

# Calvary Baptist Church Senior Saints Newsletter

## December 2025



**Week of Prayer for International Missions**  
**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**  
**Calvary's Goal: \$10,000.00**

**LOTTIE MOON** | **Christmas Offering**  
*Providing financial support for missionaries as they share the gospel overseas*

**Your Christmas card postage can always be donated to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.**

### December Birthdays

01	Jackie Griffies	<b>H</b>
02	Patsy Daniels	
07	Earl Whitley	
10	Ernie Clemmons	
11	Bonnie Boyd	
13	Robert Matthews	<b>P</b>
15	Tom Hoggard	
	Linda Keeton	
16	Al Davidson	
	Pat Ward	
18	Richard Coburn	<b>B</b>
19	Kathy Sadler	
20	Faye Spencer	
22	John Carter	
23	Marlene Goodall	
26	Linda Birdsong	<b>T</b>
	Lou Smith	
27	Alonza Harris	
28	Gloria Evans	
29	Barbara Coburn	
31	Ann Allsbrook	<b>A</b>
	Erma Ford	
	Henry Simmons	
	Eddie Twisdale	

### December Anniversaries

15	Reggie & Brenda Baird
	Ken & Maxine Stutmann
17	Henry & Celeste Simmons
18	Al & Carol Davidson
19	David & Kathy Sadler
24	Richard & Barbara Coburn
29	Greg & Valerie McKee
31	Wayne & Carolyn Allen





## Children's Christmas Play

Directed by Mrs. Joan Carter  
**Sunday, December 14, 6pm**



### **Everyone is invited.**

Bring a finger food to share at the church-wide Christmas party following the play.

## Reflection

The golden years can be a time of reflection, but also a time to embrace new opportunities for gratefulness. As we age, we often gain a greater understanding of life's blessings. Gratefulness doesn't depend on circumstances; it comes from a heart that recognizes God's goodness in every moment. Embracing gratefulness means choosing to focus on what we have, not what we lack. It's about finding joy in the small things: a beautiful sunset, a shared meal, or a peaceful moment with God. These years are a time to celebrate God's faithfulness and give thanks for the many gifts He has given us. In embracing gratefulness, we honor God and live in a way that reflects His goodness to those around us.

### **Heavenly Father,**

Thank You for the wisdom that comes with age, and for the opportunity to embrace a life of gratitude. Help me to recognize Your goodness in every moment, and to give thanks for the blessings You've given me. Thank You for each breath I take, each step I make. Teach me to embrace gratefulness every day, even in the challenges. Help me to be a reflection of Your love and to share my gratitude with others. May my heart overflow with thankfulness for all You have done. **Amen.**

<https://devotionalsfortoday.com>



## **Calvary Baptist Church Business Meeting**

**Sunday, December 7,  
 following the 6pm Evening Worship Service**

The Finance Committee will be presenting the 2026 Proposed Budget for your approval.

Committee Members:

Todd Arthur, Frank Derzis, Linda Moore,  
 Bob Patterson & Dave Shelton

Please take time to look over the report before the meeting. Please contact one of the committee members before the meeting if you have questions or concerns that need to be addressed. Thank you for allowing us to serve on this committee.

### **Services Canceled**

Sunday 11/30 - No PM Service or Activities

Sunday 12/21 - No PM Service or Activities

Sunday 12/28 - No PM Service or Activities

Wednesday 12/31 - No Service or Activities

### **Church Office Closed for Christmas**

Wednesday - Friday, 12/24 - 12/26



## **Pastor Charlie's Devotion**

### **"The Light Shines"**

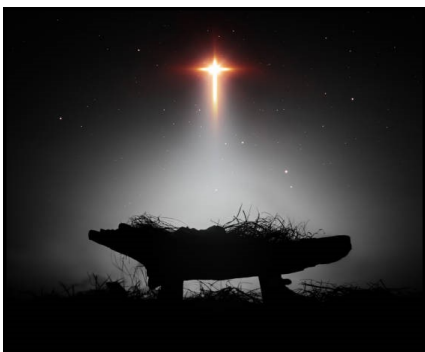
In the Gospel of John 1:4-5 we read, *"In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."*

These verses are speaking about the coming of Jesus. He came to shine his light into the world darkened by sin. He came to show us the way out of the darkness. But many, even those who were looking for the coming of the Messiah had grown accustomed to the darkness and they rejected the light. This is still true today.

