



# CHRIST CHURCH PRESS

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church, Presbyterian  
4201 Southern Pines Drive, Evans, Georgia, 30809

Volume 11, Issue 11

November 2016

## Pastor's Selection

### Birthdays

- 04 ..... Enrique Romero
- 06 ..... Michael Goodell
- 10..... Jane Bowen  
          Don Lewis  
          Audrey McGraw
- 11.....Daniel McMillan
- 13.....Carol Ryans
- 15 ..... Billie McPherson
- 16.....Mary Round
- 17.....Mary Lou Turner
- 18.....Catie Boyd  
          Glynn Dyer  
          Ian Jones
- 22 ..... Andrea Denis
- 23 .....Jackie Hillesland
- 25 ..... Barbara Volpitto
- 26 .....Hayes Edwards  
          Sue Kemp
- 30 .....Stan Pylant

### Anniversaries

- 01..... Joyce & Harold Hyatt
- 02 .. Betty Gene & Al Lovingood
- 06 .....Jordy & Bob Rihl
- 08 ..... Fay & Richard Deal  
          Julie & Joe Dey
- 21..... Nancy & Lee Parks
- 26 ..... Sue & Bill Kemp

### Lay Aside the Weight of Thanklessness

*—Jon Bloom, Desiring God*

“Heavenly Father, please let me know your will. I really need to know what you want me to do about . . .”

*This is my will for you:* “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

“Thank you, Lord, for this reminder. I really do need to be more thankful – but getting back to my request, I’m not sure what you want me to do about . . .”

*I want you to “give thanks in all circumstances.”*

“I know, Lord, I know. That’s important and I can see where I have neglected that. But thankfulness is sort of a constant need, isn’t it? I mean, everyone needs to be more thankful, right? Seriously, this is urgent, and I don’t have clarity from you. I need your direction. What do you want me to do?”

*I am being serious and specific. I want you to “give thanks in all circumstances,” and right now, in this particular circumstance.*

[Speechless exasperation]

*Until you learn to “give thanks in all circumstances,” much of my will for you will be veiled. I have guiding and providing graces you can’t see now because of your ingratitude. Be faithful to obey my revealed will for you, and I will be faithful to guide (Psalm 32:8) and provide (Philippians 4:19) for you.*

### Remember to Say “Thank You”

The spiritual cost to us of being thankless is much higher than we might think. Thanklessness is not merely the absence of verbalizing a “thank you.” It is a symptom of spiritual dullness, of spiritual poverty. Because it is taking for granted and not appreciating grace being shown to us.

Parents know what this looks like. Children, being born self-centered sinners, naturally take for granted all the blood, sweat, tears, and dollars their parents invest in them. So parents are frequently reminding their children to give thanks.

“Remember to thank your mother for making dinner.”

“Thank your grandparents for that nice birthday gift.”

“Have you finished your graduation ‘thank you’ cards, yet?”

Why do parents do this? For most, it isn’t merely to get their children to perform a social courtesy. What they want is for their children to see grace and feel thankful. They know instinctively that seeing grace and feeling thankful is a sign of a spiritually healthy person, and of course they want their child to be spiritually healthy. And they instinctively know there is something wrong, something unhealthy about a person who doesn’t express gratitude for a grace they have received.

*(continued on page 2)*



In Uganda, rowboats are used to transport cartons of shoe boxes to children living in remote river settlements. Fleeing war and terror, boys with smiling faces received their shoe box gifts at a displacement camp in northern Iraq. The only way to deliver shoe boxes to some isolated Amazon settlements is by plane or canoe. In Nepal many survivors of a devastating earthquake lost their homes and belongings. Children were overjoyed to receive gifts of hope in the form of a shoe box. From Belize to Botswana and from Chad to Cambodia, God is using Operation Christmas Child to help expand His Church to the ends of the earth. A simple gift can bring joy and comfort to hurting children and open doors for entire communities to hear the message of love and redemption from sin through Jesus Christ. As these eternal truths take root, broken families find restoration, churches are established, and a new generation of believers bear witness to the Lord's faithfulness.

