



THE Mount Calvary MESSENGER

SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU, LARGE ENOUGH TO GROW YOU!

JANUARY

2021

Believe

*The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.*

Psalm 138:8

WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN THE MESSENGER...

- ◆ From The Pastor's Pen
- ◆ Church-Wide Announcements
- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ 2020 Year End Review



From The Pastor's Pen...



Greetings Family!

This time last year, many of us were looking forward to the year 2020 with excitement. However, no one had any idea that 2020 would be radically altered or cancelled due to a global pandemic. COVID-19 taught us a painful lesson on the uncertainty of life in this world.

This Sunday will be the first Sunday of 2021. Surely, there will be no better place to be than in God's house with God's people. But because of COVID-19, we are still unable to gather in corporate worship, but we are the Ecclesia – Ekklesia – the Church and we can praise God from wherever we are - together through the virtual Worship Experience!

As we look to 2021, the challenges of 2020 have made it easy to become discouraged, negative and unsure of what the future holds. However, despite the circumstances, be encouraged because when things seem to be hopeless, God will work miracles! He always has and He always will because He is faithful. He promised He will never leave nor forsake you. And there is nothing in all creation that He will allow to separate you from His love in Christ Jesus. So, no matter what happens in 2021, as a child of God, hold on to and believe in the promises of God.

The theme for the year 2021 is *Believe*. We believe better is coming! The foundational scripture is Psalm 138:8, *“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.”*

Now, I realize, of course, the context of this Scripture applies to the Nation of Israel, yet I do believe that we serve a God who is “the same yesterday, today and forever.”

You must not only believe that God is in control of every event in His universe and specifically every event in your own life, but that God, in exercising that control, does so from His infinite love for you.

Therefore, *Believe* in Christ, *Believe* in love, *Believe* in hope, *Believe* in redemption, *Believe* in possibilities, *Believe* in opportunities, *Believe* better is coming – *Believe!*

Happy New Year,
Pastor Bob

ORDER of *Worship*

Welcome

Invocation

Selection

Scripture

Preached Word of God

Invitation to Accept Christ

Tithes, Missionary, and General Offering

This is My Tithe

I acknowledge that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. I can only reap what I have sown. I cannot out give God no matter how I try, and as I act in obedience to the word of God, I bless my church, myself and my family.

This is the promise of God. Malachi 3:10

Benediction

“You’ve come to Worship, now leave to Serve!”

Mt. Calvary A.M.E. Church Mission and Vision

We are a Christ-Centered church that believes in the full gospel message. We believe in building and equipping disciples and we are committed to reaching our city, state, and world with the Gospel. We want to connect with people and grow an authentic relationship with Jesus. We are a word-based, soul-winning, love-centered church that hopes-

“The Distance Was Worth The Difference!”



Church-Wide Announcements

Effective Monday, January 4, 2021, the church will have a new call-in number for the 6am Devotion and Prayer Line. The new # will be 725-735-9012. (No code required)

Mt. Calvary Blood Drive - Saturday, January 9th, from 10am-3pm. Sign-up at: <https://rcblood.org/2KMFrSx>



Harvest Meals for the Hungry - The first Grab & Go dinner of the New Year will be delivered January 13, 2021. If you have a willingness to serve on any Wednesday in 2021, contact Rev. Bonnie Epps-Burgess at cheerfulheart@mac.com; or Bro. Andrew Adams at andrewadams99@msn.com.

The 2020 Giving Statements will be available in January. To obtain your giving statement you must fill out the form on our website. Click on Member Login and then click on Member Contact Update & Giving Statement Request or click on the following link Click on the following <https://mcameproposal.wufoo.com/forms/mkflb9b0di8m34/>. Complete the entire form and click submit.

