

Looking UP

Calvary Church Weekly News

Candlelight Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 5:30 & 8:00 PM

It's time again for the most beautiful worship service of the year at Calvary Church—Candlelight Christmas Eve. Invite your family, friends, guests from out-of-town, and neighbors to worship, sing favorite carols, light a Christmas candle, and hear the wondrous "glad tidings of great joy!" *Childcare to age 4 and American Sign Language interpretation will be provided at the 5:30 PM service.*

Take Christmas Eve invitation postcards today

Stop by Galleria table 1 this morning for postcards you can use to invite others to the Candlelight Christmas Eve services. An e-invitation is also available at www.calvarychurch.com/invitation.



Men, make Bible study your priority

Men's Priority Groups ■ Tuesdays beginning January 12, 6:00–7:30 AM

Join us before the workday begins every Tuesday in the Crown Room. Our winter session will focus on Max Lucado's "Life Lessons" in the book of John and includes a light breakfast. Cost is \$25 per semester. Please register online! Can't meet in the morning? The men's Tuesday evening Bible study will resume, now as a "priority group," on January 12 at 7:00 PM in room 242. They will continue their line-by-line study in the book of Acts. Open to newcomers!

Men at the Cross Conference ■ Friday & Saturday, January 22–23

At Calvary Church with Joe White, Chris Julian, & Rick Riggsby

Catch the vision! Join this group of radically committed men who lead the way through discipleship and serving Christ in the church, in their families, and in the workplace. Register at www.calvarychurch.com/menatthecross for the \$29 discount price. Contact: Mitzi Koch, 704.341.5417, mkoch@calvarychurch.com

Wednesday electives begin Jan. 6

Calvary offers an array of Bible study

electives on Wednesdays, 6:30–8:00 PM. Expect to GROW in your knowledge and understanding of the Bible! Get course details, choose a class, and register online at www.calvarychurch.com/electives.

Short Courses, Dates Vary

Calvary Membership Course

(2/17–3/31), Room 232, Dr. John Munro

False Religions: The Draw and the Danger

(1/6–2/10) Crown Room, Dr. Norman Geisler

The Law: A Picture of God's Holiness

(1/6–2/10) Room 401, Pastor David Ingrassia

Joshua: God's People in a Hostile Land

(2/17–3/24) Crown Room, Pastor David Ingrassia

11-Week Courses, Jan 6–Mar 24

Essentials – A Study for College Students

Room 328, Justin Roper & Ryan Amidon

Marriage & Family: Love and Respect

Room 231, Pastor Phil Divine

Bible: Pastoral Epistles

Room 224, Dr. Ed Maynard

The Victory: Overcoming the Trials of Life

Room 233, Pastor Scott Vail

21 Principles for a Healthy Single Mom

Room 228, Cathy Reed

From Mission Tourist to Global Citizen/Christian Life and Witness

Room 227, Pastor Jim Cashwell

Living By the Book – Bible Study Methods

Room 241, Wayne Hackbarth

Crown Financial Bible Study

(1/6–3/31) Room 242, John Mandeville

Wednesday Evening Prayer

Prayer Room, Third Floor, Paul Hundrieser

Spanish Bible Study

Room 222, Pastor Jorge Prado

■ DECEMBER 20, 2009

From the Senior Pastor

Christmas and children...

Christmas without children is unimaginable. When I was a little boy there was no question that Christmas was the most exciting time of the year. Decorations were put up in our home, and all the Christmas cards received



Dr. John H. Munro

were given a prominent place. Then there was waking up on Christmas Day to find a pile of presents at the bottom of my bed! I vividly remember tearing off the paper, and then rushing through to my parents' bedroom in the early hours to show them the wonderful presents which had miraculously appeared in my bedroom!

But I was taught that the most important thing about Christmas was the birth of a little child in a manger many years ago. It was difficult to grasp then, as it is now, that the eternal God came to this world as a little baby boy. Charles Wesley put it so well, "our God contracted to a span incomprehensibly made man."

Thank you for joining us on this Christmas Sunday as we afresh consider "The Mystery and Mission of Christmas." Also, come with all your family and friends to one of our two Candlelight Christmas Eve services as we come and adore Christ, our Lord. ■

Ladies, connect and grow in Bible study

Our winter/spring Bible studies just for women begin Tuesday, January 12. We are offering five new courses, four continuing studies, and two evening groups at 9:30 AM–noon or 7:00–9:00 PM. Check online for course descriptions and registration! There is a materials charge for both new and continuing courses. Contact: Pam Radesky, 704.544.6524

New Women's Bible Studies

1 John NavPress, Room 237, Jan Adams

Anointed, Transformed, Redeemed

by Arthur, Moore, & Shirer
Room 238, Terri Richards

Stepping Up by Beth Moore

Room 231, Rometa Arrington

Living with Confidence in a Chaotic World* AM & PM

by David Jeremiah
Room 232, Mary Beth Hohman

To Live Is Christ* AM & PM by Beth Moore

Room 222, Carolyn Smith



Are you a first-time guest today?

