

The Epistle

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
November, 2013

Volume 13, Number 11



FROM THE PASTOR

It's hard to believe that another Thanksgiving Day will soon be here. Thanksgiving has always been one of my favorite, if not my most favorite, holidays. It is a quiet day, without all the hustle and bustle and rushing around shopping that we have let creep into other observances – a time to relax with family and reflect on our blessings (although commercialization has made inroads here as well). Certainly, we as Christians should be thankful every single day for God's gifts of grace and redemption. Still, Thanksgiving Day, if used as originally intended, can be a very meaningful time.

We all, of course, learned the story of "The First Thanksgiving," the Indians and the Pilgrims, at an early age, even though it may not be terribly accurate from a historical standpoint. But here's something to reflect on as you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner this year: If you had been a Pilgrim, would you have given thanks?

Consider what they had been through, the men and women who broke bread together on that first Thanksgiving in 1621. They had uprooted themselves and sailed for America, an endeavor so hazardous that published guides advised travelers to the New World, "First, make thy will." The crossing was very rough and the Mayflower was blown off course. Instead of reaching Virginia, where Englishmen had settled 13 years earlier, the Pilgrims ended up in the wilds of Massachusetts. By the time they found a place to make their new home - Plymouth, they called it - winter had set in.

The storms were frightful. Shelter was rudimentary. There was little food. Within weeks, nearly all the settlers were sick.

"That which was most sad and lamentable," Governor William Bradford later recalled, "was that in two or three months' time, half of their company died, especially in January and February, being the depth of winter, and wanting houses and other comforts; being infected with the scurvy and other diseases.... There died sometimes two or three of a day."

When spring came, Indians showed them how to plant corn, but their first crops were dismal. Supplies ran out, but their sponsors in London refused to send more. The first time the Pilgrims sent a shipment of goods to England, it was stolen by pirates.

If you had been there in 1621 - if you had seen half your friends die, if you had suffered through famine, malnutrition, and sickness, if you had endured a year of heartbreak and tragedy - would you have felt grateful?

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Hopefully none of us has experienced anything like that amount of hardship. We do have much to be grateful for. Let us remember – and give thanks!

On a personal note, thanks so much to everyone for making Pastor Appreciation Day so special – the recognition in the newspaper, the many cards and meaningful notes, the delicious cookies and goodies, and especially for the love and support you have shown not only this year but throughout our many years together. As I said that day, I can't see the future, but I still believe that there is a place and purpose for St. Paul in the Kingdom here, and I challenge us all to continue to work together as God shows us what we yet may do.

See you in church.

Jay



NOVEMBER HYMN OF THE MONTH - #554 – “Let All Things Now Living”

A very appropriate text for the month in which we observe Thanksgiving Day. It was written in the 1920's by Katherine K. Davis who published it under the pseudonym John Crowley, one of the pseudonyms she often used for her nearly eight hundred choral pieces and arrangements, which include the very popular “The Little Drummer Boy” (also published under a pseudonym).

The tune for which “Let All Things Now Living” was written, *Ash Grove*, is an old Welsh folk melody. The harmonization in our hymnal is by Gerald H. Knight, Director of the Royal School of Church Music in London for twenty years, who did much to raise the standards of church music and make better music available.



ANSWER TO OCTOBER BIBLE KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

In the Book of Genesis, why did the Patriarch Jacob initially send Joseph's brothers into Egypt? A severe famine had spread across all of Canaan (as well as other areas), but there was food in Egypt thanks to Joseph's understanding of Pharaoh's dream and his storing of grain during the years of plenty. When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he told his sons to go there and buy some “so that we may live and not die” (see Genesis 41 and 42).



The “**HANGING OF THE GREENS**” will be at 9:00am on Tuesday, November 26. All are welcome to come and participate in this special task.



