



How Can I Say Thanks?

Born on July 1, 1942 in San Francisco, California, he is a seven-time Grammy Award-winning gospel singer, songwriter, arranger, record producer and pastor. His name – André Crouch. He wrote what has become one of my favorite lyrics:

*How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet you gave to prove Your love for me.
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am, and ever hope to be, I owe it all to Thee.*



The chorus continues in expressing thanks and praise for all that God has done. Giving our worship to God with vigor and passion is certainly one way to express our gratitude; after all, God has so richly blessed us. But there are other ways to express “thanks”. Consider these...

I CAN “SAY THANKS” AS A PRAY-ER!

So often our prayers generally thank God and then specifically make requests of God. Let’s change that. Let’s get specific in our thinking about the ways God has blessed us, has answered prayers from the past, has provided when we hadn’t even asked, has been with us in difficult experiences . . .

Let’s make the month of November a month of “thank-You prayers!”

I CAN “GIVE THANKS” AS A FAITHFUL STEWARD!

When we give our tithes (the 10%) and our offerings (beyond the 10%) we are being obedient to God’s call on His family. But everything we have belongs to God because we belong to God. Our stewardship is of our whole life . . . including all the resources that we are given. Let’s review our faithfulness to God with all that we oversee. Let’s seek ways to steward more effectively so that we might be able to be more generous with others. After all, God has certainly been generous with us.

Let’s make the month of November a month of generosity!

I CAN “SHOW THANKS” AS A SERVE-ER!

The past few months I’ve made several trips to Florida to help my mother deal with the loss of my father and then finally this past month in moving her to Covenant Village in Cromwell, CT. During that time I’ve eaten out at places where someone cooks, another serves, and still another cleans up. I expressed “thank you” to them, and gave an appropriate tip. But there’s more I can do. As one movie displayed so well, I can “pay it forward” – that is, I can serve others, which is what God calls us to. I can increase the opportunity for thanksgiving in me and others by serving them.

Let’s make the month of November of month of serving others!

As we come to the Thanksgiving holiday at the end of November may it be especially meaningful because we have expressed our thanks in prayers, in generosity and in service to others.

Pastor Craig

“IN GOD WE TRUST” (Really. . .?)

Since the fall of 2008, it seems everything having to do with financial matters moves and breathes with one word.....FEAR! It's in almost every business article I read and even in the voices of clients I meet and talk with regularly.

As a believer in Christ, sometimes FEAR even shakes me!

But there's this passage in Acts 17:28 where Paul describes to the men of Athens that in God...“we live and move and exist”. These are some profound and essential words for any Christian to know, but beyond that, they are very reassuring. You see, for the follower of Jesus, everything is dependent on God... everything is about God...and everything is sustained by God.

Is this how we really live? Is this truly the reality we wake up to everyday? Do we know God like that?

That kind of relationship is built and dependent on TRUST...not on FEAR. Jeremiah 17:7 says, “Blessed is the one who TRUSTS in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him”.

The Bible tells us repeatedly that as a follower of Jesus, we are not our own and as the Psalmist writes “The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1). This means that the life we are given, the possessions we have, the friends and family we have.....God is the owner and that in perfect love and grace, he entrusts His property to US.....WOW!!! The Bible also teaches that someday we will ALL be called to give account for our STEWARDSHIP when every one of these things is returned to HIM as owner.....Can I get a second WOW on that???

