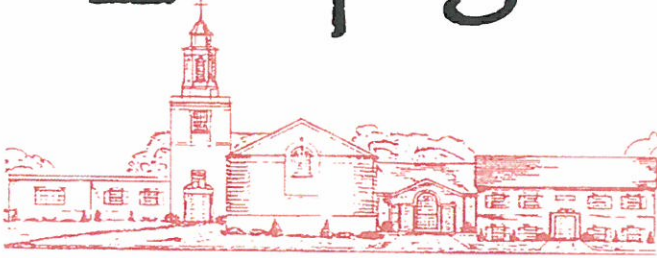


# February 2024

# The Lamplighter



A Monthly Newsletter from Calvary Church

"Where the WORD is Heard"



## Upcoming Events

**February 4**

Communion

**February 14**

Ash Wednesday

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## Dear Calvary Family & Friends,

Valentine's Day is an opportunity to show others our love. We give candy, flowers, and gifts to friends and loved ones. It's literally a sweet day, with sentiment and real sweets. It's good to show love to those we love and to love our enemies as well. Jesus says in Matthew 22:39, "Love your neighbor as yourself." But we know that it's preceded by another and greater commandment. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."

So, we are commanded to love our neighbor, and ourselves, but the greatest commandment is to love God. On this day of love we might ask ourselves, "Do we want to give a token of our love to God? And if so, what would we give Him?"

Throughout the Old Testament, God asks His people to give Him their hearts. He likens Himself to a love who has been rejected when the people forget Him and His commandments. God is our love? The Word of God says, "We love because He first loved us." There are many messages of love, many valentines, which we might have missed in God's letter to us. It says, He loves His people with a "steadfast love", He loves us "freely", "He exults over us with singing", and "You are precious in My sight and honored and I love you." Take

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## Contact Info

### Calvary Church

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[www.calvarychurchmilford.com](http://www.calvarychurchmilford.com)

Follow us on Facebook

@calvarychurchde

### **Office Hours**

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Monday through Friday

### **Elder Lee Vincent**

302-382-2311

### Administrative Assistant

Pat Darlin

pat.darlin@

calvarychurchmilford.com

Notary Services Available

Page 2 Men's/Women's Update

Page 3 Perspectives

Page 6 Birthdays/Anniversaries

Answers

Page 7 Calendar



time today to give Almighty God, your heavenly Father, a precious valentine of love, your heart and your devotion.

– Mary Atwood ([Churchletters.org](http://Churchletters.org))

### **Calvary Women's Update – Mary Sue Smith, President**

Dear Members, Families and Friends we all are looking forward to a much better year in health, happiness, and God's love. I am so looking forward to some exciting activities for this year and always looking for more ladies to join our two Christian Women's circles. We meet on the third Tuesday at 11:00am in Benson Hall. It is a time with great Christian fellowship and getting to know other members of our church. Please consider joining us!

Looking forward to seeing some new faces. Jesus, help me to enjoy Your friendship and fellowship. Mary Sue Smith, President

### **Calvary Men's Update – Ed Bradley, Derek Sapp Co-Chairs**

Blessings from the Calvary Christian Men. We will have our next CCM breakfast meeting on February 11th at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be finalizing plans and seeking volunteers for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner scheduled for February 13th, 2024, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. The Calvary Men will be preparing a meal consisting of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and beverages.

Tickets are priced at \$8.00 adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Come out and enjoy fellowship that evening with your Church family and friends. We hope to see you there.

### **Offering Envelopes/Financial Statements**

Let us begin by saying, thank you for your generous financial support throughout 2023. Your tithes and offerings have been a blessing to Calvary.

The 2023 Financial statements were handed out on Sunday, January 21st. All remaining statements were mailed January 23rd.

Please let the office know if you would like offering envelopes for 2024, or if you have any concerns/questions regarding your 2023 statement.



#### **Meetings**

Feb. 13th 7:00pm Council  
Feb. 20th 7:00pm Trustees

#### **February 11th**

Men's Breakfast Meeting  
7:30am  
10:00am Congregational Mtg

#### **February 13th**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake  
Dinner 5-7pm

#### **February 14th**

Ash Wednesday  
Mt. Enon Baptist Church  
@12 noon  
Valentine's Day

#### **February 20th**

Calvary Christian Women's  
Circle Meeting 11am

**LET ALL  
THAT  
YOU DO  
BE DONE  
WITH  
LOVE.**



# perspectives

by Danny Cooper,  
Pastoral Counselor & Coordinator/Counselor with  
Daybreak Counseling Services

## Created for Growth

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:7-9

Most of us enjoy a good game now and then, and so with that being said, let's begin this month's article with the "Nickname Game". This will be easy....I'll list the nickname, and you try to come up with the person or place, etc. it is meant to describe. The answers will be tucked away toward the back of the newsletter. Now remember....no peaking! Let's start in Hollywood, move through the world of sports, then music, people of historical importance, and lastly, the United States. Shall we begin?