Mt. Calvary has a new ministry! The Crafty Hands is a ministry that crochets and knits. We meet every other Monday via zoom. Open to everyone no experience necessary. Contact Renee Mills or Aurisha Stanley at Mtcalvarycrafters@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18th Born on January 15, 1929, Martin Luther King Jr. grew to become one of the greatest Social Activists the world has ever known. At 35, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace prize. He was assassinated on April 4, 1968 while making a speech from the balcony of his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee. His birthday became a National Holiday by an act of Congress in 1983. Many consider it a day to serve your community.



Ministry Continued at Mt. Calvary Despite Covid-19. We engaged in virtual Sunday Worship Services, Sunday School, weekly Bible Study, Youth Church, church celebrations, annual days, auxiliary meetings and events, church and quarterly conferences, Harvest Meals and food pantry distributions. A few highlights of the year include:

- Eight (8) new members joined our church this year and two (2) new members completed the new members' classes and were read-in as members via Zoom.
- We received a letter from our Pastor Bob each week during the Pandemic.
- We have created and streamed Sunday Worship Service and Wednesday Bible Study on Facebook live weekly. This year, our services had 28,100 views (up 620%); 252 followers (up 320%). We also gained 74 subscribers, 3,480 new views, and 110 likes on YouTube.
- The Food Pantry remained open Tuesday-Friday from 10am-2pm and provided food items for those who visited the church.
- Harvest Meals for the Hungry served a total of 4,107 Grab & Go bags, of which 3, 256 were delivered by the church. A **'Manna Moment'** was created and placed in every bag to provide the people fed with spiritual food for thought for the soul and mind. A total of 20 volunteers (8 per week) supported this effort during the pandemic. For the past 16 weeks, 108 meals were served.
- We celebrated our Pastor Bob's 3rd Anniversary in July. Our theme was "A Man of Great Faith," Rev. Dr. Patrick Clayborn of Bethel AME Church was guest preacher for our Morning Worship service, which was the most viewed service on our social media pages with 1,100 views. We also celebrated our Pastor with an afternoon Zoom party.
- We celebrated our 2020 High School Seniors with a drive by motorcade at the church in the month of June.
- We celebrated our Annual Homecoming in September. Rev. Dr. Stanley Fuller was our Guest Preacher.
- We celebrated our Pastor's 35 Years in Ministry Anniversary via Facebook Live and Zoom in September. Members from all churches where he pastored, during his 35 years of ministry, participated.
- We celebrated Ministerial Appreciation month in October and held an outdoor event celebrating the ministerial staff.
- Two new ministries were developed during the Pandemic: Calvary's Crafter's (A knit and crochet ministry) and **Thursday Treats for the Thirsty: Zooming in God's Word.**
- The Beads of Wisdom served as advocates for members in nursing homes and rehab centers; held a virtual "Stay at Home Tea" event, held regular monthly meetings via Zoom; had a "Surprise" drive by to each member's home; participated in Baltimore County "No Senior Eat Alone" project (bagged lunches were prepared and delivered to



MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH YEAR END REVIEW

2020

each member); participated in Pastor Bob's 3rd Anniversary video tribute, supplied items for the Thanksgiving Baskets; adopted three (3) families from the ACTC Christmas Initiative; prepared Christmas gifts for Mt Calvary sick and shut-in; sent monthly "encouragement gifts" to Pastor Bob; increased hospitality to all Mt. Calvary members.