One difference today is the Lord calls those of us who believe in him to be the light of the world. So, during this Christmas season when so many families are decorating their homes with many lights, let us look for opportunities to tell them about the true light that came into the world, so they do not have to live in darkness any longer. Tell them that in him there is life and even eternal life.

The first time the light came into the world, he came as a little baby, meek and mild. This is the time of the year that we celebrate his birth, and "Christ"mas is on everyone's mind. What a great time to tell them about the True Light of the world. Because He is coming again and when he comes the next time it will be to judge the darkness. I pray when he does return that he finds us living in the light and sharing the light.

God bless you my friends as you let the Light of the World shine through you this Christmas season. *Pastor Charlie Carter*



## **What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®?**



In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith. Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations. Let's honor her legacy by praying and giving so others can hear the hope of the gospel.

**100% of every gift directly supports overseas missionaries and your missionaries are grateful for your donations!**



When we say "thank you," it's not a simple statement. We recognize the deep commitment that so many of you have made to support more than 3,500 missionaries

**Pray for international missions, missionaries and their families.**

## **25 Christmas Scriptures**

1 - **Isaiah 7:14** — Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.

2 - **Matthew 1:18** — Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

3 - **Isaiah 9:6** — For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

4 - **Matthew 1:21** — She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

5 - **John 1:14** — And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

6 - **Matthew 1:30-33** — And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

7 - **Luke 2:10-11** — And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

8 - **Galatians 4:4-5** — But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

9 - **Luke 2:13-14** — And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

10 - **John 3:16-17** — For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

11 - **Isaiah 11:3-4** — And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

12 - **John 8:12** — Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

13 - **Matthew 2:1-2** — Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

14 - **Micah 5:2** — But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

15 - **Matthew 4:23-24** — And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

16 - **Isaiah 61:1-2** — The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

17 - **Philippians 2:5-8** — Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

18 - **John 15:13** — Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

19 - **James 1:17** — Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

20 - **Acts 20:35** — In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

21 - **John 13:34-35** — "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

22 - **Philippians 2:3-4** — Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

23 - **Colossians 3:15** — And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

24 - **2 Corinthians 9:15** — Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

25 - **Romans 15:13** — May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

As these Christmas Scriptures fill your heart  
with hope this holiday season,  
we pray this prayer from Romans 15:13 for you.  
**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace  
in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
you may abound in hope.**

## **Ramblings of the Ole Man**

Even though it is going to be after Thanksgiving when you get this, I still wanted to continue the theme of being THANKFUL!! I'm going to share some of who and what I'm thankful for. My hope is that it will inspire you all to sit back and think the same about your own lives. The first thing is my salvation. Without this one thing, I would be headed to a devil's hell. Do I completely understand it? NOPE, but I know it's real, and I knew it was at the time I asked Jesus into my life. Am I perfect now? ABSOLUTELY NOT! Praise God, I know that I am covered by the blood of Jesus; not for anything I've done, but what Jesus did on the cross through his death and resurrection. I'm also thankful for my mother, grandmother, and grandfather who loved me and my sisters enough to make a way for us to stay together as a family. They made sacrifices that only they and God know about. They poured Jesus in us every way they knew how. Grandma and granddaddy didn't live to see it, but mama saw me get saved and be baptized. I'm thankful for Alonza Harris and Frank Clary. If these two men had not heeded the leading of the Lord to come to see me that day, I shudder to think what might had happened to me. You see, I believe they were the only two who I would have listened to because they had earned the right through respect to talk to me about such an important subject as one's eternity. I'm thankful for my wife of 46 years. God used her walk with Him to help soften me those years leading up to me getting saved.

