

Hopewell Methodist Church
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The Beacon

November 2026

Message from the Pastor

**“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”
Psalm 100:4 (ESV)**

There is something deeply moving about this invitation from the psalmist. For the people of Israel, entering the gates and courts of the Temple was an act of worship, a sacred reminder that they were approaching the dwelling place of the Lord. They came not merely to observe religious rituals but to acknowledge the goodness, faithfulness, and steadfast love of their God. They entered with thanksgiving because they knew the One they had come to worship.

As we approach the season of Thanksgiving, these words carry special meaning for our congregation. In just a few weeks, several of us will embark on a journey to Israel, the land where so much of God's redemptive story unfolded. We will walk where prophets proclaimed God's Word, where Jesus taught and ministered, and where the events of our salvation took place. We will stand in Jerusalem, the city where generations of God's people traveled to worship the Lord. I pray that even now, as we prepare for this journey, a sense of awe and wonder will begin to stir within our hearts.

Imagine approaching Jerusalem with the words of Psalm 100 on your lips: *“Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!”* What a privilege to experience these places, not simply as tourists visiting historical sites, but as believers whose lives have been transformed by the God who revealed Himself there!

Yet there is a beautiful truth we must not overlook. We do not have to travel to Jerusalem to enter the presence of God. Through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, we have been granted access to the Father. The invitation to approach Him with grateful hearts is not limited by geography. Whether standing in Jerusalem, kneeling beside our beds, or gathering in our sanctuary on Sunday morning, we are invited to draw near to the Lord with thanksgiving and praise.

During October, we devoted ourselves to 30 Days of Prayer. We intentionally sought the Lord, bringing before Him our petitions, burdens, hopes, and concerns. Now, as we enter November, I want to invite each of you to continue that spiritual discipline with 30 Days of Thanksgiving.

Beginning November 1, I encourage you to keep a simple gratitude journal. Each day, take a few moments to identify and write down something for which you are thankful. Some days, it may be an answered prayer, an unexpected blessing, or God's provision in a difficult circumstance. Other days, it may be something we too often take for granted: family, friendship, the beauty of creation, or the quiet assurance of God's presence. Above all, remember to give thanks for the grace and salvation we have received through Jesus Christ.

My hope is that this practice will do more than fill thirty pages with blessings. I pray it will cultivate within us hearts increasingly attentive to God's faithfulness. For thanksgiving is not merely a response to favorable circumstances; it is an expression of trust in the unchanging character of our God.

Whether our November journey takes us to the streets of Jerusalem or simply through the familiar routines of everyday life, may we approach each day with a renewed sense of wonder. May our prayers be filled not only with requests but also with praise. And may we never lose sight of the extraordinary privilege we have been given: to draw near to the living God.

This November, let us enter His gates with thanksgiving, His courts with praise, and each new day with grateful hearts.

In Christ,

Pastor Bob

Music Minute

The holiday season is upon us, and Thanksgiving is the time in which we reflect on all that for which we are thankful. Prayers are prayed, gratitude is expressed, and we celebrate God's blessings once again. On this day, it's easy to conjure up these warm feelings in our hearts; after all, isn't that the point of the day? It's not just about turkey, pumpkin pie, and football!

As this day approaches, we are reminded that we should recognize God's blessings every day. Thankfulness should not need a holiday! We should cultivate an attitude of gratitude daily. First Thessalonians 5: 16-18 tells us to "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." We are to give thanks in all things, not just some things, not just the great and wonderful things, but in everything. God knows our human frailty, and that we get hurt, we lose hope and suffer grief. He calls us to give thanks in the midst of it.

Perhaps you have lost a job or source of income and face financial difficulties. Perhaps you have lost a relationship. Perhaps you have lost a dear loved one. Be assured in this season of difficulty that you have a hope that does not disappoint, for you have a Father who understands. He comforts the brokenhearted. He will never leave you or forsake you; His love never fails. Your sadness may last for a time, but joy will come. "...But joy comes in the morning; You have turned my mourning into joyful dancing." Psalm 30: 5, 11: Give your sadness to the Father, and give thanks in all things, for His plans are perfect.

