



In The Vine



*Newsletter for November and December, 2023
Calvary Baptist Church, Gainesville, Texas*

From Pastor Scott:

It is hard to believe we have almost reached the end of another year. We have all experienced many joys, sorrows, accomplishments, and mistakes. This is all part of life. As we look back on 2023, one absolute we can say is, "God was with us all the way." Sometimes it may not have felt like it, but aren't you glad God does not act on our feelings? He tells us that He will be there for us and see us through whatever happens in life. With this in mind, we can face the New Year with all of its uncertainty and say, "For Yahweh is good, and His love is eternal; His faithfulness endures through all generations." Ps 100:5. My prayer for each of us is that we will hold fast to the truth of Who God is and His plan for all of us. God's blessings upon each of you as you follow Him!

Love in Christ!



November and December Birthdays Happy Birthday to each of you!

November

2—Fred Eichenberger 11—Jo Ellen Fisher
15—Jennifer Giles 22—Bob West

December

2—Makenzie Rucker 3—Jeremy Bartlette
13—Berkley Clover 20—Cayden Rains
22—Briar Lynn Hollis 27—Jesse Rucker
30—Amber Whittington



Happy Anniversary to you both!

November

24—Casey & Shannon Hollis
30—Randy & Brenda Jenkins

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Father, prepare my heart not just for this Thanksgiving season but for all of my life, that I might be a person who expresses gratitude, not only by what I say but by what I do. Lord, help me to remember that responsiveness is my responsibility as Your Child. Help me, Lord, to remember that Thanksgiving is a compound word. I am not only to be a thankful person, but a giving person. I know that You are honored when I respond to Your Word, and I pray that You will help me to respond well and to bring glory and honor to Your Name. Lord God, I give You the glory and the honor for what You're doing in my heart right now and for what You will do in the future. In Jesus' Name. Amen

.....From Dr. David Jeremiah's blog



The Greatest Gift

The greatest gift did not come wrapped in shiny paper nor fancy ribbons. This gift would end a long, long separation. It was woven in love and more love from ancient times. Many saw only a small detail of the gift in their own revelations.

In the perfect time this gift arrived. It was placed in a lowly manger among the animals. The Gift grew, walked, and worked among us. He was the perfect gift to end man's separation. In the fullness of time, the Gift endured betrayal, denial, jealousy, and false accusations. He was pronounced guilty who had no guilt. He was mocked, severely beaten, crowned with thorns, and cursed—this Gift so precious given.

He bled, died, and was buried. BUT the greatest Gift arose again. He lives today and forever! This greatest Gift brings us something no man can give — eternal life with peace and joy that no one can take away.

So as you seek that perfect gift for those that have “everything,” share with them the greatest Gift!

...Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:8



“Wise men still seek Him today.” Lanny Wolfe

Opportunities to Serve.....



December

7th - Christmas Parade

9th - 9:00-10:00 am Kids' Breakfast with Santa

9th - 4:30 pm The kids will go to Denison to see a light display and eat.

10th - 9:00 am Church wide Christmas Breakfast.

16th - Going to the Operation Christmas Child

Distribution Center in Coppell from 9 am to 1 pm.

We met our goal of \$3000 to be able to send 300 boxes to Operation Christmas Child this year. Thank you Brenda for coordinating and all those who helped pack the boxes.

24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 pm.

Christmas for Kids - Gathering money and toys to provide for those without gifts. Goodie Bags for Shut-Ins- contact Melba and thank you for all who participated. Christmas Cards - If you would like to give cards to those in our church or shut-ins, lists are available in the sanctuary. The money you would spend on postage if you had mailed them, will be used to buy Christmas for Kids that are needy. If you see that there is a name missing from the list, please let Lori know.

Please continue to check the bulletin each week for updates.



CALLING ALL CHEFS — We have many great cooks in our midst and start sharing your recipes!

Squash Casserole- an adaptation from Mt. Springs Area Reunion Cookbook

4-5 large yellow squash washed and sliced. Frozen squash is okay too. 1 large onion chopped. 1 stick of butter. Place all in a saucepan, cover with water, and cook until squash are tender. Add salt and pepper to taste. Mash squash with potato masher or immersion blender. Add 2 cans of cream of chicken soup, 16 ounces sour cream, and two boxes of Stove Top chicken stuffing mix. Combine well. Place in a buttered 13 x 9 in. baking dish. Bake in a preheated oven at 350°F for 30 to 40 minutes. Serve. This casserole freezes well. Recipe may be halved.

Congratulations to:

Garren McBee and team on their football Super Bowl win. He and the team were privileged to play at AT&T stadium recently.

Mackenzie Rucker is performing in The Nutcracker in Denton this month.

If you have news to share please email me at debrow1865@gmail.com.

May you have a blessed month. See 'ya!

