



# The Friendly News

Calvary Baptist Church



**January & February 2017**



## **The Pastor's Corner**

Happy New Year all!

What a year 2016 has been for Calvary! We acknowledge God's goodness for all those joyful experiences. We also faced challenges with a big heart ever dependent on the all-embracing and eternal Friend and Cheerleader Jesus Christ! In our journey together in the ministry of our Lord, we were, at times, afraid, and anxious, but never wavered in our faith that our ministry would not fail. From the youngest child to the oldest, we have put our best effort to move Calvary forward, knowing God's amazing presence in our lives. We look back at 2016 with smiles on our faces and a sense of contentment in our hearts knowing that we all worked hard, and God was by our side. As mortal beings, we have grieved together at the passing of our beloved members but are at peace because the memories of their faithful work in the church remain alive in our hearts. God's promise never fails. God was with us throughout the past year. God promises to be with us, God is, and will be. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your faithfulness, and together, let us thank God for bringing us this far.

May the Word that has made the world to come alive continue to give us life.

In the ancient past, words mattered as life. Spoken words were for the enhancement of personal and social life. Words were regarded in many societies as the medium of healing, pardon, and reconciliation. That's why there are accounts in the Bible where people who heard the Gospel were transformed. Jesus the incarnate Word, the *Logos* transcends words because he was in the beginning, and was with God, and was God, and in him was life and light for all living beings (John 1:1-3).



May the Light that has come penetrate the darkest corners of our world (John 1:4-5).

In the midst of a dark and violent world, where wars are taking innocent lives everyday, concerns in the families, sicknesses, distrusts and uncertainties, Christ the Light shines brightening the dark places in our lives and the world. In all human imperfections, God still uses willing hearts to witness to this light. These willing hearts are like those whom prophet Isaiah and apostle Paul talks about: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation” (Isaiah 52:7; Rom. 10:15). They are those who go the extra mile to meet the needs of others, and making known the love of Christ. No matter who we are, being beautiful in God’s sight comes from the heart that is seen in the work that we do. Let it be our prayer that we live justly, trusting, and hoping in the God of the coming years unfolding before us.

Wishing you joy, peace and deep fulfillment as we walk another year TOGETHER.

Rev. Atula Jamir



## The Dawning of a New Year—2017

In the secular world we await the dawning of a new year with festive celebrations of fireworks, balls dropping, champagne, kisses at midnight, bells ringing out the old year, and other traditions. It is a festive time.

In the Christian faith we are in Christmastide and moving toward the season of Epiphany. I have always loved this season. It is the season when the Christian faith celebrates the coming of the Magi to visit Jesus. In the Christian Church, we view this event as the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles. We are the recipients of this wonderful light that enters our life anew with the dawning of each new day.

As I look back over the year that has been, I am thinking about those related to our faith community who have gone to that “land that is fairer than day”. You might reflect on the gifts that these folks exercised in the church over the years.

- ◇ Janice Anaskevich
- ◇ Jack Cheney
- ◇ Esther Elkins
- ◇ Sylvia Lehman
- ◇ Lois Lilly
- ◇ Elaine Sleeter
- ◇ Ruth Sullivan

During this month of January I am remembering the death of my own father 60 years ago. I often reflect on his goodness to folks in simple ways, trying to make life easier for them. There was no fanfare to the deeds of kindness that he spread abroad.

As the book of Hebrews points (Chapter 12), these folks continue to surround us as a great cloud of witnesses. In this



season of light I remember these folks and so many more who have influenced our church in so many ways.

As we move into this new year of opportunity in our church let us keep our eyes focused on Jesus, the light of the world. In these days when the world seems so dark, filled with the folks who have kept alive the spirit of Herod and the killing of innocents, we need to keep our heart focused on the light that Jesus continues to bring into the world. In fact, the church is called to be that light in the dark corners of our family systems, our neighborhoods, our communities, our nation, our world, and our environment. We know that one candle can light a room. So think about how one life, your life, can make a difference in your sphere of influence.

At the dawning of 2017, think about the light that you might spread.

- ◇ You might listen to a young person in our church read their homework story. Remember some of their parents cannot read English.
- ◇ You might invite someone to share your table for a meal.
- ◇ You might make an extra gift to our church as we have voted a high deficit budget and we need to keep our cash flow strong.
- ◇ You might invite a friend to worship with you.
- ◇ You might visit one of our homebound friends.
- ◇ You might send a note to someone who needs a word of encouragement.

May God's light flood our days,

Hazel Ann Roper, Moderator



## **Our New Year's Commitments to God**

As we get ready to bring in this new year of 2017, we begin to think about New Year's Resolutions. Most resolutions are about personal improvement, some common ones are:

- \* Stay fit and healthy
- \* Spend less, save more
- \* Get organized
- \* Lose weight
- \* Travel

We make these resolutions with the best of intentions, but as January moves into February then March; our zeal for them seems to wane and we fall back into old habits. While the above promises are great, there are even better pledges we could be making to God. These kinds of resolutions would not only improve your life, but those around you as well. After all, without God, we would accomplish none of them at all. Want a fail-safe New Year's resolution? Try a few listed below.

