

Grace Notes

November 2017

Monthly Newsletter of Grace Baptist Church



Pastor Randy's Notes

When I taught first grade, every Thanksgiving I would read a funny, but mindful book to my class entitled *Thanksgiving at the Tappelton's*. Here, very abbreviated are the events of the story:

-While getting the turkey ready to go into the oven, Mrs. Tappleton answers a knock at the door, and drops the turkey which slides down the hill and sinks in a pond.

-Mr. Tappleton, tasked with getting pies at the bakery, sees a long line, decides to get coffee, and when he comes back all the pies are sold out. He has the baker tie up two empty boxes.

-Kenny was to make the salad, but he had fed all the salad vegetables to his rabbits the day before. He put foil on an empty bowl and set it in the fridge.

-Jenny thought she would make the mashed potatoes better by putting them in the blender. When she got a phone call, the lid came off the blender and mashed potatoes went everywhere.

-As the Tappleton's sat down to dinner, each of the family members had to fess up to what had happened to their part of the meal.

Here is the final scene of the book:

A tear rolled down Jenny's cheek. "No Thanksgiving dinner," she sniffled.

"Nothing to say a prayer for," sighed Kenny.

Grandmother smiled. "Of course there is something. There is more to Thanksgiving than a turkey and trimmings." And then Grandmother Tappleton asked everyone to bow their heads and to hold hands around the dining room table. And this is the Thanksgiving prayer she said:

"Turkeys come and turkeys go
And trimmings can be lost, we know.
But we're together,
That's what matters-
Not what's served upon the platters. Amen"

"That was a wonderful prayer," said Aunt Hetta.

Mrs Tappleton jumped up. "We have liverwurst and cheese in the refrigerator."

"I'll help fix the sandwiches," offered Mr. Tappleton

Jenny wiped her tear away. "I'll get the pickles."

Kenny laughed. "I'll open a can of applesauce for dessert."

And so, the Tappletons had their Thanksgiving dinner after all. . . In fact, everyone had plenty to eat. But most of all, they had each other.

Out of the pages of a child's book, we are reminded what this season is all about—family, friends, and God's blessings. May all of our lost turkeys and sold-out pies be turned into liverwurst and cheese sandwiches, pickles, and applesauce if we can share them with friends and family! Happy Thanksgiving!

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**NOVEMBER
COMMUNION
SERVERS:**
Sharon Owen
Georgia Young



SPIRITUAL LIFE

It has been a tremendous blessing to me having spent time these past months focusing on being more aware of God working daily in my life. I have also worked hard to read scripture daily using devotional readings to help this process. I'm not having miraculous progress, but I have improved my spiritual discipline to read scripture daily. It has been a joy! Thanks, Pastor Randy, for leading our spiritual growth meetings that were so instrumental in this growth.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!!!

Blessings!

Paul Young, Lay Minister of Spiritual Life



MUM'S OPEN HEARTS PANTRY

November is the 7th Anniversary of Open Heart Pantry serving needy people with food items and more. We at Grace have been involved for 6 years.

Thanksgiving is this month. Keep in mind items to pick up for Thanksgiving dinner such as: cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, gravy and/or gravy mix, sweet potatoes, pie fillings, anything to make Thanksgiving more complete for families. Open Heart will have turkeys available.

Remember as you shop, pick up extras for the white barrel. Clip coupons and take advantage of sales. By partnering with Open Heart, we do what we can to help those who need it most.



This month's shelving day will be Friday, November 17, 10:00 am; food distribution days will be Friday, November 17, 3:00 - 6:00 pm, and Saturday, November 18, 9:00 am till noon.

Shannon Hastings, Liaison for Montavilla United Methodist Open Hearts Pantry



NOTES FROM YOUR MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER & LAY MINISTER OF CHURCH LIFE, JUDY YOUNG



“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.” (The apostle Paul from Acts 20:22)

“Stop asking God to show you His will for your life.” was Francis Chan’s unorthodox challenge to earnest Christians seeking to know God’s plan. As Chan points out, all that seeking, praying, talking, and fretting about God’s will may be signs we are not looking for ways to glorify God, but for ways to stay safe and avoid making mistakes. We want the security of knowing we are on the “right path” of following God’s perfect will for our lives.