To this day, He uses her to help keep me in line and to remind me who and what I am, a child of the King. I'm thankful for my kids, Renee, Nicole, Robie and Christina. Now, we don't always see eye to eye on everything, but we are family plain and simple, and no one but God Himself knows just how much I love and cherish them. I'm thankful for my grandkids, eight of them if you count the adopted one, and I do. I'm going to name them by age, oldest to youngest and by what I call them --Punk, Shotgun, Snodgrass, Cooter, Scout, Peanut, Tink and last, but not least, The Hobbit of the Hook Flatfoot; known also as Cailey, Elijah, Isaiah, Tyler, Katelyn, Jackson, Abigayle and Charlotte. They keep me honest and interested. I'm known by these titles: Granddaddy, Papa and Pa, all of which I cherish. I'm also thankful for all of you. The impact each of you have had on my life will never be known this side of Heaven. The friendships that we have forged over time will always be cherished. I hope, as I said in the beginning of this rambling, that my thoughts have helped you to stop and reflect about your own life and to whom you are thankful to for all the many blessings He affords us, and how He loves us unconditionally. We are so very blessed to be called His. I love you all, and as this time of the year tends to be busy, I pray safety, peace and love to all.

**----Ramblings of the ole but Blessed man**

**Robert Matthews**





## **"Rocking Around the Christmas Tree"**

**NRBA Senior Adult  
Christmas Luncheon**  
**Tues., Dec. 2, 11:00 am**



Entertainment by Casey Short

For everyone that signed up and paid: We will be leaving Calvary at 9:30 am. We will also be stopping by Smith's Red & White in Rocky Mount on the return trip home.

**Senior Saints  
Christmas Party**  
**Thurs., Dec. 11  
1pm**



**in Calvary's Gym**

Devotion by Rev. Randy Martin

Entertainment by Mrs. Joan Carter

\* Bring some type of delicious finger food to share.

\* Bring a simple nativity that  
is special to you to put on display.

Please sign up by Sun., Dec. 7 so we will know  
how many tables and chairs to set up.

## **OCC STEW SALE**

**Saturday, January 31**

**\$12.00 per quart**

Pick up at 44 Vance Street between 10am to 12 noon.

The order form will be on the OCC Shoebox bulletin  
board. Money goes towards purchasing shoebox items.

**Thank you for helping us pack  
and ship 648 Shoeboxes in 2025!**

**We appreciate your donations greatly!**

Pray for the group that is going to Charlotte Dec. 4 - 6 to process shoeboxes: Tim & Sheila Davis, Judy Hale, Andi & Logan Hux, Linda Moore, Seretha Pittman, Cindy Stephens, Maxine Stutmann, Jim & Betty Wallace, and Michele Wrenn.



Check the Senior Saints' bulletin board in the back hall for information and sign up forms. It is very important that you sign up for events so proper preparations can be made. A waiting list will be available if we have to limit reservations. You will be moved to the regular list if space becomes available.

## **Senior Saints**

*Valentine's Dinner*

**Sat., Jan. 24**

**6:00 pm**

**Cost: \$7.00**

Sign up on bulletin board.

## **Christmas Cards for Homebound**

A card list has been published where you can find the list of all of your Calvary homebound friends. Include them in the cards you bring to church. A bulk Christmas card delivery will be made to each of them. Keep them in your prayers during the holiday season.

Garrett is deployed now. Send both of them a card.

**CH SHROUDER, GARRETT**

4-3 AHB

UNIT 20086

APO AE 09749

**Jasmyn Shrouder**

12 Oakview Drive

Hunter AAF, GA

31409

IF YOU LOOK FOR ME AT CHRISTMAS  
YOU WON'T NEED A SPECIAL STAR.  
I'M NO LONGER JUST IN BETHLEHEM,  
I'M RIGHT THERE WHERE YOU ARE.  
YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE OF ME  
AMID THE CELEBRATIONS  
YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK BEYOND THE  
STORES AND ALL THE DECORATIONS.  
BUT IF YOU TAKE A MOMENT  
FROM YOUR LIST OF THINGS TO DO  
AND LISTEN TO YOUR HEART, YOU'LL  
FIND I'M WAITING THERE FOR YOU.  
YOU'RE THE ONE I WANT TO BE WITH  
YOU'RE THE REASON WHY I CAME.  
AND YOU WILL FIND ME IN THE STILLNESS  
AS I AM WHISPERING YOUR NAME

LOVE,

*Jesus*

