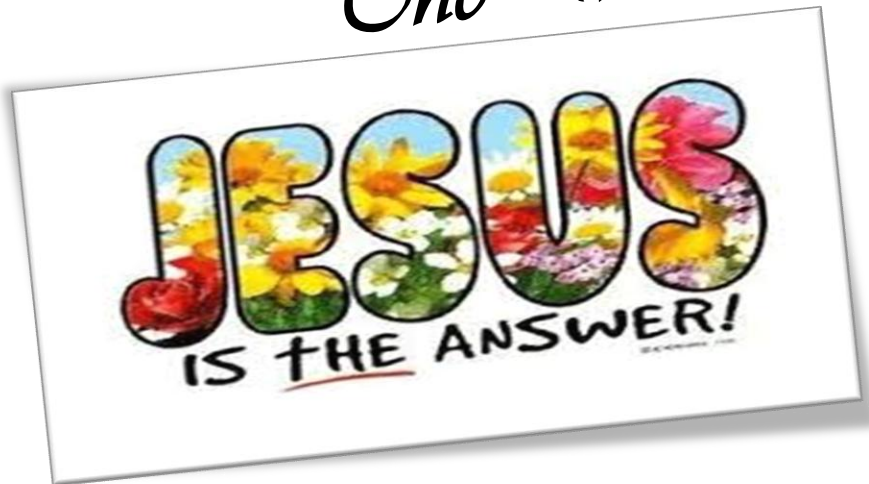


April 2025 *The Vine*



Contact Info

Calvary Church, Inc.

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Office Hours: 9am – 1pm
Tuesday through Thursday
Mon & Friday by appointment

Pastor

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Notary Services Available

Custodial

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*“ For lo, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth;
The time of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land.”*

Song of Solomon 1:11-12 NIV

Dear Church,

Yes, it seems that winter has had its fill, and we welcome the freshness of spring; its fresh start, renewal, and beauty of the season. Spring brings Easter, the heart of our Christianity. With it comes the certainty of our hope in everlasting life with our Father in heaven.

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

[Deuteronomy 32:2](#)

Our growth here at Calvary astounds me. We are being led to a new season, and God is giving us a new pasture with fresh grass for His sheep to feed on. This is where we

have new growth and fresh starts. We all know the verse Psalm 23:2 that speaks of green pastures and that we are led to this fresh nourishment. This is my vision for God to build this church-Calvary. His leading. We follow. Spring marks the transition from the cold, dormant winter to a season of growth and time to flourish. Matthew 16:18 tells us- *“And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”* Doesn't that help us to see God at work here at Calvary? It does for me! The responsibility to build the church is God's, our job is to be faithful to Him in our callings. I encourage each of us to allow God to work through us in a mighty way-possibly even in a manner that is new to us! This will take work as defined by our prayer lives and allowing God's Spirit to empower us to be molded and emboldened to become better witnesses for the Kingdom. You are not alone. If God is with us, who can be against us? It is imperative that we expand God's Kingdom here in Milford, where God has planted us to do His work.

As we seek to expand the Kingdom of God, we will find new opportunities to serve our community. I pray for these opportunities, and God often answers my prayers by dumping them in our lap. We can do this by using our building for resources, Bible studies, and support for other churches. The kingdom increases as we empower leaders and its members. This may be a change from some of your prior church experiences. We must be in the business of growing leaders and empowering members to take on responsibility. If you see a need, let's fill it! If you see a new person, greet them the way you would want to be greeted as a visitor.

A new pasture means we will do more missions work. We must fulfill the Great Commission, as we go through this life as kingdom builders. We must pray about supporting those who are sharing Jesus as a profession, both near and abroad. If we have new pastures to feed on, we want to be known as a church where people feel welcome, loved, and valued. New people in Calvary may use today's technology more than we are used to. We are blessed to have such a large, engaged community on social media. It is my prayer that those on social media will have a longing to be a part of our church-both in person and online.

