

GENESIS

NOVEMBER 2011, Volume 15, Issue 9

It is a tradition in many households to put five kernels of corn on the plate as the start of the Thanksgiving meal. These five represent the daily ration for the people of Plymouth colony that first winter they were in the new country. It is a good reminder of how far we have come and for how much we have for which to be thankful.

Thanksgiving is a time to set our lives aside for a while and celebrate all that God has given to us. It is a time to be thankful and acknowledge the abundance of our lives. It is also, in this day of worldwide communication, an opportunity to acknowledge the very real need and lack of basic necessities of life that exist in so much of the world.

In the book of Deuteronomy the people are coming out of the wilderness, they have come to the border of the promised land. and Moses is giving them final instructions. He has to do this for he will not be going with them into that land.

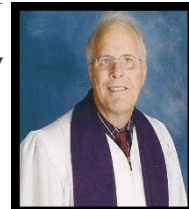
Moses tells them in chapter 26 that when they are in the land, they are to bring a gift of thanksgiving to the temple and offer it to God. This is in recognition that all that they have is a gift from God. But as part of the giving they are also to repeat the story of who they are and where they have come from.

“A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord the God of our ancestors; they Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt...”

When we give thanks, we also need to remember who we are and whose we are. We need to remember that all that we have comes from God and is ours only because God gives it to us. We need to remind ourselves of where we have come from and what God has done to get us here.

That will be a great Thanksgiving. Celebrate the holiday by remembering whose you are!

Mark



E.B.A.D.O.C.**“Everyone Becoming A Disciple of Christ”**

The purpose of an organization’s mission statement is to give it direction, focus, and motivation. It clearly states why an organization exists and what it intends to accomplish in the future. The mission statement of the First United Methodist Church of Homosassa was adopted on January 27, 2005. All of us need to memorize the mission statement and do all that we can to make it a reality in our lives.

CHURCH OFFICE**Phone: (352) 628-4083****Fax: (352) 628-9086****WEBSITE****www.lumc.org****PASTOR****Rev. Mark Whittaker****ADMINISTRATOR****Theresa Weber****BOOKKEEPER****Sandy Dewart****CHRISTIAN EDUCATION****Kay Bast****MUSIC DEPARTMENT****Dixie Lay****Joy Potts****Dayna Middlebrooks****PARISH NURSE****Karen Kline****PARISH VISITOR****Peggy Benson****SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT****& NURSERY SUPERVISOR****Sandra Tam****YOUTH COORDINATOR****Lori DeClue****SOUND TECHNICIAN****Sharon Cooley****NIGHT SECURITY****Michael Rodgers****CUSTODIAN****Dale Evans****The Purpose of Genesis Is To:**

NOTIFY its readers of what has happened, what is happening and what is scheduled to happen.

EDIFY believers by printing material that encourages and strengthens their Christian walk.

GLORIFY God by being one of His instruments of communication at FUMCH and wherever else he may choose to spread the Word through this publication.

Give Thanks

*Our Father in Heaven,
We give thanks for the pleasure
Of gathering together
for this occasion.*

*We give thanks for this food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,*

*The freedom to enjoy it all
And all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,*

*We pray for health and strength
To carry on and try to live as You
would have us.*

*This we ask in the name of Christ,
Our Heavenly Father.*

--Harry Jewell



PASTOR MARK & IRIS
INVITE YOU TO
THANKSGIVING DINNER
WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24
1:00 P.M. IN THE
FELLOWSHIP HALL

3

Thanksgiving has always been a family time for us. It is time to gather together with the ones you love and share in the bounty that God has provided. It is time for memories and celebrating family traditions. Of course, not all of us have families nearby this time of year. My family is scattered around the State (Iris and I are among those who are the furthest flung), and Kimberly and Marshall each have their own relationships to establish and nurture as they set their own traditions. There are a lot of people whose families are up north or who find for other reasons that they will be alone at Thanksgiving.

So, we would like to celebrate Thanksgiving with you this year, by sharing together as a church family. We will be hosting this dinner in the fellowship hall on Thursday, November 24, and dinner will be served at 1 p.m.

We will provide the turkey, coffee and tea, and we are asking that you bring 2 favorite dishes (maybe 2 of your traditional recipes) to share with the family (one of my grandmother's favorite recipes was Publix Apple Pie)!

All individuals and families are welcome. If you have out-of-town guests, they are also welcome. If you don't feel like cooking the traditional feast, this is the answer for you. Come and share in the fun, the singing, the games, and of course, some of the best food that will be served anywhere this Thanksgiving.

We have to have help if we are to pull this off. We need someone to help with set up and decorating, as well as someone to help with clean up. If you can help or need information, please contact Mark or Iris.

YOU CAN COUNT ON US FOR THANKSGIVING AT THE CHURCH!

NAME: _____

IN PARTY: _____ Phone: _____ Cell: _____

2 Dishes I Will Bring: _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH**

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by Kay Bast



The eight week Disciple class is now meeting and reports from participants are very positive.

We will offer another class in January lead by Martha Dorrell. The class will be "Invitation to the Old Testament". Let Martha or my self know if you would like to take this very interesting class. Martha will announce a date and time at a later date.

Our children's classes have begun to show an increase in attendance as the school year begins. Be sure to invite any children in your neighborhood, including any youth between the ages of 11 and 17 to come to the Wednesday night youth group.

Thank you all once again for the

support you give the youth. They will be involved in a "dinner theater" performance with Dixie coming up in November, date and time to be announced by the time you read this article.

If you are interested in being involved in a bible study or Sunday school class and want more information just give me a call. I am in the office every day except Friday.

Kay

NEW ADDRESS

Jeanette Cole
5728 14th Avenue North
Unit 101-B
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

(No phone yet)



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Joan & Bob Miller
34 Mayflower Court #5
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-382-2032
from TN & KY



Oriole G. Turnbull
10326 S. Cadbury Terrace
Homosassa, FL 34446
352-503-3861
From Forked River, NJ

PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a need to put a spouse, other family member, or even a dear friend on the prayer chain, you may email your request to Marcia Bader at:

ricmar@infionline.net

or you may call the church office.

You can also find this email address on the back page of each Genesis issue.



November is Diabetic Awareness Month

Do you know research indicates that Type 2 diabetes may be preventable or at least delayed? Type 2 is the most common type of diabetes. This type of diabetes affects how the body uses glucose for energy and growth. Normally digested food is broken down into glucose and with the help of insulin is used by the cells. Type 2 diabetics are either unable to use insulin properly or there is a decreased amount of insulin produced by the pancreas. Glucose builds up in the blood, is excreted by the kidneys failing to provide the body with fuel. Untreated, it is the main cause of kidney failure, amputations and blindness in adults

Many people are receiving a diagnosis of pre-diabetes. This is a condition where the blood glucose levels are higher than normal, but not high enough to be diagnosed as diabetes. They are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes within 10 years unless they themselves take steps to prevent or delay it.

