

Watch for
**Calvary
Connect**
in 2016!

Calvary News

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Our holiday events have been quite refreshing this year. We are excited about 2016. During the holidays, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we will also begin casting vision over next year. Along with our purpose statement, Pastor Brian has laid out a five-part plan called VITAL.

There are five things that are vital for us to fulfill the purpose that we laid out in 2014. We must be a church where people can connect in community. We must be a church that causes people to grow up in their knowledge of Jesus and become fruitful. We must be a church where people can discover, develop, and deploy their gifts in the Lord. We must be a church committed to going into our community, equipped to share the life-changing message of the gospel. Finally, we must be a church that truly worships God with our lives. This is the New Testament church we see in the first chapters of the book of Acts. ❖

Ministry Group Christmas Party Monday, December 7th at 6:30 PM

Each year our Ministry Group leader, Pastor Holdeman, hosts a Christmas party for the pastors and their wives of our ministry area in his home. This is a great time of encouragement and fellowship for our church leaders. This year, our newest ministers of The River, Pastor Doug and Amy Harris, will be joining us. We are excited about what God is doing in our local Assemblies here in East Central Indiana. ❖

Watch Night Fellowship Thursday, December 31st at 8:00 PM

Bring in the new year with us at Calvary. We will have a pitch-in of snacks as we enjoy fellowship and play games in Dean Hall. At midnight we will gather for a "circle of prayer." ❖



Annual Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 6th at 6:00 PM

We will all gather in Dean Hall once again to celebrate the Advent of Jesus Christ. Our annual church dinner is a great time to invite friends and family to join in the blessings we have at Calvary. Maybe this year you could even invite someone new, who has never been to Calvary before. There will be plenty for everyone.

We appreciate everyone who signed up to bring something. The assortment looks wonderful. If you haven't expressed anything to bring, come anyway, or pick up something on the spur of the moment. Yes, the food is great, but it means more to be with our families and friends at this event than anything else! Calvary will supply the baked hams, iced tea, tableware, and condiments.

Don't forget to wear your Christmas best. We will once again take our annual congregational photo at the end of the evening. It's amazing how the faces change from year to year. ❖

Life Group Fellowships

Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 PM

Each of our Tuesday night Life Groups will host a special fellowship for the holidays. The Men's Fellowship will host their annual ham and bean dinner on the 15th and the Ladies' Bible Study will have a pitch-in. You can talk to Terry Welch or Sadie Wimbley for the details. These fellowships will be the final meetings for the Life Groups this year until after the National Week of Prayer. Tuesday night Life Groups will resume on January 12th. ❖

Winter SAM Senior's Fellowship

Friday, December 18th at 6:30 PM

In conjunction with the Sunday night series on Hosea, our Senior Adults Ministries will be showing the movie *Amazing Love: The Story of Hosea* in the fellowship hall with snacks and popcorn provided. Since this is a special viewing, everyone, of all ages, is invited to join them. ❖

Annual Food Pantry Day

Sunday, December 20th

Please bring donated can goods and dry goods to church on or before December 20th for our food pantry. Each week our pantry serves needy families in our community. Help keep the pantry stocked through the winter months by generously giving in our *Annual Food Pantry Day* collection. ❖

Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:00 PM

We will gather on this special Wednesday night to sing Christmas Carols and enjoy special presentations for the holidays. Also, Cherico Welch will be sharing two Christmas songs on her flute. Afterward we will have a short foyer fellowship with hot chocolate, apple cider, and Christmas cookies before we celebrate with our families on Christmas. ❖



Pastor Brian and Susan Jenkins

It seems odd, well, actually disgusting, that the Christmas holiday season is kicked off with something called Black Friday. I have always avoided it and looked at that

Friday as a day of rest and family fellowship. Phillip, our son, was able to spend a couple of days with us and we played card games around the kitchen table. I love the warm kitchen smells of cooking. I love the conversation that ensues when no one's looking into a cell phone.

At Calvary we make our holiday season more about family and fellowship than about what someone is "getting" for Christmas. We are so programmed to think we must get something for someone to show them our love. Isn't love more about building family relationships than buying gifts? I know this is an old worn out issue, but it seems we understand this less and less each year.

The media mocks us as they set up cameras to "catch all the action" as the stores open their doors on Black Friday. We rush to YouTube to gaze at the violent shoppers injuring one another over the latest "hot item." All the while, we use this vile display as a form of entertainment.

I know this madness will not end. I know the world will never get the "reason for the season." Yet, it seems that more and more professing believers are caught up in all this hype and succumb to the same temptations, greediness, and lust.

We are so programmed by it all that instead of saying, "What did you do over the holidays?" we say, "What did you get for Christmas?" We even have people call our church and tell us that their children are not going to have a Christmas unless they get help. I guess this means that Christmas will not come if there are not presents under the tree. This is also what the Grinch thought in his misguided attempt to steal Christmas.

It is imperative to understand that helping people with the necessities of life does not include the commercial niceties

that some families enjoy. If it did, then why not help people take a vacation each year? Some people can afford it and some people cannot.

