

# Calvary Baptist Church Senior Saints Newsletter

April 2026



## April Birthdays

01	Carolyn Carter	<b>H</b>
06	Linda Meadows	<b>A</b>
	Lou Ann Simmons	<b>P</b>
07	Claudia Neal	<b>P</b>
12	Barbara Carter	<b>Y</b>
15	David Clary	
	Jim Rook	
16	Kathy Barnes	<b>B</b>
17	Judy Askew	<b>I</b>
	Jane Butler	<b>R</b>
19	Lloyd Boyd	<b>T</b>
21	Steve Ellis	<b>H</b>
	Randy Martin	<b>D</b>
23	Barbara Jones	<b>A</b>
25	Frank Derzis	<b>Y</b>
26	Judy Hale	
	David Sadler	
28	Paula Farrell	

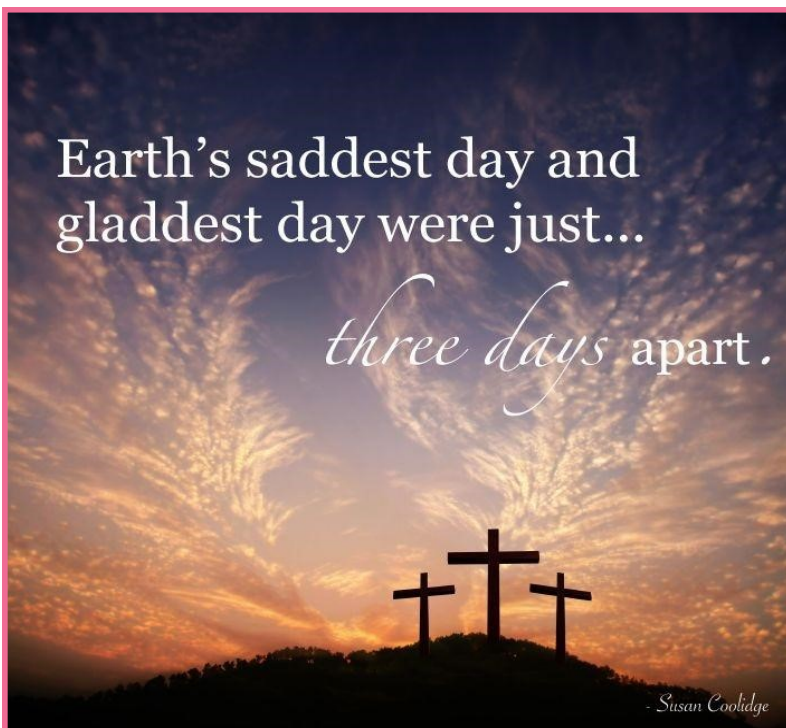
## April Anniversaries

06	Donald & Nancy Davis
14	Bruce & Freddi Davis
23	Eddie & Michele Wrenn
26	Tom & Brenda Hoggard
30	Gene & Wanda Jordan

## Upcoming Senior Events

Thursday, April 16 - Rudy Theatre Trip  
Sunday, May 3 - Senior Adult Recognition Sunday  
Tuesday, May 5 - NRBA Spring Luncheon  
Thursday, May 15 - Williamsburg Trip  
Thursday, June 11 - Patriotic Cookout  
Thursday, July 16 - Fish Fry  
Thursday, August 27 - Ice Cream Social

**Please reserve these dates on your calendar now.**



## Pastor Andy's Thoughts

For many senior adults, this month brings a sense of reflection, looking back on God's faithfulness and looking forward with trust in His promises. Scripture assures us, **"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest... shall not cease"** (Genesis 8:22). The God who brings spring each year is the same God who faithfully tends the garden of our hearts.

April also carries the glow of Easter, a celebration that never loses its wonder. The resurrection of Jesus is not just a moment in history, it is the foundation of our hope today. Because Christ lives, we face each day with confidence, knowing that death does not have the final word. Jesus said, **"I am the resurrection and the life"** (John 11:25). For those who have walked with the Lord for many years, Easter becomes even sweeter, a reminder that our future with Him is secure and glorious.

This season invites us to live as resurrection people, those who carry the light of Christ into every conversation, every prayer, and every act of kindness. Senior adults have a unique gift in this: your stories of God's faithfulness, your steady prayers, and your gentle wisdom shine brightly in a world that often feels hurried and uncertain. The apostle Paul writes, **"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above"** (Colossians 3:1). May your lives point others toward those "things above," offering encouragement to younger generations who look to you as examples of enduring faith.

As April unfolds, may your heart rest in the hope of the risen Savior. Let the beauty of spring remind you that God is still bringing new life, new strength, and new mercies each morning. Whether you are planting flowers, enjoying time with family, or simply reflecting on God's goodness, may the joy of Easter continue to warm your spirit. Truly, **"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"** (Psalm 118:24).

