

An Exciting
Church
Excited About
Its Mission!

The Calvary Chronicle

A Quarterly Publication of
First Calvary Baptist Church

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2015

CELEBRATING 131 YEARS IN THE WESTEND COMMUNITY

“Embracing and Celebrating the Spirit of Giving”

“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.” – Proverbs 19:17

Greetings from the First Calvary Baptist Church Chronicle Staff!

We are pleased to return to publication during this most auspicious time in the life of First Calvary...the Celebration of 131 years! This edition seeks to reintroduce the newsletter to the congregation and community by aligning with the church anniversary theme: *Embracing and Celebrating the Spirit of Giving*, taken from Proverbs 19:17. We welcome your thoughts, views, and feedback as we seek to serve the congregation and community through this ministry.

- The FCBC Calvary Chronicle Staff

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STAFF AND
CONTRIBUTORS

First Calvary Baptist Church

1311 Morehead Avenue ♦ Durham, NC 27707

(919)489-4184 phone ♦ (919)489-3565 fax ♦ www.firstcalvary.org



Pastor's Desk Message



My Brothers and Sisters:

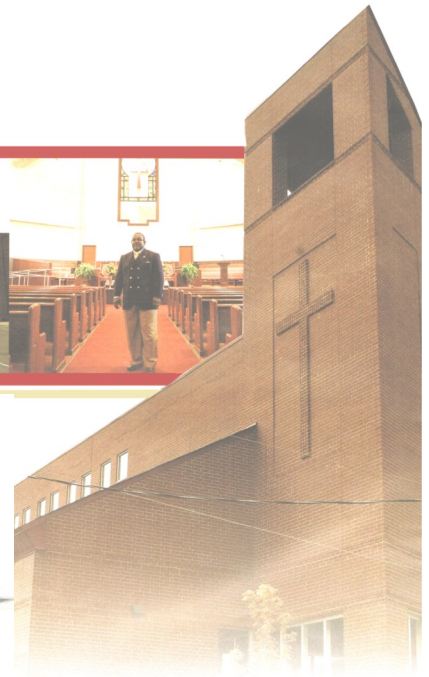
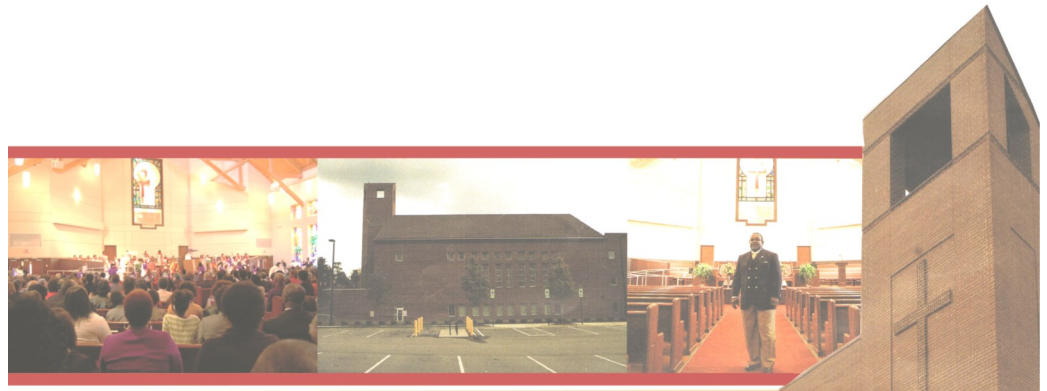
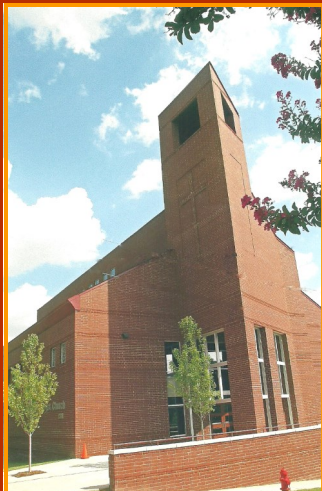
Welcome back to the Calvary Chronicle! This periodical took a hiatus, but it is back now with exciting, new leadership and volunteers. It is my hope and prayer that as you read this issue of the Chronicle, you will get excited about being involved in the ministries of this congregation. Yes, it's getting cold outside, so come on in this house of worship and get busy. We still have plenty of things for our hands and hearts to do in 2015 and there will be even more to be done as we move into 2016. The end of the year is not the end of ministry!