NEW PHONE NUMBER and EMAIL ADDRESS for Mererilou Williams:

336-763-4078

our1grammie@outlook.com

* * * OUR OCTOBER RECORD * * *

| | <u>Worship Attendance</u> | <u>Stewardship</u> |
|-----------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| October 6 | 52 | \$ 2,987.56 |
| 13 | 45 | \$ 1,505.00 |
| 20 | 50 | \$ 4,022.00 |
| 27 | 40 | \$ 1,987.00 |



Birthdays This Month

- November 7 – Pam Houglan
- 8 – Dana Reece
- 10 - Gwen Reese
- 11 – Ben Parke
- 12 – Emily Puckett
- 13 – Joey Samsel
- 14 – Shirley Berthold
- 15 – C F Houglan
- 22 – Jeannine Bailer
- 23 – Allen Cook
- 29 – Lucy Smith



Anniversaries

November 11 – Keith and Dana Reece

“Success in marriage does not come merely through finding the right mate, but through being the right mate.”

-Barnett R. Brickner



PRAYER CONCERNS : Luke Finison, Barbara Carter, Marjorie and Jack Herndon, Andy and Emily Bristow, Lucy Smith, Aiden and Jeanetta French, Joe Miles, Bob Berthold, the families of Myrna Stell and Earney Walker, Katie Williams, Georgia Giberson, Wendy Woods, Dustin Samsel, Betty Lawson, John Patzsch, Jane Lochbaum, Ron Ervin, Dale and Nita Holder, John Perkins, Edith Taylor, Gary Houglan, Roger Coleman, Carolyn Davis, Mark Griffin, Luke Neal, Carl Hollman, Kevin Tewes, Terri Battle, Joyce Myer, Zachary Reavis, Joe Herndon, and our own family members in the military: James Lochbaum, Andy Bristow II, Shane Finison, Brian Fountain, Rob Salka, Brandy Zehr, and all who serve in our armed forces.

“..pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.”

James 5:16 (NLT)



THE WORD PROCLAIMED

| | <u>Sermon topics</u> | <u>Scripture Readers</u> |
|-------------|--|---|
| November 3 | “A Sinner Finds Redemption” Text: Luke 19:1-10 | Janet Walker Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4 |
| November 10 | “Do You Believe?” Text: Luke 20:27-38 | Pam Houglan Reading: Haggai 1:15b-2:9 |
| November 17 | “Endurance” Text: Luke 21:5-19 | Karen Krone Reading: Isaiah 65:17-25 |
| November 24 | “The Essence of Forgiveness” Gospel: Luke 23:33-43 | Jean Shuping Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6 |



TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

When Jesus told his disciples to beware of the “leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees”, to what was he referring?



IN HIS SERVICE

NOVEMBER USHERS

Jim Tewes
Margaret Tewes
John Watkins
Phyllis Watkins

NOVEMBER COMMUNION SERVERS

Sunday, November 3 – Jim Tewes
Margaret Tewes
Jean Shuping
Phyllis Watkins



As we prepare for the Holiday season, let’s remember those who do not have enough food to feed themselves or their families. The featured items for the November food cart for Urban Ministries are canned green beans, canned corn, yams, stuffing and cranberry sauce. Thank you for your continued support of Urban Ministries!

OUR MONTHLY "REGULARS"



- Sunday School – Sundays, 9:45am**
- Worship – Sundays, 11:00am**
- Session meets at 12:15pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month (except July)**
- Good News Ringers – Sundays, 5:00pm**
- Men’s Fellowship – Mondays, 7:30am**
- Bell Tones – Mondays, 6:15pm**
- Alanon – Mondays, 7:00pm**
- Circles normally meet on the 1st Tuesday, times and places announced**
- Gad-A-Bouts normally meet on the 4th Tuesday, times and places announced**
- BYO Bag Supper – Wednesdays, 5:30pm**
- Bible Study – Wednesdays, 6:15pm**
- Choir Rehearsal – Wednesdays, 7:30pm**



CIRCLES - The Peace/Love Circle will meet Tuesday, November 5 at 9:45am in the Epiphany Classroom. The Charity Circle will meet that evening at 7:00pm in Kathy Carroll’s home.



GAD-A-BOUITS

The Gad-A-Bouts will meet Tuesday, November 19 at 10:30am for its bi-annual business meeting and then go out to eat lunch.



Thank you to all who participated in Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child project. The total number of shoeboxes will be in December’s *Epistle*.



HANDBELLS will play this month for worship on November 10 and 17.

