

*An Exciting
Church Excited
About Its Mission!*

The Calvary Chronicle

*A Quarterly Publication of
First Calvary Baptist Church*

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Blessings in the Storm

*"For You have been a strength to the poor, A strength to
the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, A shade
from the heat..." – Ilsaiah 25:4 NKJV5:4 NKJV*

While storms blew through our cities and towns in recent months, stories of goodwill filled the media, with neighbors and strangers coming together to help those in need. As believers, we know that God is our refuge and protector from the storms of life. We can take comfort in knowing that no matter the storm, He is there to keep us from harm and danger. As you close out 2018 and enter the New Year, reflect on His Goodness throughout your life and give Him honor and praise for all He's done, and for what He is yet to do in your life.

FCBC Calvary Chronicle Staff

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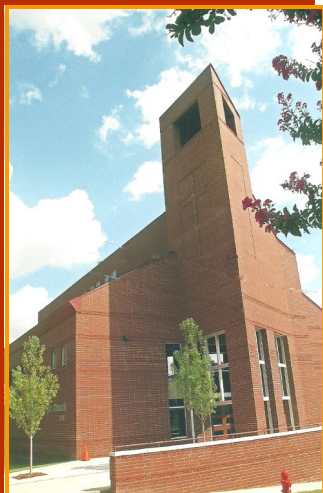


Pastor's Desk Message



"For You have been a strength to the poor, A strength to the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, A shade from the heat..." "

- Isaiah 25:4
NKJV



My Brothers and Sisters:

The last Calvary Chronicle of 2018! Our theme for this edition is, "Blessings in the Storm", based on Isaiah 25:4: *For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat;...*" How important for us to remember in this season that God is our Refuge and Strength!

It is my hope and prayer that as you read this issue of the Chronicle, you will get excited about being involved in the ministries of this congregation. Yes, it has finally gotten cold outside, so come on in this house of worship and get busy. We still have plenty of things for our head, hearts, and hands (as they say at The Well Fellowship Christian Church) to do in 2018 and as we move into 2019. The end of the year is not the end of ministry!

Since this last issue was published, I have celebrated my 27th Pastoral Anniversary. What a blessing it is to be in God's will as the Shepherd of this house! As I reflect over the last 27 years, there have been many ups and downs, but to God be the glory for it all! It is my hope and prayer that I have been and will remain a Pastor that is: Passionate and Patient, Admired and Anointed, Set-apart and Spiritual, a Teacher and Totally dedicated to God's plan, Open-minded and On God's time, Respected, Radical (when I need to be) and Ready! I am honored to fulfill His purpose for this ministry. Additionally, First Calvary has celebrated 134 years in the West End Community. Our 134th Church Anniversary was truly blessed. We are on to year 135...a special celebration....and here's to 135 more....and counting!

I recently revisited a powerful thought about passion in ministry. What is our passion? What makes us tick? Those who are involved in this congregation should be passionate about three things: JESUS, EVANGELISM AND SERVING. After we shout and sing, where are we with regard to our passion for Christ, our passion to make disciples for Him,

and our passion to make a difference in service? Let us examine our commitment to Christ. What can He use us for? I am looking for more than anything for our church family to be not just consistent, cheerful and committed givers, but passionate servers in the Kingdom of God. Today, we must each unmask and discover our spiritual gifts in order to become what God truly called us to be. I truly believe that as we do what thus saith the Lord, God will continue to show up and show out on our behalf. Why? 'Cause God is Faithful. As we move into the year of 2019, let's focus our attention on two areas of Empowering! Prayer and Praise! Things happen with Prayer and Praise! So then, our Church Theme for 2019 is EMPOWERING DISCIPLES THROUGH PRAYER AND PRAISE! Let us move through the remainder of this year celebrating and praising God for His bountiful gifts and for the greatest gift of all...Jesus Christ! Never forget that we are AN EXCITING CHURCH EXCITED ABOUT ITS MISSION!

