Give Thanks to Him

The story is told of John Wesley, who was about 21 years of age when he went to Oxford University. He came from a Christian home, and he was gifted with a keen mind and good looks. Yet in those days he was a bit snobbish and sarcastic. One night, however, something happened that set in motion a change in Wesley’s heart. While speaking with a porter, he discovered that the poor man had only one coat and lived in such impoverished conditions that he didn’t even have a bed. Yet he was an unusually happy person, filled with thanks to God. Wesley, being immature, thoughtlessly joked about the man’s misfortunes. “And what else do you thank God for?” he said with a touch of sarcasm. The porter smiled, and in the spirit of meekness replied with joy, “I thank him that he has given me my life and being, a heart to love him, and above all a constant desire to serve him!”

Deeply moved, Wesley recognized that this man knew the meaning of true thankfulness. Many years later, in 1791, John Wesley lay on his deathbed at the age of 88. Those who gathered around him realized how well he had learned the lesson of praising God in every circumstance. Despite Wesley’s extreme weakness, he began singing the hymn, “I’ll Praise My Maker While I’ve Breath.”

In a Psalm that he has titled, “A Psalm for Giving Thanks,” the Psalmist says in Psalm 100:4-5, “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” As we enter November, and therefore the Thanksgiving season, it is good to remind ourselves to thank God for his goodness, love, and faithfulness toward us.
HAPPENING IN NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, November 1, 6:30 PM: Kids of the King Choir Rehearsal Begins** -- All children ages 5 and up are invited to join this choir! We meet every Wednesday for a half hour. Mrs. Skopp has CDs available for the children to start learning to the music, please see her after church to get yours. It's going to be great being together again and praising the Lord in song! Please contact Rebekah Skopp at 412-735-0601 or rebekahskopp@yahoo.com with any questions.

**Diaper Drive Continues Through November 5** -- Celebrate life by giving to the Assure Women's Center. Please bring new or gently used baby items and place them in the crib next to the Welcome Table. Needed items include: • Diapers (especially newborn, 4 & 5’s) • Baby bath and hygiene products • Baby clothes (new or lightly used) • Baby gear. If you have questions about this project or ministry, please contact Holly Hawkes (hollacej@gmail.com). Learn more about Assure by visiting its website http://www.14-6.com.

**Sunday, November 5: End of Daylight Savings Time** -- Will allow for an additional hour of sleep this morning, so be sure to turn your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

**Sunday, November 5: The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church** -- Please use the MTW 30 Days of Prayer Calendar (bulletin insert or download a copy at www.mtw.org/resources) daily in November to pray for: the work of the gospel, protection for Christians and missionaries in restricted countries, and their relief from persecution. Also, please pray for our TBPC missionaries.

**Sunday, November 5, 3:00 PM: New Member’s Class** -- Anyone interested in learning more about TBPC is welcome to attend the New Member’s Class at 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., which includes dinner and childcare. Please write “NMC” on your Welcome Card, contact the Church Office (813-973-2484) or see Pastor Freddy.

**Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 PM: Missions Committee Meeting** -- meets first Tuesday of each month.

**Saturday, November 11, 7:00 AM: Men’s Fishing Trip** -- All men are invited to join us for our 2nd annual fishing trip. We will meet at the church at 7:00 a.m. and drive down to the Gandy Blvd. boat docks (need to be at the boat dock by 8:00 a.m.). The trip will last approximately four hours. The cost will be determined next week, but we will be reducing the cost with some help from the Men’s Ministry. We are planning on having lunch after at Hula Bay around 1:00 p.m. Please join us for some fellowship & fun on this fishing trip. Please write “FISHING” on the Welcome Card. Questions? Please contact Brian Carrier at brian@bcaflorida.com or 813-841-9146.

