



## Pastor's Thanksgiving Message



Greetings brothers & sisters in Christ! I want to extend to you the words Paul extended to the Thessalonians: “*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers*” (1:2). This is the season of thanksgiving, but for many of us, if we were completely transparent, there are times, even in such a season, where we do not function out of a spirit of thanksgiving. Much of this is due to our circumstances and our responses to them. All we have to do is say certain words, and they have a tendency to bring about a sense of worry, or woe, or just getting worked up! Concerns over the economy, the government, the church, the world. We can fret and fear so much that we lose sleep, even make ourselves sick. Or, we can get so wrapped up in the rush of life that we become distracted, daunted, depleted, discouraged or depressed. So many demands on our time and energy, many of which can be wonderful things – even God honoring things.

But if we are too busy worrying, or even working, we will miss out on worshipping. Why is that so important right now, amidst everything else going on? Because thanksgiving flows from worship – it results from an orientation focused on God, the One who deserves our highest praise and thanks. So how can we better orient ourselves toward the Gift Giver? Meditate on His Word, for that is where we find His grace granted, His love lavished, and His promises poured out. I have included some scriptures below. Please take the time to draw close to the Lord, seeking His Face, giving Him praise, and offering Him your thanksgiving!

**Psalm 100:1-5** – “*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.*”

**Philippians 4:4-7** – “*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ... The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*”

**Colossians 3:12-15** – “*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*”

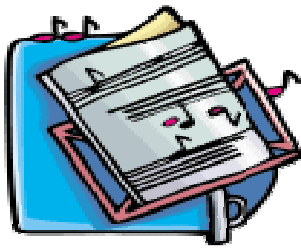
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** – “*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*”

**Hebrews 12:28-29** – “*Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.*”

**2 Corinthians 9:15** – “*Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*” (His Son, Jesus Christ!)

Grateful for His Gift,

Pastor Chris



## MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS --- NOVEMBER 2011

November-the month we often think of as a time to count our blessings. The idea of giving thanks is not anything new for our nation. In 1789, President George Washington wrote a proclamation, recommending to the “people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many favors of Almighty God. May we all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country.” I hope as the month begins you are able to find many things for which you can give thanks. And don’t forget to mark your calendar for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Sunday evening, November 13th, followed by a special time of music and sharing our blessings.

Although thoughts are about “thanksgiving” during this month the music department has already begun rehearsing music for the upcoming Christmas season. If you would like to join us for the cantata just let me know. We always welcome new singers for the holiday season.

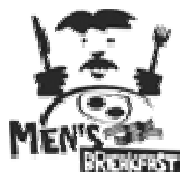
Blessings! Pam

**“Give thanks with a grateful heart.”**



**PRAYER & PRAISE will be  
November 6th at 6:00pm**

The **Men’s Breakfast** will be on Saturday, November 5th, at 8:30am, right here at Riverlawn. ( A big thank you to Pat Croghan and his crew for preparing breakfast for us!) And following breakfast, there will be a **Work Party** to remove leaves and to finish painting the cottage.



In a recent ceremony held at Riverlawn Church, Scout Charlie Dodrill received the rank of Eagle Scout. This is an award only one in one hundred scouts ever attain. Charlie enlisted the aide of his fellow scouts in a program that collected used eyeglasses and cell phones from homes in the area. These glasses and phones will be given to those in need through a local Civic Club.

The Eagle Scout Ceremony was conducted by Assistant Scout Master John Thompson along with his son Eagle Scout Matt Thompson and other scouts from troop 250. Charlie’s parents, grandmother and other proud family members were also in attendance. A reception followed this happy event.

In November, Scoutmaster, Rick Armstrong, will enlist the troop to gather canned foods for the Christmas Basket Program sponsored by Riverlawn church. Last year the troop collected almost 2,000 cans of food. Keep this in mind when the Cub Scouts pass out plastic collection bags to each household. Our church and our scout troop have engaged in this activity for over twenty years. This a great program for our church, our community, and our scouts.