How exciting to celebrate 131 years in the Westend Community! It's our Church Anniversary, and we are "Embracing and Celebrating the Spirit of Giving"! I would encourage each member and family within this body of faith to celebrate and embrace giving back...to both your church and community. There is so much that needs to be done within the Kingdom...there is something for everyone to do, so find where you fit and GIVE of your time, talents, and treasures!

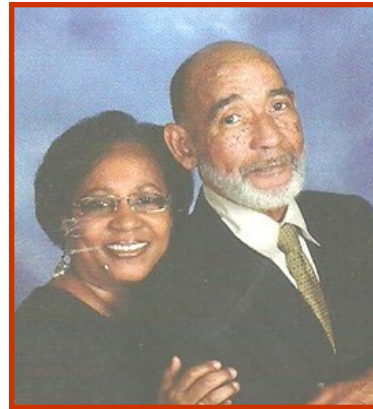
The holidays are fast approaching, as well as SOMEBODY'S 24th Pastoral Anniversary :-). Even as the seasons change, ministry and mission are thriving at First Calvary! We are "faithful in the fall"...will be "witnessing in the winter"... we were "serving in the spring"....and "serious about ministry in summer". 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

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."
- Colossians 3:17



Member Spotlight: Sister Kathryn Thornton



Sister Kathryn Smith Thornton
(pictured with husband, James)

What service do you normally attend? 10:45a.m. and I don't have an assigned seat.

How long have you been a member of FCBC? For over 20 years.

Do you belong to any ministries at FCBC? Yes, I am a member of the Usher Ministry. I also used to be a part of the Visionary Ministry.

Do you have a favorite verse in the Bible? Yes, John 14: 1-2, "1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. I like these verses because it tells me that no matter how big or small my problems, I should not be troubled because I believe in God's promise.

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? To me, evangelize means bringing someone to Jesus and empowering the weak so that they can do better. I do this by just telling everybody about the blessings, the good deeds, and the goodness of Jesus.

What would you like for everyone at First Calvary Baptist Church to know about you? I put God first in all that I do. I love spending time with my family and I am a strong believer that it does take a village to raise children. I love working with children and I work as a Teacher Assistant in the Durham Public School system. And, finally, I love my Pastor.

- Submitted by Sister Maticia Sims

"An Exciting Church Excited About Its Mission"

Ministry Spotlight

Spotlight on: The Visionary Ministry

Ministry Chair: Jacqueline Richardson
Vice-Chairperson: Stephanie Jones
Secretary: Robert White
E-mail: visionary@firstcalvary.org

Mission

Our mission is to serve as a long-range planning committee for First Calvary Baptist Church. Our emphasis is on expanding church outreach by helping to implement the Pastor's vision throughout the congregation and the church ministries.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Visionary Ministry is to help create a space where people can have a personal encounter with God, connect with an encouraging community of people, and fulfill their God-given purpose. One of our primary objectives is to share the vision that God has given Pastor Fredrick A. Davis, to help equip disciples to work the vision. Our goal is to help empower the spiritual lives of the members of First Calvary, enhancing their ministries so that collectively, we may evangelize our community and world.

In January, we help facilitate the **FCBC Leadership Retreat** to help the leaders of First Calvary realize their true potential as leaders and Disciples of Christ. During the first weekend of June, we host the **Brainstorming Event** to gather information on where our members are feeling challenged, victorious, and enthusiastic. This information is then shared with leadership so that we may identify methods to keep our members excited about the work that God has called us to do. In October, in cooperation with the Christian Education Ministry, we co-sponsor the **Whole Family Conference**. This is a tool provided to the membership to help them identify and recognize the gift that each member of their family brings to the table so that they may be able to function in unity, harmony, and an atmosphere of spiritual growth.