“Like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants,” may Calvary be a witness of God's abundance and grace. We are welcoming a handful of very special people from a Latino church to worship at Calvary. He has led us to work with this Latino congregation to build His Kingdom. Additionally, we will also be working with the Town of Milford to clean a park this spring. We will continue to host a Tuesday night community meal which feeds upwards of 100 people each night hoping to share love and encouragement to those that attend. We are encouraged by the Chosen Series, having dinner together on the last Friday of each month, averaging 15 people. We initiated a telephone church prayer chain using technology where with one call to a server, the whole church is notified of our prayer requests. Life groups, small Bible studies, will be starting on April 9th, at 11:00 here at Calvary. As fresh grass needs the

showers of spring, we, at Calvary, will continue to follow the Lord's leading in reaching out to those He brings to us as He showers us with blessings.

As the warm temperatures approach, look for fresh grass to nurture and nourish as the Lord leads. Seek out new ways to grow in your walk with the Lord. Try something new, join a life group to nourish your own faith, participate in our prayer group, try out our Bible studies, sing in the choir, seek out a place within the church to serve with others. Seek out those within our church family as well as those in the Milford community that need encouragement. Seek out Jesus and His plan for you this season. Let's celebrate our growth both numerically and spiritually keeping Jesus in our sight.

Easter will soon be here. It is the keystone of our faith. If Christ is not raised from the dead, our faith is for nothing. "He is risen! He has risen indeed!" Let us not minimize what the empty cross and grave means to each of us as believers. Jesus fulfilled His mission to go to the cross and give His life so those who choose to commit to having Jesus as their Savior, may have eternal life. I ponder the thought of why did God roll back the stone of His tomb? Certainly not for Him to be released from the tomb, but for us to seek Him and find the empty tomb, assuring us that "He is risen! He has risen indeed!"

My closing prayer for each of us is found in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. "I pray that out of His glorious riches He [the Father] may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:16-19

The Blessings of Spring

There are many blessings



Office Bytes

Please give all dates & times for meetings and/or events to the office who will coordinate them for accuracy and proper calendar management.

Volunteers Welcome

Call 422-8884 if you are interested.

Notary Services Available Tuesday-Thursday



Please submit info for the Newsletter to the Church Office no later than June 22nd to be included in the next issue. Thank you.

That each new Spring brings
You can see it bloom about
And hear the song it sings

With winter's bleakness over,
And brighter days ahead
Come promise of new life
Springtime loves to spread

As God unfolds the flowers,
And their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance
Grace in our hearts will grow

He sends us the robin's song,
With promise to provide
A shelter under His mighty wing
Where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,
And sends the refreshing rain
Sprinkling us with His mercies
To heal winter's aches and pain

God's given to all His Son,
To shed upon us a new light
And the real blessing of Spring
Is keeping Jesus in our sight!

~Deborah Ann Belka

Offering Envelopes

We still have plenty of 2025 offering envelopes available. Please note, Offering Envelopes are used to keep track of your contributions/offerings throughout the year.

If you would like to receive an end of the year statement for tax purposes, please give the office a call to pick up a book for 2025.



April 8th

Elders Mtg. 6:30pm
Council Mtg. 7:00pm
Trustees Meeting

April 13th 7:30am

Men's Breakfast Meeting
Palm Sunday

April 15th 11am

Calvary Christian Women's
Group Meeting

Isaiah Bible Study - 10am in
Benson Hall Meeting Room

April 1
April 15
April 22
April 29

NO Bible Study on April 8

April 20th Sunrise Service
6:30am
Breakfast 7:30am
Service 10:00am

May 6th Spring Banquet
6-8pm

May 13th
Elders 6:30pm
Council 7:00pm
Trustees

Calvary Christian Women

Greetings Calvary Church Family and Friends,

Wow, it is hard to believe we are now in the second quarter of 2025!

God has blessed us richly with the beautiful season of Spring!

Spring, with its blooming flowers, warmer weather and longer days, is often associated with new beginnings and fresh starts. It's a time of renewal and rejuvenation after the cold dark months of winter.

Praise God that each of us has the opportunity of new beginnings and transformations every day because of His Love for each of us and through the forgiveness of our sins through the blood of God's son, Jesus Christ!

I would like to extend an invitation to the ladies to plan and attend our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month. Please join us for lunch, enjoy some fellowship and the opportunity to praise God for His many blessings. Our meetings are also utilized to make plans for upcoming events and your thoughts and ideas are welcome!

Please join us and invite a friend or neighbor to come and join us.

