

The Calvary Chronicle

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Volume 6 Issue 1

First Calvary Baptist Church
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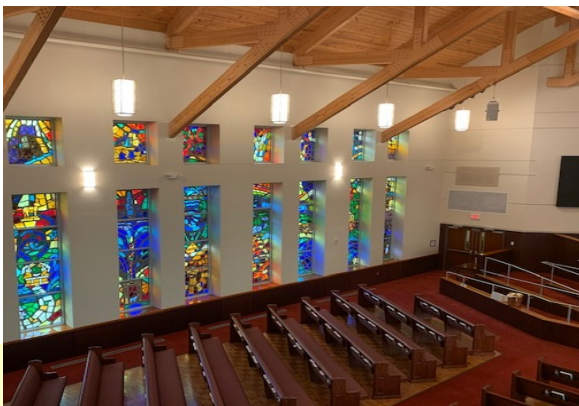
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New Day...God's Way

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

The beginning of a new year brings new hope, new goals, and new expectations. While 2020 presented some of the most challenging times many of us have ever experienced, we remained faithful knowing that despite whatever comes our way, God is still in control. He is still directing our paths and covering us with a hedge of protection...even in a pandemic. Jeremiah 29:11 proclaims that the Lord knows the plans He has for our lives. Afterall, He created us. He knows everything about us, and our lives are predestined according to His will. Though we may experience difficult times, we must remain faithful, knowing that our Heavenly Father seeks to protect us from harm and give us hope for the future. Stay safe, stay strong, and well because God's Way is the only way we will come out of this pandemic stronger, healthier, and more grateful. Remain in His will!



Pastor's Desk Message

To My First Calvary Family:



Happy New Year! After an interesting, and sometimes challenging, year of 2020, by God's Grace we are here!! We have so much to be thankful for...and God continues to bless us...guide us...and keep us. Here we are, with our first Calvary Chronicle for a New Year...and it has a new look! Thank you to the hardworking Chronicle staff for continuing to maintain this publication...it is another thing that helps us stay connected during this time. How appropriate that our Chronicle theme is from the familiar Scripture text

written in Jeremiah 29: 12: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." We are in a "New Day", but we still do things "God's Way". In Him we truly live, move, and have our being.

I share this message with you in a different manner...as I am healing and recovering from surgery. What a blessed journey back to good health! I thank God for extremely knowledgeable doctors, caring medical personnel, and professional hospitals. God is continuing to bless, heal, and keep me. I thank God for my supportive family, who is giving round the clock care. I also am so grateful for the love and support being shown and given from all over First Calvary, and even the community. Special thanks also to the Church Staff and Official Leadership and other Leaders of the Church, led by the God-given team of Minister Carter, Minister Dotson, and Sister Lindsay, for continuing to do the work of Ministry as I mend and heal. I will be back....sooner than later.

As we all continue to navigate safely through this Pandemic, I encourage us all to reach out to one another as we are all able. Call someone...text someone... send a card...or letter...or ecard...do a drive by....connect with somebody. I am looking for all of us to continue to be on virtual worship, Bible Study, and Sunday School. Your presence makes a difference. Speaking of presence, we will still have our Church functions and events VIRTUALLY.... FOR NOW....so be ready to attend the Leadership Conference and the Young Adult Conference virtually.... and celebrate Memorial Sunday, Leadership Sunday, Scholarship Sunday, and Young Adult Sunday in our virtual worship. Also, teens, we hope you are registered to virtually join the MLK Jr. Youth Lock In. Oh yeah...by the way, your Pastor will be the “VIRTUAL” Guest Minister for the Virtual Durham Community Annual MLK Celebration on MLK Day. You see, First Calvary, we are still doing Kingdom work as we can, by God's leading. This Chronicle is also part of our Kingdom work, so enjoy this edition...stay safe....stay connected... and NEVER forget that we are AN EXCITING CHURCH EXCITED ABOUT ITS MISSION!