Yours in that Blessed Hope,
Pastor Fredrick A. Davis





**HAPPY 27TH
PASTORAL
ANNIVERSARY,
PASTOR DAVIS!**



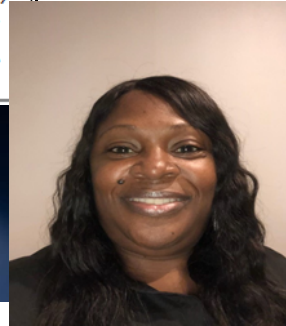
**Calvary
Chronicle
Staff**



Member Spotlight

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

- Jeremiah 29:11
NKJV



Member Spotlight:

Sister Amy Trice

What service do you normally attend and where do you sit? I attend both but 10:45am is my usual service. I normally sit in the front on the right side facing the pulpit.

How long have you been at FCBC? All my life. Durham is home for me. I was baptized by Reverend Thompson, a former long serving pastor.

Sometimes people grow up in a church and leave when they become adults. What has kept you at FCBC? Pastor Davis is a loving, caring pastor. He has helped me through some difficult life decisions. Through his counsel, I have grown in my spiritual walk and this enables me to make better decisions. Pastor Davis is always there when I need him. Also, I think Pastor Davis is loyal to his congregation and the church has grown tremendously.

Do you volunteer in any ministries? Yes, the Pastoral Esteem Team, the Choir, Children's Church, Seven Fold (folding bulletins on Thursdays), and Scouts. I also attend Sunday School and Bible study regularly.

Why is it so hard to get more people involved in ministry work? Ministry work takes true commitment and you have to be willing to do it on good days as well as those bad days when you don't feel like it.

Pastor Davis wants us to be a congregation that empowers, enhances and evangelizes. How do you empower others? I empower others by mentoring young ladies and sharing my story and being honest about the trials and tribulations that I have been through. Some have told me that it is because of me sharing with them that they started going to church or coming to First Calvary. I help people understand that none of us are perfect in this Christian walk. Having a strong foundation keeps you rooted. Sometimes we may not feel like our stories are worth sharing but through our stories we are able to meet people where they are and help bring them along. As I look back over my life, I know that I have been truly blessed.

"For I know what I have planned for you, says the LORD. I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope."

- Jeremiah
29:11
NET

I understand you bake. Yes, I have my own business, AmyCakes. I provide various types of breads, cookies, cake pops, cheesecakes, and custom cakes which is my specialty. I provide these services for weddings, corporate events, church events, and social events. I started baking when I was 3 with my mother and grandmother. My job was to crack the eggs. Baking was a great time for us to bond. I started baking cakes when my daughter was young and everyone kept advising me to use my gift and start my own business. I started baking full time when I got laid off and have continued to bake. I am so thankful that this has been the best year of business for me ever.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I like to read and I enjoy spending time with family and friends. I also like travelling. In January, I will be going to the Dominican Republic with 12 girlfriends.

Amy has one daughter, Shaughnessey Melvin, who is also a member of First Calvary.

- Submitted by Maticia Sims



Ministry Volunteer Appeal: Video Ministry



Are you seeking an opportunity to join a Ministry that encourages your creativity, but requires no previous experience?

Are you ready to be part of a team that is embarking on a unique and exciting chapter in the life of this congregation?

Have you had a chance to stop by the video room inside the choir room in the lower level of the church?

The Video Ministry is seeking members to join us as we strengthen the mission of “Expanding worship and fellowship”, while equipping the body of Christ with multimedia outreach tools for salvation through Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTING



The need is great for scripters, lighting technicians, audio technicians, videographers, and video editors to record and edit our weekly services and requested special church events.

Don't delay! Why not volunteer today and bring a friend along to be a part of this positive, spiritually focused atmosphere!

Join by contacting the Video Ministry via email at video@firstcalvary.org or by calling or texting Hilary Fearrington (919.602.1072).



Thank you!