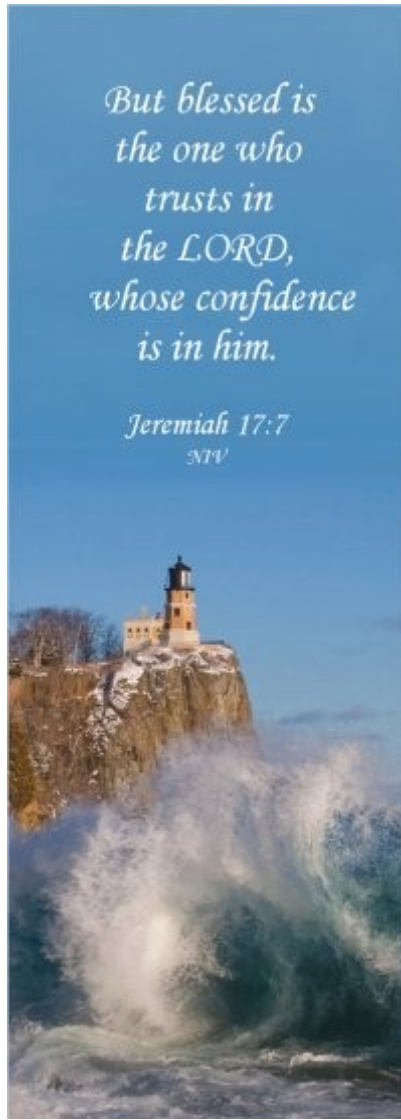
Sometimes I am floored that God has that much FAITH in me and would ever trust me enough with His possessions.....but it's true....He really does!!

Do you ever wonder what the exchange is going to look like between US and God on that “someday”?? Does the thought bring you joy or make you uneasy?

When you look at all you have....your talents, your gifts, your checking account, your time.....are you investing these things as God would invest them and with the confidence that you can TRUST God with such things? Or....do you think of them as your accomplishments, the work of your hands, your mind or your sacrifices and that YOU are in control of and over them?

In the coming year at Covenant, we hope to more fully develop a genuine “Culture of Generosity” over what God has entrusted to each of us; that with our time, talents and financial resources, we will ALL take a deeper and more active step to engage and invest in Kingdom work.

On Sunday 11/13/2011, you will be invited to consider these things in a deeper way in 2012 as we work together on a new ministry plan for our Church. May you open, smile and embrace the invitation to TRUST and not be AFRAID!!!



Dave Gibbs

For the Stewardship & Finance Ministry

**“Put first things first and second things follow.
Put second things first and you lose both first and second things.”**

C.S. Lewis

Saint Francis Day

October 2nd was St. Francis Day which I have never heard of. It was the one day out of the year when animals were allowed to come to the Church services and be blessed. Dogs, cats, hamsters, and I'm not sure what all else. It felt like a zoo and I loved it.

I didn't hear much of the sermon because my mind was actually on Sophie who is the Pastor's dog. I was listening to his sermon which I know EVERYONE missed. Most people only heard Sophie barking and acting like she owned the place. But it was her

one day for being in Church, so she actually did own the place, for that day anyway. So I feel like sharing Sophie's message because I think it was a good one.

It started when the Pastor was trying to make announcements, Sophie started barking. I thought it was appropriate because she was making a joyful noise announcing, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". The Pastor missed her

announcement because he was trying to say his announcement. Sophie ended up proudly standing by his side.



Perhaps things in life wouldn't seem so bad if we looked at them from another angle.

ceive". How often does God want us to call on Him? God has so much for us, if we would only ask Him. So in watching Sophie, I felt like she was reminding everyone to call on God.

Sophie also said "It is not good for man to be alone". Kay, the Pastor's wife, pointed out that every time she stepped away to do something in the service, Sophie got upset. And with how easy it is to get a divorce these days, we

think nothing of it. So to me, Sophie was saying to stay together and stay united. That's an important message in today's world.

During the prayers, Sophie laid down and from my angle it looked like she was praying. The end of the service was a surprise because right when the Pastor said "Amen", most of the dogs all barked at the same time as if to say "Amen". Then the animals got blessed by the Pastor.

I was blessed by the message I got by watching Sophie and I felt like writing her message out because it came from man's best friend. Silly? Probably. But aren't most things in life about perspective? You can look at Sophie as an annoying disruptive dog; OR, you can choose to get a message out of it.

Perhaps things in life wouldn't seem so bad if we looked at them from another angle. I got a blessing from the animals that day. I can't help but wonder if that's what Saint Francis had in mind. If you look close enough, you will get a blessing. If so, it's a powerful message.

