

Why Be Thankful?

There are a lot of unhappy people in our world today. Some have reason to be unhappy, some think they have reason and some I am convinced enjoy being unhappy (they seem to work to be so). They often look for things to justify their being unhappy instead of looking for things to make them thankful and happy. The Bible has many verses that deal with being thankful.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 – 18, “Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. It easy to be thankful when things are going our way and we are on the mountain top but much harder to be thankful when we are in down in one of life’s valleys. We have to remember God loves us and that trials are promised to the faithful. Trials make us stronger and helps us appreciate the good times more.

1 Chronicles 16:34 is a verse taken from praise David commanded after the ark of covenant had been brought to Jerusalem. It reads, “O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting.” God is indeed good with goodness beyond what we can understand. 1 John 1:5 tells us that God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all. Even the very best person has some darkness but not so God. The lovingkindness mentioned is a tenderness and consideration of others. God is our standard to strive towards. A wonderful, caring creator without any of our human failings.

Hebrews 6:18 tells us that it is impossible for God to lie. We know that out of His great love for us He sent us Jesus to establish His church. With this comes the promise from God of a home forever in heaven for the faithful Christian. A promise that is guaranteed because to be otherwise would be against God’s nature (a lie). Truly something worthy of us being thankful for.

In conclusion, God has given us many things to be thankful for. Indeed, this article barely scratches the surface. As we approach the traditional time for Americans to give thanks, Thanksgiving, let us pause, remember all of the things we need to be thankful for give God a heartfelt prayer of thanks. He truly deserves it.

Larry Benson

Psalm 100

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.”

When I first began working with Salem Creek, I was told that if I challenged a young man (who will remain nameless) to do something, he would do it, no matter how insane or crazy that challenge might be. To my surprise, they were right. There was nothing this guy wouldn't do. It was impressive. After a few months, we were sitting in our teen guys' classroom one Wednesday night about to dive into our study of 1 Timothy. As was our custom in that class, we began with a prayer. After our prayer, I said, "I challenge any of you guys one night when you lead the closing prayer to say, 'Dear Lord, thank you. Amen.'" The guys laughed at my suggestion and to my knowledge, this challenge has not been fulfilled yet.

Isn't it interesting that two words, eight letters total, could mean more than a ten-minute prayer? The meaning comes from how we express the thought to God. So often we pray for things we want and yet refuse to give thanks for what we have.

Giving thanks should be done in celebration. Read the passage above. Make a JOYFUL noise—serve the Lord with GLADNESS! In a parallel construct, the psalmist says, "Enter his gates with *thanksgiving* and his courts with *praise*." How often do we bring thanksgiving along with our praise?

At this time of the year, we are especially mindful of being thankful for what we have (although the day after Thanksgiving is spent frantically getting what we want). Let us not forget to rejoice in our thanks and thank God for all he has done for us.

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Selma Boyd, Ernestine Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Edna Vance, Rick Acklin, Lester & Ann Clark, Wayne Mobbs, Peggy Gilbert, Mary Williams

SHUT INS:

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Virgie Leonard*, Laura Wisner*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance*

MILITARY:

Tony Berry



There will be a baby basket shower for

Leslie Conway

The basket is located near the kitchen.

We have received a donation to Salem Creek in memory of **Louise McKnight** by the following:

***James & Barbara Clark**

NEWS & NOTES

- Welcome to **Meredith Crockett** as she recently placed membership with Salem Creek.
- We have received a thank you note from **Lester & Ann Clark**.
- We will have our **Thanksgiving service** on Wednesday, November 23rd.
- Salem Creek is hosting a **shoe drive for the homeless**; please donate gently used shoes now - November 30th.
- **Gift bags for Shut-Ins.** This year we are asking members to bring in items from a suggested item list anytime up to December 10th when we will pack a bag for each shut-in. Anyone wanting to participate is invited to meet at the church building on the 10th at 10 a.m. to pack a bag and deliver them. Please see Larry Benson with any questions.
- **Stones River Manor** is collecting items for their Santa Store. Please donate new items; all donations are due in by November 30th to the Manor. Printed copies of the donation list are in the foyer.
- **Youth Devo** – Sunday, November 27th at the home of Wendell and Carol Wilson.
- **IMPORTANT** - In preparation of the **2017 Membership Directory**, please check your information for any additions or corrections. A printed copy of this list is in the foyer.

***check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

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We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
 Morning Worship 9:00 am
 Bible Classes 10:15 am
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
 Jim Hatfield
 Jon Holland
 Andy Mitchell
 Randall Phifer
 Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum
 Larry Benson Andy Melton
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

November 13, 2016

Sunday	AM worship	231
	Bible classes	170
	PM worship	135
	Contribution	\$5,401.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	129
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	16

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. ladies class will be cancelled

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!

We were honored by your presence!

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
 30 minutes prior to service*

November 20

Keith & Margaret Short

November 27

Drew & Amanda Mitchell