- ◇ Be kind.
- ◇ Practice patience.
- ◇ Make a new friend/get in touch with an old friend.
- ◇ Volunteer.
- ◇ Read the Bible/seek guidance in Scripture.
- ◇ Say "Thank you."
- ◇ Say "I love you."
- ◇ Practice courteousness.
- ◇ Spread your light, everywhere you go.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if we all had New Year's resolutions like these?

Catherine Niemi—Church Secretary



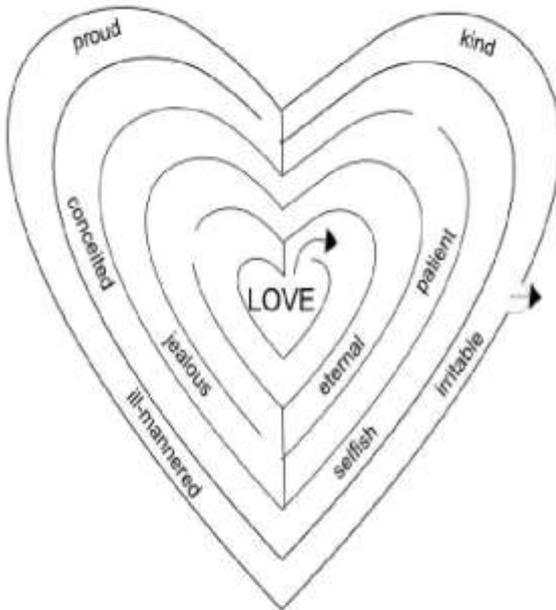
# Celebrate Valentine's Day February 14th with this Bible Puzzle Love Maze!

## Bible Puzzle Love Maze

1 Corinthians 13 is called the love chapter because its words describe how to show love to others. Some of these words are in this maze.

Draw a path through the maze from the center to the right side. Some of the words will be crossed out by the line you draw.

If a word is not crossed out, write it in the "LOVE IS" list.  
If a word is crossed out, write it in the "LOVE IS NOT" list.



LOVE IS

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LOVE IS NOT

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How will you show love in these ways?

# Amazon



Remember to remind your friends to purchase their Amazon products by going to our web site. This is an easy way for you to help our church. The income through this means has decreased this year. If you use smile our church receives less than when you use the account set up through our web site: [www.cbclowell.org](http://www.cbclowell.org). This is an easy way

to increase the income to our church. Thank you!



Want to get rid of those old Amazon boxes without cluttering up our landfills? Thanks to a partnership between Amazon and Goodwill, now you can clear out your household clutter and donate to charity at the same time. Under the Give Back Box program you can donate items you no longer want, and ship them for free to Goodwill. Empty your old Amazon shipping box, fill the box with clothing, accessories, and household goods you no longer want. Then print your free shipping label at [GiveBackBox.com](http://GiveBackBox.com). Drop off your box to UPS or the post office. They'll deliver it to the nearest participating Goodwill store. Goodwill sells the donations and the revenues help support employment placement, job training and other community-based services.



# Call to Annual Meeting 2017



Calvary Baptist Church  
60 Hastings St  
Lowell, Massachusetts 01851

To the Members of Calvary Baptist Church

Lowell, Massachusetts

Greetings:

The members of Calvary Baptist Church are hereby notified of the annual meeting of the Church, to be held January 22, 2017 with a snow date of January 29, 2017 at 12:30 PM in the Dows Chapel of the Church, located at 60 Hastings St Lowell, Massachusetts.

We will act on the following:

- Article I      Reports of Church Officers, Boards and Committees
- Article II      Reports of Special Committees.  
                    A first reading in relation to potential changes in the constitution by-laws.
- Article III     Review of the Budget for 2017  
                    (vote was taken and passed at a Special Meeting on November 20, 2016).
- Article IV     Elect members to fill unfilled slots left  
                    from the special meeting of November 20, 2016.
- Article V      Any other business that may properly be presented at this meeting.

Beverly Cruz  
Clerk

December 15, 2016

# Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated on Monday, January 16, 2017. Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and a leader and activist in the African-American Civil Rights Movement. Here are a few words of wisdom from him to think over as we prepare to celebrate this day.

- ◇ “Faith is taking the first step even when you can’t see the whole staircase.”
- ◇ “Only in the darkness can you see the stars.”
- ◇ “Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a constant attitude.”
- ◇ “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”
- ◇ “We must live together as brothers or perish together as fools.”
- ◇ “If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.”
- ◇ “Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

# Think Before You Toss



Most people have one or more pet peeves. Here is one that often occurs in my life. As you know, Calvary has no sexton so it is up to everyone to take responsibility for keeping our church clean. My job often includes emptying waste baskets.

One of the tough things to deal with is cups that are tossed with left over coffee or juice or even water.

If I see them, I empty them before they make a mess by leaving a liquid trail as I move the garbage bag. So please, think before you toss.



A related pet peeve relates to water bottles and soda cans. Sometimes these also have liquid in them, which is not so bad unless they are open cans. These need to be recycled so that they don't end up in the trash. I and others do the recycling here, diverting what we can from land fills. Again, think before you toss or take the left over water with you.