One Hundred Thirty Fourth Church Anniversary

First Calvary Baptist Church celebrated the 134th church anniversary on Sunday, October 28, 2018. The day began with breakfast in the church Fellowship Hall at 8:15am. All members and friends were invited to come, eat and fellowship



before the service. After breakfast, everyone gathered in the sanctuary for a worship service to commemorate this church milestone.

Our guest minister was the Reverend Dr. Haywood T. Gray, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina,

Inc. Reverend Gray's sermon topic was "Scars."

Scripture was taken from Galatians 6:17. "From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus." Reverend Gray



said that in the book of Galatians, the Apostle Paul is teaching the church how to be the church. Taking sermon license, Reverend Gray said that the Apostle Paul had grown sick and tired of always having to prove to his audiences who he was. He told them, "If you want evidence or proof of my ministry, look at my scars." The Apostle Paul doesn't try to impress people by telling them about his travels, talking about his educational background or telling people what he does for a

living. Instead, he says “look at my scars.” Jesus said “In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world.” Reverend Gray said that “life hurts and leaves us wounded.” Wounds show that you have been hurt but a scar shows that you have been healed. All wounds don’t leave scars. However, sometimes when God brings us healing, he chooses to leave a scar. Perhaps God does this because he wants someone else to see our scars and to know that, if God brought you through it, he can do the same thing for them. Reverend Gray admonished us to “show your scars” because someone who is wounded needs to know that God will come through and heal. He said, “Show your scars so that someone will know that your living has not been in vain.”

If you missed Reverend Gray’s inspirational sermon and would like to purchase a copy of it, you can call the church office at 919-489-4184 to place an order for a CD or DVD of this most powerful message.



- Submitted by: Mary U. Vickers

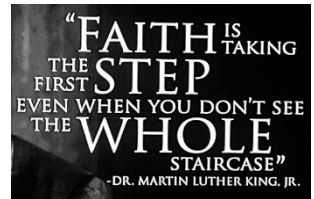
How My Faith Prepares Me to Face New Situations

When I first came across this prompt, I knew this was the one; I knew this was my chance to testify on the goodness, mercy, and never-ending love I receive from God. My faith in Him has taken me farther than any skill or dollar bill could ever do alone. The day I began writing this, I scrolled down Instagram (I know, a typical teenage trait). Instead of



seeing imbecilic behavior, Kierra Sheard posted a picture of a question and answer: “‘What if I fall?’ ‘Oh, but my darling, what if you fly?’” Throughout this essay, I plan to reference this picture numerous times. This picture spoke to me, a direct message from God himself, and told me this was the inspiration I needed to let everyone know that faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains and stop the enemy in his tracks. Life is never easy alone, but with God, all things are easy to endure. We tend to ask “what if” when dealing with situations we are unsure about. I can testify today that letting go and letting God is the best thing any believer in Christ could ever do during their walk of faith.

Many will probably question my credibility due to my age and grade. However, God works miracles, big and small, in everyone's life. God has changed things to be in my favor from test grades all the way to my own happiness and joy. In Kierra's caption, she says, "Very often we operate out of fear due to past experiences, poor decisions, or the results of others around us." My faith doesn't just reinforce the power of God, but it gives me comfort that I am in good



hands. It allows me to know that I can, indeed, do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13). Believing in Christ and having faith that he will allow things to work in my favor allows me to take courageous steps to better myself in the present and in the future. If I had no faith in God, I would be the one asking "what if I fall" while missing opportunities He has with my name written on them. Faith has become more than a trait of a "real Christian" for me. My faith has become my platform for success in any situation I may face. My faith in God has molded me to become a God fearing and loving young woman who has the spirit of power, rather than of fear; of love rather than hate; and a sound and healthy mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

God has forced me to grow; I am not the same child I was four years ago, let alone a year ago. God has shown His presence in areas of my life, including but not limited to, my car search, my individual financial stability, mental and physical health after my injury last year, as well as mental and physical health after working two jobs at a young age. Even in times of heartbreak and heartache, I never lost faith in God because I knew the pain I felt today could never compare to the joy that comes in the morning (Romans 8:18). For example, I always have high anxiety and stress when going into big tests or important meetings. This time, when taking my SAT, I was comfortable and in high spirits. I knew I had proper preparation and I knew God knew how hard I've worked; I wasn't the least bit worried about any outcome because I knew it was in God's hands now. My faith in God has calmed me, made me more secure and calm with every incident I encounter. Essentially, my faith in God has allowed me to, as stated in Joshua 1:9, "Be bold. Be brave. Be courageous."

