

CELEBRATING

90

YEARS





Calvary Caller:
Celebrating 90 Years

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"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

- Ephesians 3:20-21, NKJV

COME SERVE GO
TOGETHER

Calvary Baptist Church is located in the heart of downtown Tupelo, MS. With small groups, local missions, mission trips abroad, and special events throughout the year, there are many opportunities for all ages to **COME TOGETHER** to **connect, serve, grow, and go** with us — for the glory of the Lord! We invite you to join us in worship!

FOR HIS GLORY—

On May 8, 1935, Calvary Baptist Church was officially established. The first meeting was held at Tupelo High School, now Milam Elementary, with 103 people in attendance. Calvary was founded by members of First Baptist Church. While the early days were difficult and painful, the Lord quickly began to lay the foundation for a new church in Tupelo—all for His glory.

Shortly after, on July 24, 1935, Rev. Silas Cooper was called to be the first pastor of Calvary. That summer, membership grew to 190 and the church body voted to send 25% of all receipts to the Cooperative Program. For 90 years, Calvary has remained one of the top supporters in the Mississippi Baptist Convention, giving anywhere from 12–25% of all offerings to the Cooperative Program. What a blessing to continue to see God provide in this way! As Calvary celebrates its 90 years as a church this year, the Cooperative Program celebrates 100 years of ministry!

Later that year, on December 15, 1935, the corner lot of Main and Church Street was purchased from J.R. Strain for \$10,000, and on January 19, 1936, construction began on a new church building. Throughout Calvary's history, two tragedies occurred concerning its facilities. In April 1936, just a few short months after construction began, a tornado ripped through Tupelo, destroying the new church Sanctuary. Years later, on an early Monday morning in December 1992, the Sanctuary was again destroyed, this time, by fire. Through both of these challenging times, the church grew its faith, strength, and trust in the Lord.

Pastors who have faithfully served Calvary through the years include Silas Cooper, F.M. Powell, W.L. Day, John Traylor, Bob Ramsay, John Armistead, Bryant Barnes, David Eldridge, and Chris DeGeorge.

As we celebrate this special 90th birthday as a church body, our hearts are filled with gratitude to our Lord! We are grateful for His guidance, His leadership, and the privilege to play a small part in His Kingdom. Having always been a mission-minded church, this continues to be a major part of our vision today as we seek to *Come, Serve, and Go Together* for His glory. As we look back and celebrate the past 90 years, we also look forward—continuing the vision that began with a small circle of men and women praying about reaching Tupelo and the world for Jesus Christ.

Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus,



Bro. John Boler
Pastor



***IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER!**

calvarytupelo.com/vbs-2025



VBS JUNE 2-6

FAMILY NIGHT & FELLOWSHIP

Wed., June 4 | 5-7PM

5-6PM Hotdogs/Burgers

6PM Welcome/VBS Songs

& VBS Fun on the Playground

All VBS kiddos, their families, and our church family are invited.



SUNDAY

Services

SUNDAY SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS - 9AM

MORNING WORSHIP - 10:15AM

A Faithful God In An Unfaithful Land: Study of the Book of Jeremiah

EVENING WORSHIP - 6PM

The 12 Apostles: Men Who Changed The World

STUDENTS | DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS - 6PM

6th-12th graders divide into small groups - 3rd floor Youth area

KIDS | MISSION MOMENTS - 6PM

ages 4yrs.-5th grade meet in C107 "The Big Room"

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study & Prayer

ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER - 6PM

The Unsaved Christian: Reaching Cultural Christianity With The Gospel by David Inerra

STUDENTS | WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY - 6PM

5:30PM Hangout - 3rd floor Youth area

KIDS | BIBLE STUDY - 5:45PM

5:30PM Check-in - **CMC Fellowship Hall during May**

Check-in at the Welcome Center beginning in June

*****Verify the Summer Schedule each week in the Weekly Update tab of the Calvary App*****

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Alyssa Lee



Claire Fulton
Profession of Faith



**John, Whitney,
& John Howard Sparks**



**John, Bridgett,
& Hannah Hawkins**



Walker Tubb
Profession of Faith



Jimmy Johnson



**Michael & Nancy
Marshman**



Chandler Mathis
Call to Full-time Ministry

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

ANNE WORTHEN



Happy 90th Birthday, Calvary!

My earliest memory of Calvary is the first time I ever attended a service. It was Easter Sunday in 1973, and I had come for the weekend to stay at the home of my future in-laws, Dook and George Worthen. I honestly don't remember much about the sermon, but I do remember being warmly greeted by Sue Washburn, Margaret Long, and Joyce Beasley.

I became the Calvary Preschool Director in June of 1992, and later that year, in December our Sanctuary burned. Watching our church come together as a family during that time of crisis—without missing a beat—was truly a great inspiration.

I love Calvary because it feels like home to me. It is filled with love: love for the Lord, love for each other, and love for those beyond our doors.

In celebration of this milestone birthday, I asked ten people, one born in each decade since Calvary was chartered in 1935—to answer the same three questions that I shared my answers to above:

-What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

-What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

-What do you love about Calvary?

I hope these reflections inspire you to consider your own answers to these questions—and to share the love of Christ with others as we celebrate this milestone birthday together.

