



**Dear Calvary Church family,**

In our Christian walk, spring symbolizes spiritual renewal, resurrection, and the “new creation” in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Just as nature awakens from winter, it represents God’s grace, washing away past sins, and offering a fresh start.

- Spiritual Awakening: Spring mirrors the transformation from spiritual death to life, marking a new beginning in one’s faith journey.
- Symbol of Resurrection: As flowers bloom after cold, barren months, spring reminds Christians of Christ’s resurrection and the promise of eternal life.
- Transformation & Grace: It represents God’s grace melting away the “winter” of guilt, offering a fresh start through repentance.
- Growth and Renewal: Like spring rains that nourish the earth, this season encourages spiritual growth, maturity, and leaving behind old, dead behaviors.
- Scriptural Connection: Isaiah 43:19 promises that God is “doing a new thing”, which, like spring, “springs up” to bring new life.

Spring is a vivid reminder that God’s mercies are new every morning, providing hope beyond life’s darkest, coldest seasons.

**In Christ, Pastor Bruce**



**Greeters for MARCH**

- 1 Jimmy & Kym Gloska**
- 8 Mike Isaacs & Collin B**
- 15 Bud & Shirley Dellinger**
- 22 Don & Sandy Jennings**
- 29 Tim & Christine Mosteller**



It is hard to believe that March is already upon us, and the snowpocalypse of 2026 is over... I hope. This is NC, so you never know. I just don’t know what to do with all this milk and bread I have left over. As spring and summer arrive, those who garden, have already begun their planting. And those of us who spend our time on home repair and update, have already started the “honey-do” list. For me, as I work on these projects around the house, it is a great time to listen to God’s Word and reflect on its meaning in my life. I encourage you to make it a priority to be in His Word daily.

**A few upcoming events for the**

**Men of Calvary:**

- April 30 – May 3: Men’s Retreat to Oak Island, NC. Sign-up sheet is at the front of the church. We would love to have you join us.
- May 4: the Men of Calvary will get the honor of serving a meal at Hesus House.
- June 1 – 5: VBS at Calvary. I encourage you to serve where you can.
- Later in the year we do have a Men’s Shootout planned, as well as a Camping/Kayak/Canoe trip.

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



**BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**

**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 Carolyn Noel in the loss of her sister, Linda Mosteller; and to Jennifer Allen in the loss of her mom, Dawn Mincey.



We recently studied Luke 10:38-42, where we are reminded of the importance of prioritizing Jesus. In this passage, Jesus visits Mary and Martha. Given the opportunity to spend time with Christ, they eagerly welcome Him. I wonder if the same can be said of us at any given time.

How often are we willing to welcome Christ into our homes (lives)? I fear many of us have become so busy that we fail to make the most of each opportunity and instead choose to welcome Christ only when it is convenient for our schedules or needs.

But here is another warning: sometimes we can busy ourselves with good things. In verse 40, we see that Martha was

distracted by her many tasks. We aren’t told exactly what Martha’s tasks were, but I believe that it is safe to assume that they weren’t bad things. She was likely serving Jesus as a guest in her home. Would any of us say that serving the physical needs of others is bad? Or that literally serving Jesus is wrong? The reason Jesus lovingly rebukes Martha is not because of her service, but because she has fallen victim to the dangers our busyness can bring. Just like Martha, we can allow our “many tasks” to distract us. As one author put it, sometimes we get too busy doing things for Jesus that we miss being with Jesus. Martha had lost sight of the object of her service, making serving the end and not the means. Often, we can make the same mistake; we confuse busyness for faithfulness.

Notice Jesus’ response in verses 41-42: “You are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not

be taken away from her.” Jesus was calling Martha to set her priorities. He states that one thing is necessary. I’ll never forget the way one author communicated this: he said that we must remember that God doesn’t call us to just the good, but to what is best. Being too busy for Christ is not always about filling our lives with bad things; it’s when we no longer make Him the priority. There are many things that are good for us and for us to do, but if we aren’t constantly seeking to make Christ our priority, we will miss the one thing that is necessary: sitting at the Lord’s feet and listening to Him. As you plan your week and each day, I pray that you will look for every opportunity to welcome Christ, to sit at His feet, and to prioritize Him. When we, like Mary, make the right choice, we can rest assured that it will not be taken away from us.