Snoopi Botten

Council of Churches — HELP WANTED

Development Director: A faith-based organization with 67 years of community service in Connecticut, The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport seeks a motivated, hands-on leader to guide development of public support to advance its mission to people at risk. Expectations are posted at www.ccggb.org. Candidates may submit letter of interest, resume and list achievements by email to applications@ccggb.org no later than close of business on Friday, November 18, 2011. Minimum experience: 3 years; minimum educational requirement: Bachelor's Degree.

Covenant World Relief Soup Can Collection for Haiti

Every year the Covenant Church of Easton gives out wrap-around soup can labels. But instead of promoting chicken noodle soup, they endorse the Covenant World Relief efforts.

The idea is to take a washed out soup can, wrap the label around it, put the plastic lid with the slot on top, and use it like a bank for your change. It's pretty cool. Every night when you get home plop your change into it and when it is full or on Sunday, November 27th, bring the can back to the church.



What's nice about it is you are giving to a great cause and you will hardly even notice. If we all

give a little, the totals can be significant.

All the proceeds go into the Covenant World Relief fund which responds to national and international crisis; for example, partnering with Habitat to build affordable homes in Haiti and in response to the most recent earthquake in Turkey.

Please join us. Labels and plastic lids are available in the Welcome Center.

Paul Veerman

Missions & Evangelism Committee

November Birthdays & Anniversaries



- 11/16 JoAnn Gibbs
- 11/21 Maxwell Kattler
- 11/25 Joan Bjork
- Stephanie Wirth
- Tess Wolgemuth
- 11/26 Sam Nobile
- 11/27 Marilyn Steel
- Bill Austin
- 11/28 Pat Mahoney
- 11/30 Chris Logan

- 11/1 Dillon Otten
- 11/2 Diana Ambrose
- 11/5 Justin Sharp
- 11/6 Lynne Sullivan
- 11/9 Gloria Pryde
- Tyler Bachelder
- 11/10 Bob Lindahl
- Lisa Heist
- 11/11 Ron & Sandy Koenig ♥
- 11/13 Lucy Gould
- Amber Schaper
- 11/14 Bethany Ling!





**What happens when six thousand high school students get together in one place?
SOMETHING AMAZING!**



At CHIC 2012 – we’re counting on it!

What is CHIC? CHIC is the triennial Christian conference for high school students sponsored by the Department of Christian Formation of the Evangelical Covenant Church. In 2012 CHIC will be held in Knoxville at the University of Tennessee from July 15–20. Thousands of students and adults from around North America and abroad will gather for a week of worship, interacting with God’s Word, learning experiences, service, fun, and new friendships.

Who can attend CHIC 2012? High school students completing grades 9-12 in the 2011-2012 school year and who are at least 15 years old by September 1, 2012.

Where can I find out more about CHIC? The CHIC website www.CHIC2012.org will help answer all your CHIC related questions, including scheduled events, Mainstage speakers, bands, excursions, service opportunities and so much more! However, if you still can’t find what you need, speak to Pastor Cary (pastor.cary@coveaston.org).

A 20-30 minute CHIC Parent Meeting will take place Wednesday, November 9th at 7:00 pm at Covenant.



FACT SHEET

The purpose of CHIC is to be a catalyst that inspires Christ-like change; challenging students to see themselves as part of something bigger and inspiring students on the journey of following Christ.

The Vision of CHIC 2012

Being: A Christ-centered community of students. Genesis 28:3

Knowing: Confident in their relationship with Christ. Romans 8:38-39

Doing: Committed to doing justice, loving mercy and walking humbly with their God. Micah 6:8

Covenant East Coast Conference

The trustees of The East Coast Conference (ECC) met October 15th at the Berlin Church for their quarterly meeting. During this quarter I will use the Salt Shaker to inform you of some of the activities and news of the ECC.



Camp Squanto's new Dining Hall

Dave Cairns, Executive Director of Pilgrim Pines had pictures of Camp Squanto's new Dining Hall, a well-needed addition to the camp. Also, a cart given by the ECC Woman Ministries to help transport campers at Mayflower going to places too difficult to get to for some campers.