Love you all! Pastor Andy

## Determining the date for Easter

In 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicaea there was an attempt to provide guidance of which we use today to determine the date for Easter. They came up with these rules: a) Easter must be celebrated throughout the world on Sunday, b) this Sunday must follow the fourteenth day of the paschal moon, c) and that moon was to be accounted the paschal moon whose fourteenth day followed the spring equinox, d) and finally that some provision should be made to have a credible authority (like the Church of Alexandria at the time) determine based on these above rules the date of Easter each year for the world.

## Easter Sunday

Outside April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 Bring a  
on Lawn 10am Service Chair  
No Sunday School or PM Services

## The Lord's Supper Sunday, April 12, 11 am

Sunday School will be at 9:45am as usual.  
No 8:30 am Worship Service

## Calvary's 73rd Homecoming Sunday, May 17



**Senior Saints: Please join us on  
Senior Adult Recognition Sunday  
May 3 during the  
8:30am or 11am Worship Service**

**Testimony  
by  
Bruce Davis**



## Pastor Charlie's Devotion

### Reconciliation

The apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17 & 18, ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...”***

The apostle Paul reminds us that through a relationship with Jesus we are new creations. God changes us. He changes our world view, our attitudes and our desires. The Lord begins to mold us into believers who look more and more like His Son. This change, like salvation happens all at once but because we are resistant it often takes time to be seen in our lives. As we allow the Holy spirit to change us, we then come to understand that we also have the same mission that Jesus had. God gave us the ministry of reconciliation. That is, we are to seek out those who do not know the Lord and find ways to show and tell them about the love of Jesus.

This ministry continues even in the midst of political, social and economic unrest. All the calls for unity, peace, and justice we are hearing are good. However, if Jesus is left out of the equation we will miss the mark. Without Christ there is no true unity, no peace or justice. Selfishness and pride will always rear their ugly heads and cause conflict between individuals, families, races, and nations. For that reason, we need to share Jesus with those who do not know Him with the hope that they will be reconciled to the Lord. Each person in Roanoke Rapids, Halifax County, North Carolina, the US, North America to the ends of the earth needs to hear and decide for themselves, but they cannot make that decision unless someone tells them.

Today, my friends, look for ways to share in the ministry of reconciliation by sharing with those who live in your circles of influence. May God bless your efforts.

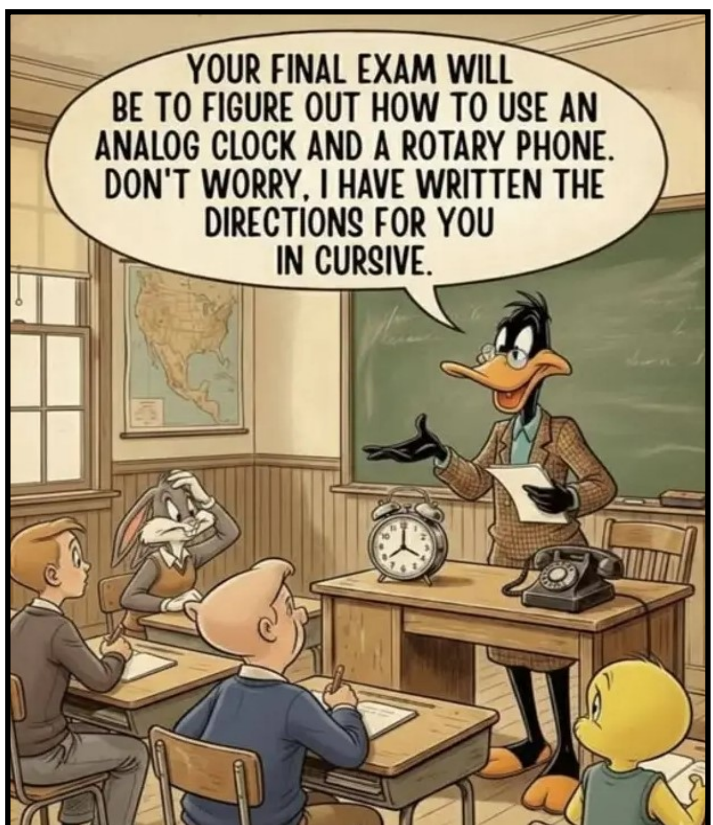
**God bless you, Pastor Charlie Carter**

**Worrying doesn't change anything, but trusting God changes everything.**



**An umbrella can't stop the rain, but it allows us to stand in it. Faith in God may not remove our trials, but it gives us the strength to overcome them.**

Shared on Facebook by Celeste Simmons



## **Easter Scriptures about Hope & Renewal**

Easter is a season that commemorates Jesus conquering death and bringing us new life through salvation. The following scriptures remind us of God's desire to bring us hope, refreshing, and renewal.