- Submitted by Sister Faith M. Thompson



“And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.” - Habakkuk 2:2



12th Annual SILC Conference

The Singles in Love with Christ (SILC) Ministry held its 12th annual conference Wednesday through Sunday, August 26-30, 2015. The theme for the event was *In the Midst of the Garden - Life Lessons for Singles Revealed in the Trees*. The conference consisted of prayer meeting and Bible Study, a Men's Night Out, Saturday WORDshops, and culminated with Sunday morning worship. The Guest Minister for Singles' Sunday was Minister Lori Morton from New Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The subtheme of Wednesday's prayer meeting and Bible Study was *Understanding Singles God-Given Purpose in 3 Kinds of Trees (fruit, nut, and shade trees)*. Friday's Men's Night Out explored *Spiritual Modeling: Making Your Christianity Contagious*. The themes of Saturday's WORDshops consisted of *Wisdom in a Tree: God's Word About You as a Single Christian*, *Rewards in a Tree: Benefits of Living to Please and Glorify God*, and *Temptation in a Tree in the Midst of the Garden*. Throughout the conference, we learned Seven Points of Wisdom, how to acknowledge how we came to be single, whether by choice or circumstance, and that yielding to temptation says that we do not trust God. We were blessed by the conference, and appreciate the hard work and dedication of the SILC Leadership.

- Submitted by Toni McIntosh



What Can You Bring to the Table?

“And they did all eat, and were filled.”

-Mark 6:44

A LITTLE REMINDER:

The FCBC Food Pantry always welcomes & NEEDS donations of non-perishable food items!

Types of Items Needed:

rice, beans, jelly, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, canned veggies & fruit, tuna, pickles, soup, ramen noodles, jello, etc.

(The Pantry will take hot dogs and hot dog buns too!)

(This is a great community service project for your job or school...or a great on-going Ministry or family project!)

On September 15, 2015, I had the opportunity to tour the Food Pantry at First Calvary Baptist Church. Ms. Ursula Howard, a volunteer and the Food Pantry Coordinator gave me a tour and an overview of the Food Pantry and helped to answer my questions. The idea of the Food Pantry was conceived when Pastor Davis and the church leadership recognized that a need for food existed in the community surrounding the church and in other under-served areas of Durham. The late Deaconess Juanita Montgomery and Deaconess Addye Townsend were the first Food Pantry Team Leaders. They were assisted by other volunteers when needed. By garnering support, organizing resources, stocking the shelves and more, the Food Pantry at First Calvary opened on January 27, 1998. This year, after almost 20 years of dedicated service, Deaconess Addye Townsend is retiring from the Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry is located on the first floor of the church. It is staffed by a team of volunteers. It is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until noon. If an emergency need for food arises outside of these hours, the office staff will assist during church office hours. During 2014, approximately 1,000 people were served by our Food Pantry. Data from January to September 2015 shows that we have already assisted over 750 families this year. The church does not advertise but is on a list of resources that can be obtained through Social Services and from other churches with food pantries. People who have been helped also spread the word by telling others who need food so information is also passed by word-of-mouth.

Every year during the month of August, the church celebrates Mission Month. During this month, Pastor Davis and the Church Office Staff encourage and challenge members to give to the Food Pantry by highlighting a different food item each week. This year, members were asked to donate jelly, cereal, rice, pasta and non-expired canned goods. The goal was to receive 100 items each week. The office staff was delighted to report that their goal was reached every week. When I visited the Food Pantry, the shelves were well stocked and items from the Mission Month food drive were piled high.

Most of the food in the Food Pantry, especially the canned goods, comes through purchases from The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. In order for a church or organization to qualify to get food from The Food Bank, volunteers of the organization must undergo training. To obtain food from the Food Pantry, one must fill out a First Calvary Food Bank Application and show Durham, NC identification. These are the only requirements that are needed for FCBC assistance. Records are kept because The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina asks that the number of households that are served is recorded.



The Food Pantry has an array of shelving used to contain foods that are bought or donated. There is also a freezer used to store meats. While I was at the Food Pantry, three clients came to the church to request food. They were greeted, seated in one of the classrooms and asked to complete the application. Ms. Howard went to the Food Pantry and filled two large, paper grocery bags with items from the shelves. She takes note of whether a person has children. If they do, she tries to add child-friendly items to their bag. The bags that she returned with were brimming over with pasta, rice, cereal and canned goods along with hot dogs from the freezer. When asked what this food assistance meant to her, one of the persons served stated that since Food Stamp assistance had been drastically reduced, the ability to come to the church and get food made the difference in whether she had to choose to use her money to pay rent or to buy food.

