

Chart your
course

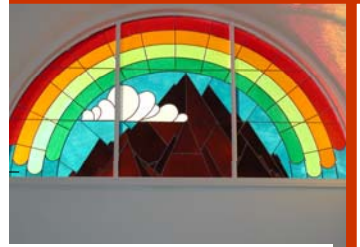


with THANKS

Christian Church of God Newsletter



From the
**PASTOR'S
DESK**



**Volume 15, Issue 11
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Hello,

Ah, November, home to our holiday of gratitude called "Thanksgiving." Thanksgiving is not a commemoration of the Pilgrims hosting a dinner to thank the Indians, now referred to as Native Americans, nor was the original Thanksgiving inspired by the harvest festivals in Europe. Thanksgiving is an original and uniquely inspired Christian celebration. The Pilgrims had steadfastly relied upon their faith in God, trusting in Him through all their adversity.

Thanksgiving should be one of our family's favorite celebrations and not just for turkey and football. Thanks-

giving paints a picture of God bringing people together to accomplish a specific purpose. God's calling is never easy, often difficult and never popular. Barbara Curtis, in Christian Parenting Today, tells the story of that first, uniquely Christian and uniquely American celebration of gratitude:

In the early 1600s the Wampanoag Indians inhabited the coast of what we now call New England. They raised crops, lived close to the ocean in summer for seafood, and moved inland in winter to set up hunting camps. Their encounters with Europeans over the years were mostly friendly.

(Continued on page 6)

Let your lives overflow with Thanksgiving for
all He has done.—Colossians 2:7b, NLT



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Praise the Lord.
Praise God in his sanctu-
ary; praise him in his
mighty heavens.
—Psalm 150:1

Church is a gift from God. Some assembly required.
(Don't forget to read the Instructions.)

I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD." — Psalm 122:1

YOU ARE WELCOME TO MEET WITH US EACH SATURDAY:
11 A.M. Christian Education / 11:45 A.M. Worship Service
801 QUAIL CREEK DRIVE



Inside this issue:

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Special points of interest:

- *His Powerful Word*
- *A Time to give Thanks*
- *A Rainbow Promise*
- *Our sermons broadcast on KGRO Radio 9:05 AM Sunday. www.pan-tex.net*

Our Home Page: www.christianchurchofgod.org

¹¹
His Powerful Word

God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon's scalpel, cutting through everything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey.

~ Hebrews 4:12, The Message

FROM THANKSGIVING TO
THANKS-LIVING

"My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving." Col 2:6-7 (MSG)

What powerful words from Paul! I felt the scalpel of God's Word cut deep as I read these words afresh from Peterson's pen.

- "Just go ahead with what you've been given." I'm a procrastinator by nature. I have to get all the ducks in a row before I begin, and then I have to line them up again, like Monk in the TV hit. Paul is saying it is time to quit procrastinating and get with the

program!

- "You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live him*." Not, "You've received Christ, now you are safe from hell." Not taking anything away from our security in Christ, but Paul is saying, "To receive Christ is one thing; to live out your faith is another."
- Next, Paul is saying this another way: "You've got the foundation of the Christian life, now start building on it. 'Now do what you've been taught.'"
- One more time; new metaphor: "School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it!"
- But he isn't finished with his exhortation. There is a capstone to it, a key-stone to spiritual progress. It's one we often overlook. "And let your living spill over into thanksgiving." It isn't working if the results are constant grouching and griping. **There should be an overflow of thanksgiving, a lifestyle of thanks-living.**

Your Editor,

“Consider what great things he has done for you” (1 Samuel 12:24). There is a remarkable scene near the beginning of the book *Never Cry Wolf*. The author is standing alone in the midst of the Alaskan wilderness as the plane that brought him fades into the distance. Overwhelmed by the rugged beauty, he finds a voice within him struggling to cry out for expression. “I wanted,” he says, “. . . I wanted to shout thanks to someone.”

The first recorded celebration of Thanksgiving in North America was in Newfoundland in 1578. An English minister named Wollfall presided. There are records of another held in Maine in 1607.

