An Exciting Church Excited About Its Mission!

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The Calvary Chronicle

A Quarterly Publication of First Calvary Baptist Church

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LOOKING & BELIEVING ... THROUGH FAITH EYES

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen...through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear" – Hebrews 11:1, 3 KJV

Have you ever stopped to think about the things we cannot see with the natural eye? The wind and gravity are two examples. We cannot see them, but we know they are there. While we cannot physically "see" God, we have faith in Him and His awesome power. God's love for us is shown through our faith in Him. Take a moment to look around through your **FAITH** eyes to discover the "unseen" signs of God and His love. Share your discovery with others. FCBC Calvary Chronicle Staff

First Calvary Baptist Church

1311 Morehead Avenue Durham, NC 27707 (919)489-4184 phone (919)489-3565 fax <u>www.firstcalvary.org</u>



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"And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith has made thee whole."

- Luke 17:19 KJV



Pastor's Desk Message

Brothers and Sisters, here is another wonderful edition of the Calvary Chronicle! Thank you to our hardworking Chronicle Staff. By the way, if you have a knack for writing, join this Ministry! Parents, this is a great ministry for your youth to practice their writing skills, especially if they desire to study Mass Communications.

This time up, we are "Looking and Believing Through FAITH Eyes" What a great reminder for each of us as we journey with Christ. The featured Scripture is a familiar one from Hebrews 11: 1, 3: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen...Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that many things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Faith is like a muscle....you have to exercise it to make it stronger. I know my "gym and workout folk", like Minister Carter, Minister Dotson, Brother Vance, and Sister Murrell, along with many others, understand this correlation. It is my prayer that we are in our "spiritual gyms" and that our faith is getting a good "work out". Read Hebrews and learn (or be reminded) about the Heroes of Faith and prayerfully, be inspired to move forward in your own walk of Faith.

As I recently tuned in to a monthly Tom Rainer webinar, the subject and topic was "Turning a Church Around". For forty-five minutes I listened and came away with quite a deliberate message that I feel is appropriate for us. Nothing happens without Prayer and "Prayerlessness" is destroying our fellowship. We must focus on the Abundancy of God instead of the Scarcity of Humanity. We must decide whether we're going to be Wasters, Overwhelmers, or Victors! Today I declare unto you that we are Victors...and we are moving forward in Ministry as we are DEVELOPING AND LEADING DISCIPLES INTO SPIRITUAL EXCELLENCE!

We are coming to the end of the year...can you believe it? 2017 is on its way out....but much has gone on at First Calvary since our last publication. We collected MUCH food for our Pantry... I encourage us to keep doing that....don't let our Storehouse get low. Mission Sunday was a blessing and our Bi-Annual Health Fair was a success. September brought Christian Education events, and we were blessed at our CE Workshop, in Worship with Dr. Moses Javis on CE Promotion Sunday, and in learning more about Defending Our Faith with Dr. Victor Davis at the Biblical Institute. October is coming to a close...and we have learned much in our Whole Family Conference this year. Our Couples Ministry was reminded that we are "Living Out Love" at the Annual Married Couples Retreat. Also, just last week, we celebrated 133 Years of Ministry as a CHURCH FAMILY. We recognized our Church Family Members that are 80 years old and above, and they are all certainly deserving of honor. When I think about Ministry life here, words like blessed, full, active, and dedicated come to mind.

We are moving forward in Ministry and marching on to the end of the year. Mark your calendars for our Harvest Festival on October 31st...and come help and support our children and youth. November and December are on the horizon, and that means holiday time! I will celebrate with you, my Church Family, at my 26th Pastoral Anniversary on November 12th. Mature Adults, we are looking for you at the Senior Lunch and Learn on November 30th. December will hold our Annual Christmas Presentation on December 17th, Christmas Eve Worship on December 24th, and "Christkwanzaa" Sunday with some African attire and our Annual Watchnight Service, both on December 31st. Wednesdays in December will look a little different. On December 6th, there will be no Bible Study as we will worship with Christian Faith Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC. December 13th is our Annual Angel Tree "Bringa-Pot" Fellowship and on December 20th we will celebrate those who volunteer with us in Ministry. Time is winding up, First Calvary, but we are still working for the 'Cause of Christ!

