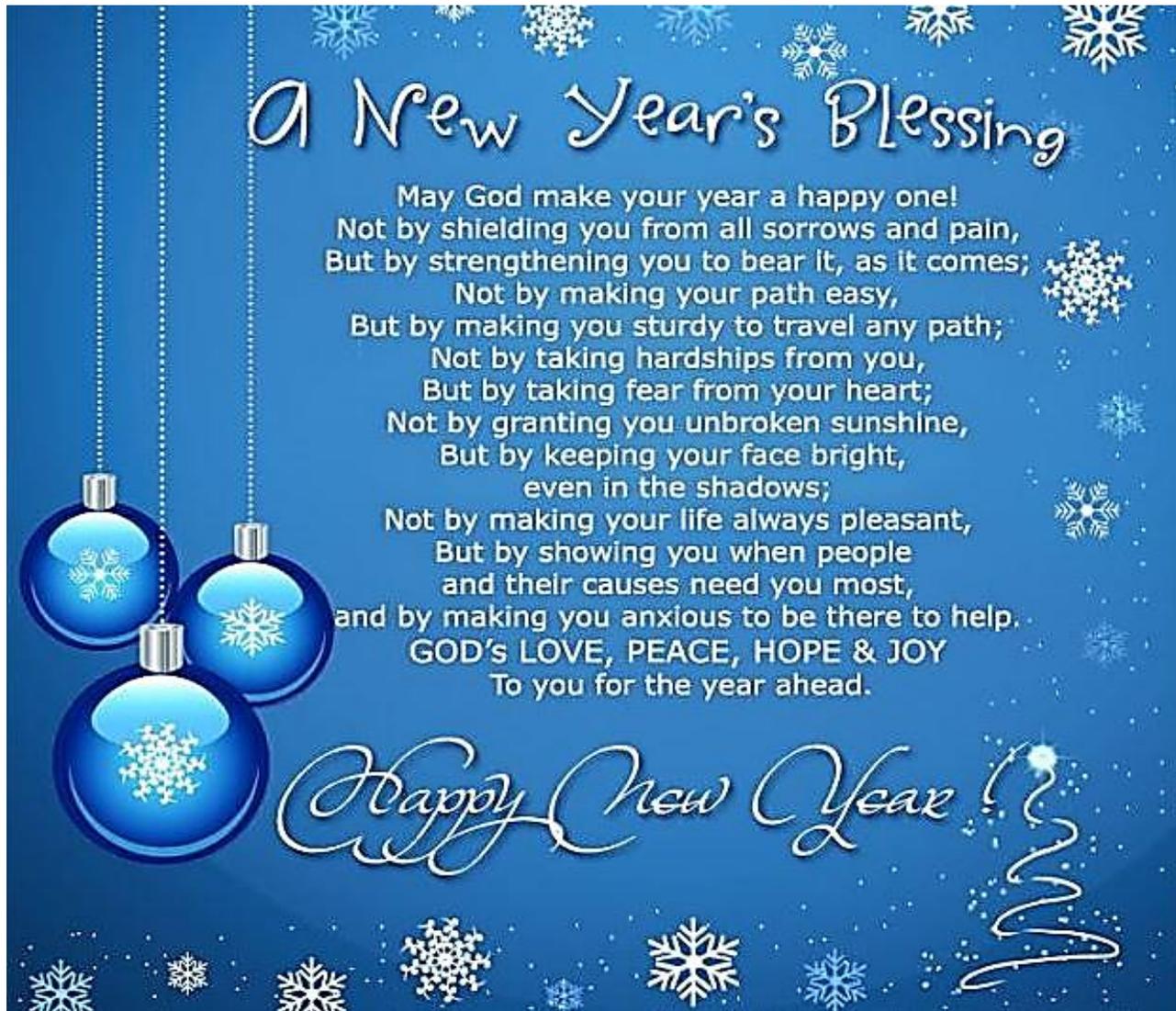


The Columns



Calvary

Baptist Church

608 Campbell, Avenue, S.W.

Roanoke, VA 24018

(540) 344-9237

<http://www.calvaryroanoke.org>

Dr. Steven W. Pollard, Pastor

Jared Martin, Minister of Music

Donna de Simone, Director of Preschool Ministry

Debbie Foutz, Office Manager

Jane Price, Nursery

info@calvaryroanoke.org



We made it! '100 Days of Prayer' is complete and reflections from prayer triplets have been turned in. I haven't looked at any of them yet; but, I can hardly wait. It's an exciting time at Calvary Baptist Church as we contemplate what lay ahead for our church family. I don't know what God has in store for us, but I'm certain that if we "...seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...all these things will be given to..." us. (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Our next Church in Conference will be January 21st. At that meeting everyone will get a look at what everyone else has been praying about for the last 100 days. I will do some organizing and categorizing, I'll try not to do too much filtering or editing. We will have some time to talk about our impressions, about what's next, and we will continue to pray. It will also be a time for those who were not able to be part of a prayer triplet to connect with their insights and perhaps add some of their own.

