



# Calvary Baptist Church

## From Our Pastor

I'm sure you're aware there is a group from both Colonial Avenue Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church who have been meeting to begin considering whether we should combine our efforts and establish a single congregation from two. Reverend Melissa Scott and I have been praying about and discussing such a move for some time. Now, time has come to do some serious seeking.

"Merger" is not a new idea among churches. In fact, as many congregations have yet to recover from the lack of participation exacerbated by COVID, "merger" has become quite common.

You will notice that in this article, I will use quotations marks around the word "merger". That's important because "merger" is used to describe just too many circumstances under which organizations (in our case congregations) come together.

The reason I chafe so much under the yoke of the "M-word" is I do not think it best describes what I understand God to be placing before us to consider. What we are trying to do is not like two or more corporations negotiating ownership and structure to produce a singular arrangement that is acceptable to the majority stockholders on both sides. I have no interest in any such approach between congregations.

The one huge problem with this approach for churches is one word: OWNERSHIP. When corporations begin to consider "merger" they make an accounting of what belongs to each organization: what do the individual parties own and what's their value.

I suppose this is where I part company with the corporate idea of "merger." If I claim to have Jesus Christ as my forgiver and leader, I now belong to Jesus. Not only to I belong to Jesus; everything I have or ever will have belongs completely to Him. Thus, I own nothing!

If I don't own the things I identify as belonging to me then I certainly don't own anything my church family would think of as an asset. If I have tithed, that tithe never belonged to me and it certainly doesn't belong to me after I have given it. If the things believers own belong to their Savior, how much more do the things we regard as belonging to church, belong to our Savior.

I think the best way to begin considering whether two congregations should join is by first getting into our heads the notion that anything we regard as belonging to "our" church belongs only to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Jesus does not belong to the church. Jesus IS the Church. (In the words of Elsa, "Let It Go!" (And if you don't know who Elsa is, ask one of your grandkids.))

Let's take that reasoning one step further. If we do not own the church, then whatever happens to it, falls completely under the purview of its head: Christ the Lord. If all those things be true, then the only consideration that need be taken into account is the will and way of Christ.

So, while many may be anxious to begin negotiating a "merger", I don't want to do anything of the sort. I think our first move is for each of us to surrender ownership; surrender ownership of the process; surrender ownership of the outcome. I think the very next thing is to seek Jesus' complete leadership in whatever is next. What "doors" are being opened? What doors are being closed? What am I willing to do for The Kingdom? What is the Spirit leading me to see differently? What will be our "Mission Field"?

So, if you're wondering why all your questions about the "nuts and bolts" of what you may understand "merger" to be between congregations aren't being addressed, I would tell you, "We're not ready yet."

That is primarily what we will be doing on Saturday Morning: asking God what God wants us to do. I don't know what that will be, yet. I'm not prepared to make one more step until our congregations have a genuine sense that the Spirit is moving, regardless of the direction.

I hope you were able to attend the meeting on Saturday at 11 am in the sanctuary at Colonial Avenue Baptist Church as we seek God, together.

Sol Deo Gloria,  
Steven W Pollard

## Evelyn Townsend Circle

The circle also supported the LOA Soup for Seniors which ended in February raising a total of \$545.00 for those in our community.

The Evelyn Townsend circle provided 400 red and white cupcakes to Hurt Park Elementary for Dr. Seuss's birthday celebration. We support this birthday party to encourage reading for all the students.

The Evelyn Townsend Circle will meet on Monday, March 13, 2023, at Noon, at the home of Anne Andrews, 1921 McVitty Road, Salem, VA 24153. All ladies of the church are invited to join us.

## Morning of Prayer

On Saturday, March 11, from 11:00am to 1:00pm, we will have a special time of prayer regarding the possibility of forming a new church with CABC. We will hear from the exploration team and spend time praying together. At noon we will move to the Fellowship Hall to share lunch and fellowship.

# March

## Featured Dates

Saturday, Mar 4th <b>Men's Breakfast</b>	8:30 AM
Sunday, Mar 5th <b>Deacon's Meeting</b>	3:00 PM
Saturday, Mar 11th <b>Morning of Prayer</b>	11:00 AM
Sunday, Mar 12th <b>Church Council Meeting</b>	3:00 PM
Monday, Mar 13th <b>Evelyn Townsend Circle</b>	12:00 PM

# Grace UPON Grace

## America for Christ Offering 2023

Thanks to America for Christ (AFC) Offering contributions, American Baptist Home Mission Societies (ABHMS) supported communities distressed by the devastation of COVID-19 last year, as the pandemic swept our country and Puerto Rico. We also helped families who lost homes to floods, wildfires and storms, along with children living on the edge because of poverty, and seminarians preparing to devote their lives to sharing the Good News. These are just a few of the ways we minister to those in need; there are many more.

Please help us continue to bring healing and hope to communities, families, children and Jesus' disciples in 2023 by supporting this year's America for Christ Offering.

Join us in a week of prayer March 12th through March 19th. During this time please consider an offering to American Baptist Missions. There is a designated envelope in your offering envelope box for the occasion or you may use one of the envelopes in your bulletin. Please specify AFC on your check or envelope.



## Easter Donations

This year we want to take an opportunity to recognize those very special people in our lives by publishing their names in our Easter Sunday Bulletin.

If you wish to recognize someone in our bulletin this Easter, simply complete the form below and mail it along with a check for a donation amount of your choosing, to Calvary Baptist Church, PO Box 12226, Roanoke, VA 24023. You may also leave your donation form and payment in the offering plate on Sunday if you prefer.



**Donation Amount:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** \_\_\_\_\_ In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of

**Name of person(s) being honored or memorialized:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Given By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please include payment with the submission of this form. Make checks out to Calvary Baptist Church. Forms should be received at the church by Monday, March 27, 2023 .*

# March Serving Schedule

## March 5

### Ushers .....

Kathy Kinsey, Neal Kinsey

### Deacons .....

Kathy Kinsey Ch., Ray Templin, Glenda Pollard and John Urquhart

Scripture and Offertory Prayer: Bobbie Hawkins

## March 12

### Ushers .....

Cara Sutherland, Lisa Baker

### Deacons .....

Neal Kinsey, Ch., Janice Deyerle, Susan Snyder

Scripture and Offertory Prayer: Glenda Pollard

## March 19

### Ushers .....

John Urquhart, Linda Dwyer, Ray Templin

### Deacons .....

John Urquhart, Ch., TBD, Becky Beard

Scripture and Offertory Prayer: Susan Snyder

## March 26

### Ushers .....

Lisa Baker, Cara Sutherland

### Deacons .....

Janice Deyerle, Ch., Ray Templin, Susan Snyder

Scripture and Offertory Prayer: Janice Deyerle



We are asking for volunteers to usher on Sundays between 1:30 PM and 2:00 PM. If you would like to volunteer please contact Bobbie Hawkins.

Thank you!

## BIRTHDAYS

03/02 – Ronnie Baker  
 03/08 – Jean McBride  
 03/16 – John Urquhart  
 03/17 – Brinna Seidel  
 03/20 – Debbie Urquhart  
 03/21 – Louise Dickey  
 03/22 – Buddy Hawkins  
 03/23 - Grace Taylor  
 03/24 – Randy Harrison  
 03/28 – Vilas Secrist



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**Church Staff**  
 Dr. Steven W. Pollard, Pastor  
 Robert McKinney, Interim Music Director  
 Bill Lininger, Accompanist.  
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