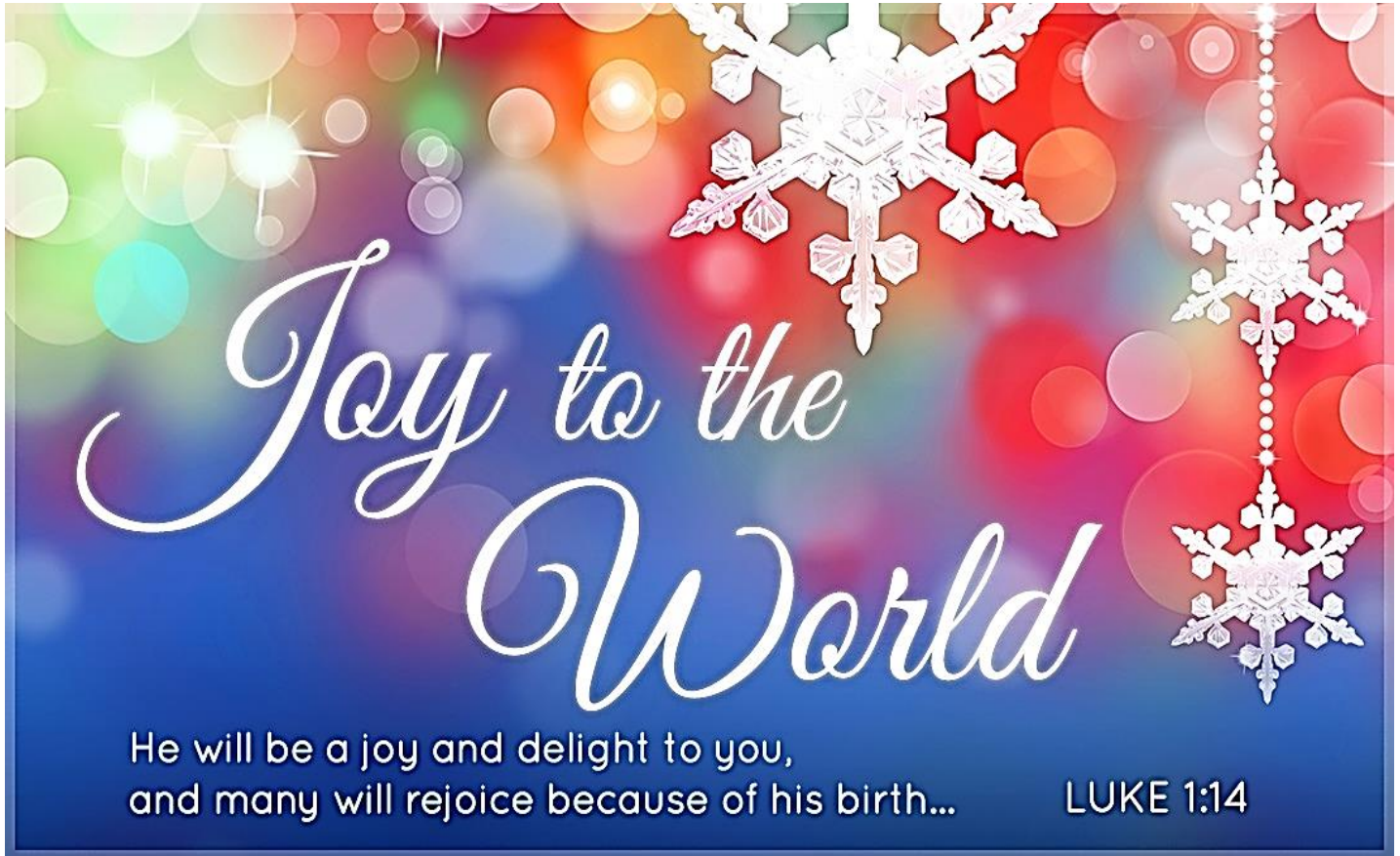


 **The Columns**
December



Calvary

Baptist Church

608 Campbell, Avenue, S.W.
Roanoke, VA 24018
(540) 344-9237

<http://www.calvaryroanoke.org>

Dr. Steven W. Pollard, Pastor
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It's time to start over again. The Christian year begins on the first Sunday of Advent. We begin our year-long celebration of our Savior by waiting...expectantly. Waiting expectantly is something we don't do very well in our 21st century culture. We've arrived at the age of the instantaneous. It started with instant potatoes and instant pudding but has moved swiftly to instant global access to all information, commerce, and the fulfillment of any and all needs, desires and whims. So, Advent is the perfect time to overcome our "need-for-speed." I think we people-of-faith would do well to reconnect with our ancient tradition of waiting; to recapture a watchful-waiting disposition instead of rushing headlong into all the "things" our culture calls "Christmas."

