

October 2026



Contact Info

Calvary Church, Inc.

301 SE Front Street
Milford, DE 19963
302.422.8884 Telephone
302.422.3360 Fax
www.calvarychurchmilford.com
Follow us on Facebook
[@calvarychurchde](https://www.facebook.com/calvarychurchde)

Office Hours: 9am – 1pm
Tuesday through Thursday

Pastor

Will Walters
609.207.9092 Cell
pastorwalters@calvarychurchmilford.com

Pastoral Assistant

Bryan Rice
Cell: 302.841.3891
pastorbryan@calvarychurchmilford.com

Administrative Assistant

Pat Darlin
pat.darlin@calvarychurchmilford.com
Notary Services Available

Custodial

Valerie Benton
302.270.3207



"The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." (Isaiah 40:8)

Wow! Looking back, what an amazing summer it has been. It is always wonderful, and a little bit amazing, at how quickly things seem to change, not only in season, but also in church life. Over the last three months, we gathered to celebrate and thank God for our nation's 250th birthday. Calvary made many contacts through the Riverwalk Festival, (not to mention the famous Jesus squishy give-away to several young people, and to those young at heart). All to God's glory, we celebrated with those that went through the waters of baptism. What a milestone! Calvary is on the move.

We know that God is in charge of making His church grow (Matthew 16:18). October is shaping up to be another wonderful month of ministry, and we hope that whether it is through our upcoming mission conference, prayer meetings, or Sunday worship, you will be a part of it all!

Leaves may be falling, but the promises of God never let us down. I remind myself of this as I write this fall newsletter. Autumn is upon us, and the reasons to love this season are many. There's colorful foliage, warm and snuggly fall attire, football games and, of course, everything is pumpkin spice. Fall is also a resplendent time of change – the leaves turn colors, the weather gets colder, school is back in session, and all those wonderful family holidays are right around the

corner. In the midst of admiring the beauty of the season, may we not forget the One who has created the beauty of the earth for us to admire. May we be grateful to our Creator for making such a beautiful creation.

As we look ahead, we can see that God is doing mighty things here at Calvary this fall. Mark Twain once wrote, "To stand still is to fall behind." We keep that in sight with the leading of God's Spirit to empower us with strength clothed in wisdom to minister with grace amidst our human shortcomings. Calvary has not stood still. We've experienced evidence of growth through the recent baptisms, membership increases, Bible study start-ups, church discipleship, encouragement of one another, and members experiencing God's miraculous presence in ways never seen before. We have much to rejoice over as we have pressed forward.

There is a seasonal aspect to life that closely mirrors the seasons of the year. We are in the middle of a wonderful season of busyness here at the church, but just because we are busy, doesn't mean we need to be burdened. Jesus says many wonderful things, and one of my favorite Jesus-sayings is: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30) Growing up, I had a tendency to think this meant Jesus wanted us to take it easy, or to live a life of leisure. I always wondered why that never seemed to manifest itself in my own life. Of course, that is not what Jesus is saying at all. Jesus is telling us in this moment, that if we ground the work we do in God, whether for our church, or our family, or in our community, we will find not a life of ease, but a life of joyful work. I'm asking each Calvary member to join in an area of need, if not already actively involved.

We are not called to live easy lives; we are called to faithful living. This is where the rubber meets the road for me. I pray often and find that my prayers are answered in ways I never imagined. Rarely am I led to a shallow life, but often to the deeper conviction that Jesus is all I need. Faithful living includes, not only going to church and being involved in the



October 14th 5pm
Spaghetti Dinner
Silent Auction

October 11th 7:30 am
Men's Breakfast Mtg.

October 13th 7pm
Administrative Council Mtg.
Trustee Meeting Follows

October 20th 11am
Calvary Women's Mtg.

October 22nd 6:30pm
Annual Business Meeting

November 8th 7:30 am
Men's Breakfast Mtg.

November 10th 7pm
Administrative Council Mtg.
Trustee Meeting Follows

November 17th
11am Women's Mtg.

December 8th 7pm
Administrative Council Mtg.
Trustee Meeting Follows

December 13th 7:30am
Men's Breakfast Meeting

December 24th
Christmas Eve Service

life of Calvary but also recognizing that our days belong first to God; that all we have, and all we are, belongs to God at the start. I am asking each of us to spend more time in our daily devotional life. I find devotions helpful. Ones that make it easy to start my day. Judy and I begin each day with a text or a podcast that uplifts and encourages us at the start. If you need direction in this area, please see me. Also, I strongly desire our church body to be found faithful in their walk, which includes giving thanks to God at the end of a busy day for the places where you saw His grace shining through.