Bob Wilson, Assistant Scoutmaster

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 5th 8:30am Men’s Breakfast with Work P arty Following
- Nov. 6th Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov. 11th Veterans Day Office Will Be Closed
- Nov. 13th 12:30 pm Deacons Meeting
- Nov. 17th 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
- Nov. 24 & 25 Thanksgiving Office Will Be Closed



**BIDDY  
BASKETBALL  
SIGN-UPS**

Biddy Basketball Sign Ups will be held on Nov. 5th and November 12th from 10:00-noon at the Church gym. Children who will be 3-6 years of age by Dec.31st are eligible to play. Entry fee is \$25.00 per player, \$20.00 if

registering more than one child from the same family. The entry fee covers: team shirt, trophy, team picture and awards luncheon. A limited number of scholarships are available. Please see Barb or Jim Recknagel with questions or call Jim at 389.5555.



## November Kitchen Crew For Wednesday Family Night

Nov. 02 Team 5 June & Howard Paxton  
 Nov. 09 Team 6 Mary Reppert & Betty McAdam-  
 Nov. 16 Team 1 Pam Johnson & Laura Cottrill-  
 Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Break  
 Team 2 Nov. 30 Judy Clingenpeel & Linda Means

**Coming Soon.....**A new Riverlawn website. More details will be available in the bulletin during November.



A BIG THANKS to all who helped with our GIVE 2 THE TROOPS service project. We were able to send four packages filled with goodies and art work from our Wednesday Night Kids

to our soldiers. We continue to lift all of our military men and women and their families in pray to our LORD for protection and safety.

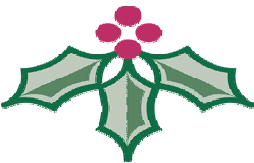


Remember November 6th Daylight Saving Time ends and it is time to turn your clocks back one hour.

Circle II will meet November 8th, 12:30pm, at the home of Betty Wilson. Everyone is to bring a can of chicken for the St. Albans Food Pantry.



**Deadline for Dec. Newsletter will be Nov.17th at 9:00am.**



Advent begins on Sunday, Nov. 27th. We plan on decorating our church, 9:00am, Saturday, November 26th.. Need your help to decorate for the Christmas season. Hope to see you there...Donuts and coffee will be provided. Questions please contact, co-chairs, Linda Wilson @ 304-722-4475 or Laura Cottrill @ 304-727-8775.

## THANKSGIVING DINNER Sunday, November 13th 6:00pm.



*"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."*  
Revelation 7:12. NRSV

Mark your calendar now for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner to be held Sunday evening, November 13th at 6:00pm. Please bring a covered dish to share and invite a friend. A can of food for our Christmas baskets would be appreciated. Following dinner we will have a special program featuring not only special musical selections

but also a time for you, the congregation, to participate by singing hymns and sharing your blessings. Plan to attend this evening of celebration! If anyone would be willing to bake a turkey breast or help in another way, Please contact Sherry Claar (727-1601) or Judy Clingenpeel (727-1330).

### Wednesday Night Kids Service Project-November



Did you know that our Wednesday Night Kids came up with a list of helping activities for others? This list is filled with their desires to help those who need our help, all of God's creatures, including the four legged ones. We have the opportunity to be part of a charity drive for the Kanawha-Charleston Humane Association Animal Shelter. Wishbones For Pets, a local pet charity drive started Oct. 15th and ends Nov. 30th. We will have a donation container in the gym, please consider giving one or more of the items on the "Wish List". If you prefer to give a monetary donation, please make the check payable to the Kanawha-Charleston Human Association Animal Shelter and give to Barb Recknagel, the checks will be mailed to the event organizer who will be delivering all donations to the shelter.

#### Wish List:

- Dog & Cat Food, canned or bagged
- Cat Litter
- Collars & Leashes
- Towels (used or new)
- Toys
- Treats
- Blankets & Pillows (new & used)
- Cleaning Supplies



*(The Shoebox Project)*

*Once again we are participating in sending shoeboxes with gifts to children around the world who live in poverty, illness and neglect. Any questions, contact Toni Sayre.*

**Deadline for the project is Sunday, November 13th.**

The shoe boxes will be dedicated during the morning service before leaving on the journey to children all over the world. Preparing a shoe box is not difficult and is a rewarding experience. Brochures are available in the narthex.

Please wrap the boxes in Christmas paper. Wrap the top of the box separately and do not tape the lid shut. The box will have to be checked for content before it is shipped. You may put a rubber band around the box if you wish. Completed boxes should be stacked on the church's kitchen counter or you can bring them to the church office on weekdays. The boxes will go to very deserving children in desperate circumstances.

