



## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Calvary Church family,

As we enter February, we often consider this the month of Love. For a Christian, Love should not be something we affirm and show only during February. Love should be at the center of our daily lives. I was reminded this week, for us to Love the way God's Word commands us, we must always be reminded of God's Love for you and me. We forget at times because of the situations of life that God Loves us far beyond what we can imagine. We all know what **John 3:16** says about God's Love, but I want to remind you of what **Romans 5:8** states "But God demonstrates His own Love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." I want to give you five reasons you can know without a doubt that God's Love is the greatest gift you have ever been given.

**1- You could never earn or deserve the love God offers you. (Ephesians 2:4-5)**

**2- When you fully experience God's love, you have nothing to fear. (1 John 4:18)**

**3- Nothing can separate you from God's love if you are secure in your relationship with Him. (Romans 8:35-39)**

**4- God will not let you down because His love cannot fail. (Psalms 36:5-7)**

**5- God's love is perfect and is a model for how to love. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)**

I want to conclude this short article focusing on point five, God has modeled His Love for us in His son Jesus Christ. Because of this, we can know and experience true **Agape Love** as He first Loved us. Following God's example of Love, we can Love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbors as ourselves. My prayer for Calvary in 2026 is that we put God's Love into action in all aspects of our lives.

**In Christ, Pastor Bruce**



## FOOD COLLECTION

**February** is our month to collect food for Christian Ministry of Lincoln County. You can place donations in the tote that is located in the basement beside of the elevator; or you can place it upstairs in the vestibule and we will make sure it gets to the right place.



Recently, our students began a study through the Gospel of Mark. In chapter 4, Jesus teaches one of His most well-known parables: the Parable of the Sower. This passage is often called the Parable of the Soils, and for good reason, as the focus of the parable is the condition of the soil – because soil determines how the seed is received. In this parable, each type of soil represents a different response to the truth of God's Word.

**1- The Path:** the heart that rejects God's Word outright. Because the truth never takes root, the enemy comes and takes it away.

**2- The Rocky Soil:** the heart that responds with excitement when God's Word is convenient or emotionally stirring. But when trouble or persecution arises because of the Word, there is no depth, and the person quickly falls away.

**3- The Thorns:** the heart which hears the Word, but becomes distracted by the cares of this world, the pursuit of comfort, and the lure of temporary satisfaction. Thus, God's Word is choked out resulting in no fruit.

**4- the Good Soil:** the heart who hears God's Word, welcomes it, and allows it to take root. The result is a life that produces fruit – evidence of God's transforming work.

Jesus came to teach us the truth about our need for a Savior and His work to meet that need. This truth – the gospel – is not something we outgrow or move beyond. It is something we need to be reminded of every day.

Only as we continually return to the gospel can we position ourselves to live lives worthy of it, as the apostle Paul urges believers to do. Jesus not only provided the means of our salvation; He came to reveal and teach us how we can experience its power in our lives. The question Jesus leaves us with is a simple but searching one: *Are you willing to listen?*

What are you allowing to be your teacher in life? Often, the answer becomes clear when we look honestly at what we prioritize. What receives our time, attention, and energy reveals what we



## GREETERS MINISTRY

**Greeters for FEBRUARY**  
**1 Tim & Christine Mosteller**  
**8 Pat R & Debbie Sherrill**  
**15 Sid & Faye Eurey**  
**22 Frank & Gail McSwain**



## BACKPACK MINISTRY NEEDS

We are currently in need of everything: spaghetti o's, 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.



The Pastor, Staff, and Congregation would like to express our deepest sympathy to Carroll O'Sheal in the loss of his brothers, Glenn and Gary O'Sheal; and to James and Teresa O'Brien in the loss of their grandson, Seamus.

value most. Is God and His Word your highest priority, or is it the first thing set aside at the slightest inconvenience?

God calls us to be His children – His disciples – not only when it is easy, but also when it is difficult.

The things we are willing to sacrifice for, the things we endure hardship for, reveal what truly matters to us. May we be people who are committed to the hard work of cultivating hearts of good soil – ready to hear, receive, and live out the truth of God's Word so that it bears lasting fruit in our lives.

*Sincerely,*

**Chris Zinicola**

Cell: 910-934-2249

Email: [chris.m.zinicola@gmail.com](mailto:chris.m.zinicola@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events:

Skyzone & Dinner @Chili's  
Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

## CHRISTIAN MINISTRY Needs & News

### SOUP KITCHEN:

Items currently needed the most:  
chicken broth, corn starch, dessert plates

### LINC MEALS:

We are in desperate need for drivers to deliver LINC meals, 1 hour each month.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

We have an immediate need for a **receptionist** on Tuesdays, and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. You can volunteer whatever days work best with your schedule.