In December 1619 thirty-eight men landed safely on the banks of the James River near Jamestown in Virginia. The English captain, John Woodleaf, read a directive from his charter declaring that the day of their arrival “shall be yearly and perpetually kept as a day of thanksgiving to God.”

It was the Pilgrims’ settlement at Plymouth, Massachusetts, that is most often remembered as the site of the first Thanksgiving. Governor Bradford ordered a three-day celebration in October 1621. In keeping with the biblical instructions in [Leviticus 23:39](#) for the Feast of the Ingathering, its purpose was to give prayerful thanks to God for the blessing of the harvest. The Christian commitment and spiritual motivation of this little group of people are inspiring.



PRAYER REQUESTS: “. . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed.”
— James 5:15-16.



- Sheri Bartlett:** Serious health problems. Julie McKinney’s daughter.
- C. D. McKinney:** Heart arrhythmia. Julie’s husband.
- Sandy Booth:** Ovarian cancer has returned. Chemo completed. Jeff Booth’s sister-in-law.
- Amber and Dylan Clark:** Cerebral Palsy. Betty Clark’s grandchildren.
- Vickie Crevoi:** Chronic Progressive MS. Linda Booth’s sister.
- Vic Shaklee:** Broken pelvis; very fragile following hospitalization. Linda’s father.
- DeAnne De Luna:** Breast Cancer. Larry Lyles’ stepdaughter.
- Velvet Green:** Schizophrenia. Gary’s wife.
- Randy Gnessett:** Lung transplant. Remains in critical condition. Friend of Candace Sellers.
- Anna Law:** Lupus and kidney failure.
- Dollie Meil:** Cerebral Palsy.
- Glenda Rankin:** Hodgkins Lymphoma. Received stem cell transplant and is now undergoing radiation. Rudolph Rankin’s niece.
- Ted Rankin:** Back surgery, now in therapy, showing some improvement, but ongoing vision problems. Rudolph’s son.
- Kathryn Scott:** MS, critical stage. Friend of the Baileys.
- Emma Searl** (less than one year old): Spina Befida, staph infection.
- Michael Blaine’s Family:** Michael killed in industrial accident. Pray for wife and three children. Friends of Candace Sellers.

UPDATES per JODY KIRKPATRICK

Louise Hocking, 2 year old child of Phil and Lora Hocking, Australia. Doctors amazed at her rapid recovery. Liver functions in normal range and shouldn’t require any surgery. Thanks for everyone’s prayers. Continue to pray for the family who lost their entire crop this year due to drought.

Mark, Bobbi Goslee’s son, 46, severe stroke. Blood clot in brain inoperable. Bobbi’s health better, able to work in and out of the house. Also remember her father-in-law who is undergoing oral chemo.

May you enjoy a time with family and/or friends on Thanksgiving day!



NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Jody Kirkpatrick 11/07
Marvin Cryer 11/15
Steve Cryer 11/18

Anniversaries

Julia & J.D. McKinney 11/09
Roy & Francis Carlson 11/11
James & Reba Bailey 11/15

From the PASTOR'S DESK

Spring brought unexpected relief—the help of a Christian brother, Squanto. He taught them how to grow corn, use fertilizer, stalk deer, and catch fish. William Bradford, the governor of Plymouth, wrote that Squanto was "a special instrument sent of God for good beyond our expectations."

And so their first harvest was good. Governor Bradford proclaimed a day of thanksgiving to God, and the Pilgrims invited their Indian friends. Chief Massasoit and 90 members of his tribe came, along with Squanto, bearing venison and wild turkeys for everyone to share. The Pilgrims and Indians feasted, played games, ran races, and showed their prowess with bows and arrows and muskets. With so much to be grateful for, the Pilgrims celebrated that first Thanksgiving for three days! ||

What is most meaningful about this first Thanksgiving is that it was more than just a grateful celebration for their harvest and

other blessings, as they were still grieving the loss of fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, and children. The lesson here is not only about giving thanks for our blessings and what we have, but giving thanks in all circumstances.

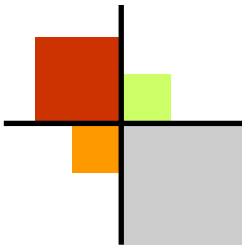
*"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, **in everything give thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess 5:16-18).*

The Apostle Paul understood how the fruit of the spirit springs from a spirit-filled grateful heart. A grateful heart and thankful spirit makes for joy, peace, hope and faith through all adversity!