I could go on and on about the goodness of God. However, I want to wrap this up here. Again, God has done more for me than I could ever

do for myself. The development of faith in God is one thing that one must acquire on his/her own walk with God. I was the “what if” girl with Christ. I am now the “if God desires me to have it, I will” girl with Christ. Faith in God has broken the shackles of fear that once held me captive and prohibited me from becoming my best self in Christ. Referring to Kierra’s Instagram post, I have graduated from my fear of falling and now reside in my current state of flying with Christ. Simply put, these lines from Marvin Sapp’s *Never Would Have Made It* explain how my faith in God prepares me for everyday situations: “Never could have made it without you/ I would have lost it all/ But now I see how you were there for me/ and I can say I’m stronger, I’m wiser/ I’m better, much better/ When I look back over all you brought me through, I can see that you were the one I held on to/ And I never, never would have made it.”

Submitted by: Dacia Redmond



WHOLE FAMILY CONFERENCE

October is one of the most exciting months at First Calvary Baptist Church!!

We have the **Whole Family Conference**, Marriage Summit, Annual Harvest Celebration, and the Church Anniversary!

This year, the Visionary Ministry, under the leadership of Stephanie Jones and



Rebecca Oats, designed a program to strengthen families and individuals, create a loving legacy, and celebrate unity in the body of Christ. Important family topics were explored each week in a variety of formats. The Whole Family Conference was designed in such a way that it allowed Church leadership, Family members, and friends to connect with all the youth, teens, young adults, mature

and seasoned members of First Calvary Baptist Church.

There were work-shops, interactive discussions, comedy, PowerPoint presentations, music, and food! Yes, we had dinner every Wednesday evening in October courtesy of the Culinary Arts Department. Thanks, Sis. Jacobs! But I am getting ahead of myself! ☺ Let me share some more about the dynamic mini-conferences we held during this exciting month:

1st Wednesday – October 3rd

Sharing Family Values – Sister Katheldra Alexander facilitated a discussion where we were allowed to go from the big picture of Values to what our individual core

values are. It was a great opportunity to hear from members and friends alike how they demonstrate their values and where they have difficulty lining up their walk with their talk. This prompted a lot of conversation and energized discussions around the room.



2nd Wednesday – October 10th

Truth vs. Lies – Pastor Pamela Horne and Sis. Joyce Horne Waller joined forces to present an interesting discussion of truth versus lies and how to guard what type of



information you take in through the media and friends. Sis. Horne Waller kicked the evening off by asking participants to guess which of three statements were true and which one

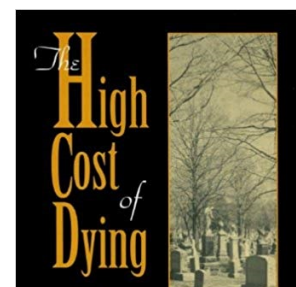
was a lie. The audience really got involved when the conversation turned to “little white lies”. It was a great discussion that helped everyone realize that a half-truth is a whole-lie.

3rd Wednesday – October 17th

Cost of Living vs. Cost of Dying – Participants were able to discuss some of the



common myths about funerals, cremation, and funeral planning. Many of the attendees had lots of questions about funeral



planning and how to incorporate the discussion into family

meetings. The discussion got lively when participants started discussing myths and

fears about organ donations. Having several recipients of organ donations as members of First Calvary appeared to help people understand and appreciate the process a little easier.

