

Fayette Community Church Communicator

November 2011

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

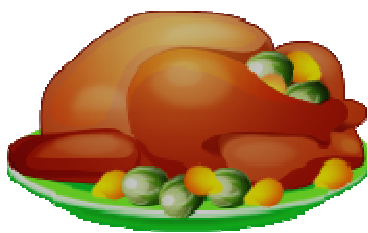


**Give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good;
his love endures forever.**



1 Chronicles 16:34 (NIV)

Thanksgiving Banquet



Friday, November 18th
6:30 P.M.

In the Church Fellowship Hall

Turkey, Stuffing and Mashed Potatoes & Gravy will be provided. So, gather your families and friends and bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share and join us for fellowship & feasting!

There is a sign up sheet in the church vestibule for food donations that are needed, if you are able to help.

Thanksgiving Boxes

We will be preparing boxes of food for families in need again this year. The boxes will be located in the church vestibule with a list of items that can be donated on the boxes. Please see Dolly Rosenbom for more information or if you have any questions. (The deadline for filling the boxes is November 20th.)

*"Enter his gates with
thanksgiving
and his courts
with praise;
give thanks to him
and praise his name."*

Psalm 100:4

CHURCH MINISTRIES & SPECIAL NOTES

Don't Forget!

Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday, November 6th

Set your clocks **BACK**
one hour!



**Tuesday,
November 8th**

Ministry Leaders: Please fill out your activity forms for events in December and get them to Kate by the deadline. Forms are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Note: This month's deadline is earlier than usual!

Wesleyan Women

This month's Wesleyan Women meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th at 6:30 PM (please note this is a week earlier than usual!) All ladies (ages 18 to 108!) are welcome to come help plan ladies events, make favors for the Thanksgiving Dinner, and enjoy fellowship with a devotional by Sue Tegeler and snacks by Michele Kelly.

Additionally, the ladies will be meeting to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 26th at 9:00 AM. Anyone (men included!) who would like to come and help is more than welcome and appreciated!

Please contact Amy Campbell if you have any questions.

From the Pastor's Pen

Just a Little Talk with Jesus Makes It **RIGHT**

One Sunday morning not too long ago, long before heading off to church for worship, I was giving great thought to the whole issue of going to church. Since the weather was decent and winter is approaching, I knew that there would be some folks who would "opt out of" corporate worship of the Living God for an unlimited number of activities offered up by the prince of this world.

While still lying in bed mediating on the subject of corporate worship, I asked myself, "Just how important is corporate worship, anyway?"

Then I thought to myself; I as Pastor devote a huge amount of my week in preparation for worship. I spend a lot of time prayerfully seeking from God a clear understanding of what message He desires me to give to His followers. Which begs the question, should I really do all of that if it is not all that important?

So I must ask again—just how important is corporate worship? Is it an activity, among so many others, that we as true believers can really "opt out of" for something else?

Another question that came to my mind was, "Lord if we can take off from time to time, are there times when opting out is sinful and times when it is not sinful?"

As I laid there in the darkness of morning, it wasn't long before I asked God, "Lord is this really all that important? Does it really matter in the scheme of things for our lives? After all, I keep hearing from people everywhere I turn that they don't really have to go to church to worship You!"

(Continued on next page)

Then the next question that popped up in my prayer with God was, "Lord, is church and corporate worship a big deal to You?" And another question, "If people who claim to be Yours stay away, are they hurting anybody but themselves?"

The light of morning was peeking through my window and the Lord's Day was pressing on, so I said to God, "I just sense in my heart that this thing called corporate worship is a big deal to You, Lord, perhaps even more than I can comprehend. We really need to continue this conversation, but I must get a shower and get ready for worship, so I will catch up with you later."

I was excited to get to church. We were in the middle of a theme and the service the week before had so much energy that I couldn't wait to see what was in store for the service this week. So I put the early morning conversation with God out of my head.

Upon my arrival at church, I discovered that I was regrettably correct in my concerns and that a great number had opted out of Worship for something else. I brushed it off and set in my heart that I would worship with all those who had determined that it was a good thing to come together with like hearts and worship the King of Kings.

The service had been prayerfully thought out and put together with a special thought to minister to the more senior element of our congregation. We sang, laughed, prayed, and felt the Holy Spirit's convicting presence (a good & healthy thing, as He leads us to be more like Jesus.) The message was from God and all who gathered were glad to be in the House of the Lord.

After church Debbie and I took our granddaughter out for lunch to celebrate her 5th birthday. I told Debbie, "It just doesn't get any better than this!" and I celebrated the Joy of walking through the day with Jesus.

I was caught somewhat off guard when God later started answering my early morning questions.