**Sunday, November 12: Honor Veterans Sunday** -- We want to honor our military veterans for Veterans Day, November 11. If you have not in the past submitted to our office the name, branch of service, highest rank, dates served, war/campaign, awards of immediate family members (parents, children, sons, daughters, uncles,
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12: HONOR VETERANS SUNDAY (CONT’D) – aunts, nephews, nieces) and you would like to have them listed, please fill out the bulletin information sheet or call the Church Office (813-973-2484).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 12:30 PM: MEN’S 5TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT -- All men are invited to join us at Pebble Creek Golf Course. The tournament begins at 12:30 p.m. and usually lasts approximately four hours. The cost is $40/player and includes fun, fellowship, and prizes. We will have a three or four-man scramble, depending on the number of players participating. Please write “GOLF” on your Welcome Card if would like to participate. Questions? Please contact Brian Carrier at brian@bcflorida.com or 813-841-9146.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 5:00 PM: CHURCH-WIDE THANKSGIVING DINNER & SERVICE -- This is a blessed time of fellowship and worship for our church family. We bring our favorite holiday dishes and share testimonies of God’s blessings. The church provides meats, drinks, gravy, cranberry sauce and bread. Please bring a hot-and-ready-to-serve dish to share that will feed 15 people in a disposable or last-name-labeled container. Suggested dish categories are potato/rice sides, stuffing/vegetable sides, green leafy or fruit salads, desserts or vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free food items. Please see bulletin insert or contact Joan Kosanovich (jkosanovich@gmail.com) to sign-up for number attending, food contribution category, set-up and/or clean-up help duties or cooking one of the hams or turkeys provided by the church.

EMPTYNESTERS -- Because of the Church-Wide Thanksgiving Dinner on the third Sunday evening, EmptyNesters will not meet for lunch this month but do hope you will enjoy the dinner together.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 9:00 AM: HANGING OF THE GREENS -- Join in the fun of decorating for Christmas.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2: SERVERS & TABLE HOSTESSES NEEDED FOR THE 29TH ANNUAL WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
We are seeking servers (men) and table hostesses (women). If you are interested, please contact Pete Rotolo (813-833-5096), coordinator for servers, or Valerie Scalici (352-807-1733 or vscalici@gmail.com), coordinator for table hostesses.

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**November Birthdays**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Carrier</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric J. Isaac</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheryl Chew</td>
<td>Nov. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinsley Egbert</td>
<td>Nov. 9</td>
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<td>Gabriella Tigley</td>
<td>Nov. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skye Campbell</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethan Hayman</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Carol Josephs-Marshall | Nov. 11 | Nov. 17
| Yisha Tan       | Nov. 11|
| Cathy Gartman   | Nov. 14|
| Lesley Schmidt  | Nov. 17|
| Freddy Fritz    | Nov. 18|
| David Karibi-Whyte | Nov. 18|
| James Montoney  | Nov. 20|
| Nora Jeffries   | Nov. 21|
| Alan Wyss       | Nov. 21|
| Joe Ballard     | Nov. 26|
| Roy Riley       | Nov. 26|
| Laura Davis-Rotolo | Nov. 28 |

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**November Anniversaries**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Years</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gil &amp; Lynn Steile</td>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>38 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Nora Jeffries</td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>34 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wes &amp; Mary Mollard</td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>65 years</td>
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The Women’s Ministry is putting the finishing touches on its 29th Annual Christmas Brunch to be held on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. It will be held at the church. The tickets will be available in the narthex after worship service from November 12 – November 26. They are $10 for adults and $8 for girls age 8 and under. Reservations for child care can be made with Marianne Cali.

**Introducing Our Speaker:** We feel very fortunate to have Sharon Keller Johnson as our speaker for the brunch. Her presentation will be on Naomi and Ruth, A Christmas Story. The scripture verse is Ruth 4:14: “then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer and may his name be renowned in Israel!’”