For the Christian Church, it is not yet "Christmas." In these days before December 25th we are about the business of making room in our hearts and lives for Christ to dwell. It's not the decorations and baking and holiday music and shopping that make us ready to receive the 'Child King'. It is, throughout the days of Advent, that we have opportunity to experience and increasing awareness that our only hope can only be in Christ, the Son of God, coming to us in person.

So, hold back; let the sense of expectancy build.

In the coming weeks, we will light candles during worship to remind us of the meaning of Christ's coming. This Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, we will light the first candle, the candle of hope. For truly, Jesus is the only hope for the world. One can only cultivate the hope of faith, while in need of it.

Next week we will light the candle of peace. Christ came to bring peace to the world. Scripture calls Him the "Prince of Peace." Christ's method for bringing peace is by reconciling hearts and lives to God. It is only when we are in step with God's intended purpose for each life that one achieves inner peace. The world is made peaceful as peaceful believers bring their inner peace to life in the world.

The third candle is that of joy. The candle of joy reminds us of the state of inner contentment that occurs when Christ arrives in the life of a believer. When Christ is received by an individual, the Spirit of Christ begins a process of transformation of that heart, such that joy becomes the new norm.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we will light the candle of love. The motivating force of God coming to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, is God's deep, selfless, abiding love for each of us. God loves us! We need God! God came! God still comes to us!

The final candle is the Christ candle. It is the candle that represents the glorious birth for which we have been preparing. The great gift of God, Jesus Christ, God's Son is finally here. It is time to celebrate! Christmas begins!

I hope our lighting of the candles of the advent wreath will be a cue for you each week to focus your devotion, attention, and prayer on the hope, peace, joy, and love that comes in the person of Christ, our Lord. Christ is coming...get ready!

Your Pastor,
Steven



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

CULTIVATING BELOVED
COMMUNITY



Week of prayer for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Global Missions
and Offering for Global Missions
December 3-10, 2017

One of ways we extend the reach of Calvary Baptist Church is by partnering with other congregations in ministries we could never do on our own. One of those partners is Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Together with other CBF Churches we extend the Gospel of Christ around the corner and around the world.

It is this time of year that we remind ourselves of how important the gift of Christ has been in our lives and how the mission of sharing that same love and mercy falls to His disciples.

This year the theme for the week of prayer for CBF Global Missions is *Cultivating Beloved Community*. During this week, we remind each other of all the ways we cooperate to bring the power of the love of Christ to bear on the lives of those desperate for that love.

To help us understand the importance of our cooperative mission, all of Calvary's Adult Sunday School classes will gather on Sunday morning, December 10, 2017 at 9:45 am, in the Church Dinning Room for a combined session. The Evelyn Townsend circle will be providing snacks and refreshments while we learn of the work of CBF missionaries and how their ministry is making a real difference.

Along with prayer support of our CBF missionaries, we will also be receiving an offering to financially support their efforts. Our goal this year is \$500. One hundred percent of the funds we collect will be used to support the work of CBF missionaries around the world.

So, pray, learn, and give to Cooperative Baptist Global Missions this holiday season. Jesus came to invite us into communion with Him; let take part in *Cultivating Beloved Community* for others.

In Loving Memory!

Rosemary Watkins
January 29, 1940 - November 26, 2017

http://www.oakeys.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=2041967

100 *days* OF PRAYER

100 Days of Prayer Update

It's been almost 100 days since 40+ members of our congregation committed themselves to gather in groups of three for prayer. Our goal was to prayerfully seek God's vision for the future of Calvary Baptist Church.

It is now time to consider some of the insights we may have received over the course of those 100 days of intensive seeking.

I'm unsure what to expect from our collective insights. Some may have been expecting God to deliver an explosive detailed message of plans programs, organizations, and ministries that are designed to fill our pews on Sunday mornings. On the other end of the spectrum, others may have simply thought, "Prayer...it couldn't hurt."

My own expectations for the resulting reports/ideas/insights from the prayer triplets were that our confidence in the power of prayer would grow; that our closeness and confidence in each other would grow; that we would grow in our ability to look objectively at how Calvary Baptist Church is living Christ's Gospel; that we might be ready to ask difficult questions of ourselves without fear; that we would be ready move courageously in the direction of God's leading; that we would be better at listening, seeing, and feeling where God is moving; and, most of all, that we would be closer to God.

In thinking about the feedback from our prayer triplets, I thought the best way to *prepare* was through "*pre-prayer*". This is my prayer:

God help me to be submissive to Your leadership. Help me to be authentic; both with myself and my church family. Help me to put my own agendas and even feelings aside so that I may be free to follow You wherever you lead. Help me to listen to You speaking through my Calvary Brothers and Sisters; to hear beyond words. Help me to hear, to see, and to sense the direction You have already laid out in Your mind's eye for Calvary Baptist Church.