The Hand Bell and Community Choirs continue their work to prepare for our Christmas celebration, Glorious Night...When Christ was Born, on Sunday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m. Thank you for your generous contributions to our fundraiser luncheon, as we were able to offset the cost of many of the needed materials for the program. Our Hand Bell Choir will begin the program, and they will be followed by the presentation of the cantata. Our Community Choir is the largest it has ever been, and we are anticipating a large crowd in attendance, especially since there is only one presentation this year. Therefore, tickets will be required for admission. They will be FREE but should be reserved as soon as possible. Please contact Ellen in person or at musicdirector@hopewellcmc.org to reserve your seats for all who will be with you. The program will be followed by a cookie and cider reception in the Fellowship Hall. We will need LOTS of cookies for our guests, so please also share with Ellen if you are able to provide a batch or two. This event promises to be a highlight of the season as we share the hope and joy of Christmas!

As we enter the holiday season, remember to practice an attitude of gratitude daily, as we keep our eyes on the Giver of all things, and await the celebration of the greatest Gift ever given. Let us not lose ourselves in the busyness, preparations, and parties so much that we lose focus on thankfulness for it all. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!

JOYfully Serving,

Ellen Stephenson

Director of Music Ministries

'In every thing
give thanks: for
this is the will of
God in Christ
Jesus concerning
you.'

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Lay Leaders Message

Building Our Prayer Muscles and Growing Together in Faith

As we turn the page of the calendar from October into November, we also bring to a close our church-wide 30 Days of Prayer journey through Thom S. Rainer's *When the People Pray*. Over the past month, it has been a tremendous encouragement to know that all across the Hopewell family, we have been opening the same pages, reflecting on the same truths, and lifting our voices to the Lord together.

Looking Back: Gratitude for Our 30 Days of Prayer

When we set out at the beginning of October, our immediate goal was to honor Pastor Appreciation Month by intentionally surrounding Pastor Bob and our church's ministries in daily intercession. Along the way, however, something else happened that is always true of faithful prayer: as we prayed for our pastor and our church, God also worked in us.

First and foremost, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in this 30-day journey, and especially to those of you who took the time to share your thoughts and feedback with me along the way. Hearing from so many of you about what the daily readings meant to you has been a true blessing. Time and again, folks shared that the readings offered real spiritual substance and practical encouragement that helped stretch and strengthen our "prayer muscles."

Please know that your feedback is not just appreciated—it is going to be vital in how we structure and organize future congregational events of this type. As we evaluate how this initiative went, the insights you shared are already helping us think about ways to build even more fellowship and connection into future reading journeys, so that we are not only reading in parallel at home, but also coming together to share what God is teaching us.

Putting RightNow Media into Practice

Speaking of tools that help us grow together, you will recall that in last month's column we highlighted RightNow Media as a resource for intentional faith development across our church.

I am happy to share that in the Men's Sunday School class, we have begun using one of the study plans from RightNow Media, and we have found it to be quite informative and engaging. Seeing how well it works in a Sunday School setting has been a great reminder of just how much value is waiting in that library. Based on our experience, I would once again strongly encourage both our small groups and Sunday School classes, as well as individuals and families, to log in and take a look at the wonderful material contained there. And as a reminder, if you have any trouble accessing your account or have questions about getting started, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Bob or myself.

Looking Ahead: Drawing Closer to God as Individuals and as a Community

Just because October has come to an end does not mean our season of intentional prayer and study is over. The Apostle Paul offers a simple, enduring charge in Colossians 4:2:

"Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2, CSB)

As your Lay Leader, I want to very much encourage us as a congregation to continue these shared efforts that bring all of the church together. Whether through a 30-day prayer challenge, a Sunday School study on RightNow Media, or daily time in Scripture, these practices do something vital for the life of Hopewell:

- **They draw us closer to God as individuals.** Taking time each day to read God's Word and pray anchors our hearts, quiets the noise of a busy world, and deepens our personal walk with Christ.
- **They draw us closer to God—and one another—as a community.** When we commit to reading His Word and praying together as a congregation, our individual devotions become a shared bond of fellowship that strengthens the entire body of Christ.

Thank you again to everyone who helped make October such a meaningful month in the life of our church. As we enter this season of thanksgiving, let's keep those prayer muscles active, keep diving into God's Word, and keep growing together in Christ.

In Christ,
Tyler Craddock, Lay Leader



It's That Time of Year

It's beginning to look like Christmas. Well, maybe not quite yet, but we have been making plans to celebrate the birth of our Savior and our annual Christmas Luncheon. This year, we wanted to make it a special event for everyone at the church, so we're hosting it at King's Korner at Chesterfield Airport. Over the years, many of our faithful members have worked hard to make this event happen, and we deeply appreciate their dedication and service. However, they are often busy working before, during, and after the event, which keeps them from fully enjoying time with their church family. Therefore, the Administrative Council discussed Pastor Bob's proposal to hold the event off-site so everyone can enjoy this special time together.

