



February 2025

Annual Blessing Review Issue

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THOUGH SEASONS *change*,
PLANS *shift*, AND
CIRCUMSTANCES *fluctuate*,
GOD *remains* THE SAME

Annual Blessing Review Service & Meeting

Sunday, February 23rd

Read the provided info, pray and attend this important discussion of our church building's future.

Spotlight

Pastor's Report

As I write this report, I've just returned from a lovely discussion on Ephesians 4:1-18 at our Provision Time (*Bible Study*). Part of that passage describes some leadership-oriented spiritual gifts, and their purpose, saying that they are meant:

"to equip [God's] people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching ... Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to be in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body ... grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Ephesians 4:12-14a, 15-16 NIV

In light of that passage, the study book we're using asks:

"An assembly that grows is no longer 'children,' subject to deceptive teachings. How does a properly operating relationship between gifts, officers, unity and knowledge of the Son help individual believers to live successfully in the church and the world?"

As I've journeyed with you over these 6+ years from attendee to Pastor, I've seen each of you grow in your faith and relationship with one another. I attribute this to our growing reliance on prayer, and our *"effort[s] to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace"* Ephesians 4:3b NIV. I've watched the overall attitude of this church shift significantly as we have come to embrace our calling to love one another as the family of God in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.

I've seen this as I've heard your stories of turning your thoughts, desires, and life circumstances over to God in prayer-filled surrender. I've seen it in your hunger for God's word, desire to know Jesus better, as you dedicated (and rededicated) your life to God through baptism and membership, and in your growing desire for God to have **HIS** way in your life, and in the life of our church. These are significant changes, and they are **good!** I'm **so proud** of the leaps and bounds I've seen in your ability to surrender to Jesus!

Now, in this chapter of our church family, we are coming face to face with surrendering ourselves to Christ in new ways. God calls us to surrender our individual lives, and demonstrate His love to one another as a church family and in our neighbourhood(s). God is also calling us to surrender the resources that He's given us. On February 23rd, at our Annual Blessings Review Meeting, we'll be having a "Church Family Discussion about the Best Use of our Resources." It's a significant conversation to have,

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Calvary lives to seek, know & worship God representing the redeeming love of Jesus

I don't know many people who like change. Once we've settled into a comfortable routine, change can ruffle us. God's promises are our comfort in this shifting season because it reminds us that God is constant, even when everything is changing. He is still faithful. And He is still working in our church life in ways that we can't fully see. So even though we want things to feel familiar and comfortable, we are thankful that God's love and blessings remain unchanged.

While almost everything has changed drastically over the centuries, worship, in all its different denominations, still comprises of the same elements. The first-century church included six fundamentals in their worship services. They observed a communion supper ([Acts 20:7](#)), prayers were offered up ([1 Corinthians 14:15-16](#)), songs were sung to the glory of God ([Ephesians 5:19](#)), a collection was taken ([1 Corinthians 16:2](#)), the Scriptures were read ([Colossians 4:16](#)), and the Word of God was proclaimed ([Acts 20:7](#)). Sound familiar?

Regardless of communion using individual serving cups, how old or new our hymns, whether we pass the collection plates or leave them at the doors, which version of the Bible, even or how long the sermon is, Calvary always had, and always will, provide inspiring, biblical worship. The God of our ancestors is the same God whose love and promises are constant.

Worship requires many hands and voices to prepare and execute and we are thankful for those that participate with music, technology, greeting, slides, preaching, reading, praying, and just as importantly, participating reverently. Each of these roles can always use fresh faces and ideas. If God is calling you to use your talents, or you'd like to try something to see if it's a fit, do let me (Victoria) know. God has brought each of us to Calvary for a reason, so discover yours!

It's unique that our church is blessed with a team of preachers. The different perspectives from Ruth, Andrea, Rex, Shelley, Shawn and Patricia has enriched our understanding of God's word. As well as the annual services of Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Anniversary (Rev. Johnny Dalisy from Toronto Baptist Ministries), Commissioning, Remembrance Day, Advent, and Christmas our preaching team has lead us through deep dives into Corinthians and Ephesians.

2024 Accomplishments

The Worship Team set some goals for 2024, and below are what we were able to accomplish.

Birthday Sunday: the last Sunday monthly, we celebrate everyone with a birthday that month by sharing cupcakes at fellowship time. As well as getting to enjoy special treats, it's another chance to connect and celebrate these life events during fellowship time.