- The Christian Education Board added Church School for Men and produced the Boards, Auxiliaries, and Ministries (BAM) Quarterly Bible Study Resource Tool.
- The Congregational Care Unit, met monthly via Zoom, provided monthly and quarterly reports, sent cards to bereaved families, produced the monthly Messenger, and adopted a family for the Holiday season.
- The Digital Arts Ministry filmed, produced, and streamed weekly Sunday morning Worship Services, Bible Study, and church events on Facebook and YouTube. In addition, produced all ads, managed the church's social media pages and website, designed graphics for ministries, and sent out email blasts messages. In addition, acquired a new camera and computer for the church's online production.
- The Emma Jane Gardner Missionary Society celebrated their annual day in March. They also prepared Thanksgiving baskets for a number of individuals.
- The Health and Wellness Ministry held two (2) successfully Blood Drives in partnership with the American Red Cross this year. The ministry also held it's 3rd annual Crushing Cancer Campaign in October. Participants in this year's campaign walked to raise awareness for breast cancer and celebrate the survivors!
- The Men's Ministry celebrated Men's Month and Day in November. The men also led the 6am devotion and prayer line for the month. In addition, the ministry collaborated with the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity to donate 48 Christmas gifts for youth ages 2-14 years old.
- The WOW Women's Ministry celebrated Women's Month and Day. Our Guest Preacher was Rev. Dr. Natalie P. Alford Ed.D, M.Div Presiding Elder of the Historic Philadelphia Mother District - First Episcopal District of the Philadelphia Annual Conference. During Women's month, the women read Michelle Obama's book, Becoming. A series of workshops were held every Thursday in March.
- Rev. Melissa Higgs was appointed Minister to the Youth. Under her leadership, the Ministry sponsored a Back to School Drive, a Get Out the Vote campaign, and the annual Trunk or Treat event. They also initiated a monthly Virtual Youth Church, speakers included Bro. Trayvond Whitworth, Rev. Melissa, and Rev. Angie Crawford-Cox.
- The First Family held a Come Home for Christmas: A Night of Lights and Delights drive-by event in December. Gifts and treats were provided to all members who rolled through.



This Month's Memory Scripture

“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.”

Psalms 138:8

Please join us in our weekly
POWER CELLS!

- The Jewel Cromwell Johnson Prayer Line
- Morning Prayer: Monday-Friday at 6am
NEW Phone Conference Call Line: 725-735-9012. NO Passcode:
 - Church-wide Bible Study - Wednesdays at 7pm (*Face Book Live*).
 - **Men's Church School** 2nd and 4th Sundays @ 10:00am. conference line: 605-313-4415, access code: 543892#.
 - Join us every Thursday for Thursday Treats for the Thirsty—Zooming in His Word at 7pm.
 - YPD Virtual Church, 4th Sunday at 10am on Facebook Live.
 - Church School - Sundays at 9am adults (*On the prayer line*).
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Birthday greetings from your January CCU Leaders Sis. Lakeina Scott & Sis. Patricia Joyner
mtcjanuaryccu01@gmail.com
Happy New Year & May God Bless You!



Sunday Online Services...

We are still having church, just a little differently. Join us online on Face Book Live for our Sunday Morning Worship Service at 11:00 am <https://www.facebook.com/MtCalvaryAMEChurch/>

January Prayer List

Sis. Rhonda Allen
Sis. LaShae Billups
Sis. Mia Edwards
Mother Jewel Edward
Mother Mabel Gray Rev.
Marvin Higgs
Sis. Sherrilyn Ifill/Bro. Ivo
Knobloch
Rev. Murriel Lucas
Sis. Cheron Hawkins



Sis. Michele Norris
Sis. Evelyn/Bro. Steve Rollins
Sis. Gwen Tatem Sampson
Rev. Heidi Stevens
Bro. Warren Whitworth
Coronavirus patients/survivors
Cancer patients/survivors
Health Care Workers
First Responders
Ministerial staff all, Ministries

Opportunities to Give...

MOUNT CALVARY AME CHURCH
4 WAYS TO GIVE

MAIL MOBILE WEBSITE PHONE

300 Eudowood Lane | P.O. BOX 20416, Towson, MD 21286 | 410-296-9474
www.mtcalvaryame.org | Rev. Bobby B. Cox, Jr., Pastor | Rev. Angie Crawford-Cox, First Lady

Cash App \$mcamec



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Rev. Bobby B. Cox, Jr., Pastor
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Items for the Messenger must be submitted by the 2nd Friday of each month. Leaders, please add the following address to your email contacts to receive a reminder: mtcalvaryamemessenger@gmail.com.