- ANNE



1930's
SUE WASHBURN

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

When I was three, I was the flower girl in the first wedding at the church—for my Aunt Martell Leake Nash. I remember having to make my cousin, Rob Leake, the ring bearer, go down the aisle because he was so shy.

I also remember some of the people that prayed—I got tickled because they would be so dramatic in their prayers! But we were known as the praying church.

"I remember some of the people that prayed—we were known as the praying church."

In the basement of the church, different ladies would bring produce from their yards and prepare wonderful Wednesday night meals. Everybody cleaned up and helped. We had a great time fellowshiping with all ages.

On Saturdays, I went with my mother to Esther Johnston's house to pick flowers. The ladies would then go back to the church and arrange them for Sunday mornings.

I also remember the pastor's wife coming to see me when I was sick with the measles—she brought me a pretty, little plant.

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary? My profession of faith, as well as that of my children, are the most significant events I remember at Calvary.

During World War II, our pastor, Dr. W.L. Powell, would often wear dress tails when in the pulpit. I also remember when Mike Gilcrest came to Calvary for a revival—it was a very spiritual time for Calvary, and many people's lives were changed because of his message.

Our son, Woody, participated in Bible Drill and hoped to go on to the State Bible Drill competition. Woody looked up the passage that was called and stepped forward, but he realized he had gone one page too far. He raised his hand and in doing so, he was disqualified. As upset as I was for him, I could not have been more proud of his honesty.

When our children were young, my husband Heywood traveled a lot during the week. On Sundays, he'd often put

Amy in the carrier on the back of his bike, Woody and Tom would ride their bikes, and they'd all go to church. Our dog always followed them. One day, when a friend asked me where we had been the prior Sunday, I told her we'd been out of town. She laughed and told me that the faithful dog had been at church in his usual spot outside the door.

What do you love about Calvary?

The people! They are wonderful and always there for you.



1940's
DAN MATHEWS

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

I was born on Thursday, November 6, 1941. If my mother didn't have me in the Calvary nursery on the following Sunday, I am sure she had me there the next week—and the next, and the next. I was on the Cradle Roll.

The first Sunday School teacher that I remember was Mrs. Perkins—I was six or seven years old. My next teacher was Mr. Rex Reed. Benny Tooke and I were the only two boys in that age group of ten-year-old boys. Mr. Reed offered to give Benny a horse and me a bicycle if we would memorize the Beatitudes. Neither of us was successful.

Many Sundays between Sunday School and church, Mr. Reed would take us across the street to T&S Pharmacy and get us a Coke. We were astounded he could just go in and get the Cokes, not having to pay!

Benny and I really enjoyed attending Calvary, especially during the time the Sunday School Annex was being built. We would lower each other down two stories in a nail bucket. I am not sure which Bible story inspired that activity!

Another Sunday School teacher who impacted so many lives was Mr. J. R. Pegues. During group time—before the boys and girls split into separate classes—he would lead us in singing *Do Lord*. By then, three more boys had been added and our teacher was Mr. McVey.

Then, there were evening activities: Royal Ambassadors, Training Union, Bible Drills, and Vacation Bible School every summer. There was never a doubt where I was expected to be—as long as my mother was in control!

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary? Calvary regularly had revivals (the two-week kind). The one particularly meaningful to me was led by Chester Swor. I walked the aisle and professed my faith.

Even though the Lord has had to slap me down many times to get my attention, my prayer is that I am walking in the direction He wants me to go.

"Calvary is my home, and I have never considered going anywhere else."

What do you love about Calvary?

Calvary is my home, and I have never considered going anywhere else. Kay and I were married here; our children were raised and baptized at Calvary. Our social life was built with Calvary friends who had children of the same ages.

Calvary has been like every other church and it has had its trying times. Even though I might not have understood and even when I disagreed with a decision, I have had an unwavering trust that the leadership at Calvary always had the church's best interest at heart.

The church is the rock—the foundation. It goes without saying, but I have gotten a lot more from Calvary than Calvary has gotten from



1950's
LYNN MCAPLIN

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

My earliest memory is my profession of faith. My eight-year-old self was sitting in the center section, about three or four rows back. Pat Nunnelee's brother-in-law, Ken Lyle, was preaching, and I decided that I needed to accept Jesus into my heart that night. After telling my parents and talking to Bro. Day, I went down front and was later baptized.

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

One of my best memories is walking with my friends on Mondays and Tuesdays from Milam School to Calvary. On Mondays, we had GA's (Girls' Auxiliary Missions), and Tuesdays were for choir. Before we got to the church, we'd stop at T&S Pharmacy (owned by Bubba Worthen's dad) and get a Coke for five cents and a candy bar for five cents. We charged it to our parents, and at the end of the month, they'd get a bill that contained a bunch of 10-cent tickets.

I don't remember specific information that I learned about missionaries, but I know I developed a lifelong love and

admiration for them.

Choir met in the basement of the old auditorium that burned in 1992. I remember going into an adjoining room and singing hymns to some ladies. One year, I even won the award for knowing the most hymns.

What do you love about Calvary?

I've only been a member of two other churches besides Calvary. One was very welcoming; the other—not at all welcoming. It was a tough experience, but got somewhat better over time.