There comes a time, and more so now than ever, when Christians need to just cast off societies mind-set and do what pleases the Lord. We cannot continue trying to fit into a society that is rushing headlong for everything they can get to satisfy their lusts. There's not a thing wrong with a mother gathering her pennies to help make Christmas brighter for her children. However, that same mother would never consider asking someone else to do it for her. Nor would she feel it is expected by her children. She wouldn't even teach her children to live with such an expectation in the first place.

Churches today are massively inundated with pleas to provide Christmas for needy children in our land, while most of the children around the world would be grateful for clean water and a safe place to sleep. This is why Calvary participates in Operation Christmas Child each year. Have you seen the videos of the children receiving those shoeboxes? Compare them to the Black Friday videos.

Before we can promote Jesus as the "reason for the season," we will first have to return to its roots ourselves. Traditional Christmas ended long before traditional marriage did in this land.

"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

2 Corinthians 6:17, NIV.

Sometimes we must give up trying to mingle with the world and simply forsake the way the world does things. For too long the church has compromised itself by trying to include the things of the world and ungodly people in its ranks, all in a effort to be more understanding and compassionate.

As we emphasize at Calvary, we need to return to our families, quit teaching them the ways of the world, and honor God in all we do. If he truly is the center of our lives, why do we run with the crowd? Why do we value what they do? Why are we complying with worldly demands

on our time, our money, and even our family relationships? Why does it matter so much what the world thinks? That is, unless we have programmed our lives around the merchandising of Christmas and other holidays.

"They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation, and they heap abuse on you."

1st Peter 4:4, NIV.

So when we consider whether we are able to celebrate Christmas, it should not be based on whether we can afford all the gifts everyone chases after. It should not be whether we can go all the places and attend all the events. It should be in the simplicity of loving our families and spending time building up our relationships with them.

Why is this so important? Because as a Christian, you want to have such an honored relationship with them that when you speak of Christ, they will listen. What greater gift is there to give someone than the gift of salvation?

As there is a difference in Christian marriage from all other forms of socially acceptable marriages, there ought to be a difference in our celebration of Christmas from every other thing the world considers Christmas to be about.

We need to be different. Isn't it strange that we are asked to consider all the differences in our society today, but if a Christian wants to be different and honor God in his life, everyone thinks that is wrong.

Consider what I say and look at your family. What do you want your Christmas to be about? What message do you want to impress upon them? What will they remember about the holidays and tell their children in years to come?

A little later in the book of 1st Peter, which I quoted above, it says this:

"The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray."

1 Peter 4:7, NIV.

May the Lord be pleased with how we celebrate before the world this season of his glorious birth. ❖