Yours in that Blessed Hope,
Pastor Fredrick A. Davis



Jesus is Still the Reason for the Season

By: Mary U. Vickers

The Christian Education Ministry joined the Music Ministry of First Calvary Baptist Church to present the first-ever virtual Christmas Program on Zoom on Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 11:00 am. Minister Harriett Pratt presided and gave the Call To Worship and Invocation, followed by the Welcome/Occasion by Brother Daniel Forde. Sister Johnae Carter read scripture from Matthew 1:18-25 and John 3:16; after which Minister Pratt gave biblical reflections about Christmas. Brother Vincent Anthony Jr. played Silent Night on the tenor saxophone. Minister Pratt introduced Sister Tina Speight from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia who gave a special Puppetry Presentation titled “Baab’s Christmas Story”. After the puppetry presentation, Sister Keely Ogden sang O Holy Night. Following the offertory prayer by Sister Audrey Mitchell and instructions for giving online by Minister John Carter, there were presentations from the following Sunday School Classes: Beginners, Primary/Intermediate, Teens, Single’s, and the Women’s Class. The Beginner’s Class used recitations to express what the season meant to them. The Primary /Intermediate Class expressed their thoughts through their artwork that was shared on screen by one of their teachers, Brother Marcus Allen. The Teens Class made and shared a video, while the Singles Class showed a PowerPoint Presentation featuring an Evangelistic Appeal. Sister Zandra Turner represented a Christmas reading and poem for the Women’s Class.

After the presentations ended, the Sunday Worship Ensemble sang Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child. Closing remarks were made by Minister John Carter and Pastor Fredrick Amos Davis. The first-ever virtual Christmas program ended with Pastor Davis singing a group favorite, *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.

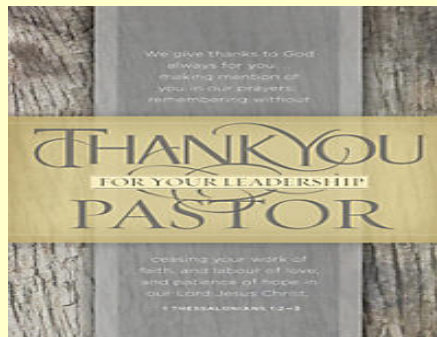


30 Years of Excellence: 2021 Calendar Tribute to Pastor Davis

By: Faith Brodie

The Visionary Ministry is excited to present the 2021 First Calvary Baptist Church Calendar. Once again, the Visionary Ministry was able to pivot from its usual manner of distributing the calendars during the last service of the year to a Drive-by distribution on December 27th in the parking lot of First Calvary. Members of the ministry greeted those who came while cheerfully distributing the calendars.

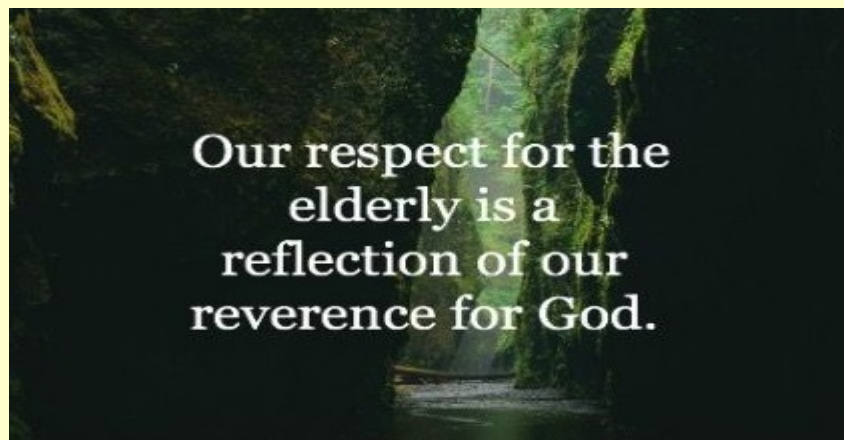
The 2021 calendar is dedicated to the history captured through pictures of our sanctuary windows and the 30 years of Excellence celebrating our own Pastor Fredrick A. Davis as he prepares to start another leg of the journey which God directs. While exploring the calendar and viewing the photos, think about the various ministries and activities that Pastor Davis initiated during his tenure at First Calvary. You will see the many “faces” of our Pastor as he taught us, loved us, and helped us to grow. This is just one of the many ways that the Visionary Ministry seeks to thank Pastor and Mrs. Davis for taking the time to “pour” into us.



