

September 2024



The Calvary Courier

The Newsletter of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Palm Coast, Florida



From the
Pastor's Desk

Our Vision:

To be a Christ-centered church committed to sharing God's Word and love for the transformation of lives.



Our Mission:

To lead people to Jesus Christ.
To develop their faith in God's Word.
To equip them to serve and share God's Love.



My dear sisters and brothers in Christ. Our summer hiatus ended on August 31st, and I am over-the-moon happy to greet you with these two words: **WELCOME BACK!** I missed seeing many of your smiling faces and hope you are fired up for the Kingdom work which lies ahead. I, too, appreciate the time I had off. Even more so, I am extremely humbled because of the many ways you found to remember me on my birthday during the month of August. You didn't have to do it, but you did, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

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By this time, our youth members have already gone back to school, and our college students have returned to campuses as well. Just know that we will continue to lift you up in prayer as you strive to learn all you can while you can. Additionally, it is important that you turn in your assignments on

time, as well as read your Bible. Keep in mind that *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."* 2 Timothy 1:7 NIV.

Finally, both the Men's Ministry and the Women's Ministry will be traveling to conferences this month as well. The men's conference will be held at a site in Florida, while the women will be traveling to South Carolina. Let us pray for traveling mercies for both groups. Of course, let us not forget all those whose names are on our sick and shut-in list, while keeping in mind that God is *"able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."* Ephesians 3:20 (KJV) In the meantime, let us continue to do all we can, while we can, knowing that **THE BEST IS YET TO COME!**

In His Service,
Pastor Edwin Coffie

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Our NEXT Begins

Change
Starts

22
SEPT.

Morning Worship Service
10:30 AM

Sunday School
for Men, Women, and Youth
Discipleship Training Class
All In-Person 9:15 – 10:00 AM

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
In-Person and Virtual 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
In-Person and Virtual 6:45 – 7:45 PM

Light snacks available Sundays in the FLC 10:00 – 10:20 AM

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the Mt. Calvary Family where the Word of God is being spread through the preached Word on Sunday mornings as well as Wednesday morning Bible Study and a review of the Sunday School lesson on Wednesday evenings for men and women. Youth members are encouraged to attend our on-campus Sunday School classes, when prompted, during the Sunday morning service. Additionally, we invite you to join us at 8:30 a.m. each Monday for Monday Morning with the Master (MMM) where prayer requests are heard and praise reports given. Another platform, Praying in Place (PIP), also takes place on the 24th of each month. Please consult the website for specifics. With warm hearts and open arms, Mt. Calvary welcomes the following **new members...**



Sister
Denis Barksdale
7 | 14 | 24



Brother
William Andy
7 | 14 | 24



Reverend Dr.
A. Ray Campbell
7 | 21 | 24

Letter from the Editor



There is an adage which appropriately expresses my jubilation about this month's issue of The Calvary Courier: Every frog should praise its own pond. And, just as in real life situations, one would rarely find a pond containing only one frog croaking, the same concept applies to the **NEW** Calvary Courier ROLL-OUT you are now viewing– it took a village. In response to this editorial, Pastor Coffie would confidently proclaim, "Teamwork makes the dream work!" That teamwork is evident on Page One where a picture of our pastor has been anchored for each monthly edition. Additionally, Mt. Calvary's Mission Statement and its Vision Statement have both been added to Page 1.

One other prominent addition to this issue appears as an insert for our youth, by our youth. This issue of the Calvary Courier features one of our budding fifth grade writers, Missy D'Amoura Freeman, who agreed to interview a few of her friends who participated in this year's TOTAL, Inc. summer camp.

In case you have not already figured it out, this month's Calvary Courier reveal is only the BEGINNING of our NEXT! Borrowing from a phrase which has been circulating in the national arena in recent weeks, **"TOGETHER, WE WIN!"**

Marion K. Smith,
Ministry Chair and Editor

DISCLAIMER: "Mt. Calvary proposes to provide current and accurate information in its monthly newsletter. However, we shall not be held liable for any losses related to or caused by the reader's reliance on information provided herein."

Summer Reading | Book Review:

Why do I do what I don't want to do.

Written by Deacon Robert Robinson

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why do I do what I don’t want to do? I’m sure we’ve all been there at one time or another. The easy answer is because we can’t help ourselves. The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Romans (verse 7:21) puts it this way: “I have discovered this principle of life – that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. (NLT) We can’t help ourselves by ourselves, but there is help.

