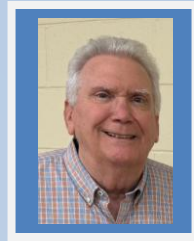




Greetings, Calvary Family!  
Let's CONNECT this month!  
January 1, 2026-- #81

Dear Calvary Family,

### *Pastor's Paragraph*



#### **Looking Ahead with Hope**

As we step into 2026, many Southern Baptist churches are walking through a season of transition. Some congregations are smaller than they once were. Others are praying through the process of calling a new pastor. Others are relocating. These moments can feel uncertain--but they are also moments where God often does His deepest work.

The Bible reminds us, "*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it*" (1 Thessalonians 5:34). The Lord who planted our church has not stepped away from it. He is still present, still guiding, and still faithful.

#### **To the Faithful Few Who Continue to Serve**

Commitment matters in a smaller Southern Baptist congregation. Showing up, praying, giving, and serving--these are not small things. God has always used faithful people, not large crowds, to accomplish His purposes.

Jesus said, "*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them*" (Matthew 18:20). A church's strength is not measured by attendance, but by its faithfulness to Christ and His mission.

This season may require courage and a willingness to move forward together, trusting God for what lies ahead rather than holding tightly to what once was.

#### **Seeking God's Wisdom in Calling New Leadership**

The search for a new pastor is not just a committee task--it is a church-wide calling. Scripture gives us this promise: "*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally...and it shall be given him*" (James 1:5).

This is a time for united prayer. Pray for clarity. Pray for wisdom. Pray for the man God is already preparing to shepherd Calvary Baptist. And pray for hearts that are open to God's leading, even when the path forward feels unfamiliar. When our church prays together, it stands firmly on the foundation God provides.

#### **A Call to Action for 2026**

As you move into this new year, we encourage every member to take an active step forward:


- **Commit to pray daily** for your church and for God's direction in calling new leadership.
- **Support one another faithfully**, showing grace, unity, and encouragement during this season
- **Engage in the mission** God has placed before you--loving your community, sharing the gospel, and serving with joy.
- **Trust God fully**, believing His promise: "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart...and he shall direct thy paths*" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Maintaining good church health is not about reclaiming the past. It is about faithfully stepping in to the future God is shaping right now.

As 2026 begins, be encouraged. The future is bright--not because the road is easy, but because the Lord is faithful. With prayerful hearts and obedient steps, Calvary Baptist church can move forward together into all that God has prepared.

-- Pastor Steve

# CHURCH CALENDAR for JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURS	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
* = birthday today	<b>"Pray for 5" every day!</b>					
<b>Jeremiah 29:11</b> - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.				<b>1</b> 2026	<b>2</b>	<b>3 8:30 AM</b> Baptist Men (breakfast incl)
<b>4</b> SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM  AWANA--5:30-7 PM (triple buck night)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7 6:30 PM</b> Meal & devotions	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 *</b> SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM (communion) AWANA--5:30-7 PM (snowball night)	<b>12 *</b> 6:30 PM WMU-- Meal & program	<b>13</b>	<b>14 6:30 PM</b> Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 - Choir Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16 *</b>	<b>17 *</b>
<b>18 *</b> SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM  AWANA--5:30-7 PM (crazy sock night)	<b>19</b>	<b>20 *</b>	<b>21 6:30 PM</b> Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 - Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> SS, 9:45 AM Worship @ 11:00 AM  AWANA--5:30-7 PM (Tex-Mex night)	<b>26 6:00 PM</b> Deacons' meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28 6:30 PM</b> Prayer & Bible Study 7:30 - Choir Practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>



**11 ... Jacob Livengood ....** 910 Rochelle St., Kannapolis 28081  
**12 ... Patty Whitley .....** 106 S. Rose Ave., Kannapolis 28083  
**16 ... Bob McVay .....** 5320 Mooresville Rd., Kannapolis 28081  
**17 ... Bill Page .....** 5028 Copper Creek Trail, Kannapolis 28081  
**18 ... Becky Mullins .....** 6311 Miller Rd., Kannapolis 28081  
**20 ... Caleb Foster .....** 4221 Barfield St., Concord 28027



Thank you for praying for last month's "5".  
This month we will remember these 5 in our prayers:

Pastor Steve Sells Jody Wright John Zelm Danny & Patty Whitley



TOGETHER...Calvary Baptist not only reached its goal of \$3500, but *exceeded* it! Thank you for your heart in giving to missions and supporting the needs of those who are around the world sharing the gospel, planting churches, and making strong disciples for the Kingdom of God.



**Isaiah 43:18–19 NLT** *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. For I am about to do something **new**. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.*

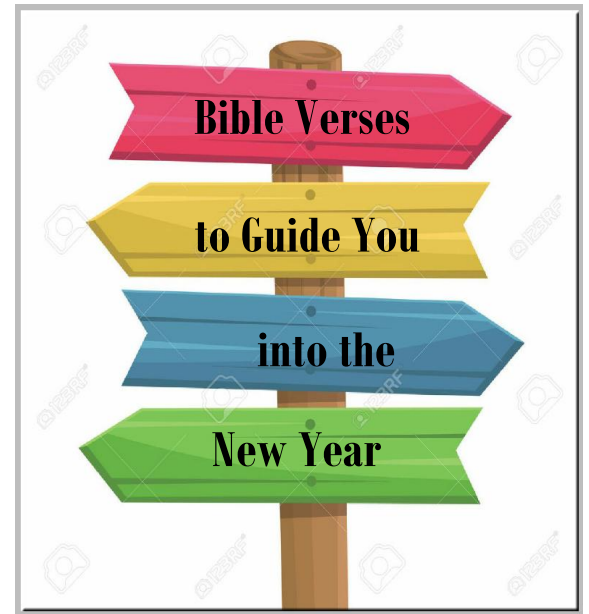
**Ephesians 4:22-24** *To put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be **renewed** in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the **new** self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Proverbs 3:5-6** *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.*

**John 13:34-35** *A **new** command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

**1 Chronicles 16:8-11** *Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.*

**Colossians 3:16-17** *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*



Please call in any prayer requests, praises, news, events or other notifications for the CONNECT letter to Gradetta (text or voicemail -- 704-425-6804)