I went to prayer meeting in the evening and gathered with a few of the saints. One of my people began by asking for forgiveness as they confessed that they just had a hard time focusing on worship that morning because all they could think about was all the people who were not in church. It was so distracting that they could not get their head and heart engaged. Of course I shared with them that in the past, I too have experienced that problem and gave council on how I over came it with God's help.

Early Monday morning as I was again lying in bed thinking about the day before, the Lord said to me, "So you see, my child, people who don't come to worship do hurt more than just themselves!"

Then the Lord began to answer the other questions by bringing many scripture verses to my mind:

...Is it a big deal to God? God reminded me that the whole day of worship and rest made it into His list of Top Ten issues. I was astounded when God brought to my mind Luke 14:6 which says, "*He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom.*" Now it was not hard for me to connect the dots—that if the Son of God made it his custom to be in church, then us going to church is a "Big Deal" to God.

Then God took me to another verse that had to do with how He designed us. I personally told God that I thought that this has more to do with a spouse, but He made His point nonetheless. We are not designed by the creator to be by ourselves. *The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."*

We were designed to be interrelated, that is why Cain didn't get away with using the excuse, "Am I my Brother's keeper?" The answer was and still is, "Yes." O, how the Lord reminded me that as the inventor of Man He also designed this thing called corporate worship, and that it's a "Big Deal" to Him.

So it is no big stretch for us to figure out that if we have the ability to be in corporate worship we should make it our custom. And if we miss a couple times it might not be sinful, but I for one know that you can't miss too much before you are far away from God. And that, my friends, is a "BIG DEAL" with God. If you think otherwise, perhaps you should have a little talk with Jesus! I found "it puts things right!"

Pastor Tenney

Mission News

“Missions is ultimately not a human response to human need. The Church’s involvement in mission is its privileged participation in the actions of the triune God. . . . Once our hearts beat in time with that of our Lord, we can experience a joyously passionate engagement in mission” –*Tim Dearborn*

Weekly Prayer Focus:

Week 1: October 30–November 5: Missionaries: Pray for our missionaries to model a life of dependence on God, and pray that the fruit of the Spirit would be manifested in each missionary’s life. Pray for their focus to remain on Jesus and for their ministries to be fruitful. *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”* (John 15:5 NLT)

Week 2: November 6–12: Global Partners Ibero-America Area: Pray for a spirit of perfect love to abound within the churches and leaders of the Ibero-America area. Pray that God would give churches throughout the area a renewed vision of reaching across cultures and borders with the good news of Jesus Christ.

As preparations are under way, pray for the International Conference of the Wesleyan Church scheduled to be held in Panama in January 2012. Pray for the representatives from Ibero-America countries and around the world who will be attending the conference.

Week 3: November 13–19: Kenya/Mozambique/Uganda/Zambia: Pray for the Lord to provide more national pastors and workers within these countries. Pray for believers to be “salt and light” to their families, neighbors, friends, and governments.

Week 4: November 20–26: JIBACAM, Equatorial Guinea/Mali/Spain: JIBACAM is the Ibero-America area mission board, with ministries in Africa (Equatorial Guinea and Mali) and in Europe (Spain.) Pray for these young churches to *“come to such unity in (their) faith and knowledge of God’s Son that (they) will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:13 NLT)

Week 5: November 27–December 3: Cuba/Mexico/Panama/Puerto Rico: Pray that the people of these nations would find their true identity as joint heirs with Jesus when they place their faith in Him. Pray that they would thirst for living water.

Dennis & MaryAnn Barnett: “One of our young Chinese men was given a Bible story book when he was in 6 or 7th grade. He began praying for his exams . . . God opened the door for him to go to a University in China that had Christian English teachers! . . . he was able to study the Bible. One of his last ESL contacts is our friend. Through her we became this young man’s host parents. He had never been to any type of church in China. Last Thursday I picked him up after his classes to begin a discipling Bible study at a Christian coffee house near the university. . . . *Pray that the Father would enfold him into the life and joy of His son, Jesus.*

Beginning Aug. 22 we began doing airport pick-up for 7 Chinese students. . . . We spent their first week running back and forth from our home to the University (15 miles away) for orientation, document check, cell phone, furniture, etc. The first week of September we moved all of them into their separate housing, plus volunteered at a Welcome Picnic for 400 new Chinese students.

Besides hosting these students, we also moved a bed into our Mongolian student’s apartment, collected other furniture from friends for our annual free furniture give-away, hosted a Taiwanese visiting professor and family, hosted an outreach dinner for a Chinese piano family, and taught International children piano.

