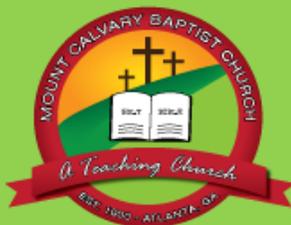
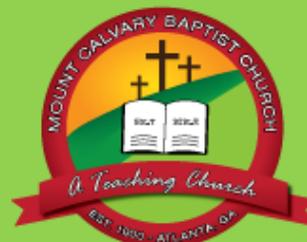


Calvary's Voice



Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
17 Fairburn Road, SW
Atlanta, GA 30331
404-696-1039

Rev. Douglas E. Stowers, Pastor
www.atlmtcalvary.org



Materialism

Happy March Mt. Calvary family. I am sharing a morning devotion that really made me stop and think after reading and rereading it.

The Dangers of Materialism

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (Col. 3:1)

The word materialism is not found in the Bible, but we find warnings and directives therein that relate to it. What is materialism? It can be defined as an obsessive focus

on material things like money and possessions, along with an easy, comfortable lifestyle. Especially for those of us in prosperous countries, materialism is a spiritual snare. It will cause us to be blinded or dull to eternal realities. The rich man in Luke 12 provides an example of materialism. His focus was on storing up an abundance of supplies so that he could enjoy a life of ease and comfort. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:20-21). Linked to materialism is covetousness, which includes a selfish, discontented yearning for more. It can be a temptation whether we have little or much. "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Certainly we should be industrious and diligent in our work. But we can easily become too absorbed with earthly wealth and financial prosperity, which results in lukewarmness of the soul. At the end of life's short journey, will our accumulation of perishing earthly things be that important to us? Are we laying up treasures in Heaven and setting our affection on things above? By diligently seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and by living in the light of eternity, we can live free of materialism's tight grip.



Think on these words for where your treasure is there will your heart be also. Luke 12:34

Love Is Forever!

Lady Wanda Stowers

Important Dates:

March 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 16-18: New Era Adjourned Session-Mt. Calvary Host Church

March 19: First Day of Spring

Vision

Statement

The Mount Calvary Baptist Church seeks to be

a "Teaching Church", empowering people through the Word of GOD to effect change in their lives and the life of the community.

What's Your Priority?



I love to observe people. I like watching their actions and reactions and try to understand why they acted or reacted to certain situations. Recently I have been alarmed at the discontentment people of all walks of life are experiencing. We are blessed and are surrounded with many comforts; but I see unhappy, unthankful and unsatisfied people who have everything and everyone around them. With all the modern conveniences we have, one would think that life would be less complicated and exhausting. However, many times, we are too consumed with technology that it becomes a hindrance rather than a help to our well-being. We are dominated by our agendas, phones and other media devices.

Life is busy and prioritizing our schedule can become a problem. It is easy to become frustrated and exhausted and think that life is not at all what you desire and had hoped it would be. I encourage you to take time to evaluate your schedule. If you have a family, re-evaluate your children's priorities as well. You cannot re-recapture the years you are spending or not spending with your children or spouse. Life is short, time goes by too fast. There is no replay or rewind button. You must enjoy every moment as it comes to you.

We are living in a time that we need to hear from God more than ever before. Church is a place that puts us in an atmosphere to hear from Him when we come together in praise and worship. In life, there are so many voices speaking to us and it is often difficult to distinguish the voice of the Holy Spirit. Church is where we can come and be quiet before the Lord and learn to recognize His voice in Church school, Bible study and the preached Word coming from our Pastor.

I would encourage you to make church a priority regardless of your busy schedule. The writer of Hebrews gives us excellent advice for the days we are living in. "Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep His promise. Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another, to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see the day of the Lord is coming near. (Hebrew 10:23-25-Good News Bible)

"Only one life twill soon be past; only what you do for Christ will last." My parents always emphasized the importance of placing God first in my life. To go, or not to go to church, were never an option. It was always, when are we leaving? I am grateful that principle was instilled in me as a child and I have had the opportunity to pass it on to those I meet on this Christian journey. Allow God to be the center of your life and home; and honor Him consistently by attending church and drawing strength from other believers of like precious faith.

