



November, 2017

Thanks  
be to God  
for his  
indescribable  
gift!

2 Corinthians  
9:15

*Gleanings* How many ways can you think of to say, “thank you”? Worship for the month of November will focus on thankfulness and the things we can be thankful for. Each week will address a different aspect of our relationship with God. Preparing for this series has led me to examine my life for the times when I have experienced the touch of God and the ways that I responded.

To say that my life has always been a bed of roses is laughable. Thankfully, this is not a confession so I don’t have to reveal how many incidents were my fault. At the same time, it would be incorrect to say that I have not experienced many blessings along the way; again, not because of something I did, or did not do. This is probably true of your life, too.

Helping my granddaughters to develop the practice of saying, “thank you” has reminded me of my own journey. Needing to be thankful in a world that seems to worship self-reliance can be difficult to understand. The sense of entitlement can also make us wonder why we should be expected to express thankfulness. Yet, it is an aspect of love that binds us together. It helps us to form groups that nourish and support its members. It helps us in our need and it gets us outside of ourselves.

Rick Warren, noted pastor and author, opened his book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, with these words: “It is not about you.” Instead, it *is* all about God. While we love the sense of thankfulness that goes with Thanksgiving Day, we cannot fully appreciate the day until we come to grips with the truth that all we have is the result of God’s blessing. Regardless of what we may be experiencing in our lives, God is there to celebrate with us or mourn with us; laugh with us or cry with us; run with us or carry us when our strength is gone.

The Spirit of Christmas Present in Charles Dickens’, *A Christmas Carol*, calls to Scrooge to “Come and know me better.” When we get to know God, we find the one who always has us close to God’s heart. We grow, then, to understand the events of life are invitations to get to know God better. With that reality before us, we learn to rely more and more on God’s presence—even to desire it.

My prayer is that as we explore the things we are most thankful for, we will see ways to invite others to experience God’s gifts and join with us in thankful worship and praise. Start a new practice with me this month and say, “thank you” every day to someone who least expects it. It just might change a life. See you Sunday and bring a friend.

Grace and peace,  
Braxton ><>



Did you know that Tennessee has well over 6,000 children in foster care? And that over 400 children in foster care are eligible for adoption at any given time? These children of God - and the families who care for them - are in need of support and this is something we can do. The Wrap Around Ministry gives everyone the opportunity to say "Yes" to serving children in foster care. From dropping off a meal, to providing respite babysitting, to helping with house cleaning, to lawn care, there are countless ways to help support a foster or adoptive family. Not everyone is called to foster or adopt, but we are all called to care. We'll be talking more at Grace about ways we can make a difference in the life of a child in foster care, so stay tuned! And feel free to contact someone on the Outreach Team (Lyndie Cotton, Sharon Loftis, Jill Burgess, Judy and Bill Kroulek) with your ideas.



On the 2nd Thursday of each month, Fairview and Burk United Methodist Churches join together to provide a meal for the Chattanooga homeless. They welcome your help. The meal takes place at First Baptist Church downtown. Be at the church around 5:45 p.m. and you will be done around 7:00. All you need to bring is willing hands and a servant's heart.

We will once again be distributing food bags for the Soddy Daisy food bank in the Rolling Hills subdivision on Saturday, November 4, at 10:00 a.m. We will return on Saturday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m. to pick them up. This is a very quick and easy mission ministry that any age can help with. Bags are left at the mail boxes or on the front porch. Depending on how many people help, it takes around 30 minutes. Please come join us.



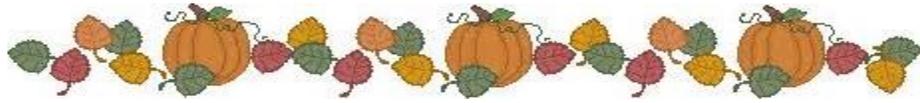
To show our appreciate to the teachers of Allen Elementary School, we are putting together goodie trays. We are asking you to bring 3 dozen of any kind of homemade goodie (cookies, brownies, candies, etc.) to church on Sunday morning, November 5.



The Ladies of Grace will not have a regular meeting in November. Some of the ladies will be traveling to Pigeon Forge for a retreat.



The November Fellowship Meal will be on Wednesday, November 15, at 6:30 p.m. We will be having soup/stew and sandwiches. Hope to see everyone here for fun, food and fellowship.



We will be preparing the church for the Advent season on Sunday, November 26, at 6:00 p.m. as we come together for Hanging of the Greens.



