincolnton, NC 28092
Return Service Requested

THE MESSENGER

"In that day shall messengers go forth..." Ezekiel 30:9

DECEMBER 2025



As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may our hearts be filled with joy, peace, and gratitude for God's greatest gift – His Son, Jesus Christ. This season reminds us that light shines brightest in the darkness and that love came down to dwell among us.

May the hope of Christ be born anew in our hearts this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6 KJV

*Wishing you a blessed and joyful Christmas
from our family to yours*

**Pastor Bruce & Sabrina Brooks, Pastor Chris & Samantha Zinicola,
Jerry & Lisa Saine, Leann Osborne, and Kim Bost**

Calvary Baptist Church