

Called...

Greetings “called” ones! That greeting may be confusing to some, but for the last few weeks we’ve been trying to weave the idea of being “called” through just about everything we do. We’re doing that because understanding what it means to be called is so important to the first step in our Dawnings journey. In brief, all believers are called. We’re not only called to faith in Christ, but called to commit our lives to service in ministry through the gospel of Jesus Christ. That’s right, God has a plan for your life...a calling. Sometimes, it is hard to put our calling into words; Christians may simply not be able to put their calling into words; however, many times we can discover our calling in our own stories.

On November 19th, 50 of our congregation gathered in the fellowship hall for the first of four Dawnings sessions. Individually, we shared stories that revealed things that we treasured, the people and events that have been important to us, the values in which we have invested our lives. Then, we helped each other organize those stories and shape their ideas to help us identify our individual strengths and purpose. This is the first step in determining God's vision for our church, because, after all, the church is made up of each of us. We also shared some prayer practices that we hope will enrich your personal devotional life and help you get a clearer vision for yourself and our congregation.

Several people have asked for a description of “Dawnings.” The best way to understand the process is with the literal meaning of “dawning.” Dawn is that time of the day when darkness gives way to light. Objects that were indiscernible begin to take shape, details begin to gradually be filled-in, that which was unseen is slowly seen clearly. That’s what we’re trying to accomplish through “Dawnings.”

By seeking God’s clarity through prayer, by listening to each other’s stories, by listening to the stories of our congregation, by identifying our community and its needs, we believe God’s plan for us will become clear.

Our coming together as a new church is both exciting and challenging. Leaving behind our past identities so that we might become something new is no small thing. Human beings don’t always accept change very well, yet here we are in the process of changing many things. Let’s be patient with ourselves, let’s listen to each other, let’s listen to the call of our God on our church. (Notice we didn’t say, “churches”.) Pray without ceasing – for indifference to all but God's will and for God to clearly reveal who we are to be and what we are to do.

Blessings to all you saints of the Lord. Embrace your calling!

Your Pastors,
Steve and Melissa



December Birthdays

Camryn Durrer	Dec. 1	Nancy Burgess	Dec. 13	Ray Wolfe	Dec. 23
Kaitlyn Dillon	Dec. 1	Jennifer Minnix	Dec. 15	Brittany Knott	Dec. 24
Patsy Waters	Dec. 3	Jack Pilcher	Dec. 15	Brennon Viele	Dec. 31
Zachary Nix	Dec. 6	Cindy Poff	Dec. 20	Alyssa Viele	Dec. 31

Prayer Concerns

- Those who are homebound or in retirement/nursing homes: Madaline Brown, Jim Bryant, Lois Burge, Jane Byrum, Virginia Draper, Mary Durrer, Sue Epperly, Buddy Hawkins, Evelyn Hutcherson, Nadine Minnix, Shirley Moore, Betty Obenchain, Louise Parris, Betty Payne, Becky Peyton, Jack Pilcher, Evelyn Ragland, Alice Scogin, Anna Mae Smith, Joe St. Clair, Frances Williams, Katie Wood
- Those with cancer including Doug Hicks (Kathy Kinsey's Brother), Barbara Kern, Penny Long (Bob Crawford's sister), Angela Johnson (Joyce Short's niece), Carolyn Straughen (A.G. Melson's sister), Posey Weddle (Michael Krawchison's uncle)
- Our congregations, our pastors, our community, & those around the world
- Evelyn Lewis
- Susan Pollard
- Nancy Vest, who has Bell's Palsy
- Declan, four-year-old friend of the Morris family, who has leukemia
- Eleanor Bishop, friend of Susan Snyder & Betty Hall, facing open heart surgery
- Peace in the Middle East
- Mickey Cratch
- Joshua Conner, Ginny Smith's great-nephew
- Sue Epperly, in Lewis Gale Hospital
- Carolyn Young
- Mickey Cratch
- Sylvia Shortt, with a broken hip

Giving

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry of our church. If you wish to give an offering, you may do so by placing it in the designated plate in the foyer, via mail, electronically through your bank or our websites at: <https://cabcbchurchtrac.com/give> or <https://bit.ly/givecalvary>. You may also donate by scanning our QR codes:

COLONIAL AVENUE BAPTIST



CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH



Bible Study Opportunities

- **Sunday Morning Bible Study** is a great way to connect with God and with our church family! We have classes for all ages and stages of life at 9:30 am.
- **Midweek Bible Study** meets at noon, Wednesdays in the conference room & on Zoom (www.bit.ly/cabcbiblestudy). Rev. Steven Harris will lead us through a study of call stories in the Bible.

Women's Missions: Evelyn Townsend Circle

The **Evelyn Townsend Mission Circle** will meet at noon on **Monday, Dec. 11**, at the home of Ellen Scott. All women of the church are invited to be a part of this group that focuses on missions and offers wonderful times of fellowship and encouragement.

Christmas Cantata

On **Sunday, Dec. 17**, during morning worship, our choir will present a special musical program to celebrate the birth of Christ.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kaitlyn Dwyer, Daughter of Linda & Roy Dwyer! She is graduating from the University of Iowa this month, summa cum laude, with a major in Creative Writing and a minor in Classical Greek Studies! As a summa cum laude graduate, her speech was chosen for the online graduation ceremony! She will be walking in the ceremony at UI and will be giving her graduation address for the online graduation ceremony. Congratulations Kaitlyn!

