As I View It—“Blessed by the God Without”

Each year on the 4th Thursday of November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day in America. It’s a holiday begun by the early settlers to America to express their gratitude to God for a bountiful harvest, but it’s patterned after the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles.

After the harvest was completed in Israel, Israelites from all over the country would gather in Jerusalem for a week-long celebration. This was to commemorate the time God had spent leading them through the wilderness and to give Him thanks for another good harvest. All year long they saved up their tithes, the first born of their flocks and herds, the first sheaves of grain, the first grapes, figs, olives, and other fruits and vegetables. They would gather it up and carry it all the way to Jerusalem in the fall where they’d prepare all the food and eat it together in a national celebration of praise. (See Deuteronomy 12:5-7)

After surviving a year of horrible weather, disease, and various afflictions in the new world, the Pilgrims of New England instituted a similar, though much smaller, Thanksgiving feast, again with the intent of praising God for His provision. This event became a national holiday in the United States in 1863, but it took another 78 years before the celebration had an official date of observance—the 4th Thursday of November.

While the Pilgrims patterned their Thanksgiving celebration on the Old Testament Israelites, the vast majority of contemporary Americans have no clue of the origins of their Thanksgiving meal. Today most Thanksgiving dinners are planned around flight times, travel schedules, work commitments, and the Detroit Lion’s schedule. Indeed, even evangelical Christians, who pride themselves on their knowledge of the Scriptures, fail to grasp the parallel between their Thanksgiving meal and the one God instituted thousands of years ago in ancient Jerusalem.

A Christian teacher, Jack Kelley, explains it this way: “As an adult I got involved in the self-development field and began learning about the ‘god within’, an internal force I was told I could use to maximize my ‘creative potential’ for success. This appealed to my ego and made me seem like the master of my own fate. I forgot all about the Lord’s admonition to remember Him (Deut. 8:11-19). When I was born again at age 40 I finally saw that this ‘god within’ was only my own self-determination. It was really the ‘God without’ who had been blessing me all along even though I was taking all the credit. In one of my first prayers for forgiveness, I asked the Lord to forgive me for giving myself credit for the things that were from Him. As I was praying about this, the phrase ‘God without’ kept repeating itself in my mind. What was the Lord trying to tell me? I believe He was saying that the word ‘without’ applies to lots of things where He is concerned, and as I continued to pray, several of them came to mind:

“Love Without Limits (Jn. 3:16), Forgiveness Without Question (I Jn. 1:9), Performance Without Exception (Jn. 6:37,39), Promise Without Equivocation (Isa. 46:10,11), Blessing Without Number (Deut. 28:3-6), Mercy Without Measure (Lam. 3:22-23), Faithfulness

(Continued on page 2)
Without Failing (Deut. 7:9; Jn. 6:37,40), Re-
deremption Without Retraction (Jn. 10:28,29), Salvation Without Merit (Titus 3:4-7), Grace Without Guilt (II Cor. 5:17-19).

“So in a time when mankind has all but for-
gotten that the Lord is the Giver of every
good and perfect gift, the Author of all our
victories who arranges every opportunity and
fashions every blessing, who constantly brings
good out of evil, those ‘withouts’ may serve as
good reminders to give thanks where thanks
is due.”

My New Adventure

“I don’t know why.” “I got an
itch about 2 years ago.” “I
don’t have any plans except to
do what I do better.”

Those are my answers to the
questions I get most often about
my new adventure. I’ve been
blessed to grow up at Hebron.
During my college years I
worked as a youth intern here.
After college I was hired to
continue working with youth.
About 10 years ago, I was
hired as Worship Leader, which
is an incredible display of
God’s intervention, since I had
no idea what I was doing.

For these last 10 years, I have
felt like God put me in that
position for a reason. Those
first few months were incredi-
ibly stressful. I didn’t know how
to play the guitar, lead a
band, why we sing what we
sing, or even why we sing pe-
riod. His provision has been
endless. I thank you for trusting
me to lead you to the feet of
Jesus for the last 500 some
weeks. It is an honor and privi-
lege to serve God by serving
you in that way.

About 2 years ago, I started
recognizing that there is
something missing in my lead-
ership. Essentially, I realized
that I wasn’t leading you as a
congregation, but expecting
you to follow my example of
worship. I realized that while
I had a lot more experience
than I did in 2004, I still didn’t
have the knowledge and un-
derstanding of how to teach
worship. So I started looking
for ways to educate myself. I
found a wonderful worship
leader conference, which you
sent me to once, and a sec-
ond time with the band. Thank
you. We are better because
of it.

But while these conferences
taught me how to lead better,
they didn’t teach me why we
should sing. They didn’t teach
me the theology behind musi-
cal worship. After asking
around, I came to the realiza-
tion that seminary would be
the best way for me to ac-
quire the things that I am
missing as a worship leader.

