## PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**ILL AT HOME & RECOVERING:**
Tommy Ashworth, Jennifer Byington, Joel & Rhea Calloway, Aaron Carroll, Ron Edwards, Toni Gibson, Ruth Gott, Mark Herndon, Susan Hudson, Grant & Nancy Lawson, Glenda Livesay, Beth Tilley McCurry, Patty Melton, Kathy Patrick, Evangeline Roberts, Kelly Robinson, Lula Rogers, Barbara Smith, Christine Smith, Opal Vaughn, Robert Walls, Daphine Winegar.

**SHUT-INS & CHRONIC ILLNESS**
Marlene Allen, Patsy Cumbow, Tony & Linda England, Vonda Gardner, Eddie McDavid, Billie Orrick, Betty Sproles

**NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING & REHAB**

| | |
|---|---|
| Peggy Harber | Gray Life Care Center |
| Charlotte Lemons | Wexford House |
| Hagan Bowen | Encompass |

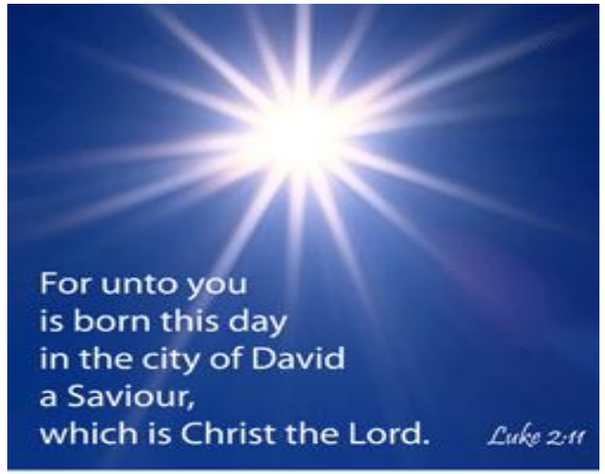
**NON-MEDICAL PRAYER NEEDS**
The LOST, BS2, Our Country, Our Schools, Bob & Celeste Gailey, George Kasibante & Uganda Orphange.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

| | |
|---|---|
| Weekly Requirements | $ 7,230.19 |
| Undesignated – December 2, 2024 | $ 7,520.10 |
| Savings – December 2 2024 | $ 2,464.00 |

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

We are delighted to welcome a new secretary to our church office. Shirley Sullivan will be lending her talents to help keep the church running smoothly. Shirley will be in the office Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. You can reach the church ofice at 245-9157 or calvary1238@gmail.com.




**Merry Christmas**
May the love of Christ fill your heart
and your home as you enjoy
this Christmas season.

**Calvary Baptist Church**
**1238 Pine Street – Kingsport, Tennessee 37664**
**423-245-9157**
http://www.calvaryofkpt.org

Pastor: Dr. Donnie C. Brannen
Associate Pastor/Music, Ed: Rev. D. Mikel Caywood
Youth Director: Harrison Ihrig
Secretary: Shirley Sullivan
Pianist: Debbie Johnson
Keyboard: Lemuel Mixon
Drummer: Jeff Sturgill
Webmaster: Dana Caywood

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# The Cross and Compass

Matthew 28:19-20

**Vol. VXX No. 12** **December 17, 2024**

## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Morning Worship (Sanctuary)

## TUESDAY SCHEDULE
12:00 Noon Sr. Adult Bible Study & Lunch (CH)

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE
6:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting (CH)
Konnect Kidz & CBC Youth Activities
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – Nursery provided

## WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME

It is my hope and prayer that you and yours are having a wonderful Christmas season. Christmas is a joyous season, but it can also be a stressful time. I have learned that when the stress of the season comes upon me, it's usually because I'm focused on the wrong things, and I need to refocus my attention on the reason for the season, the Lord Jesus. I have certainly been blessed by our worship services this month, as we have sung the songs of Christmas and celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior.