Happy Thanksgiving!

I give thanks daily for all of you,

Jeff Booth





"The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth." (Gen 9:16-17, NKJV) It was for "all flesh," every person. And it was an "everlasting covenant."

Contained in the rainbow-promise of God is the assurance of His wonderful, expansive mercy. For this, we with the psalmist, give thanks. "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." (Psalms 107:1, NKJV)

Hymns for Him

Hymns for Him



Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ .
~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

The Thirty Years' War raged throughout Germany. Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg, which was besieged by the Swedish army without and plague and famine within. Pastors were taxed with their ministry which included caring for the sick, the dying, and burying the dead. One by one the pastors took ill and died as well.

All but one. Martin Rinkart (1586—1649), a Lutheran pastor in the small village, continued to minister to the hurting and the dying. Not only that, when the Swedes demanded a huge ransom, he left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy. There was soon a conclusion of hostilities.

Rinkart composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg:

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices.
Who from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.
[Plus two more verses.]

Can we look beyond our problems and pressures, our troubles and trials, and thank our God? 'In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).



From the
PASTOR'S DESK

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But there was one exception: In 1614 Captain Thomas Hunt captured several Wampanoag, along with a Patuxet Indian named Squanto, to be sold into slavery in Spain. A Spanish monk purchased Squanto's freedom, taught him Spanish, introduced him to Jesus Christ and sent him to England. In 1619, Squanto returned to his native land, only to find that his tribe had been wiped out by an epidemic. Thereafter he made his home with the Wampanoag.

Meanwhile, in 1608, a British group called Separatists fled to Leyden, Holland. There they found religious freedom, but also poverty, grueling work hours, and a secular culture that threatened to undo the values they had carefully instilled in their children. In 1620, they sold all their belongings to help finance their journey to America.

On the *Mayflower's* voyage, the Separatists were joined by another group of people bound for America. They called these people Strangers. The two groups, 102 people altogether, were called Pil-

grims.

Their journey lasted nine weeks. In one of those divine "accidents" that change the course of history, the ship lost its course and landed far north of its destination at what we now know as Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Once outside the territory covered by the King's Charter, the Pilgrims became responsible for their own government, and so they wrote a set of laws called *The Mayflower Compact*. On December 21, 1620, they began their new life at the place they named Plymouth.

The winter was devastating. Wind whipped through their settlement and sleet and snow chilled them to the bone. Half of the Pilgrims died. But the Separatists clung to their faith; not one person chose to return to England when the *Mayflower* made her return voyage.

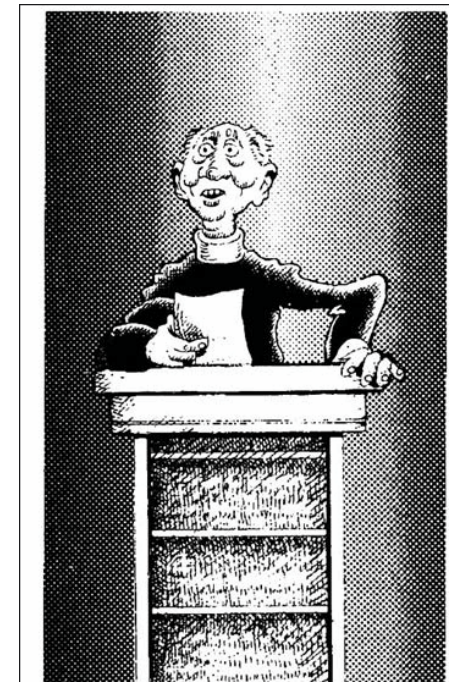
(cont. page 9)



chuckles

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A cheerful disposition is good for your health;
gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.



"To respond to the charges:
Yes, much of last week's sermon
was lifted from Scripture, and no,
I don't consider that plagiarism."



"And Lord, I'm not asking for much,
but please make me supremely confident,
phonetically impeccable, exegetically immaculate,
historically meticulous, emotionally powerful,
and culturally relevant to a contemporary society
... preferably by Sunday."