



747 Broad Street
Providence, RI 02907
401.461.7507 Phone
401.785.8275 Fax
www.calbaptist.org
info@calbaptist.org

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From the Pastor to You

Hello Calvary Family! Happy New Year! I pray that your Christmas was a grand celebration of the Advent (Coming) of the Lord Jesus Christ. What a wonderful thought to know that Jesus was born to bring us joy and life both now and forevermore. Yet, each new year begins a time of great expectations and new beginnings. As the celebrations dissipate and we return to the hustle and bustle of life that the new year brings, let us not forget the great sacrifice that Jesus made for our freedom in Him. For example, the Bible shares the concept of the Jubilee in Leviticus 25:8-13. Jubilee was a time that marked great joy because debts were forgiven, families, land and people were restored and freedom abounded for all. This freedom was to occur every 15 years to allow everyone to experience God's joy worry free. Many centuries later, Christians adopted this Old Testament concept and expanded its view to the New Covenant in Jesus Christ as depicted in the Gospel of John Chapter 8:31-36. Jesus instructs here that continuing in His Word is an aspect of our relationship with Him that yields living in the freedom and truth that nothing else can bring.

While many debates and opinions vary about the meaning and observance Jubilee, my mention of it is not to engage in the debate but to highlight one main factor: freedom from debts. Over the last couple of years, you may have heard the church leadership and I discuss the concept of being debt free. As we consider the Scriptures above, we could entertain 2015 as the year of Jubilee. But debt freedom requires dedication, sacrifice, and commitment to be good manager of the wealth the Lord has given us. Sure, it's important for us to be free of financial debt and there are some very practical ways to do that so we could better support the ministry at Calvary, our families better, community (i.e. <http://finance.yahoo.com/news/4-ways-drop-debt-weight-110041428.html>). However, as the Leviticus and Gospel Scripture mention debt-freedom expands beyond money. It means being free from hindrances that hold us back from exercising our full potential in God. In addition, it means releasing others from the debts we hold over them as well. I believe Jesus further mentions the freedom to be sustained as we become His disciples. So, this year, I challenge all of us to accept that gift of the freedom that comes in Christ to live for Him! Invest your life with Jesus your life will never be the same!

Pastor Jabulani McCalister
Senior Pastor

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT CORNER

MLK Scholarship Breakfast

The 38th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Breakfast sponsored by the Minister's Alliance of RI will be held on Monday, January 19, 2014 at Rhodes on the Pawtucket. One of our own Calvary students, **Emem Akpan**, received a scholarship. Let's continue to encourage more of our students to apply for this scholarship opportunity.

Youth Ministry Matching Grant Opportunity

Over the Summer, private donors donated \$5000 toward development of the Youth Ministry. Specifically, they wish to help us fund a Youth Pastor position so we may hire someone to give intentional long-term leadership for Calvary Youth. Also, these donors expressed their desire to give an additional one time gift of \$5,000 as a matching grant, if the Youth and the church raise \$5,000. This will give us \$15,000 seed money to do some masterful work with our Youth. God is good.

There will be a formal appeal for assistance in this matching grant mini-campaign at church. However, if you would like to sow into this ministry to help us towards our goal, please make checks/money orders out to Calvary Baptist Church with a not in the subject line: Youth Matching Grant. Thank you in advance for your support of the Youth Ministry.

Youth Explosion

The youth of Calvary are putting together something **AMAZING!!**

The **Youth Explosion 2015** will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2015 beginning at 7:00 p.m. This is a coffee house style talent show. There will be spoken word, music, comedy and more. Please come and show your support. It would be greatly appreciated.

Tell your friends and your youth groups too. We are also looking for performers, so if you are artistically inclined and want to audition, please contact the church office. Note: there is a \$5.00 donation for this event to help support the Youth Group's trip to the National Gathering of American Baptist Youth in 2016.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“Humility”

“My soul finds rest in God alone: my salvation comes from him.” Psalm 62:1

As God, Jesus emptied Himself. As man, Jesus humbled Himself. He understood that God’s plan for the redemption of the world could only be carried out by His total surrender. Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is simply thinking of yourself in God’s way – valuable and loved, but His servant.

Humility makes you accessible and approachable. Humility enables others to identify with you, because you are not hiding your struggles and pretending to be something that you really are not. Saint Augustine once said, “It was pride that changed angels into devils, it is humility that makes men as angels.”

Jesus became obedient to death – even death on a cross! One has to ponder (examine attentively and deliberately) the obedience of Jesus. He was obedient not just to death, but the dreaded, terrifying death on a cross. One question we immediately have is “Why?” Why the cross? This is how God showed His love among us; He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: *“Not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.”* (1 John 4:9-10).

Calvary Baptist Church provides many opportunities to serve Christ and build His kingdom. As seen in Jesus’ life, obedience can be demanding and even require great sacrifice. Is God calling you to obey Him in some special way? What is it that God is calling you to do? Are you obeying or resisting? Are you disinterested in obeying Him? If you will rekindle your relationship with Him, you will find that the desire to obey will return.