4th Wednesday – October 24th

Whole Family Dinner Theater – Sis Gloria Lindsay and Brother Carter Cue organized a delightful evening of fun, music, and sharing. Attendees sat with other members of their Deacon families and for those who did yet know who their assigned



deacon was, other FCBC deacons were on hand to guide them. It was nice to put a face to some names that you only heard or saw in the bulletin. The young mime had everyone smiling and wanting more. The evening was topped off with a Christian comedienne and a wonderful meal – again prepared by our own Culinary Ministry.

The Whole Family Conference of 2018 was such a blast that we can hardly wait to see what the Visionary Ministry has up their sleeve for 2019! If you have suggestions or ideas, please share them with the Visionary Ministry at Visionary@firstcalvary.org

- Submitted by: Faith Thompson



The Gift That Keeps on Giving: Teaching Forgiveness

The winter holidays are known for the time that we spend with friends and family – and when we miss our dearly departed the most. For this reason, the winter holidays are the favorite of many, but they bring sorrow to many others. Experts have a lot to say about how people can cope with sadness during this time. Chief among the coping strategies is to be proactive in creating enjoyable holiday practices that honor the memory of our loved ones. But what about those who are missing from the celebration because of grudges? Thoughts about who we are angry with and who we DON'T want to see during the holidays are abundant. Rarely do we think about important life skills that we can "give" ourselves and our loved ones that can help us throughout the year and during the holidays. One such life skill is the steps of forgiveness.

friends
& family





Forgiveness is HARD for a lot of people, no matter how old, wealthy, or educated. We tend to believe that forgiveness is what we do for others, hold on to our self-righteous anger, and believe that to forgive is to agree with the harm caused or to invite the person back into our personal space. Forgiveness is none of these. However, the steps to forgiveness require us to see forgiveness as something we do for ourselves, actively grieve the hurt experienced, grant grace to the offender for being a flawed human and allow ourselves to feel the peace that comes from the first three steps in the process. When we get really good at forgiving ourselves, we do two things really well: (1) We forgive others more easily and (2) learn to avoid future offense by steering clear of others' negative behavior at the first signs, and not feeling offended when we are affected by other people's behavior. Learning to actively forgive self and others is the gift that keeps on giving.



Dr. Jennifer Rounds-Bryant

Facebook & website: Dr. Jenn Moved Me Forward

*"For unto you is born ...a Saviour,
which is Christ the Lord."*

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Luke 2:11

*The Calvary Chronicle Staff wishes you Christmas
Blessings and a prosperous and Blessed 2019!!*

Thank you for yet to be seen blessings
that will lift our spirits, bring a smile,
delight our hearts, and fill us with joy.

Thank you, too, for "blessings"
that will challenge our patience,
require more strength than we think possible,
catch us unaware and unprepared,
test our faith and shake our foundation.

For, in all of these, You will be there -
stirring up our faith, renewing our hope,
supplying our needs, blessing Your children.

Thank you, Father.
In Jesus' name, Amen~♥



*At the sound of the tolling midnight bell
a brand new year will begin.*

*Let's raise our hopes in a confident toast,
to the promise it ushers in.*

*May your battles be few, your pleasures many,
your wishes and dreams fulfilled.*

*May your confidence stand in the face of loss
and give you the strength to rebuild.*

*May peace of heart fill all your days
may serenity grace your soul.*

*May tranquil moments bless your life
and keep your spirit whole.*

unknown

2019

Nativity Word Scramble

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

1. STRA _ _ _ _
2. MAGREN _ _ _ _ _
3. MYAR _ _ _ _
4. SEPHE _ _ _ _ _
5. DOEYKN _ _ _ _ _
6. AEGLN _ _ _ _ _
7. JPHOES _ _ _ _ _
8. JSSEU _ _ _ _ _
9. KIGSN _ _ _ _ _
10. STBALE _ _ _ _ _



Holiday Blues



Holidays are supposed to be a time of joy and celebration, but for some people they are anything but. The stress and anxiety during the months of November and December may cause even those who are usually content to experience loneliness and a lack of fulfillment. Some people get depressed at Christmas and even angry because of the excessive commercialization of Christmas, with the focus on gifts and the emphasis on "perfect" social activities. Others get depressed because Christmas appears to be a time that they get compared to other people who seem to have more and do more. Still others become anxious at Christmas because of the pressure to spend a lot of money on gifts and incur increasing debt. Other people report that they

dread Christmas because of social gatherings with family, friends and acquaintances that they'd rather not spend time with. And finally, many people feel very lonely at Christmas, because they have suffered the loss of loved ones or their jobs.

