

FLAT BRANCH COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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February 2025

MISSIONS SUNDAY with guest Nate Wilks, Sr. Pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Raleigh

On Sunday, **February 16th**, Nate will be with us at Flat Branch to share about the work that he and Pastor Tom are doing in West Africa. Tom and Nate will return to work with the churches of the Presbyterian Convention of Sierra Leone (PCSL) again in March. During the worship service that morning, Nate will share slides and stories of how he and Calvary value and support this partnership between the PCSL and WARM (West Africa Reformed Fellowship).



Nate Wilks has been Calvary's senior pastor since 2013, following three years as Pastor of Family Ministries in Cochranville, PA. Nate graduated in 2010 with an MDiv. from Covenant Seminary in St. Louis. He also holds a B.A. in Broadcast Communications from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA. Prior to pastoral ministry, Nate spent a few years as a baseball broadcaster in Augusta, GA, where he met his wife, Bethany. Nate and Bethany have three children – Kayleigh (18), Hayden (15), and Elise (11), and they love Raleigh for its people, weather, restaurants and parks. Nate is an avid sports fan and enjoys rooting for his beloved Steelers, Pirates, and Penguins.



*Matthew 28:19-20
(ESV)*

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Welcome our new Covenant Partners:

Angie and Mike Wilder became covenant partners in December. Angie is a stay-at-home mom and homemaker, and Mike recently retired from Duke Energy as a mechanical engineer in the nuclear power generation field. This is the home church for Mike who grew up, was baptized and joined Flat Branch as a teenager. Mike moved away in 1980 to the Charlotte area where Angie and Mike were married in 1985. Angie and Mike have been active in Southern Baptist churches during their time in the Charlotte area. They are not strangers as they have been attending Flat Branch occasionally over the more than 40 years they have been away, but it's good to have them both home full-time at Flat Branch.



FINDING YOUR RHYTHM IN BIBLE READING,

adapted from Pastor Daryl Dash (Part 2 of 3)

Four Obstacles to Consistent Bible Reading

Why don't we read the Bible? Many of us have tried to develop this habit in the past, but it's easy to get discouraged or give up. Here are four common obstacles to consistent Bible reading:

- 1) Busy schedules — It's easy to go through life without making time to read Scripture.
- 2) Difficulty understanding — When you read Scripture, you will encounter passages that you don't understand. Often, we... give up, believing that our efforts are pointless.
- 3) Feeling overwhelmed or discouraged — I fell behind on a plan and felt like I had failed. It's normal to feel overwhelmed by the Bible's size and complexity.
- 4) Struggling with consistency and discipline — Creating habits is challenging. It's easy to start a new habit, but keeping and maintaining a habit is a different story.

Overcoming Obstacles

So, how do we overcome these common obstacles to consistent Bible reading? Here are six approaches you can try:

First, **set a specific time and place for daily reading.** You know your schedule best, so find a time and place that works for you. Decide in advance when you will read scripture. Don't just aspire to read; get practical with when and where you will do it.

Second, **start small and gradually increase your reading time.** You don't need to read for hours. Even seven minutes a day can help you read through the Bible in a year. Start with a small goal and gradually build up instead of aiming for something unrealistic.

Third, **choose a translation that you find easy to understand.** [Pastor Tom preaches from the ESV. The New Living Translation (NLT) is easy to read. The NKJV is also a good translation.]

Fourth, **use study aids.** One of the best investments you can make is a good study Bible. [Pastor Tom recommends the Reformation Study Bible or the ESV Study Bible. You can also find many free resources online like www.biblegateway.com and www.biblehub.com]

Fifth, **engage with the text through journaling, prayer, or memorization.** As you read, journal the questions and thoughts that come to mind. Pray through the passage, asking God for understanding or reflecting on it in your prayers. Memorize scripture passages that challenge or comfort you.

Finally, **find an accountability partner or join a Bible study group.** You don't need to read alone. Find others who can join you and offer support. Ask them to check in and encourage you as you read scripture.



FBCPC KIDS CORNER, by Jenna Cox

This February, we continue our "Simply Loved" curriculum and move into Unit 2, where we'll explore the story of The Exodus and learn that God takes care of us, guided by the verse "If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

For enrichment and a review of our Sunday lessons, please visit the Flat Branch Church website, click on "Flat Branch Kids," and use the Google calendar to access interactive Nearpod lessons—including a children's version of our current sermon series with a fun review game. If your child is in Ms. Angie's or Miss Jenna's Sunday school class, be on the lookout for our weekly Simply Loved Parent Newsletter email for lesson recaps, announcements, and resources to help reinforce each lesson at home throughout the week.

FBCPC COMMITTEE CORNER

Worship & Music Committee:

Communion was observed on January 5th. Next communion date is March 2nd.

Still have room for new and old voices in the Adult Choir. Will resume regular practice soon (day and time TBA).

Prayer Requests

Our Pastor, Church Leaders and Church Family

Our Country (and Leaders) for many reasons

Our Military Personnel & Emergency Services

Western NC

Shannon Carter Family

Eldridge Brown Family

Thomas Butler Family

Crystal Butler Family

Brynlee Crawford—daughter of Brittany Bass and Jonathan Crawford in NICU at Duke

Charlie Aslund—Cancer

Donnie Hamilton—health issues

Betty Bain—cancer

Evelyn Bordeaux—illness

Paul & Georgette Dempster—illness

Unspoken concerns

Shut-ins who are alone and lonely

Those who are struggling financially, physically, and mentally.

Those doing Mission work spreading the Gospel of Jesus throughout to World.

The needs are many and these are the ones that we're currently aware of. Please feel free to contact us by the church phone, email, website, or Facebook should you have a specific request.