I'd like to think that what I love about Calvary is true. It is so welcoming! I'm no Sue Washburn—who welcomes so many and truly shows her love for them—but I want to be like her.

We have a wonderful staff, fabulous biblical preaching, and worshipful music, but it also takes the congregation to welcome and love on visitors and new members.



1960's
GREG PEGUES

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

My earliest memories of Calvary both involve getting in trouble as a child around age four. One Sunday after morning worship, I told our Pastor, Bro. Day, that all his yelling, screaming, and hollering was giving me a headache.

Another time, toward the end of a Sunday night service, I got confused and made the mistake of yelling, "Hot dog! We're going to Sherer's!"—a popular drive-in restaurant that drew several church families after church on Sunday nights. Unfortunately, the service was not quite over, and needless to say, we did not make it to Sherer's that night.

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

Some of my most meaningful memories of Calvary—other than the Sunday morning I gave my life to Jesus—come from growing up in the youth department. We didn't have a youth minister for a good portion of those years, but we always felt extremely close to one another and the many adults who volunteered to keep us involved and included. The annual youth summer camp at Mt. Ida, Arkansas, organized by David Larrimore, was always so special and left a lasting impression on me.

What do you love about Calvary?

What I've always loved about Calvary is the people. So many, through the years, have been such a positive

influence on my life. Many probably never knew how much I was influenced by their Christian example. Many of them are in Heaven now, but many of those who are still here continue to be an encouragement to me today.



1970's
KATE FARABAUGH

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

My earliest memories of Calvary are of the nursery and Carolyn Gray. She and my mom were wonderful friends, so it felt like being at home. The very best part of nursery time was getting to eat as many saltine crackers and lemonades as I wanted! Then, almost 30 years later, my own children got to enjoy the very same treat.

As I grew up at Calvary, I also got to help my mom prepare her five-year-old Sunday School room each week. I'm not sure if I was more trouble than I was worth, though! Who could resist homemade playdough, the random funny stories that Mr. Ramsey would bring, silly animals we'd briefly see on their way to the third grade room with Peter Maloney, or the sweet smile on Kathy Reece's face?

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

The most significant event I remember is feeling God calling me to accept Him as my Savior. This happened in the old Sanctuary, on a Sunday night. In my mind's eye, I can still see the room. What a wonderful gift to still have a vivid memory of that moment so many years later—especially since that Sanctuary is now physically gone.

What do you love about Calvary?

The thing I love most about Calvary is similar to my earliest memories: it feels like home. The familiar faces are like family to me. This is deeply comforting, especially since my own family has endured so much loss—too much to write about now. But honestly, most of you know the stories anyway.

See? Home!

Thank you, dear Calvary family, for loving me through all the ups and downs.

"Thank you, dear Calvary family, for loving me through all the ups and downs."



1980's
HANNAH KIMBROUGH

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

My earliest memories of Calvary are probably kindergarten. I was always a Calvary Kid—I attended Calvary Preschool and have attended church from birth!

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

I vividly remember our church catching on fire when I was in kindergarten. I remember driving by and seeing the flames, watching it on the news, and having to attend school across the street at First United Methodist Church for the rest of the year. It was a very emotional experience for a young child to see her church on fire.

I also remember the lasting impact that Sunday School teachers had on my life. I remember pastors Dr. John Armistead, Dr. Bryant Barnes, and Dr. David Eldridge all having huge impacts on my life. When I was nine years old, I came to salvation and became a member of Calvary. I was baptized by Dr. Bryant Barnes.

I met my future husband, Matthew Kimbrough, at Calvary! He joined our church while I was away at college. When I came back during a school holiday, there was a cute boy in my Sunday School class—and the rest was history. Mr. Heywood Washburn actually played a big part in matchmaking us! Dr. Bryant Barnes and Dr. David Eldridge were ministers in our wedding. I was in Sunday School at Calvary when the Lord clearly called me to short-term missions in Africa. Dr. Boler performed my father's funeral. Casey Deaton baptized my oldest, Evelyn Claire. There are so many huge life moments of mine that were experienced at Calvary.

Calvary helped raise me; it molded me and shaped me into the person I am today. The people of Calvary—my Sunday School teachers, pastors, youth ministers, and Bible Drill leaders—instilled in me a desire to know Jesus, love Him, serve Him, and make Him known. Mr. Pegues, Mrs. Diane Wiese, and so many others impacted my life in ways they will never fully know.

What do you love about Calvary?

I came to Christ as a child attending Calvary. I was baptized at Calvary, disciplined at Calvary, married at Calvary, and now I am raising my family at Calvary. For me, Calvary has always been home.

Calvary, to me, is not about the physical walls, but it is about

the people. I love how Calvary is multigenerational. Calvary is the people who have invested in me, loved me, and modeled for me what it looks like to live a life for Christ. Now, they are now doing the same for my two girls, Evelyn Claire and Nora.

I have experienced seasons when the fruit of the Lord was evident at Calvary and seasons when it was harder to see—but through it all, the Lord has been faithful with His church. Calvary is a church that is Bible-driven, Gospel-focused, and Holy Spirit-led.

May God continue to write His story through His church and this place called Calvary.

"May God continue to write His story through His church and this place called Calvary."