In February 2002 the New England Journal of Medicine published the results of a study called “Diabetic

Results of this study showed that 31 percent of people taking the drug Metformin reduced their risk. The drug was more effective for people 25-44 who were 60 lbs overweight. A whopping 58 percent reduced their risk by losing weight through regular physical activity and a diet lower in fat and calories. By losing weight and increasing physical activity, you increase the body’s ability to use insulin and utilize sugar. Lifestyle changes worked best for those over 60.

Do you know if you are at risk? Should you be tested for pre-diabetes and diabetes? The American Diabetic Association recommends testing be considered for adults without symptoms who are overweight and have one or more risk factors. If you have risk factors testing should be started at age 45. Risk factors include family history, being physically inactive, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, giving birth to a baby weighing more than 9 lbs, and various ethnic backgrounds. If testing is normal, the recommendation is to be tested at least every 3 years.

The diabetic support group meets the first Monday of every month at 1 P.M., and our new weight control group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 4 P.M. All are welcome to attend.

HEAVEN

(author unknown)

When I was a boy I used to think of Heaven as a glorious, golden city, with jeweled walls, and gates of pearl, with nobody in it but the angels, and they were all strangers to me. But after awhile my little brother died; then I thought of Heaven as that great city, full of angels, with just one little fellow in it that I was acquainted with. He was the only one I knew there, at that time. Then another brother died, and there were two in Heaven that I knew.

Then my acquaintance began to die, and the number of my friends in Heaven grew larger all the time. But, it was not until one of my own little ones was taken that I began to feel that I had a personal interest in Heaven. Then a second went, and a third, and a fourth; and so many of my friends and loved ones have gone there, that it seems as if I know more in Heaven than I know on earth.

And now, when my thoughts turn to Heaven, it is not the gold and the jewels, and the pearls that I think of—**but the loved ones there.** It is not the place so much as the company that makes Heaven seem beautiful.

submitted by: Jan Wise

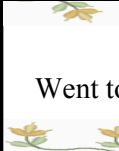
11.6.11



IN MEMORY



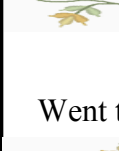
John Wolf (former member)
Went to the Lord 9.20.11



Marge Davis
Went to the Lord 9.24.2011



June Bish
Went to the Lord 9.30.11



Betty McGraw
Went to the Lord 10.6.11



Theodore (Bill) Moyer
Went to the Lord 10.9.11



Bill Willis
Went to the Lord 10.12.11

THANK YOU

A note of thanks for the many cards and phone calls that I received during my rehabilitation.

I am out and about now, but still have a ways to go, but having a loving church family surely helps make recovery easier.

Thank you again,
Barbara Jackson

My frame was not hidden from you when I was formed in the secret place....your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

(from Psalm 139:15-16)

How amazing to think God knew us *before* we were created, as we were being created, and he continues to know us, with all our days written in his book before one of them came to be.

Lately, many people we love have gone home. We don't say that we have "lost" them. We know where they are—that we will see them again when our days in his book are done.

We grieve with the pain of missing their presence—their love, laughter, and companionship. But we do not grieve as those who have no hope. They knew the One who came for them, and we know him, too. The Father would remind us—"I have your loved one and you have my Son."

I grieved when our daughter started kindergarten—our relationship would change as she entered that new experience. I grieved when she went to college, knowing that exposure would change our relationship again. Then, when she married and moved away, I grieved for the loss of her presence. She had entered into a

relationship experience that signified the deepest change of all—leaving father and mother to become "one flesh" with her husband.

But I always knew this—she was changing in the ways we desired for her, ways we encouraged her to take. My grief came from *my* sense of loss of "the way things were," not from her moving on to experience the changes life offered her.

So it is when our loved ones go home. We grieve the loss of their presence, knowing the experience they are now having has changed our relationship forever. We desired a heavenly home for them, but this separation feels so final—no conversations, phone calls, Emails, occasional visits.

But as God comforts us through his presence, through friends and caring people, we begin to realize the reality of hope. We will see them again. We will know them in a new and richer relationship in God's presence, a relationship that will last throughout eternity. As an unknown author wrote:

And now, when my thoughts turn to Heaven, it is not the gold and the jewels, and the pearls that I think of—but the loved ones there. It is not the place so much as the company that makes Heaven seem beautiful.

2011 ANNUAL BAZAAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4th
12 noon - 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5th
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

9 - 10 (donut & coffee \$1)
11:30 - 1 (sandwich plate luncheon \$3.50)

CHRISTMAS ROOM - all hand made items

BOOK ROOM (used) - a selection for everyone

ARTS & CRAFTS - all hand made items

TRASH & TREASURES

“someone’s trash is always someone else’s treasure”

SILENT AUCTION

“you’ve got to make a bid”

HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS - YUMMY!!

~~~~~  
**5:30 p.m. Bazaar Steak & Salmon Dinner**

(ticket required ahead - catered by Cody’s)

Sponsored by the Men’s Serendipity

(entertainment during dinner)

**SEE YOU THERE!**

**NO YARD SALE THIS YEAR!**



## "The Old is New Again"

I just got finished listening to Pastor Mark's September 11 sermon, on my home computer. Each Monday after Neil Kline posts the sermon and music on our church website, I listen to see if I have made a good recording during the service. That's my initial reason, anyway.

I've joked that by the 11:00 service, after hearing Mark's sermon three times in a row, I could deliver it myself. (I get big-headed sometimes...) But I find myself listening through the whole recording again on Monday. There really is something to listening to audio only -- an added dimension, sort of. I pick up many things when listening to the recording that I didn't "catch" when I heard it live.

Thirty years ago, I used to sit in my dorm room at Kunsan Air Base, Korea, and listen to the evening Masterpiece Theater on AFKN radio. It helped me forget how far away from home I was. I still remember being engrossed in the stories, and how riveted I would be to the radio. That still happens. Just sitting in front of my home computer.

So I'd like to encourage you to click on "Mark's Sermons and Special Music" on our website, [www.lumc.org](http://www.lumc.org). Let God bless you through Media Ministry!

Did you love the Mixed Quartet's acapella rendition of "America the Beautiful," also on

September 11? Listen to it again, "close up" on your computer speakers. And let your family, friends, and out-of-town folks know, too. Some things are even better the second (third or fourth!) time around!

Sharon Cooley  
Sound Technician

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## To my church family

I would like to say "Thank You", for your prayers, cards, and phone calls after my two unexpected surgeries. To Pastor Mark for his hospital visit and phone calls, To Peggy Benson for her many visits, phone calls, flowers and my beautiful prayer shawl.

Thank you never seems like enough, but I want you to know that Jesus, the great physician, is always with us.

God Bless each and everyone of you.

Dottie Baker

Remember when.....  
our mother said,

**"Wear clean underwear in case you GET in an accident"?**

**Now we bring clean underwear in case we HAVE an accident!**

Have you ever sat in church on Sunday morning and looked at the lectern and thought, “*What does that banner mean? It is always there and it must have some sort of spiritual meaning.*”

What you see is the logo of the **Stephen Ministry**.



The dominant feature in the very center is the cross of **Jesus**, which reminds us that Christ is the center of all **Stephen Ministry** relationships.

The broken person to the left and behind the cross represents a person wrought with sin, imperfections, or any of life’s trials and tribulation that might come their way.

Once we, as a broken person, encounters the transforming power of the cross of **Christ**, we become whole as represented by the whole figure in front of and to the right side of the cross.

Surrounding it all is the circle representing **God’s** love, which is eternal and never ending. This circle encompasses the entire process of restoration from brokenness to whole through Jesus, who allowed himself to be broken on the cross for us to save us from our sins.

When combined, these symbols form a logo that symbolizes the process whereby a person can go from broken to wholeness, through **Jesus**, with the help of a **Stephen Minister**; someone who is there as a “listening post.”

**Singing is the seed from which the tree of life grows,  
plant at least one a day!**

### **OFFICE NEWS!**

Krissy Brown will now be using her skills and talents creating the announcement slides, in addition to the worship slides. If you have any information to be included in the announcements, please contact her at home (503-5410) or by email:

josey\_rose\_nolegs@yahoo.com

**NEWS DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY 11a.m.**

**Life isn’t  
tied with a  
bow, but it’s  
still a gift!**

Day is done,  
Gone the sun,  
From the lakes,  
From the hills,  
From the sky,  
All is well,  
Safely rest,  
God is nigh.

Fading light,  
Dims the sight,  
And a star,  
Gems the sky,  
Gleaming bright,  
From afar,  
Drawing nigh,  
Falls the night.

Thanks and praise,  
For our days,  
Neath the sun,  
Neath the stars,  
Neath the sky,  
As we go,  
This we know,  
God is nigh.

**Do you know**  
what the above  
words are sung to?  
Most of us have  
never heard or  
known them as we  
only hear the  
melody played by  
a lone bugler.  
It's known as  
"Butterfield's"  
Lullaby or "Day is  
Done", or.....  
"TAPS".

## THE "U" IN JESUS

11

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God stuck U in the name of His Son..

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true  
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,  
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,  
He'd like them to know, But it all starts with U.

~~ Charleen Coleman ~~

submitted by Judith Huffer

## HAVE AN ARTICLE FOR GENESIS?

**Do you have an article, poem, small story,  
or joke (keep it clean), that might fit in a future  
Genesis issue?**

**If you do, Email it to me at  
[gensisfumc@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gensisfumc@tampabay.rr.com) or leave it in the  
"newsletter" mailbox in the office hallway.**

**I will try my best to find a space to insert  
it in a future issue. You may also give me  
insight on what you like or dislike about the past  
issues; all comments will be appreciated.**

**Your Editor, Mary Lee**



**FLUMC Women's Retreat  
Promise of Hope 2012  
February 3 – 5, 2012**

The Women's Retreats provide a time for women to intentionally come away and set their feet on holy ground and to meet Jesus Christ face to face. We hope this will be the year *you* will join us!

**Keynote Speaker:**      **Rev. Debbie Nelson**  
**Bible Study Leader:**    **Ronni Scott**  
**Music Leader:**         **Sue Sommer**

In addition to general sessions, there will be a choice of enrichment sessions, make it & take it, and a hymn sing. These are the things that are provided in addition to the wonderful facilities at the Life Enrichment Center. You can partake of all or some of these things. It's your time so use it as you need to – perhaps a quiet walk by the lake or just sitting in one of those wonderful swings listening to what the Lord has to say to you!

The weekend begins Friday with registration beginning at 3 p.m., dinner from 5:30 to 7:00 and the first general session at 7:30. Our time at the retreat comes to a close on Sunday morning with a general session at 9 a.m. followed by a worship service. Cost including motel style room and 5 meals is \$155. Complete information can be found on bulletin boards in the administration building, on line at [www.flumcwomensretreats.org](http://www.flumcwomensretreats.org) or contact Marilyn Watson at [mwatson48@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:mwatson48@tampabay.rr.com) or you can call me at home or stop me wandering the hallways around the church!

**NOVEMBER 2011 ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4 Ann & Jack Fasnacht ~ 61 years ~
- 6 Barbara & Gene Lantz ~ 57 years ~  
Dot & Jack Reed ~ 68 years ~
- 7 Marge & Walter Dilling ~ 53 years ~
- 8 Shirley & William Dunkle ~ 53 years ~
  
- 10 Ruth & Larry Healy ~ 66 years ~
- 11 Joan & Robert Clanfield ~ 5 years ~
  
- 13 Edythe & Richard Shaffer ~ 57 years ~
  
- 16 Pat & Jim Archer ~ 7 years ~  
Helen & Albert Lefave ~ 60 years ~
  
- 20 Jeanne & Harvey Comfort ~ 66 years ~
- 22 Hilda & Marcel Theriault ~ 67 years
  