And it's not over yet! This coming Sunday, December 15 in our 10:30 worship, we will be blessed by our choir's presentation of the Christmas cantata *Love Made A Way*. This is the first cantata we've had since before Covid, and the choir has been working diligently on it. I am so looking forward to this time of worship together. Be here and invite an unchurched friend!

On December 18, we will convene a very important business Jmeeting (postponed from November) as the church budget for 2025 will be presented, discussed, amended if necessary, and voted upon. There will be no Wednesday services after that business meeting until January 8.

Then, on the Sunday before Christmas, December 22, I will finish the message I began last Sunday on "The Greatest Gift of All" from Isaiah 9:6. Heidi and I will then make our way to Cincinnati to spend Christmas with our boys and Elizabeth and Caleb at the Ronald McDonald House. Titan has done well with his trio of surgeries, the last one on December 3, and Connor is scheduled for surgery on December 31. We will be bringing Titan and Daniel back here so that Elizabeth can focus on Connor's recovery. We are hoping that they will all be back here by February. Pray to that end!

The Christmas Eve Service will take place on December 24 at 5:00 P.M. As I will be away, Harrison stepped up and took on the assignment of this service and has been planning it for some time. I don't know exactly what he has planned, but I am confident that it will be edifying and inspiring!

I will be away on December 29, and Harrison will be filling the pulpit that Sunday. Caleb will be preaching on January 5, and we will have the Christian Motorcycle Association (of which Russell Ratliff is a member) with us in our service on January 12. I am hoping to celebrate the ordinance of baptism on January 26.

I am praying for all of us a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy new year.

Numbers 6:24-26,

Bro. Donnie

### January Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| 3 Waymon Ferrell | 12 Susan Hudson |
| 4 Russell Ratliff | 14 Robin Collins |
| 6 Tina Shanks | 18 Jim Wood |
| 6 Mike Trent | 23 Tommy Ashworth |
| 7 Alton Trent | 23 Stacy Miller |
| 11 Marlene Allen | 29 Carolyn Coates |

**Happy Birthday to each of you. May your day be as special to you as you are to your church family. If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office.**

**2025 Offering Envelopes are available in the Church Office**. If you need a box of numbered envelopes for the new year, please contact Shirley at the church office. Envelopes will only be distributed by request.

Collections for the **Lottie Moon Offering** for foreign missions will continue through the month of December. Please **PRAY** and **GIVE** as God leads.

**FINANCIAL GIVING in 2024** is coming to a close. In order to receive credit for your contributions in 2024, all gifts must be received in the church office by 12:00 Noon on Monday, December 30, 2024.

On Tuesday, December 24, our Christmas Eve Service will begin at 5:00 P.M., led by Harrison Ihrig.

The Senior Adult Bible Study will not meet again until after the New Year.

This is perhaps one of the hardest letters I have ever written because it is to inform you of my decision to resign as secretary of Calvary Baptist Church effective December 31, 2024.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here and I appreciate having the opportunity to work with all of you. Thank you for the support, guidance, and encouragement you have provided during my time at Calvary. I have made so many friends and I have come to love all of you. You have been a blessing to me and my family. I pray that I have served this congregation and our Lord in a pleasing and honorable way.

So, while I look forward to new challenges that may come my way, I will miss all of you very much. Please remember me in your prayers. Thanks again for every good and kind thing you have done for me, but thanks most of all for the friendships I have made and the memories I will take with me!

In Christian love,
Jennifer Ramey

### Church Office Closures

The church office will be closed the following days in honor of the Christmas and New Year's holidays:

- Wednesday, December 25
- Thursday, December 26
- Wednesday, January 1

There will be no newsetter published the week of Christmas.

A big **THANK YOU** for the beautiful Christmas decorations, throughout the church. CBC is a beautiful church, especially at Christmas. Our decorating team, Lesa Gardner, Karen Gilmore, Beverly Rorrer and Stan Carver did an awesome job. Also, THANKS to the Melton Family for decorating our Christmas tree.

**A JOB WELL DONE!**