

# Calvary Baptist Church Senior Saints Newsletter

January 2026

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

Throughout the New Year, and each step of the way,  
May Christ be your portion, your joy and your stay.  
With God's precious precepts your daily delight  
To lead and encourage in paths that are right.

"The Lord is my Shepherd," how precious the word!  
He'll lead in green pastures, His promise is heard.  
"Beside the still waters"—what comfort and rest!  
What peace there is found upon Jesus' breast.

His "goodness and mercy," each day may you prove,  
His comforting presence, His infinite love!  
With richest compassions, each morning anew,  
May multiplied mercies be showered on you!

"My cup runneth over," His grace so abounds,  
That fullest enjoyment in Jesus is found.  
"The Lord is my portion," this may your soul say,  
And you will be happy each step of the way.

—Lois Beckwith

### January Birthdays

03 Eddie Pittman

05 Wanda Jordan

Jim Kuroski

Joey Taylor

Martha Wilson

06 Karen Jean

07 Nell Davis

08 Linda Evans

12 Don Cook

13 Frankie Murff

14 Wayne Allen

Glenn Ezzelle

Lee Gibson

17 Vivian Johnson

18 David Stephens

19 Larry Gums

Eddie Wrenn

22 Jean Harris

23 Ken Stuttmann

25 Barbara Shearin

26 Jim Wallace

28 Howard Ferguson

Dave Shelton

29 Louise Flagg

30 Roy Flagg

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### January Anniversaries

02 Alonza & Ann Harris

14 Mike & Lynn Conner

17 Scott & Donna Griffies

21 Eddie & Sandy Twisdale

## Pastor Andy's Thoughts

As we step into January, we're reminded that every new beginning is a gift from God. The calendar may turn, but His faithfulness remains unchanged. "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23). Whether this year brings fresh opportunities or quiet routines, we can trust that the Lord walks with us—one day at a time.

January is also a time to reflect on what matters most. The world may rush ahead with resolutions and noise, but we are invited to listen for the still, small voice of God. "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Your years of walking with Christ are a treasure to our church family. Your prayers, stories, and steady presence remind us that wisdom is not found in speed, but in faithfulness.

As we begin this new year, may your heart be anchored in hope. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). God is still writing your story, and there is grace for every chapter. May January be filled with peace, purpose, and the quiet joy of knowing you are deeply loved by God.

**Have a great 2026! Love you all!**

**Pastor Andy**

## In Your Senior Years, Consider This...

- ~ Your kids are becoming you...  
but your grandchildren are perfect!
- ~ Going out is good. Coming home is better!
- ~ You forget names. But it's OK, because other people forgot they even knew you!
- ~ You realize you're never going to be really good at anything... especially golf.
- ~ The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- ~ You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep."
- ~ You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- ~ You tend to use more 4 letter words...  
"what?"..."when?"... ???
- ~ Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- ~ You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"!
- ~ What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~ Everybody whispers.
- ~ You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet...  
2 of which you will never wear again.
- ~ But... Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

**Remember "It is health that is real wealth  
and not pieces of gold and silver."**

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER  
BEEN... BUT, IT'S THE YOUNGEST  
YOU'LL EVER BE.**

<https://inspire21.com/your-senior-years/>



**Sunday School at 9:45am**  
**There is a class for everyone!**

**The 8:30am Worship Service,  
6pm Evening Worship Service,  
and all evening activities are canceled.**

**PRAISE THE LORD!**  
**LOTTIE MOON**  
**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**  
*Providing financial support to missionaries  
as they share the gospel overseas.*  
**Total Collected: \$15,826.38**

## **Pastor Charlie's Devotion**

In Psalm 33:22 we read these words, *"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put out hope in you."*

As we have stepped into a new year, we realize that the months ahead of us hold the prospect of joy and heartache, triumph and tragedy, easy days and difficult ones, quiet days and days full of activity. There may indeed be uncertain days in the year to come so it seems good to begin the year with the prayer of the psalmist, "May your unfailing love rest upon us O Lord." We know we can trust His love and with his love directed toward us we also know that whatever happens in the days ahead, through his love he will work it out for our good, (Romans 8:28). We can put our hope in the one, true God.

You may be experiencing some hard days that have followed you into the new year. I encourage you to put your hope in the unfailing love of the Lord. Ask him to bring you out of the darkness into his marvelous light.

For others of us things may be going well today, but you can see some storm clouds gathering on the horizon. If that is you, put hope in the unfailing love of the Lord and seek his strength for the days ahead.

Still others may be enjoying the mountain top and the future looks bright. If that is you, put your hope in the unfailing love of the Lord and praise him with a thankful heart.

Only with his unfailing love resting on us will we be able to make it through the year ahead, so, put your hope in him.

God bless each of you and have a great New Year.

***Pastor Charlie Carter***

## **Life's Lesson from a Donkey**

One day, a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

**Moral:** Life is going to shovel dirt on you. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Every adversity can be turned into a stepping stone. The way to get out of the deepest well is by never giving up but by shaking yourself off and taking a step up.

**What happens to you isn't nearly as important as how you react to it.**

Author Unknown

**"Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning."**

Lamentations 3:23

**Dear God,**

**I am in awe of Your great faithfulness. Each day, You show me mercy and love that never end. Thank You for walking with me through every stage of my life. When I feel uncertain or afraid, remind me of the many ways You have been faithful before. Fill my heart with trust and gratitude for Your care. Teach me to lean on You in every moment, knowing that Your promises are always true. Thank You for being the constant and unchanging God I can always rely on. Amen.**



# Ecuador



**Sunday, January 25**

following the  
11am Worship Service  
in the Church Gym

Proceeds will benefit the  
12 member Ecuador  
Mission Trip Team.