- 23 Mary Joy & Earl Speicher ~ 43 years ~
  
- 24 Elaine & Glenn Harwood ~ 46 years ~  
Ann & John Mayles ~ 61 years ~
  
- 26 Anna & John Cooley ~ 58 years ~
  
- 27 Sally & Dean Moore ~ 35 years ~  
Joy & Jim Potts ~ 18 years ~

**THANK YOU**

To all of our church friends, thank you so much for the many cards, emails, and phone calls offering your condolences for the passing of our beloved Hank Mangels.

I really miss all of you and I am so thankful for your friendship. Your prayers meant a lot to Hank and I so please know I love you all.

Love, Ginny Mangels

**IN OUR  
THOUGHTS  
AND PRAYERS  
(as of 10/7/2011)**

**13**

**AVANTE**

Annie Preston

**BRENTWOOD**

Joyce Minnicks

**CYPRESS COVE**

George Cole

Clay Spencer

**DIAMOND RIDGE**

Betty Duncan

Margurite Seely

**HUNT RESIDENCE**

Bill Marquis

**LIFE CARE**

Sandra Garner

Carl Merritt

**SUGARMILL MANOR**

Marge Dilling

Shirley Hart

Grace Payne

**SUNFLOWER**

**SPRINGS**

Ruth Eaton

Fran Graham

Joanna Miller

Joan & Jack Ness

Abbye Jean & Bill

Richner

**WOODLAND TERRACE**

Shirley Weber.



**Tuesday 1**

9:00 WW PREP  
**10:00 Bazaar Sort**  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 10:00 UMW Ex. Mtg.  
 1:00 Romans Bible  
 1:30 Stephen Ministers  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 3:00 Stephen Ministers  
 5:30 Weight Watchers  
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

**Wednesday 2**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group  
**9:00 Bazaar Set-Up**  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
**10:30 Bus Trip (Hudson)**  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 5:15 Music  
**5:30 WW DINNER**  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 3**

**9:00 Bazaar Set-Up**  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 1:30 Women Serendipity  
 7:00 Creative Worship  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 4*****GENESIS DEADLINE***

**9:00 Bazaar Set-Up**  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
**12:00-4:00 BAZAAR**  
 2:30 Brown Bible  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

**Saturday 5**

8:00 Saturday Sisters  
**9:00-3:00 BAZAAR**  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:30 Bereavement  
 10:30 God's Clods  
**11:30-1:00 Bazaar Lunch**  
 4:00 Wedding  
**5:30 Bazaar Dinner**

**Sunday 6*****COMMUNION SUNDAY***

**8:00 Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 Sunday School**  
**9:30 Traditional Worship**  
**10:45 New Beginnings**  
**11:00 Traditional Worship**

**Monday 7**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Comm.  
**9:00 Toy Sign-Up**  
 9:30 Visitation Comm.  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 11:00 Money/Care  
 1:00 Diabetes Support  
 1:00 Memory Lane Respite  
 4:00 Stephen Ministers

**Tuesday 8**

9:30 Faith Hope Circle  
 9:30 Helping Hands Circle  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 1:00 Dorcas Circle  
 1:00 Romans Bible  
 2:00 Stewardship  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 5:30 Weight Watchers  
 7:00 Salty Circle  
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

**Wednesday 9**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 1:00 Shawl Ministry

2:00 100th Anniv. Comm.  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 3:00 PEC  
 5:15 Music  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 10**

9:00 Backpackers (offsite)  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:15 Ruth Circle  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 11****OFFICE CLOSED****VETERANS DAY**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
 2:00 Cancer Support  
 2:30 Brown Bible  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal  
 6:00 Wedding

**Saturday 12**

8:00 Kiwanis  
 8:00 Saturday Sisters  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:30 Bereavement

**Sunday 13*****DISCRETIONARY SUNDAY***

**8:00 Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 Sunday School**  
**9:30 Traditional Worship**  
**10:45 New Beginnings**  
**11:00 Traditional Worship**  
**3:00 CONCERT**

**Monday 14**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Comm.  
**9:00 Safe Driver Class**  
 9:30 Visitation Comm.  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Alzheimer's Support  
 1:00 Memory Lane Respite  
 4:00 Weight Watchers

**Tuesday 15**

**9:00 Safe Driver Class**  
 9:00 WW PREP  
 10:00 Staff Meeting  
 1:30 Stephen Ministers  
 2:00 Finance  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 3:00 Stephen Ministers  
 5:30 Weight Watchers  
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

**Wednesday 16**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
**1:30 New Member Class**  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 3:00 Staff/Parish Relations  
 5:15 Music  
**5:30 WW DINNER**  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir

**Thursday 17**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 9:00 Fold/Mail  
 1:30 Women Serendipity  
 3:00 Missions Comm.  
 3:30 Trustees  
 7:00 Creative Worship  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 18**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
 11:00 Food Delivery  
 1:00 Green Team  
 2:30 Brown Bible  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

**Saturday 19**

8:00 Saturday Sisters  
 9:00 Decorate Church  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:30 Bereavement

**Sunday 20**

***PANTRY SUNDAY***

**8:00 Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 Sunday School**  
**9:30 Traditional Worship**  
**10:45 New Beginnings**  
**11:00 Traditional Worship**  
**3:00 Uncle Phil**

**Monday 21**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Comm.  
 9:30 Visitation Comm.  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Memory Lane Respite  
 4:00 Stephen Ministers

**Tuesday 22**

10:00 Staff Meeting  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 5:30 Weight Watchers  
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

**Wednesday 23**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 1:00 Shawl Ministry  
 1:30 New Member Class  
 2:00 100th Anniversary  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 5:15 Music  
 6:30 Youth Group

**Thursday 24**

**OFFICE CLOSED**  
**THANKSGIVING**

9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
**12:00 Turkey Dinner Prep**  
**1:00 Thanksg. Dinner**  
 8:00 AA  
 8:00 Al-Anon

**Friday 25**

**GENESIS DEADLINE**

9:00 Our Father's Table  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:00 Wise Bible  
 2:30 Brown Bible  
 4:00 A/Video Rehearsal

**Saturday 26**

8:00 Saturday Sisters  
**9:00 Hanging of Greens**  
 9:00 Red Cross CPR  
 9:00-Noon (Thrift Store)  
 10:30 Bereavement

**Sunday 27**

***NEW MEMBER SUNDAY***

**8:00 Traditional Worship**  
**9:30 Sunday School**  
**9:30 Traditional Worship**  
**10:45 New Beginnings**  
**11:00 Traditional Worship**

**Monday 28**

8:00 Work Crew  
 8:30 Tracking Comm.  
 9:30 Visitation Comm.  
 10:30 Stroke Support  
 11:00 Exercise Class  
 1:00 Memory Lane Respite  
 4:00 Weight Watchers

**Tuesday 29**

10:00 Staff Meeting  
 3:00 Serendipity Bible  
 5:30 Weight Watchers  
 7:00 Serendipity Bible

**Wednesday 30**

7:00 Men's Prayer Group  
 9:30 Weight Watchers  
 10:00 LaMountain Bible  
 10:00 Siegel Bible  
 3:00 Benson Bible  
 5:15 Music  
 6:00 Bells  
 6:30 Youth Group  
 7:00 Choir,

|                                                     |                                                             |                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1<br>Judy Bunting<br>Jan Wise                       | 12<br>Gunter Fahl<br>Gloria Megos                           | 20<br>Roger Kirby<br>Carol Sims<br>Helen West<br>Jeri Wrenn |