1990's
RACHEL LEE

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

I have so many wonderful early memories of Calvary! Puppet shows and the famous Calvary spaghetti and English pea dinners in the old Fellowship Hall, singing "I Am A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N" in Sunday School, and playing on the yellow school bus on the playground! And of course, who could forget being blessed by the music of Mr. Jim Long Livingston and Mr. David Larrimore?

Children's choir holds the bulk of my childhood memories at Calvary. I can still remember some of the songs we learned and striving for good attendance so I could get a slide whistle like Mrs. Charlotte McElroy's at the end of the year! We had a list of class "rules" we would sing before every class. I can still hear Mrs. Charlotte singing, "Six feet on the floor when seated!" Even now, when I sing in church, my mom still reminds me of Mrs. Charlotte's teachings: "Sing nooorth and sooouth, not eeeast and weest. When you get to heaven, you'll call Him 'Lord', not 'lard'!"

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

The most significant event I remember was the major renovation that tore down the old Fellowship Hall and made way for the new Welcome Area and office spaces. That also

included the addition of our current Youth Area! I remember being so upset that we didn't have our own space in the old Youth Building anymore—but over time, I made so many memories in that new youth space as a student, a ministry intern, and a volunteer. Through all the major events at Calvary, I look back and see God's provision.

What do you love about Calvary?

This is the hardest question for me to answer because I struggle to put into words what Calvary means to me and how much love I have for this church. I love that there is always a place to serve. I love that I've been able to build so many relationships with people of all age groups. I love that we focus on God's Word and seek His will in every facet of our ministry. I love our church staff. I love the Calvary Quartet! I love that Calvary loves God, and I am so thankful for all of the ways that Calvary has loved me.



2000's
REBECCA JOHNSTON

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

Some of my earliest memories at Calvary include going to Vacation Bible School, singing in the children's choir, and holding hands while singing "Because He Lives."

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

One of the most significant events in my life that happened at Calvary was being baptized. I also remember when two church members were married during the middle of a church service—honestly, it was the coolest thing ever.

What do you love about Calvary?

I love the sense of family that we have. The relationships I've formed with fellow church members are so special to me. I love the way our church supports those who are going through hard times in their lives. But what I love most is that I can tell that we are on fire for Jesus! When I close my eyes and just listen to the congregation sing, I can hear the love for Him—that's what I love about Calvary!

"I can tell that we are on fire for Jesus! When I close my eyes and listen to the congregation sing, I can hear the love for Him!"



2010's
EMMETT WALKER

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

My first memory of Calvary is when Mr. Casey had fun with us and was always smiling and picking at me and Eliza when we would come for Sunday mornings, Calvary Day School, or Wednesday nights.

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

My most favorite event was Preschool Camp with Mr. Casey and all the great fun we had at that camp!

What do you love about Calvary?

I love getting to listen to the people who teach me—and playing with my friends!



2020's
SIMSLEE GIBSON

What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

Playing with playdough in Sunday School—and we played a hard game!

What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

I like when we sing and eat, and when I sing songs in the Sanctuary.

What do you love about Calvary?

I love to learn about Joseph and the big whale.

Did you see the common theme in these special memories shared by our church family? Calvary is truly blessed to be a family that loves the Lord and loves one another. As we celebrate 90 years of God's faithfulness and goodness in and through Calvary, I encourage you to take some time to reflect, answer these same questions for yourself, and share the love of Christ with others inviting them to be a part of our church family!

-What is your earliest memory of Calvary?

-What significant events do you remember occurring at Calvary?

-What do you love about Calvary? 🏠



Celebrating Our Legacy RENOVATING OUR FUTURE

JUDD WILSON

Celebrating Our Legacy, Renovating Our Future - A Special Birthday Gift to Calvary Baptist Church

This May, we celebrate a remarkable milestone—Calvary Baptist Church's 90th Birthday. What better way to honor this legacy than by giving a special birthday gift to a place that has meant so much to so many of us over the years—our gym. As part of our "Celebrating Our Legacy, Renovating Our Future" campaign, the Stewardship Committee is inviting every member to prayerfully consider making an extra gift during May toward the remodel of our gym, while continuing your regular tithes and offerings.

The total cost of the Gym Remodel is approximately \$165,000. We are praying that with God's provision and the generosity of our church family, we can pay this off during our birthday month.

Let me share why our gym means so much to me personally. I joined Calvary in 1997 as a young professional, new to Tupelo and Mississippi. Martha Ann and I quickly became part of the Young Married Sunday School Class, and before I knew it, I was recruited to play on the Calvary Basketball Team. Let's just say my athletic ability didn't quite match my enthusiasm, but the friendships I formed with those teammates in that gym have stood the test of time. It was there that bonds were formed, and the gym served as a catalyst for connection and community.

That same year, I was asked to be an RA Leader. I have vivid memories of those boys learning scripture, learning about missions, and growing as Royal Ambassadors for Christ. And of course, I remember the laughter, games, and fellowship in the gym—from dodgeball, to H-O-R-S-E, to wiffle ball. Many of those young boys are now doctors, lawyers, engineers, and, most importantly, Christian dads. I'm grateful for how the gym played a role in shaping them.