God, help me to be content with Your time-table; to not rush ahead or lag behind; to not count waiting with expectation as "wasted" time; to not be anxious when clarity is absent but confident that in Your time all will be plain.

Help me to be a steward of my time, gifts, relationships, opportunities, influence and possessions. Help me to know that I belong to you and everything I count as mine, is yours. So, help me to be a wise steward; to invest in those things that bring You the greatest glory.

*God, help me to balance "being" and "doing"; to know that mindfulness of **being** in your presence informs everything I **do** in Your name.*

*Most of all God, help me to dwell in your divine will.
Amen.*

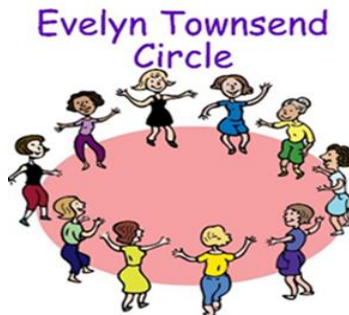
That's really what I expect to emerge from my experience with "100 Days of Prayer": that I would be open, hopeful, submissive, courageous, and wise; that, together, we would trust God has everything we need and, if we don't already have it, He will supply.

On page thirty of your prayer guide, you will find instructions to report the "What are the Top Five to Seven Insights About God's Future for Our Congregation Your Triplet Would Like to Share?" Please turn in only one page from each 'prayer triplet' on December 17, 2017. Myself and some congregation leaders will collect your insight and report them to the whole church at a meeting after worship on January 21, 2018 for further reflection.

- Submit only one page of insights from each group.
- The insights should be agreed upon by each member of your prayer triplet.
- Keep them concise. If further explanation is needed, please attach another page.
- You may not be able to agree on the five to seven insights suggested; however, try to have at least one or two you can share.
- Please include the name of your prayer triplet so that we will know who has turned them in.

I look forward to sharing in what God has in store for Calvary Baptist Church!

Steven W. Pollard, Pastor



Food Collection for Friendship House: The Evelyn Townsend Circle invites you to participate in their December project to support Friendship House who serves over 120 local low income families with groceries. As the holidays quickly approach, their need for nonperishable food items is greater than ever. Their goal is to provide paper grocery bags full of food for the holidays for 100 families in our community. Please consider donating canned soups, vegetables, meat, fruit and dried goods of cereal, noodles, rice, and beans as well as any snack foods. Grocery bags are available on the front pew on the west side of the Sanctuary. Please bring your grocery bag donations to the room on the entry level just past the elevator. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation of cash or by writing a check payable to Calvary designated for Friendship House and dropping it into the offering plate. One check from

our church family will then be given to Friendship House. The Evelyn Townsend circle thanks you for your contributions of food being collected for our neighbors. The food drive will continue through Sunday, December 10th.

CBF Global Missions Adult Sunday School Breakfast: Our circle will be providing a continental breakfast for a Sunday school class being offered on Sunday, December 10th. Our pastor, Dr. Pollard and Jean McBride will be teaching a class focusing on missions. Please join us!

December Meeting: In December, the circle will be meeting on the 11th at 6:30 PM at the home of Ellen Scott - 930 Old Court Lane, Roanoke, VA 24015. Ellen has graciously offered to serve a light supper. All women are invited to attend.

Samaritan Inn: On Saturday, February 3rd our circle will provide lunch for the guests of the Samaritan Inn. We invite the entire church to help us with this project. More details will follow in the January edition of The Columns.



Beginning December 17, Calvary's sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful poinsettias given to the church in Honor or in Memory of friends and loved ones. The names will be published in the worship bulletin on December 17. Orders and payment need to be in the church office by December 5th.

Poinsettias will need to be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service unless you have decided to donate them.



Welcome to our newest member, Belinda Denson who joins us through transfer of letter from Mason Cove Chapel!

1914 Hope Rd SW
Roanoke, VA 24018
(540) 774-7418



On Thursday, January 11th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Calvary will partner with PowerSchool and the American Red Cross to host a blood drive that will be open to the public. Blood is always needed, and with the huge numbers of victims of recent disasters, need is at a critical level.

Please call 1-800 RED CROSS to make an appointment. You can also download the Red Cross Blood Donor App on the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or text BLOODAPP to 90999. Schedule appointments, get rewards and invite friends to join you on a lifesaving team.

Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program!



Last month we shared that the refrigerator in the gym was no longer working. Thanks to a generous donation we now have a new refrigerator in the gym kitchen.
THANK YOU!



Sunday, December 3rd, 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

We will host an Open House which coincides with the annual Old Southwest Parlor tour, so plan to add a stop at Calvary to your tour. Stop in to meet and greet old friends and new while you enjoy refreshments, fun activities and even some "mini concerts" presented by Calvary's Minister of Music, Jared Martin. A great way to welcome the Christmas season in our community!