| 2<br>Robert Severance<br>Catherine Wisehart         | 13<br>John Austin<br>Adam Will                              | 22<br>Charles McCreery<br>Angie Watson<br>Lowanda Wells     |
| 3<br>Bob Specht                                     | 14<br>Eleanor Smith                                         | 23<br>Cecelia Woodward                                      |
| 4<br>Fred Wheeler                                   | 15<br>Colleen Bellville<br>Martha Dorrell                   | 25<br>Marcia Bader                                          |
| 6<br>Hershel Fogleman<br>Frank Wais                 | 16<br>Velma Mason<br>Dan Nygaard                            | 26<br>Anna Cooley                                           |
| 7<br>Dorothy Aberle<br>Shirley Phillips             | 17<br>Wes Harris<br>Joan Ness                               | 27<br>Betsy Dulaney<br>Lyle Lee                             |
| 9<br>Dottie Baker<br>Fern McWilliams<br>Jo Ann Ryan | 18<br>Beverly Calkins<br>Joan Danzey<br>Sue Norman          | 28<br>John Dewart<br>Samantha McCallister                   |
| 11<br>Jeanne Balmer<br>Emily Merson<br>Rick Workman | 19<br>Geraldine Frentz<br>Ruth Rittgers<br>Margrurite Seely | 29<br>Helen Bachman                                         |
|                                                     |                                                             | 30<br>Charles McWilliams.                                   |

## **HOLIDAY REMINDER!** **SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS**



**Sign up** for the Bell Ringing will be  
**November 6th & 13th**  
in the Narthex between services.  
We will be ringing at the Sugarmill Publix  
**starting on November 18th.**  
If you would like to pre-register,  
**call Wanda Ashley at 228-2253**



## MANY THANKS.....

To my church family! I want to thank all of you who wrote, called, and visited me when I was in the hospital and rehab.

Special thanks to Peggy and Shadow for the great visits and the beautiful green shawl. To Pastor Mark, Karen, Bunny, and Marsha for their visits, and to Patience for her lovely letter. Also to Lyn; my pantry partner, who called, sent notes and cards; and to Vera who took my place when I could no longer be there. Also to our prayer group who sent many cards; and for all the prayers from everyone.

I am overwhelmed by all the notes, cards, and prayers. Love to all; I cannot tell you how much all of you are appreciated!

God Bless All of You!  
Jean Kirschner



## NO ONE!!!

17

### BELIEVES SENIORS, everyone thinks we are senile.

An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighborhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Andy had carved 'I love you, Sally'.

On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armored car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money - fifty thousand dollars!

Andy said, 'We've got to give it back.' Sally said, 'Finders keepers.' She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.

The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighborhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door. 'Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armored car yesterday?' Sally said, 'No'. Andy said, 'She's lying. She hid it up in the attic. Sally said, 'Don't believe him, he's getting senile'.

The agents turned to Andy and began to question him. One said: 'Tell us the story from the beginning.'

Andy said, 'Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday ....The first police officer turned to his partner and said, 'We're outta here!'

*Dear praying friends,*

September flew by as we were at a conference for a week and getting all of us further settled into the school year schedule. Thanks for your continued prayers for us in life and ministry!

#### **PRAISES**

† Joe and Elaine were strengthened and equipped further for the work of leadership in our mission agency at a week-long **leadership training conference** held last month outside *Chiang Mai*. It was encouraging to get together with other PIONEERS leaders from around the world as we began what will be a three-year journey of spiritual and leadership growth. Please pray for us to submit humbly to this process and be changed as God desires.

† Elaine also spent a couple days toward the end of the month at a large **Christian women's retreat** here in *Chiang Mai*. She went with *Dtaay*, our partner at Cool Shade of Life Church. They had an encouraging time as the Lord helped them to consider some challenging issues in their lives.

† For those who can remember this far back, there was actually progress made in Grace International School's appeal of an August 2009 court decision that says GIS must abandon the current school facility, which used to be a neighborhood fitness center here in *Chiang Mai*. Three days ago, an appeals court in Bangkok agreed to a change of venue in the case. That

means that this Bangkok court will now consider the case rather than a *Chiang Mai* appeals court. Please continue to pray for a just decision in this case as the school also begins its efforts to build a new facility on a 34-acre site that has been purchased.

† Our two youngest children, **Caleb and Jamie**, turned 13 and 11 last month. They are growing into fine young men and are doing well in school and other endeavors, which is a great blessing. We're praying for them to have another great year spiritually, academically and socially!

† This month's **cultural photo**



is "*Chulalongkorn*." October 23 is Chulalongkorn Day, a Thai national holiday that honors the famous King Rama V, who is well known for his "modernization" policies and for having a number of Europeans in his service to oversee such projects as the building of Thailand's first railway. As a young man, he was a student of Anna Leonowens (as recorded in the book *Anna and the King*) before serving as king from 1868-1910. He is the only past Thai king celebrated with a national holiday, and many Thais have images of him in their homes or in amulets for good fortune. FYI, the modern-day king in Thailand is King Rama IX, the ninth king of the *Chakri* Dynasty.

#### **PRAYERS**

† Our team will be in *Mae Ai* at the border with Burma the last

Saturday of this month to host a **children's outreach event** alongside our Thai partner, Pastor Moses. Please pray for us to plan well for this event and for many unreached children from the surrounding villages to be brave enough to come! We trust these events will be a good lead-in to our new teammates, the Peterson family, arriving in *Mae Ai* to work with Pastor Moses in early 2012, Lord willing.

† **Elaine's health** continues to be a challenge. While her back is getting slowly better following the long-term spinal infection and compression fracture (pain persists, and possibly will for many more months), she needs eye surgery to deal with cataracts, has a broken foot, and just had major dental work done that will take a lot of getting used to. Please pray for her continued healing (physical and emotional) in all these health ordeals.

† Our teammates **Paul and Chaa Flack** and their three young daughters will be coming to *Chiang Mai* later this month to visit with most of our team. Please pray for their trip from Thailand's deep south to go well and for us to be an encouragement to them. Pray also for their English, soccer, children's and evangelistic puppet ministries to bear eternal fruit.

† This week, Elaine will **renew two of her ministries**: a twice-weekly English class for maids (and their non-Christian friends) at our house and the teen Sunday School class at church. Please pray for wisdom for her preparations and for

her to be able to handle these ministries physically. Pray also for wisdom as she continues to do the bulk of the planning for our SiAM Area conference in April 2012.