I will end my message in this edition of the Chronicle by sharing some more "faith nuggets". The following can be found when doing a search for "images on faith" on the Internet:

"Faith is having the courage to let God have control."

"Faith is about believing. You don't know what will happen, but you know it will."

"Faith is the bridge between where I am and where God is taking me."

"Faith is like WiFi. It's invisible, but has the power to connect you to what you need."

I encourage us to strengthen our faith...let God take the reins of our hearts and minds...and allow Him to do His marvelous work. Christ intercedes on our behalf...and there is NO better one to have on our side and to have as a guide. As the song goes, "Great is Your faithfulness, Lord unto me." That's something to shout about! Never forget that we are AN EXCITING CHURCH EXCITED ABOUT ITS MISSION!

Yours in that Blessed Hope, Pastor Fredrick A. Davis



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Member Spotlight

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God"

- Mark 11:22





Sister Clara Davis

What service do you normally attend and where do you sit? 10:45 am. Normally, you can find me downstairs helping out in Children's Church or in the back near the Ushers or in the balcony.

Do you help out in any other ministries? I assist with meals in Couples Sunday School and I also volunteer with Health & Wellness on the dental van.

What do you do on the dental van? I am a licensed dentist and I provide free dental treatment for those that sign up.

Do you have your own dental practice? Yes, I own *Open Wide Family Dentistry* in East Durham. I'm a sole practitioner in general practice which means I do a little bit of everything. Right now, my youngest patient is 7 months and my oldest is in the 80s.

How long have you been a member of FCBC? I started attending when I was in dental school at UNC in 1996. FCBC became the dental school church. I joined in 2000 when I got out of dental school.

Why did you join FCBC? I enjoyed the Young Adult ministry and I especially liked the friendliness of Pastor and Mrs. Davis.

Pastor Davis wants us to be a congregation that empowers, enhances and evangelizes. What does evangelize mean to you and how do you demonstrate it? Evangelize means sharing the gospel of Jesus. I do this at my practice by praying for my patients and sharing the gospel with my patients while working. I also pray and share the goodness of Jesus when I am at swim meets and other activities that I participate in. I try to involve this in all aspects of my life. I try to be the salt and the light.

What is your favorite gospel song? Change by Tremaine Hawkins. This song speaks to me because I know that if He can change me, He can change anybody. And I continuously give Him something to work with from time to time.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I like to read, listen to music, and laugh.

Sister Davis is married to Albert Davis Jr. and has one daughter, Hope.

"Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God." Philippians 4:6 NET

"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"

- Romans 3:3

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY

On October 22, 2017, a bright, sunny, Sunday morning, First Calvary Baptist Church celebrated God's faithfulness at the 133rd church anniversary. This year's theme was "It's All in the Family." The service began with a stirring rendition of "Down Through the Years, God's Been Good to Me." Voices were punctuated solely by a drum beat. After several more praise and worship songs were sung, senior church members age 80 and above were recognized and honored with framed certificates for their longevity and service to the church. The Health Tip



for October was about breast cancer, and was presented by Rita Murrell, a 17-year breast cancer survivor.

After the Offering, the Altar Call, and Prayer, Pastor Davis preached the sermon titled "Lessons Learned." Pastor Davis' text was selected scriptures from the fourth, fifth and sixth chapters of the book of Deuteronomy. He said that at the time this was written, the Israelites were encamped on the Plains of Moab. Earlier in their journey, they entered into a covenant with Yahweh at Mount Sinai. The Israelites had been in and out of several wilderness experiences. Now, God had led them to a place where there was only one more river between them and The Promised Land. While they waited to cross that river, Moses recited the Israelites of what they had covenanted with God. Pastor said that we've all had wilderness experiences on our journey through life. We have come through many dangers, toils and snares. Some of these experiences were designed by God who used these trials to shape us into His will. Like the Israelites, the journey that we are on is a spiritual journey and it can only be walked by faith. Pastor admonished

us that we need to stop fretting about our trials and realize that, if we cling to God, in the end, we win.

After the service, families were given commemorative travel cups and the congregation was invited to the Fellowship Hall for assorted desserts and fellowship.

Submitted by: Sister Mary U. Vickers





What Does A Great America Look Like?