The luncheon is open and free to active members and regularly attending guests of Hopewell Methodist Church. Family members and friends are welcome to attend; however, there will be a cost yet to be determined. A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex starting November 8, or you can call the office.



Finishing the Year Strong: A Legacy of Faithfulness

As we approach the close of 2026, we have a wonderful opportunity to take another significant step forward in the life and ministry of our church. Our Year-End Giving Campaign, running from November 1 through December 31, has a special goal: to pay off the remaining balance of our disaffiliation loan and enter the new year free from this financial obligation.

Our congregation has demonstrated tremendous faithfulness and generosity throughout this journey. Now, imagine what it would mean to begin 2027 with those financial resources redirected from debt repayment toward ministry, missions, outreach, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

For those who are required to take annual distributions from their retirement accounts, this may be an especially meaningful opportunity to give. Individuals age 70½ or older may be eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from their IRA to the church. When properly arranged, these gifts can count toward required minimum distributions without being included in federal taxable income.

Becky is available to assist anyone interested in arranging a direct transfer to the church. Because specific IRS requirements apply, we encourage you to consult your financial or tax advisor to determine whether this opportunity is right for you.

Gifts toward this campaign may be made anytime from November 1 through December 31. In addition, we will designate our Christmas Eve offering entirely toward this special campaign. What a beautiful way to celebrate the gift of our Savior by investing in the future of His church!

Every gift, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. Together, through prayer, faithfulness, and generosity, we can close this chapter of our church's history and embrace the opportunities God has placed before us.

Let's finish the year strong and step into 2027 ready to pursue all that God has in store!

Stockings for Soldiers

Please help fill the provided stockings with some of the items listed below!

To Eat and Enjoy (must be individually wrapped)	To Pass the Time	Personal Items
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookies • Flavored Drink Mixes • Slim Jims/Beef Jerky • Dried Fruits/Raisins • Granola Bars • Trail Mix • Gum (Blister Packs) • Mints • Movie Candy • Hard Candy • Coffee Packets • Hot Chocolate Packets • Tea Bags • Single-serving Chips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batteries (AA and AAA) • Tennis Balls • Hacky Sacks • Card Games • Playing Cards • Crosswords/Puzzle Books • Book Light • Nerf Balls • Stress Relief Toys • Headphones • Books/Comics • Notebooks/Paper • Writing/Drawing Utensils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handmade Cards • Sunglasses • Bandanas • Nail Pillowcases • Single-bond Detergent • Handmade Ornaments • Toothbrushes and Small Toothpicks • Chapstick • Gel Insoles for Feet • Hand Warmers • Food Powder • Toiletries • Black or White Cotton Crew Socks • Phone Chargers

PLEASE HAVE YOUR DONATIONS IN BY DECEMBER 1ST, 2026

Help us spread love and joy to our soldiers who can't be home with their families this holiday season!

MORRISSETT
Funeral and Cremation Service

HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY

DEER SEASON IS BACK!

Give Your 'Bucks' to Help Feed the Hungry

November Collection • Narthex

A collection box will be conveniently located in the Narthex all month, so please drop in your 'bucks' as you pass by and help make a difference in our community!

Gospel Music Night

Join us Nov 20th @ 7 pm
for the next Gospel Music Night
Featuring Reverent Quartet

Hopewell Women's Ministry

cordially invites the women of the church to a

"Friendsgiving" Luncheon

on Saturday, November 21st
from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Come enjoy a time of worship and devotion, some fun games, and a traditional Thanksgiving meal provided by the Women's Ministry.

Please sign up in the Narthex no later than Sunday, November 15th so we can save a seat for you!