Coffee House Entryway: first off, a big thank you to Carol and Shirley who not only prepared the refreshment area and keep it stocked, but each Sunday make sure coffee/tea and treats (we try to ensure Gluten Free options) are ready for our enjoyment. Our little "coffee house" has provided space, seating and tables, allowing people to share a hot drink, snack and conversation, while allowing for

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Music at Calvary



Choir rehearsals are Sunday afternoons at 12 p.m. The Praise Team runs through Sunday's hymns at 9:45 a.m. Our small, but inspiring choir shares anthems celebrating special services. Feel free to invite a friend or family member with you to choir rehearsals!

For more information about choir, praise team, or offering special music, please contact Hanna Kim via email at music@calvary-baptist-church.ca

Feb 23, Annual Blessings Review: "On Eagle's Wings"

Apr 13, Palm Sunday: "Beneath the Cross"

Apr 20, Easter: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

May 11, Mother's Day: "A Home of Grace"

May 25, Choir Season Finale: "Near the Cross"

Ministry Priorities

All that happens at Calvary, can be divided into three categories that comprise our ministry as a church:

Care for the Congregation – Worship, Discipleship & Pastoral Care

Care for the Wider Community – Outreach: Grace Pascoe Care Centre (Food Bank), Ganaraska, Seniors & Ministry Partnerships

Ministry Foundations – Financial foundation/sustainability & Facilities

Something Unexpected Happened the Week Before Christmas !

While some wonderful, exciting and hopeful things happened this Christmas, we also had some unwelcome surprises.

We are sharing this with you because you have been involved with or visited Calvary at some point over the past few years. Our hope is if you are not in a position to respond financially, that you will pray and also share this letter with someone who may be able to assist.

The Trustees of Calvary Baptist want to keep the Calvary fellowship and extended community informed, and so we feel the need to share an update about our aging building. In December 2024 several urgent infrastructure issues emerged – expensive issues that required immediate attention. We cannot claim that our building has let us down! The Sunday School Building (the oldest part of the property) has in fact supported this neighbourhood for almost 100 years, and ancient drainpipes were one of the many things that suddenly collapsed just days before Christmas.



What Happened?

In quick succession during this December 2024, we had critical physical infrastructure failures at the end of the year: Flooding and Sewage backup due to collapsed pipes, leading to Fire Alarm, electrical, and structural damage. These events also triggered further discoveries with the building infrastructure leading to mandatory remediations required by the authorities for the safety of all who use our building. These critical and extraordinary costs were much more than any planned maintenance. The non-deferable, unexpected, un-budgeted maintenance costs have totaled more than \$25,000.

Leading up to just days before Christmas, generous contractors were able to assist in the recovery of our most urgent critical systems. There are a few remaining priority repairs to be completed in the next few weeks. The building has been restored to an operational state for now.

How Can I Help?

We're asking for additional one-time assistance from our immediate and extended community, neighbourhood and friends, specifically to help offset the cost of the repairs. If you are able to make a one-time gift, in addition to other giving, in these first two months of 2025, the Government of Canada has extended the deadline for charitable receipts for 2024, and you will add to your 2024 charitable givings. (The reason for this extension is that, due to the postal strike, many charities nationwide have suffered by not being able to get donations for their end of the year campaigns.)

I'm Not in a Position to Donate Right Now ...

As we handle these issues with this building that has served and continues to serve our wide East End community, we would appreciate your prayers for those who use this building, the leadership, the community and the church family. We understand that you might not currently be in a position to help with finances.. Sharing this request with others who may be able to contribute, and creative sharing of time and abilities with the community, are helpful and much appreciated.

If you have any questions please feel free to address the Trustees (Kent, Barbara, Rita) or Heather Gordon, Treasurer. Thank you all for your contributions to the church and community at 72 Main Street.