As the years went on, the gym became an important place for my own children too, whether it was preschool parades, Fall Festivals, or even Nerf Wars (which may or may not have pushed Calvary's liability coverage to the limit!). The gym has truly been a happy place for our kids and so many others.

Many still remember the fire of 1992, when the gym became our Worship Center. I've heard countless stories of the closeness felt in those gym services. Mike Marecle recalls a revival service during that time where many came to Christ. Daron Pitts, a coworker of mine who grew up at Calvary, remembers singing a solo in the gym's first post-fire service—Rich Mullins' *Sometimes by Step*. Those powerful lyrics, "Oh God you are my God, and I will ever praise You," still resonate today. In times of trials and the fires in our life, we continue to give God the praise. We thank God the gym was a place of solace for so many during that time. For many years, the gym also served as a place for our early morning worship services, countless evening Bible studies, and conferences.

This gym has been more than a building—it has been a place of worship, ministry, fellowship, growth, and comfort. We believe it will continue to serve as a vital space for future generations, for both our church family and our community.

So, as we say, "Happy 90th Birthday to Calvary," let's honor our past and invest in our future. Let's give generously, "Celebrating Our Legacy, Renovating Our Future." 🙏

There are several ways in which you can contribute to this special offering:

-Online or in the Calvary App

Visit calvarytupelo.com/give or select the "Give" tab in the Calvary App. Select "Building Fund." Place any memorials/honorariums in the "Memo" section and input your contact info and payment details.

-Mail or Drop-off in-person

Mail a check to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1008, Tupelo, MS 38802, stop by the church office during office hours, or place in the Offering Boxes outside the Sanctuary. Be sure to note any memorials/honorariums.



Take a picture of this QR Code and click it to be directed to the Giving Tab on our website.

CALVARY 90 PROJECT

PHASE 1 - GYM REMODEL

beginning May 1, 2025 - to be completed Summer 2025 - overseen by Property & Space Committee

PHASES 2 & 3 - MUSIC BUILDING REMOVAL & PARKING LOT REMODEL

in progress - presentation coming Fall 2025 - overseen by ADHOC Committee
ADHOC Committee: Jim Thomas (Chair), Ricky Davis, Kelly Hutcheson, Lesley Tackitt, Barton Wynn

As many of you know, Phases 2 and 3 of our Calvary 90 Project are still in the beginning stages. Plans are being discussed for the removal of the Music Building and the parkinglot remodel will provide a new playground, additional parking, a covered drive-through, church van storage, etc. Please continue to pray for our ADHOC Committee members listed above as they continue to seek the Lord's direction in each and every step of these projects. Our goal is to have a design plan to present to the church in the fall!

DEACON LEADERSHIP TEAM

JOHN BOLER

As 2025 began, the formation of the Deacon Leadership Team (DLT) was established. This team provides organization and purpose for our Deacons as they lead in the areas of Outreach Ministry, Widow Ministry, Prayer Ministry, and Serve Ministry. Additionally, this team will be available to stand beside our Pastor and staff in times of challenge or grave decisions. The DLT leaders serve for one year. As a new year begins with a new Deacon Chairman, he will be responsible for filling each position on the DLT. I'm grateful for how the Lord is working among our Deacons. We have 24 unified, servant-minded men who are leading by example. Keep them in your prayers daily as they continue to serve the Lord!



Dr. Sam Newell
Chairman



Matthew Kimbrough
Outreach Ministry



Parrish Alford
Widow Ministry



Michael Williams
Prayer Ministry



Thomas Walker
Serve Ministry

MORE THAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARK MATHIS & JOHN NAIL

Sunday School began in the late 18th century in England as a response to the needs of poor working children who had no access to a formal education during the week. Robert Raikes saw this as an opportunity to offer literacy and spiritual instruction on Sundays, the one day they had off from labor. Over time, Sunday School grew into a foundational ministry of churches around the world, becoming not just a place of learning but a vital environment for nurturing faith, fostering community and fellowship, and laying spiritual foundations. Not only for children, but also adults. Its importance lies in its ability to equip generations to come with biblical truths and a sense of belonging in the family of God.

Do you belong to a Sunday School class or small group? A place where you can dive into God's Word, grow alongside others, and share what He's doing in your life? We all need a circle of friends who not only study the Bible with us but also walk with us through the ups and downs of life—praying for us in the tough seasons and celebrating with us in the joyful ones. If you haven't found a group like that yet, maybe it's time to find one. You were never meant to do life alone.

At Calvary, we have a variety of Sunday School classes designed just for you—a place you can truly call home. Whether you're looking for classes for preschoolers, children, youth, college students, singles of all ages, married couples in different stages of life, or senior adults, there's something for everyone. Our adult classes are especially welcoming, no matter your age or background. And just like finding the perfect new home, it's okay to explore—visit a few classes and see where you feel most comfortable. We want you to find a place where you can grow, connect, and belong.

We even have one class that offers a "Zoom" option, making it possible to stay connected when you're traveling, home-bound, or unable to physically be at church. Zoom is a website/app that allows you to call in and/or view live video of Sunday School. John Nail's class began this during covid and it just stuck! We asked John to give us an example of what it's like being a part of The Practical Christian Living Sunday School class:

"Sunday School is like a bonding agent. It connects people to one another and to the church. Your class may be just like ours, but let me tell you what I really like about our class.