The American dream is not reality but an idea of life desired by every individual residing in America. This unrealistic dream that consists of all the riches, power, fame, and money anyone could ever imagine is the key component to this failing America. This dream has taken the place of the promises that God has spoken to His children on Earth. No one believes in God and trusts His word anymore. It's all about the money, fame, and fortune that comes with earthly treasures that, in the end, will be worthless. Matthew 6:24 says "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." If you still don't believe me, take a look at F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*. This novel shows exactly what will be the result of reliance on fame and fortune and not the one who can bless you with more than Earth can ever supply. The rapper named Chance the Rapper once said in his song *How Great*: "God is the world's best thing." Chance wasn't wrong. If the rap world can acknowledge it, what is the rest of the world waiting on?

In 2012, my favorite rapper, Kendrick Lamar, wrote a song that features BJ the Chicago Kid. The song is entitled *Faith*. In the hook BJ the Chicago kid says "... Faith, all you need is the size of a mustard seed." Matthew 17:20 says "And he saith unto them, Because of your little faith: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." The America we live in lacks faith. My great America is a place full of faith in God; a place where there is full reliance on him amidst the best and the worst days in your life. My idea of a great America is a society where everything works together for the bettering of God's

kingdom. God is in everything and when we understand that everything we do should be to perfect yourself in becoming more like God, we will prosper as a nation in the name of Jesus Christ.

My great America would be colorblind. The color of your skin would not determine the level of respect and approval in a society that you receive. Malachi 2:10 says "Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?" By following this scripture, my great America would be a place where no one is more superior over the other. There will be no science to prove that the size of your brain determines your intelligence and superiority. There will be no racial preference because we will all be united under one race: the human race. We will all be God's children and there will be no skin, hair, or even eye color that can divide us. Galatians 3:28 says "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." If we believe this, then the first key component to my great America will be accomplished and we will live as one under our Lord and Savior.

The next component to my great America is gender equality. 1 Corinthians 11:12 ESV says: "For as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God." This scripture proves that no gender is more qualified for anything or more superior than the other because God made us all equal. Along with this, there would be freedom to love whomever you want without judgment. While there may be debates about the Bible condemning homosexuality, the Bible also says in James 4:12 ESV that "There is only one lawgiver and judge, He who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?" In my great America, judgment will be little to none because, at the end of the day, we are judged by

God and not any of our earthly peers. Everyone will be happy with who they are and cherish what God has given them. There will be little to no envy and jealousy towards another due to their earthly possessions because God has something better in the promised land. The next portion of my great America is happiness, gender equality, and a judge free society. If we live by this, we will be living in my great America.

Pen Densham once said, "There are no perfect men in this world; only perfect intentions." This quote explains why no "great America" will really be a true America. While we strive to be as perfect as God, we will mess up along the way and must ask for forgiveness after we encounter the bumps in the road. The one thing that makes us and our world perfect is God. My great America is a place full of faith in God; a place where there is full reliance on him amidst the best and the worst days in your life. Happiness holds a large portion in my great America. Ecclesiastes 3:12 ESV says "I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live." In summation, while a great and perfect world is a far stretch, mine would be one that relies on God to make it great and, regardless of the tests of life, will be a place where equality for all resides, and happiness and freedom roam the streets.



Dacia Redmond, the author of this essay, is a High School Junior. Her essay won first place in the Durham Ushers Union Essay contest.



Forgiveness: The Power of Saying "No Thank You"

The topic of forgiveness is on my mind these days. The Bible speaks to the importance of forgiveness in our relationships so that we may live in harmony with each other. I've seen social media threads with people talking about how hard it is for them to forgive for all kinds of reasons. I even saw a post from a young lady regretfully expressing her sorrow for not forgiving before the best friend died unexpectedly. No doubt that "unforgiveness" is a thief of life in so many ways. And this thief is often passed down from generation to generation. How many are comfortable with the idea that our children are watching the way we hold grudges and are learning that skill for themselves – a skill that will certainly rob them (and their children) of as much or more than it has robbed us? How many of us are masters at holding grudges because we learned it very early at our parents' knee?