If you're visiting Calvary for the first time, welcome! Please stop by the Guest Café in the Galleria following the service for coffee and light refreshments. We'd love to meet you and answer any questions.

We also have a special welcome gift bag just for you!

HOME Ministry offers new course for adoptive & foster care parents

Calvary's HOME Ministry will offer a new class in January for parents considering adoption or foster care. MAPP (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) will provide 30 hours of training designed to help prospective parents move through the placement process. Parents will be prepared to work with child welfare agencies as team members in parenting children and teens in the foster care system. They will receive helpful information about children's feelings regarding their birth families, the realities of separation and attachment, the impact of a new child on one's own family, and how to parent children who have experienced neglect, abandonment, and abuse. **Online registration required.** Contact: Jenna Mascia, 704.517.6606, jmascia@live.com

MAPP Orientation Meeting ■ Thursday, January 7, 6:30–8:00 PM, Banquet Room

This REQUIRED CLASS is for Mecklenburg and Union county residents. No childcare available.

MAPP Preparation Classes ■ January 21–February 22, Conf. Room B, 6:30–9:30 PM

Classes meet on Mondays and Thursdays. Childcare provided at a cost of \$7 per class per family.

Sunday, January 24, 2010

Sanctity of Life Sunday

Calvary will observe the anniversary of the landmark Roe v Wade decision, reaffirming our commitment to the sanctity of human life. We will have a special child dedication for adopted children, the annual display of white crosses on the front lawn representing children lost to abortion, and a Galleria fair for ministries and agencies that support adoption, orphans, and the value of human life.

To participate in the child dedication,

sign up for the required preparation class offered on January 10. Contact: Bev Modzell, 704.341.5331, bmodzell@calvarychurch.com

Year end need for General Fund giving continues

Calvary is thankful that General Fund giving has held up well in spite of the economic challenges facing our nation this year. Traditionally, giving to the General Fund is much greater in December than in any other month. To get back on target to meet our budget goal for the 2009–2010 fiscal year, it is very important that we see such an increase again this year. Note the graph (left) showing a \$416,000 total General Fund need by December 31 (an average of \$208,000 per week.)

General Fund Update

\$416,000
Balance needed in December General Fund giving (\$208,000 per week)

\$208,000
Received December to Date

Please pray about how God would have you involved in this effort as we seek His will together. Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

Christmas Eve Benevolence Offering ■ Every year, 100% of our Christmas Eve offering goes to the Calvary Church Benevolence Fund. This money is used throughout coming the year to assist Calvary members and attendees with unexpected financial crises brought on by illness, job loss, or other hardships. Please prayerfully consider what you might contribute over

and above your normal giving to help this vital ministry. Thank you! Contact: John Mandeville, 704.341.5330, jmandeville@calvarychurch.com

Guidelines to help with year-end giving

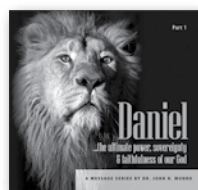
Below are some income tax guidelines you should remember concerning your year-end gifts to Calvary. Questions? Contact: John Mandeville, 704.341.5330, jmandeville@calvarychurch.com

1. Checks dated December 2009 and placed in the church offering in January 2010 are reported as 2010 donations.
2. Checks dated December 2009 that are mailed and postmarked December 2009 will be reported as 2009 donations, even if they are received in the mail in January 2010.
3. Checks dated December 2009 and brought to the church office by close of business Thursday, December 31, 2009 will be credited as 2009 donations.
4. Gifts of securities must be transferred into Calvary's investment account by December 31, 2009 to be reported as a 2009 contribution.
5. Those who are age 70½ may donate directly to Calvary from an IRA account until December 31, 2009.

Calvary staff opportunity in special needs ministry

Children's Ministry Special Needs Coordinator ■ This part-time position (12 hours per week) requires a heart for ministering to special needs children and their families. It involves leading volunteer ministry teams, working with curriculum, and facilitating all aspects of the Special Needs Ministry. Candidates must have experience with working with special needs students and must be a member of Calvary Church. This position also requires excellent organization, communication, and computer skills. Candidates should email resumes to Su Trull, Children's Ministry Director, at strull@calvarychurch.com.

along the way...