Thanks for helping dispel my pet peeves and for helping to keep our church as clean as possible.

*Hazel A. Roper*

*Moderator*



# Happenings



## **Happenings**

Sunday Worship **10:45am**

Calvary Baptist Church Annual Meeting:  
Sunday January 22, 2017.

Help wanted—Deacon’s Minutes! If anyone has Deacon’s Minutes from 1994-2002, please let the church office know. Maybe you can help us fill this gap in our records. These minutes help us prepare for the 150th anniversary in 2019.

January 16 7:00pm—Deacons, elected at the November special meeting, meet in Friendship Room.

Plan Ahead—Lent begins March 1 with Ash Wednesday. Watch for announcements in the Sunday bulletin, website, and Facebook. Sunday hospitality following worship. Please contact the church office if you are willing to take a turn at providing refreshments for Sunday School and Coffee Time.



## In The Community

January 5, 2017—The Pollard Library Non-fiction Book Club happens on the first Thursday of every month. The discussions are free and open to the public. Copies of books to be discussed are available to borrow on a first come first serve basis at the Information Desk on the 1st floor of the Library. Or you can reserve your copy by calling 978-674-4121. Please have your library card ready. For more information go to

**[www.pollardml.org](http://www.pollardml.org)**.

January 7, 2017 10:30am—Sesame Street Live is coming to Lowell! No matter where you're from or where you've been, everyone is special—so join in! Elmo, Grover, Abby Cadabby, and their Sesame Street friends welcome Chamki, Grover's friend from India, to Sesame Street. Together, they explore the universal fun of friendship and celebrate cultural similarities, from singing and dancing, to sharing cookies! Join the fun and make a memory with your friends and family! Lowell Memorial Auditorium 50 E Merrimack Street, Lowell MA 01852. Additional dates: January 7, 2:00pm. January 8, 1:00pm & 4:30pm.

**[www.lowellauditorium.com](http://www.lowellauditorium.com)**

January 18, 2017 6:00pm—Free Citizenship class at the Pollard Memorial Library in Lowell. January 18-March 22, Wednesdays, 6:00pm. Do you want to be a U.S. Citizen? We want to help. Learn all you need to know to pass the exam, all in our safe, friendly and free 10-week program. E-mail Gail at **[gcpf42@yahoo.com](mailto:gcpf42@yahoo.com)** or go to

**[www.pollardml.org/services/citizenship](http://www.pollardml.org/services/citizenship)** for more information.

The 8th annual Chili Cook Off returns to Harvard Square on Saturday, February 6th 2017 1:00pm-2:30pm. Join us for this fabulous, festive and free outdoor winter event! Brattle Plaza, 31 Brattle Street, Cambridge Massachusetts 02138.



## Children's Christmas Celebration

2016 Children's Christmas Celebration

Organized by Calvary Baptist Church and TeensAlive Ministry.



Christmas is one of those special holidays filled with joy and excitement. At Calvary Baptist Church, Sunday school children, members of TeensAlive ministry, and

friends celebrate a Children's Christmas Celebration. Each child receives gifts and is served delicious food. This year we packed gifts for 80 children from the youngest of 4 months old to the oldest of 18 years. In spite of the inclement weather, 50 children attended the event. Thank you White Cross – American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Your kindness brought smiles to our children's faces, and helped show the deep meaning of the birth of Jesus and His love for us. We also want to thank the Cambodian American Voice of Peace Church for your generous gifts. I would also like to greatly thank the following people who have worked many hours wrapping and purchasing gifts, and giving rides to our children: Marcia Long, Kelli Burns, Faye Roberts, John Tellier, Jan Bean Land, Kanya Sao, Thang Thung, Ko Ko Lay. We look forward to seeing you all in 2017. May the Good God our creator and most loving one always walk with you.

Mangyang Imsong



## January Birthdays

Chea Sok—1/1

Cheyenne Lacoy—1/2

Sinob Ly—1/5

Harry Silva—1/8

Laurie Douillette—1/9

Nathan Pich—1/13

Peter Sar—1/15

John R. McGaughey—1/24

Janice Strong—1/27

Winnie Nyirasaba—1/1

Chanthavy Myles—1/2

R Bradford Connelly—1/6

Jocelyn Strong—1/8

Timothy So—1/11

Frank Crowther—1/13

Irene Bitegetsimana—1/17

Gail Donahue—1/25

Cheryl Sareault—1/28

## February Birthdays

Prince Bitegetsimana—2/1

Mark Palo—2/3

Many Long—2/6

Lukas Noel—2/7

Kea Keo—2/11

Peter Tellier 2/11

George Garmon—2/21

Jonathan Suon—2/24

Peter Gibson—2/1

Lynda Sar—2/5

Ounsy Kuoch Seng—2/7

Phean Sar—2/9

Eric Harmon—2/11

Janet Paton—2/13

Marcia Long—2/21

Lensa Imsong—2/24



**A very warm Happy Birthday from all of us at Calvary!**

*Please contact the church office if we have missed anyone.*

# Calvary Baptist Church

60 Hastings St, Lowell, MA 01851



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