





Have Yourself A Cozy Little Winter

I went searching for a word that could encapsulate the idea of warm and communal connection during the cold, dark days of winter. To no one's surprise, I found the best options in the vocabularies of Scandinavia, specifically Norway and Denmark.

These two countries, which share a common linguistic heritage, also share the word, *hygge*. This word has a richness that is hard to capture in English but is almost a necessity in lands where the sun basically disappears for months. Essentially, it means to create a warm atmosphere by sharing the good things in life with friends and loved ones. The English cognate of the root word for *hygge* in Old Norwegian is hug.

The Norwegians also have another word for a similar idea (The depth of winter there could produce many words for a similar concept I would imagine.); this word is *koselig*. The idea here is to embrace and enjoy winter instead of simply suffering through it. According to the website, Life in Norway, *koselig* is "a feeling; that of coziness, intimacy, warmth, happiness, being content." The images here are warm sweaters, roaring fires with friends gathered round and good food.

The best we can offer in English may be cozy, although it feels a little thin given the Norwegian alternatives. But as we enter into the winter season, I like the idea of embracing it by intentionally creating coziness through shared experiences of community. Instead of simply waiting for winter to be over; what if we welcomed it as an opportunity to deepen our relationships with God and one another.

I have always felt a special warmth of worship during the Advent season. Perhaps it's the glow of the candles or the familiarity of the songs we share; but Advent and Christmas come with a built-in coziness. In the pages that follow, you will read about the many opportunities to worship together in the coming season.

We will also have many chances to offer a cozy hug to our community in the winter months. One of the coziest moments we share together all year happen during our annual Christmas Project. Through that ministry we share the warmth we know with others.

As the new year dawns, we will gather around the winter fires to tell stories. Like most families, those stories are often the ones that remind us of who we are. 2025 marks Calvary's 150th Birthday. Our celebration begins on January 26 with our Founders' Day Worship Service. The stories we tell that day and beyond will remind us of God's faithfulness to us in the past and the promise of God's hope for us in the future.

I am sure this winter will be like most of my life in Kentucky: cold some, snowy some and weird most. We can't control what winter will do. We can control how we approach it. Maybe we can learn a lesson from folks who know winter and embrace it by creating cozy community. So, let's have ourselves a cozy little winter.



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OUR STAFF
Is Here to Serve

— Looking back

Life as the Body

One Body. Many Members

Leaning into this year's focal theme, "Together in Unity," we spent time in worship emphasizing how we might best live in community with one another. We connected through opportunities to serve, grow, and minister.





Building Dreams Together

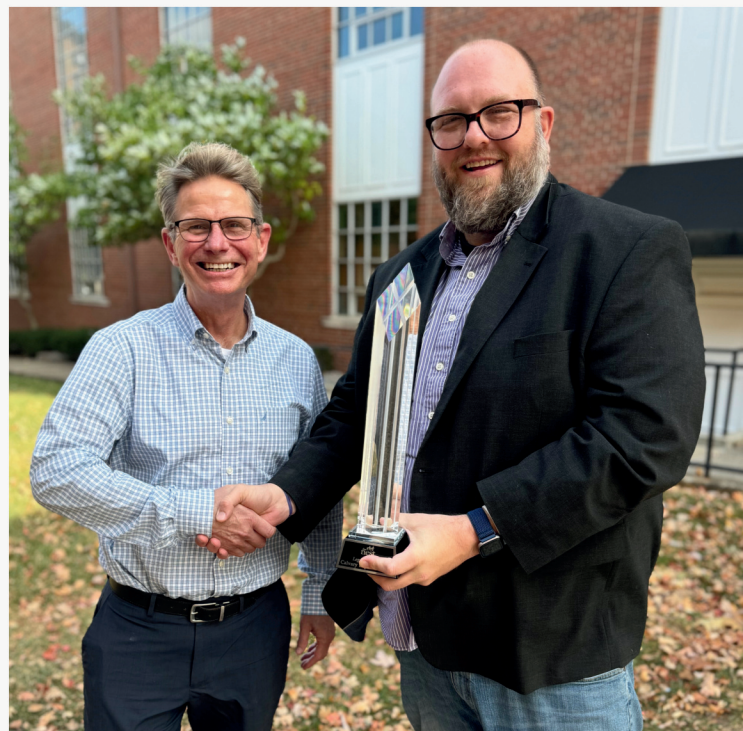
You've heard it said, "Teamwork makes the dream work," and that is a great slogan for Lexington's Habitat for Humanity (LHFH). People from our community teaming up to help a local resident attain their dream of home ownership.

