

# Careline newsletter

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2018

## A Meaningful Christmas

*Doesn't it seem like it's harder to have a truly meaningful Christmas holiday experience as the years go by? This month, Pastor Dennis reminds us how we can actively and intentionally choose what our Christmas holiday will mean to us when we take some measures.*

For the believer, Christmas should be a very meaningful time, right? It's supposed to be a season to celebrate the day that Christ stepped into our world as one of us. Isn't it amazing what a challenge it can be to make this season meaningful? There are so many ways that we get caught up in things that can ruin the celebration, like arguing over the fact that we all know that December 25 is probably not the day of the year that He actually came. I've seen or read some who say, "December 25 was really a pagan holiday." (Bah-Humbug!) Oh, okay. Actually, if you think about it that hard, you'll also realize that God created all days, so regardless, let us celebrate! I mean, God came down to show us His love, in Person! Let's not waste time or opportunity to celebrate His name to a watching world with the silly splitting of hairs.

Perhaps that's one of the ways that we can make Christmas more meaningful by keeping that thought in our minds the whole way through. Let's keep the main thing, the main thing. Let's learn to enjoy the moment by remembering what makes Christmas "Christmas" and that is **Christ**. Take your mind off all the negative things that the world is doing and dwell upon the greatest Gift that has ever been given. God gave His Son! For who? For you! For me! Hallelujah!

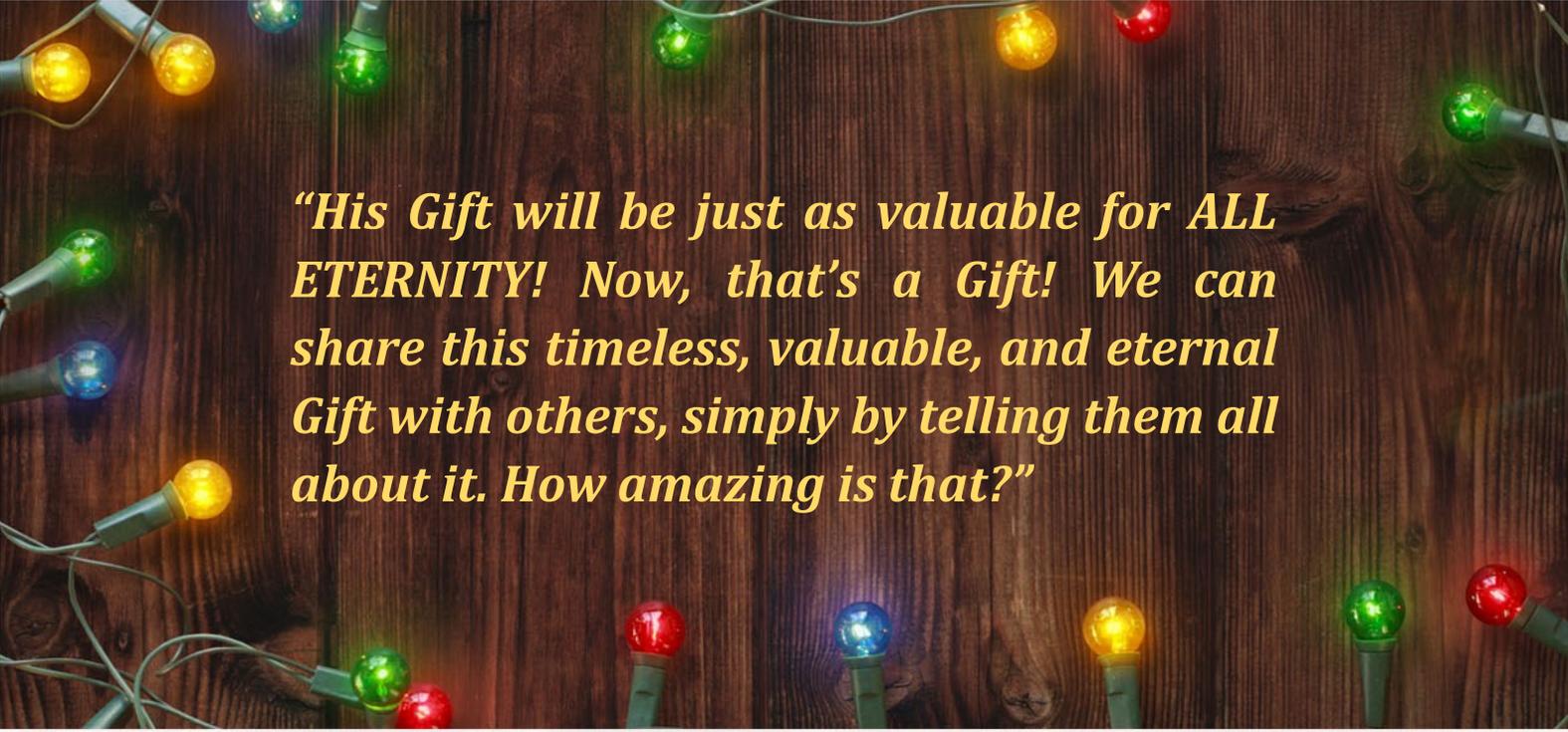
I don't think we can comprehend all that was involved in Christ's coming to earth. The angels didn't understand it fully, so how do we think that we can comprehend it totally? God stepped into His creation and became limited to a human body with all its frailties, in order to give us the greatest Gift in history! We probably take it for granted much of the time, without meaning to.