1. The Duke
2. Bogie
3. Broadway Joe
4. Dr. J.
5. Satchmo
6. The Fab Four
7. The Iron Lady
8. The Bard
9. The Land of 10,000 Lakes
10. The Graveyard of the Atlantic

I hope you did well in our game, but more importantly, I hope you had a little fun! The topic of nicknames came to mind recently as I reflected on an article I read a few years ago which focused on a geographic area referred to as...*The Graveyard of the Atlantic*, our last nickname above. Sure sounds ominous, doesn't it? The nickname, as some of you may already know, describes the infamous coastline of North Carolina. With its barrier islands, hard to see shoals, and tricky multi-directional winds, the North Carolina coast is a complicated nautical terrain in the best of times and with up-to-date instrumentation, but was an absolute life and death gamble in centuries past. And this particular article described a 17<sup>th</sup> century British vessel that was lost from historical record when attempting a Carolina landing, only to be rediscovered roughly 20 years ago, one of many buried crafts in the aforementioned "graveyard".

For some reason, the thought of a sunken ship and the myriad possibilities of what may be buried on board such a vessel stirs the imagination for many of us. Maybe we've read one too many adventure story over the years, but the thought of long-forgotten treasure is hard to put out of one's mind. And in this particular submerged ship, treasure was indeed found, but not in the form of jewelry or coins which we would so readily expect. Instead of glittering gold or sparkling gems, the prized discovery, interestingly, were carefully wrapped small packets found safe and remarkably dry within a large, sealed chest. For 300+ years, this chest merely sat motionless underwater, yet when finally opened and the packets unsealed, revealed a variety of well-preserved seeds. It quickly became obvious that among this ship's cargo were these small, delicate European seeds meant for planting in the *New World*. And while this was certainly an exciting find, the truly amazing part of the story was still to come. Instead of placing the seeds under glass in a museum, along with the other antique plunder, the decision was made that the seeds should actually be planted. Yes, after all that time, the seeds were finally to be placed in the North American soil. And the result? Not all, but many of the seeds took to the soil, developed roots, and began to grow! Literally centuries had passed by, but the seeds, when finally able to connect with the soil, took root. The seeds were ultimately able to do what they were created to do...to grow.

This archaeological story can hopefully serve as a reminder for us of an easily overlooked fact, which is that God has created all things to grow....those forgotten seeds, the grass on the ground, your pet puppy, but most importantly, you and me. You see, God is life itself. God is the beginning and the end and all points in between. And as God's children, we've not only been given life, we have the ability designed within us, from our creator, to grow. The growth I am alluding to is our inner growth, our spiritual growth; our becoming more and more like Christ, who came not only to save us from this fallen world, but to transform our lives while making our way through the journey.

This may sound odd, but to wake up each day and have breath in our lungs doesn't truly mean we are alive....in the spiritual sense. In fact, there are many who are "alive" in this life, but exist more like the buried seeds in that sunken ship. Case in point. Years ago, while conducting a pre-marriage group, a young groom to be, after describing some of his more unpleasant characteristics, much to the dismay of his future wife, concluded his statements by saying, "This is who I am, and this is who I'll be. I don't have any intention of changing." The young man got a few chuckles from a couple of the other grooms in the group, which was likely his goal, but his comments brought to light a truth in our humanness. To grow, to become more like Christ as we make this life journey, is actually a choice. It always has been and always will be.

Even in the Old Testament, after the Israelites personally experienced the astounding presence of God on their behalf, they still needed to be challenged by Moses, in the book of Deuteronomy, when he chided, *"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.* If folks who saw mighty waters pushed back like a curtain and manna



pouring down from the heavens needed a firm reminder of their responsibility to choose life, then we all need the same. We are meant to be alive, alert, and growing. And even if one of us has been a slumbering seed, so to speak, we are never too far gone to wake up and begin to grow, because that is God's design.