† At the leadership training conference we attended, one of the North American leaders in Joe's sub-group shared with the larger gathering about a **spiritual attack** currently being faced by his wife. To make a long story short, she has turned away from Jesus to New Age thinking and is very bitter about what she considers a "controlling" spirit in the church. Needless to say, it was a devastating week for this leader. Would you please pray for God to intervene miraculously in the lives of this servant, his wife and their two children.

*Until all have heard,  
Joe, Elaine, Brittany,  
Justin, Caleb & Jamie*

### **DID YOU KNOW...**

that Christian author Randy Alcorn has teamed up with Sherwood Pictures on the unique organization's latest movie, *Courageous?* Alcorn contributed to the book *The Resolution for Men* and also wrote the novelization of the movie, which is by the makers of *Facing the Giants* and *Fireproof*. (FYI, there also is a book entitled *The Resolution for Women* to accompany the movie.)

For more info, visit <http://www.epm.org/blog/2011/Sep/7/courageous-movie-and-novel-part-1-unused-interview>

The books listed each month are just a sample of the many that are on the shelves of the Church Library. You are invited to come in and browse. When you take a book, simply date and sign the pocket card and leave it in the basket on the library desk.

Library hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and also on Sunday morning.

***“Love Your Life”*** - Living Happy, Healthy & Whole by Victoria Osteen - Do you ever feel like your life is moving at the speed of light? Are you constantly trying to keep with all of your commitments and responsibilities? Many people struggle to strike a balance between all the segments of their lives – family, friends, career, social obligations and self. The author is co-pastor of America’s largest church – Lakewood Church. She feels that no matter where you are in your life, you can find peace, balance and enjoyment in every area, but it all starts with you. She shares her journey of faith and she’ll show you how to tap into all that God has given you to live effectively. She loves her life and she wants you to love your life, too.

***“A Dream to Call My Own”*** – Book 3 of Brides of Gallatin County by Tracie Peterson. This is a LARGE PRINT BOOK. Lacy Gallatin, the youngest of the Gallatin sisters, is a woman with a mission: to find her father’s killer. Haunted by the belief that she’s failed her pa, Lacy also battles a desire to have something more than just revenge, something she can’t quite figure out. Enter Dave Shepard, deputy sheriff for Gallatin Crossing, Montana. He is close to figuring out

who killed George Gallatin, but he always feels inadequate when it comes to the beautiful Lacy. Tension crackles between them – both when they argue and when they kiss. Lacy finds him frustratingly irresistible but wonders if it is truly love.

***“A Kiss for Cade”*** - Western Sky Series by Lori Copeland. Famous bounty hunter Cade Kolby is forced off the trail to decide the fate of his late sister’s orphaned children. He’s returning not only to his hometown and nieces and nephews but also to a fiery redhead he loved and left fifteen years ago. The last person Zoe Bradshaw wants to see is Dade, but she does want to raise her best friend’s children as her own, so she tries to be polite, if cool, even as the attraction between them flares up again. Zoe is determined not to let Cade get close to her heart this time, but the townsfolk have other ideas. They want to see the little orphans with a mother and father and they form a plan that includes the possibility of a kiss. A tender romance that shows how even the hard law of the West doesn’t stand a chance when God’s mercy, warm friendship, and true love comes to reside in a lonely man’s heart.

***“Sweet Boundless”*** by Kristan Heitzmann – Book 2 of Diamond of the Rockies. Newly married Carina DiGratia Shepherd longs to make a home in the rugged mining town of Crystal, Colorado. However, Quillan, her husband, doesn’t love her. Unknown to Carina, he had married her only to prevent her from marrying another man who was involved in a series of robberies and murders in

Crystal. They spent one night together after their wedding and then he left to confront the haunting pain of his troubled childhood, leaving Carina to make it on her own. He did offer to release her from their marriage but she refused, praying that God, in time, will help him learn to love her. When Carina's life is threatened, can Quillan accept God's healing and return in time to save her?

***"The Tender Vine"*** by Kristan Heitzmann – Book 3 of Diamond of the Rockies. Newlyweds Carina and Quillan are still saddened over the miscarriage of their first child but their growing love is strengthening their marriage. They decide to head for Carina's hometown in California's wine country and settle there. However, Quillan is very different from the husband Carina's traditional Italian American parents have in mind for their daughter. Quillan leaves Carina with her family while he looks for a place for them to live. She is bombarded by "well meaning" relatives who want the marriage annulled. It's further complicated by Carina's former beau, Flavio, who is determined to win her back. As Carina and Quillan search for answers, you'll see God's loving hand at work in their lives.

***"The Girl in the Gatehouse"***, a mysterious, intriguing, romantic novel by Julie Klassen. The author takes readers inside the life of a secret authoress at a time when novel-writing was considered improper for ladies and the smallest hint of impropriety could change a woman's life forever.

***"Teddy Bear Stories for Grown-Ups"*** by Catherine Taylor. For folks who believe that their relationship with teddy bears is too precious to end

with childhood. Even after a childhood teddy has been worn into a threadbare, shapeless lump, the affection it inspired still remains. Teddy bears are the inspiration in this unique collection of 23 short stories. Readers will find a wonderful variety from mystery to humor and romance, to some amazing true stories.

***"The Thorn"***, Book One from The Rose Trilogy by Beverly Lewis. Romance, mystery and family drama intertwine deep in the heart of Lancaster County's Amish country. Two Amish sisters are divided by one sister's impulsive marriage to an outsider who longs for the old ways she left behind. The other sister, Rose, is unsure of her heart, devoted to the bishop's rebellious foster son, yet courted by another.

***"The Silent Gift"***, a novel by Michael Landon, Jr. From the creator/director of the "Loves Come Softly" film series, this is a story both bittersweet and heartwarming. The decade of the thirties was a time of enormous uncertainty for the world, for America, and in particular for one lonely, struggling mother and her disabled son. Their story is one of unyielding love and incredible sacrifices in the face of circumstances beyond belief. But then The Gift appears – where has it come from – and why? How can a young boy who cannot communicate provide comfort and direction to seekers who learn of his special ability? Whatever the source, its presence brings a single shaft of light and hope to Mary and her beloved son, Jack. Will it be enough?

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM  
Barbara Jackson and Helen Lefave**



## PREPARATION

We do a lot of preparing this time of year. We prepare our homes for fall then for Christmas, we prepare for parties, prepare dinners, and prepare for company esp. during the winter months! We purchase and wrap presents then many of us prepare them for mailing.

We do a lot of extra things during these months to help others, like Thanksgiving food baskets, wrapping Christmas presents for children and Snickers bars for prisoners. We ring the Salvation Army bells and clown around at the food drive and in the parade. We even prepare the Sanctuary with the hanging of the greens; it looks beautiful with the Chrismon tree, Advent wreath, and other symbols of Christmas.