Here’s how Chan puts it: “I think a lot of us need to forget about God’s will for my life. God cares more about our response to His Spirit’s leading today, in this moment, than about what we intend to do next year. In fact, the decisions we make next year will be profoundly affected by the degree to which we submit to the Spirit right now, in today’s decisions. It’s much less demanding to think about God’s will for your future than it is to ask Him what He wants you to do in the next ten minutes! It’s safer to commit to following Him someday instead of this day.” - Francis Chan, *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2009)

Chan is not counseling us to go our own way or to discard the notion God has a plan for our lives. He’s just pointing out the obvious—God doesn’t disclose all that much about the future. We simply need to say ‘yes’ to what He is asking of us right now. We know God is faithful and we can leave the details up to Him. Peace comes not from being given a divine blueprint for our lives, but from saying ‘yes’ to God in this very moment. (Excerpt from *Devotions for Women*, Ann Spangler)

This devotion really hit a chord with me a couple of weeks ago. Now, as I begin each day, I am simply asking God what He wants me to do that day. God is so faithful to guide us each step of the way, if we just trust Him.

The BEAUTIFUL fall colors are reminding us it’s time to gear up for the many activities coming our way at Grace in the months of November and December. Please plan to participate in these events:

Thanksgiving Potluck and Annual Budget and Election Meeting is Sunday, November 19, immediately following morning worship. Plan to attend a delicious potluck Thanksgiving meal. Turkey, dressing/stuffing, gravy, and beverages will be provided. Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving side-dish or dessert to share. It’s been awhile since we have shared a meal as a church family. Come and enjoy the fellowship and stay for our Annual Budget and Election meeting.

Hanging of the Greens will be Friday & Saturday, November 24 & 25, 9:00 am. If you feel tired and sluggish from too much turkey dinner, and want to avoid the malls, come on over to the church and help get the church building ready for Christmas! We begin on Friday with a bit of planning, and work that day on setting up the trees and bringing everything down from storage. Saturday we put the finishing touches on everything. The more the merrier!! Snacks and beverages will be provided.

Tree Lighting and Carol Singing will be Saturday, December 2, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The Outreach Committee is working hard to have a community event on our church lawn. We will enjoy seeing a tree lighting, along with carol singing and hot chocolate. Invite your friends and neighbors. What a great way to begin the Christmas Season!

NOVEMBER 2017

Fellowship Fund offering is received the first Sunday of the month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 COMMUNION 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 11:00 am Deaconesses' Meeting	7	8	9	10 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	11 Veterans Day-Thank you for your service to our country! 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
12 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Spiritual Growth Collect Food For Open Heart Pantry	13	14	15	16	17 10:00 am Stocking and Shelving Food @ MUM Share 1:00 pm Bridger's Harvest Share 3:00 pm MUM's Food Distribution 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	18 9:00 am MUM's Food Distribution Canvassing The Neighborhood For Our Lighting of The Tree Event 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
19 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm Thanksgiving Potluck & Annual Budget & Election 6:00 pm Bible Study	20 1:00 pm Board Meeting December Articles Due In Office	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day! 	24 9:00 am Hanging of The Greens 7:30 pm IVN Church Bible Study	25 9:00 am Hanging of the Greens 3:00-5:30 pm IVN Worship Rehearsal
26 8:30 am Praise/Worship Team Practice 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Bible Study	27	28	29	30		

November Birthdays

3 Nancy Uhlinger
 5 Earl Wise
 12 Savart Kamsard
 20 Carol Martin
 26 Lily Johnson
 30 Helen Pearson



November Anniversary

6 Dave & Terri Becker



OUTREACH

World Fellowship Offering

Little did Lauren Bethel know when she accepted the call to Missions, the Lord would put her at the front of an inter-continental movement. She thought she would be in Hong Kong, instead she was sent to Thailand. In Thailand she saw women who were slaves to the nightlife of the brothels. She knew something needed to be done. Now 25 plus years later she works throughout the world on the issue of human trafficking at the advocate level. Many other ABC missionaries work toward making holistic opportunities for life change for both young women and men who have found themselves in the sex industry. ABC Global Servants are in Mexico, Ghana, Congo, Thailand, Philippines, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Lebanon. Abolishing slavery has become one of our mission focuses. The World Fellowship offering supports this movement.