The Food Pantry is an ongoing mission of our church that needs your support every month, not just in the month of August. When the food supply at The Food Bank of North Carolina is low, the Food Pantry Team makes purchases at local stores. During the month of August, Mr. Frank Chalk, another team member, was purchasing food at a local store, he was questioned by a man in the line behind him. When Mr. Chalk told this man that he was buying food for the Food Pantry at church, the man paid for the entire food order. The bill was over \$300! All that we know about this man is that his name was Jim.

You can help keep the shelves stocked by donating non-perishable, non-expired food items each Sunday or by donating money to help the Food Pantry Team purchase food. There is a space on the church offering envelope that you can use to indicate that this money goes to the

Food Pantry. If you give money, the Food Pantry Team will do the shopping and you get the satisfaction of giving and the added benefit of being able to claim this on your income taxes. So, be a "Jim" or a "Jewel" and open your hearts and your pocketbooks to help First Calvary remain excited about its mission and be able to show up at the table with your offering of food.

- Submitted by Sister Mary U. Vickers



**Special Thanks to
Deaconess
Addye Townsend!
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR FAITHFUL
SERVICE TO THE
FIRST CALVARY
FOOD PANTRY!**
Each week for almost
20 years, you gave
food, smiles,
& heartfelt words
of wisdom to the
community as they
came to the Pantry.
Your Servant's Heart
bears witness to the
Fruit of the Spirit.



Children's Church at First Calvary is a "child friendly" worship time uses Bible stories, teaching, crafts, music, and simple lessons to teach the Gospel to our children and help them **CONNECT** with Christ.

"But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not..."
-Mark 10:14

FCBC Launch of Children's Church

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

It has been the desire of First Calvary Baptist Church to have a Children's Church Ministry for several years. Teenagers have come into my office and asked, "Minister Carroll, are we really gonna have a church for children? They've been talking about it since I was little." The First Calvary membership has continuously prayed, petitioned, and presented their request to God. Members of the congregation held several meetings, made concept presentations at Brainstorming sessions, and held many conversations about its inception. In the spring of 2015 the meetings once more resumed, and members in great numbers were instrumental in developing a structure that would cater to the needs of our children.



An Order of Worship was developed, curriculum was purchased, and quarterly activities were created. Registration forms were made available, and a database of over 100 children (Kindergarten -5th grade) was created. Volunteer sign-up sheets were disseminated, and even our children made presentations during morning worship excited about what was to come.

Team leaders stepped up to the plate, teachers signed up eager to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and snack workers showed up and made donations. Some people volunteered to assist in administrative capacities, while others desired hands on time with our children. Background checks were performed, and then we were able to offer structured volunteer orientation sessions.

We entitle this ministry, "**Connect with Christ**", noting the importance of one's relationship with Christ. For even children are taught to understand relationships; they are taught to understand the importance of following instructions, gaining knowledge, character building, and sharing one with the other. Therefore, we found it instrumental in ensuring the children have an opportunity to have a relationship with Christ, to learn Christ, grow in Christ, and to share Christ. "**Connect with Christ**"





Sunday June 7th was the big day! Our custodial staff had set-up the café area, the parents and children lined up excited to check-in. Our registration team was positioned at laptops and were eager to print out name tags for our children, and as the children entered the fellowship hall their ears were filled with sounds of “Yes, Jesus Loves Me” the contemporary version by Pure-in-Heart Kid Live Praise and Worship Experience. After our opening prayer, the children lined up, and proceeded down the hall with their small group bible study teacher. By

11:45 am they were back in the fellowship hall and we had an exciting time as we “**Connect with Christ.**”

Our sermon series for the summer quarter was entitled “Fruits of the Spirit”, and for the fall quarter we are learning “Attributes of God”. During our time of worship, our children lead the opening scripture, they pray, serve as praise leaders, everyone sings, they serve as ushers during offering, and assist the trustees in the count room.



Please continue to pray for our Children’s Church Ministry, **Connect with Christ**, where each Sunday we offer our children an opportunity to **Connect** through **Word** (small group bible classes) **Connect** through **Worship**, and to **Connect** through **Wordplay** (enrichment activity/games).