Heather Gordon, Rita Shelton Deverell, Kent Faulkner & Barbara Sneyd

February

- 2 Don Ronson
 14 Sandy Drysdale
 26 Michael Deverell
 27 Kavya Krishna Lingamallu

March

- 7 Marita Vitto
 8 Tina Timmermans
 11 Barbara Sneyd
 17 Ruth Bartlett & Fred Sneyd (turning 90)
 19 Barbara Gibbings



April

- 8 Wendy Wood
 9 Peter Omola
 10 Gord Moore
 16 Kathie Collins-Williams
 21 Shawn Ronson & Marlene West

Upcoming Events

February 12: Mission Team Mtg @ 7:30 Virtual

February 17: Family Day Open House at Ganaraska Woods Retreat Centre: 10-6 p.m. Lunch & snacks provided by GW. Come play & pray in the snow or allow yourself to rest & pray by the fireplace. If you want stay over Sunday night, doors open around 5 p.m. Suggest donation of \$10 for the day. Overnight \$20. Speak to Shawn or call the church office if coming so we can make sure we have the space and food ready for you.

February 23: Annual Blessings Review

February Preachers:

- 2 Shelley Faulkner
 9 Rev. Andrea Cambridge
 16 Rev. Rex Deverell
 23 Rev. Ruth Bartlett

March Preachers:

- 2 Rev. Ruth Bartlett
 9 Shelley Faulkner
 16 Rev. Andrea Cambridge
 23 Rev. Ruth Bartlett
 30 Rev. Rex Deverell

Tuesday Small Group Connections - Virtual
Provision Time @7 p.m.

March 4 & 18, April 1 & 15

Prayer Time @10 a.m. Virtual & In-person
 in Harris Hall (below sanctuary)

February 11 & 25, March 25 & April 29

55+ Board Games & Cards Afternoons:

First Saturday monthly – 1:30 to 4 p.m.

March 3/April 7

Worship Team

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meetings, prayer circles or choir practice to happen in the sanctuary after the service without distraction.

Still in process

History Hallway: This hallway to the Pastor's office is a work in progress. Furniture has been moved and photographs are being prepared to frame and mount. Hopefully within the year, our 130+ year history will be appropriately displayed.

In conclusion, here at Calvary we are entering a transformative season. Even if we aren't looking forward to change, feeling anxious, or think we're leaving important things behind, change will come. I encourage you to consider how God's never changing character meets our church and you personally in this time. You can cling to God through this transition, knowing that our Lord is our stability.

So without knowing what the alterations to our building will be, or how the future will look, we know we can depend on God. Engaging, affirming worship will continue at Calvary. I'm encouraged to trust the Lord and look to Him in the moments I feel insecure or overwhelmed. I don't like change, but I'm thankful for a God who never changes.

Victoria Drysdale (Chair), Ruth Bartlett, Andrea Cambridge, Rex Deverell, Kent & Shelley Faulkner, Darlene Kelley & Hanna Kim



Creative Partnering: Naval Club crew cooking turkeys (plus mashing 50 pounds of peeled potatoes donated by Eadrey Foods) for our joint Christmas Dinner at Grant African Methodist Church where our two churches partnered to serve our community food, and Christmas cheer. Many thanks to all who participated cooking, serving, cleaning and entertaining. Leftovers were sent to the Shelter on the Danforth. Special thanks to Rita Deverell for organizing.

The GPCC (Food Bank) will be going into the third year of service to our neighbourhood. Unfortunately, social support policies have not changed and the need continues to increase. We continue to open every Thursday evening so as to accommodate those neighbours who have employment but cannot afford rent and food, or those with children with school schedules.

We were saddened by the departure of both Adrienne Scott, Outreach Director, without whom service would not have begun so smoothly after the pandemic, and Bofoa Kwamena, whose management and organizational skills ensured that the systems, volunteers and obligations to the Daily Food Bank are all in place. We're so grateful for their heartfelt care of our community, their skills and their very many dedicated volunteer hours. We wish Adrienne all the best as she embarks on a new job and Bofoa as she is now on the Board of Daily Bread.

Debbie Visconti who served our neighbourhood with Community 55 and has been volunteering with GPCC as well, has now assumed the position of Director, supported by Kelly Maloney and other trained volunteers.

During last Spring the numbers served rose to around 400, with some people coming from outside our community, and so it was necessary to implement a catchment model in May. Service now extends from Danforth to the north, south to the lake, from Coxwell to the east and Victoria Park to the west. Numbers served now range from 300 to 350 and we are able to better meet the demand of our immediate community.

An appointment system was implemented this January. This means no more lining up outside in the cold, no more congestion at the door for parents picking up little ones from day care. Above all, this model provides a more personal and dignified way of shopping. Many thanks to Adrienne and Bofoa for continuing to support during this time of transition.