In September, Calvary partnered with LHFH on their 500th build. This was a special partnership as Marsha, the homeowner, shared with us this summer at Vacation Bible School about her desire to have a home of her own. Children and families wrote encouraging messages and prayers on the boards that were later used in the construction of Marsha's new home. Teams from Calvary provided hours of labor on Marsha's new home, helping to see her dream of home ownership come to fruition.



Fostering Community Partnerships

In August, Calvary was presented with the first-ever "Legacy Award" by The Nest at their annual gala event, "A Night for the Nest." The award recognizes and honors the partnership we share in supporting our community and families in crisis. In 2023 the Nest opened their new advocacy center in what was formerly Calvary's High Point Building.





Community Event: Together In Unity Concert

Calvary's Music Ministry brought together voices from across our community for our "Together in Unity" concert in October. Our own Sanctuary Choir was joined by St. Luke's Chancel Choir, the Keith McCutchen Trio, and Uniting Voices Lexington, under the direction of Dr. Michael Preacely. The concert featured more than 100 vocalists of all ages.

Celebrating,
Cherishing One
Another

"How good and pleasant it is when
God's people live together in unity!"
-Psalm 133:1



Extending the Invitation

Annual events such as "Bring a Friend" weekend, Disciple Now, and the Fall Festival provided wonderful opportunities for our church family to invite someone to connect with Calvary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24
6PM, Sanctuary

Gather with us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of the Savior with carols, candles, and communion. This is a family-friendly service for all ages.

Calvary Carols

December 16 & 17
6-8PM

Sign-up Here



The Longest Night Service

December 18 • 6PM
Sanctuary

In the Longest Night service, we invite one another into the hope Advent offers us and the comfort in knowing that though we experience darkness in this life, darkness will never overcome the light.

Bethlehem Morning

December 22 • 9:45AM

Preschool and Children's Sunday School on this morning includes a special presentation of the Christmas story!

Ornament artwork provided by Calvary's
3rd and 4th grade Sunday School class

The Coming

Advent
Sermon Series

Dec 1

A Righteous Branch,
Jeremiah 33:14-16 *Hope*

Dec 8

A Refiner's Fire,
Malachi 3:1-4 *Peace*

8:30AM Worship in Fellowship Hall & 11:00AM Worship in the Sanctuary

Dec 15

Worship for Gaudette Sunday
Joy

Dec 22

A Shepherd Savior,
Micah 5:2-5a/Ps 80:1-7
Love











Combined Worship at 11:00AM in the Sanctuary

Dec 24

A Great Light, Isaiah 9:2-7

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship at 6PM in the Sanctuary

ADVENT *playlist*

- ▶ Joy to the World  
- ▶ Hark! the Herald Angels Sing  
- ▶ What Child is This  
- ▶ Betelehemu
Presented with the participation of our
International Choir  
- ▶ Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent
Men's choir  



Find a list of the Christmas Carols Calvary will be singing each week during Advent HERE or visit the website under the Worship tab.

It sounds kind of cinematic, doesn't it? The Coming. I can see the title screen now. A glow deepens over a sparse horizon. The light grows until it fills the screen like an explosion. And we can hear the music. A low murmur of strings gives way to a brilliant volley of brass and percussion. The Coming. I can imagine that is what most folks in the late BCs in Palestine expected to happen when the Messiah came, if the Messiah ever came. Oh there had been the occasional messianic pretender, but nothing stuck. For the ordinary Galilean or Judean of the day, the Coming may have been little more than a dream.

What do we expect to experience when the Messiah comes to us again this Advent? Do we expect him to come in righteousness and justice, to bring the love and of God into our darkness yet again? How does that look to us? As we worship this Advent, we will listen again to the expectations of the prophets and allow them to shape our hope for the Coming of Christ to us again this season.

Monty

Join us in worship during Advent & Christmas for these Christmas carols... and more!



SERVE WITH JOY!

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Sharing the joy of Christmas with families in our community since 1975

CHRISTMAS PROJECT STORE

Families picking up their gifts and food boxes have the opportunity to “shop” at the The Christmas Project store which is stocked with gently used toys, children’s clothes, housewares and diapers that the congregation donates. Donations for the Christmas Project Store are accepted through December 13. Please visit the Christmas Project webpage to view the list of items accepted. Items not taken at the store will be donated to Goodwill after pick up day.