We are a collection of very different people who are very serious about Bible study. I can see in their eyes that they are engaged when we talk about God's Word. Our class maintains a lengthy prayer list and we share with one another the people and things we are individually praying about and we pray for one another.

We enjoy a rich fellowship, not just an obligatory Christmas party each year, but the kinds of relationships that make us glad to see one another on Sunday mornings! If someone is not there, we almost always know about a sickness or where they might be traveling. We share with each other because we care. If one of our members needs a meal, a visit, or a ride to the doctor, we take care of each other without having our arms twisted.

Our members are remarkably committed to making visitors feel welcome. We want to know them and for them to know us. They tend to come back and become a part of that rich fellowship. Come, join us—Sunday School is a beautiful thing to be a part of!" 🏠

Practical Christian Living Class - Backyard Fellowship 2024



Take a picture of this QR Code and click it to see a list of Sunday School classes, teachers, and locations. This list is also available in the Calvary App, website, and Welcome Center.



Pheobe & Liam
2025 State Bible Drill

KIDS' BIBLE DRILL

KERRI WAMPLER & BRANDY BLACKBURN

Sweaty palms, nerves of steel, quick fingers, and a heart and mind full of Scripture—that's Bible Drill!

Calvary has proudly participated in the Bible Drill program for decades, helping children build a strong foundation in God's Word. Mississippi Baptists' Bible Drill is designed to equip children and students with essential Bible skills, deepen their knowledge of Scripture, encourage memorization, and teach practical application for daily life.

Calvary began its Bible Drill program in 1959 under the leadership of Mrs. Joyce Gravlee, along with the help of Mr. J.R. Pegues.

Today, the program is open to children in grades 3-5, with a pre-Drill group for Pre-K through 2nd grade. The younger children begin memorizing select verses as they prepare to fully join Bible Drill in the 3rd grade. Drillers meet weekly from August to April, practicing for an hour each Sunday night. But the impact of hiding God's Word in their hearts lasts far beyond the season—it's a lifelong gift. (Many of this year's Bible Drill and Bible Buddy participants are pictured above.)

Over the course of three Bible Drill cycles, children learn 75 Bible verses and 30 Key Passages!

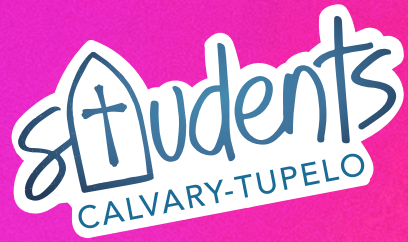
Each spring, participants compete in three levels of Drills:

- **Church Drill** at Calvary
- **Associational Drill** at a local church within the Lee County Baptist Association
- **State Drill**, held at 10 different locations across Mississippi (hosted at Calvary every few years!)

Bible Drill volunteers, Kerri Wampler and Brandy Blackburn, have a deep connection to this ministry. Kerri participated in Bible Drill for nine years at Fairview Baptist-Columbus, and Brandy was a Driller at Siloam Baptist-West Point. Today, Brandy's son, Liam, continues the legacy as a third-generation Driller.

Our volunteers share a common belief: the earlier children begin learning Scripture, the better prepared they'll be to draw strength and peace from God's Word throughout their lives.

If you have a child, family member, or friend interested in learning more about Bible Drill or Bible Buddies, we'd love to share more about the program—and our passion for helping kids grow in God's Word. 🏠



THE IMPACT OF SUMMER

COLTON HORNER & JACOB COLLINS



Have you heard the phrase “*mountaintop experience*?” It’s a phrase that people use to refer to a person’s positive experience, specifically when it comes to that of a person’s faith. The idea is rooted in scriptures like *Exodus 19*, where Moses is given the opportunity to meet with the Lord on the top of Mount Sinai, or *Luke 9* where Jesus takes Peter, James, and John to Mount Tabor to pray, and they experience the transfiguration of Christ. Both of these supernatural events mark special moments in the lives of those men because of the experiences that they had with the Lord. Peter put it plainly in *Luke 9:33*: “it is good that we are here.”

Often, when we think of summertime in Student Ministry, the idea of mountaintop experiences rises to the surface. We see groups of students go off to camp for a week, return having had a positive spiritual experience, and then come home to the normalcy of life. But just like when Moses descended from Mount Sinai, our students come back from these experiences to a world that is stained by sin and idolatry. Unfortunately, the mountaintop experiences are often followed by a valley experience.

At camps and retreats, the idea of ‘taking the mountaintop experience home’ is often emphasized. There are classes and conversations about how to remain on the mountaintop even after camp is over, but I believe this is the wrong approach. The goal of our Christian journey isn’t to remain on the mountain. Oswald Chambers asks a better question in *My Utmost for His Highest*: “Can you come down from the mountain?”

As we look to the summer in Calvary’s Student Ministry, we

are certainly praying for mountaintop experiences. These experiences are good and can be ordained by God to bring spiritual growth. However, we were never intended to only be “mountaintop” followers of Christ. We must also live in communion with the Lord in the valleys.