Dealing with Sadness and Depression

Talk to your doctor if you are feeling sad for long periods of time. They can refer you to a mental health specialist. If your feelings of sadness during the holidays are accompanied by suicidal thoughts, do one of the following immediately:

- Call 911.
- Go immediately to a hospital emergency room.
- Contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

So what should you do, if you're among those who get depressed at Christmas? Mental health professionals who treat people with this problem suggest the following:

- Set personal boundaries regarding the money spent on gifts;
- Don't accept any "perfect" representation of Christmas that the media, institutions or other people try to make you believe. Lower your expectations and any attachment to what it should look like; be present and enjoy each moment as best you can;
- Become involved in giving in a non-monetary way through charities and worthwhile causes that help less fortunate people;
- Engage in self-care with a healthy diet, regular sleep pattern and exercise
- Be grateful for what you have in your life, rather than focusing on what you don't have;
- Take action and do interesting and fun things;
- Take part in church activities that focus on the bigger meaning of Christmas;
- Focus your thoughts on all the good things about Christmas-



The Christmas season is an opportunity to reach out to those who become depressed. For those who are depressed, it's an opportunity to take action to think, feel and act in ways that breaks free from the past.

REMEMBER

Always exercise regularly as this may help in minimizing stress. Be willing to seek professional help, and Control your stress and anxiety by talking to someone, breathing deeply, laughing, and meditating.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mental Health America Resource Center at (800) 969-6642 M-F 9am to 5pm

Nat'l Institute of Mental Health Info Center at (866) 615-6464 or www.nimh.nih.gov M-F

Source: Healthy Coalition



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FREDRICK A. DAVIS, PASTOR

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: JANUARY - MARCH 2019

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)

Each 4th Sunday:

- Intercessory Prayer, 7:00 a.m.

JANUARY - LEADERSHIP MONTH

- January 1st: New Year's Day (Church Office Closed)
- January 7-11th: Citywide Revival - 7pm nightly
- January 8-11th: FCBC serves at Citywide Revival - 7pm
- January 9th: Church Conference - 7pm
- January 13th: Memorial Sunday
- January 20 -21st: MLK Youth Lock-In Weekend
- January 21st: MLK Holiday (Church Office Closed)
- January 26th: Leadership Retreat - 8:30am
- January 27th: Leadership Sunday

FEBRUARY - AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

- February 1-2nd: Couples Ministry Simulcast
- February 9th: Diaconate Ministry Honoring Our Elders Event - 2pm
- February 10th: Scholarship Sunday
- February 14th: Valentine's Day
- February 15-16th: Young Adult Conference
- February 17th: Young Adult Sunday

MARCH - STEWARDSHIP MONTH

- March 3rd: Prove Me/All Tithers' Sunday
- March 10th: Scouting Sunday
- March 16th: Calvary Ministries of the Westend Community, Inc. Golf Tournament, 8am
- March 21-23rd: FCBC Music Workshop - 7pm (Thurs/Fri); 9am (Saturday)
- March 24th: Sacrificial 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*

Contributors:

*Pastor Fredrick A. Davis
Sis. Betty Borden
Sis. Dennise Lindsay
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 September 2018):

**Tyler Adair
Jay'Vionna Kelley
Barbara Kirkweg
Maeghan Livingston
Jacqueline Mayo
Raymond Mayo
Beverly McCoy
Danny Nowell
Shirley Raza
Peletha Vanderburg
Christopher White
Keneisha Young**

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 calvarynews@firstcalvary.org or (919)341-4645. Thank you!