So, here I am, 14 years after
my last classroom experience,
in Orlando taking my re-
quired worship class on my
way (hopefully) to a Masters
of Divinity from Reformed
Theological Seminary. Most
of my classes can and will be
done from a distance, how-
ever I’m required to show up
twice a year for a week. I
started my Intro to Theology
and Encounters with Islam
classes in August.

Hebron has been incredibly
helpful in this. Doug sug-
gested RTS, as that is where
he studied for his D. Min. Ses-
sion has graciously given me
a scholarship, which RTS
matches.

As for my plans, I don’t have
any, except to get better. I
don’t feel called to preach
right now, but I will have to. I
don’t feel called to do any-
thing but lead worship at
Hebron, more effectively, in a
more intentional manner,
teaching worship instead of
just worshiping and expecting
you to follow me. Thanks for
your support, I’ll try to keep
you updated with what I’m
learning.

Barrett Hendrickson

As I View It, cont.

(Continued from page 1)
Women’s Ministry

“Be Inspired”
A One Day
Women’s Retreat
in the Barclay
Building
November 7

Jump right in and join other women who are looking for a break from routine, struggling with a sense of being stuck, and looking for reassurance that God sees her, loves her, and will provide for her needs. You need not travel far. No need to pack a suitcase or make overnight arrangements for your family or pets. We will meet from 8:30 Saturday morning until 5:00 pm in Hebron’s Barclay Building. A continental breakfast and a box lunch will be served. The charge for the retreat is $20. Make checks payable to Hebron Church, and mail or drop them off at the church office—Attention: Steff Knabe.

Lisa Hamer Jenkins who grew up at Hebron will be our keynote speaker. Lisa will share the story of God’s inspirational work in her life. She is a very enthusiastic lover of Christ, a gifted public speaker, married to Jamison, mom of two, a social worker professionally, a runner, and author. She is the daughter of Dale and Arden Hamer.

Breakout sessions are planned for the afternoon. We are confident that God will use each choice to unleash and move us toward the abundant life Christ has promised. Time to be alone with God will be built into the day and also time to hang out with others.

So please treat yourself to a fall break. We can’t wait to spend a day with you and other women from our church family and community. Space is limited, so reserve your spot very soon at jayneshorthouse@cs.com or go to hebrononline.org and log onto ACS. Please indicate if you need childcare.

Those who seek Him, will Taste and See that He is Good!

The “Café” was full and the Spirit was alive on the evening of September 28 in the Barclay Building. Women mingled, connected with new and familiar faces, worshipped and celebrated God’s goodness. We also enjoyed a plentiful variety of delicious food prepared by 5 local restaurants. We are thankful for your feedback:

“The food stations, the food, Laura and the worship were excellent”. “Lovely event last evening. You could feel God’s presence and pleasure. Everyone was so happy.” “If I were not catholic, I would join this church. Everyone loves each other.” “I have never been able to attend a woman’s event here. I really liked it and have already signed up for the one day retreat knowing that there will be childcare.” “The food was delicious and there was plenty.”

Hebron’s Vision: God will use Hebron to show Himself to the world.

Our neighborhood is part of our world. Our goal was to reach out to local restaurant owners, share our vision with them, assure them that God honors work, and invite them to prepare food so that a gathering of neighborhood women would Taste and See that the Lord is Good! Flowers in the Attic, Labriola’s, Stoeckleins Bakery, Tsuki Japanese, and Pasqualino’s graciously agreed. God’s love was evident as 100 plus women enjoyed the tasty food and time with each other. The local restaurants were blessed by God’s goodness in giving their businesses increased visibility amongst those who gathered.

Laura Ivanov, our featured speaker, shared parts of her very own Jesus story. Laura testified to God’s unfailing love and goodness in her life. As it says in Psalm 34, those of us who fear the Lord, trust and obey Him, seek Him as our refuge, are certain to experience His goodness and will lack nothing. Laura and our worship team that evening challenged us to seek the Lord and to praise Him for His everlasting goodness.

Thank you very much to all of you who came to Taste and See! The WMLT (Women’s Ministry Leadership Team) pray that you saw and got a taste of God’s great goodness! Thank you to all, who generously served.
Children’s Ministry

Ellen Dillard

Leading Small

September marked the beginning of Small Group ministry for Hebron’s Children.

What does it mean to “lead small” and “why do we want to lead small”? It means that we are investing strategically in the lives of a few over time so that we can help them build an authentic, everyday kind of faith.

Small Group Leaders (SGL) are adults and teens who have said “Yes” to investing in the lives of a “few”. A SGL is a unique combination of teacher, friend, coach, mentor and maybe even a bit of a parent, too.