Please mark your calendars for the Calvary Christian Women Spring Banquet. Angels Among Us is the theme for this year's banquet. The banquet will be held on Tuesday evening May 6th at 6:00pm. Additional information concerning the banquet will be forthcoming in the Sunday worship bulletins! We hope you will join us in the wonderful night of fellowship!

Sending love and prayers to you and yours for a joyful Easter and springtime.

Calvary Christian Men

Greetings from the Calvary Christian Men.

The Calvary Ladies Spring Banquet is coming up quickly on Tuesday, May 6, 2024, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. We would like to ask for volunteers to help serve and clean up that evening. Please let us know if you are available to help that night.

Our next CCM breakfast meeting will be on Sunday, April 13th at 7:30 a.m.

Blessings, Derek Sapp, President

Evangelism – Bonnie Watford

Meal & Movie Nights

The Evangelism Team will be hosting a Meal & Movie Night on the following Fridays:

Friday, April 25th

Friday, May 30th

Friday, June 27th

We will have a meal and fellowship at 5:45pm and an inspirational movie to be shown at 6:30pm. Please plan on joining us in Christian Fellowship. Bring your family and friends.

In Remembrance

A Donation has been made to the Glory of God and Calvary Church, in memory of P.F.C. Wayne C. Jester, 101st Airborne Division, 19 years old, taken home to be with Jesus, on April 10, 1968, in Vietnam.

A donation has been made to the Glory of God and Calvary Church, in memory of Dorothy L. Stubbs, Gold Star Mother of Delaware, taken home to be with Jesus, April 8, 2014.



"You both left us such beautiful memories,
Your love is still our Guide, and although we cannot see you,
You both are always by our Side."

"When we walked through Heaven's gates,
we felt so much at home,
for God looked down, smiled at us,
and told us, "Welcome Home."

We all miss you both so much.

Love always, Jane, Cindy, Lois, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren, and Friends.

IN LOVING
Memory

Baby Bottle Campaign

Psalms 127:3 "Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward."

It's time to begin the Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit the Sussex Pregnancy Care Center. There will be a choice of filling a baby bottle **OR** taking a card and envelope to send directly to the Pregnancy Care Center. On your card, please write Calvary Church, Inc., since there is also a Calvary Baptist Church who participates.

Did you know, your donation provides free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds? Many clients' hearts are changed to choose LIFE for their babies when they see the sonogram picture of the baby moving inside them! A picture is worth a thousand words!

Baby bottles and envelopes will be available for pickup on Mother's Day, May 11th and run through Father's Day, June 15th.

Easter Lilies / Mother's Day / Father's Day

Once again you are invited to purchase an Easter Lily (\$10 each) or donate money to the Fuel Fund, **IN HONOR** or **IN MEMORY** of a loved one. The names will appear in the bulletin for the Easter Sunday Service (April 20th).

Orders along with payment (please make sure they are together) may be placed in the offering plate or sent into the church office. All checks are payable to Calvary Church. **FINAL DATE** for orders will be **April 13th**. Thank you and God Bless!

We will also be doing Mother's and Father's Day names in May and June. Please look for information in the Sunday bulletins.



perspectives

by Danny Cooper,
Pastoral Counselor

Optimal Growth

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Colossians 2:6-7

During the early fall of last year, my wife and I were able to get away briefly and enjoy a few days in the beautiful city of Boston. While there, we had a free day on our schedule, and after some hasty research, decided to visit the coastal town of Gloucester, less than an hour's drive from downtown. Given this was a spontaneous outing, we were totally unprepared for what awaited us in this quaint seaside village.

While the town itself, with its characteristic New England architecture and nautical feel, was both charming and welcoming, our experience soared to unexpected heights when we stumbled upon the lengthy promenade that enveloped the sprawling waterfront, an area teeming with acres of dahlias in perfect bloom. We were not the only appreciative spectators this particular morning, for the walking area was teeming with folks of all ages, meandering through the maze of colorful flower beds, all with the ocean surf as the visual and audio backdrop. What an amazing scene to behold. And while I certainly enjoy flowers, I had no prior experience, to my recollection, with dahlias. How beautiful! Such a vast array of colors, sizes, and styles, all on display for the public's enjoyment. To say the least, our venture into Gloucester was definitely one of our trip highlights.