Sharon has shared that while struggling through a serious medical issue as a child, the Lord, in his mercy, revealed himself to her when she was eight years old. She found that God was real. He was a Person. And he was watching her. Her life was never the same. When her older brother, Tim, returned home from seminary, the family went to Ligonier Valley Study Center where R.C. Sproul had been one of Tim’s professors. Sharon and Larry Johnson met, married and have celebrated their 40th anniversary. They have five children (two through adoption and three “the hard way”). Larry did not read fantasy or write stories but Sharon did. His passion was for God and theology and Sharon loved that.

Sharon found her calling as a teacher and taught high school math, science, and the Bible. Later, because of her son’s learning problems, she became an educational therapist and helped start an alternative school. She taught Sunday school, children’s church, and women’s Bible studies. She worked in Christian schools, homeschooled and tutored. In addition, she has written several books, is establishing a publishing company and teaching high schoolers as well as more Bible studies. She paints landscapes in her spare time, has picked up southern slang, and learned to make biscuits. “But through it all, this remained the same. Who am I? I am God’s daughter. What do I do? I follow Christ. It’s as simple as that.”

I hope the ladies of the church will be able to join us for this multi-generational special event. Blessings to all.

**What Else is Happening:**

**Diaper Drive for the Pregnancy Center** will continue until Sunday, November 5, 2017

**Hanging of the Greens** will be Saturday November 25 at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the fun.
By His Grace/For His Glory Update

By Earl Myers

Some of you (hopefully most) had the opportunity to peruse the article this summer in the Trumpet regarding giving to "By His Grace/For His Glory." The article was titled, "A New Car in the Driveway."

Essentially the article dealt with the excitement and pride that accompanies the purchase of a new car; however, as time passes and fading, scratches, dents, and rust mar the finish and body of that car, enthusiasm wanes but the finance payments continue.

So it is with our West Wing extension. It has been over 5 years since space was created for additional classrooms, storage, and offices, but payments for the retirement of the loan have diminished dramatically.

We collectively made a commitment as a church body to pledge our support for this necessary project. To back off that pledge would certainly be a dereliction of that promise to pay off the loan in a timely manner.

To cite an example of what is happening to our BHG/FHG giving: since the beginning of June (the start of our pledge/giving), we have received $9,928 through September of this year as compared to $12,420 over the same period of last year, nearly a $2,500 difference. Also, between our pledge/giving of the years 2015/16 and the years 2016/17, there was a $25,000 drop off in receipts. Even more disquieting is the difference between the height of our pledge/giving in the years 2014/15 (three years into BHG/FHG) and the present. The difference amounts to nearly $70,000. As one can readily see, there has been a steady erosion of bestowals to the building program.

I Kings 9:1-3, II Kings 12:1,4-5, Ezra 1:1-4, and Nehemiah 2 2:1-5, all have the same theme: building, restoring, refurbishing structures (for the temple in part). It both pleased and honored the Lord God. In no instance was he displeased or did he indicate that there was a waste of time or resources. True, monies could have been spent on building the armies to defend the homeland; monies could have been utilized to bolster agriculture and commerce; monies could have been spent to influence and pay tribute to Judah's enemies and build a reservoir of riches for the king's treasury; however, aside from God's desire for his people to obey his commandments, first and foremost is his desire for his people to worship him in places that are dedicated and utilized for his honor and glory.

That is why our wing extension should not be minimized or thought to be less important or vital to the carrying on and advancement of God's work here in the New Tampa/Pasco County community. Let us all continue to seek God's guidance in pursuing our personal obligation to do our part in satisfying this outstanding church debt.
A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS

The Benevolence Offering collected on Sunday, October 1, 2017 was dedicated to help provide assistance to the people of Puerto Rico suffering from the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. That total offering of $3,256.25 was sent to the Christian relief organization, Samaritan’s Purse, to accomplish that goal. The deacons recently received the email communication included below regarding that offering and wanted you to share in the blessing of thanksgiving for the gift our Lord provided through Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church.