That's a lot of preparation! Do we do as much preparation for the coming of the Christ Child into our hearts? That is, after all, what Advent is – a time of preparation. It's easy to get so caught up in all the stuff of Christmas even the good things we do that we miss what's *really* important. During Advent we hear the Scriptures foretelling the coming of Christ through the prophets and remember. We remember how faithful God is to what He says He will do and how

faithful He has been in our lives. Take just a moment to remember....

We hear again the promises spoken to Mary and to Joseph and wonder what God may say to us and pray we will be as faithful and eager to follow as Mary and Joseph were. It is my prayer we will set aside some time to experience His presence and listen to what He is saying to each of us.

### Coming soon:

*Lectio Divina* – Ever want to try this, but...

We'll try it together in a very small group. I'd call it a workshop, but there won't be that many of us! So don't be intimidated. Grab your favorite Bible, a journal or anything to write in, and come join us. This month, watch your bulletin for details.

A small group study of the healing stories of Jesus using the book *The Spiritual Heart of Your Health, A Devotional Guide On The Healing Stories of Jesus*. Watch for more details.

### ***Companions In Christ***

A Small Group Experience in Spiritual Formation. We will meet weekly in the parlor to reflect on the Scriptures which we have meditated on during the week and to journey together closer to Christ-likeness. I would love to tell you more about the experience, just ask! ...or ask anyone who's already taken part in the journey. This study will begin the first week of January – space is limited.

## Floralis Genérica BUENOS AIRES



The *Floralis Genérica* is one of the most recognizable images of Buenos Aires. Walking along Avenida Figueroa Alcorta from the Facultad de Derecho (University of Law) to the MALBA, it is not unheard of to be asked directions to “the big metal flower”. Standing in the center of the *Plaza Naciones Unidas* (United Nations Plaza), in a 130-foot reflecting pool, the flower was erected in 2002 as a gift from architect Eduardo Catalano. The use of the term 'Genérica' in its name suggests that it is a symbol of all flowers in the world. Opinions differ about its beauty but there is no questioning that the flower is a powerful, modern symbol of technology and nature.

**The shiny flower consists of 6 petals (each measuring 42 feet long and 23 feet wide) with 4 pistons and it weighs 20 tons.**

The Steel Flower is actually made of stainless steel and aluminum and sits in the center of a pool of water which reflects the flower and also protects it from vandals.

The petals close in the evening from sunset to sunrise; a 20-minute

process mimicking the actual movement of a flower. It is surrounded by a peaceful pool and winding paths allowing for different viewpoints and quiet contemplation. The surrounding plaza is off-limits to dogs making it both one of the few places in Buenos Aires where you don't have to dodge landmines and is very popular with joggers. On four special evenings each year, the flower stays open all night: September 21<sup>st</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Most nights the closed flower is floodlit by red flood lights with smaller green lights along the pathways.

We drove by this structure several times in our travels around Buenos Aires but didn't get details about its opening and closing until later.

~ BP ~

volunteer/Cincinnati Zoo

23

### Thought for the Day!

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it. If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring. He sends you a sunrise every morning.

He didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

**Face it, my friend...  
He is crazy about you!**

***Psalm 26:7 "That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving, And tell of all Your wondrous works."***

Greetings from Siberia!

Where did all those beautiful autumn leaves go???! What began as a beautifully warm "Indian Summer," ended within two weeks...YIKES! Of course after the leaves were completely gone, the warmer days returned, well warmer for us ...50+ degrees during the day and high 20's at night. ☺ However, we are so thankful for the provisions He has given! All the gardens were harvested and the hay brought in for the winter. The last months before winter are chaotic at best...wood needs to be cut and the animals brought closer to home (they wander most of the summer). This year, we've added chickens and pigs to our list of animals for the fellowship's use. The 'barn' has been transformed into a chicken coop/pigpen. [You may remember we had cows...**had** being the key word...the shepherd watching ours and several other folks from the village 'lost' the cows over the summer. We're working out the issue in hopes of a good result for all!]



In October we gave thanks for the bountiful harvest with a grand celebration of praise, poems, and a skit, time in the Word, prayer and **LOTS** of food! Several folks in the fellowship invited neighbors and friends so we were given an opportunity to share

openly the truth of His Word and hopefully take away some fears or misconceptions of non-orthodox Christianity. One couple was asked if they enjoyed the service; "We've never been to a church service where people sang, read from the Bible and did it joyfully!" What a testimony of love our fellowship was able to share with this couple and the others that attended.



It was 7:20 Thursday morning, there's a knock at the door. Believing that we might get two or three girls to show

before 8am, we were quite surprised at the *early* visitor. The youth group had agreed to meet each week for breakfast, devotions, and prayer before school, however, we weren't certain when the time came if we'd actually have anyone show so early. They continue to appear at the door each Thursday, we're certain it's **not** just for the food...the prayer time, although short, is good. We're hoping the devotion time will become more meaningful in their lives and have better discussions. "Our girls" have also agreed to begin a foundational study of the bible. Our desires for them are to hunger and thirst for the Word, become godly young women, and make a difference in this world.



The desire to improve their English has brought three young students to Laura this year. The English lessons are not only a time to help with their studies but also a time to give hugs, build relationships and be a



“light” in their not-so-bright lives. There are also three young women with a desire to make changes in their homes. Titus 2:3 says; <sup>3</sup>*“Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. 4Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, <sup>5</sup>*to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.”* I (Laura) am thankful the Lord has brought me these young women/moms with desires to be such women, but what a huge responsibility! Please lift this in prayer as the enemy is surely busy trying to keep us from attaining this type of life.*

“The Ant Hill” is a rundown two-story, what should be a condemned, apartment building that houses eight families. At least it’s supposed to house families. This particular building has rooms that are being used to store wood for the tenets – they heat with wood burning stoves. Did we mention there’s no running water which means they share outdoor toilets? So - why is it called the ant hill? One visit and it’s quite obvious; there’s **always** activity with lots of people and unfortunately the activity is mostly drunks just hanging around.

