

Giving Thanks in All Things (reprint)

We often wonder what God's will is for our lives. We are told that God's will is to rejoice, pray and be thankful (I Thess. 5:18). We tend to think in terms of destination: "God, where do you want me to be and do?" But God is more concerned about who we are on the journey than the actual destination.

I want to focus on this idea of giving thanks in all circumstances (I Thess. 5:18). To "give thanks" costs you something. It involves being intentional. Thankfulness and contentment is something that is learned. When you learn to give thanks, what you get in return is so much greater. For example, servers who in restaurants write "thank you" on the check are more likely to get a bigger tip. It has also been shown that those who keep a gratitude journal are more thankful in general. Whatever you do, whether being thankful or critical, you find yourself doing more of.

We are told not just to give thanks, but to do so in "all circumstances." Most people think their thanks is dependent on their circumstances. We think if our circumstances were different, this would unlock the key to gratitude. We think abundance plus comfort equals thanksgiving. But often this equals discontentment and entitlement. The more we get, the more we think we need or we think we deserve it instead of being thankful about it.

We often complain about what we don't have. Interestingly, those who complain the most are the most well off. Ask a flight attendant where they get the most complaints: first-class or coach? By far the complaints come from first-class, where the seats are larger, the drinks come earlier, and more space for leg room. Abundance and comfort can lead to complaining.

So we need to be intentional in our thanks in all circumstances. What are some things to help us in this? One way is by singing to God. "Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for me" (Psalm 107:8). Another way is by serving. "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe" (Hebrews 12:28). One final way is by giving. "Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High" (Psalm 50:14). Often the level of our giving is a great gauge to measure our gratitude.

Finally, we are told to be thankful "in" all things. We don't give thanks "for" all things, because many things are bad. I don't give thanks for cancer, for war, for divorce, for death. But I can give thanks in all things because in all things God can work for the good (Romans 8:28). God can bring good from a situation that seems to have no redeeming value. God can see what I can't see. God knows what we don't. Ultimately we can give thanks because God saved us. If this is all God ever did for us, that would be more than enough.

Mark

Arlington Church of Christ



Our Mission: Connecting People to Jesus and one Another

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Website: www.arlingtonchurchofchrist.org

 Find us on:
facebook. Arlington Friends
Arlington Church of Christ Youth Group

Welcome

We pray you will be encouraged and uplifted
as we join together in worship.

Guest Information

- There is a **staffed nursery** available for children under age 2. There is also a **parent/child training room** at the rear of the auditorium.
- An optional **children's worship** is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon. Please pick up your child after worship.
- If you are visiting, **please complete a visitor card** so we have a record of your attendance.

Weekly Meeting Times

Sundays:
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Statistics

weekly budget	\$4,062
attendance	contribution

Apr. 29 150 \$3,253

Arlington Family Pages

Seeking to edify, educate and
inform the Family of God

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Elders: Mark Brackney Ph: 622-0376
Leland Price Ph: 925-4424
Danny Rider Ph: 705-9713
Wayne Shannon Ph: 742-0517
Gregg Summers Ph: 233-4515
David Tiller Ph: 607-1945

Deacons: Bud Norris - Worship Participants
Charles Owens - Bldg & Grounds/Security/Treasurer
Keith Tatum - Education/Picture Board/Family Camp
Ronnie Weldon - Attendance/Communion Prep/Bldg

Minister: Mark Brackney Ph: 523-1764

Secretaries: Becky Johnson Jennifer Tatum

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley - WEI
Tommy Drinnen - Hope Central

In Our Thoughts and Prayers: Betty Weaver with infected toe; Sharon Galbreath and family; Danny Rider; Ben Cavin; John Burka; Roger Mink; Terry Trent; Casey Owens; Tom & Anita Drinnen; Ben and Heather Ream; Mark & Sammie French; Garry & Karla Loftis.

Friends and Loved ones: David Giles' mother recovering from hip surgery; Hoyt Box's friend, Bill Hadder; Laura Owens' dad; Carolyn Stark's brother-in-law, Gary McEwan, in kidney failure; Gordon Norman; Michael Maddox; Shane Mink; Ronnie Weldon's brother-in-law; Edith Weldon's cousin; Missy Essary; Deb & Rob Colones; Greg & Lisa Dyer; Heather Ream's mother, Linda; Janie Johnson's mom; Jason McDougal's mother & Tina's brother; Olivia Britt; Angie Langley's brother; David Hunter; Sheila Riggs co-worker, Amy Smith; Tracey Hart, Betty Weaver's daughter; Brad Owens undergoing tests.

Shut-ins: Lynda Elliott; Edna Hullender; Peggy Mehlhorn; Kathryn Norman; Jessie Rutherford; Dan Trent.

Missionaries: Tom & Angie Langley; Tommy Drinnen.

Coming Soon

- Please take a moment to **pick up a card or two** to mail this week from the Card Ministry table.
- Hope church at the Hope House**, today at 3:30 p.m., 1944 Woodbine Ave.
- YPYF small group**, today at 5 p.m., at the church building in the misfits classroom. Eli Griffin will lead the study. Topic: I Corinthians 4.
- Senior Servants study and lunch**, this Tuesday, May 8, 11 a.m. The group will meet at the Tiller's home.
- Small groups**, Sunday, May 13, 6 p.m. The Brackney group will not meet at their home. They are invited to join one of the other groups.
- Men's breakfast** at Shoney's, Thursday, May 17, 8:30 a.m.
- Hope Central family retreat**, May 18-20.
- Connection Sunday**, May 20, 5 p.m. We will meet in the fellowship hall to learn about three more of our Arlington members. Please bring finger foods to share afterwards.
- Fourth Sunday Fellowship**, May 27, following morning worship. Please bring food to share. Our visitors are invited to join us for lunch.



Family News

Sermon Topics Today
Sunday Morning:
Philemon-Part 1 Tommy Drinnen

Sunday Night:
NO SERVICES
TONIGHT

SERVING THE ASSEMBLY TODAY:

Serve @ Table:

Jedidiah Cavin, Bruce McQuaig
Jonathan Brackney, Joshua Brackney
Kevin Gillispie, John David Potter

Opening Prayer: Kelly Hunter

Preside at Table: Alan Groves

Greeters: Mark & Sammie French

Nursery: Bernice Borg & Sue Bivens

Security: R Riggs & B Campbell



BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

- May 7 Mark Percell
- May 8 Zach Shannon
- May 10 Sue Donaldson
- May 11 Anita Drinnen
- May 12 Stephen Brackney
- May 13 Connie Case
- May 13 Meg Austin

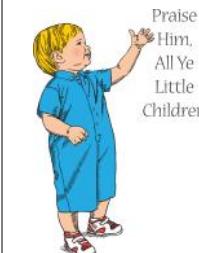
Happy Birthday!!

Family Matters

Teenage Christian Camp

We have received our first information for the 2018 edition of Teenage Christian Camp (TCC). The application process is all on-line this year so they will not be mailing paper applications as in past years. There are six weeks of camp this year for all ages. And you can register and pay in advance to receive a discount on the weekly fee. See the teen board for additional information and/or go to

www.teenagechristiancamp.org
for details.



Optional children's worship...

is available for ages 3 to 8 during morning worship. Children will be dismissed before the sermon.

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