(Additional updated Prayer Requests are distributed every Sunday at Worship Service)

Happy Birthday

Grady Bain—2/1
Yvonne Driver—2/1
Jessica Newtown—2/1
Vickie Wilder—2/1
Charlie Aslund—2/2
Reggie Akers—2/3
Priscille Akam—2/5
Harrison Bain—2/5
Ray McArtan—2/5
Stella Akers—2/6
Jo Stone-Ash—2/7
Mike Wilder—2/7
Bransyn Crawford—2/8
Azareel Akam—2/14
Danielle Rice—2/21
Mary Lee Comstock—2/22
Mason Parker—2/22
Janice Smith—2/25
Carmen Gobern—2/26



Happy Anniversary

Joel & Carolyn Frasier—2/12
Kenny & Apple McArtan—2/14
Mike & Angie Wilder—2/16



Memorials

Neil Eldridge Brown
Reggie & Carol Bain

Tony A. Brown
Wanda Brown

Crystal W. Butler
Reggie & Carol Bain
Ray & Becky McArtan

Pamela T. Byrd
Jo Stone-Ash

William Thomas Butler, Sr.
ARM Landscaping
Jeffrey Autry (Autry Farms)
Reggie & Carol Bain
Holt & Diane Felmet
Mr. & Mrs. William Kay
Ray & Becky McArtan
Carolyn Shaw
Kenneth Shaw
Vickie Wilder

Shannon C. Carter
Reggie & Carol Bain
Carolyn Shaw

Peggy A. Hartung
Mary Lasater

Welcome to the World Little One.....



Congratulations to Brittany Bass & Jonathan Crawford

on the birth of their daughter

Brynlee Colleen Crawford

Born on January 4th, 2025

Weighing 4 lb. 15oz and 17.5" long

Brynlee is the Granddaughter of Ronnie and Lisa Bass.

She remains in Duke NICU still unable to breathe sufficiently without supplemental oxygen and several other congenial issues that are being studied.

Please continue to keep her and her family in your thoughts and prayers!

*Jeremiah 1:5 (NKJV) 5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
Before you were born I sanctified you;*

Flat Branch Covenant Presbyterian Church

2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY:

- 5th – **Communion Sunday** & Undecorating of Church.
- 27th - AC Alumni Meeting, 6:30 PM Meal & 7 PM Meeting

FEBRUARY:

- 9th - “Souper Bowl” following Worship Service.

MARCH:

- 1st - Chili Cookoff at 6 PM.
- 9th – **Daylight Saving Time begins.** (Spring your clocks forward one hour!)
- 21st - Fundraiser (type to be determined)
- 29th - Senior Citizens Luncheon at 12 PM.

APRIL:

- 12th - Inside & Outside Spring Church Cleanup at 8 AM.
- 13th - Palm Sunday – Easter Cantata
- 17th – Spring Flowers placed in the Cemetery at 10 AM.
Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:30 PM
- 19th – Youth Easter Program TTBA. (Clean up rain date if needed)
- 20th - **EASTER SUNDAY:** Sunrise Service at 7 AM followed by breakfast. Easter Worship Service.
- 24th – Remove flowers from the Cemetery at 10 AM.
- 27th - Shaw Family Reunion following Worship Service.
- 28th - AC Alumni Meeting, 6:30 PM Meal & 7 PM Meeting.

MAY:

- 1st – *National Day of Prayer!*
- 3rd - Yard & Bake Sale 8 AM.
- 11th - *Mother's Day*
- 15th - First Responders Dinner at FB Fire Department. TTBA
- 22nd - Flag Placement in the Cemetery 10 AM.
- 26th - Memorial Day

JUNE:

- 1st – **Communion Sunday**
- 6th - Removal of Flags from the Cemetery at 10 AM.
- 8th – **Pentecost Sunday** & Graduate Sunday
- 15th - *Father's Day*

JULY:

- 4th - *Independence Day!*
- 20th – 24th - **VBS**
- 28th - AC Alumni Meeting, 6:30 PM Meal & 7 PM Meeting.

AUGUST:

- 3rd - **Communion Sunday**
- 10th - Blessing of the Back Packs & Hot Dog/Ice Cream Social following Worship Service.

SEPTEMBER:

1st – *Labor Day*

OCTOBER:

4th - Fall Inside & Outside Church Clean up at 8 AM.

5th - ***World Communion Sunday.***

McArtan Reunion after Worship service.

12th - ***152nd HOMECOMING*** Worship and Luncheon 11 AM – 2 PM.

26th – Reformation Sunday

NOVEMBER:

2nd – ***Daylight Saving Time ends*** (Fall your clocks back one hour!)

6th - Flag placement in the Cemetery at 10 AM.

8th - Fall Festival / Craft Fair TTBA.

9th - Veteran's Day Luncheon following Worship Service.

13th - Removal of flags from the Cemetery at 10 AM.

23rd - Christmas decorating following Worship Service.

27th - *Thanksgiving Day.*

30th - ***Communion Sunday*** & First Sunday of Advent.

DECEMBER:

6th - Women's Christmas Luncheon. Western Sizzlin in Dunn at 11:30 AM.

14th - Choir's Christmas Musical Presentation during Worship Service.

21st - Advent Craft Sunday for Youth. 10 AM – 11 AM.

Caroling & Lunch at 12:30 PM.

22nd - Sadie Shaw Wedding.

24th - ***CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 6 PM.***

25th - ***CHRISTMAS DAY!***

JANUARY 2026

4th - Christmas Un-decorating after Worship Service.

11th - 2026 Planning meeting after Worship Service.

Please be in prayer for our upcoming activities this year!

Other activities will be added throughout the year and will be announced during the Worship services and put in the bulletins.

*****TTBA: Time To Be Announced*****