People often package multiple commands with forgiveness (e.g., "forgive AND forget" and "forgive = agree"). So, I like to unpack those bundles to look at

what forgiveness really means. In the examination, we usually see some form of pain inflicted – whether intentionally or unintentionally. It is vital that we give ourselves space to have the natural reaction to our pain (e.g., cry, grieve, mourn). Holding space for the reaction allows the negative thoughts and emotions to be expressed instead of bottled up. Such expression also allows for the eventual reminder that the person who hurt us is just that – a person. The challenge typically comes when we don't give ourselves space and time to express our emotions – so we bottle them up and the issue becomes bigger and bigger, and the person is cast as more and more of a monster. And it's easy to hold a grudge against a monster. Once we cast the one who hurt us as a monster who will hurt us again if we let them, the idea of forgiveness, especially in a bundle, becomes harder and harder.

As you survey your own unforgivable monsters, I invite you to consider this: People are simply imperfect beings who give us what they have for us. It might not be their best – because most people don't give their best to themselves. And it might not be what we want or need. But we have the power to decide what we will accept from people – especially when they are clear about what they are offering. So, when someone gives us something we don't need or want, we are free to respond to the impact of that offering (e.g., hurt, disappointment, betrayal) and then to say, "no thank you" to further offerings of the same – all without holding a grudge. To be sure, this sequence takes time and practice to learn – especially for those master grudge holders. But what a powerful skill to learn and teach our children!

Submitted by Dr. Jennifer Rounds-Bryant

Connect with Dr. Jenn on FB: Dr. Jenn Moved Me Forward



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORKSHOP 2017

The Annual Christian Education Workshop was held on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Breakfast was followed by a welcome to workshop attendees and devotions. Minister John Carter, Senior Associate Minister opened the Plenary Session by telling the group the importance of Christian Education. He said that "…people perish for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). He then cited a survey and gave examples of the questions and the percentages of questions that people answer incorrectly when asked about the Bible. Dr. Moses Jarvis, the guest speaker, was introduced by Pastor Davis.

After the introduction, Minister Carter gave instructions for the two Breakout Sessions. Those teaching the youth met in the Choir Room to hear about the *Elements of an Effective Lesson Plan* and *Tips to Help when Teaching Youth*. These sessions



were facilitated by Sister Dennise Lindsay and Minister Montez Thomas. Sister Lindsay gave tips for developing a good lesson plan to encourage, engage and empower students in their spiritual transformation. Minister Thomas gave ways to help teachers develop skills to assist them in meeting the needs of students, helping students experience spiritual growth, and increasing classroom attendance.

The adult sessions on *Teaching Adults* and *What Are You Trying to Do to Students?* were taught by Sis. Elnora Shields and Minister Micara Sessoms. Sis. Shields cited the Great Commission that Jesus gave his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. She said that the aim in teaching is not to inform but to transform lives. Before you begin to teach, you must pray to know whether this is your gift. Then, to develop your gift, you must stay in the Word. Minister Sessoms said that adult students learn through a variety of methods (kinetic, visual, audible, emotive etc.). Because of the different ways that students learn, teachers must create an environment that is conducive to learning for all types of learners.



After the Breakout Sessions, Workshop Facilitators formed a panel. Those attendees who had questions that were not answered in the Breakout Sessions were invited to direct their questions to the panel. After the Question and Answer Session ended, door prizes were awarded to the lucky ticket holders.

Submitted by: By: Mary U. Vickers

The Well Fellowship Christian Church "Be Well" Women's Conference

Friday & Saturday, November 10 & 11, 2017

Friday: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. "Gospel Line Dance Social" Saturday: 8:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Sessions & Luncheon/Vendor Stroll

"Serve Well": Bring 3-5 Canned Vegetables for a Food Bank Hub

Registration: \$40 per person

Includes events on both days, snacks on Friday, continental breakfast & luncheon on Saturday, & a "Be Well" Gift Bag. Visit www.seekthewell.org/bwwc_to register

The Well Fellowship Christian Church Melvin R. Lindsay, Jr., Pastor 5410 NC Hwy 55, Suite WaDurham, NC 27713

"Ladies of all ages, join us for this Divinely appointed event! Spend time with like-minded Sisters as we move, worship, praise, live, serve, fellowship and pray WELL. God wants us to 'Be Well'." -Mrs. Dennise Lindsay



The FCBC Calvary Chronicle Staff extends warm wishes of appreciation as you celebrate 26 years of Pastoral Leadership at First Calvary Baptist Church. We thank you for being a kind and loving Pastor, a visionary, and a man after God's own heart! Praying God's continued blessings upon you and Mrs. Davis as you continue to lead God's people.



