PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ILL AT HOME & RECOVERING:
Pat Anderson, Tommy Ashworth, Joe & Merri Bolden, Hagan Bowen, Jennifer Byington, Joel & Rhea Calloway, Aaron Carroll, Dana Caywood, Gary Coates, Susie Coates, Ricky Copas, Ron Edwards, Regina Estepp, Toni Gibson, Ruth Gott, Mark Herndon, Daniel & Titan Horne, Susan Hudson, Grant & Nancy Lawson, Glenda Livesay, Jessica McMurray, Patty Melton, Susan Owenby, Evangeline Roberts, Kelly Robinson, Lula Rogers, Barbara Smith, Christine Smith, Opal Vaughn, Robert Walls, Wilma Washington, Daphine Winegar

NON-MEDICAL PRAYER NEEDS
The LOST, BS2, Our Country, Our Schools, Bob & Celeste Gailey, George Kasibante & Uganda Orphange, California Fires, Donna Bardsley

HOSPITAL/PROCEDURES
Baleigh Gardner

Valentine Cards: Friends of Calvary Baptist Church are invited to remind our shut-ins that we value and love them. One way to do that is to send them valentines as many have not been able to attend services in person for some time. Below are the names and addresses for our shut-ins. In this age of digital communication, handwritten notes and cards are a special treat. Thank you for sharing the love!

Peggy Harber
Gray Life Care Center
791 Old Gray Station Rd.
Gray, TN 37615

Billie Orrick
5541 Kiowa
Kingsport, TN 37664

Tony & Linda England
840 Ridgefields Road
Kingsport, TN 37660

Charlotte Lemons
Wexford House
2421 N. John B. Dennis Hwy.
Kingsport, TN 37660

Eddie McDavid
905 Birch Street
Kingsport, TN 37664

Vonda Gardner
1126 Watauga Street
Kingsport, TN 37660

Betty Sproles
710 Ross Street
Kingsport, TN 37664

Marlene Allen
920 Teasel Dr. Apt. 4
Kingsport, TN 37660

Patsy Cumbow
932 Afton Street
Kingsport, TN 37660

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. I No. 2 **January 27, 2025**

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

GOODBYE JANUARY!!!

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHALLENGE 2025

This past Sunday, I challenged the church to make 2025 a year of hiding God's Word in our hearts, and I introduced my latest book, *Memory, Melody and Meditation,* written as a resource for that process of Scripture memorization. The following is the introduction to that book. You do not have to have the book to participate in the Scripture Memory Challenge. I will be publishing each week's memory verses in the bulletin and on our church Facebook page. If you would like the book, we will have copies available on Sunday. If you would prefer a Kindle copy, they are available in the Kindle Store.

As a Southern Baptist pastor of almost 40 years, there are a number of Scriptures that I know from memory. Some of them I can quote word perfect, such as the passages I routinely read at graveside services. Others I can recite fairly accurately, maybe not word for word, but at least concept for concept. But that knowledge has come about not by design, but just in the process of doing ministry, preaching the Word, and spending time in devotional Bible reading.

Like most people, I believed that I just wasn't cut out for memorization. I had embarked on efforts to memorize Bible verses in the past, but found the process both tedious and frustrating. The effort never seemed to pay off; the verse that I spent days memorizing and could quote perfectly today would be completely lost in a couple of weeks. I thought, maybe I'm too old for memory work.

Or is it that I'm too old for *lack* of memory work? Neuroscientists are publishing studies all the time showing that the more we challenge our brains with memorization (and what better subject is there to memorize than the Word of God?), the more of our memory function we retain as we age. Memory is like a muscle; the more it's worked, the stronger it becomes, and the less it's worked, the more it atrophies.

One day last summer, I was riding in my car listening to one of my favorite radio stations, Sirius XM's 70s on 7, playing all the hits from my teenage years, and I realized that there are very few songs played on that station, many of them 50 years old or more, that I cannot sing line by line, with absolute recall of the lyrics. I was convicted. I know a lot more secular song lyrics than Scriptures.

I recalled that Integrity Music, back in the 90s, had brought out a series of cassettes called "Scripture Memory Songs." Apparently, they didn't sell well at the time, because I found a number of them in a bargain bin at the Christian bookstore one day, and I scooped them up, thinking I would use them. But I didn't, at least not back then.

I found those old cassettes, and was thrilled to find that the whole series is available on all the major streaming services: Spotify, YouTube Music, and Amazon music. I set about working on memorizing the Scripture passages aided by those Scripture-lyric songs, which I played exclusively during my commute of 20 minutes a day. That usually gave me time to listen to the song twice in the morning and twice in the afternoon going to work and returning home. What a marvelous experience I have had committing Scripture to memory through song!

I also felt led in my process to write a meditation/devotion on the passages of Scripture that I was memorizing. Getting a better understanding of the meaning of the verses, rather than just memorizing words in a sequence, made the process much easier. Over the last few months, I find that often, when I awake at night or first thing in the morning, my current target Scriptures are playing on the jukebox of my mind, rather than some long ago lover's lament from the 70s.

Another resource that has proven invaluable to me has been the VerseLocker app for my phone. Besides having some practice exercises to help in the process of memorization, it allows you to import Scriptures from various translations. The Scripture Memory Songs are taken from a number of translations, but the most common one is the 1984 version of the New International Version. The NIV was updated in 2011, but I am not a fan of the update. I still prefer the NIV84, which is thankfully available on VerseLocker.

I want to challenge you to a year-long journey of Scripture memorization. If you commit to this challenge, you will learn 48 songs (one song a week, with a review week every 12 weeks), representing 119 verses of Scripture. The songs and Scriptures cover the topics of anxiety, God's grace, encouragement, God's guidance, and spiritual warfare.

Numbers 6:24-26,

Bro. Donnie

FEBRUARY

1	Wallace Nelms	19	Terry Skelton
5	Ryan Barton	21	Kathey Haynes
6	Joel Calloway	24	Noah Caywood
11	Dana Crismond	26	Betty Welch
12	Yvonne Raden	26	Paul Adedokun
19	Hagan Bowen	28	Betty Sproles

Happy Birthday to each of you!

Thank you for the generous donation of 115 boxes of cereal that were included in food boxes distributed to families served by the KCS Homeless Educaion Program and Family Resource Center before winter break.

FINANCIAL UPDATE	
Weekly Requirements	$ 7,026.67
Undesignated – January 26, 2025	$ 12,041.05
Savings – January 26, 2025	$ 00.00

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.

2024 Giving Statements are Ready! It's year-end giving statement time. If you have an active email address on file with the church, your statement was sent to you on January 27th. If you do not have an email address, your statement may be picked up from the church office Monday thru Thursday, 9A – 2P. Upon request only, your statement may be mailed to you. Have questions, please contact Jennifer at calvary1238@gmail.com or 863-4599.