Sister Janie Lowe



Mt. Calvary Hosts New Era Missionary Baptist Convention of Ga. Inc.

59th Adjourned Session

Mt. Calvary will host the 59th Adjourned Session March 16th - March 18th. Monday night **Rev. Stowers** will preside over the Official Opening of the Convention. On Tuesday night, New Era's Historic Center Night, Rev. Dr. Cleopatric Lacy is the preacher and Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Griffin, Ga. The program schedule is below.

"At A Glance"

Monday - March 16

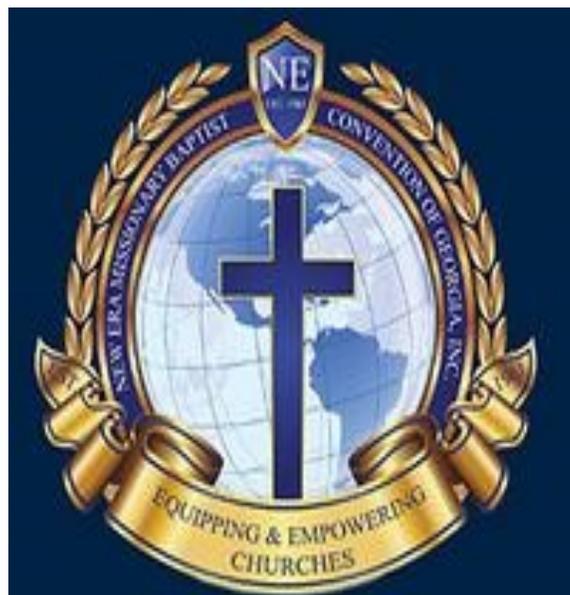
- 6:30 p.m.** **Registration Office Opens**
(Please pick up minutes of the previous session prior to the opening session)
- 7:00 p.m.** **Official Opening of the Convention**

Tuesday - March 17

- 8:30 a.m.** **Registration**
- 10:15 a.m.** **Opening Worship**
Esther M. Smith Mission Appeal
- 10:45 a.m.** **Senior Enrichment**
- 12:30 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 2:00 p.m.** **Departmental Meetings**
- 7:00 p.m.** **C. S. Hamilton Action Award**
- 7:30 p.m.** **Convention in Worship**

Wednesday - March 18

- 8:30 a.m.** **Read to Succeed**
- 9:30 a.m.** **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m.** **Opening Worship**
- 11:15 a.m.** **Departmental Planning Meeting Update**



Who's Calling?



Technology can be our friend or it can open us up to scams and fraud. Anyone can download an app that will let people lie about their phone number and even alter their identity. For example, a man can alter his voice so that it appears as if a female is calling. Did you know that your very own telephone number can call you? Yes! There are apps that will allow technology to do that and even more. I know because it happen to me. Imagine my surprise when I saw that my home number was calling my home phone. That's why you can no longer trust caller ID. Legal? Yes and No. There are some legitimate professional uses such as law enforcement investigating crimes. However, in this age of robo calls and scammers, unless you recognize the caller and number, it's best to play it safe. Fortunately, Congress is acting to help reduce robo calls to our numbers. Telephone providers have to now provide technology that will help identify these calls and

send them to your voicemail. Verizon now has free spam protection to block high-risk spam calls. So to spoof-proof your life, merely assume that the number showing up on your caller ID is probably not accurate and maybe linked to a criminal. Allow the call to go to your voice mail. If the call is important, you can then respond back. It may help you to be safe and outsmart a scammer.