How does a Small Group Leader encourage everyday faith in a child?

- **Be Present.** Connect their faith to a community by showing up:
  - **Predictably** — They are consistent. They build trust with their group which is the foundation of great community.
  - **Mentally** — They come prepared; focused, energetic and ready to invest.
  - **Randomly** — They send birthday cards, make phone calls and sometimes SGLs surprise them by showing up when they least expect it.

- **Create a Safe Place.** Clarify Their Faith as They Grow by providing a place where children can be themselves, share doubts, and ask questions.

- **Partner with Parents.** Parents are the spiritual leaders and the primary influence in the life of a child. Small Group Leaders honor the parents, reinforce the family, and cue the parent.

- **Make it Personal.** Inspire The Faith of their “few” by their Example. SGLs have their own community where they can grow, be challenged and develop friendships; maintain healthy boundaries; and share insights into their own journeys allowing kids to see appropriate glimpses into their personal lives and how Christ is at work in their lives.

- **Move Them Out.** Engage Their Faith in a Bigger Story. SGLs realize that their “few” won’t be theirs forever so they encourage them to build relationships with other godly adults; move them to Be the Church; and move them on to what is next...preschool, elementary school... and help as much as possible with the transition.

When you pray, please pray for our Small Group Leaders and all of those who serve Christ in Children’s Ministry. Please also pray for our children and their parents and for those children and parents God will bring to Hebron this year.
What we are talking about in October:

Our Preschool Small Groups… God can help me be brave!

“Our Preschool Small Groups… God can help me be brave!”

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid … for the Lord your God goes with you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

Our Elementary Small Groups… Individuality: Discovering who you were meant to be so you can make a difference

“A time for parents and children to gather together on a Friday night for fun and laughter. There are games and crafts and dessert. The night also includes a high-energy production with comedy, video, music and skits to talk about Jesus in a relevant and engaging way. It’s a great way to kick off your weekend and a perfect place to invite friends and their families, too. You do not need to be a member of Hebron to join in the fun! So mark your calendar now and go ahead and invite your friends! Looking forward to being together.

Date: November 6
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Barclay Building
Cost: Free

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.” I Timothy 4:12
The Holly Alm Golf Celebration was an enjoyable afternoon of friendly competition, fun and prizes, followed by a wonderful dinner shared with old and new friends. Never far from everyone's heart was that this was a day to remember and celebrate the beautiful life of Holly Alm and to raise funds to aid families in sending their children to Christian camps. Each of the camps provide opportunities where "healthy relationships can flourish, where unity emerges, and where role models for the Christian life are provided."

Thank you to all who participated. Golfer registration totaled 101 and 243 guests attended dinner. We are delighted to report that the profit totaled approximately $27,000—the largest total in the five years we have been holding this event.
Thank You…

Thanks so much for all your prayers! Also for visits, flowers, food, calls - just for thinking of me! I'm slowly on my way to being better, it’s a bit more than I thought. I hope to be back in the swing real soon! I am so very blessed to have a church family that cares for each other.

Thanks, Peggy Wright

Chancel Choir Christmas Rehearsals

Rehearsals kick off on Sunday, October 25, with lunch and rehearsal from 12:00 to 2:00 pm and continue every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 pm throughout November and December. Anyone is welcome to sing with the choir during the Christmas season! Contact Amy Warner (412-371-2307 x18 or robamytim@hotmail.com) for more information.

Deadline for the December Hebron Herald is November 15.

2015 Giving—We Need Your Help!

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Congregational Meeting and Lunch

Sunday, November 8, 2015
Barclay Building

12:15 pm

A light lunch* will be served following the 11:00 service. The slate of new officers will be presented and elected. The members nominated for officer are:

Elder: Greg Anderson, Keith Balkey, Amy Hehn, Joyce Sullivan, Mike Tomashewski, Wes Tomer

Deacon: LoraLee Ament, Carol Bonifield, Colleen Drane, Jennifer Fitch, Isabel MacKinney-Smith, Nick Paradise, John Greer

Trustee: Jim Alm, Tom Anderson, Rob Morrow, David Schirm

Join us for this great opportunity to share a meal with members and friends who attend a different worship service. Children are welcome to attend with their parents, and childcare will be provided upon request. Contact Natalie Painter (painter.natalie@yahoo.com) for childcare information and registration. [Registration can be made via the website (www.hebronkidz.org) in November.]

*A gluten-free option will be available.
A Publication of Hebron Church

THE HEBRON HERALD

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RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

November 2015

Sermon Series
8:15 - 9:30 - 11:00

DIVINE EXPOSURE

Download Sunday sermons and see an online version of this newsletter and more at www.hebrononline.org.