Thanksgiving EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, November 25
@ 7:00 pm

Christmas SERVICES

- Christmas Gospel Music Night**
Friday, December 11 @ 6:00 pm
- Congregational Christmas Luncheon**
Saturday, December 13 @ 12:00 pm
(King's Korner Banquet Hall)
- Community Christmas Cantata**
December 13 @ 3:00 pm
(Free tickets available)
- Blue Christmas Service**
Monday, December 21 @ 7:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Service**
Thursday, December 24 @ 7:00 pm
- Christmas Day Service**
Friday, December 25 @ 10:00 am
- New Year's Eve Dinner & Service**
Thursday, December 31 @ 6:00 pm



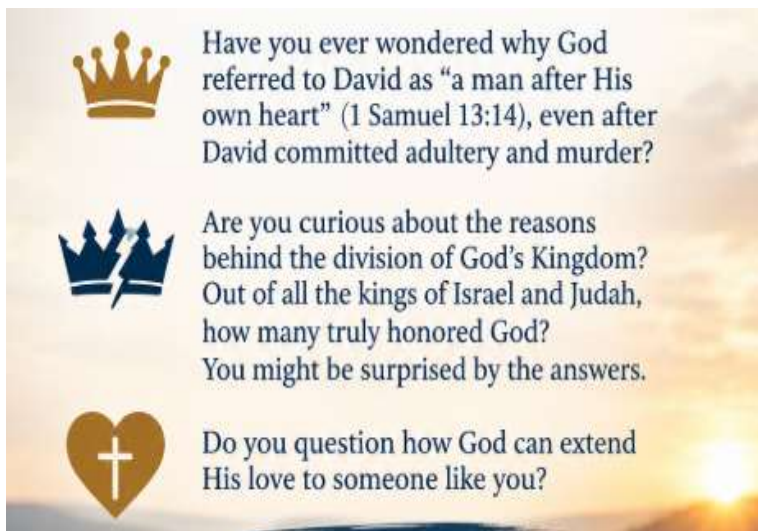
Join us on Sunday, November 29th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our 5th Sunday brunch to share a meal and for a time of fellowship prior to our Worship service at 10:30 in the Sanctuary. We'll all be tired of Thanksgiving leftovers by then, so this is the perfect opportunity for a great breakfast spread! Please plan to come together with your church family as we continue to express our gratitude for our many blessings and begin the season of Advent.



Hopewell is excited to announce the formation of a new Event Planning and Coordinating Committee. The function of this committee is to assist ministries of the church in planning and executing events by providing support and obtaining volunteers to make the events a success. The members are Ellen Stephenson (Chair), Tracy Craddock, Tyler Craddock, Kathleen Frick, Tom Koertge, Anne Moseley, and Janet Rapalee.

We are blessed with MANY creative church family members at Hopewell! If you have an idea for an event, or suggestions for events that are recurring, please speak with or email one of the committee members. Also, please prayerfully consider how you might serve our church family and our community, as you will be asked to do so. Many hands make meaningful fellowship and light work!

We look forward to the work that God has called and will call us to do to bless our church and community. Working together, we can do and be all that He asks of us!



Join us on **Sundays at 5:00 pm** for **Men's Bible Study** and on **Mondays at 6:30 PM** for an inspiring **Women's Bible Study!** Together, we'll delve into God's perspective and uncover the beautiful Upper Story Plan He has for our lives. Don't miss this chance to grow in faith and community!

PRAYER

*Let us approach the throne of grace
with confidence...*

HEBREWS 4:16

Anderson Family	Sue Davey	Rebecca McClelland	Shepperson Family	Israel Tour Group
Vicki Ayers	Elizabeth Davis	Matthew McClurin	Kristen Smith	US Elections
Rebecca Bane	Jack Dodge	Elizabeth Melancon	Marion Smith	Youth Ministry
Troy Barnette	Denise Dubrule	Mark Melancon	Andi Taylor	Empty Pew
Katie Beattie	Duke Family	Kathryn Meyer	Eian Taylor	
Maury Beck	Tom Dunkum	Billy Miller	Helen Taylor	
Bright Family	Carol Sue Durfee	Anne Moseley	Preston Taylor	
Kim Brown	Jarad Earley	Gary Moseley	Zander Thore	
Gillian Buehler	Sara Frattone	Kate Mulreny	John Traylor	
Karen Burke	Kathleen Frick	David Nebenzhi	Kelli Traylor	
Amy Burton	Kevin Frick	Pamela Panaccio	David Tyree	
Anna Buttenbusch	Sharon Harris	Ed & Diane Patton	Ukrop's Family	
Donald	John Heckendorn	Erin Pierce	Watkins Family	
Buttenbusch	Rachel Heckendorn	Reynolds Family	Eric White	
Wanda Caisse	Hance Hofler	Richeson Family	Sarah White	
Carlson Family	Ashley Holt	Stacey Rideout	Brandon Williams	
Brandon Carter	Rose Hudson	Jen Ridout	Garry Williams	
Alec Conarro	Inge Family	Ricky Robertson	Williams Family	
Betty Cox	Ricky Jackson	Jessica Schmidt	Karan Wilson	
Randal Cox	Robin Johnston	Linda Sexton	Chris Yacoviella	
Custalow Family	Lux Family	Mary Sharpe	Brenda Young	
Tim Davey	Markey Family	Mike Sharpe		