This year Grace will be splitting the World Fellowship offering between undesignated (funds are used to support missionaries throughout the world where needs dictate), and direct support of a newly called, new generational missionary- Sarah Nash.

Please give to the World Fellowship offering. Grace's goal is \$3000.

Meet Sarah Nash

On Sunday, October 22, we had the opportunity to meet a new generational missionary who has been endorsed to work in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. During the last ten years, our missionaries have gone to a local support model. This has allowed more connections between the local congregations, individuals, and missions. Sarah is in the process of developing these relationships.



Sarah comes from a family who has been active in ABC churches in Washington. She is a product of a family who loves Christ, our camps, and youth group experiences. She majored in Missions at Seattle Pacific University. After graduation she participated in IM's Ignite Bolivia 2014. After accepting the call, she obtained training as a dental assistance and educator. She will be working in a new extension of House of Hope in Santa Cruz. The House of Hope offers tutoring and after school programs for children of high-risk mothers, conducts programs for youth with addictions, serves the homeless and provides medical and dental clinics for children with mental and physical challenges.

Sarah writes "I am passionate about sharing the gospel with the most vulnerable through education and health and by empowering them to become who God has created them to be. I believe God has been working in my life over the years to prepare me to do this ministry, and I am ready to respond to God's call."

During the next few years we will be making this journey along side Sarah as we develop a direct relationship with her and support her with our prayers and finances.

Advent Community Events

Grace is hosting a new community advent event this year. On Saturday, December 2, between 5:00 and 7:00 pm., we are hosting a tree lighting and community carol sing. We will need volunteers to deliver door hangers to our neighbors on the Saturday, November 18. This will give us an opportunity to take an hour to walk our neighborhood. On Saturday, December 2, we will need volunteers for set up, hosting, and helping with meeting Santa and the carol sing. We will be serving hot cocoa, coffee, cookies, and goodie bags for children. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us at this event.

Again in December we will be giving Christmas gifts to families at both Vestal and Bridger schools. In early December, we will have individual names for you to buy and wrap a special gift. We are requesting the gifts to be under \$25.00.

Carol Martin, Lay Minister of Outreach

GRACE-FULL

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, let us, individually, and as the body of Christ, remember to give ourselves over to Thanks to the one who loves us, gave himself for us, and continues to shower blessings on our lives.

The Annual Budget & Election Meeting will occur Sunday, November 19, 2017, after Worship and following a Thanksgiving potluck. Copies of the proposed budget will be available in the Entryway from Sunday, October 29, until the meeting.

Sharon Owen, Lay Minister of Finance

GRACE FAMILY FINANCES

SEPTEMBER 2017

General Operating Fund

Monthly Budget	\$ 9,790.33
Income Received	\$ 7,309.84
Expenses	\$ 8,291.78
Net Received for Month	\$ (976.94)

Mission Fund

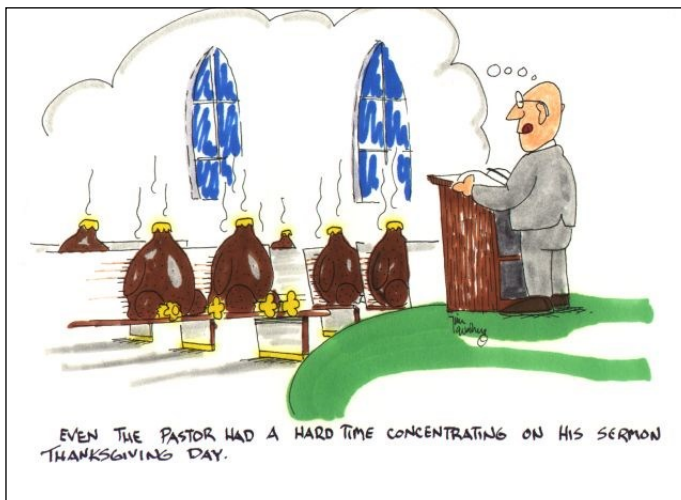
Mission Giving Plan	\$ 1,137.91
Specified gifts/offerings	\$ 860.00
Atkinson Funds' Tithe	\$ 12,051.80
Total Mission Giving	\$ 14,059.71