Many have spent the last 100 days of concerted prayer waiting on God to reveal His vision for Calvary. That doesn't mean that the time for praying is over. Now it will be time for our prayers to become more focused. We will need to pray for God to show us how to accomplish the various things that have "bubbled up" in the prayers of our triplets. It will also be a time for each one of us to pray about our individual commitments to whatever new directions God has revealed to us. It will be a continuing commitment to pray for those who God will call to step forward to lead new ministries at Calvary. It will also mean that it is time to pray for those that will be touched by Christ working through us.

May God bless Calvary Baptist Church as we give ourselves completely to God's vision for His Church!

Your Pastor,
Steven W. Pollard

One More Thing...

I don't subscribe to the Roanoke Times; I get most of my news from the radio and the internet. So, you can imagine my surprise when someone informed me that my name appeared in the newspaper in the December 20th edition. Some wonderful soul had made an anonymous donation to The Roanoke Times' Good Neighbors Fund in my name.

The fund is administered by Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) for emergency needs of families in the Roanoke Valley. I am so honored that anyone would think me worthy of associating my name with the work of taking care of those most in need in our community.

Since the gift was made anonymously, I am unable to express my gratitude directly. Instead, I will have to simply say, "From the bottom of my heart, you have my deepest thanks!"

Your Friend,
Steven

In Loving Memory!

Barbara B. Smith

April 25, 1936 - December 13, 2017

We give thanks for this life well-lived and continue to pray for her family and friends during this time.

http://www.oakeys.com/sitemaker/memsol.cgi?user_id=2047992



The 2017 year-end contribution statements will be mailed by January 31st to all donors who contributed \$250 or more during the year. Thank you for your ongoing support of Calvary and its ministries!



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!

Evelyn Townsend Circle



Food Collection for Friendship House: The Evelyn Townsend circle thanks you for your support of our recent food drive. Our neighbors and the Friendship House were blessed by your generosity.

December Donations: In December, our circle donated money in support of two missionary families from our congregation, the Barbees and the Coppages. A donation was also made to the Good Neighbors Fund supporting Roanoke area ministries.

LOA Soup for Seniors: Beginning on January 14th, the circle will be collecting food for the LOA's Soup for Seniors campaign. This year's overall LOA goal is to collect 50,000 cans of soup to be delivered to 3,500 seniors right here in our community. The items most needed by our elderly neighbors include low sodium and nutritious soups, crackers, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meats such as tuna, peanut butter, Carnation Instant Breakfast and oatmeal. No glass containers, please. All the items collected will be put into reusable cloth bags provided by AARP and distributed into the homes of our elderly neighbors. If you prefer, you may make a monetary donation of cash or by writing a check payable to Calvary designated for Soup for Seniors and dropping it into the offering plate. One check from our church family will then be given to LOA, Soup for Seniors. Please bring your donations to the room on the entry level just past the elevator by February 4th.

February Mission Project: We will be serving lunch to the guests at the Samaritan Inn on Saturday, February 3rd. We invite our entire congregation to take part in these events. If you would like to join us, please contact a circle member or call the church office.

Next Meeting: We will meet on Monday, January 8 at 7:00 PM in the church dining room for our annual valentine workshop. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Congregational Meeting



Winter Church in Conference

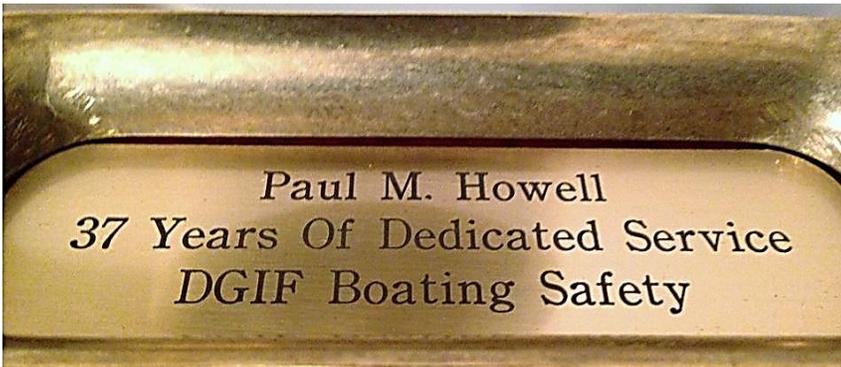
Calvary's Winter Church in Conference will be held on Sunday, January 21st following Morning Worship. A light lunch will be served. In addition to any business that will be covered, our church will review the 100 Days of Prayer insights. Please plan to attend and participate in this important element of our church.