Senior Lunch and Learn: the Drive-Thru Edition

By: Mary U. Vickers

The Health and Wellness Ministry of First Calvary Baptist Church hosted a drive-through lunch for the Senior members of the church on Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 11:00am until 1:00pm. Mature Adults age 60 and above were invited to practice social distancing, wear a mask, and drive through the church parking lot to receive gifts and lunch. Every *Mature Adult* who came received an Adult Grab Bag and a boxed lunch. The Adult Grab Bags contained an assortment of useful items, including the following: copies of "Our Daily Bread," pens, books, a large print crossword puzzle, notepads, a small flashlight, band-aids, hand sanitizer, and a medication container. The bags also contained treats, such as mints and other candies, Oreo cookies, a gospel CD containing, printed information containing *21 Tips for Thriving Through Coronavirus*, and a message from Pastor Davis about ways to stay safe in our golden years. Seniors could also pick up their Sunday Schools and Bible Study Books upon request. The boxed lunches, prepared by *The Honeybaked Ham Company*, provided a choice of a turkey, ham, or chicken salad sandwich, along with Kettle Chips, a cookie, a mint, a canned soda and condiments for the sandwich. This was a wonderful way for the Mature Adults of the church to get out of their homes while staying safe and receive gifts that let them know that they are missed and remembered by the church body.



2020 Whole Family Conference

By: Faith Brodie

With God's guidance the Visionary Ministry presented a virtual Whole Family Conference in October 2020. The theme, "Adapting to a New and Now Normal", was taken from Isaiah 43:19. The intention of the virtual conference was to share information with attendees that would provide them hope for our future as a people and as a church.

Week one was spent discussing social justice and civil rights. Participants were allowed an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings about the multiple incidents of social unrest and unwarranted killing of members of the Black community in this country.

Week two focused on the various aspects of being a healthy congregation. This included the physical aspects of healthy living, along with the physiological, emotional, financial, and spiritual aspects as well. Participants received information about things to do for themselves and their family.

The **third week** was very relevant to the current events in this world as two certified psychologists shared methodology for dealing with emotional challenges during this pandemic and beyond. Their central concept was being self-full which is not the same as being selfish. Participants were encouraged to set aside time for self-care. They shared that you can't pour from an empty vessel; therefore, participants were encouraged to store up their emotional strength so that they were healthy enough to be a blessing to others.

The **final week** dealt with the challenge of being a church which represents the changing demographics surrounding Kent and Morehead Streets. Visiting clergy from Duke University and a local church shared their experience ministering to multi-ethnic church communities. Participants were challenged to think deeply about how open they are to having various ethnic groups in their congregation.

The reviews and evaluations of this year's Whole Family Conference were very high. The Visionary Ministry received high points for making use of the small group feature of Zoom as well as having partial attendance at the church for the program abiding by the Center for Disease Control rules of social spacing and masks. We look forward to the 2021 Whole Family Conference as we continue to grow as *an exciting church excited about its mission!*

Reflections of the Year That Was...2020:

(Maintaining Connectivity and Mission During a Pandemic)

By: Dr. Toni McIntosh

When the year 2020 rang in on January 1st, no one could have imagined the challenges this year would present. A virus, the coronavirus, ran rampant across the world, causing an upheaval of everyday life. By mid-March, the city of Durham was under a stay-at-home ordinance, and shortly thereafter, the State of North Carolina followed. Restrictions were placed on gatherings, and citizens were encouraged to limit unnecessary travel. Soon thereafter, stores closed, and restaurants offered take-out meals only. Churches in the community closed to in-person worship in order to limit the spread of the virus. The world as we knew it turned upside down.

Summer vacations were canceled, and schools transitioned to online learning. The holiday season, beginning with Thanksgiving, transitioning to Christmas, and concluding with the beginning of a New Year, were like none other we had ever experienced. While traditional holiday celebrations include time with family, friends, sports, and lots of food, the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons of 2020 found families and friends separated due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. In this unprecedented year of challenges, we have relied heavily on technology to remain in touch with one another. Zoom meetings, Facetime calls, emails, snail mail, and an increase in group texting and calls have kept us connected. At First Calvary Baptist Church, our Sunday services were reduced from two in-person services to one online service, viewed via the church's website, the church's Facebook page, and even YouTube. Sunday School lessons were taught online via Zoom, while Wednesday Night Bible Study moved online via Facebook and Zoom. Ministries met via conference calls or Zoom to keep in touch and continue the work of the church. Church celebrations took on a new look as well, moving outside to the parking lots for drive-through greetings and gift-giving. With smiles hidden behind our masks, we greeted one another from a distance, all the while yearning to hug our family and friends whom we haven't seen in nine months.

