

Crosspoints

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2019



CALVARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

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Asheville, NC 28806

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Custodian

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Wonders Everywhere

There are wonders everywhere. Sometimes, we are wide-awake and wide-open to them: we look long enough and lovingly enough to see, and we listen unhurriedly enough and expectantly enough to hear. We are humble enough to set-aside the preconceptions which keep us from new discoveries, and we make ourselves vulnerable to the possibility that we might be changed by what we experience. We trust that, because this is God's world, it will speak to us of God's glory and generosity; and that, because people are made in God's image, they will show us something of God's creativity and beauty.

Sometimes, though, we live amid wonders which we fail to notice. Impatience and familiarity blind us; preoccupation and distraction deafen us; defensiveness and fear armor our hearts. Mystery walks by, but we miss it. Beauty's fragrance fills the air, but our noses are to the grindstone, and we don't take in its sweetness. Love draws near, and we hurry past it. Life grows grimmer and dimmer; it becomes emptier and lonelier. We learn just how right Wendell Berry was when he said, "To treat life as less than a miracle is to give up on it" (*Life is a Miracle: An Essay Against Modern Superstition*, p. 10).

I invite us to give up the habits of mind and heart which keep us from noticing, marveling at, and giving thanks for the wonders which surround us. Let's ask the Holy Spirit to "cleanse the doors of perception," so that we can see, hear, smell, touch, and taste the goodness of God, the beauty of God's creation, and the joy of God's presence.

That phrase—"to cleanse the doors of perception"—comes from the poet William Blake, who wrote: "If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is, infinite. For man has closed himself up, till he sees all things thru' narrow chinks of his cavern" (from his poem, "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell"). The Spirit wants to free us from the narrow chinks of the cavern in which we live, and show us the infinite glory which shines from finite things and, especially, from our finite lives and experience.

Continued on next page

Dates to Remember

Sunday, February 3

Guest: Mary Caldwell

Tuesday, February 5

12:00 The Broken Way

Wednesday, February 6

6:00 Bible Study & Snack Dinner

Sunday, January 10

“Follow Jesus to Grace”

Guy Sayles

Monday, February 11

6:00 Leadership Team Meeting

Tuesday, February 12

12:00 The Broken Way

6:30 Deacons Meeting

Saturday, February 16

10:00 Women’s Breakfast @

Happy Hill Restaurant

Sunday, February 17

“Share Love Persuasively”

Guy Sayles

Tuesday, February 19

12:00 The Broken Way

Sunday, February 24

Guest: Terry Hamrick

Communion

Tuesday, February 26

12:00 The Broken Way

Wednesdays at 7:15:

Choir Rehearsal

Continued from previous page

There are, indeed, wonders everywhere, wonders which God joyfully and generously gives to gladden and fill our lives. The resurrection of Jesus is the fullest and brightest expression of God’s wonder; we celebrate that resurrection, not just on Easter Sunday, but every time we gather to worship the Risen Lord—every time we allow ourselves to be “lost in wonder, love, and praise.”

Grace and peace,
Guy

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

1 Chronicles 16:34

THE BROKEN WAY STUDY

We will be continuing our study on The Broken Way on Tuesdays at noon in the Candler Center Conference Room, several of us will gather to read and discuss this book. We invite all who are interested to join us. Please see Melody Bell or call her at 828 699-1202 if you have

ANN VOSKAMP
New York Times bestselling author

THE
BROKEN
WAY

a daring path into the abundant life



LEADERSHIP TEAM JANUARY MINUTES

Dan Bradshaw opened with our devotional. Prayer requests were made for the sick. The minutes were approved.

Doley Bell will be the Moderator for Business meetings. Our By-laws will be checked for any changes needed.

Lennie Thornton will be the chair for the Leadership Team. He gave the treasurers end of the year report and we are doing good.

Steve Mills has Dan Bradshaw, Frank Richardson and Sam Hocking helping him.

Dan Bradshaw reported that Wilma Lindsey is moving to Linda Vista.

One of the church vans will be sold. An offer was made of \$850.

Butch Stillwell has made 67 contacts and driven about 209 miles this past month. He will be attending the Deacon’s meeting on Jan. 15.

Our new sub committees for 2019:

Operations: Fred Duyck, Doley Bell and Steve Mills.

Governance: Jennie Dalton and Dan Bradshaw

Strategy and Ministry: Rick Green and Lennie Thornton

The CD renewal has been done for another year for the Brooks-Hendricks fund in Edward Jones.

Bruce Farlow said that the shut-in bags were delivered in December.

Guy Sayles said that we need to think about: Worship, Following God, Exploring our Mission statement for the future.

Leadership Team meetings will continue to be on the 2nd Monday of the month.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully, Jennie Dalton, Church Clerk