To grow and admonish one another within the body, I am praying that some Calvary families will open their homes to host weekly meetings of believers for teaching, encouragement, and being transparent in life together more than just on Sundays. Colossians 3:16 tells us "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God". Please pray along with me for this opportunity to grow together as the Body of Christ.

John 3:16 not only reminds us that Jesus is our salvation, but also, He is our satisfaction. He is our everything. God promised faithful followers that He would provide. Deuteronomy 11:14 states, "Then I will give you the rain for your land in the proper time, the autumn and spring rains, and you will harvest your grain, new wine, and fresh oil." Colossians 3:23 states "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive any inheritance from the Lord as a reward. **It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**" There will be work to do, but we need not be overwhelmed by it because Jesus is with us every step of the way. In as much as we desire to lead lives of faith for Jesus, remember, Jesus will always be faithful to us in this season, and many more to come.

Blessed to be your Pastor and wife,

Pastor Will and Judy



Thank You!!!

Dear Calvary Family,

Thank you all for the wonderful 60th birthday party you held for me.

A special thank-you to Pat, Pastor Will, and Judy for making such an awesome party possible.

Thank you for all the cards and gifts. Aunt Beverly, Aunt Kaye, and Uncle Glenn enjoyed themselves as well.

Thank you all! Samantha

Calvary Christian Women

The Calvary Women's group will meet Tuesday, 10/20 at 11am (please bring a sandwich), and Tuesday, November 17th at 11:00am. The December meeting will be our Christmas luncheon at a local restaurant (location to be determined).

Calvary Men's Spaghetti Dinner and the Calvary Christian Women's Silent Auction and Bake Sale are scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2026. Join us for an evening of good food and fellowship. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children ages 5–12; children 4 and under are free.

The silent auction will be held in Fellowship Hall. Donation for items can be dropped off any Sunday after our Worship Service, or Tuesday October 6 & 13 from 9:45 – 11:30am and Wednesday, October 14, from 10:00 – 11:30am. Place items beneath the plastic tablecloths on the stage or on the table left of the stage. Please attach a bid sheet: forms are available on the table beside the stage. Complete the top section, and the Calvary auction team can help set the prices. Questions, contact Dona Sapp.

Looking for some tasty treats? **The Bakery** will be held in the small room at the back of Benson Hall! Donations for the baked goods/treats can be dropped off between 4:30 and 5:pm on Wednesday, October 14th. Contact Lois Bradley for any questions.

Come share some fun, love and fellowship and make these fundraisers a huge success along with the opportunity to enjoy Dick Stoops great Spaghetti!!

Reminder... Donations can be made to Calvary Church to go towards the new Accessible Restroom located on the second floor across from the office. Please place donations in the offering plate and make sure to mark your check or envelope with "Accessible Restroom Donation" notation. Thank you for your consideration.

Blessings to you and your family,

Dona Sapp, President Calvary Christian Women

Offering Envelopes

Our 2027 offering envelopes will be available for pick up the last few weeks of December. If you do not currently utilize envelopes and would like to, please give the office a call. Envelopes are used to record your annual tithing and serve as the method for providing a year-end statement. Blessings!

Calvary Christian Men

Blessings from the Calvary Christian Men,

Our Breakfast meetings for the next few months are as follows:

Sunday, October 11th, November 8th and December 13th. Please join us!

A reminder to all, the Calvary Men will be supporting the Annual Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 14th. We need volunteers to help serve and clean up for this event. Please contact Derek if you can assist us that evening. Thank you!

Derek Sapp – President, Calvary Christian Men

Evangelism – Bonnie Watford

Meal & Movie Nights

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

Friday, October 30th and Friday, November 20th

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.

Christmas Poinsettias/Fuel Fund Donations

With the Christmas Season soon approaching, you are invited to purchase a Poinsettia (\$10) or donate money to the Fuel Fund, **IN HONOR** or **IN MEMORY** of a loved one. The names will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 20th as well as our Christmas Eve Service. Forms along with information will be inserted into the December 6th and 13th Sunday bulletins.

If you have any questions, please contact the office!



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 302-422-8884 if you are interested.