Monday, Nov. 13 - 6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee  
Thursday, Nov. 19 - 7:00 p.m. - Outreach Committee



Nov. 5 - Harold Ervin  
Nov. 12 - Jill Burgess  
Nov. 19 - Susie Moseley  
Nov. 26 - Sharon Loftis



Nov. 5 - Braxton Cotton  
Nov. 12 - Judy Kroulek  
Nov. 19 - Lindsey Burgess  
Nov. 26 - Lyndie Cotton



### Communion Servers

Nov. 5 - Bill & Judy Kroulek

*(We serve gluten free bread and sugar free juice)*



Nov. 13 - 18 - Judy Kroulek  
Nov. 27 - Dec. 2 - Hope & Youth Sunday School Classes

If you would like to volunteer to help in any of these very special areas, there are sign up sheets at the back of the Sanctuary.



Virgil Powell  
Janet Rhodes  
Tillery Phillips  
Carmella Pacifico  
Micah Pelkington  
Brenda Mattox  
Mary Fix  
Sheena Pilkington

Charles & Emma  
Chastain  
Bob Mitchell  
Rita Carter  
Jean Houstrup  
Sam DeVries  
Karen Rhodes &  
Abby Nation



All youth (grades 6-12) are invited to join in a puppet ministry. They meet every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested, contact Lindsey Burgess for more information.



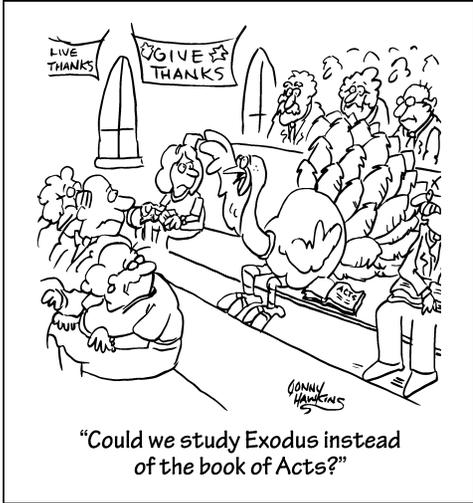
**Stewardship Report**  
as of October 22, 2017

Attendance 28  
Giving year-to-date \$ 37,017.50

**Sunday Worship Service**  
9:30 a.m.  
**Sunday School**  
10:45 a.m.  
Nursery provided

**Church Phone:** 842-5872  
**Website:** www.graceumcsd.org  
**Email:** graceumcsd@yahoo.com

**Grace Notes Editor:**  
Sharon Loftis,  
sloftis7@hotmail.com



"Could we study Exodus instead of the book of Acts?"

**PUZZLE**

**GIVE THANKS TO GOD**

God gives us many blessings every day. How can we thank him?

Directions: To complete the Bible verse below, follow the code and fill in the blanks.

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10,  
K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18,  
S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26.

" \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_  
9 16 18 1 9 19 5

\_\_\_\_\_ name in \_\_\_\_\_  
7 15 4 19 19 15 14 7

and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_  
7 12 15 18 9 6 25 8 9 13

\_\_\_\_\_

20 8 1 14 11 19 7 9 22 9 14 7

Answer: "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30, NIV



After Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown, bound, into a blazing furnace for refusing to worship false gods, how many men did King Nebuchadnezzar see walking around in the fire?

- A) None - they were all dead
- B) 3 - unbounded and unharmed
- C) 4 - and the fourth looked like a divine being
- D) Too many to count



Answer: C (See: Daniel 3:25)

# November, 2017

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			1 5:30 p.m. - Youth Puppets 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study	2	3	4 10:00 a.m. - Passing out Food Bags
5 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir	6	7	8 5:30 p.m. - Youth Puppets 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study	9 5:45 p.m. - Mustard Tree Ministries	10	11 10:00 a.m. - Picking up Food Bags
12 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir	13 6:30 p.m. - Worship Committee	14	15 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship Meal	16 7:00 p.m. - Outreach Meeting	17 <i>Ladies' Retreat</i>	18
19 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir  <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>	20	21	22	23 	24	25
26 9:30 a.m. - Worship Service 10:45 a.m. - Sunday School 5:00 p.m. - Choir 6:00 p.m. - Hanging of the Greens	27	28	29 5:30 p.m. - Youth Puppets 6:45 p.m. - Bible Study	30		