We Love you!!

First Calvary Baptist Church • The Health Tip



Submitted by Sister Betty Borden, Congregational Nurse

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Crossword

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Across

- 2. The three men were _____ because they didn't know if God would save them.
- 4. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego wouldn't do this to any other god.
- 6. Even though the king put three men in the furnace, he saw _____.
- 8. The king believed that his _____ was real and could hear him.

9. The three men were completely _____ as they came out of the hot furnace.

Down

- 1. When the music started to play everyone was ordered to do this.
- 3. God did this so that the men wouldn't burn in the furnace.
- 5. The name of the place where the story took place.
- 6. The three men were thrown into a very hot _____ for not bowing to a statue.
- 7. The three men _____ that God was real and that He listens to them.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

Each Wednesday:

- Noon Day Prayer, 12:00 p.m.
- Prayer & Praise, 6:45 p.m.
- Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.

Each Sunday:

- Early Worship 7:45 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m./ Children's Church (1st 4th Sundays) 10:45am
- Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
- Baptism, 10:30 a.m. (1st Sundays)

4th Sundays:

• Intercessory Prayer, 7:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER - PASTORAL APPRECIATION MONTH

- November 12th 26th: Pastoral Anniversary
- November 11th: Veteran's Day
- November 22nd: No Noon Day Prayer or Bible Study
- November 23-24th: Thanksgiving Holiday (church office closed Thursday and Friday)
- November 30th: Senior Lunch & Learn 10:00am

DECEMBER - FAMILY MONTH

- December 6th: FCBC at Christian Faith Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC No Bible Study
- December 9th: Youth Caroling 10:00am
- December 13th: Annual "Bring a Pot" Fellowship/Angel Tree Event 7:00pm
- December 15th: Couples Ministry Holiday Event 7:00pm
- December 17th: Annual Christmas Presentation 9:00am
- December 20th: Volunteer Event 7:00pm
- December 24th: Christmas Eve
- December 25th: Christmas Day (Church office closed)
- December 26th: Church office closed; Kwanzaa begins
- December 27th: No Noon Day Prayer or Bible Study
- December 31st: New Year's Eve; "ChristKwanzaa Sunday" (wear your African attire)
 Watch Night Service 10:00pm

JANUARY - LEADERSHIP MONTH

- January 1st: NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed
- January 3rd: Annual Church Conference, 7:00pm
- January 14th: Memorial Sunday
- January 14-15th: Youth MLK Lock-in @ CFL&RC at Lyon Park (Begins 6pm on Sunday)
- January 15th: MLK Holiday Church Office Closed
- January 27th: Leadership Retreat; 8:30am
- January 28th: Leadership Sunday



The FCBC Food Pantry is ALWAYS TAKING NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS. Things like peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, rice, canned veggies (ALWAYS NEEDED), and ramen noodles.

"An Exciting Church Excited About Its Mission"

Calvary Chronicle Staff:

Toni McIntosh Nia Shields Maticia Sims Faith Thompson Mary Vickers

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Contributors:

Pastor Fredrick A. Davis Sis. Betty Borden Sis. Dennise Lindsay Deacon Kevin G. Montgomery Dr. Jennifer Rounds-Bryant *Are you a writer? Do you aspire to the likes of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, or Nikki Giovanni?
*Are you a regular "shutterbug" who enjoys taking pictures? Are you an up-and-coming Gordon Parks, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, or John H. White?
*Do you have a talent for editing?
*Do you have an eye for proofreading?



*Are you a wiz at graphic design, or possess a talent for visual presentations?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Calvary Chronicle is in need of your talents! Please contact the Calvary Chronicle via email at calvarynews@firstcalvary.org if interested in joining the staff!



Welcome New Disciples! The following individuals completed New Disciples' Class and received the Right Hand of Fellowship (since 01 July 2017):

> Folami Bundele Sherman Cook Sandra McKeithan Lorrie Alexander, Jr. Angela Fields Damian Fields Damian Fields, II Ja'Niyah Fields Devin Fields

The mission of the Calvary Chronicle ministry is to promote communication among the members, disciples, and friends of FCBC in the spirit of Christian Love.

If you are interested in joining the Calvary Chronicle staff, please contact Sister Toni McIntosh at <u>calvarynews@firstcalvary.org</u> or (919)341-4645. Thank you!