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Current Resident or:

From the Pastor to You



Hello Calvary Family! Happy New Year! As we embark on the year of our Lord 2016, we breathe a sigh of relief that we have made it to see another year. Most of us look forward to the New Year with great anticipation based on the blessings of the last year. Others are a little more tentative about their approach to what lies ahead due to great losses they suffered in years past. No matter your prospective, cheerful or tearful, transitions don't always have to be scary. They often provide new possibilities. Learn to take the good and bad experiences of your life in the context of shaping the journey of who you are or will become.

No one can escape hardship but we can decide not to let it cripple us from moving forward. In Psalm 30, the writer praises the Lord for rescuing him from certain death. The pain was unbearable. The danger was real. Many tears of anguish flowed. The healing was delayed. However, in the final analysis, the Psalmist concluded, "*O, Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever*" (v. 12). Your danger, pain, and tears are real. You may have to experience great anguish but through it all, you must continue to believe that God is with you. Be comforted in the fact that "*weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning*" (Psalm 30:5, KJV). You may have to cry for however long your night is but joy will come in the morning and sometimes through the *mourning*. I know it's hard to believe God is with you when you are in the middle of your storm but stay anchored in the Lord and when the winds and rains pass, you "*shall never be moved*" (Psalm 30:6).

May God grant your family and you peace and assurance this year. God bless you.

Pastor Jabulani McCalister,
Senior Pastor

FAMILY CELEBRATIONS

Happy Anniversary!!

Thursday, January 16, 2016, marked 5 years Pastor Jabulani McCalister as Senior Pastor of our great church. Congratulations on this wonderful milestone, Pastor. We look forward many more years of ministry with you.

We rejoice that Mrs. Joan Schoonmaker, former Calvary Minister of Music, has begun to heal nicely affording her the opportunity to return as our volunteer pianist. Keep her in your prayers.

Thank you

We are grateful for all of our guest preachers in 2015. We thank you for sharing the Word of God.

Youth Ministry

The Youth are beginning to provide excellent leadership under the direction of our new Youth leader, Annmarrie Kamara. You may have noticed more of their involvement every first Sunday beginning in January. Great job children/youth & leaders!

Overall Ministry Update

Unfortunately, due to lack of interest and participation there are no formal ministries meeting. Please be in prayer for our ministries overall. We will only grow when we provide comprehensive ministry opportunities for new families.

Annual Congregational Budget Meeting

The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting was held on Sunday, January 24, 2016 after worship. We are grateful for all those present who approved the final budget so we may move forward to provide quality ministry. We thank all of you who have helped us sustain the ministry at Calvary last year. Our goal for 2016 is to become completely debt-free which can only happen when everyone contributes their tithes and offerings faithfully and consistently.

If we trust God with our finances, He will honor our faithfulness. Try God and see for yourself and see Him work miracles in your life and the life of His church.

Prayer Requests

Bereaved Families-Askie, Famatta White, Ketter, Tolson, Force

Homebound

Pastor and First Family

Calvary Leaders

Conflict Resolution

More committed and qualified teachers for Bible Study/Sunday School/Bible Institute

100% Tithing Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Christ,

Jesus' teachings and how they speak to us today calls His followers to share, to respond to the poor, the hungry, the destitute, the homeless, the widowed, the prisoners. To one inquiring young man he said, *"If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me"* (Matthew 19:21).

In the Debt-Free Living class that Sue Colantonio and David Dromsky are teaching now, we recently learned that an act of giving is an acknowledgement of the very essence of God, the One who is the greatest giver of all. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."* Everything about God revolves around His giving. How important is the act of giving? Did you know that the subject of prayer is mentioned about 500 times in the Bible. Faith is written about approximately 500 times, but the subjects of material things, tithing, and giving are written about 1,000 times! Did you know that 16 out of the 38 parables of Jesus deal with money, possessions, their use, and their relationship to us? And that one out of every six verses in Matthew, Mark, and Luke deal with stewardship? In 2 Corinthians, there is one chapter on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and three chapters devoted to the subject of when and how to give.

In the Debt-Free Living booklet we are using in the class, it states that while Jesus was on the earth, he tithed (St Mark 12: 15-17). He said, *"I came not to destroy the law but to fulfill the law!"* He was accused of many things, but not once was He accused of violating the law of tithing.

God is encouraging giving – *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20: 24-36). He himself provided a model for sharing. He advocated making special efforts to care for the poor and destitute. He is far less concerned about the amount a person gives then about the spirit that lay behind the giving – as in the case of the widow's mite (St. Luke 21: 1-4). He recommended simple values. He taught that treasures in heaven are more important than treasures on earth (St. Matthew 61: 9-21). He was completely committed to the belief that God is the owner of everything. He condemned ostentatious giving. He gave out of love.

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Our purpose is to please God not people. The Bible says, *“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”* (2 Chronicles 16:9 – NLT). Will you be a person God can use for his purposes? Will you serve God’s purpose in your life and generation?

Imagine what it is going to be like one day, with all of us standing before the throne of God presenting our lives in deep gratitude and praise to Christ. Together we will say, *“Worthy, Oh Master! Yes, our God! Take the glory! the honor! the power! You created it all; It was created because you wanted it!* (Revelation 4:11- Msg.) We will praise Him for His plan and live for His purposes forever!

Give generously in 2016. God is encouraging it. Every offering, gift, talent, skill that you share is showing Christ that we believe Him and are following His example for our lives.

In Christian Love,

Carol Hall-Walker,
Stewardship Ministry Chair



“Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(Ephesians 6: 23-24)

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

Calvary Call needs, Writers, Reporters, Editors, Lay-out experts, photographers and compilers.

The Web-site and Facebook pages needs technologically savvy persons to assist with the daily updates and new trends in web-design

TV Ministry

Audio/Visual needs (i.e. CD and DVD ministry)

2) Prayer Ministry

Prayer on-site

Wednesday Night before Bible Study (6:45-7:15 p.m.)

Thursday at 12 Noon³)

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. Buildings and Grounds Ministry helping to make sure God's house is in excellent working order.
10. Transportation Ministry (Many of our members and potential members desire rides to church)
11. Community Outreach
12. Children, Youth and Young Adults
13. Married Couples Ministry
14. Singles Ministry
15. Men's and Women's

SPNM Spelling Bee

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries 9th Annual Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2016 from 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. at Calvary. This event is hosted to help meet the needs of families across Rhode Island. Members of Calvary will have a team participating. Please plan on attending and encourage all those who will be participating.



HOMEBOUND LIST

Our Homebound Members love to hear from you! Why not give them a call or send a card? Cards are available on the bookshelf in the church office.

June Allen
57 Taplow Street
Warwick, RI 02889
739-6208

Bert Smith
Brookdale Independent Living Center - Apt. F-8
2783 West Shore Road
Warwick, RI 02889
921-6838

Trobel Bloe, Sr.
14 Maclaine Drive
North Providence, RI 02904
353-3095

Wilbur Workman
Gateway Healthcare Cortland House
25 Cedar Swamp Road
Smithfield, RI 02917
231-7762 or 861-8655

Christine Nyakoon
127 Wendell Street
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