We at Christ Church, Presbyterian have the wonderful privilege of being a part of this worldwide project. Won't you take advantage of this opportunity to share the true meaning of Christmas with girls and boys? Prewrapped shoe boxes and brochures with complete instructions are available in the foyer. If you wish to participate but are unable to shop, please consider making a donation to Samaritan's Purse. Filled shoe boxes will be collected on November 6 and November 13. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Ann Fliermans ([rafliermans@comcast.net](mailto:rafliermans@comcast.net)).



## The Pastor's Selection

(continued from page 1)

### God Reminds Us to Say "Thank You"

In parents like these, we see an image of God's heart for us. God does not command and exhort us to thank him because he loves to hear the "magic words" or watch us perform a mere divine courtesy. He's after our spiritual health and prosperity. He does not want us to be spiritually sick and poor. He tells us that thanklessness is a sign of unbelief (Romans 1:21). But thankfulness is a sign of faith, evidence that we really see his grace and feel its effects. That's what he wants for us.

And that's why God so often commands and exhorts us through the biblical writers to give thanks to him. Think of the Psalms; these kinds of statements are sprinkled all through them:

- "I will give thanks to the Lord" (Psalm 7:17; 9:1; 30:12, and many more).
- "Give thanks to the Lord" (Psalm 105:1; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1 and many more).
- "Enter his gates with thanksgiving" (Psalm 100:4).
- "Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name" (Psalm 140:13).

And think of how Paul weaves references of thanks to God all through his letters:

- "I give thanks to my God always for you" (1 Corinthians 1:4).
- "I do not cease to give thanks for you" (Ephesians 1:16).
- "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" (Philippians 1:3).
- "We ought always to give thanks to God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3).
- And of course, "give thanks [to God] in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

These are not the commands and exhortations of a vain deity. They are the loving prescription of the Great Physician; they are the loving reminders of our caring Father. Just like a parent helps a child to cultivate thankfulness through frequent reminders, God intends his frequent reminders for us to give thanks to him to help us experience the profoundly healthy and deep joy of seeing grace and feeling grateful.

And like all of God's greatest blessings, he has made our thankfulness something that gives him glory and gives us joy! He gets the glory of being the grace-Giver, and we get the joy of being grace-receivers and the gratitude-feelers.

### Lay Aside the Weight of Thanklessness

In view of other things in our lives that feel like urgent priorities, we might not think that "[giving] thanks in all circumstances" ranks high enough. We might be tempted to think that thankfulness is sort of like a luxury option in the car of the Christian faith — it's a nice feature, but we can drive fine without it. That's a huge mistake. Thankfulness is not a luxury option; it's part of our car's engine. The car of faith doesn't work right without it.

Therefore, it is altogether possible that God's answer to our prayers for guidance and provision might actually be, "give thanks in all circumstances." That may not be our greatest felt need, but it may be our greatest real need right now. And if so, God's perhaps frustrating answer is a great, healing mercy to us.

Thanklessness is a spiritually unhealthy weight that slows many of us down in the race of faith, more than we might know (Hebrews 12:1). God has more guiding and providing graces for us that we will discover if we lay it aside and run with thankful joy.

How do we do this? We simply begin by obeying God's simple, health-giving command: "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

# Nursery News

*"He said to them, 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Mark 10:14*



This month we would like to spotlight Holly Isbell. Holly is in our infant nursery and has certainly been an asset. Her familiar and smiling face welcomes our infants and prepares a comfortable and warm environment for these precious little ones, as well as for the new moms. Holly has much experience with infants and is currently a nanny to a nine-month old during the week. Additionally, Holly attends school where she is majoring in business and is looking forward to graduating in May.

After graduation, Holly would love to travel to Athens, Greece. Travel is one of Holly's interests and she hopes to continue that. When asked about hobbies, Holly shared she had little time, but said she loved her job here at Christ Church! We are blessed to have this young woman as part of our nursery family.

A note to parents: please be aware that nursery is only for those who are from birth up to four years of age. Space limits us greatly. At special events or regular services, please respect our age limits. Our staff is happy to welcome all children who are of nursery age.