Our heart’s desire as a Student Ministry is this: we want to experience the highest of highs with the Lord through opportunities like Generate Camp, Super Summer, Student Late Nights, and all the summer things. But more than the experiences, we want the Lord to use those spiritual highs to change us and transform us for the long-term, so that when the ‘experience’ is over, our lives remain truly changed.

In *Psalms 23*, David reflects on his relationship with the Lord by recognizing that there are seasons of “green pastures,” “still waters,” and “paths of righteousness”—all of these are examples of mountaintop experiences. However, David also considers “the valley of the shadow of death.” And even there, David states confidently that he will fear no evil because of God’s presence with him.

Always remember: God is present, even in the valleys.

We must recognize that our walk with Christ will contain mountaintop experiences, but that those moments with God are intended to mold and transform us so that our life afterward is changed. Our goal this summer in Calvary Students is to experience the mountaintops that God has in store for us and allow Him to change us—to work in our hearts in such a way that when we come down from the mountaintop, our lives look drastically and lastingly different than they did beforehand—all for His glory. 🏠

Summertime is one of the most exciting seasons in the life of Calvary KIDS. School is out, routines shift, and there’s an energy that fills the air as children anticipate adventure and new experiences. But beyond the fun and excitement, summer presents us with a powerful opportunity—a chance to pour into the lives of our kids, helping them grow in their faith while making lasting memories.

The work we do in discipling our children is like preparing the soil—breaking up the ground, removing obstacles, and making it ready for seeds to be planted. Jesus teaches us in *Luke 9:62*, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” As we keep our hands to the plow, we trust that God will bring growth in His perfect time, raising up a generation that is rooted in Him.

One of the biggest highlights of the season is Vacation Bible School! Each year, our church is bursting with worship, laughter, and learning as children dive into God’s Word in an engaging and exciting way. They sing songs that fill their hearts with joy, hear Bible stories that deepen their understanding of who Jesus is, and build friendships that encourage them in their faith. VBS is more than just a fun event—it’s an outreach, it’s a chance for families to experience the love of Christ in a way that stays with them long after the week is over.

Central Hills Kids Camp for our older kids is another exciting opportunity for kids to focus on their walk with Christ. Whether they’re experiencing all the outdoor adventures, engaging in Bible studies, or worshiping together, camp allows our kids to build a strong foundation in their faith.

These moments away from home provide the space for kids to see God move in their lives in ways they may not expect, strengthening their relationship with Him and equipping them for the journey ahead.

For our younger kids, Preschool Camp at Calvary is all about experiencing God’s love in a hands-on way. Through interactive lessons, music, and play, we hope our little ones will begin to understand that they are cherished by their Creator. Jesus welcomed the children with open arms, and this camp provides an environment where they can simply encounter Him in a way that makes sense to them. It’s never too early to plant seeds of faith, and Preschool Camp is an incredible opportunity to do just that!

While these events are designed for our children, they are also a call to the entire church. *Proverbs 22:6* reminds us of the importance of teaching and guiding the next generation in faith. The responsibility of raising strong, Christ-centered leaders doesn’t rest solely on parents or ministry staff—it belongs to all of us. Whether through serving or praying, we all have a role in shaping the faith of our children.

I encourage you to embrace the opportunity to invest in our Calvary Kids—not just for the summer, but for a lifetime of faith. Let’s continue to seek to create an environment where kids can experience the joy of knowing Christ, grow in their understanding of His love, and build a foundation that will carry them through the rest of their lives. The impact of what we do today will echo into eternity, and as a church, we are blessed to be part of that journey here at Calvary. 🏠

UPCOMING

Sign-up for events and view upcoming opportunities in the CBC Church App, at calvarytupelo.com/events, or visit the Connect Table outside the office.

MAY

- 4 COMPELLED BY LOVE - First Sundays Monthly**
CBL is a monthly, opportunity for all ages to Come, Serve, & Go Together for the glory of the Lord! Meet at Calvary at 5PM, form teams, gather supplies, and go out from there.
- 9 RETIREMENT RECEPTION - honoring Kevin Ann Weatherly**
Following the Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony on May 9, join us 11AM-1PM for a Retirement Reception honoring Kevin Ann Weatherly and her 35 years of dedicated ministry to the Calvary Weekday Education program.
- 18 MEN'S FISH FRY FELLOWSHIP**
Join us for our annual Men's Fellowship at The Boler Barn! This is a gathering for guys of all ages to come together to fellowship and enjoy a meal and a brief devotion. RSVP to help us know how many fish Bro. John needs to catch!

JUNE

- 2-6 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - MAGNIFIED**
We were made to magnify God and we can't wait to praise Him together in a fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School. VBS at Calvary is for children who have completed Kindergarten thru 5th grade. Volunteers and children register online by May 9 for a t-shirt! Learn more at calvarytupelo.com/vbs-2025.
- 4 FAMILY NIGHT & CHURCH-WIDE FELLOWSHIP 5PM Wednesday, June 4**
All VBS kiddos, their families, and our church family are invited to come out and enjoy a time of fellowship & VBS songs! A meal will be provided and RSVP's are appreciated!