Notary Services Available **Tuesday-Thursday**



Please submit info for the Newsletter to the Church Office no later than the 3rd Sunday of December (12/20) to be included in the next issue. Thank you.

perspectives

by Danny Cooper,
Pastoral Counselor

Onward to the Light

"When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" – John 8:12

While fall has officially arrived, with its predictable promise of cooler temperatures and the beautiful assortment of colorful leaves that will fill our trees and cover our yards, this past summer, paradoxically, proved to be quite unusual and far less routine, presenting our family with a steady stream of unfamiliar, emotion-filled experiences that absorbed all of our available time and energy. The events themselves spanned the continuum of possibilities, from the celebration of a retirement, to the death of a dear loved one, to the birth of a baby, with many lower intensity experiences mixed in between. And in our busyness and attentiveness to these important matters, the summer steadily slipped away without our notice until, in late August, realizing that we had been homebound for these last three months, we decided that some time away would be beneficial. As traveling folks who customarily look forward to a traditional vacation most years, this was definitely new spontaneous territory. And so, we decided, rather last minute, as August was near its end, to head south to the Outer Banks. It might be only a couple days of respite, but it would be a treasured time of "R and R".

As we began our journey, a weather front seemed to be traveling with us. The sky was a slate gray, with impressive low hanging storm clouds moving quickly overhead, randomly dropping their promised payload in all variety of ways.... misty rain, giving way to intermittent showers, to the downpours where visibility was minimal. And occasionally, at intervals, the rain would lessen and the clouds would magically part and streaks of blue would actually appear overhead, only to give way, once again, to our storm cloud companions. This weather pattern continued unabated for the length of our journey, forcing me, as the driver, to be continually focused on the road before us.

It wasn't until we were going through a small North Carolina town that a red traffic light provided the rare opportunity to pause for a minute and for my attention to safely move beyond the ever-present weather conditions. And what a scene I was permitted to see! At this point in the battle of raindrops, we were thankfully in the midst of an intermission.... the sky was somewhat open, there was the pretty reflection of the water on the roadway, and the gray clouds, which were certainly still present, had lightened from their formerly foreboding

tones. It's amazing how just a little bit of light can change the appearance of one's surroundings.

As I sat there at the traffic signal, I looked beyond the road just before me, far ahead in the direction we were travelling. And even though the sky was still filled with upcoming gray clouds for miles to come, at the very edge of the horizon, there was white light. It may have been a thin line, but the light was unmistakable, and it was likely always there along this rainy journey but overlooked by me as I focused so heavily on the current conditions we were slogging through. This brief traffic light rest also allowed me, for the first time, to look in my rear-view mirror. Once again, being so focused on what was to come, I hadn't taken the time to reflect on where we had already traveled. And what did I see? I saw the most beautiful pink sky filling my small rectangular mirror; such a dramatic contrast to the gray that seemed to surround our vehicle on the many miles travelled thus far.

The actual time at the traffic light may have been momentary, but was certainly long enough to impact my thoughts from that point forward. It was as if God was providing a teaching moment about our faith journey in this brief experience of life, but through the dreary, cumbersome weather conditions that surrounded our travels south. And as the miles continued to accumulate, the lessons God was providing began to take shape.

Lesson One.... The sky will not always be blue. In fact, there are seasons of life that may be predominately gray and rainy, so much so at times that all you can do, humanly, is to hang in there and keep moving forward, one step at a time. As hard as this type of traveling can be, God is still with us... always. (*Romans 8: 35-39*)

Lesson Two.... If we can simply be patient, trusting God above our current circumstances, the gray clouds and rain will eventually clear, and the beauty of a blue sky will reappear and the warmth of the bright sun will reinvigorate, nurturing our soul and restoring our hope for the journey ahead. We can depend on God... always. (*Isaiah 41:10*)

Lesson Three.... In the midst of our gray days or seasons, it's important to pause occasionally, to reflect on the journey thus far and to remind ourselves of God's presence, even when we were too busy to see or hear him as we initially drove through. The pink sky is a warm reminder of the ever-present companionship of God, our best friend and reliable guide through all the weather conditions we face along the way. If we're looking, we can see God's fingerprints on our life experiences.... always. (*Psalms 139: 7-12*)

Lesson Four.... No matter how oppressive the weather might be or how daunting the road may appear before us, if we look far enough into the distance, if our eyes will strain to see past the obstacles directly before us, we will view the white light that rests just above the horizon, a beacon of hope that beckons us forward in spite of the challenges that encircle our steps, the clouds that obstruct our vision, and the rain that discourages and distracts. God's love for us is never ending, and the light of Christ in this world cannot be extinguished, no matter how challenging our circumstances might be. God's light will draw us onward toward our heavenly home.... always. (*James 1:12*)