We are greatly in need of volunteers, especially during morning worship. This is our most attended service so we need a volunteer to assist our staff. Please prayerfully consider volunteering during that time and if you feel called to help, please contact Fay Deal at 803-278-1176, Helen Caldwell (toddlers) at 706-833-2278 or via e-mail to [hcaldwell@georgiabankandtrust.com](mailto:hcaldwell@georgiabankandtrust.com), or Monica Boyd (baby) at 706-736-4373 or via e-mail to [mhboyd@comcast.net](mailto:mhboyd@comcast.net).

Next month look forward to meeting another of our incredible nursery workers.

*"And He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:16*

## Student Stuff

November is one of my favorite months! The leaves start changing, Augusta's weather is bearable, football season is underway, and of course, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for everything that God has blessed us with. It is also a time for turkey, stuffing, and hot cider! I want to challenge everyone to write down at least one thing you are thankful for each day of November. Real things. Not your xbox or your iPhone—I'm talking about having two parents or having food to eat everyday.

Working in the education system, I see that even in Augusta, GA, 5-year-olds rely on the free lunch at schools. In light of this, the youth has taken on a task and a goal with Christ Church. We vow to help send out 100 Shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child! The youth will be having a **Progressive Dinner on November 11<sup>th</sup>**, and after dessert, we will be stuffing shoe boxes for all the children out there who are in desperate need! More information about our Progressive Dinner will be in the upcoming bulletins!

Chris Nabholz' Top 3 Thanksgiving Foods:

- 1) Turkey doused in Gravy
- 2) Sweet Potato Casserole
- 3) Stuffing, also doused in Gravy

## Ministry thru Music

We are looking forward to upcoming music celebrations:

### Sunday, December 4

The Augusta Youth Chorale (AYC) will present a Christmas Dessert Concert in our Sanctuary at 4:45 p.m. You are invited! The Concert is free though a special offering will be taken. The concert will be very worshipful and a varied Advent celebration. Afterward, in Covenant Hall, one can enjoy wonderful free desserts. What a great way to raise funds for upcoming AYC activities.

### Sunday, December 18

Evensong: A Festival Gloria involving our Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir, The Augusta Youth Chorale, and Orchestra in the Sanctuary at 6:00 p.m.

### Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good.  
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in  
Him!" (Psalm 34:8)*

Stan Pylant, Director of Music



## Grounded Foster Care

Well if there's anything we are learning with our foster family ministry, it's that change is the only constant in foster care! Our two Care Communities have had the privilege of serving two local foster families this year, and now our ministry is undergoing its own season of change. Due to various circumstances, we have decided to dissolve our current Care Communities. We will regroup with an informational meeting on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall, both for those who have served and are still interested in serving with Grounded, and those who would like more information on the volunteer opportunities we have available. Please prayerfully consider how a few hours of your month might be a tremendous blessing to a local foster family and the children in their care.

We are also still taking donations of clean, gently used baby items (cribs, pack and plays, car seats, etc.) for our foster equipment closet. Please contact Dessa Edwards for more information on either of these opportunities. 706-627-9430 or [dessa.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:dessa.edwards@gmail.com).

# Christ Church Press

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## November

**Weekly Sunday Schedule:** 9:45 a.m. Sunday School • 11:00 a.m. Worship • 6:00 p.m. Worship

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	Daylight Savings Time 5
		7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans 7:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Young Couples Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Young Family Small Group Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
6	7	8	9	10	<i>WCCC Fall Retreat</i>	
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering	7:00 p.m. Trail Life	6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Augusta	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:45 p.m. Women's Evening Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
12:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal 4:30 p.m. AYC off Campus 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	6:30 p.m. Session Prayer & Meeting 7:00 p.m. Trail Life	10:00 a.m. Women's Daytime Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study, Evans	6:15 p.m. Brass Ensemble Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	6:00 p.m. Young Couples Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Young Family Small Group Bible Study	6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer 5:00 p.m. Trail Life: 1st Thanksgiving	9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
4:30 p.m. AYC Rehearsal 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Youth Gathering				Thanksgiving 24 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Service		
27	28	29	30			
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