When Christmas rolled around just a few months later, my wife slid a couple of unwrapped boxes my direction that had been hidden away in her special little holiday workshop! Before opening, I glanced at the address of origin, which read *Gloucester, MA*. To my surprise and excitement, I had just become the proud owner/caretaker of dahlia bulbs! There is an incredible volunteer preservation group in Gloucester that maintains the dahlia beds, which includes the digging up of the bulbs after the growing season, carefully storing most for the next year's planting, but selling others to interested gardeners who would like to incorporate the stunning dahlias into their own flower beds. This was such a wonderful surprise, and the bulbs were even accompanied with a newsletter from the preservation group, which included the proper way to care for the precious bulbs. When reading the fine points on how to manage and protect the dahlias so that they might experience their optimal growth, I couldn't help but notice that these instructions were also relevant to you and I, and what's important for our optimal growth as followers of Christ. The instructions are....

The longer the bulbs (tubers) are in the ground, the more mature they will be.

In John's Gospel, chapter 15, Jesus makes the distinction between being in this world yet not being of this world. Jesus shared this imagery with his followers to encourage them against the trappings and darkness that pervades life on earth, and for them to remember that the light of God, which He has brought, and which has been freely shared, will keep them above the fray and discord of this life, assuring his followers that heavenly light would never succumb to the darkness. For the dahlia bulbs to grow and mature, they need to be in the ground, they need the soil, they need to be watered, and they need the light of the sun. There won't be a lot of growth in the bulbs if they remain in a dark box within a temperature-controlled room. But aren't there dangers for the bulbs being in the ground, out in open, and at the mercy of the weather and human error? Of course. But if they are going to grow and become all they were created to be, they must be in the elements of life. This, too, is the case for you and me as believers. If we are to grow in our faith, if Christ's character is to be manifest in us, then we must also be in the ground, so to speak; in the dirt and weather conditions of this world. Christ can only work through us, molding and shaping us along the way, if we are actively engaged in sharing his light amidst a world in darkness. And it is serving alongside our Lord, in the "fields" of this life, that we invariably grow and mature in the light of his loving companionship.

Pierced or broken tubers are more susceptible to disease or rot during storage.

The world can be a tough place, and so it's not surprising that we, the partners of Christ in his ministry to the world, can pick up some bumps and bruises along the way. As the dahlia tubers need to be tended to once they are brought out of the ground, before they are placed in storage for the cold season, we, too, must be thoughtful about our own care as we serve our Lord. Undealt with hurt and pain, especially of the emotional variety, can cause increasing inner distress, leading to a reduced ability or desire to

remain actively engaged with the world around us, much less our role in ministry. We must remember that we are only human after all. We're not machines. It's important to humble ourselves in this truth, and henceforth, practice regular and thoughtful self-care. It's a horrible analogy, but when we love our pets, we occasionally take them to the veterinarian. When we value our car, we give it regular service. God loves us beyond our comprehension, but do we love ourselves enough to be good proponents of self-care? Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. If our ministry to others does not include loving care of self, we are out of touch with the mission, and welcoming unnecessary challenges and heartache into our lives.

Dahlias can be kept for many years if they are treated properly.

It is not uncommon to hear someone in one of the caring fields, or simply someone who is actively engaged in the helping of others, ministry or otherwise, complain of the experience known as "burnout". The person who experiences this phenomenon is not bad or misguided or somehow inferior in their service, but someone who has more than likely moved beyond their power source as they actively serve others. If God is light and we, as God's servants in this life, are mirrors that reflect his light into the world around us, through our roles, personality, etc., then it is important that we not allow ourselves to drift too far away from our light source, because if we do, God's light grows increasingly dim, and we are relegated to running off of our own very limited inner generator of power, displaying an inner flame that is gradually overwhelmed by the prevailing darkness. Not unlike the dahlias, which if cared for, can bring beauty and inspiration for many years, we, too, can have ongoing impact for our Lord in this life, but only if we remain close to our power source; if we maintain a strong, ongoing relationship with our God and friend. How we live this out, and what this exactly looks like, can vary from person to person, but time with God is a necessary foundation piece. Our "light" is literally recharged when we reconnect with the source. That sounds painfully simple, but God's design is not complicated to follow. God doesn't play games or make things unnecessarily challenging. These are descriptors of the world. God simply longs for connection with us, his children. We must ask ourselves how important he is to us. We invest in what is important. We spend time with those who are dear to us. We are impacted and influenced by those with whom we spend our time. To grow in the character of Christ; to have the light of God vibrantly shining from within; for our service in the world to be less about self and more about God, all is predicated on the relationship we enjoy and maintain with our creator. As Paul said to the Philippians, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Now that spring has officially arrived, it's just a matter of time before the dahlia bulbs are introduced to their new home in my front yard flower beds. My hope, though, is that these pretty flowers will remain a continual reminder of God, and the special, journey altering relationship we are offered if we make him our top priority in life. Not unlike the dahlias, may you and I enjoy the optimal growth that God intended for us in our creation. May the light of our God fill us this day and the many days to come....Amen