*Sincerely,*

*Chris Zinicola*

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**March 2:** DV8 Hesed House

**March 8:** Student Sunday

**March 15:** Student Fundraiser

**March 27:** Game Night & Dinner

**CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

*Needs & News*

**EASTER BASKETS:**

Christian Ministry gives out Easter Baskets to those that receive help and have children. We are in need of candy donations (*individually wrapped*), and also small toys and stuffed animals to go in the baskets

**SOUP KITCHEN:**

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

**LINC MEALS:**

We are in desperate need of 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.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual WOC Parade of Tables was so much fun. The creativity of the hostess was amazing, and we all learned so much about each other and about what all Christian Ministry does for the people of Lincoln County. It is unbelievable that they get most of their funding from local churches, and receive none from the government. If you could not attend this year, I pray you will do so next year – it is such a wonderful time.

Then, to add to the awesomeness of the weekend, we had Women’s Day on Sunday and the ladies took over the service. The women chose the songs, volunteered to fulfill roles in the service, and all were smiles doing so. Thanks to Sabrina for leading those who wanted to participate in an Interpretive Movement, and while I was one of the “backup signers”, I was so blessed to watch her use her gift for the Lord. Then, Melissa Dellinger shared her story, her testimony. Focusing on the white space and not the nasty black dot in the middle. It reminded me once again what I learned at a conference a couple of years ago – God wants us to focus not on the bad but on the good: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

We have lots of exciting events and times coming up for the Women of Calvary and we would love to have you join us.

**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 (4:30 pm until ? each evening)

**March 21** – Women of Calvary Yard Sale (we are still accepting donations; we are storing them in Kid City. Please let me know if you need

any help unloading.

***In Christ’s Love, Robin***



**OCC SHOEBOXES**

Have you picked up your WOW! item for your box yet? If not, Walmart has some really cute stuffed animals for Easter for \$3.50 each. Otherwise, March and April are great months to find small toys for your box. Some of the suggested items are small balls, frisbees, building blocks, finger puppets, slinky’s, yo-yo’s, magnets, kaleidoscopes, toy cars, etc. Also check the dollar spot at Target for great deals.

Happy building!



**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

**BOOK CLUB**

BoB Book Club

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.” **1 Peter 5:6-7**

Please join us on Tuesday, March 10 as we discuss the book of 1 Peter. We meet in the conference room from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, monthly. The book for April will be Esther.

**I ♥ VBS**

We are getting closer and we are so excited. Our elementary teachers are lined up and starting to go through the material.

We are in need of toddler class teachers for ages 2-3. This class is self-contained and really needs a group of people to be successful. Be on the lookout for upcoming craft days to prepare decorations.

*Thank you, Kathy Bivens*



**TOO BLESSED  
TO BE STRESSED**

**Children's Workers for MARCH**

**NURSERY 10:30 AM**

- March 1** Linda Rickman
- March 8** Tracie Kline
- March 15** Shannon Wingate
- March 22** Catherine Cox
- March 29** Tracie Kline

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH 10:30 AM**

- March 1** Robin Sams
- March 8** Kathy Bivens
- March 15** Kim Jackson
- March 22** Cathy Williams
- March 29** Kathy Bivens

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00 PM**

- Nursery & Preschool**
- March 4** Samantha Zinicola
- March 11** Pat Lowman
- March 18** Sandra Jennings
- March 25** Courtney Sellers

**Deacon of the Month  
ERNIE MORPHEW**

**A Look at Our Records  
Tithes & Offerings**

*These figures reflect our General  
Fund amounts*

Feb 1.....	\$4,471.17
Feb 8.....	\$14,309.45
Feb 15.....	\$5,704.45
Feb 22.....	\$4,307.45

**Pastor Bruce Brooks,  
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**Sunday School Report**

Feb 1	No services due to the weather
Feb 8.....	80
Feb 15.....	80
Feb 22.....	94

**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](mailto:calvbc@bellsouth.net)



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, March 23  
@11:00 AM**

*US Postage Paid  
Non Profit  
Permit No. 15  
Lincolnton, NC 28092*

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

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# THE MESSENGER

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

MARCH 2026

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GOD SAYS YOU ARE...



NOT  
*Lucky*  
-JUST-  
*Blessed*