**Romans 15:13:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

**Colossians 1:27:** "To them, God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

**Psalms 118:24:** "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

**2 Corinthians 4:16–18:** "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

**Psalms 51:10:** "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

**Ezekiel 36:26:** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

**Psalms 71:5:** "For you, Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth."

**2 Corinthians 5:21:** "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

**1 John 1:9:** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

**Psalms 23:3:** "He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."

**Lamentations 3:22–23:** "Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

**Titus 3:5:** "...he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

**Romans 8:24–25:** "For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

All Bible verses are from the New International Version translation.

**Annie Armstrong**  
Easter Offering®  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

YOUR GENEROSITY IS  
**more than a gift**

Calvary's Offering Goal  
**\$10,000.00**



### **What is the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering?**

The offering was started in 1895 by Woman's Missionary Union® (WMU) to benefit the work of the Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board). In 1934, it was named in honor of Annie Armstrong, a bold missions advocate and WMU's first national executive leader. Today, more than \$2 billion has been donated by Southern Baptist churches and individuals to support thousands of missionaries in church planting and compassion ministries. Because of this sacrificial giving, millions of lives have been and continue to be transformed by the power of the gospel.

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) serves a diverse and complex region comprised of: United States, Canada and U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa.

**Population: 386M    Estimated Lost: 291M**

**Languages: 378    Unreached People Groups: 161**

The amount of the NAMB budget provided by Cooperative Program: 35%; and the amount of NAMB budget provided by Annie Armstrong Easter Offering: 50%. Amount given in 1895 by WMU®: \$5,000. Total Annie Armstrong offering gifts to date: Over \$2 billion

**Every dollar given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports thousands of missionaries across the U.S. and Canada.**

**Your donations to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Calvary's weekly offerings are greatly appreciated. 8% of offerings received each week go to the Cooperative Program.**

**Your generosity is more than a gift!  
It is helping share Jesus' love to others!**

## **Rambling's of the Ole Man**

Little did Wanda and I know a little over five years ago our life was going to change yet again. Let me tell you the story. When I went to work at Farmer's Furniture, I met a lady who was not only going to be my supervisor, but in time to come was going to also become a intricate part of our lives. We hit it off great at work. She was the Credit Manager, and I was her outside collector. For two years we went about doing what we were hired to do. During that time she became with child. When she returned from maternity leave, she would have to bring the baby to work due to the lack of a babysitter. Our boss, Mary Davis, was good and is still good working with her employee's in situations within reason. The first time Kaleigh walked up to me and handed me that little baby as all men do whether they want to admit it or not, I melted. Contrary to popular belief I am just a Teddy Bear. Ask my grandkids and they will tell you! A few months went on and one morning Kaleigh came to work with the baby and was some what upset. When I asked her what was up she told me her babysitter had up and quit on her and she had no one to keep Charlotte. That's the baby's name or at least that's her legal name and you'll see shortly why I said this. Since Wanda had just retired about a month earlier I told her that I would talk with her about maybe helping her out until she could find another babysitter. If she agreed then they, mom and dad, could meet with Wanda and go from there. Little did we know that this would be another turning point in our lives They all met and hit it off and so began another chapter in the Matthews's clan. On my off days, I began to see that this bundle of joy wasn't going to be joyous all the time. We could quickly see signs of colic, not real bad but bad enough. Since I was the one who got the bride into this, I knew I had to help her. We tried everything. I had picked up this old kids rocker at Barnes Sales that would hold me and a baby. I would drag that rocker into the kitchen at the house on 48 where we lived at the time. I would cut the exhaust fan on the stove, and we would sit and rock while I talked to her. It seemed to help and would calm her down. During these times, she gained her first nickname, Flatfoot. She would respond to it when I called her that, so Flatfoot it was! Well, Flatfoot began to grow and our relationship with her mama also grew.