December 2015 Calvary Activities Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 WK 49 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Pastor's Prayer Team - 10:00 AM Worship Service - 10:15 AM VITAL: WORSHIP Communion - 6:00 PM	30 December Newsletter Production Pastor's Weekly Blog No. 48 Calvary TV on WCTV - 4:00 PM Leon Mangas (B) Camilla Hill (B)	1 December Begins Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study - 6:30 PM Men's Fellowship - 6:30 PM Paul Jessup (B)	2 December Newsletter Mails Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Senior's Bible Study - 12:30 PM Evening Service - 6:00 PM Calvary TV No. 49 - 9:00 PM Hank George (B)	3 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Joan McCord Funeral - 2:00 PM The River Bible Study - 6:30 PM	4 ISOM First Friday - 5:15 PM Pauline Moore (B)	5 ISOM Worship Practice - 5:00 PM Weekly Prayer Circle No. 47 - 6:30 PM Calvary TV Chnl. 5 - No. 49 - 9:00 PM
6 Missions Sunday Sunday School - 9:00 AM Pastor's Prayer Team - 10:00 AM Worship Service - 10:15 AM Church Christmas Dinner - 6:00 PM	7 Pastor's Weekly Blog No. 49 Calvary TV on WCTV - 4:00 PM Ministry Group Christmas Party - 6:30 PM Pastor Holdeman's House	8 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study - 6:30 PM Men's Fellowship - 6:30 PM	9 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Senior's Bible Study - 12:30 PM Evening Service - 6:00 PM Calvary TV No. 50 - 9:00 PM Margaret Horne (B)	10 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM The River Bible Study - 6:30 PM	11	12 Worship Practice - 5:00 PM Weekly Prayer Circle No. 48 - 6:30 PM Calvary TV Chnl. 5 - No. 50 - 9:00 PM
13 WK 51 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Pastor's Prayer Team - 10:00 AM Worship Service - 10:15 AM Evening Service - 6:00 PM	14 Pastor's Weekly Blog No. 50 Calvary TV on WCTV - 4:00 PM	15 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Ladies' Christmas Fellowship - 6:30 PM Men's Ham and Bean Dinner - 6:30 PM Final Life Groups until January 12th	16 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Senior's Bible Study - 12:30 PM Evening Service - 6:00 PM Calvary TV No. 51 - 9:00 PM	17 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM The River Christmas Dinner - 6:30 PM Randy Moore (B)	18 SAM Seniors' Fellowship - 6:30 PM Movie: Amazing Love: The Story of Hosea NOTE: In Dean Hall with snacks. The seniors invite everyone to come. Cherico Welch (B)	19 Worship Practice - 5:00 PM Weekly Prayer Circle No. 49 - 6:30 PM Calvary TV Chnl. 5 - No. 51 - 9:00 PM
20 Food Pantry Day Sunday School - 9:00 AM Pastor's Prayer Team - 10:00 AM Worship Service - 10:15 AM Evening Service - 6:00 PM Adam and Becca (A) Nancy Brown (B) Rebecca Hutchison (B)	21 Pastor's Weekly Blog No. 51 Calvary TV on WCTV - 4:00 PM	22 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM	23 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Senior's Bible Study - 12:30 PM Candlelight Service - 6:00 PM Calvary TV No. 52 - 9:00 PM John Jent (B) (The River)	24 Christmas Eve James Horne (DB)	25 Christmas Day Jeannie Jessup (B)	26 Worship Practice - 5:00 PM Weekly Prayer Circle No. 50 - 6:30 PM Calvary TV Chnl. 5 - No. 52 - 9:00 PM
27 WK 1 Sunday School - 9:00 AM Pastor's Prayer Team - 10:00 AM Worship Service - 10:15 AM Communion - 6:00 PM	28 Pastor's Weekly Blog No. 52 Calvary TV on WCTV - 4:00 PM	29 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM	30 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Senior's Bible Study - 12:30 PM Evening Service - 6:00 PM Calvary TV No. 1 - 9:00 PM	31 New Year's Eve December Newsletter Production Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Watch Night Fellowship - 8:00 PM Group Prayer at Midnight	1 New Year's Day December Newsletter Mails First Friday - 5:15 PM	2 Worship Practice - 5:00 PM Weekly Prayer Circle No. 51 - 6:30 PM Calvary TV Chnl. 5 - No. 1 - 9:00 PM
3 Missions Sunday Sunday School - 9:00 AM Pastor's Prayer Team - 10:00 AM Worship Service - 10:15 AM Prayer Service - 6:30 PM Butch Stumpff (DB)	4 Pastor's Weekly Blog No. 1 Calvary TV on WCTV - 4:00 PM Prayer Service - 6:30 PM	5 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Prayer Service - 6:30 PM	6 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Senior's Bible Study - 12:30 PM Prayer Service - 6:30 PM Calvary TV No. 2 - 9:00 PM Margaret Horne (B)	7 Hoosier Place Seniors' Cafe - 11:30 AM Prayer Service - 6:30 PM	8 Prayer Service - 6:30 PM	9 Worship Practice - 5:00 PM Prayer Service - 6:30 PM Calvary TV Chnl. 5 - No. 2 - 9:00 PM Dollie Lairson (B)
National Week of Prayer						



Calvary Assemblies of God
 720 North Plum Street
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 ADDRESS RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6, KJV.



December 2015

Calvary News Makeover All New for 2016!

We hope you enjoy our monthly newsletter from Calvary. Be sure to let us know if you want to continue receiving it in 2016. With the rising costs of paper and postage, we want to make sure it's important to you.

Beginning with the January 2016 issue, we will completely redesign our newsletter and it will become **Calvary CONNECT!** This new design will streamline our newsletter and provide some additional internet resources to you to connect to. Make sure to visit our website for information and Pastor Brian's blog, on a weekly basis. ❖

Messages on YouTube Monthly Preaching Series

We hope to publish more of our content on the web in 2016. Check out our YouTube channel for Pastor Brian's Monthly Preaching Series videos.

Calvary TV in Randolph County

Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9:00 PM on KISS TV Cable Channel 5

Weekly Service Schedule

Sunday

Christian Education 9:00 AM
 Pastor's Prayer Team 10:00 AM
 Worship Service 10:15 AM
 Evening Service 6:00 PM

Tuesday

Men's Fellowship 6:30 PM
 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM

Wednesday

Evening Service 6:00 PM

Saturday

Weekly Prayer Circle 6:30 PM

DVD's, CD's and MP3's are available of our services free of charge upon request. Forms are available in the foyer.

If you would like to receive this monthly newsletter in the mail each month, just let us know. It is also available in PDF format to your email. It's free!

Upcoming Events Now though Year's End

We don't want you to miss some of the great fellowship opportunities we have between now and the end of the year. So mark your calendars and join us in these upcoming events:

Annual Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 6th at 6:00 PM

Men's Fellowship Ham and Bean Dinner

Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 PM

Senior Adults Fellowship

Friday, December 18th at 6:30 PM

Christmas Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 23rd at 6:00 PM

Watch Night Fellowship

Thursday, December 31st at 8:00 PM

Watch for more information on the screen, in the bulletin, and in our flyers posted in the foyer and around town. ❖

Calvary TV in Wayne County

Mondays at 4:00 PM on WCTV Cable Channel 21