Daniel series The first 11 messages in Dr. John Munro's current series in the book of Daniel are now available in a boxed CD set for \$20 in the Word Room bookstore. **Christmas Eve Nursery** If you serve in the nursery during the 5:30

Christmas Eve service, you'll still be able to attend the 8:00 PM service. Please sign up at Galleria table 8 today. Contact: Michelle Hartman, 704.341.5399, mhartman@calvarychurch.com

Career Ministry Brian Ray, founder of Crossroads Career

Network, will present "Turn New Year's Resolutions into Real Solutions" on Monday,

January 4 at 7:00 PM in the Crown Room. Get excellent job search resources and details at

www.calvarychurch.com/career. **Support Groups** Holiday cheer

turning into stress, strain, tension, and temptation? New **support group sessions begin**

Monday, January 11 at 6:45 PM. Register online for: DivorceCare, DivorceCare 4 Kids,

GriefShare, Hearts of Hope, First Place 4 Health, Boundaries, Overcoming Addictions, Search for

Significance, Single Parenting that Works, and Walking on Water (Overcoming Fear). Contact:

Galina Olivera-Celdran, 704.887.3681, galinao@calvarychurch.com **High**

School Camp We're headed to **Camp Lurecrest, June 16–20**, in the North Carolina

mountains on beautiful Lake Lure. Registration is now open; reserve your spot with a \$100

deposit. **Middle School Mission** We're headed for a summer missions

experience "**X-Fuge on Mission**," **July 18–23**, in Williamsburg, Kentucky. Registration is

open; reserve your spot with a \$100 deposit. Program details online now! **Kids'**

Camp Registration is now open for **Zone345 Camp at the Woodlands**, June 14–18. Only

90 spots available! Contact: Leanne Henwood, 704.887.3695, lhenwood@calvarychurch.com

The Word Room Calvary's bookstore is now offering a **20% discount** on all boxed Christmas cards and selected books. Stop by for gifts, Bibles, and Calvary logo products.

updates *this week*

December 20 @ Calvary

8:30 AM	Adult Life Groups
8:30 AM	Spanish Service, Chapel
9:45 AM	Worship Service, Sanctuary "The Mystery and Mission of Christmas"
9:45 AM	Nursery & Children's Classes
11:00 AM	Spanish Service, Chapel
11:15 AM	Adult Life Groups, Nursery, Children's Classes, Student Ministry
6:00 PM	No evening service

Serving this week

Elder	Bob Grundmann	704.846.4176
Deacons	John Short	704.821.2049
	Rich Farynyk	704.569.4915

Pastor of the Week—Phil Divine
For pastoral emergencies: **704.957.7200**

Missionaries of the week

Leo & Anne Lance serving with Wycliffe Bible Translators JAARS in Waxhaw, NC

Journey 2009 daily reading

Monday	Revelation 13
Tuesday	Revelation 14
Wednesday	Revelation 15
Thursday	Revelation 16
Friday	Revelation 17

www.calvarychurch.com/journey2009

Galleria tables directory

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Wednesdays at Calvary

Family dinner, Bible study electives, Awana, and RE:generation will resume on Wednesday, **January 6, 2010**. Dinner will be served from 5:00–6:15 PM in the Crown Room and activities meet 6:30–8:00 PM. Please join us!

Deepest sympathy to...

Steve & Debbie Ottaviano and family in the loss of Steve's sister, Ruth, on December 10

Linda Hildreth and family in the loss of her father, Mr. Bill Gibson, on December 11

Art & Kathleen Lightbody in the loss of Kathleen's father, Mr. Hugh Muir, on December 14

Luz Miller and family in the loss of her father on December 14

Walter Reid and family in the loss of his wife, Mrs. Sarah Reid, on December 14

For the record...

General Fund offering on 12/13 **\$134,785**
General Fund weekly goal \$121,000

Attendance on 12/13		
9:45 AM	Christmas Concert	3536
	Nursery & Volunteers	250
6:00 PM	Christmas Concert	2120
	Total	5906

Upcoming messages

Dec 24	5:30 & 8:00 PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve "A Shepherd's Story"
Dec 27	9:45 AM	"Treasures of the Heart" Matthew 6:19–24, 33 Rev. Nathaniel Pearce One Way Baptist Church No evening service
Jan 3	9:45 AM	"The Rapture: Don't Be Left Behind!"
	6:00 PM	Prayer and Praise
Jan 10	9:45 AM	"The Rapture: The Generation Who Will Not Die!"
	6:00 PM	"Leading and Serving" Meet election candidates



Calvary Church
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Download messages, register for events, get Bible study info, send an e-invitation, and more at www.calvarychurch.com