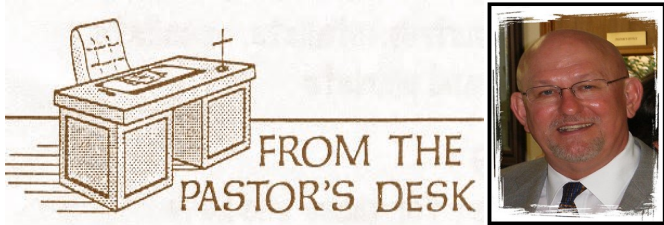


ECHOES *from the Valley*

November 2020

Volume 46, No. 11



Here we are, Thanksgiving 2020! And what a year it has been. No doubt for many this Thanksgiving will be radically different than usual; for others less so, but for all of us it will be altered in some ways. It's really a bit awkward for some to even mention Thanksgiving. We know we ought to be thankful, but what is there to say?

And that's the problem. How do we genuinely express our gratitude? It's like your mom, after you forgot to say "thank you" to someone, strongly reminding you of the omission. Sure, you say "thanks" then, but it doesn't quite mean the same thing.

So, in this unusual season, I want to emphasize that genuine gratitude is possible even in 2020. Yes, even in all the difficulty, inconvenience, anxiousness and even despair, we have so many reasons to express thanks to God. And especially as Christians, we should live and move in a continual state of gratitude and thanks. Certainly, we have been given much by our Creator... the gift of life, a wonderful environment, grace, peace, hope, and the promise of a glorious future. Yes, our lives should overflow with gratitude and thanksgiving.

What do you think God's attitude is toward our Thanksgiving? Well, He certainly deserves it and even expects it from His people. He is rightly honored by it because a life of thanksgiving is evidence of a person who knows God's

character and His position as God alone. The Lord is the giver of all good gifts and He is worthy of thanksgiving.

We give thanks to God when life is good, when we are in good health and when the sky is clear, and the air is warm. What about when all is not so good, health is failing and when the sky is cloudy, and the air is cold? Can we still give God thanks then? Yes, we can and we should.

Ephesians 5 instructs us to, "...give thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

Psalm 34 shows that David understands gratitude toward God in all times. After a difficult time in his life he was able to declare:

"I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

In Lamentations we read the words of Jeremiah after he witnessed the destruction of his city at the hands of the Babylonians. It was for him a time of great anguish and despair ... but he could still see the mercies of God. He spoke in Lamentations 3: 22-23:

"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us: *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Valley Brook is a place of grace, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is Lord.

Imagine that. In everything give thanks; in all circumstances and situations give thanks. Even in the grip of a pandemic. Why? *“For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*

In those difficult and troubling times our gratitude may be diminished. We may even feel justified for not giving thanks. However, Philippians 4: 6-7 was written to address anxious times. God knows the kind of difficulties in life that can overwhelm us, but still these verses in Philippians remind us of the proper perspective:

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Yes, let Him know your requests. . . .but be just as faithful to let Him know your thanksgivings.

Matthew Henry, the famous Bible commentator, showed a thankful spirit; he is a good role model for us, and if we imitated him, we would also develop a thankful spirit. After he was robbed, he wrote in his diary,

“Let me be thankful first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my wallet they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth, because it was I who was robbed, not I who robbed.”

What a great attitude. It reminds me of an expression I came across recently: “I’m thankful for all the things that are not wrong with me.”

1 Chronicles 16:8 – *“Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples!”*

Psalms 92:1 – *“It is good to give thanks to the LORD, and to sing praises to Your name, O Most High.”*

Psalms 30:12b – *“O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.”*

Might we remember to be thankful. . . in all circumstances, in every season of life and every day of our lives.

I am thankful for each of you,

Pastor Mike



ALSO:

Work is underway on a major roofing project for the Fellowship Hall. We appreciate those who have made a special contribution to help offset this significant expense. If you wish to donate, you may do so at any time.

On Sunday, October 25th, the church voted unanimously to enter into a lease agreement with Global Frontier Missions. They will occupy the basement area that is not being used presently, except for storage. They will set up office space for use on weekdays. Please pray for their ministry and for a good partnership.

Attendance in October



Week of:	A.M. Worship
Oct. 4	38
Oct. 11	40
Oct. 18	39
Oct. 25	37



**“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS,
AND AGAIN I SAY,
REJOICE.”**

- PHILIPPIANS 4:4



VALLEY BROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Time Change - Fall Back Worship at 11:00	2	3 Election Day Voting Precinct 7:00 - 7:00	4	5	6	7
8 Disaster Relief Appreciation Day Worship at 11:00	9 GBC Annual Meeting	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14 10-3:00 Druid Woods Condo. Assoc. Annual Meeting?
15 International Day of the Bible Worship at 11:00	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Worship at 11:00	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 Worship at 11:00	30					



Birthdays:

Tom McCollum 11/08
Tom Gibbs 11/21

Sandra Davis 11/9
Ann Lewis 11/22

Sharon Kramer 11/11
Nancy Sealock 11/25

Allen Blake 11/17
Candy Rogers 11/26

Ralph Rivers 11/19

God Is Love, His Mercy Brightens

By John Bowring, 1792- 1872
Published in 675 hymnals



God is love: His mercy brightens
All the path in which we rove;
Bliss He wakes and woe He lightens:
God is wisdom, God is love.

Chance and change are busy ever;
Man decays and ages move;
But His mercy waneth never:
God is wisdom, God is love.



E'en the hour that darkest seemeth,
Will His changeless goodness prove;
Through the gloom His brightness streameth;
God is wisdom, God is love.

He with earthly cares entwineth
Hope and comfort from above;
Everywhere His glory shineth;
God is wisdom, God is love.

Quote of the Month

"Nearness to God brings likeness to God. The more you see God the more of God will be seen in you."

-Charles Spurgeon



Monthly Financial Report

(October 2020)

Receipts - \$15,691.00

(Oct. 2019)

Receipts - \$11,818.55

Expenses - \$14,774.00

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