We are the next door neighbors of Bob and Karen Guest. Our names are Milton and Maria Vazquez, and we are both natives of San German, Puerto Rico. We have lived in the Tampa Bay Area since 1989.

We wanted to take a minute of your time to express our gratitude to your Congregation and the Presbyterian Church charity organizations for the collections and all the disaster relief provided to the people of Puerto Rico that suffered as a result of Hurricanes Irma and Maria. These two super storms devastated the Islands of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. As a result, millions of fellow American Citizens are without power, drinking water, medicines and little food; some communities even today are totally inaccessible due to the destruction of roads and bridges. I don’t pretend to speak for everyone, but personally and on behalf of all the family members still living there, neighbors and friends, I thank you.

The work of recovery and reconstruction is only beginning. There is a long way ahead; donations of organizations such as yours will be welcome for years to come. Your commitment to this cause is deeply appreciated. I will make sure to mention your church as a contributor to the recovery to all my many friends, professional contacts, family members and public officials as we continue to move forward. The cruel reality is that the slow, painful, and expensive work will continue, even after the TV crews and other media members leave.

These two links to media articles that appeared in the last few days showing how dire the conditions are at this time:

http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/medical Examiner/2017/10/puerto_rico_is_still in_crisis.html


Lastly, even in these horrible conditions, the people of Puerto Rico are welcoming, friendly and have a deep sense of hope and humbleness. I hope that you, and many members of the Congregation have the opportunity to visit and enjoy the views of the land and the fellowship of my people in the future. May God Bless You all.

Gracias,

Milton
Washington D.C.: Monday, January 22nd, 1973: The sun rose at 7:21 AM and began dispelling the shadows cast by a waning moon. Yet a greater, denser, darker shadow of man’s own making soon appeared and changed America forever. Indeed nearly 45 years later it still looms over all fifty states and has cost the lives of just a shade under 60 million Americans so far. January 22, 1973: the day, a solid majority of United States Supreme court justices affirmed the right of a woman to choose whether her unborn baby would live or die via abortion. In effect, the decision in the case of Roe v. Wade granted pregnant women sweeping powers the like of which were normally wielded only by ruthless despots, slavers and the like.

In effect the Court told pregnant women that day: If you want to keep your unborn child, you can keep your unborn child. If having a child is inconvenient for you, or for any reason whatsoever, or for absolutely no reason at all you don’t want your unborn baby, you can freely arrange for the child’s death and disposal. No justification, investigation, arrest, arraignment, jury selection, trial or verdict. Presto! One life seemingly simplified; one life ended in utter darkness.

So was launched the most lethal salvo in the modern campaign to undermine the sanctity of human life in America. By affirming the right of a woman to abort her unborn child, the Supreme Court enabled every expectant mother to summarily end a human life as if her child was nothing more than a common cockroach.

More recently, someone somewhere decided there was money to be made selling the remnants of children butchered by abortion. After all, the “supply chain” shows no sign of slowing down, and the demand for human “parts” created a lucrative market. Lucrative, but not widely accepted. That’s, no doubt, the reason this disgusting enterprise was an underground operation...until the Center for Medical Progress posted explosive undercover videos exposing the grisly operation that turned humans into mere commodities.
Sadly, unborn babies aren’t the only casualties in the war against life’s sanctity. Debates, court rulings and legislative battles in America focusing on the topics of assisted suicide and euthanasia go back at least as far as the dawn of the 20th century. During the time since, assisted suicide has been gaining in acceptance in the United States. By 1998 when the CBS news program, 60 Minutes, broadcast a selfie video of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, aka Dr. Death, assisting in the suicide of a man with Lou Gehrig’s Disease, those objecting to this method of taking human life were far outnumbered by supporters.