This summer’s book reading, *Why Do I Do What I Don’t Want to Do: Replace Deadly Vices with Life-Giving Virtues* helps us see, just as Paul does, that every Christian gets stuck at some point on their journey doing something they don’t want to do. But we don’t have to stay stuck. The author, Pastor Jonathan Pokluda, shares his journey in a very transparent way – a life once filled with partying, sex, pornography, and drugs – and offers biblical and practical tools to help us live the life God intended for us.

In his easy to read, 217-page book, Pokluda unpacks the godly principles we are encouraged in Scripture to pursue – humility, forgiveness, sobriety, generosity, diligence, self-control, authenticity, rest, optimism, and gratitude. As the author writes in the very first sentence of the book, “We cannot stop a bad habit. We can only replace it with a good one.”

From his own life and years of research, Pokluda says there are two lessons that stick out the most: One, sin (most often) subtly creeps into our lives; two, there are no quick fixes - pursuing holiness is a lifelong pursuit

full of micro-decisions along the way. Pokluda breaks the book into two parts. In Part 1, he deals with what he calls five classic sins (or vices) and their corresponding virtues: 1) Pride & Humility; 2) Anger & forgiveness; 3) Greed & Apathy and Generosity; 4) Apathy & Diligence; and 5) Lust & Self-Control. An interesting takeaway from the author is that pride leads to every other vice.

Proverbs 16:18 (MSG) says of pride: “First pride, then the crash – the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.”

In Part 2, Pokluda lists the five most important modern battles we fight daily: 1) Perception Management & Authenticity; 2) Entitlement & Gratitude; 3) Busyness and Rest; 4) Drunkenness & Sobriety; and 5) Cynicism & Optimism. If we can rise above these harmful habits and patterns, we will live in a way that is countercultural and stands out, drastically different from the people around us, “Pokluda writes. And the good

news, the author writes: “We can fight

these modern wars with the ancient, timeless truths of Scripture.”

As the apostle Paul wrestled with the question of why I do what I don’t want to do in Romans 7, he offers incredible hope in Romans 8:1-2 (NLT): “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.



“We cannot stop a bad habit.
We can only replace it with a good one.”

In Memoriam...

Written by Deacon Robert Robinson

Deaconess Estelle Kennedy

*Remembered as a Generous
and Committed Servant*

Deaconess Estelle Kennedy never served in the military, but she lived her life on the battlefield. That would be the Christian battlefield on which she took her stand and, as the lyric to her favorite hymn says, she “promised him that I would serve him till I die. I’m on the battlefield for my Lord.”

Her tour of duty ended on July 13, with her passing at the age of ninety-one. A celebration of Life service was held on July 23 at Mt. Zion. A second service and internment were held in New Rochelle, New York. Deaconess Kennedy served faithfully as a Deaconess. She also was a member of the Scholarship Ministry, Sunday School teacher, and a member of the Manasseh Tribe.

Family and friends remembered her during their tributes as a supporter of education and the youth, a world traveler, a sophisticated lady who was well dressed and beautiful, a friend, and a committed servant. “She was a strong godly woman, who served others by serving people,” said close friend Betty Donaldson. Deaconess Chair, Mary Joseph said Deaconess Kennedy “was a great encourager to us in the Deaconess Ministry.” Her nephew, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Davis of New York, called her a “trail blazer who made sure her family had an opportunity of getting an education.”

In his Words of Comfort to the family, Pastor Edwin Coffie took his message from Psalm 116:15, “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” His points of emphasis were that Deaconess Kennedy: 1) Loved her Church. “She served faithfully in many capacities but most important to her was the scholarship committee and education. She gave generously.” 2.) Loved her Pastor. He acknowledged that he was a benefactor of her generosity as she encouraged him on special days with tokens of appreciation. Additionally, whenever she traveled to Africa, she brought him custom-made attire. 3.) Loved her Savior, “whom she trusted unconditionally.” Said Pastor Coffie: “She served faithfully down here because she had great expectations for over there. She wanted to see the great King face to face.”

Written by Sister Marion Smith

Sister Alice Reed

*Memorialized at Her Beloved
Mt. Calvary Church*

On Friday, July 19, 2024, family and friends of Sister Alice Aline Reed gathered to celebrate

the life of one who was affectionately thought of as a mother to members at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church as well as to her biological family and many others. In fact, Deacon Clay Simpson, a longtime member at Mt. Calvary, thought so highly of “Mother Reed” that he posthumously conferred on her the distinction of serving as “President of the Mothers’ Board.”