**How to pack a Shoebox**

1. Decide whether your gift will be for a boy or girl and choose an age category: (2-4), (5-9), or (10-14). Tape the appropriate BOY/GIRL LABEL on top of the shoebox. (Labels furnished in brochure.)

2. Fill your shoebox with a variety of gifts:

> Toys: small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, plastic kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, small Etch-A-Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky, etc.

>School supplies: pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, coloring books, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, etc.

>Hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, comb, washcloth, etc.

> Other: hard candy, lollipops, mints, gum, sunglasses, flashlights with extra batteries, ball caps, socks, tee shirts, toy jewelry sets, hair clips, watches, small picture books, etc.

**DO NOT INCLUDE THESE ITEMS:**

Used items; war-related items (toy guns, toy soldiers, knives, etc.); perishable items such as chocolate, canned foods, crackers, etc. No liquids, i.e., shampoo, lotion, bubbles, etc.; medicines (vitamins, cough drops, ointment, etc.); breakable items (mirrors, china dolls, etc.)

You may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child who receives your box may write you back!)

If you have any questions about the shoebox project, please contact Toni Sayre (727-6895) who is heading up this project.

**REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE BOY OR GIRL WHO WILL RECEIVE YOUR SHOE BOX. THROUGH THE POWER OF A SIMPLE GIFT, YOU CAN BLESS A CHILD'S LIFE AND MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.**

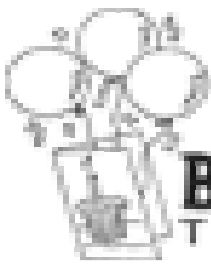
As wonderful as it is to bring smiles and laughter to these children, Operation Christmas Child is ultimately about sharing the life-changing message of God's greatest gift—His Son, Jesus Christ. Many thousands of children and family members now have a personal relationship with Christ as a result of this unique evangelistic ministry.

*"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me."* Mark 9:37a, NKJV



**ALMOZO BRASILEIRO**  
Brazilian Luncheon

Jim and I would like to extend a **big thank you** to all who came to the Brazilian Luncheon on Sunday, October 23rd. Thank you for your prayers, support and donations for the ministry of Open Arms Foundation and for Cristina and Enoc.



# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 1 Don Sims
- 3 Mary Ann Crean  
Ben Lukowski
- 6 David Lukowski  
Steve Connolly
- 9 Melinda Cash
- 10 Sally Murray
- 11 Hanna Bowman
- 18 Jim Farley
- 20 Ann Brannen
- 25 Adam Recknagel
- 27 Charlie Dodrill
- 29 Shirley Hyatt
- 30 Bo Huffman  
Jill Connolly



## TODDLER NURSERY

- Nov. 6th Caroline Dodrill
- Nov. 13th Toni Sayre
- Nov. 20th Ann Brannen
- Nov. 27th Linda Stephens



## JUNIOR CHURCH

- Nov. 6th Beckie Croghan
- Nov. 13th Debbie Roberts
- Nov. 20th Nikole Kilbert
- Nov. 27th Susan Bryan



## Elder



## Schedule

- Nov. 6th Ann Brannen
- Nov. 13th Joe Lothes
- Nov. 20th Ron Spradling
- Nov. 27th Connie Campbell

## Visitation Schedule



- Nov. 6th Caroline Dodrill 727-3134  
Ann Brannen 727-9764
- Nov. 13th Judy Clingenpeel 727-1330  
Joe Lothes 767-8313
- Nov. 20th Mary Reppert 727-3274  
Ron Spradling 727-5744
- Nov. 27th Bill Bryan 545-2455  
Connie Campbell 727-8786



- Nov. 6th Bill Michael
- Nov. 13th Bob Wilson
- Nov. 20th Giersch's
- Nov. 27th Larry Hyatt



## AFTER-CHURCH LOCK UP

- November Emma Rose Cavender
- December Mary Reppert

Church Office: (304) 727-8872  
 RIVERLAWN'S E-MAIL ADDRESSES:  
[rpc.pastor@suddenlink.net](mailto:rpc.pastor@suddenlink.net)  
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