While we are going to have our gray times in this life, some of them with heavy rain and limited visibility as well, we can rest assured that our God is with us every step of these challenging days or seasons we must travel. His presence is everywhere. Can we pause long enough to look around us? Can we quiet ourselves enough to listen for his voice? Can we glance behind us, to see the evidence of his movement in our circumstances? Can we see far enough ahead the light on the horizon, reminding us that we are forever in his care and never beyond his reach? The gray days in life are a certainty for us all. May we learn to see these times as spiritual opportunities to draw closer to our God, feeling a deeper sense of comfort from the one who loves us the most, and a continually renewed hope in the heavenly homecoming that awaits us when our journey on this earth is through.... Amen



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It is that time of year, to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child and start filling shoeboxes. Now more than ever, children need hope.

Each year our Calvary family fills and sends approximately 70 boxes. We are hoping to continue our mission of giving. Our supply of boxes and information are now available.

This year, Calvary will be a drop-off location for filled shoeboxes coming in from other churches, organizations, and individuals who are participating in helping to spread the gospel to over 100 countries around the world.

Not only do we need your help filling shoeboxes, but we need people who are willing to donate a few hours during DROP OFF WEEK. A signup sheet is posted on the hallway bulletin board. There will be a meeting for volunteers at a future time to go over the drop-off procedure.

Let's continue our support of Operation Christmas Child. Drop Off Week is November 16th through November 23rd. Monday thru Sunday.

Please direct any questions to Donna Weeks. Thank you!

Calvary's Annual Business Meeting – October 22nd @ 6:30pm

Members are encouraged to attend our Annual Business Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, October 22nd at 6:30pm. Items on the agenda include the following:

- Reading of Minutes
- Pastoral Report
- Changes to Bylaws
- Budget Approval
- Missions/Missionary Support
- Nomination of Elders/Deaconesses

2026 Administrative Council (Officers)

Chairman (2026): Robert Shinholt

Vice Chair (2026): Richard Stoops

Secretary (2026): Susanne Webb

Treasurer (2026): Pat Darlin

Financial Secretary: Karen Bell

Council Member Terms (2026-2028):

(1-Year) Betty Jane Dittoe (ending 2026)

(2-Year) Dona Sapp, Dianne Webb (ending 2027)

(3-Year) TBD (ending 2028)

Elders – Bryan Rice, Bob Shinholt, Richard Stoops

Evangelism & Visitation Chair: Bonnie Watford

Calvary Men's President: Derek Sapp

Calvary Women's President: Dona Sapp

Trustee Chair: Terry Webb

Pastor/Elder-Teacher (non-voting): Will Walters

Deaconesses: Lois Bradley, Jana Hood, Dona Sapp, Hazel Shinholt, Bonnie Watford

Calvary Trustees:

Term ends 2026: Jana Hood; Terry Webb (Chair)

Term ends 2027: Rick Rios, Derek Sapp

Term ends 2028: Michael Benton, Bradley Lovett

Birthday Blessings

OCTOBER



01 Lois Bradley
02 Logan Rios
03 Lori Headley
03 Ronald Robbins
04 Doug Ellingsworth
08 Wayne Nelson
09 Jonathan Webb
11 Mike Warrington
12 Debbie Kresse
14 Dustin Dean
14 Drake Webb
15 Patricia Griffis
15 Marian Hovatter
17 John Dittoe
23 Carolyn Tucker
27 Rosalinda Smith
30 Terry Webb

NOVEMBER



05 Jean Bradley
05 Cindy Sparklin
09 Rick Rios
11 Jana Hood
12 Jennifer Gooch
16 Dean Miller
17 Iona Miller
19 Teresa Morgan
19 Cindy Tatman-Hogan
25 David Burdette
26 Patti Robinson

DECEMBER



01 Dona Sapp
05 Mike Benton
05 Barbara Gillespie
05 Ella Webb
06 Donna Weeks
10 Selma Irwin
10 Ed Schmidt
10 Judy Walters
14 Mary Ann Draper
15 James Dalious
19 Todd Davis
20 Penny Visioli
29 Jared Geyer
30 Laura Lanspery
31 Cindy Tatman
31 Priscilla Rogers