However, this building is special because it also houses three families that attend our fellowship. What a difference they’re beginning to make in their neighborhood. There is a weekly Bible study, a weekly 6am prayer meeting, and times of worship... know what happens during these times??? Absolutely nothing! That’s right, **everything** becomes quiet and people just listen. They will often come and ask for prayer and make certain that no one disturbs the meetings. We are so thankful for the great witness these folks have become and for the opportunities they’ve been given to share the truth that can set their neighbors free!

We’re so grateful for each of you who give generously in many different ways! We’re humbled to know that your sacrifices of finances and prayers will be used mightily and you will most likely never meet the folks whose lives you’ve helped change (this side of Heaven)...we join in giving thanks for His provision in meeting the needs of this work. Our prayer is that each of you will be abundantly blessed this Thanksgiving season!

Together in Siberia,  
Kevin & Laura Wooster

*PS: SEE BELOW*

We invite you to check our blogspot (there are many pictures there) <http://klwooster.blogspot.com/> or if you feel led, we love letters or small packages. These can be sent to the following address:

**RUSSIA (ROSSIA)**  
**671410**  
**RESPUBLIKA BURIATIA**  
**KHORINSK SELO**  
**YL. PERVOMAYSKAYA D. 38, Kb #2**  
**BYCTER, KEBIN/LORA**

## Thanksgiving

Celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November, has officially been an annual tradition in the United States since 1863, when during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving to be celebrated on Thursday, November 26. As a federal and popular holiday in the U.S., Thanksgiving is one of the "big six" major holidays of the year.

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated to give thanks to God for helping the Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony survive their first brutal winter in New England. The first Thanksgiving feast lasted three days, providing enough food for 53 pilgrims and 90 Native Americans. The feast consisted of fish (cod, eels, and bass) and shellfish (clams, lobster, and mussels), wild fowl (ducks, geese, swans, and turkey), venison, berries and fruit, vegetables (peas, pumpkin, beetroot and possibly, wild or cultivated onion), harvest grains (barley and wheat), and the Three Sisters: beans, dried Indian maize or corn, and squash. The New England colonists were accustomed to regularly celebrating "thanksgivings"—days of prayer thanking God for blessings such as military victory or the end of a drought.

On December 4, 1619, 38 English settlers arrived at Berkeley Hundred, which comprised about 8,000 acres (3,200 ha) on the north bank of the James River, near Herring Creek, in an area then known as Charles Cittie, about 20 miles (32 km) upstream from Jamestown, where the first permanent settlement of the

Colony of Virginia had been established on May 14, 1607.

The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a "day of thanksgiving" to God. On that first day, Captain John Woodleaf held the service of thanksgiving. As quoted from the section of the Charter of Berkeley Hundred specifying the thanksgiving service: "We ordaine that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned for plantacon in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

During the Indian massacre of 1622, nine of the settlers at Berkeley Hundreds were killed, as well as about a third of the entire population of the Virginia Colony. The Berkeley Hundred site and other outlying locations were abandoned as the colonists withdrew to Jamestown and other more secure points.

After several years, the site became Berkeley Plantation, and was long the traditional home of the Harrison family, one of the First Families of Virginia. In 1634, it became part of the first eight shires of Virginia, as Charles City County, one of the oldest in the United States, and is located along Virginia State Route 5, which runs parallel to the river's northern borders past sites of many of the James River plantations between the colonial capital city of Williamsburg (now the site of Colonial Williamsburg) and the capital of the Commonwealth of Virginia at Richmond.

The modern Thanksgiving holiday traces its origins from a 1621 celebration at the Plymouth Plantation, where the Plymouth settlers held a

harvest feast after a successful growing season. This was continued in later years, first as an impromptu religious observance, and later as a civil tradition.

Squanto, a Patuxet Native American who resided with the Wampanoag tribe, taught the Pilgrims how to catch eel and grow corn and served as an interpreter for them (Squanto had learned English while enslaved in Europe and during travels in England). Additionally the Wampanoag leader Massasoit had donated food stores to the fledgling colony during the first winter when supplies brought from England were insufficient. The Pilgrims set apart a day to celebrate at Plymouth immediately after their first harvest, in 1621. At the time, this was not regarded as a Thanksgiving observance; harvest festivals existed in English and Wampanoag tradition alike. Several colonists gave personal accounts of the 1621 feast in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Pilgrims, most of whom were Separatists, are not to be confused with Puritans who established their own Massachusetts Bay Colony nearby (current day Boston) in 1628 and had very different religious beliefs.

The Pilgrims held an even greater Thanksgiving celebration in 1623, after a switch from communal farming to privatized farming, a fast, and a refreshing 14-day rain resulted in a larger harvest. William DeLoss Love calculates that this thanksgiving was made on Wednesday, July 30, 1623, a day prior to the arrival of a supply ship with more colonists, but prior to the harvest. In Love's opinion, this 1623 thanksgiving was significant because the order to recognize the event was

from civil authority, (Governor Bradford) and not from the church, making it likely the first civil recognition of Thanksgiving in New England.

Irregular Thanksgivings continued after favorable events and days of fasting after unfavorable ones. In the Plymouth tradition, a thanksgiving day was primarily a church observance, rather than a feast day. But thanksgiving days did have a civil observance linked to the religious one, as in 1623. Gradually, an annual Thanksgiving after the harvest developed in the mid-17th century. This did not occur on any set day or necessarily on the same day in different colonies in America.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony (consisting mainly of Puritan Christians) celebrated Thanksgiving for the first time in 1630, and frequently thereafter until about 1680, when it became an annual festival in that colony; and Connecticut as early as 1639 and annually after 1647, except in 1675. The Dutch in New Netherland appointed a day for giving thanks in 1644 and occasionally thereafter.

Charlestown, Massachusetts, held the first recorded Thanksgiving observance June 29, 1671, by proclamation of the town's governing council.

Later in the 18th century, individual colonies would periodically designate a day of thanksgiving in honor of a military victory, an adoption of a state constitution or an exceptionally bountiful crop. Such a Thanksgiving Day celebration was held in December 1777 by the colonies nationwide.

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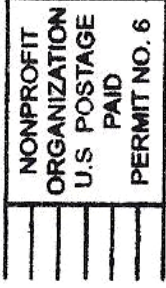
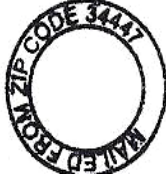
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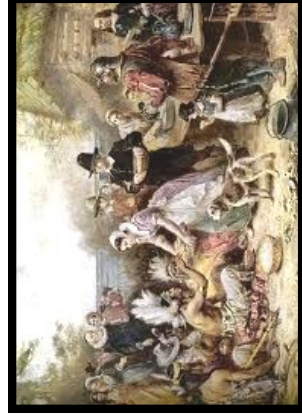
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