JULY

- 13 WOMEN'S CALVARY TABLE REVEAL**
Join us as we kick-off another season of Calvary Table!! Our Kick-off Fellowship is scheduled for Sun., July 13 at 4PM in the CMC just before Compelled By Love. We'll have refreshments and a fun activity to reveal our new groups. Groups will meet July-Nov. Register for a group by June 13 and be sure to RSVP for the fellowship by July 11.
- 30 CHRISTMAS IN JULY**
Come be a part of the Worship Choir & Orchestra ministry as we begin to prepare for Christmas! To kick-off preparation for *Calvary Christmas On Main*, join us for a fellowship, and preview of our music Wed., July 30 from 5-6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Be sure to wear your tacky Christmas attire!



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

9:00AM Sunday School
10:15AM Worship Service
5:00PM Compelled By Love (first Sundays)
6:00PM Evening Worship
Student Discipleship
Kids' Mission Moments

MONDAYS

8AM-2PM Weekday Education (M-F)
*Summer Break begins May 15

WEDNESDAYS

12:00PM Mom's In Prayer via Zoom
*May 7-last one until August
5:00PM Wednesday Night Supper
*June 4-last one until August
5:30PM Kids' Check-In
5:45PM Kids' Bible Study
6:00PM Adult Bible Study & Prayer
Student Worship & Bible Study
7:00PM Worship Choir Rehearsal
*No rehearsal - July (break for Summer)

THURSDAYS

9AM-4PM Mother's Day Out

*Full schedule provided weekly in the bulletin, church-wide emails, and the Calvary app.



DOWNLOAD OUR APP



Sign-up for events, watch sermons, follow along with us on our daily Bible reading journey, and more—all in one place!

MAY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + GRADUATE REC. 5PM COMPELLED BY LOVE	5	6	7 5PM SUPPER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	8 90 TH BIRTHDAY Calvary Baptist - est. 1935	9 9:30AM Weekday Edu. Kindergarten Graduation 11AM-1PM RETIREMENT RECEPTION honoring Kevin Ann Weatherly	10
11 Mother's Day 8:30AM MUFFINS/W/MOM 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + Kids' Worship Spotlight No Evening Service	12	13	14 Weekday Edu. Last Day! 5-8PM STUDENTS' FCA RALLY in New Albany 5PM SUPPER 5:45PM VBS VOL. MTG. 6PM BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER	15	16	17
18 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 5PM MEN'S FELLOWSHIP No Evening Service	19	20	21 5PM PIZZA FELLOWSHIP 6PM KIDS' END-OF-THE-YEAR WORSHIP SPOTLIGHT	22 10AM CALVARY FRIENDS 55+ Fellowship Luncheon	23	24
25 7:15AM (6:15 Volunteers) OUTREACH BREAKFAST 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP No Evening Service	26 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 5PM SUPPER 5:45PM KIDS' KICKBALL 6PM BUSINESS MEETING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	29	30	31

JUNE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 5PM COMPELLED BY LOVE + VBS Hype Night	2 9AM-12PM VBS	3 9AM-12PM VBS	4 9AM-12PM VBS 5-7PM VBS FAMILY NIGHT & FELLOWSHIP Last Wed. Night Meal - FREE!	5 9AM-12PM VBS No Mother's Day Out	6 9AM-12PM VBS	7
8 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP + Kids' Worship Spotlight 6PM WORSHIP 7PM STU. PARENT NIGHT	9 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION Dallas, TX	10 SBC - Dallas	11 SBC - Dallas 5:30PM KIDS' CHECK-IN AT WELCOME CENTER 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER No Supper until August	12 MISSION TEAM DEPARTS Pray for Yreka Team	13	14
15 Father's Day 8:30AM DONUTS/W/DAD 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP No Evening Service	16 STUDENTS DEPART Pray for Generate Camp	17	18 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	19 MISSION TEAM RETURNS Pray for Yreka Team	20 STUDENTS RETURN Pray for Students	21
22 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 1PM BRIDAL SHOWER honoring Sara Frances Wolfe 6PM WORSHIP	23	24	25 6PM BUSINESS MEETING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	26	27	28
29 7:15AM (6:15 Volunteers) OUTREACH BREAKFAST 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP No Evening Service	30					

JULY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP No Evening Service	7	8 STUDENTS DEPART Pray for Super Summer	9 MISSION TEAM DEPARTS Pray for Africa Team 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	10	11	12 STUDENTS RETURN Pray for Students
13 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 4PM WOMEN'S CALVARY TABLE KICK-OFF 5PM COMPELLED BY LOVE	14	15	16 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 7PM STUDENTS' LATE NIGHT	17	18 MISSION TEAM RETURNS Pray for Africa Team	19 9AM PRESCHOOL CAMP
20 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM WORSHIP 7PM STU. PARENT NIGHT	21	22	23 6PM BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER 7PM STUDENTS' LATE NIGHT	24	25	26
27 7:15AM (6:15 Volunteers) OUTREACH BREAKFAST 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15AM WORSHIP 6PM FELLOWSHIP	28 KIDS' CENTRAL HILLS CAMP DEPARTS Pray for Kids' Camp	29	30 KIDS' CAMP RETURNS 5PM CHRISTMAS IN JULY Worship Ministry Fellowship & Christmas Preview 5:45PM KIDS' END-OF- SUMMER PARTY 6PM BUSINESS MEETING BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER	31		

COME SERVE GO **TOGETHER**

calvarytupelo.com