One of the areas where you can get involved is through the Stewardship Ministry. If you have a calling that can help build His kingdom, talk to the Pastor, Servant Leader Team or any of the Ministry Leaders. Enjoy the abundant life as you give yourself to Christ and to others by serving the Lord.

In Christian Love,
Carol Hall-Walker
Stewardship Ministry



SPNM Spelling Bee

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries 8th Annual Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, February 7, 2014 at Calvary. Admission is \$5 which goes to help meet the needs of families across Rhode Island. The Master of Ceremonies will be Mario Hilario from NBC 10. Refreshments to follow in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks Calvary team for stepping up to the challenge. Come cheer on all the teams!! If you desire to be part of the Calvary team please contact the church office.

Ash Wednesday Special Prayer

February 18 is Ash Wednesday marking the start of Lent. We will have a special combined service with Bethany Baptist Church, 178 Sayles Avenue in Pawtucket at 7:00 p.m. that night.

Prayer Requests (On-going and New)

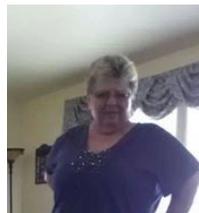
Debt-Freedom
Men's Ministry
Women's Ministry
Bereaved Families- McCalister, Kpawoe
Homebound Members
Transportation Ministry (Many of our members and potential members desire rides to church)
Community Outreach
Children, Youth and Young Adults
Married Couples Ministry
Singles Ministry
Overall Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church
Pastor and First Family
Calvary Leaders
Conflict Resolution
More committed and qualified teachers for Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Institute
100% Tithing Church

FINANCE MINISTRY NEWS

Catching up on your envelopes? Let's do our part to save paper. Please write only one check and submit only one envelope. If you not on the check how many weeks you are submitting, the weekly amount will be recorded for you automatically.

Thank you and blessings to you for your generous tithes.

Sharon Burr
Finance Ministry



Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting Pot/luck will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2015 after worship. We thank all of you who have helped us sustain the ministry at Calvary over the last year. Please continue to pray that more people will respond to God's call to be faithful stewards of His resources. For when everyone contributes (equal giving not equal amounts) we can do great things for God. We can do this with God's help, the Source of all.



“Dear Pastor Jabulani,

People remarked to me that my mother’s funeral service was the most beautiful they have ever attended. And it was everything that my mother had envisioned. I so appreciate your help with the planning, the lovely service, and your big hug on my way out the door!

That song, “I’ll Fly Away” was magnificent and was perfect to cap off the service. My mother had such affection and devotion to Calvary. She hardly ever missed a Sunday, and loved the people there. I’m so happy we were able to honor that.

*With love,
Paula Demers”*

ON-GOING OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

God is using Calvary Baptist Church to transform this community and the world, one family at a time. Therefore, it's imperative that every Disciple of Jesus Christ at Calvary participate in these ministry opportunities. Some of the areas where you can make an impact are:

- 1) Technical Arts Ministry
 - a. Calvary Call needs, Writers, Reporters, Editors, Lay-Out experts, Photographers and Compilers.
 - b. The Web-site and Facebook pages needs technologically savvy persons to assist with the daily updates and new trends in web-design
 - c. TV Ministry
 - d. Audio/Visual needs (i.e. CD and DVD ministry)
- 2) Prayer Ministry
 - a. Prayer on-site
 1. Wednesday Night before Bible Study (6:45 – 7:15 p.m.)
 2. Thursday at 12 Noon
 3. Create new prayer cells in-home and on-site, so Calvary is praying 24/7
- 3) Event Planners to assist with Family Movie Nights and other outings, fellowships and events
- 4) Music Ministry: Musicians, Praise Team, Gospel, Adult, Youth, Children's, Men's, and Handbell Choirs to help lead worship.
- 5) Social Ministry (i.e. serving and donating food during fellowship after church and special events).
- 6) Ministry of Caring: Visiting Homebound Members and Serving Communion to Homebound Members.
- 7) Worship Ministry: Ushers, Greeters, Scripture Readers, etc.
- 8) Bible Study and Sunday School teachers.
- 9) Building and Ground Ministry helping to make sure God's house is in excellent working order.
- 10) Single's Ministry
- 11) Men's Ministry
- 12) Children's and Youth Ministry

Family Celebrations

Happy Anniversary!

Friday, January 16, 2015, marked 4 years Pastor Jabulani McCalister has ministered to us as our Senior Pastor. We thank God for his ministry among us and the ways the Lord has used us together as Pastor and People. Please continue to pray for our Pastor and his family. Also, get involved in the vision that God continues to share through him for Calvary as we serve Jesus Christ together.

Upcoming Wedding

Judy Akpan and her Fiancée, Jean plan to get married October 2015. Let's celebrate and continue to pray for their wedding plans and a successful marriage.

Champlin Grant Update

Last year Calvary was awarded \$56,000 from the Champlin Foundation Dollars to complete the renovations on the old roof. We have completed those renovations. God is good!

In Our Spotlight

This month in our spotlight we highlight Sue Colantonio. Sue is a faithful member of Calvary and has done a great job as our Church Treasurer for many years. Thanks Sue for your dedication!!