## Church Events

- 12.1—Baby Shower
- 12.2—Chrismons & Carols
- 12.8—Calvary Choir Rehearsal  
Baby Shower  
CR Christmas Party
- 12.9—Adult Choir Concert—AM  
Giving Hope—PM
- 12.10—Angel Tree Party
- 12.14—Music Ministry Party
- 12.15—Kids Praise Rehearsal
- 12.16—Kids Praise Musical—PM
- 12.19—Kids Encounter Party  
Youth Takeover Party
- 12.22—CBC Youth to S.A. to help  
with Ethnos ministries
- 12.23—Church-Wide Caroling— PM
- 12.24—Church Office Closes Noon  
Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Lord's Supper Service
- 12.25—Merry Christmas!  
Church Office Closed thru  
Wednesday, January 2.
- 12.30—Regular AM Activities, No PM

Another way we can make Christmas more meaningful is to dwell on the timelessness of the gift that He gave with His first advent to earth. I see these crazy commercials about Black Friday sales, which begin Thanksgiving night! Or other commercials, like the one that shows a GMC Pickup *and* an SUV sitting in a driveway as a Christmas present, probably valued at \$120K for the both of them. I think, "Right, who goes out and buys TWO expensive cars for Christmas presents? Wow!" You might think, that's amazing, a new Lexus or Audi – or whatever. But, as soon as they are purchased, these gift begin to wear out. Then one day, it goes to the scrap pile at Green Guys or makes the I-35 trip to Mexico. That's not the gift that Christ stepped into our world to purchase. His Gift is timeless and the value of it bankrupt Heaven. His Gift will be just as valuable for ALL ETERNITY! Now, *that's* a Gift! We can share this timeless, valuable, and eternal Gift with others, simply by telling them all about it. How amazing is that? I think the simple act of sharing

the Gospel, (and yes, God did make it simple) when we share how God has come into our own lives and what He's doing in and through us, helps us keep Christ as the most meaningful part of our Christmas. When we share that, honestly, prayerfully, boldly, the Spirit of God moves mightily through us and how can we not have a personally meaningful Christmas? Even if the person we've shared with does not make a decision right away, the Lord is glorified through your story, your life, the very words you share from Scripture, and your earnestness to help someone else understand His love. Now, if that doesn't bring meaning to your Christmas, you'd better check your pulse! What a great time to share with others, even in just the way we celebrate. I am happy to see several ads that still wish people a "Merry **Christmas!**" Just when the atheist, or the Enemy thinks Jesus is wiped out of Christmas, some crazy Christian goes and reminds us, or influences the world that He is very much alive!



***"His Gift will be just as valuable for ALL ETERNITY! Now, that's a Gift! We can share this timeless, valuable, and eternal Gift with others, simply by telling them all about it. How amazing is that?"***

Christmas can be more meaningful when we look at the gesture of someone as they give—not upon the value of the gift that they give. Love doesn't come with a price tag but with an attitude. (A positive one, I would like to add.) Learn to be appreciative of others. Some people might only be able to give so much, or in so many ways. I remember one year, I bought my mom a Mother's Day card. I bought it with my own money and picked it out because it was the prettiest. It had the most glitter, so in my childlike mind, it was prettier. Little did I know, as a 5 year old, that the card actually read, "Happy Mother's Day from your loving husband." I found that card the other day looking through stuff at mom's. I guess she realized that I gave her that card because I loved her and she received it accordingly, so much so, that she kept it for 58 years! Some people might only be able to give a smile and a greeting, receive it for the value that it has. It can be priceless, especially if the giver is sacrificing a smile for you when they themselves have had a particularly hard, sorrowful, or sad time. Remember to esteem others, especially when you don't

know what they might be going through. And learn from their example—just because you might be going through a hard season, or a valley of sadness, try to remember to let Christ be your Joy, so others who are watching can see how a Christ follower goes through hard things with Him by their side.