OCTOBER

07 Jarred & Danielle Geyer
16 John & Betty Jane Dittoe
28 George & Helen Wilkins

NOVEMBER

08 Mike & Valerie Benton
15 Terry & Dianne Webb
27 Rick & Cathy Rios
29 Pat & Penny Visioli

DECEMBER

08 Mike & Suzanne Warrington
13 Joey & Ann Rogers
23 Dick & Jackie Stoops

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Prayer 9am Bible Study Fellowship 9:30am 1	2	3
Sunday Service 4	5	Bible Study 10am 6	Bible Study 7:00pm 7	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 8	9	10
Sunday Service Men's Breakfast Mtg. 7:30am 11	12	No am Bible Study Admin Council 7:00pm Trustees Mtg. Follows 13	Spaghetti Dinner Silent Auction 14	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 15	16	17
Sunday Service 18	19	Bible Study 10am Calvary Women's Group 11am 20	Bible Study 7:00pm 21	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am Annual Business Mtg. 6:30pm 22	23	24
Sunday Service 25	26	Bible Study 10am 27	Bible Study 7:00pm 28	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 29	30	31

October 2026

HIGHLIGHTS:

		1	2	3	4	5							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Oct. 4th – Communion																					
6	7	8	9	10	11	12							8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Oct. 14th – Spaghetti Dinner/Auction																					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Oct. 22nd – Annual Business Mtg.																					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							22	23	24	25	26	27	28																						
27	28	29	30										29	30																											
September 2026										November 2026																															

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Service Communion Sunday 1	2	Election Day Bible Study 10am 3	Bible Study 7:00pm 4	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 5	6	7
Sunday Service Men's Breakfast Mtg. 7:30am 8	9	Bible Study 10am Admin Council Mtg 7:00pm Trustees Follow 10	Bible Study 7:00pm 11	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 12	13	14
Sunday Service 15	16	Bible Study 10am 17	Bible Study 7:00pm 18	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 19	Meal & Movie Night 5:45pm 20	21
Sunday Service Drop Off Week Trustee Nominations 22	23	No am Bible Study BSF 9:30am 24	25	Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed 26	27	28
Sunday Service 29	30					

November 2026

HIGHLIGHTS:

1 2 3	1 2 3 4 5	Nov. 1st – Communion
4 5 6 7 8 9 10	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	Nov. 26th – Thanksgiving
11 12 13 14 15 16 17	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	
25 26 27 28 29 30 31	27 28 29 30 31	
October 2026	December 2026	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bible Study 10am 1	2pm Bible Study 7:00pm 2	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 3		4 5
Sunday Service Communion Sunday 6		Bible Study 10am Admin Council Mtg. 7:00pm Trustee Follows 8	Bible Study 7:00pm 9	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 10		11 12
Sunday Service Men's Breakfast Mtg. 7:30am 13	Deadline for Poinsettia/Fuel Fund Donations 14	Bible Study 10am 15	Bible Study 7:00pm 16	Prayer 9am BSF 9:30am 17		18 19
Sunday Service Trustee Election 20		No am Bible Study 22	Bible Study 7pm 23	Christmas Eve Service 24	Merry Christmas 25	26
Sunday Service 27		Bible Study 10am 29	Bible Study 7pm 30	New Year's Eve 31		

December 2026

HIGHLIGHTS:

														1	2	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Dec. 6 th – Communion	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Dec. 14 th Poinsettia/Fuel Deadline	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Dec. 24 th – Christmas Eve Service	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec. 25 th – Merry Christmas	
29	30							31								
November 2026							January 2027									

- Dec. 6th – Communion
- Dec. 14th Poinsettia/Fuel Deadline
- Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service
- Dec. 25th – Merry Christmas



Where Faith Grows, Love Shows

Calvary Leadership

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ

Ministers: Each of Us

Pastor: William Walters

Pastoral Assistant: Bryan Rice

Administrative Assistant: Pat Darlin

Council Chair: Bob Shinholt

Council Vice-Chair: Richard Stoops

Trustee Chair: Terry Webb

Worship: Jana Hood

Elders: Bryan Rice, Bob Shinholt, Richard Stoops

Church Treasurer: Pat Darlin

Financial Secretary: Karen Bell

Recording Secretary: Susanne Webb

Membership: Pat Darlin

Evangelism: Bonnie Watford

Calvary Christian Women: Dona Sapp

Calvary Christian Men: Derek Sapp

Calvary Church
301 SE Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

The Vine – October 2026