

THE *COMMUNICATOR*

Volume XXXIII No. 11/12

November/December, 2024

KEVIN'S KORNER

Thanksgiving aims to bring us together. When we assemble at the table with family and friends, we're signifying the need for unity. The things that hinder our oneness—geography, distance, busyness, relationship issues, political opinions, and so on—get set aside, or at least temporarily overcome, so that we can be with one another in a spirit of gratitude. This is probably part of what President Abraham Lincoln had in mind on October 3, 1863, when he issued a proclamation, written by Secretary of State William Seward, declaring that the last Thursday in November would be a day of national Thanksgiving. Note that this was during the depths of the Civil War, when thousands were dying on battlefields and the country was being ripped apart. In the midst of all the violence, division, and suffering, Lincoln announced:

The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.

After acknowledging the domestic turmoil and sorrow of war, but always with an eye toward God's acts of blessing and deliverance, Lincoln recommended that everyone "fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."

So this year, when you sit down to enjoy your Thanksgiving feast, remember the words of a President who occupied the Oval Office more than 160 years ago, a President who aimed to counter despair with hope, and who tried to create some national cohesion by promoting national gratitude. What had been a farming and harvest celebration, with roots in the Puritan Pilgrims, observed primarily in northern states, officially became a nationwide occasion for giving thanks.

Between now and Thanksgiving, our nation will elect its next President. Though we're not in the midst of full-blown civil war, our country's cultural and political landscape is certainly filled with division, conflict, and strife. Political vitriol has intensified. Candidates, as well as our fellow citizens, are quick to take extreme positions and demonize their opponents. We've even witnessed assassination attempts. As we go to the polls, tensions are high and anxiety about the future grows.

Yet there is reason for gratitude, because we're blessed to have this opportunity to participate in the governing of our nation by voicing our opinions and casting our votes. As followers of Jesus, God's people in Christ, we've been given the ministry of reconciliation. We're also called to intercede on behalf of our nation through prayer. To that end, I want to share with you the following prayer, written by pastor Kimberly Deckel. It captures both our rights and our responsibilities as citizens of our country and most of all citizens of God's coming kingdom. I hope it will be useful to you in your own thinking and decision-making as you approach the election:

Almighty God, prepare our hearts and minds as we head toward voting. We express gratitude for the right to vote, and we lament the brokenness of our democracy and voting system—a system that continues to suffer from inequity. Empower us, O Lord, to make decisions rooted in the ways of Jesus rather than the ways of the world. Give us wisdom and discernment as we cast our votes with a humble spirit, and let our voting be an act of prayer. May we be reminded that the candidates we vote for are not our savior, but you are the bringer of the heavenly kingdom, and our ultimate hope rests in you. We commend this nation to your care, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

Faithfully,

Pastor Kevin

*Christianity Today website. September 11, 2024.

NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATOR STAFF

By Jenny Boswell

Deacon of the Month for November is David Stouffer.

On Sunday, November 3, 2024 Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. Don't forget to set your clocks **Back One Hour** before you go to bed Saturday night.



November 5 is Election Day. Get Out and VOTE.

Veterans Day is Monday, November 11. A day set aside to honor those who served this country. Veterans Day was originally called "Armistice Day" celebrating the close of World War I. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to broaden the significance of the day. In Canada, this is known as Remembrance Day.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Thursday, November 28 is Thanksgiving Day. The church office will be closed.

The Deacon of the Month for December is Richard Gold.

December 7th is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, the day in our history when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, leading us into World War II.

Winter begins on December 21.

Tuesday, December 24, we will have our annual Christmas Eve dinner at 5:00 p.m. and our Christmas Eve service starting at 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, December 25 we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Let's not let the hustle and bustle of the holiday season cause us to lose sight of this...Jesus is the reason for the season.

MAY YOU AND YOURS HAVE A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



The January issue of the COMMUNICATOR will only be the pastor's letter. With this issue will

also have the Birthdays and Anniversaries, Upcoming Events and the Calendar.

The articles for the February issue will be due the first Sunday in January. (January 5)

The rest of the year's COMMUNICATOR will be bimonthly; March/April, May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December.

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

About Praise and Thanksgiving

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Ephesians 5:19-20 (NIV)

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise."
Psalm 47:6-7 (NIV)

THE SCRIPTURES SAY...

About the Birth of Jesus

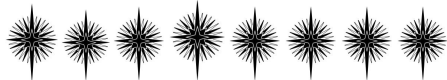
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the government will be on his shoulders, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will call him Immanuel."
Isaiah 7:14 (NIV)

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.’” Luke 2:10-11 (NIV)



*Praise His name
Embrace His Spirit
Accept His Word
Celebrate His birth
Enjoy His blessings*



MINDY’S PEACE

By Mindy Adams

It’s November again. Turkey and gravy time. Even though I try to be thankful every day, Thanksgiving always reminds me to think about being even more thankful.

THANKS!

T is for the tender care He gives me.
H is for the hand of God that touched my heart.
A is for His acceptance, even though I was a sinner
N is for the nourishment, not just the kind you eat.
K is for the kindness shown to everyone.
S is for Savior, that is what He is to me.

By Mindy Adams

November 11th is Veterans Day. So to all who have served or are serving our country, **THANK YOU!**

December 2024 – Christmas is just around the corner. Decorations, lights, parties, and gifts; so much to do, so little time to do it in. I already know that the greatest gift God gave us was His Son. But did you know the second greatest gift is life itself?

