

# Crosspoints

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH



**CALVARY**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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## **MISSING FACES**

Over the past several months, we have been talking about reaching out to folks who have been missing in our congregation. One of those folks could have been you at some point. When you have been out sick, had surgery or been with a loved one because they were sick, has anyone called, sent a card, or visited? Christ wants us to be the hands and feet to those who are **missing**.

How is it going in reaching out to the **missing faces**? One of our members I visited recently shared that he had no family except Calvary folks. He shared how he used to ride the church van for many years helping to pick up folks who had no ride. He said, "I still love my church and will always depend on them to visit me." Another member, who recently turned 99 years young, shared with me one day, "I love my church and love it when I get cards and visits from my Calvary friends." These are only a few of the comments I have gotten. Thank you for your contacts!

Let us always be alert and aware of those **missing faces**, knowing at times it could be one of us.

Keep being the extended hand of Christ to those **missing**.

**Proverbs 17:17** says, "A friend loves at all times".

# Dates to Remember

Wednesday, May 1

6:00 PM Bible Study and Prayer  
Group

7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 5

9:30 Sunday School

11:00 Worship

Wednesday, May 8

7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 12

9:30 Sunday School

11:00 Worship

Monday, May 13

6:30 Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 15

7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 19

9:30 Sunday School

Continuing Ministry Conversation

11:00 Worship

Monday, May 20

6:00 Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, May 22

7:15 Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 26

9:30 Sunday School

11:00 Worship

Wednesday, May 29

**“Be strong, and  
let your heart take  
courage, all you  
who wait for the**

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

As you know, my time at Mars Hill University will soon end. My contract extends into the summer, and I will have some meetings to attend and some administrative tasks to complete, but my last significant day is Graduation on May 11.

The University has asked me to speak at commencement, and I'm both honored by the opportunity and daunted by the responsibility. It's such a significant day of celebration for the graduates, for their families, and for the faculty and staff who've invested in them. Even though I know that almost no one remembers what a commencement speaker says (or, even, who she or he was!), I still to say something which affirms the students' achievements, blesses them for their futures, and acknowledges the people who have helped bring them to that joyful moment.

In many ways, preaching is like speaking at a commencement. After not -so-long, the words of a sermon fade from memory. Even if the words get remembered, people often confuse who spoke them. I've had people quote my words back to me but attribute them, variously, to Billy Graham, Cecil Sherman (one of my predecessors at First Baptist Church), Oprah, Max Lucado, and a variety of others!

People have thanked me for words I never said (a testimony, I think, to the Spirit's speaking what folks need to hear, even if I don't manage to say it); and, of course, also fussed at me about words that weren't mine.

There have been plenty of times when people have disagreed with me, sometimes sharply. Such disagreements are almost always healthy, because each of us is free and responsible to determine what we believe and how we live. We can't dictate those things to each other. A pastor isn't infallible, and we learn together from vigorous and respectful debate.

When I preach, I want people to feel, think, and make decisions; I want to engage hearts, minds, and wills. I don't expect people to remember very many of my words. What I hope, instead, is that my words will help heal their hearts, illumine their ideas, and inspire their living. It's what my words *do*, not whether they lodge in people's memories, that matters.

I think Maya Angelou was right: "People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel." What I want people to feel, most of all, is that they are God's children in whom God takes great delight and that they can trust that God will give them everything they need to live the lives God calls them to live.