Indeed, at that time, Americans endorsing assisted suicide—and thereby opposing the sanctity of human life—had risen to an all-time high of 75% from the 36% that characterized the mores of post-WW2 Americans. While that trend took a small downward turn in 2016 when support dropped to 69%, more than half of all Americans today still see nothing wrong with helping someone snuff out their own life. In effect, nearly seventy percent of our neighbors, coworkers, friends and acquaintances are of the mind that helping people kill themselves if their life becomes a burden is just fine.

OK; so what about situations where someone whose life has not become a burden finds themselves burdened by the life of another? It’s not hard to find people who will offer complaints fitting this situation, especially some who care for aging parents. At one time in America, the children of elderly parents played a large role in caring for them if the parents weren’t able to care for themselves. It may not be too long before that social construct fades away completely, a victim of selfishness among potential familial caregivers paired with the increasing hostility toward the idea that human life is exceptional among all life.

If it does, the idea of euthanizing the elderly may begin to burn more brightly in the minds of those Americans who see them as a burden. It’s already legal in one form or another in Belgium, Colombia, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

The national temptation to legalize euthanasia is bound to increase as human life-expectancy in the U.S. rises. It’s currently estimated to be 79 years. Ten years from now, it will have increased by just one year to 80. That may not seem like much, but it means there will be 2,626,418 more people still alive in 2027 than there were in 2017, or as some advocates of euthanasia may say, 2,626,418 more Americans competing for limited resources that are essential to a satisfying life. No doubt there will be a temptation to reduce that number by somehow doing away with “useless eaters”. In that regard, the elderly and infirm are the most vulnerable candidates for elimination after babies in the womb.

Abortion, assisted suicide, the transformation of human babies into commodities, and the potential someday for legalized euthanasia are of great concern on their own. Even so, attacks on the sanctity of human life are pushing our country slowly and methodically toward the opening of another bloody front that will usher in an age of even greater hedonism. It’s infanticide, the killing of babies born alive at the discretion of the parents.
Consider this abstract by Alberto Giubilini and Francesca Minerva that appeared in a 2012 edition of the British Medical Journals’ Journal of Medical Ethics:

“Abortion is largely accepted even for reasons that do not have anything to do with the fetus’ health. By showing that (1) both fetuses and newborns do not have the same moral status as actual persons, (2) the fact that both are potential persons is morally irrelevant and (3) adoption is not always in the best interest of actual people, the authors argue that what they call ‘after-birth abortion’ should be permissible in all cases where abortion is, including cases where the newborn is not disabled.”

“Actual persons?” When does the shield of personhood arrive for fetuses and newborns? An even more salient question: when will that shield depart from all other categories? After-birth abortion? It seems the authors are a bit cautious about calling the procedure what it actually is: infanticide—killing a child after birth.

There’s more detail in the full journal article, but the abstract alone offers a concise rationale that is easily digestible to the myriad Americans who believe human life is not at all exceptional. Some in the media have already embraced that conclusion. Melissa Harris-Perry is one such ally. The MSNBC host answered the self-posed question, “when does life begin?” this way:

“I submit the answer depends an awful lot on the feeling of the parents, a powerful feeling...but not science”

A powerful feeling? It would be interesting to learn if her view on issues of death parallel the one she expressed about life. For example, how would she discern if someone died? Is it when someone close to them has a powerful feeling the person is dead? Would it be up to the parents to be the decision makers in regard to determining when their children are dead? Tough to do when you consider their children will have the upper hand in the survival competition by that point. Can you picture a murder trial applying this sort of logic? “Your Honor, the parents have a powerful feeling that their child is still alive, so we move for dismissal.”

Of course, the whole idea is ludicrous. What does that matter, though, in a society that prizes personal comfort more than the life of another?

Abortion, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and infanticide all spring from the same tainted worldview, a worldview which rejects the sanctity of human life. We need to work hard together to reverse this downward spiral. If not, the notion that human life is not exceptional will continue and lead to but one last inevitable result.

No-fault murder. Kill whomever you want whenever you want. You won’t even need a reason.

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