Being a giver can also make Christmas meaningful. I'm not suggesting we go into debt or not pay our regular bills in order to give gifts. Let's be smart about it. Live within your means so you can make it simple, but meaningful. Give with a heart that is not expecting anything in return and you will be blessed! I promise.

Finally, remember Who's day we are celebrating! Make a special donation to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering that the message of Christ might be shared all over the world. Every penny counts! Each day we are closer to the Lord's return, let's be faithful to tell others and help those who are telling others. Let's live for Him and bless His name because Christmas really is all about HIM!  
Merry Christmas Church!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> Josh Hernandez Della Uhr  Baby Shower—1:00 PM For Debra Aziz
<b>2</b> Zula Swan  Regular AM Schedule Regular PM Schedule  6:00 PM Chrismans & Carols	<b>3</b> Katy Henry Joshua Kidd Sarah Rice	<b>4</b> Brooklyn Doring  <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Gary Hamilton Dale Haney Ruth Lane Randy McDaris	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Samantha Canales Gayle Champion Bob Ingle Gaye Smith  Adult Choir—10 AM Baby Shower—2 PM CR Party—5 PM
<b>9</b> Danny Rodriguez Shane Scott  Calvary Choir Concert—10:30 AM Giving Hope SM—PM No Other PM Activities	<b>10</b> Evangelina Leos  7:00 PM Angel Tree Party	<b>11</b>  <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	<b>12</b> Doug Martin-Whitaker Francisco Peña Daniel Walker	<b>13</b> Jacob Day  6:30 PM Praise Team/Band Rehearsal	<b>14</b> Jack Caraway	<b>15</b> Sharon Critz  Kids Praise—10 AM Adult II Party @ the Heisers' - 2 PM College Party @ the Martins' - 6 PM
<b>16</b> Regular AM Schedule  6:00 PM Kids Praise presents "Follow the Star"	<b>17</b> Nancy Anderson	<b>18</b> Adult III Party @ the Spires—6:30 PM <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Christmas Parties: Kids Encounter Youth Takeover	<b>20</b> Christian Jeanes  6:30 PM Praise Team/Band Rehearsal	<b>21</b> Nancy Scroggins	<b>22</b> Alex Sandoval  CBC Youth work with Ethnos Ministries in S.A.—Time TBA
<b>23</b> Regular AM Schedule  5:00 PM Caroling Teams No Other PM Activities	<b>24</b> Church Office Closes at Noon—January 2  6:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> Lou Gold  <b>Merry Christmas!</b> <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting	<b>26</b>  No Evening Activities	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Jennifer Coddington	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Ben Cortez  Regular AM Schedule No PM Activities	<b>31</b> Luanne Caraway Edward Oliphant Leslie Turner Kathy Turner Daniel Day	<b>January 1</b>  Happy New Year!  <u>Celebrate Recovery</u> 6:00—Dinner 6:30— Meeting				

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, December 23

#### Caroling Teams

As is tradition at CBC, we will once again gather at the fellowship area at 5:00 PM and disperse in teams to cover as many homes as we can to bring Christmas tidings, a hug, a smile, and the love of Christ to some friends we may not get to see as often as some are homebound, some are in prison, or under nursing care.



### Monday, December 24

#### Carols, Communion & Candlelight Service

Join us as we remember our Lord's birth, tell the story aloud, sing carols, and share the Lord's Supper together. We encourage you to celebrate with us on Christmas Eve! Bring your whole family to this special service. (approximately 45-50 minutes)



## Christmas Party Schedule

- 12.8—The Joy Class, 11:00 AM @ Johnny Carino's
- 12.9—Celebrate Recovery Party—5:00 PM
- 12.10—Angel Tree Party—7:00 PM
- 12.14—Music Ministry Party—7:00 PM  
(Potluck, White Elephant)
- 12.15—Adult II Sunday School—2:00 PM @ the Heisers'  
(White Elephant, Appetizer or Dessert Potluck)  
College Ministry Party—6:00 PM @ the Martins'
- 12.18—Adult III—6:30 PM @ the Spires'
- 12.23—Caroling "After Party" @ the Sones'

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Thanks to Wilma Melendez (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-24-2010  
THIS IS LIKE TOTALLY THE COOLEST THING  
THAT HAS EVEN HAPPENED IN THIS STABLE!