Volunteer Opportunity: Help sort donations on Wednesday evenings from 5-7:30PM in the EB2 basement and on Thursday, December 12th and Friday, December 13th from 9AM – 4PM (or until finished on Friday) to assist with organizing, folding, and arranging the Christmas Project Donation Store.

CHILDREN’S GIFT WISH LISTS

Volunteer Opportunity: Pick up a child’s wish list and purchase something new from their list. Bring the item back unwrapped to be included with the rest of the family’s gifts. Wish lists are available on Wednesday evenings (during Fellowship Dinner) and Sunday mornings (after both worship services) from early November until all lists have been claimed.

GIFT WRAPPING & FOOD BOXES

Children’s gifts will be brought to Calvary unwrapped to be checked, wrapped and placed with the rest of the family’s items. Food boxes are labeled and filled with cooking staples as well as personal toiletry items.

Volunteer Opportunity: Calvary families (and groups) can volunteer to wrap gifts on Wednesday evenings and Sunday evenings on the third floor of EB2. Donations of gift tags and Christmas gift bags are always needed. Food boxes for Christmas Project families are prepared Wednesday, December 11th and filled on Friday, December 13th starting at 6PM. This is a family friendly event, and we invite Calvary members of all ages to participate.

CHRISTMAS PROJECT SATURDAY

Christmas Project Saturday is December 14th, from 8:00AM-1:00PM. This is when families pick-up their items at Calvary or have them delivered.

Volunteer Opportunity: Prayer room, personal shoppers, translators, refreshments and hospitality attendants, delivery drivers, loaders and runners are needed.



Scan this code to visit the Calvary Christmas Project webpage for specific details, dates and contact information.





CELEBRATE WITH JOY!

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Sunday, December 15

Adult Sunday School classes that meet on the 3rd floor of EB1
9:45AM

Adult Sunday School classes that meet on the 3rd floor of EB2, Lighthouse & Say Anything
9:45AM

Gather for breakfast treats and conversation on our respective Sunday School floors. Please bring a breakfast food or sweet treat to share with everyone. Come enjoy time getting to know your church family, spending time around the tables.

Adult Sunday School classes that meet on the 2nd floor of EB2
9:30-10AM

We're asking you to bring a breakfast food or sweet treat to share with everyone. Come enjoy time mingling with church family from other classes, and then join your class at 10AM.

College & Young Adult Christmas Party
December 4, 6:30 PM at Joni Breeding's

Come hungry and prepared for a great time! We'll have our annual gift exchange, but we're putting a little spin on it this year- we're providing all the gifts! Take a break from studying and invite a friend to join us.

Youth Christmas Party
December 15, 5-7PM at the Thurman's Home

Youth, 6th-12th grade, are invited to join us for our annual Christmas party! We'll have food, games, and lots of fun! Bring a gift (under \$15) for our annual White Elephant gift exchange.

Children's Christmas Celebration & Parents' Night Out
December 6, 6-9 PM in EB1

A time for kids to celebrate Jesus' birth with a pizza dinner, art, games, and a Los Posadas Party, while parents enjoy an evening out. \$5 per child with a \$10 per family maximum. Register using the QR code.





Celebrating God's Faithfulness: Strength For Today, Bright Hope For Tomorrow

Calvary turns 150 years old in 2025 and we can't wait to celebrate with you. But first, here's a brief look back at our history.

1875

First Meeting of new congregation; Rev. J.M. Frost called as first pastor (A & B)