Sister Reed’s role as a mother to many was validated by niece, Deaconess Bettie Royal, who passionately reflected on how she, as a little girl, called her aunt and asked whether both she and her younger sister could come live with her. The two little girls were warmly received by their aunt. Years later, Deaconess Royal showed her appreciation to Aunt Alice by taking her in and mothering her.

Continued on the next page.

Written by Sister Marion Smith

Sister Gladys Miller Spann

*A Gift to Her Family,
Church, and Friends*

On Saturday, August 3, 2024, a celebration of the life and legacy of Sister Gladys Spann

was held at her beloved Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Palm Coast. Following the family’s farewell glance, Pastor Edwin Coffie set the tone for the occasion. Reminiscing on the legacy Sister Spann left for family as well as for all those whom she loved, Pastor Coffie said: “When you live right, you can leave right.” Sister Spann was indeed a gifted bearer of the Good News, and that virtue was highlighted in the obituary as well as in reflections delivered by Sister Elizabeth Eubanks (as a sister in Christ), Brother Joseph Jones (as a member of the African American Cultural Society), and by Mrs. Hillary M. Lyals (representing the family).

In his eulogy of Sister Spann, Pastor Coffie focused on Philippians 1:20,21 – a passage filled with words of rejoicing. Using Paul’s declaration in Verse 21, “For me to live is Christ, but to die is gain,” Pastor Coffie

Continued on the next page.

In Memoriam Continued...

Sister Alice Reed

Pastor Edwin Coffie began his eulogy of Mother Reed by referencing two passages of Scripture: 1) Philippians 4:11 – Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content) and 2) Matthew 5:16 – Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Both passages support the fact that “People would rather see a sermon than hear one,” Pastor noted. “The life we live will determine the legacy we leave,” Pastor continued. His first point, therefore, was that Mother Reed lived with the assurance of standing on the promises of God. She showed up for church in seasons of strength as well as in seasons of struggles. Secondly, she also lived with the assurance of God’s provisions: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.” Finally, Mother Reed understood the significance of a consistent testimony. She lived life in such a way that she always gave God praise. She was indeed a living epistle.

Sister Gladys Miller Spann

focused on the following “gains” Sister Spann is now experiencing and what we also will one day gain¹) She has gained a better body – a glorified body that can never die. 2) The beauty of any home pales in comparison to what God has prepared for us. “Mother Spann,” Pastor said, “this home has your name on it!” Therefore, as followers of Jesus Christ, we can all look forward to gaining a better inheritance. 3) Sister Spann has also gained eternal fellowship; the circle is forever unbroken in heaven. Furthermore, she understood that every praise is to our God, so Sister Spann was ready, willing, and able to talk about the goodness of the Lord. Since she knew there was a time and season for everything, Sister Spann was also ready to meet the Lord.

In closing, Pastor Coffie paraphrased 2 Timothy 4:7-8: She fought a good fight, finished her course, and kept the faith. Therefore, there is laid up for her a crown of righteousness.

Memorial Plaque

“In Loving Memory of Our Family and Friends Who Have Transitioned from Labor to Rest with The Lord.”

Your Special Plaque will contain the information below and will be mounted on the master plaque in the sanctuary lobby.

Name of Deceased
Dates: Birth – Deceased
Name of Family Member
or Giver

A Special Offering from you of \$250.00 for each plaque ordered will be credited to Your Giving Account.

Checks and the plaque details can be directed to the Financial Secretary, Sister Carrie Moorman - in the church office. Forms are available in the Lobby.

Pastor's 2024 Prayer Burden

Prayer In Place

Our Commitment and
Consecration Through Prayer

PIP for September 24th

“Let us now come boldly
before the throne of
grace that we may obtain
mercy and find grace to
help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:16

The Wisdom of Maxwell

By Maxwell John Lee



*I have hidden your word in
my heart that I might not
sin against you.*

Psalm 119:11

Romans 8:39 NLT says: *No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

My Wisdom: Our bond with the Lord should be strong enough to not separate us from God's love. We should not be showing more attention to anything more than God.

Acts 3:19 NLT says: *Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.*

My Wisdom: Everybody sins, but we need to repent so we can be forgiven. No one is perfect. But that does not mean to just sin on purpose. We should not do things that we know are not right.