Friday, December 8th, 6:30 PM

Come enjoy the sounds of Radford University Singers as they perform famous works by Mack Wilberg and Daniel Pinkham., under the direction of Dr. Meredith Bowen. Our very own Minister of Music, Jared Martin, will accompany the choir on our wonderful Aeolian-Skinner organ. This is a kid friendly event and all are welcome! In leu of monetary gifts, we ask that you please bring canned goods to support the Evelyn Townsend Circle food drive.

Friday, December 15th, 6:30 PM

Come and celebrate the season of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace as Calvary's Sanctuary Choir and guests presents its annual Christmas program. We will take you on a musical journey through the Christmas story of the birth of our Savior. We encourage everyone to come and bring a friend or two!

Sunday, December 17th, 1:00 - 3:30 PM

Join us as we gather to share the holiday spirit with homebound members of our Calvary family. Following a light lunch in the dining room we will go out as a group to sing Christmas carols and deliver poinsettias.

Sunday December 24th, 5:00 PM

In addition to our regular morning worship at 11AM, members, friends and guests of Calvary are warmly invited to join together in a service of carols, communion and candlelight on Christmas Eve to celebrate with joyous anticipation of the coming of the new born King.



The Christmas season is time we remember the great gift of God: our Savior Jesus Christ. It's also the time we think about the people around us and how we can express our love and gratitude for them in a gift. We'll likely give gifts to family, friends, co-workers, and those who provide valuable services to us during the year (i.e. the hairdresser and the 'paper-boy'). While remembering those who have blessed you, you may also remember the many who have been blessed by the ministry of Calvary Baptist Church.

Year-end is a perfect time to take stock and reflect on our many blessings and, the time of year when our collective attention is focused on giving. While many of these gifts will be given to family and friends, you may also remember the many individuals and groups who have been blessed by, and a blessing to the ministry of Calvary Baptist Church.

As you complete your year-end giving plans, please consider a gift to Calvary. Any gift you make may be given as a memorial to a loved one or a gift in honor of someone living. When you give a tribute or memorial gift a personalized card is sent to the individual or family you have specified. You will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible donation. The amount of your gift remains confidential and is not disclosed to the recipient. Gifts may be made either in person, by mail, or online at <http://www.calvaryroanoke.org/wp/online-giving-3/>

Please keep the following requirements in mind when making a contribution to be tax deductible for 2017.

1. The mailed contribution must be received in the Church Office by noon on Friday, December 29, 2017
-or-
2. Contributions made on Sunday, December 31, 2017 will be counted as a 2017 contribution
-or-
3. Online contributions must be in transit by Saturday, December 30, 2017

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can make a huge difference with a special year-end gift. May God richly bless you!



Funny Bones

I needed some supplies from a Sunday School cupboard that was seldom used and was secured with a lock. I didn't know the combination, but our clergyman offered to give it a try. Father Jack placed his fingers on the lock's dial and raised his eyes heavenward for a moment. Then he confidently spun the dial and opened the lock. Seeing how impressed I was with this demonstration of faith, he smiled and confided, "The numbers are written on the ceiling."

Birthday Blessings to members of our Calvary Family!



12/07 - Brittany Lewis
12/08 - Dan Scott
12/15 - Jack Pilcher
12/21 - Christa Odell
12/23 - Janice Humphries
12/25 - Don Stoots
12/28 - Barry Wirt Jr.

Calvary Baptist Church proudly presents:

Christmas at Calvary

Featuring special guests:
The Star City Brass
The Giles Community Singers

December 15, 2017
6:30pm

608 Campbell Ave SW
Roanoke, VA 24016

Dr. Steven W. Pollard, Pastor
Mr. Jared W. Martin, Minister of Music
540-344-9237
music@calvaryroanoke.org

Christmas at Calvary

Come and celebrate the season of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace as Calvary's Sanctuary Choir and guests presents its annual Christmas program. We will take you on a musical journey through the Christmas story of the birth of our Savior. We encourage everyone to come and bring a friend or two!

GETTY MUSIC
PRESENTS

Sing

AN IRISH CHRISTMAS

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY



DECEMBER 19 *at* 7 PM

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THEBERGLUNDCENTER.COM
MORE INFORMATION AT GETTYMUSIC.COM



FIRST EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROANOKE



THE INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY

December 19th, over 20,000 voices will gather at the vibrant Berglund Performing Arts Theatre in Roanoke to sing songs and carols that express our faith and focus our hearts on the true message of the Christmas season. Don't miss your opportunity to experience this unforgettable evening. Reserve your seat today at <http://www.gettymusic.com/christmas>.