1903

Church purchased property on High Street for new sanctuary

1905

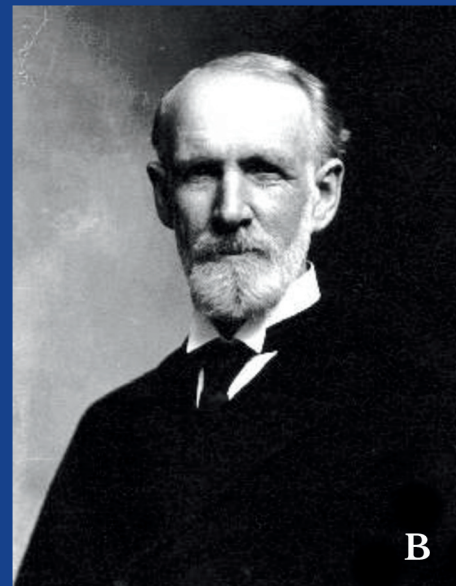
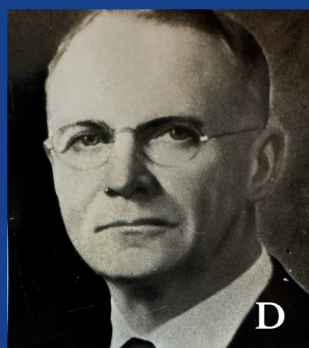
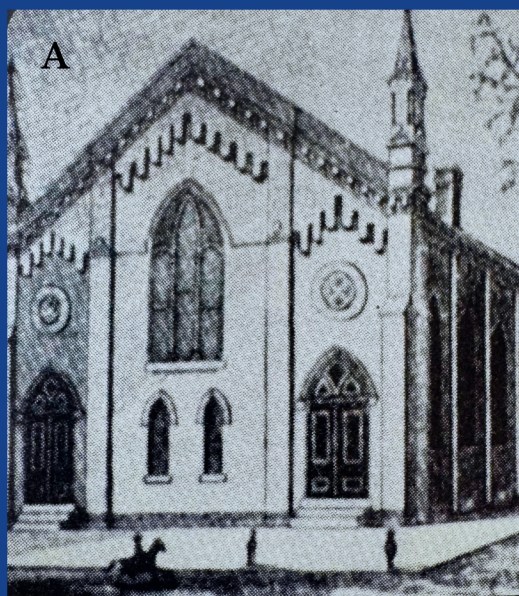
Church moved to new sanctuary at High Street and Rodes Ave. and voted to change the name to Calvary Baptist Church. Fire destroyed the building in March 1907, but was rebuilt and occupied by January 1908. (C)

1909

Dr. T.C. Ecton became the 9th pastor. He retired in 1947, serving the longest tenure of any of the church's pastors. (D)

1948

First radio broadcast of the Sunday evening services on WLEX radio





1954
Dr. Franklin Owen was called as pastor

1956
Land for the current sanctuary purchased and then broke ground in 1960. The first service was held in the new, 1,700 seat sanctuary in 1962. (E)

1969
High Street Neighborhood Center founded (F)

1975
Christmas Project birthed in a Sunday School class (G)

1977
Calvary elected and ordained its first four female deacons

1991
Dr. Robert Baker called as pastor, serving 27 years before his retirement (H)



FOUNDING FATHERS — Dr. Franklin Owen (left), minister of Calvary Baptist Church, and Dr. Russell Patton, minister of First United Methodist Church, visit children at the Day Care Center which their churches have sponsored jointly since November 1969. The Center, located at the Methodist church, serves children from both church communities.

H

Calvary Baptist Church
150 EAST HIGH (40507)
LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
Robert G. Baker
Pastor

Second Century of Service September 8,

I

MISSION LEXINGTON

Charitable Healthcare
By Appointment:
Medical Clinic 272-0219
Dental Clinic 519-8157
MissionLexington.org

2005
Mission Lexington incorporated following mission trip to Mission Arlington in Texas (I)

Welcome, Robert G. Baker Family!



2020
Current Pastor, Dr. Monty Stallins, called to Calvary

2025
Calvary celebrates 150 years of ministry

With great joy we welcome our Pastor to the family of Calvary Baptist Church. It is our pleasure to welcome Mrs. Baker, Deborah; and their children (as pictured above) - Nan, Robert and Katy. A reception is planned for this evening in Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. You will have ample opportunity to greet them. You are invited to be a part of the activities.

CELEBRATE 150 YEARS OF MINISTRY WITH US IN 2025

➔ Founders' Day Worship *January 26, 10:30AM*



Join us for an extended worship service celebrating the historical and collective story of Calvary and the

ways in which the Lord has been faithful throughout our 150 years of ministry. All are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshments at 9:30AM in Fellowship Hall.

➔ Homecoming Weekend *June 21 & 22*



We're inviting everyone to come home to Calvary for a weekend of celebration including worship,

a catered lunch, and mini-reunions. Mark your calendar and reach out to an old Calvary friend with an invitation to join us. If you're interested in helping to host a mini-reunion, please reach out to the 150th Committee.