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## PHILLIPS & BANKS

IN CONCERT



**When:** JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> @ 6PM

**Where:** CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

WWW.PHILLIPSANDBANKS.COM

## Year In Review

*Calvary's Senior Saints  
have been very busy in 2025.*

Bingo Games

Valentine Banquet

Canal Museum Tour

Raleigh Shopping Trips

Farmer's Market

Rudy Theatre - Throwbacks to Summer  
Lunch at the Robbin's Nest

NRBA Sr. Adult Spring Luncheon

Bingo Game with Pastor Charlie

Annual Fish Fry

Patriotic Cookout

Ice Cream Social

Smithfield, Virginia Tour

Roanoke Valley Aging Expo

Rudy Theatre Christmas Jubilee

NRBA Sr. Adult Christmas Luncheon

Smith's Red & White Grocery Store

Annual Christmas Party

All of this combined while participating in  
regular church services, Sunday School,  
and other special events such as

Homecoming

Vacation Bible School

Ecuador Mission Trip

Men's & Women's Bible Studies

OCC Shoebox Ministry & Mission Trip

OCC Stew Sales

Supporting Annie Armstrong

& Lottie Moon Mission Offerings

Sending Cards

Visiting

and **Praying for Others**

Please let us know what  
you may be interested  
in doing in 2026!

## **Ramblings of the Ole Man**

This new year I will start off in a more humorous way, even if it involves me as this first little story does just that. It is actually about a coworker named Frank and me, when we worked together at Barnes Sales. One Saturday as the day was winding down, a man came in and bought a coffee table, two end tables and a sofa table. He wanted them delivered, so Mr. B told me to load them up on the little pickup truck. As a matter of fact, it is the very same truck that I own right now, and it is thirty years old and still running, I might add. Anyway, I loaded the tables, wrapped and tied them down. About the time I got ready to leave, Frank came in and asked if I wanted him to go with me. As we all were winding down and I had to go out in the country in Pleasant Hill, I told him sure, that I would like the company. So we loaded in the Green Goblin as I called it. Off we went on an adventure that we had no idea was going to happen. We found the trailer after a little searching (note!). Back when this took place, we had no GPS to guide us and only had people's directions. That's when I learned everybody doesn't give good directions to where they lived, even if they'd lived there forty years. Sometimes, it was a lot of hit and miss turns, especially when they didn't know their left from their right. We finally pulled up in the drive and I told Frank to go ahead and start untying tables while I went to the door to let them know we were there. Now, here's where things went south, so to speak, and where I learned about putting your toe against the bottom corner of the storm door!!!! I knocked on the door and right then I realized that a dog was inside.

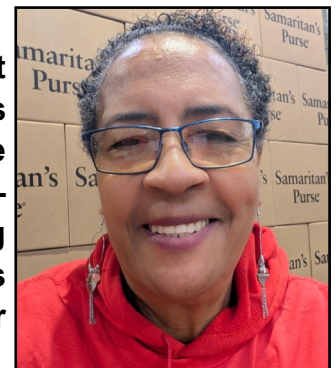
Before the man could get the dog, his little boy snatched the inside door open and a ninety-pound pitbull dog came flying to the door hitting the door at full speed which flung the door wide open. The door struck me in the forehead and thankfully the dog completely passed by me and made a beeline straight for Frank who now was on the side of the truck. I yelled for him to look out. As soon as he turned, the dog straddled him and pinned him against the side of the truck. The dog was barking straight in Frank's face and dog spit was hitting him all over. The dog's owner and I were running to Frank while I was hollering, "FRANK, DON'T MOVE!" Luckily, the dog was retrieved and Frank was unharmed, but he was shook up right badly. As we stood at the truck collecting ourselves, Frank went to light a smoke and his hands were shaking so badly that I had to give him a light. This was when he asked me a question about what I had yelled. You know - don't move - as the 90-pound hound of Satan had him pinned against the truck. His words and I'll clean them up were just where the heck did you think I was going other than down this monster's throat. While discussing it afterwards with Frank on the way home, I found out that yelling Frank don't move greatly amused him as if he could really go anywhere. We laughed and laughed over this and even now I'll bring it up and I get pretty much the same look each time. That my friends was a heck of a way to end the day, but like I said I learned a valuable trick with the storm door. May I say that it has saved me many times.

**Ramblings of the ole man... Robert Matthews**

## **Blessings Behind the Scenes**



No one could ever imagine how little would get done if you didn't have people behind the scenes doing the work. These are three people who are major blessings to Calvary's Senior Saints ministry. Glenn and Lou Smith are there to do anything that is needed to be done, and Maxine Stutmann is the one who is so faithful to send cards out to our homebound each month.



**We appreciate them and we also appreciate each one of you who volunteer or get drafted to assist in our Senior Saints ministry. It is a huge blessing to be able to serve in this ministry!**



# Senior Saints

## *Valentine's Dinner*

**Saturday, January 24, 6:00 pm  
in the Church Gym - Cost: \$7.00**

**Entertainment by Rev. Casey Short**

**Meal prepared by Jerry Moseley & Ernie Clemmons**

**Please sign up and pay by January 14.**



### OCC STEW SALE

**Saturday, January 31**

**\$12.00 per quart**

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



The order form is 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!**

**2026 Organizational Meeting  
Tuesday, January 13, 6:30pm  
in Adult Women's Sunday School Class  
All are welcome to attend.**



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.

*2025  
In Loving Memory  
of our dear, sweet friends.*

*Frances Brabble*

*Addie Stratton*

*Shirley Edwards*

*Georgia McPlenny*

*Joyce Wiggins*

*Gwen Lowell*

*George Seuis*