Sister Shirley Seymour

Mothers' Ministry



Mt. Calvary's Mothers can be seen each Sunday as they worship. The Mother's Board (changed to Mother's Ministry by **Pastor Stowers**), was established under the leadership of our fifth pastor, **Rev. James M. Gates**, the Singing Preacher. Our mothers are always ready to give a smile or hug. They faithfully serve each Communion Sunday as they remove the Communion Tablecloth with love and grace. The Deaconess Ministry prepare the Communion Table for our sacred sacrament. After service, the mothers are responsible for taking down the communion plates

and putting them away. Our mothers provide wisdom and are always ready to pray for or with those in need.

Missions Read to Succeed Program



The Mission's Ministry will sponsor the next Read To Succeed reading program during the month of March. Each Friday Mt. Calvary volunteer readers will read to Pre-K and Grade K students at L. P. Miles Intermediate School. Under the leadership of **Sister Ilene Simmons**, this very successful program returns for another year. Volunteer readers are **Sisters Linda Gardner, Barbara Chapman, Loretha Jones, Georgia Ford, Gladys Fraley, Johnnie Riggins, Paula Oliver, Shirley Seymour, Janice Whitaker and Ilene Simmons**. Volunteer readers are always needed and the children always look forward to their reader coming to share a story with them. If you are interested in being a volunteer reader, please see Sister Ilene Simmons.

Sister Alyce Odister-Faithful Servant Usher

Sister Alyce Odister recently celebrated her 90th Birthday. Her Mt. Calvary family attended this wonderful celebration. She showed she still had it as she got out on the dance floor to dance to some of her favorite tunes. What is even more wonderful is that Sister Odister refuses to sit down on her duties as a faithful member of Usher Circle #2. Every third Sunday you can find her dressed in her uniform and ready to be a doorkeeper at her house of worship. Even when we tell her to sit down, she insists that she will stand and perform her duties as long as she can. We love you Sister Odister and thank you for your dedication to continue to serve in God's house as long as you can.



Faithful Servant

Called to *Serve*

50 Years of Marriage



During Heritage Sunday, Mt. Calvary pauses to recognize couples who will celebrate 50 Years of Matrimony. This year, our beloved **Pastor and Lady Stowers** were the honored couple. **Deacon Robert Felton** and **Trustee Annette Smith** presented a commemorated certificate to the happy couple to mark the occasion. Congratulations!!! We wish you God's Blessings on this your 50th Year of Marriage. Your Mt. Calvary family celebrates with you.



Heritage Sunday



During Heritage Sunday's "Let The Children Come", **Deacon James Washburn** told the children a story about their heritage. He ask them to imagine what it would be like if there were no African Americans living in the world. Then he took them on a journey through life as they experienced all the great inventions that African Americans invented. The sermon "Remembering The Journey", Joshua 24:14-18 by **Pastor Stowers**, reminded us that it was God who has been with us and has brought us this far. After worship, everyone gathered

in the Fellowship Hall to fellowship and enjoy a delicious meal that was prepared and served by the Nutrition Ministry. More photos on Events page of church's website www.atlmtcalvary.org



Heritage Sunday



**CELEBRATE
BLACK
HISTORY
EVERY
MONTH**



A Moment In Our Church History

Sunday Church School Superintendents 1900-2020

As a feature of Black Church tradition, any form of religious education, especially Sunday School, is important because of the history of education for African Americans from slavery to freedom, and the misuse and manipulation of the Bible since the earliest days of American society. With the increase of literacy within the African American population during and after slavery, Sunday School became one of the first institutions that ensured that African Americans would be exposed to the fully liberating Word of God contained in the Bible. Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church embraced the power of Sunday school at the very beginning of establishing the Church. Superintendents of the Sunday school were appointed to ensure that three distinctive functions would be met. Evangelism to win souls to God, instructions to furnish knowledge of divine truth revealed in the Bible and worship to promote communion with God.