Lastly, although the majority of product and produce is provided by Dairy Bread and Second Harvest, there is much support from the community businesses and organizations. Their financial support allows the Food Bank to purchase extras such as frozen meat and IS so gratefully received. Thanks also to the small groups and individuals who continue to think of our neighbours. The GPCC is truly a place where neighbours are helping neighbours.

Tina Timmermans , GPCC Stewardship Group

Pastor's Report

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but I know, given how I've seen you grow in your ability to be united in the Spirit, even amidst disagreement, that you're ready to talk this through as a church family **by, with, and for, God's glory**. Surrendering to Jesus some things that we might hold dear may be difficult. But as we come to this discussion, we've already been turning the results over to God in our personal and group prayer times (both at Morning Prayer, and after Sunday services with our "Ways to Pray **For** and **With** the Leadership of Calvary"). I am assured we'll be able to discuss these things well because of how I've seen you share your thoughts and opinions in a way that is respectful, honours one another, and recognizes that we can only do so much with what God has entrusted to us in financial, physical, and human resources. Our good and trustworthy God has held us thus far, and will continue to do so as we move forward as a church family.

The theme for this Spotlight is: "Change is inevitable, God is constant." Those two truths need to be our framework whatever we face to help us recognize God's deep and abiding care for us amidst uncertainty. We are God's children, unified by His Spirit at work within our church family.

As we move forward, may we move forward together in God's will, surrendered to His desires for our church family in this ever-changing world, comforted by His presence in these discussions and decisions.

We can do it! (By His strength, with His power, and for His glory!) *Love & Blessings, Pastor Ruth*



Discussion Group

February 5th – April 16th
(excluding Feb. 12th, Mar. 12th & Apr. 9th):

Journeying through Season 2 of "The Chosen" series.

- 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- watch together
- 7:30 - 9 p.m.
- discussion time

Facility

If you want to hear God laugh, tell him your plans. Whether we felt ready or not, our Calvary foundation – facility and finance – entered a period of change in 2024. The building on 72 Main Street that has been our cherished home for close to a century has in recent weeks and months been calling for our attention with a string of operating challenges and failures. These emergencies have left inhabitants of the building at times feeling cold; surrounded by noise, grit and water (or lack thereof following a shut-off); and on occasion exposed to malodorous air while repairs to the drainpipes were underway! Through this series of challenges, we have been blessed by God's constant presence, sending us capable contractors who were available on short notice. They worked swiftly and effectively, charging us fair rates in the weeks leading up to Christmas and since. Staff were onsite at the time that most of the issues arose and accordingly were able to act quickly to avert further damage to our buildings. While our spiritual home continues to deliver surprises, our staff have adapted to these circumstances and are handling these issues very capably.

Human Capacity

We are also in the midst of changes in our staff and volunteer base. Last spring, our office administrator left the employ of Calvary to accept an opportunity with another organization. While we miss Tanya very much, in July we welcomed Kelley Maloney as our new Office Administrator. Kelley also works with the food bank each Wednesday and Thursday and spends more time in the building than was the case for past administrators. Fortunately, Kelley has been on site to oversee the building improvements and repairs that have arisen.

In the spring our Volunteer Rental Coordinator, Shawn Ronson submitted his resignation. In December, following decades of devoted service, Frank Carney, our Volunteer Facility Coordinator, advised that he was reducing his involvement with the facilities, stepping down as the sole volunteer responsible for our facility. I reached my two-term limit of six years in 2022 and will be stepping down from the Treasurer and other roles following the Annual Blessings Review in February.

Going forward, our Office Administrator Kelley will be adding the role of Rental Coordinator to her responsibilities, and we have recently begun training congregation member Ramya Lingamallu for the Bookkeeper role. The Nominating Committee has been seeking new volunteers to fulfill the roles of Treasurer, Moderator and Facility Coordinator following the February 23 Annual Blessings meeting.

The Operating Hub

In response to these changes, the volunteers have been working with Calvary staff to develop a coordinated approach to managing building activities, including rentals, dealing with tenants, managing contractors, volunteers, and so on. As reported in November 2024, staff have proposed that the Calvary Office Administrator act as the "hub" to coordinate the comings and goings in the buildings. This approach is an attempt to eliminate conflict or overlap of users and ensure that custodial staff are fully aware of users needs so that they can organize the cleaning or setup activities in a way that doesn't interrupt their day-to-day responsibilities. In recent months this concept has begun fall into place as various events have unfolded.