Those forgotten seeds began to grow, finally, because they were settled into the necessary setting of the soil, receiving the required feeding from the rain, and the all-important light of the warm sun. The seeds were unlocked from their shells, allowing them to become what they were always intended to be. You and I are no different. But when it comes to the environments we choose to live in (the soil), or what we choose to put in our bodies through our eyes, ears, or mouth (the rain), or whether we walk in the companionship of the light of God (the sun), all are choices we must make for ourselves. We must always remember that God loves us completely and wants us to walk closely with Him while making this journey of life, becoming all we were intended to be, but loves us too much to force us along this path. Whether a seed that is already growing and bearing fruit, or a seed still contemplating the possibilities, let us be thankful that we have the gift to choose...to become not only more Christ-like as we journey with Him, but to discover and appreciate our unique, God-given design, as the warmth of Christ's companionship uncovers more and more of who we are as God's son or daughter. May those discovered seeds inspire you and I this day.

*Thank you, loving God, for creating each of us and giving us the gift of life. May how we live our lives be our gift to you....Amen*



### Office Bytes

Please give all dates & times for meetings and/or events to the office for accuracy and proper calendar management. The staff must receive approval prior to confirming calendar requests.

### **Volunteers Welcome**

Call 422-8884 if you are interested.

### **Notary Services Available**

#### **Calvary Giving YTD**

1/1/2024 - 1/22/2024

**\$7,802.00**



Please submit info for the Newsletter to the Church Office no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of February (2/18) to be included in the next issue. Thank you.

# February



## Birthdays

- 3 Gary Ellingsworth
- 4 Richard King
- 6 Dennis Garbrick
- 8 Melva Howard
- 17 Joyce Paquette
- 18 Pete Watford
- 19 Anna Isaacs
- 21 Mary Dalious
- 27 Jeff Carnright
- 28 Taylor Hogan



## Anniversaries

- 06 Harlan & Kelly Nelson
- 10 Dennis & Denise Dean

Have we missed your Birthday or Anniversary?  
you would like it added to the newsletter. We don't want to leave anyone out!

Contact the church office with dates if

**Answers:** 1. John Wayne 2. Humphrey Bogart 3. Joe Namath 4. Julius Erving 5. Louis Armstrong 6. The Beatles 7. Margaret Thatcher 8. William Shakespeare 9. Minnesota



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				9:30am BSF		Benson Hall Reserved
				1	2	3
Communion  Sunday Services		9:30am Bible Study	7:00 pm Bible Study	9:30am BSF		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Men's Breakfast Mtg. 7:30am 10:am Congregation al Meeting Sunday Services		9:30am Bible Study <b>Shrove Tue Pancake Dinner 5-7</b> 7:00pm Council	<b>Ash Wednesday 12 noon</b> Mt. Enon Baptist  7:00pm Bible Study	9:30am BSF		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday Services		9:30 am Bible Study 11am Circle Mtgs. 7:00pm Trustees	<b>Lenten Service 12 noon</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian  7:00pm Bible Study	9:30am BSF		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Sunday Services		9:30am Bible Study	<b>Lenten Service 12 noon</b> Mt. Enon  7:00pm Bible Study	9:30am BSF	<b><u>Sunday Service Schedule</u></b>  8:30am Praise & Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship	
25	26	27	28	29		

# February 2024

## HIGHLIGHTS:

**February 4<sup>th</sup> Communion**

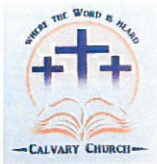
**February 13<sup>th</sup> Shrove Tuesday**

**Pancake Dinner 5-7pm, Calvary**

**February 14<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday Service**

**12 noon Mt. Enon Baptist Church**

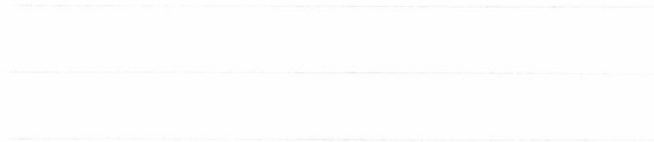
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1	2	3	4	5	6	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	24	25	26
28	29	30	31				31		
January						March			



Calvary Church, Inc.  
301 South East Front Street  
Milford, Delaware 19963



# February Newsletter



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## Calvary Leadership

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**Head of the Church:** Jesus Christ

**Ministers:** Each of Us

**Pastor:**

**Administrative Assistant:** Pat Darlin

**Council Chair:** Bob Shinholt

**Council Vice Chair:** Richard Stoops

**Trustee Chair:** Jana Hood

**Worship:** Jana Hood

**Elders:** Lee Vincent

**Church Treasurer:** Pat Darlin

**Financial Secretary:** Karen Bell

**Membership Secretary:** Pat Darlin

**Recording Secretary:** Susanne Webb

**Evangelism:** Bonnie Watford

**Women's President:** Mary Sue Smith

**Men's Co Chairs:** Ed Bradley, Derek Sapp

**Prayer:** Joyce Vincent

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