When we realized it a year had passed. One day Kaleigh out of the blue told Wanda and myself that whether we wanted it or not we were Charlotte's adopted grandparents and her surrogate mom and dad. It gets me even today when I think about her telling us that and how much trust she put in us with her



child. I told her in the beginning we would treat her just like she was one of ours in all things and she said that was what she wanted. We have stayed true to it. Wanda became the teacher of all things while she was with us and when needed I became the referee. What I mean by this is when she got out of line I'd boot her back into play so to speak. As she grew and began to talk, Wanda became Nana and I became Pa. So, another badge of honor I wear with pride. I'm Granddaddy, Grandpa, PaPa, and Pa, and they all know just how to say it. Now what was to be a temporary fix has turned into, as of 9-11-26, six years. She's one of ours and we wouldn't have it any other way. She fits right in with Punk, Shotgun, Snodgrass, Cooter, Scout, Peanut, and Tink, and now, Flatfoot. Even now when I call her that she'll give me that little smirk. We've been told by her mama that she has a unique accent. Her mama is from New Jersey and her daughter is being partly raised by two southerners, so she speaks Jersey with a southern drawl. I get to watch the bride pour Jesus into this little girl every single day. Every so often, she'll come over to my chair and climb up beside me and ask me questions. I answer as best I can, but I know Wanda is the best teacher for children. I hope we live to see her come to the Lord. I hope that when she is older and we are gone, that she will think of us and a smile will come across her face and she'll say, "I had a nana and a pa that loved me. They didn't have to, but they did it because they could and they wanted to". So this is the story of how ole Flatfoot came about, and before I forget she's also known around here as, The Hobbit of the Hook!!

**Rambling's of the ole man.... Robert Matthews**

**Easter Jubilee**  
at the  
**Rudy Theatre**  
& Lunch at the  
**Robbin's Nest**  
**Thursday**  
**April 16**



Leave Calvary at 9:30 am  
Cost: \$47.00 - 25 tickets  
Please pay if you  
signed up to attend.

**Memorial Services Scheduled**

**Joe Wall** - former member of Calvary  
Graveside Service Saturday, April 11, 2pm  
at Cedarwood Cemetery

**Warren Braswell** - faithful member  
of Calvary until his health declined  
Memorial Service in Sanctuary at Calvary  
Saturday, April 18, 1pm

Coming Tuesday, May 5 at 11am  
North Roanoke  
Baptist Association  
Senior Adult Spring Luncheon  
"In the Garden" - Cost: \$15.00  
Guest Entertainment: Good News Gospel Group  
Please sign up and pay by April 12

This luncheon will be here at Calvary this time.  
Please join us since it will be more convenient for you.

**Jamestown Discovery**  
**Boat Tour**  
in Williamsburg, VA  
& Lunch at the Virginia  
Diner in Wakefield, VA



**Friday, May 15, Cost \$50.00, leave 9am**  
**Please sign up and pay by May 3.**

You will enjoy a guided tour of the James River on a boat as you see natural sights and hear sounds along the river. You will enjoy the view of the Jamestown Settlement and the Historic Island.

**Shoebox April Collection**

Combs, Brushes  
& Hair Accessories

**OCC Shoebox Meeting**

Tuesday, April 7, 6:30 p.m.  
Upstairs in OCC Storage Rooms

Anyone who would like to help  
sort items and fold boxes  
is welcome to attend.



**Reminder to pick up BBQ & Slaw**  
**for the Ecuador Fundraiser**  
**Sat, Apr. 4, 10am**  
at Calvary Baptist Church  
Pound of pork - \$10.00 - Pint of slaw - \$5.00

**Calvary's Senior Saints**  
**Council**

Carolyn Carter, Maxine Stutmann,  
Robie & Brenda Vincent  
Senior Saints Co-Directors:  
Linda Moore - 252-678-2124  
& Lou Smith - 252-536-9404



Check the Senior Saints' bulletin board in the back hall for information and sign up forms. It is very important that you sign up for events so proper preparations can be made. A waiting list will be available if we have to limit reservations. You will be moved to the regular list if space becomes available.

**In honor of Annie Armstrong,**  
all women are invited to join one of Calvary's  
WMU groups. Members listed below have a  
good time serving the Lord together.

**Eunice Baird**

Carolyn Ashby  
Raye Bailey  
Vivian Barnes  
Barbara Barrett  
Patsy Cook  
Charlotte Crawley  
Patsy Daniels  
Nancy Evans  
Barbara Hammack  
Ann Harris  
Sandra Inge  
Brenda Jenkins  
Frances Lassiter  
Linda Mason  
Linda Meadows  
Grace Moseley  
Mary Mullins  
Frankie Murff  
Joann Ricks  
Lois Rook  
Cardelia Seuis  
Joyce Smith  
Lou Smith  
Maxine Stutmann  
Janet Taylor  
Wilma White

**Women In Action**

Carolyn Allen  
Cindy Boone  
Joan Carter  
Patsy Cook  
Freddi Davis  
Sheila Davis  
Vicky Derzis  
Susan Gums  
Kecia Joyner  
Linda Moore  
Chris Moseley  
Michelle Pratt  
Carolyn Shelton  
Tina Sledge  
Evelyn Smiley  
Lou Smith  
Robin Spence  
Cindy Stephens  
Brenda Vincent  
Michele Wrenn  
Joni Wright