Advent

We are entering the season of Advent, which begins the fourth Sunday prior to Christmas. Advent means "coming." It is the season when we are especially reminded that Christ has come, Christ is always coming into our lives, and Christ will come again. During this season, we have provided several ways for you to prepare your heart to celebrate Jesus' birth:

- **Advent devotion books** are available for you to pick up in the foyer. If you prefer an online devotion, we recommend: www.followingthestar.org.
- **Poinsettias:** Beginning December 17, the sanctuary will be decorated with beautiful poinsettias given to the church in Honor, or in Memory of, friends & loved ones. Poinsettias are \$10 each. The names will be published in the worship bulletin Dec. 17. Order forms are available in the foyer. This year we have added an option: You may make a donation (in the amount of your choosing) in honor, or memory of, a loved one & have their name printed in the bulletin without the need of ordering a poinsettia. The donation will be for Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) Global Missions. Orders & payment need to be in the church office by **Sunday, Dec. 3**. Please place your order form & payment (note "Poinsettia") in the offering plate at church or you can mail your order with payment to Calvary Baptist Church, PO Box 12226, Roanoke, VA 24023. Poinsettias will need to be picked up following the Christmas Eve Service.

Worship

- Beginning December 3, our sanctuary will be adorned with symbols of the season – wreaths, lights, Chrismon tree, and more. Our pastors and choir will be marking this holy season by wearing robes. We will also be changing some parts of the service (such as the call to worship, doxology, and benediction response) with seasonal elements to help prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Our sermons will focus on "The Called of Christmas," as we read about the people of the first Christmas and how they responded to God's call.
- **Christmas Eve:** Christmas Eve is also the fourth Sunday of Advent this year. We will follow our regular schedule on Sunday morning (Sunday School at 9:30, worship at 10:30). At 4 pm, we will hope you will join us for a Christmas Eve service of carols, candlelight, and communion.

Missions

- **Keystone Community Center Christmas Food Boxes: Sunday, Dec. 3**, is the last day to bring food for the boxes. If you haven't picked up a list of the items needed, contact the church office.
- This year's **Global Missions Emphasis** for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is "Because Presence Matters" Each week during Advent, we will pray for & learn about the ministry of a CBF missionary. 100% of what you donate to our Christmas Offering for Global Missions will support CBF field personnel in the U.S. and around the world. Offering envelopes are available in the foyer.
- We are taking part in **Angel Tree Ministries** again this year, purchasing gifts for children with an incarcerated parent). If you would like to help wrap and/or deliver the gifts to families, please let Pastor Melissa, Jim Rhodes, or other members of the Missions Committee know. If you would like to help with the cost of the gifts, please place a donation in the basket by the tree in the foyer. After donating, take one of the ornaments made by our youth. When you see it, remember to pray for the families we are assisting.

Christmas & New Year's Parties

- **Youth Christmas Party: Friday, Dec. 1**, 6-11 pm. Join us for a waffle and hot chocolate bar, Christmas games, and a "dirty Santa" gift exchange. We'll also be shopping for Angel Tree gifts. Please bring a wrapped gift (\$5 or less) for the gift exchange. Friends are welcome; please let Pastor Melissa know if friends will be joining us so we have enough drivers.
- **Deacons Potluck Dinner:** Deacons are invited to a potluck dinner on **Thursday, Dec. 7**, 6-9 pm, at Townes of Hidden Valley Clubhouse (4800 Layrn Lane). Please bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift for a gift exchange.
- **Children's Christmas Party: Friday, Dec. 8**, from 6-8 pm. Children in preschool-fifth grade are invited to join us for a fun evening of celebrating Jesus' birth. Dinner will be provided. Please let Pastor Melissa know by Sunday, Dec. 3 if your children will be attending.
- **College Students and Young Adults:** Join us for a Christmas party at Pastor Melissa & Ric's house on **Thursday, Dec. 14** at 6 pm. Wear your festive Christmas sweater (or pajamas, if you'd prefer). We'll have yummy food, play some Christmas games, and catch up with each other.
- **New Year's Day Open House:** Pastor Melissa & Ric Scott invite you to a New Year's Day Open House at their home from 2-5 pm on **January 1**.

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Our Church Staff:

Rev. Melissa Scott
Pastor

Dr. Steven Pollard
Pastor

Rev. Steven Harris
Minister in Residence

Debbie Foutz
Church Administrator

Karen Viele
Church Administrator

Bill Lininger
Music Director

Great Job!



Check out the amazing batch of quilts that was just delivered to the Rescue Mission. Our Mrs. Nancy Burgess worked on these all year, as she does every year. What a blessing this ministry is to so many people at the Rescue Mission each year!

Thank you to the 50 of you who joined us for a delicious soup lunch & Dawnings visioning session last Sunday. The room was filled with conversation, laughter, and even a few tears- as we shared our stories with each other. At the end of the day, we filled in a circle with descriptions of each of us- because our congregation is made up of individuals, and each of us is an important part of the way God is shaping our new church. This "My Story" circle is the first of three circles (the others are the stories of our church and our community) that will help us see who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do. Our next session will take place soon after the first of the year.