Rev. Stephen Cushing, Executive Director of the Seafarers Mission in Boston reported the acquisition of two new Toyota Minivans obtained through a successful grant from the Seafarers Trust Fund

International Transport Workers Federation based in the United Kingdom. One van is for our Boston Ministry and the second for Providence/Narragansett Bay Ministry. He reports that our Cruise Ship ministry got underway full

speed, 95% of our ministry days were reserved by area churches, including some new ones—most notable a Messianic congregation from Stoughton.

The industrial ship traffic in South Boston has increased over the summer as Massport has added 3 ships per week to the Conly Container Terminal. With the help of Dan Cott and

Mike Audette we have had nearly 100% coverage of the ships calling into South Boston. No small feat during the busy cruise ship season. Transport was a challenge, but we were successful in helping those seafarers and providing a dependable presence on board their ships. We are looking forward to possible partnerships with new church plants in the South Shore area of Metro Boston to help cover industrial ship visits.



New Camper Transport

Finally, Steve writes he is humbled to announce his having been awarded the "Outstanding Mentor 2011" by the Trustees of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and its Mentored Ministry Department.

Alma Kearns

Prayer for Pastoral Search Committee



A special place has been set up in the Chapel for anyone to visit and spend time in prayer for the Pastoral Search Committee, the people of our church, and for the future pastor the Lord has planned for Covenant Church of Easton. Prayer is the most important thing we can do to make sure we are on God's page for the future of our life together. Whenever the church is open, the Chapel is available for prayer.

Last Minute Additions

Pilgrim Pines Mother Daughter Weekend — November 18-20

Thanksgiving at the Pines — November 23-25



Children's Ministry

There will be **NO** Friends Night Out or King's Kids on Tuesday evening, November 1 and November 22.



Help Wanted

Sunday Morning Childcare Position

We are sorry to say that Lauren Corso has resigned as childcare staff on Sunday mornings because of her heavy work and school schedule.

The Children's Ministry is taking resumes for the position, which is Sundays 10:30 am to 12:15 pm and occasional evenings at \$11.00 per hour.

If you know of a loving person over 18 years old with childcare experience, ask them to contact Roseann Slater (203.371.8335 or roseann@coveaston.org). Please pray for us for this search.

SAVE THE DATE!
January 20-22
4th & 5th Graders
Trailblazer Retreat

Service Ministry Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving will be here before you know it and that means it's time for the Service Ministry to collect food items to fill the Thanksgiving Boxes for the clients of our two DCF workers.

Each of our Sunday School classes and Bible Study groups, as well as our Youth Groups and Choir will be asked to bring specific food items. If you are not part of one of these groups and would like to make a donation, we are requesting that you bring in cans of vegetables — specifically green beans, peas, carrots, corn, or mixed vegetables.

This year instead of receiving turkey donations, the Service Ministry will be collecting Gift Cards for the meat. The reason for the change? It will make it much easier, not only for us at the church, but easier for the social workers, and the families will have the option of choosing the meat they would prefer.

All items need to be at the church no later than Sunday, November 20th.

The children of our church and some ladies from the "Joyful Sisters" Bible Study group will be decorating place-mats to be used on Thanksgiving Day by the families receiving the food donations. The Women's Ministry and Service Ministry is sponsoring an evening for all women to help decorate the Thanksgiving boxes at the church. Look for more information coming soon!

The Service Ministry appreciates your overwhelming generosity during the holidays. May God bless you in ways you never have envisioned! Please contact Eileen Ling for more information.



November



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Rooted in Christ - Reaching Out to the World

November Worship

TWO SERVICES EACH SUNDAY – 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM

New Testament Fly-over Series

November	6	Acts 9:31	Acts, Part 2 – The Church Expands Holy Communion	Pastor Craig
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Stewardship Series: “A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY”

November	13	Proverbs 3:5-10	Stewardship is Lordship	Pastor Craig
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November	20	Selected Texts	Stewardship Kid's Message	Pastor Cary
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Advent Series: “WHO’S IN THE MANGER?”

November	27	Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 2:1-20	Eyewitness Evidence	Pastor Craig
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