Revelation 21:4 NLT says: *He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death, or sorrow, or pain. All these things will be gone forever.*

My Wisdom: God will make it all better. He is our healer. He will wipe the tears away. He could take the pain away permanently if we let Him.

Poetry Moment



Awakening/Reckoning

Written by Sister Cynthia Jones

Awaken all ye God's children,
For the season of change is upon us
God's Word hidden from non-believers' view.
Manifesting in the world so much degradation,

Anger and chaos.
Redemption and forgiveness
God's gift of reconciliation.
Our debt and sin cancelled. Let the world rejoice
In gleeful celebration.

The one who was and is to come,
Constantly, intentionally, and
deliberately in our focus,
Watching, praying, serving, and studying at the ready.
Nothing can shake us, of course!

On the battlefield, we are dressed in our whole armor,
Climbing Jacob's Ladder,

pressing towards the higher calling,
My soul anchored yet stirred by his calling

Higher in you I must travel along this Christian journey.
For it is you alone who charts my life's plans for me.
Awareness and sensitivity towards our fellow man.
Can we just extend ourselves to lend a helping hand?

As iron sharpens iron, our reckoning of Christ's death,
And resurrection. Blessed Trinity and triumph indeed.
We benefit from His sacrifice because we are His seed!
So, we lift up holy hands, in total praise and adoration

For our wakening each day is predicated
upon His beckoning.

Abba Father, I reckon you gave your only begotten Son,
So, His people who are called by His Name, Could live
in Harmony and peace as one.

SEPTEMBER BORN

Submitted by Sister Rachel Haynes

HAPPY
Birthday
TO YOU

Psalm 18:2 (KJV)

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

We thank God for His manifold blessings. He has smiled down upon us all, Hallelujah! We have not earned it and truly are not worthy, but His grace and mercy have made it possible. Without Him, we would be nothing, how can we help but Worship and Praise Him! O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Love is the answer! **We Celebrate September Birthdays**, enjoy your day and many more to come. Thank you, Lord, for each one born in the month of September!

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Albert Wells | • Richard Mackie | • Alahni Cooper | • Patricia Young |
| • Vanessa Brown | • Steven Haynes | • Tina Hemby | • George Brown |
| • Sandra Mason | • Perman Eubanks | • Madeleine Broughton | • Arthur McLaurin |
| • Antoinette Bailey | • Charlene Stewart | • Gladys Hall | • Samuel Black |
| • Thelma Fletcher | • Faith Perry | • Keith Williams | • Ruth Nettles |
| • Rev Alan Pennill ,Sr. | • *Angel Salter | • Curtis Salley | • Eddie Baily |
| • *Anunique Salter | • Nijama Coles-Moment | • Jeanette Wheeler | • Cynthia West |
| • Teltra Jones | • Faye Glover-Walker | • Sally Evans | |
| • Betty Bell | • Lloyd Wadell | • Lelia Spearman | |

*DENOTES YOUTH



The September birthstone is Sapphire.



Your flower is the Aster.



If you need a ride to church

Please call the office before Thursday noon. Your name, address, and phone number will be added to the list.



Attention MCBC Family & Friends

As you are completing your envelope, please remember to contribute to those areas where we cannot take up offerings such as Sunday School and Bible Study Classes.



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Our sincere thanks to Deaconess Lorraine Gilford as well Missy D'Amoura Freeman for their contributions to the Youth insert.

Monday Morning with The Master Prayer Line

Mondays at 8:30^{AM}



For all prayer requests to be heard,
please email your requests to
mountcalvary@bellsouth.net
or submit your prayer requests to the
church's website.

Dial In: 1-425-436-6364
Access Code: 148592#

Weekly Bible Study & Sunday School

WED
MORNING

8:30^{AM} Bible Study with
Dr. James Brown

WED
EVENING

6:15 PM
Men's Sunday School Review
Via ZOOM
ID: 875 767 07319
Access Code: 04092006

Dial In: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 875 767 07319#
Access Code: 04092006#

WED
EVENING

6:15 PM
Women's Sunday School
Via ZOOM
ID: 449 757 5748
Access Code: 04092006

Dial In: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 8449 757 5748
Access Code: 04092006#



Youth Sunday School Classes

Meet every Sunday after the offering in
the Christian Education Building.



Deadline for submitting

The deadline to submit articles for the
October Edition is **September 15th**.
marionkirkland@live.com