We too, are “An Excited Church Excited About Its Mission”

- Submitted by Minister Emily Carroll, Children & Youth Minister



Breast Cancer Awareness

Breast Cancer Facts

- In the NC Triangle to the Coast Service Area, African-American women are dying of breast cancer at a much higher rate than African-American women statewide and throughout the U.S.
- The death rate for African-American women far exceeds the death rate for Caucasian women even though Caucasian women are much more likely to get the disease.
- The higher death rate is attributed to African American women being diagnosed at later stages than Caucasians when it is less treatable, thereby making early detection even more critical.
- African- American women tend to get breast cancer at an earlier age, when it is more aggressive, than Caucasian women. Early detection saves lives.

There are more than 2.9 million breast cancer survivors alive in the USA today; this is the largest group of cancer survivors.

---BUT EARLY DETECTION IS THE KEY!

Easy Steps to Breast Self-Awareness

- **Know your risk.**

- o Talk to your family to learn your family health history.
- o Talk to your doctor about your personal risk of breast cancer.

- **Get screened**

- o Ask your doctor which screening tests are right for you if you are at higher risk.
- o If you are at average risk, have a mammogram every year starting at age 40.
- o Have a clinical breast exam at least every 3 years starting at 20, and every year starting at 40.

- **Know what is normal for you. See your doctor right away if you find any of these breast changes:**

- o A new, hard lump or thickening
- o Swelling, warmth, redness or darkening
- o Change in the size or shape of the breast
- o Dimpling or puckering of the skin on the breast
- o Itchy, scaly sore or rash on the nipple
- o Pulling in of your nipple or other parts of the breast
- o Nipple discharge that starts suddenly
- o New pain in one spot that does not go away

- **Make healthy lifestyle choices.**

- o Maintain a healthy weight
- o Add exercise into your routine
- o Limit alcohol intake

What You Can Do Now

- Get a mammogram during your birthday month each year. Schedule it now!
- Remind 5 friends to get a mammogram.
- Offer to help a friend schedule their mammogram appointment.
- Ask your doctor to post a reminder for patients to schedule a mammogram.

Be informed. For more information, contact:



- www.komen.org or 1-877 GO KOMEN
- The Living beyond Breast Cancer 1.888.753.LBCC (5222)
- Cancer Care Inc. 1.800.813.HOPE
- Nat'l Cancer Institute's Cancer Info Services 1.800.4.CANCER
- American Cancer Society 1.800.ACS.2345
- Community Health Coalition 919.470.8680



The 131st Church Anniversary

“Embracing & Celebrating the Spirit of Giving”



Calvary Chronicle Staff:

Rita Bryant

Michael Langley

Toni McIntosh

Nia Shields

Maticia Sims

Faith Thompson

Mary Vickers

Contributors:

Pastor Fredrick A. Davis

Minister Emily Carroll

FCBC Church Office

Upcoming Events

November 2015: Pastoral Appreciation Month

- 1st: Ordination Service: Min. Jerry Love, 4pm
- 8th: 24th Pastoral Anniversary
- 12th: Senior Lunch & Learn, 10am
- 21st: Returning Citizens Resource Fair, 9am
- 26-27th: Thanksgiving Holiday- Church Office Closed
- 29th: Super Sunday School

December 2015: Family Month

- 5th: Scholarship Workshop, 9am
- 9th: Bring a Pot/Angel Tree Fellowship, 7pm
- 12th: Youth Caroling, 10am
- 16th: Volunteer Recognition Celebration, 7pm
- 20th: Annual Christmas Presentation, 6pm
- 25th: Christmas Day- Church Office Closed
- 25th: Kwanzaa Begins
- 27th: "Christ-Kwanzaa Sunday"
Wear your African Attire
- 31st: Watch Night Service, 10:30pm



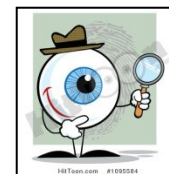
**Are you a writer? Do you aspire to the likes of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, or Nikki Giovanni?*

**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!

The mission of this 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 tmtrustee@aol.com or (919)341-4645. Thank you!