Also, we are in need of a **box truck driver** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. You would go to local stores to pick up food donations.



### ~ ATTENTION LADIES ~

For those that are interested, we will be having Interpretive Movement practice on Sundays @5:30 pm, and on Wednesdays @6:00 pm for the performance on Women's Day, Sunday, February 22. We will practice in Jerry Howell's Sunday School classroom.



We had so much fun, food, and fellowship at our "Favorite Things" party on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Not to mention the creative gifts, which varied from goodies from a bakery, to fans, to candles and lotion. If you weren't there, we hope that you will join us at our next meeting on February 1 at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. During this meeting, we will be planning the Worship Service for Women's Day, which is on February 22. If any lady would like to give their testimony, please let me know by February 1.

An exciting event is coming up on February 21 – Women of Calvary Parade of Tables. We are going to be celebrating Lincoln County Christian Ministries. The event will be held from 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM. The tickets will be \$18 each, with at least \$3 of each ticket going to Christian Ministry. So far, the following ladies are hosting tables – Robin Sams, Sabrina Brooks, Gina Davis, Kathy Bivens, Cindy Barber, Kim Jackson, Shirley Dellinger, and Jewell Adams. If you would like to host a table, please let me know by February 1. To buy a ticket, please see Robin Sams, Sabrina Brooks, or Kathy Bivens.

The Women of Calvary Yard Sale is coming up in March. Please bring any donated items to Kid City before or after any church service. Let me know if you bring items and I will meet you and help you unload.

### Upcoming Events in March:

**March 1** – Women of Calvary Monthly Meeting @5:00 PM

**March 16, 17, 19, 20** – set up for Women of Calvary Yard Sale

**March 21** – Women of Calvary Yard Sale

*In Christ's Love,  
Robin Sams*

*love*



### OCC SHOEBOXES

Are you interested in purchasing items throughout the year for boxes? The \$3.50

Valentine's Day stuffed animals at Walmart are about 6" tall and make great WOW! gifts. February is also a great time to purchase hygiene items like combs, washcloths, and toothbrushes. As a reminder, soap is no longer allowed in the shoeboxes. If you would like to have your washcloth turned into a small teddy bear for packing, please see Kathy Bivens.



### BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

#### BOOK CLUB

BoB Book Club

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; Joel 2:12

Join the Books of the Bible Book Club as we discuss the wonders of the OT book of Joel, the metaphors of the Locusts and the

Day of the Lord. We read through and study the book on our own and come together to discuss our findings and how it relates to us today. February meeting is on

Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Conference Room. In March we will discuss 1 Peter.

**I  VBS**

Do you like to build and create? We are looking for some creative people to help us turn Calvary into an Irish Countryside with a crumbling castle, bridge, and seashore with a lighthouse. If you are interested in taking on a project or assisting with one, please see Kathy Bivens.

**Thank you, Kathy Bivens**

*God is LOVE*  
1 John 4:8

## Children's Workers for FEBRUARY

### NURSERY 10:30 AM

Feb 1 Linda Rickman

Feb 8 Tracie Kline

Feb 15 Shannon Wingate

Feb 22 Catherine Cox

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM

Feb 1 Robin Sams

Feb 8 Kathy Bivens

Feb 15 Kim Jackson

Feb 22 Cathy Williams

### WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00 PM

#### Nursery & Preschool

Feb 4 Samantha Zinicola

Feb 11 Pat Lowman

Feb 18 Sandra Jennings

Feb 25 Courtney Sellers

## Deacon of the Month MARVIN SAMS

### A Look at Our Records

#### Tithes & Offerings

*These figures reflect our General Fund amounts*

Jan 4.....\$5,371.96

Jan 11.....\$7,151.45

Jan 18.....\$3,999.45

Jan 25.....\$479.71

## Sunday School Report

Jan 4.....71

Jan 11.....77

Jan 18.....74

Jan 25 *No Services due to weather*

## 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

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**Chris Zinicola**  
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# 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!

**SUNSHINE CLUB**  
**Monday, February 23**  
**@11:00 AM**

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Lincolnton, NC 28092  
THE MESSENGER  
Calvary Baptist Church

# THE MESSENGER

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

**FEBRUARY 2026**

