

Leadership Election 2010

**Information for
the Election
of Elders &
Deacons on
January 17, 2010**

Calvary Church will hold its annual election on **Sunday, January 17**, immediately after the morning worship service to appoint elders and deacons. (No absentee ballots)

In preparation for the election, elder candidates will speak briefly in the evening service on **January 10 at 6:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. You will also have an opportunity to meet the elder and deacon candidates at a reception in the Galleria following that service. *(Please note the bio information on the front and back of each page of this document.)*

Elder Candidates

Calvary has a total of 18 elders. **Calvary members may vote for and affirm the following three elder candidates:**



Tom Gentry

Family: Married to Brenda; two grown sons, Tom and Eddy

Testimony: At the age of 12, I was called forward and was baptized at the completion of Bible school. I thought I was a Christian, but I wasn't. After Brenda and I were married we always attended church, but I did not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. When Brenda started attending a ladies' Bible study, she began praying that I would accept Christ. Six months later at the radio station where I worked, the Holy Spirit convicted me and I fell to my knees and invited Jesus Christ into my life as my personal Savior.

Ministries: We became members of Calvary in 1980. I have served seven years as a deacon. I previously served as an usher and Adult Life Group outreach leader. I have served on several boards (Charlotte Rescue Mission, Crisis Pregnancy Care, and the Glad Tidings Radio Ministry).

How I desire God to use me in this role: I desire God to use my spirit of compassion and mercy for people to put people at ease during new member interviews, hospital visitation, ministering to a mini-flock, and meeting church visitors. I also look for opportunities to witness to non-believers.



John Patterson

Family: Married to Kathy; three children: Lauren (21), Lindsay (20), and John, Jr. (15)

Testimony: I was raised in a Baptist church. As a teenager I accepted Christ as my Savior and was baptized. In 1978, I rededicated my life to Christ. After coming to Calvary Church I was baptized again along with my family.

Ministries: We became members of Calvary in 1983. I have previously served as an elder — helping in the crafting of Calvary's vision and general direction. I currently serve on the Strategic Planning Committee. I have taught the Word of God to children, teens, and adults through various venues at Calvary Church.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I want God to use my spiritual gifts (hospitality, mercy, teaching) for His Kingdom. Having served two terms as elder, I want to continue to grow and see how God will use me.



Leonard Philemon

Family: Married to Phyllis; two grown daughters, Ashley Mangione and Shelley Smith

Testimony: My parents were not believers, but as a young boy I began attending a church with my friends (mainly because of the baseball and RA program). As an adult I drifted away from the church until I married Phyllis, who was a believer. We attended a small church where I prayed and asked Christ to be my Lord and Savior in October of 1973.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 1982. I have taught junior and senior high students and adult classes for over 34 years. I am currently the assistant teacher and outreach leader in our ALG. I'm involved in a men's inductive Bible study group and coach for sports ministry. I have previously served as an elder at Calvary.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I'm excited to be considered as an elder, and I look forward to serving in areas such as hospital visitation and at funerals where I can minister to families, help in Men's Ministry, and use the gifts God has given me (compassion, understanding, and exhortation) because of what He has done for me.

Deacon Candidates

Calvary has a total of 36 deacons. These men are active in serving and caring for the flock. Twelve candidates (12) will be elected for full terms and three (3) for partial terms.

Calvary members may vote for 15 of the following deacon candidates:



John Buenavides

Family: Married to Julie Rose; one son, Joshua Paul (3)

Testimony: I grew up in the Philippines attending a church where the emphasis was on a "works-based" salvation. I learned about Christ's work of salvation on the cross at a Navigators Bible study, which I attended while I was in college. I committed my life to Christ at that time and nine years later God called me to pursue a seminary degree.

Ministries: We became members of Calvary in 2008. I am in the choir, teach a Men's Priority group, involved in Partners in Prayer and Marketplace Ministries.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I am simply making myself available for God's purposes. I believe my proficiency has very little to do with success. God gives us our abilities and talents to glorify Him. I hope to increase the exposure of my service and work hand-in-hand with the existing infrastructure of the church.