Birth^{day} Blessings

APRIL

3 Roy Anderson
 13 Pat Darlin
 14 Pat Visioli
 15 Rick Armstrong
 19 Jeremy Ellingsworth
 19 Joyce Vincent
 29 Peggy Powell
 30 Al Darlin

MAY

4 Danielle Guyer
 7 Edwina Sloane
 9 John Cannon
 9 Jackie Stoops
 9 Will Walters
 13 Mark Hogan
 15 Dafne Carnright
 15 Carol Morris
 19 Sam Mackert
 25 Kelly Nelson
 26 Dylan Carnright
 31 Bob Shinholt

JUNE

02 Sandi Hollenbeck
 04 Christopher Miller
 04 Carson Rios
 08 Katherine Roberts
 10 Pat Timblin
 20 Laura Mitchell
 24 Derek Sapp
 27 Steve Ellingsworth
 28 Kathy Schmidt
 29 Betty Jane Dittoe
 29 Chris Gulledge
 30 Susan West



APRIL

3 Dean & Annette Miller
 21 Paul & Rosemary
 Williamson
 24 Jeff & Dafne Carnright
 24 Ken & Dawn Coverdale

MAY

08 Mark & Cindy Hogan
 20 Pete & Bonnie Watford
 20 John & Susanne Webb
 26 Remy & Jennifer Gooch

JUNE

01 Steve & Sandi Hollenbeck
 02 Richard & Suzanne King
 2 Horace & Ginger Pierson
 08 Buzzy & Jana Hood
 14 Al & Pat Darlin
 19 Dewey & Dona Sapp
 28 Eric & Patty Bodenweiser

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Isaiah Bible Study 10am Community Meal 4-6p 1	Bible Study 7:00pm 2	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am Choir 6pm 3		Milford Community Cleanup 5
Sunday Service Communion 6		Community Meal 4-6p 8	Bible Study 7:00pm 9	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am Choir 6pm 10		
HOLY WEEK						
Palm Sunday Men's Breakfast Mtg. 7:30am 13		B Study 10am Meal 4-6p Elders 6:30p Council 7p Trustees 14	Bible Study 7:00pm 15	Prayer 9am Choir 6pm 16	Good Friday Service 7pm 17	
Easter Sunday Sunrise 6:30a Breakfast 7:30am Service 10am 20		Bible Study 10am CCW Group Mtg. 11am Community Meal 7p 21	Bible Study 7:00pm 22	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am Choir 6pm 23	Meal & Movie Night 5:45pm 24	
Sunday Service 27		Bible Study 10am Community Meal 7p 28	Bible Study 7:00pm 29	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am Choir 6pm 30		

April 2025

HIGHLIGHTS:

		1			1	2	3	April 6 Communion April 13 Palm Sunday April 18 Good Friday Service 7pm April 20 Sunrise Service 6:30am Breakfast 7:30am Easter Service 10am	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		31
30	31								
March 2025				May 2025					



Where Faith Grows, Love Shows

Calvary Leadership

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Each of Us

Pastor: Will Walters

Elders: Bryan Rice, Bob Shinholt, Richard Stoops

Administrative Assistant: Pat Darlin

Council Chair: Bob Shinholt

Council Vice-Chair: Richard Stoops

Trustee Chair: Vernon Hood

Worship: Jana Hood

Church Treasurer: Pat Darlin

Financial Secretary: Karen Bell

Recording Secretary: Susanne Webb

Membership: Pat Darlin

Evangelism: Bonnie Watford

Calvary Christian Women: Renee Anderson

Calvary Christian Men: Derek Sapp

Prayer Team: Joyce Vincent

Calvary Church
301 SE Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

The Vine – April 2025