As this new year begins, we can reflect on the many ways that we, as individuals and as the church, kept in touch during this challenging time in our history. While we could not carry out ministry functions in person, the work still continued. Members of the church distributed bottled water, Evangelism Tracts, and masks to those who passed our location on Morehead Avenue. The Food Pantry at our church continued to be open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week. Members continued to support the church financially by bringing their tithes and offerings to the church office, giving online, and mailing them to the church. Because members continued to give, the church was also able to give to the missions and ministries that it supports. First Calvary Baptist Church's ability to continue to function during this time of uncertainty is a testament to the fact that not even a pandemic can stop God's work. Carry on, First Calvary. Our work is not yet done!

God's work.
Our hands.

Welcoming in a New Year One Tiny Goal at a Time

By: Dr. Jennifer Rounds-Bryant

Happy New Year! If you are reading this, then you survived 2020 and all that the year brought with it. In addition to the loss and sorrow brought on by COVID19 and quarantine, 2020 seemed to be particularly brutal with untimely transitions NOT related to COVID19. As we move into 2021, we continue to face many of these losses, even as we look forward to moving on with our lives.

Many people feel hopeless in the face of these challenges. So, my ongoing encouragement has been for us to focus our attention and our energy on the things that we can control in our everyday lives. When we stop to think about it, many of us still have a lot of control over many aspects of our daily lives, even though thinking may be a little hard to do. Although it may be more challenging than it's ever been, many of us have the power to come out of this season better than we started in at least one area of our lives. Focusing on just one area to maintain or improve does a number of things, including reducing our feelings of helplessness and providing something positive to focus on. There is no better feeling than feeling accomplished, in whatever way we defined "accomplished".

Some people have come out against the notion that we should focus on maintaining, improving, or even attempting to do anything new during quarantine because of the distress that many feel from loss of employment, loved ones, and simple freedoms. Grieving loss is certainly necessary and takes as long as it takes. However, few of us have the luxury of stopping our lives to grieve. Even the grief process can be helped along by setting and pursuing a small goal or series of goals designed to honor the loss.

Whatever the motivation for your goal, now is a perfect time to set (or reset) one since we will very likely be in quarantine for the first half of 2021. The great thing about setting one small goal and working toward it one tiny step at a time is that any progress is not only exciting and motivating, but the progress brings benefits. You get to decide on the goal and what constitutes progress. For example, I have been focusing on de-cluttering one space in one room at a time - a process that I do not enjoy but hope to do one last time now that the children are all grown up. Some days, the process is broken down to removing exactly one item from the goal space. The progress is exciting and motivating, and the de-cluttered spaces bring me peace of mind. The only advice that I have is that you focus on just one thing at a time, and that you do something toward the goal every day. Even the tiniest amount of consistency is the key to reaching any goal. I am rooting for you!!

The Christian Education Ministry (Sunday School) sponsored a drive-thru giveaway in the church parking lot on Saturday, December 19, 2020. Treat bags were given to those adults and children who were regular Sunday School attendees.



Pictured: First Row (L to R): Minister Harriett Pratt, Minister John Carter, Sister Marcella Gartrell

Standing (L to R): Sister Willie Little, Sister Audrey Mitchell, Sister Mary Vickers



Coming Soon...

JANUARY, 2021



<i>Church Conference:</i>	<i>January 6, 2021 @7pm</i>
<i>Annual Memorial Service:</i>	<i>January 10, 2021</i>
<i>Virtual MLK Youth Lock-In:</i>	<i>January 17, 2021</i>
<i>Virtual MLK MLK Religious Celebration:</i>	<i>January 18, 2021 @5:30pm</i>
<i>MLK Jr. Holiday Observance:</i>	<i>January 18, 2021</i>
<i>Virtual Leadership Conference:</i>	<i>January 30, 2021</i>

Stay tuned to the weekly bulletins and church announcements for more information.