"I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love."

## CALVARY CHOIR CONCERT

PRINCE OF  
*Heaven*

Sunday, 12/9/18  
10:30 AM

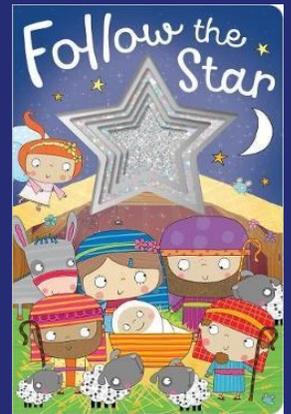
## Giving Hope San Marcos

CBC is helping with Giving Hope again this year on Sunday, December 9. There are a multitude of opportunities to serve! If you are able to volunteer in any way, contact Debra Aziz [debbiejaysm@gmail.com](mailto:debbiejaysm@gmail.com) or (737) 213-8451.

KIDS PRAISE  
CHOIRS PRESENT  
A CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 16  
@ 6:00 PM

RECEPTION FOLLOWING  
FOR ALL ATTENDING!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Every Third  
Saturday of  
the Month

FAITH, FOOD &  
FELLOWSHIP

Lorenzo's, 12/15 @ 7:30 AM

12/24 @ 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

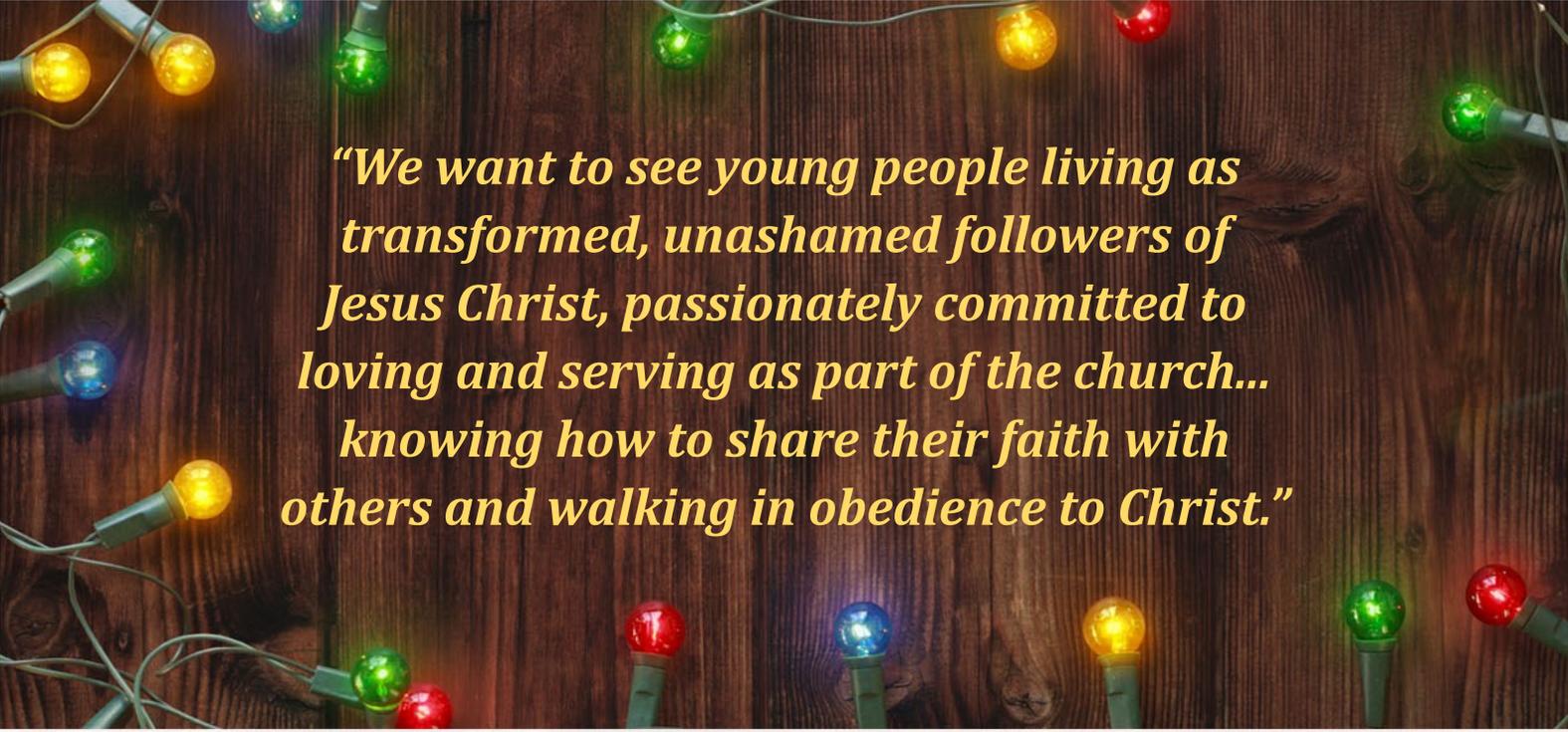


Merry Christmas! As I sit and write this newsletter I am excited to think that I have been here now for around 5 months. It has been an amazing move for my family. We love San Marcos and love Calvary Baptist Church. I have enjoyed the first few months getting to know people in the church and getting to know the youth group that we have here at CBC. I am excited about 2019 and the opportunities that are before us. It is my desire to see students become mature Christians who are living for Jesus outside of the walls of the church that they might be a witness to their friends.

If you go to the Calvary Baptist website, you will find information on some of the upcoming Student Ministry events. I want every student to know and understand the vision behind our ministry together. It reads, "Calvary Students exist to become a reproducing, gospel advancing ministry of students who have allowed God to take over every part of their life by choosing to make Jesus first in all things. We want to see young people living as transformed, unashamed followers of Jesus Christ, passionately committed to loving and serving as part of the church, in

We want to see young people living as transformed, unashamed followers of Jesus Christ, passionately committed to loving and serving as part of the church, in the present and the future; knowing how to share their faith with others and walking in obedience to Christ." All of our events and services are meant to see students accomplish this goal. I wanted to highlight some of those events here.