Ken Collins

Family: Married to Jennifer; five children: Victoria (13), Rachel (12), Martha (9), Will (6), Kenleigh (3)

Testimony: At the age of 11 a friend and his family witnessed to me, and a year later I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 1991. I am a leader in the middle school ministry and teach 8th grade boys on Sunday mornings.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I feel God will use me to continue Calvary's correct direction, helping to organize events and schedules, and solving problems as they arise.



Marcus Cooper

Family: Married to Johnnie (Sue); two children, Zoe (7) and Lacey (2)

Testimony: My parents were loving, but spiritually dead. My best friend invited me to church, and I prayed my own heartfelt sinner's prayer, accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. In college I was weak and fell away from God. When I met Sue she told me about her faith, and I started to read my Bible again. We started attending a small church where we began to grow spiritually and became very involved in the ministry. We moved to Charlotte and found Calvary to be a church with biblical substance, not just catering to people's interests.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2008. I am presently involved in the choir, drama, Children's Ministry, and co-lead a men's Bible study.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I desire for God to use me in anyway He chooses, but specifically to help further His Kingdom through my interaction with the congregation, through prayer, and through actions requested by the Calvary leadership.



Henry Creech

Family: Married to Danielle; two children, Gabriel (5) and Abby (4)

Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home. At the age of 7 I became aware that my sins separated me from God, and my mom led me to the Lord. I trust the atoning blood of Christ alone for my salvation. I began seriously studying the Bible on my own in college. I strive to continually grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

Ministry: I became a member of Calvary in 1987. I'm currently a deacon, involved in Pastor's Prayer Partners, coach soccer for 4 year olds, teach a Sparks class, and teach 4 and 5 year old classes.

How I desire God to use me in this role: To continue serving in various ministries, warmly welcoming others, and demonstrating God's love to our flock.



Rich Farynyk

Family: Married to Betty; five children: Peter (23), David (20), Suzanne (18), Deborah (15), and Rachel (11)

Testimony: At the age of 13 during a Confirmation interview with the church elders, I was able to answer questions affirming that Jesus was my Savior and that He saved me and gave me eternal life. During high school I drifted from the Lord, but in college I attended a church where the pastor taught on the Lordship of Christ. I went forward, bowed down on my knees to the King, my Lord, to submit the life He had saved to Him.

Ministry: I became a member of Calvary in 1979. I presently serve as deacon, substitute teacher for ALG, Pastor's Prayer Partners, and assist in serving Communion.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I desire to be used by God to minister to people through prayer, encouraging, counseling, teaching, exhorting, and practical service. As a deacon I am a servant to the elders, pastors, and congregation. It is a joy and privilege to serve in visiting in a hospital, serving communion, meeting mini-flock members, interviewing new members, serving in the parking lot, and ushering. I pray I might be an example of His grace and lead as He leads me.



Art Figurski

Family: Married to Pat; two grown daughters, Deborah Nye and Pam Walrod

Testimony: I was raised in a nominal Catholic environment. As a senior in high school I began dating Pat and attended her church where I first heard the Gospel. In the summer of 1959, I responded to the invitation to trust Christ as my personal Savior. After Pat and I married, we were both active in local churches. I later sensed God’s call to vocational ministry, and I left teaching college. I spent 12 years on staff with The Gideons International. I have served with Back to the Bible for the past 21 years.

Ministry: We became members at Calvary in 2007. I am presently involved as an usher, food service volunteer, Missions Conference Committee, and prayer ministry.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I desire to be used as God clearly directs, using my gifts (mercy and giving) and abilities. I meet people well and have enjoyed serving in hospital visitation, mentoring, and greeting people. I desire to serve and help others, bringing blessing to them and honor to the Lord.



Mark Fisher

Family: Married to Angela; four daughters: Alexandra (11), Annabelle (8), Gabriel (5), and Ashlyn (2)

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home. After hearing the plan of salvation at “Good News Club” my parents answered my questions, and I prayed for forgiveness of my sins and accepted Christ as my Savior. I began to grow in the Lord, taking in what others taught me. After college I started doing inductive Bible studies, and it was exciting to see and dig out truths on my own.