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|--|----------------------------|
| • <i>Noon Day Midweek Prayer and Devotion:</i> | <i>Wednesdays@ 12:00pm</i> |
| • <i>Bible Study via Zoom:</i> | <i>Wednesdays@ 7:00pm</i> |
| • <i>Zoom Sunday School:</i> | <i>Sundays @11am</i> |
| • <i>Weekly Online Worship Service:</i> | <i>Sundays @9:30am</i> |



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.

- 21 TIPS -

FOR THRIVING THROUGH CORONAVIRUS

1 PRAY OFTEN:



It provides perspective and power.

2 GET OUTSIDE:



Improve moods with fresh air.

3 READ YOUR BIBLE:



Get encouraged by God.

4 PLAY A GAME:



Releasing anxiety for the win!

5 STAY INFORMED:



Follow recommended guidelines.

6 PUT YOUR PHONE DOWN:



Avoid info-overload.

7 STAY CONNECTED:



Answer calls from family.

8 HELP SOMEONE:



It will make you feel great.

9 READ A STORY:



Exercise your imagination.

10 READ A NON-FICTION BOOK



Expand your intellect.

11 EXERCISE:



Reduce stress and unwanted fat.

12 PLAN YOUR MEALS:



Save money and be healthy.

13 START SAVING:



Develop a long-term saving habit.

14 STUDY HISTORY:



Learn from those before you.

15 MAKE SOMETHING:



Flex your creative muscles.

16 DO THAT THING:



Tackle procrastinated projects.

17 WALK WITH YOUR FAMILY:



Reconnect your family ties.

18 TAKE A BIKE RIDE:



The most fun social distancing activity.

19 BUY IT FOR A FRIEND:



Boost the economy while meeting a need.

20 TALK ABOUT MEANINGFUL THINGS:



Focus on what's important.

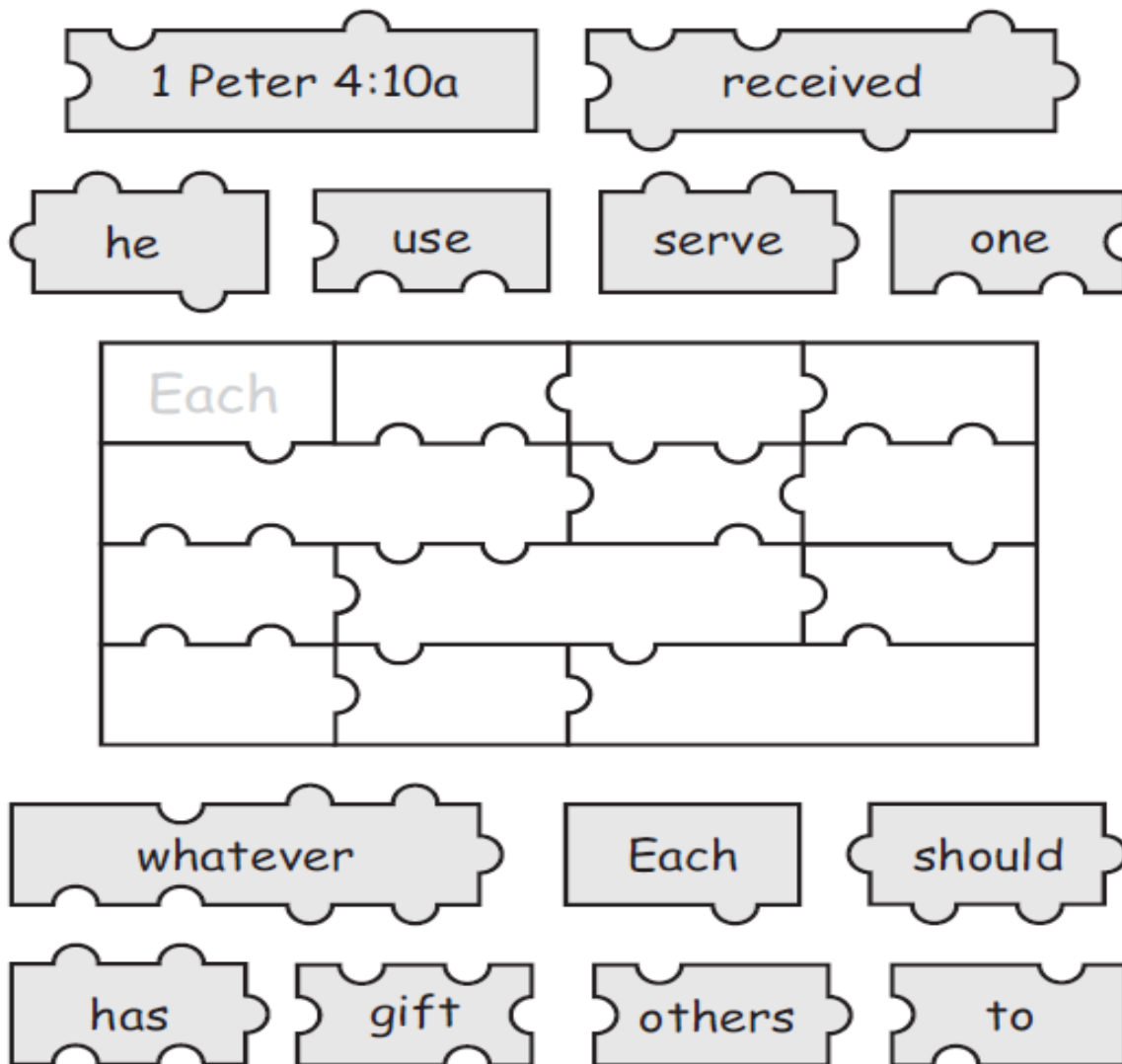
21 TRUST THE LORD:



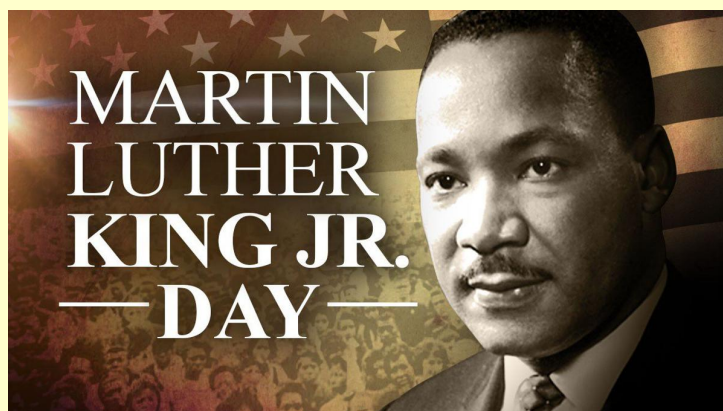
He works out ALL things for good.

Bible Activity: 1 Peter 4:10a

To complete the verse, write the word of each piece where it fits in the puzzle.



Upcoming Events

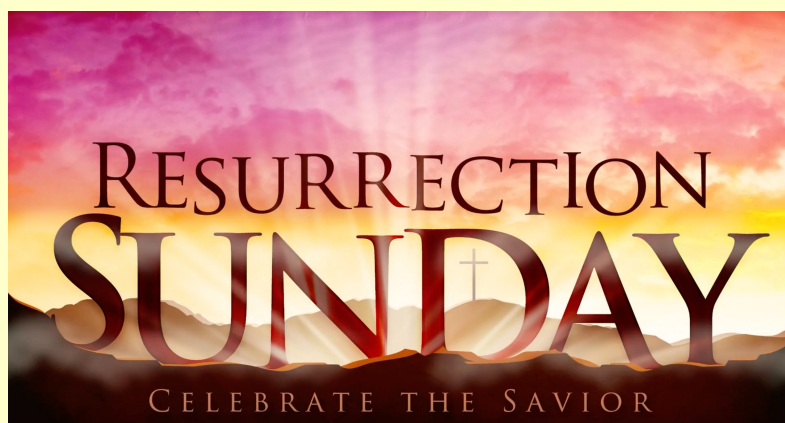


Monday, January 18, 2021



Sunday, March 28, 2021

Sunday, April 4, 2021



Calvary Chronicle Staff:

Sis. Crystal Bethea

Sis. Faith Brodie

Bro. Carter Cue

Dr. Toni McIntosh

Dr. Jennifer Rounds-Bryant

Sis. Mary Vickers

Contributors:

Pastor Fredrick A. Davis

Sis. Betty Borden

Sis. Dennise Lindsay

*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!



**Continue to join us
for worship each
Sunday at 9:30am
via the church
website, YouTube,
and Facebook
page!**

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 Dr. Toni McIntosh at calvarynews@firstcalvary.org or (919)341-4645. Thank you!