God gave us a purpose and a reason for being here. He loves us one and all. The time we spend with our family and friends is precious. We never know when one life will end or another will begin. Loved ones can be taken from us in a blink of an eye or a new life enters the world when least expected. So enjoy Christmas and don’t forget to thank God for the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

Happy Birthday Jesus.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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DEACONS NEWS

The deacons for the 2024-2025 term are:
Richard Gold, Steve Norbrey, Cathy Rozar,
David Stouffer, and Ronnie Strickland.

The Chairman of Deacons is: Ronnie Strickland
The Vice-Chair of Deacons is: David Stouffer
The Secretary of Deacons is: Steve Norbrey



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Week of Prayer for International Missions (December 1 – December 8)

Our Church Goal Is: \$2,000

GRACE'S RECIPE BOX

There is a correction to be made in the September/October newsletter for a recipe titled "Uncle Mike's Banana Coconut Bread." The recipe calls for 1 tsp. baking soda and 1 ½ tsp. Kosher salt. (I accidentally put baking soda twice) I apologize for the error.

Sweet Potato Biscuits

By Verbena Grinder

¾ cup cooked mashed sweet potatoes
¼ cup melted butter
2/3 cup milk

Mix these together and add:

1 T. sugar, ½ tsp. salt, 4 tsp. baking powder
1 ¾ cup all-purpose flour

Knead ½ minute. Roll out to ½ -inch thickness and cut in rounds. Place on greased cookie sheet at 450° for 10 – 12 minutes.

Banana Cake

By Thea Crowe

2 cups sifted cake flour, 1 tsp. baking soda
¼ tsp. salt, ½ cup shortening, 1 ½ cup sugar
1 tsp. vanilla, 1 tsp. lemon extract,
2 eggs, beaten; 1 cup mashed bananas
½ cup buttermilk

Mix and sift flour, baking soda, and salt. Set aside. In another bowl, cream shortening until soft and smooth; gradually add sugar, creaming until very fluffy. Beat in flavoring and slightly beaten eggs; add bananas. Add flour mixture alternating with buttermilk, beating until smooth after each addition. Turn into greased layer pans or sheet pan and bake in 350° oven for about 30 minutes. Cool. Cover with Sea Foam Frosting.

Sea Foam Frosting:

1 egg white, beaten
1 cup brown sugar, packed
¼ cup water, 1 T. corn syrup, ½ tsp. vanilla

Beat egg white until stiff with mixer. Cook brown sugar, water and corn syrup until it forms a thin thread when dropped from the side of the spoon. With the mixer at high speed, pour the cooked syrup slowly into the beaten egg white. Add vanilla. Continue beating until the icing is the right consistency to spread on the banana cake.



If you send cards to your friends here at Grace, there is no reason to attach postage and mail them. Simply bring them to church and place them in the "mail box" set up in the foyer. Don't forget to pick up the cards addressed to you and your family.



CHRISTMAS BOX

As in the past, there will be a box in the foyer of the church for the collection of food items for the needy families. Please bring nonperishable items such as canned or boxed items to donate.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS, PARTIES AND SERVICES:

PARTIES

***Ladies Christmas Party
On Saturday, December 7
At 1:00 PM***

***At Grace Baptist Church
All ladies of the church are invited***

Details will be on the bulletin board

***Deacons Christmas Dinner
On Friday, December 13
At 6:30 PM
At Grace Baptist Church
All Deacons (active and inactive) and
their families are invited***

Details will be on the bulletin board.



PROGRAMS

***The Adults' Christmas Program
Will be on Sunday, December 15***

***The Children's Christmas Program
Will be on Sunday, December 22***



SERVICES

***Christmas Eve Dinner on Tuesday,
December 24 at 5:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service will be at 6:30 PM***

POETRY CORNER

God, in His eternal love
Sent His only Son
To show us the way to live
God's salvation begun

In our world of toil and sin
We don't know the way
Without God's guiding light
For our sins His Son did pay

So rejoice dear heart
Rejoice and let your soul sing
That through this life and the next
To God's throne our soul we bring

By Richard Gold



November

Amber Burgess	11/02
Sheri Cushman	11/03
Karen Pulliam	11/05
Robert Taylor	11/07
Bethany Holder	11/07
Katherine "Katie" Baldwin	11/10
James Hess	11/19
Darrell Linville	11/20
Ayodele Warburton	11/22
Matthew Tita	11/27
Norma Williams	11/28



December

Keishia Fells	12/02
Diane Bazzle	12/04
Gerti Wood	12/09
Willis Proper Jr.	12/15
Karen Lanier	12/22
Mark Fells	12/22
Ashley Strickland	12/30
Jacob Fells	12/31



December Anniversaries

James and Trish Sams	12/03
Lyle and Nita Elder	12/19

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 Stampin' Up at 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 2 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- Nov. 2 FALL FESTIVAL
- Nov. 3 Lord's Supper
- Nov. 5 VOTE
- Nov. 9 Stampin' Up Workshop at 10:00 a.m.
- Nov.11 Veterans Day (Closed)
- Nov. 24 Church Council Meeting at 12:30 p.m.
- Nov. 28 THANKSGIVING DAY (Closed)
- Nov. 29 Fellowship Hall Reserved



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER

- Dec. 1 Lord's Supper
- Dec. 6 Stampin' Up at 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 7 Deacons Meeting at 8:00 a.m.
- Dec. 7 Ladies' Christmas Party at 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Business Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 13 Deacons Christmas Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Adults' Christmas Program
- Dec. 22 Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Dinner at 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 25 CHRISTMAS DAY! (Closed)
- Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Every Sunday:

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Morning Service at 11:00 a.m.