First, Calvary Students are involved in a Christmas project with Ethnos Missions Center in San Antonio. We are taking up an offering in our youth services and Sunday school classes from now until Christmas to purchase soccer balls and basketballs to distribute to those living in the housing projects on the west side of San Antonio. The sports balls will be combined with some other toys and gifts that have also been donated. On December 22, we will take a group of students to distribute the gifts. This is a powerful opportunity for our students to do hands-on ministry. In conjunction with this, Josh and Tiffany Gaines who are the leaders of Ethnos Missions, will be here speaking to the youth next Wednesday, December 12 to share about the ministry that



***"We want to see young people living as transformed, unashamed followers of Jesus Christ, passionately committed to loving and serving as part of the church... knowing how to share their faith with others and walking in obedience to Christ."***

Second, we are having our annual Impact Weekend on February 8-10, 2019. This is one of the most amazing weekends of the year for the student ministry. The whole church will have the opportunity to be involved as we host teenagers from the community and surrounding areas. We will have a special guest speaker from Fielder Road Baptist Church in Arlington named Michael Satterfield with us. We will also have a guest worship band from Round Rock. Tyler Daniel will be leading the team. The cost is \$50 per student. If you know of any students in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades please get them here. They won't want to miss out! It will be full of fun and games as well as awesome times of worship. Impact Weekend requires a lot of help. We need host homes, help with food, and transportation. Please consider helping us with Impact Weekend. We will be having a meeting for everyone helping with this event on Saturday, December 15 from 10:00 AM -12:00PM. We will go over the schedule, the theme, and the different needs for the weekend. Please if you are able or willing to help put this on your calendar and make every effort to be here. If you would like to help but cannot make the meeting on

the 15th, please contact me and let me know that you want to be a part of Impact Weekend. Most importantly, please begin praying with me for this very important event now. We have the opportunity to see many students impacted with the gospel of Christ. Pray for our students who you know that are here in the church and for those who will be invited to come.

Lastly, we have spring break, summer camp, and mission trips also coming up. Please join with me in praying for these events too. You can find some information on these different events on our website, but I will also be getting more out soon.

Looking forward to working and serving alongside your families!

In Christ,  
Randy McDaris