General Fund Balance and Liabilities

General Fund Balance 09/30/17	\$ 18,822.88
Payroll Tax Liabilities & Accounts Payable	\$ 1,826.93
GF Less P/R Liabilities	\$ 16,995.95

Other Funds (09/30/17)

Atkinson Fund	\$155,196.32
Building Fund Balance	\$ 12,033.90



**VEGETABLES ARE A
MUST ON A DIET.
I SUGGEST CARROT
CAKE, ZUCCHINI
BREAD, AND
PUMPKIN PIE.**

JIM DAVIS

*"It's like being at the
kids' table at Thanksgiving --
you can put your elbows on it,
you don't have to talk politics ...
no matter how old I get,
there's always a part of me
that's sitting there."*

-John Hughes



WHO WE ARE

You are . . . God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.- 1 Peter 2:9

In her autobiography, Corrie Ten Boom described her and her sister Betsie's horrific time in a Nazi concentration camp in the early 1940s. On one occasion they were forced to take off their clothes during an inspection. Corrie stood in line feeling defiled and forsaken. Suddenly, she remembered Jesus had hung naked on the cross. Struck with wonder and worship, Corrie whispered to her sister, "Betsie, they took His clothes too." Betsie gasped and said, "Oh, Corrie, . . . and I never thanked Him."

It is easy for us to live thanklessly in a world that is full of trouble, struggles, and woes. On any given day we can find many reasons to complain. However, Psalm 100 exhorts God's people to be glad, joyful, and thankful for "it is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture" (v. 3). As we remember who we are, we can respond in thanksgiving. For even in the worst of times, we can remember Christ's love and sacrifice for us.

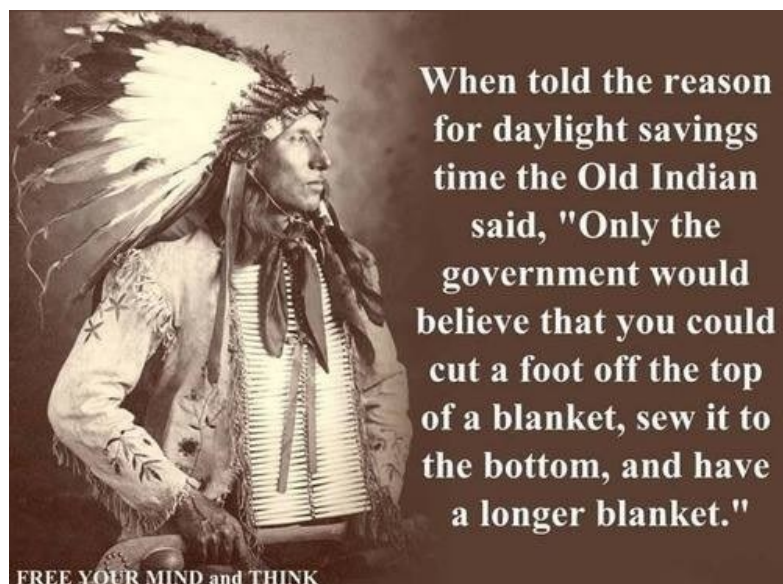
Don't let the brutality of the world take away your thankful heart. Remember you are God's child, and He has shown you His goodness and mercy through His work on the cross.

I thank You, Lord, though my heart can grow cold at times, when I remember I am Yours and You are mine, I'm encouraged yet again. Thank You for Your love for me, for Your mercy, and Your sacrifice.

Praise comes naturally when you count your blessings.

Albert Lee, Our Daily Bread, November 15, 2015

Sunday, November 5





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*All we do inside these
walls prepares us to do
God's work outside.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

5 Daylight Saving Time Ends

7 Deaconesses' Meeting

11 Veterans Day

12 Collecting Food For Open Heart Food Pantry

17 & 18 MUM's Food Distribution

17 Bridger's Harvest Share

19 Thanksgiving Potluck & Budget & Election Meeting

20 Board Meeting

20 Articles For December Grace Notes Due In Office

23 Thanksgiving

24 & 25 Hanging of the Greens

STAFF EMAILS

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Randy Pearson

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GOD'S VISION FOR GRACE BAPTIST

Making disciples of Christ, in a relational environment,
to share in God's mission to the world.