Ministry: We were members of Calvary from 2001 to 2006 and returned in 2008. Angela and I teach an ALG for engaged and newlywed couples, leading them in building a biblical foundation for their marriage. We mentor these couples to grow together in the Lord through the study of God’s Word.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I am open to what God has for me. I desire for God to continue to use Angela and me as we mentor young couples, encouraging them to build their relationship on Christ in order to combat Satan’s attack on families. In serving as deacon I will do whatever role God has equipped me for—using my spiritual gifts of hospitality, teaching, exhortation, discernment, and leadership.



Hugh Grey

Family: Married to Shari

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home and accepted Christ as my Savior at the age of 12. I never questioned the Gospel during my teen years, but in college I started exploring what the world offered. Later after reconnecting with some Christian friends, I repented of my sins and rededicated my heart (not just my mind) to Christ. The Lord started pruning some bad habits, and I can look back to see how far He has brought me. I continue to love the Lord with all my heart and seek to follow His will for my life.

Ministry: I became a member of Calvary in 2003. I currently serve as a deacon. I’m involved in an ALG small group and Men’s Priority Group.

How I desire God to use me in this role: My gift of service gives me a wonderful opportunity to support the Calvary membership as a deacon. I believe in building up the body of Christ and want to be a part of Calvary’s ministry. I continue to seek God’s will and believe He has used and will continue to use me to serve our church using my spiritual gifts of service and leadership.



Jeff Howard

Family: Married to Melanie; four children: Jack (7), Sophie (5), Darcy (2), and Drew (8 months)

Testimony: Although I was raised in a Christian home, my upbringing was not spiritually focused. At the age of 12 after a conversation with my sister, I prayed and asked Jesus to forgive my sins and come into my heart. During my college years I did not walk with Christ. After Melanie and I were married, we began attending a church where through discipleship and godly counsel, we rededicated our lives and our marriage to Christ. When we relocated to Charlotte, we found Calvary to be a church where we could continue to grow in Christ.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2006. I am an Adult Life Group leader, involved in Children's Ministry, Gopher Buddies Team leader, and CHAMP Sports coach.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I believe the most important aspect of Christian service is having a willing heart, joyfully seeking to be used in whatever way necessary. My desire is that any gifts or traits the Lord has given me can be used in the furtherance of His kingdom. I hope to continue to learn and grow from those experiences, strengthening my walk with the Lord as I go.



S. Leon Hughes

Family: Widower; three grown children: Roland, Anya, and Rebekah

Testimony: I had a godly mother and grandmother who taught me about the Lord, but I rejected Christianity and eagerly left home after high school to join the Air Force. A friend witnessed to me of God's love through the power of the Gospel of John. I accepted Christ as my Savior with great joy on February 28, 1964. By God's grace I graduated from seminary and served in full time ministry. My Lord modeled the life of faith and obedience. As a result, I can remain calm in a storm and find His provisions based on His Word.

Ministry: I became a member in 1999. I am involved in the choir.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I want the Lord to use me to embody His will, joy, zeal, and faithfulness in matters concerning His church. In Romans 12:10–13, 15–16, Paul described it well. The ultimate goal in ministering to those who are rejoicing, mourning, or in need, is to encourage an attitude of thanksgiving and worship to the Lord. I would be sensitive to the needs of those who are experiencing emotional or physical pain.



Tim Manous

Family: Single; one daughter, Courtney (22)

Testimony: I grew up attending church regularly, believing that if I tried to be good and worked hard, God would let me into heaven. On June 21, 1997 I heard the Gospel and got on my face before a holy God and confessed my sin. Since that night, I put God and His Word first in my life. I know that He chose me, and I have offered my life to Him as a living sacrifice.

Ministry: I became a member of Calvary in 1997. I have served as a deacon, am involved in Men's Ministry, Singles Ministry, Baptism, Children's Ministry, and Missions.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I will put God first above all else, obey and do His will, and commit to uphold the qualifications of deacon and all that is required of me. I desire to be faithful in serving, humble, and understanding in order to be a good example of a leader. I pray God will use me to reach, disciple, and lead people to Christ.