We thank the Lord for the 80+ International students He brought to us on Labor Day Saturday. . . . We are thankful for the many contributions of furniture . . . given to us. *Thank you for praying!!* . . . a new student from Vietnam wants to get involved in our ministry! Gently used furniture opens doors to the Good News!

Two of our Chinese students know the Lord, and are taking the rest of our host students to church with them! We met three Chinese Christian graduate students during the furniture event as well as a Christian couple from India. This Indian couple is a direct answer to our prayers in knowing how to reach South-Asian students. Mary Ann and I are asking for guidance and wisdom as we schedule follow-up Bible studies and strategic prayer outreach partnerships. We also need prayer & contributions of chili, pumpkins and bars for our first big Outreach on Oct. 14th. Praise Him for faithfully providing us with our needs! Thank you for your prayers and generous support! Blessings & Joy in Him who will never leave us nor forsake us.”

Andrea Swarthout: “This month I went searching for a special torii (Shinto gate) in my city. This torii is special because it has three sides to represent the Trinity. It is believed it was created by Christians using Japanese culture back in the early centuries after Christ was born. It took a little bit but the message of Jesus probably reached Japan several hundred years after He was born, more than 5500 miles away over pretty rough terrain. It makes me think differently about Jesus’ call for his disciples to be his witnesses “to the ends of the earth...”

Last month I told you that my friend Mary & her husband have started going to church. . . . another friend who I have been praying for the past few years has also started going to church again! It is an exciting answer to prayer. Please pray for both of these ladies that God would continue to work in their lives. I still have one friend who I am praying will return. . . . Thank you for praying for her as well.

I was really looking forward to cooking class this month as I had 5 ladies planning to attend. However, because of typhoon season, cooking class was canceled. It is very hard to schedule a time for cooking class as they are all young working women. Please pray that we can find times to meet together. English Bible Study and Worship Service both went well this month. We had some really good discussion at both events. There are some people interested in coming, please pray the barriers . . . would be broken down.

At the beginning of the year I asked you to help intercede with me for the Japanese people . . . for several people that God has placed in my path. . . . Each of them are in such different places in their journey and many are currently facing a difficult road. Thank you for interceding for them! Thank you all so much for your continued support and prayers.”

Peter and Brenda B: “Dear Friends (Parents, please preview before reading to your family), Today I’d like to share with you a report from the LIGHT HIV clinic, shared with us by one of our LIGHT staff (edited for clarity).

‘...I met a patient who is HIV positive, a friend of my first HIV patient who the very first time we met was moved by the HS (Holy Spirit) to make a decision to follow J. It was an amazing miracle. Usually this crowd does not open their hearts to outsiders easily, but today this man did. He said that he had a child with his ex-wife before they divorced in 2007. Then he had become curious about gay topics and eventually joined the gay crowd formally. Unfortunately a year later he contracted HIV and dropped into the struggle with mortality and death.

He said that within his society there is incomprehension about people with HIV. People always seem to look upon them as if they are peculiar.

They feel so dismayed and uncomfortable. He knew that what he was doing was very bad; felt it could not be pardoned and that he would end up in hell. He was badly distressed and wanted to extricate himself from his gay circle of friends, but after many tries and only falling deeper and deeper in, he was in despair.

Through communication with him, I knew that he also feared death, wanted to stop his gay lifestyle, but could not do it himself. This kind of inner conflict is just like Paul said, “*For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.*” When I contacted him more, I found that this entire group in society is very frightened and vulnerable. They dare not tell their true condition to family members or friends for fear that no one will understand them.

Sometimes a disease comes on, but they act like they feel fine for fear that someone will guess that they are HIV infected. They often endure disease and inner torture alone. Therefore, I am now trying to understand them more with correct knowledge, not looking down on them.

As I have been working with our LIGHT HIV Outpatient clinic for a few months now, I have gotten some understanding of their minds. I open my heart to them first and try to explain to them why many people discriminate against them. Then I share with them how my own inner change towards them has taken place. I used to fear them. Now with more knowledge and understanding, I still worry a little, but with His help I have overcome the big fear I had before and am able to do this work.

After they hear this, they are often able to open their hearts to me. They are able to talk to me, tell me their fears about their mortality, sin and death. When we talk about death, I often find this a good point to share the Gospel with them. I am able to share with them that the death of this body is not the end point. I tell them the history from Adam to J.C. and how he was crucified for our sins and rose again, so that whoever believes in Him won’t perish but will have eternal life. We are so excited when patients become brave enough to make the decision to follow J. Thank God and all the glory and praise to God our Father.’ Thank You for your part in this work!!!” (Note: abbreviated words are as Brenda wrote them because they are unable to write certain things safely.)

Submitted by Joyce Duncklee