➔ Celebration Worship Concert *October 12*



Be our guest as we feature the beauty and tradition of the musical arts ministry at Calvary throughout the

years. You're invited to take in the sounds from our Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, as well as other special guests. We will also feature a new choral piece commissioned for this anniversary event.

You're INVITED



Scan QR code
to view invitation

150TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Nancy Boatman
Penny Campbell
Zane Cohen
Hank Ellington
Niki Hays
John Horne II
Harriet McVey
David Shaw
Sue Shaw
Monty Stallins
Tyanna White



Find the most up-to-date info about our 150th Anniversary on our website.

Help Us Prepare for the Celebrations!



Contact Info



We want to be sure everyone who would like to attend our anniversary events receives the information and invitation. If you know someone who would appreciate updates about our 150th anniversary celebrations, please use the QR code to submit their information.



Photographs



We plan to highlight different aspects of Calvary's ministry over the years- weddings, baby dedications, baptisms, Sunday School, college ministry, youth ministry, missions, etc. If you have a few photographs (digital much preferred) you'd like to share, please submit them using the QR code. Please choose your best photos! We will also accept photographs in the office.



Story Booth

Help tell Calvary's story by sharing your favorite memories, funny stories, or just how Calvary's ministries have impacted your life using the Story Booth. The 150th Anniversary Audio/Visual Team has set up a studio to record videos featuring your Calvary stories. The videos will be weaved together to share during our 150th Anniversary celebration. It will also be a unique and modern way for the future anniversary committees to share Calvary's history! Please contact John Horne II or Brad Scroggin to reserve a time to stop by the Story Booth located on the 3rd floor of EB2. The booth is open Sundays from 8-10AM and Thursdays from 5-7PM.





Youth Game Night

January 3, 6-9PM • Hutchens' Home

Youth in 6th-12th grades are invited to night of games, pizza and fellowship at the Hutchens' house during Winter Break. Please contact Chuck Powell with questions.

Bible Drill/Bible Buddies Kick-off Lunch

January 5, 12:15PM • Fellowship Hall

Children in grades 2-6 and their families are invited to the Bible Drill Kick-off Lunch to learn about the Bible Drill program at Calvary where kids learn Bible verses in fun ways through games and Bible activities. Bible Buddies is for children in 2nd and 3rd grades and lasts for six weeks. Bible Drill is for children in 4th - 6th grades and runs from January through April. Please RSVP to the lunch using the QR code and contact Carrie Beth Tonks with questions.



LOGOS Bunco & Potluck Lunch

January 16, 12-2PM • Fireside Room

Those 60ish and older are invited to an afternoon of fun with a potluck lunch followed by high-spirited games of bunco. No previous bunco experience necessary. Please bring a dish to share with the group and join in the fun!

Women's Ministry Bible Study

Beginning January 27, 10:45AM-12PM

Calvary Women's Ministry (CWM) invites women of all ages to a six-week Bible study entitled "Keep Your Fuel Tank Filled: Studies on the Holy Spirit" led by Eric Frugé. The study runs January 27th-March 10th (no meeting on February 17th due to Presidents' Day). Zoom option available.

Children's Hearty Party & Parents' Night Out

February 14, 6-9PM • EB1

A fun night to celebrate all the love! Infants through 5th graders are invited to a party where we'll celebrate love with crafts, games, songs and more while parents get the evening off! Register using the QR code or contact Carrie Beth Tonks.



Youth & Families TobyMac Concert

February 20, 6PM

The Youth Ministry is having a night out to see TobyMac in concert. Plan to meet at church and walk over to Rupp Arena with the group. \$25 per ticket. Please let Chuck Powell know if you'd like a ticket as soon as possible but no later than January 1, 2025 or when all the tickets have been claimed.

High Street Neighborhood Center Trivia Night

February 23, 5-7PM • Fellowship Hall

Come for a fun night of trivia competition and an opportunity to raise money in support for the High Street Neighborhood Center (HSNC) and its' mission to provide quality childcare for the preschoolers of our community.



Founders' Day Worship

Make plans to gather with us as we kick-off our year-long celebration of 150 years of ministry here at Calvary with our Founders' Day Worship. Extended Worship Care available for elementary children following the Children's Sermon.

January 26 10:30AM*

You're invited to drop-by Fellowship Hall at 9:30AM for refreshments and an opportunity to welcome our guests. Children and Youth will have Sunday School classes 9:45-10:15AM.

*No Early Worship this day



150 E. High Street
Lexington, KY 40507

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