Wayne McKenzie

Family: Married to Dianne; two grown children, Rhett and April

Testimony: I joined the church as a child, attended regularly, and assumed I was a Christian, but I never made a personal commitment to Jesus. After marrying Dianne we began attending church, and I was convicted that I needed Jesus in my life. I prayed and asked God to forgive me of my sins and to help me turn away from them. I asked Him to come into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior. Since then God has blessed my life and given me opportunities to serve in four churches during our moves.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2008. I am a member of the choir and an ALG men's activities director.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I am still getting to know the people and the workings of Calvary. Having served as a deacon in four previous churches, I will strive to do my best for Calvary Church members and our Lord.



Grady Peeler

Family: Married to Sarah; two children, Grady (3) and Micah (2)

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian environment. I was saved when at the age of 4 I knelt with my mom and asked Christ into my heart and accepted His forgiveness. While I was always a good kid in high school, I was not truly committed to Christ. At the age of 16, I recommitted my life to Christ and have been growing in my walk ever since.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2007. I am presently involved in the College Ministry, nursery, Men's Ministry, and drama. I served as a deacon in my previous church.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I believe that elders lead with vision and mission based on spiritual guidance, and deacons are the troops that faithfully carry out the marching orders. My prayer is that I can faithfully lead by example of my life, through my actions in service, and through my attitude of supporting the church and its leaders.



Stuart Ramirez

Family: Married to Robin; two children, Collin (12) and Alexa (9)

Testimony: I grew up in a non-Christian home. In my teens I got into trouble often. I was successful in sports and won awards and accepted a football scholarship to a state university. My dream was to play professional football, but at a low point when all the mistakes I made became too much, I cried out to God saying, "If there is a God, I am calling on you." Not long after that I met Robin and I knew there was something different about her. I began attending Calvary with her. In October of 1988 I prayed and gave my life to Jesus Christ.

Ministry: We first became members of Calvary in 1988 and returned in 2008. I am presently involved as huddle Captain for 6th grade girls and teach in Children's Ministry.

How I desire God to use me in this role: Whatever direction God wants me to go, I will follow. I love to serve. The big picture is to build God's Kingdom in the church and outside the church, for His glory... not mine. As a deacon the responsibilities and expectations can only help me grow to be a better servant for God's Kingdom.



Phil Rimer

Family: Married to Sue; four children: Charles, Tracy, Andrew (21), and William (18)

Testimony: I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was 16 years old after hearing a message on “Where You Will Spend Eternity?” I knew I didn’t want to die and go to hell. The Lord has brought me a long way since that day.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 1990. I am presently serving as a deacon. I’m involved as a greeter and teach the 4th grade Sunday School class.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I pray God will continue to use me in hospital visitation, communication with our mini-flock, and in any other way the Holy Spirit directs.



Gerald (Jerry) Schmitt

Family: Married to Andrea; two sons, Ryan (8) and William (2)

Testimony: As a child I attended church occasionally, but my Christianity was based on ritual and good works. As a young man I heard a salvation message on TV and called and prayed with a counselor, professing my faith in Christ. However, without discipleship, my lifestyle did not reflect God’s holiness and I didn’t grow in Christ. When my marriage to Andrea was failing, God brought me to my knees and I rededicated my life to Christ. Through the reading of God’s Word I began discovering God’s design for marriage and my role. We reconciled and began putting Christ in His rightful place at the center of our home. We now have a passion for sharing our faith and ministering to hurting families.

Ministry: We became members at Calvary in 2008. I am involved in the prison ministry and volunteer at the Calvary “Welcome Center.”

How I desire God to use me in this role: A congregation the size of Calvary Church is home to many families facing trials and struggles. I have a passion for serving our church family biblically in ways that will encourage, strengthen and equip them to overcome their trials and to have a strong hope. Healthy families can more effectively share their testimonies with others while reaching the outside world for Christ.



John Tartt

Family: Married to Sherri; one daughter, Kennedy (9)

Testimony: I grew up in a Christian home and attended church regularly. At the age of 12, while on a trip with my family in Israel, I affirmed my faith in Jesus Christ and was baptized in the Jordan River.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2007. I am involved in ushering, technical support for an ALG, Welcome Center, leader in AWANA, and Men’ Priority group.