Paul M. Howell

Paul received an award on November 26, 2017 from Stacey Brown in recognition of his retirement as VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Region Coordinator for Boating Safety Education. Over 37 years, first as a volunteer teacher, then as a region coordinator, he's played a role in the education of thousands of boaters taking the VA State Boating Course, and helped usher in the era of mandatory boater education.

Congratulations Paul for 37 years of dedicated service!!



Calvary, in conjunction with seven downtown churches, completed the 41st year of the Summer Enrichment program in July. The program's mission is to teach, entertain, and promote physical activity for 60 children in a safe environment. However, given the growth of the Roanoke City summer school program we have had decreasing attendance and were unable to fill all of our open spots this past year. Given this, the Board of Directors met in November and voted to suspend the Summer Enrichment program.

We met with Board members from the Rescue Mission in December and created the Summer Enrichment Endowment. This fund was seeded from our account balance and is earmarked to pay for summer outings for children staying at the Rescue Mission. We felt our decision respected the spirit of our program while preserving the Summer Enrichment name.

I would like to thank the many Calvary members who volunteered over the years. In addition, the continued monetary support from The Evelyn Townsend Circle and The Calvary Foundation is deeply appreciated.

Mickey Cratch - Chair



Winter is officially here, so it's time to communicate our plan for inclement weather.

Worship is a very important part of the life of our church body, so we will make every effort to remain open for our worship services. We will always trust you to make your own decision about getting out and traveling in inclement weather. Just like the school system, we may wait until Sunday morning to make a decision about any change in our schedule. We will make a brief assessment of travel conditions around the church and the safety of our parking lot and entrances. If there is no change to our church schedule, we will make no announcement. If we cannot assure safe conditions for people to park, enter, and exit our facilities, we will cancel services and/or postpone activities. We will communicate any changes in our Sunday church schedule by 8:00 AM utilizing the following means:

Television: WDBJ Channel 7 (CBS) and WSLN Channel 10 (NBC) are the TV stations who are currently set up to announce a schedule change for us.

E-mail: An e-mail will be sent to those for which we have addresses.

Church Website and Facebook: A closed message will be posted on the church website and our Facebook page.

Telephone: The church office message will be updated with any closure information.

During the week, the church office will follow the same inclement weather policy that is used by Roanoke City Schools. If the decision is made to close the office during the week, we will use the same methods as listed above to make you aware of the closure.



Thank you: When I first came to Calvary in August, I wasn't so sure what to expect or how to plan for Christmas. With getting such a late start on planning, I decided to pull out some of the "golden oldies" that many of our wonderful choir members have sung in the past. They accepted all the challenges I put in front of them and pulled off one of the most successful and beautiful programs I've ever done. The Giles Community Singers absolutely loved being a part of this service and as acting director for them, I'm saying "THANK YOU" to all who helped with Christmas at Calvary. Each person involved was what made this program such an achievement. We have so many wonderful opportunities in store for Calvary. We plan to combine for several more choral productions throughout the year with the Giles Community Singers.

Reunion Choir Concert: Calvary has been known for so many years as a "powerhouse" in music throughout the Roanoke Valley. It's come to my attention that we need to do a Reunion Choir Concert. Helen Robertson's name is heard all throughout the valley. She taught many children, teens, and adults to sing, play instruments, and to be extremely amazing musicians. I want to honor the history of Calvary with this concert. If you know anyone who has ever sung, played an instrument, been a part of The Singing Christmas Tree, please send them my way! I want as many people involved as possible. We are still in the planning stages, but we certainly want to get the word out now. The concert will be in the late fall of 2018. Please send all inquiries to music@calvaryroanoke.org or call the church office for details.

Children's Chorus: In January, we will be bringing back an important part of our Children's Ministry, a Children's Chorus. We will start on January 21, 2018 at 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM. Please spread the word!

Hand Bells: We will also be bringing back hand bells to Calvary. We will start on January 18, 2018 at 5:30 PM. Please join us!



Funny Bones

An overweight colleague of mine decided it was time to shed some excess pounds. He took his new diet seriously, even changing his driving route to avoid his favorite bakery. One morning, however, he arrived at work carrying a gigantic coffeecake. We all scolded him, but his smile remained cherubic. "This is a very special coffeecake," he explained. "I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, 'Lord, if you want me to have one of those delicious coffeecakes, let me have a parking place directly in front of the bakery.' And sure enough," he continued, "the eighth time around the block, there it was!"

Birthday Blessings to members of our Calvary Family!



1/08 - Kelly Seidel
1/11 - Nora Bell
1/12 - Kaitlyn Dwyer
1/14 - Mickey Cratch
1/15 - Patty Templin
1/16 - Brian Britt
1/21 - Becky Wirt, Brian Shell
1/22 - Nicole Howell
1/24 - Carol McMillan
1/26 - Margaret Fariss