Financial Update

As previously reported, Calvary received a bequest of \$200 thousand in the fall of 2024 with a further \$110 thousand expected to be received later in 2025 or early 2026 as the estate of Beryl Isaac is settled. The bequest arrived just in time to provide a financial lifeline which helped to finance a much-needed supplemental heating system while the congregation seeks God's guidance on how best to use the resources we have for ministry. The trustees have made an appeal to the congregation for additional financial support for the latest repair costs. The congregation's response has been encouraging and is most appreciated. A more detailed update on the 2024 fiscal year has been provided with the 2024 financial statements and 2025 budget.

Summary

It has been a privilege to work with the fine volunteers and staff of Calvary. As I step down from my roles as Treasurer and Interim Moderator, I want to thank the congregation, the volunteers and staff for their generous support in terms of their time, talent and offerings. It has truly been an honour to serve with this group.

Heather Gordon, Treasurer

Full Financial Statements will be available prior to the meeting

Up to November 2024, Dr. Barbara (Key) Sneyd was the chair (and only member) of the Nominating Committee. I was asked to relieve Barbara of the responsibility, which I agreed to do.

During Barbara's tenure, two new trustees were recruited: Kent Faulkner and Dr. Rita Deverell. These appointments were approved at a Huddle in mid-2024. Around the same time, Tina Timmermans assumed the role of Christian Nurture Team Lead. Many thanks are due to all these three members for willingly and competently assuming these roles within the fellowship. We pray for the Lord's blessing on their work among us.

In November there were two positions to be filled; Moderator and Treasurer. For the Moderator, someone is considering the role. I have been unable to find anyone who fills the constitutional requirements for Treasurer. That position remains vacant.

Considering the difficulties and some confusion in identifying and recruiting individuals to serve in some of the key roles in the church, I offer the following recommendations.

1. In many comparable organizations, nomination responsibilities rest with a member (usually the past or future lead (president/moderator)) of the relevant 'executive' – in Calvary's case that would be the Mission Team. Barbara filled this role well as a Trustee. I suggest this model be used as I will not be continuing as Nominations Chair.

2. When an individual has been assigned a role within the church, it's important that all members of the Mission Team support them in that role with current and updated information – because situations do change all the time – adherence to my first recommendation above will go a long way to address possible frustrations if those in leadership make approaches without keeping the Nominating Chair informed.

3. A suggestion was made by one person I approached, that, while she was not willing to assume the lead role in the Treasurer/Finance position, she would be willing to participate in an advisory/helping capacity to the person who will assume that lead role. It's within Calvary's team-based culture to put together such a group to assist with the financial and property responsibilities of a Treasurer and Facilities lead.

Rev. Andrea Cambridge (Nominations Chair)

Mission Team

Moderator – vacant

Outreach Chair – Shawn Ronson

Communications Chair – Kent Faulkner

Pastor – Ruth Bartlett

Vice-Moderator – Shelley Faulkner

Worship Chair – Victoria Drysdale

Pastor Emeritus – Rex Deverell

Treasurer – vacant

Christian Nurture – Tina Timmermans

Facilities Chair – vacant

Slate of Officers

Treasurer – vacant

Trustees – Rita Deverell, Kent Faulkner, Barbara Sneyd

A Bequest

Early in 2024 Calvary was very blessed to learn that we are the beneficiaries of the estate of the late Beryl Isaac. Beryl was raised in Calvary, and from the age of 12 to 17 she looked forward to evening Bible Study group and Sunday services. Family members have reported finding photos of Calvary's Youth Group on Orr Lake, prior to her first marriage at Calvary in 1947. Later on, the family can remember trying to arrange visits to the lake in the early 1980s, and they always had to coordinate so they didn't conflict with the date for the Calvary social. Although she is not known to current Calvary members, we can see that her participation as a member of Calvary had a life-long impact, leaving the church a generous gift close to a century afterwards.



Calvary Baptist Church



Pastor: Ruth Bartlett rbartlett@calvary-baptist-church.ca • **Pastor Emeritus:** Rex Deverell

• **Music Director:** Hanna Kim DMA music@calvary-baptist-church.ca

• **Administrator:** Kelley Mahoney calvaryonmain@calvary-baptist-church.ca • **Custodian:** Jim Yolevski

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