How I desire God to use me in this role: If elected, I plan to continue serving God through ministries at Calvary Church and in the Charlotte area. I trust the Lord will use me to deliver His message and will provide the skills needed to carry out His will. Powerful prayer allows me the opportunity to speak to God and provides an avenue for Him to show me how to utilize the talents He has given me.



Sam Titera

Family: Married to Susan; four children: Larisa (22), Lindzie (21), Jonaton (18), and Jared (16)

Testimony: I grew up going to church and at the age of 13 accepted Christ as my Savior. I had a hunger to learn all I could about the Bible, but I wandered from God during my college years. After my wife began attending a Bible study, I also started to attend and grew closer to God and in my knowledge of God.

Ministry: We became members at Calvary in 2007. I am serving in the Children's Ministry, volunteer at Christmas Tea, Luke 14 Banquet, Adult Life Group, and Operation Christmas Child.

How I desire God to use me in this role: As a deacon I feel I would be able to offer my talents and service throughout the church to help more ministries.



David Wentink

Family: Married to Patricia; seven grown children: Windy, Michael, Lisa, David, Susan, David, and Ann

Testimony: I was privileged to grow up in a Christian family, attending church regularly. My knowledge of God gave me a good basis for decision making in my early adult years. But it was not until I was married and started attending a newly planted church that I realized Jesus Christ came to earth and died for my sins so I could have acceptance by God through faith. I walked the aisle and gave my heart to Jesus Christ.

Ministry: I became a member of Calvary in 1988. I am currently serving as a deacon, involved in AWANA, Men's Priority group, ushering, food service, and Children's Ministry.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I desire to continue to fill my heart and soul (through Bible study and motivational preaching) with Christ's love and to share this love with other Christians and unbelievers.



Sam Williams

Family: Married to Bonnie; three grown sons: Sam, Ben, and Kevin

Testimony: I was raised in a Christian home and my parents were active in our church. I accepted the Lord as Savior at youth camp at the age of 11. Later Satan planted seeds of doubt in my mind, but when I was 16 I found peace with the Lord and realized the assurance of my salvation. I was blessed by being raised in a Christian home and by the Lord saving me and giving me a godly wife and soul mate.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2008. I am serving in the choir and as an ALG assistant teacher and social chair. In previous churches I have served as deacon, elder, and church treasurer.

How I desire God to use me in this role: The biblical duty of a deacon is to assist the elders and serve the local church in the temporal things, yet still be a spiritual leader. I see it broadening my familiarity with the people of Calvary, particularly by way of the new member interviews and hospital visits. I hope the Lord will have opportunities for me to serve using my administrative gift to His glory. I want Him to use me to the benefit of His people and His work.



Jeff Young

Family: Married to Beverly; three children: Will (21), Zach (17), and Annie (14)

Testimony: I was born and raised in a loving home with Christian parents. I accepted the Lord as my Savior at the age of 9. In my late teens I began to drift in my Christian walk and began making poor choices. In spite of my wayward lifestyle, God blessed me with a loving, patient wife who loves the Lord. We began attending church. God used the birth of our first child to make me realize it was time for me to grow up and be the man He wanted me to be.

Ministry: We became members of Calvary in 2008. I am responsible for “in-reach” to ALG class members and a class greeter. I served as deacon in my previous church.

How I desire God to use me in this role: I pray that if it is God’s will for me to serve as a deacon that He will use me in whatever capacity to fulfill whatever duty which will grow His Kingdom and bring Him glory and honor.



Paul Young

Family: Single

Testimony: At the age of 10 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, I was convicted of my sin. I prayed with my Sunday School teacher and repented of my sins, receiving Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

Ministry: I became a member of Calvary in 2008. I am involved in the encouragement and support of Calvary’s leadership. In my previous church I served as deacon and mentored young men to help them find their spiritual gifts and get them involved in the local church.

How I desire God to use me in this role: My desire is to provide encouragement through practical acts of kindness and service. Phone calls, prayer on the spot or via the phone, note and card writing, hospital visits, and simple greetings to the congregation all add up to demonstrating Christ’s love.