During Mount Calvary's 120 years of existence there have been eleven Superintendents functioning under the leadership of eight Pastors. Under these Superintendents, Mount Calvary has experienced the "Sunday School's" growth from an assembly that was geared toward youth, to a "Church School" that has five age appropriate classes for youth and teens as well as four adult classes. The following individuals have served as Superintendents: **Mr. Murray Holly, Mr. Lonnie Lindsay, Mrs. Mary Lizzie McDaniel, Mr. J. C. Linton, Deacon Helton Poole, Rev. Douglas Stowers, Rev. Deborah Jones, Rev. Reginald Collins, Ms. Pattie Poole Mobley, Mrs. Carolyn Parker and currently serving is Ms. Pattie Poole Mobley.**



Youth Day

"Dressed for Success: The Armor of God" was the Youth Day Theme. The Youth began their celebration by first attending the Annual AMBA Jeopardy Bible Bowl on Saturday Morning February 22nd. They were then treated to an outing at Slim & Husky's Pizza. This Black owned artisan pizza shop offer Hip Hop and R&B music with Black artwork on the walls. Everyone enjoyed their hand crafted pizza that was prepared to order right in front of them. Sunday morning, **Brandon Morton, Jr.** was the devotional leader for Church School. As worship leader for our Youth Day program, **Brandon** led with the assistance of **Demi Makumi, Jaden McDowell, Amari Lockhart, Dennis Makumi, Joe D. Bellamy and the Youth Choir for Christ.** Rev. Richard A. Boone, IV, Morehouse School of Religion, was the Youth Day Speaker.



Recycle Eyeglasses



The Lions Clubs International's Lions Recycle for Sight program collects, sorts and distributes donations of used eyeglasses to people in need in developing countries. The Social Actions and Events Ministry is collecting your prescription and readers throughout March. Please drop off your eyeglasses in our donation box located in the church foyer or give to Barbara Chapman, Lisa Stowers, Delita Smith Ayo Seymour or Shirley Seymour. Your unused glasses can help someone to see clearly.

2020 Census: Shaping Our Future



You have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Your information is confidential and protected by law. It's important that **EVERYONE BE COUNTED**. Data collected from your community will determine how Federal Funds are spent. Results of the census impacts schools and education, health care facilities, housing assistance, public transportation, child and adult food assistance programs and Medicare Part B. **For every person not counted, Georgia stands to lose \$1800. Census Count Day is April 1st.** A sample census questionnaire is in the church library for you to view. Visit **2020CENSUS.GOV** - **March 12-20**: an invitation to respond online; **March 16-24**: a reminder letter. If you haven't responded yet then **March 26-April 3**: a reminder postcard; **April 8-16**: a reminder letter and paper questionnaire; **April 20-27**: a final postcard reminder before someone will follow up in person.

120 Random Acts of Kindness

We are celebrating Mt. Calvary's 120th Year Anniversary with 120 Random Acts of Kindness. The Social Action and Events Ministry is asking the MCBC family to let them know about their acts of kindness. Please fill out the form and give to a ministry member. You can also leave your act of kindness in the library. They will be published monthly in Calvary's Voice. In November during our anniversary celebration, they will be posted in our Fellowship Hall. **Mt. Calvary is "A Caring and Giving Church."**

Tyler Gates: Guest Speaker at Flipper Temple AME



Tyler Gates was asked to speak at Flipper Temple AME about his personal reflection on Black History. Tyler started by giving homage to his church family. During this speech he was able to speak confidently on those that paved the way for young black males like him. Their will and ability to persevere stood out. He highlighted history makers such as Emitt Till, Claudette Colvin, W.E.B. Dubois, Ralph Bunch, Hiram Rhodes Revel, Benjamin E. Mays, Representative John Lewis and former President Barack Hussein Obama, among a few. In closing Tyler stressed in times like now that our nation is saturated with hate and injustices, reading Philippians 4:6 will help with any situation..."do not be anxious about anything but in every situation, by prayer and petition present your request to God." Afterwards, Tyler made a memorable stop by historic Morris Brown College.