Congregational Care Members

Marie Barnett	Carlton Hudson
Phyllis Boyd	Rose Hudson
Jennie Burks	Christine Price
Doris Dean	Debbie Reynolds
Peggy Dinelli	John Reynolds
Jeanette Gross	Jean Sharpe
Roger Gross	Buz Walters

Our Military

Daniel Brown
Jason Helhm
Ryan Helhm
C.J. Kovas
Devin Lewerenz
Sam Power
Tyler Smith

Always in Prayer For

Teachers
Our Children
All 1st Responders
All Government Leaders
Our President
Our Country
Our Military
Israel
Our Pastor, our church, her
leaders, and ministries.

Do you have a prayer request

Let us pray for you!

We've created two ways for you to submit your request anytime. First, if you download the app, you can submit a prayer request and commit to praying for it on the "Prayer Wall." In addition, we've created a QR Code that you can scan to enter your prayer request. Once received, we'll add the person's name to our list in the bulletin. All names on our prayer list will remain for four weeks. If someone needs to remain on the prayer list, please let us know. To submit that request, scan the QR Code.



Explore scripture with us and help strengthen our faith community.
Together, we can engage meaningfully and enrich our spiritual lives.

November Bible Reading Challenge

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Matthew 20-21 | 11) John 14-17 | 21) Acts 13-1 |
| 2) Luke 19 | 12) Matthew 27; Mark 15 | 22) James 1-5 |
| 3) Mark 11; John 12 | 13) Luke 23; John 18-19 | 23) Acts 15-16 |
| 4) Matthew 22; Mark 12 | 14) Matthew 28; Mark 16 | 24) Galatians 1-3 |
| 5) Matthew 23; Luke 20-21 | 15) Luke 24; John 20-21 | 25) Galatians 4-6 |
| 6) Mark 13 | 16) Acts 1-3 | 26) Acts 17 |
| 7) Matthew 24 | 17) Acts 4-6 | 27) 1 Thessalonians 1 -5 |
| 8) Matthew 25 | 18) Acts 7-8 | 2 Thessalonians 1 -3 |
| 9) Matthew 26; Mark 14 | 19) Acts 9-10 | 28) Acts 18-19 |
| 10) Luke 22; John 13 | 20) Acts 11-12 | 29) 1 Corinthians 1-4 |
| | | 30) 1 Corinthians 5-8 |

November Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 6 - Tom Koertge | 24 - Lizzy Stephenson |
| 13 - Phyllis Boyd | 28 - Robin Scheivert |
| 18 - Kathleen Frick | 29 - Vicky Allen |
| 23 - Deklan Dedmon | 29 - Anne Moseley |
| 24 - Paul Smith | 30 - Dennis Crostic |

Anniversaries

- 20 - Tyler & Tracy Craddock



Giving Gladly

General Fund Stewardship for the last 4 weeks :

HMC Income Statement 9/30/2026

September Income \$ 23,470.00

September Expenses \$ 24,117.55

Over /(short) \$ (647.55)

Income YTD 09/30/2026 \$ 254,727.95

Expenses YTD 09/30/2026 \$ 265,015.72

Over/ (Short) \$ (10,287.77)

Mortgage Loan Balance 09/30/2026 \$ 98,593.71

Additional Principal Applied YTD 2026 \$ 9,215.00

Last 4 Weeks Worship

Attendance Average

Wednesday Night Prayer: 11

11:00 Worship: 68

Online: 297

WORSHIP ONLINE

Watch the live stream on our website!

<https://hopewellcmc.org>

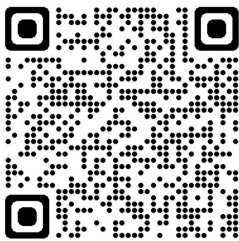
Let us know you're with us by saying "Hi!" in the comments.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

Visit <https://hopewellcmc.org/give>
to give your tithes & offerings easily online.

You may also text "GIVE" to:

(804)485-1593 or you may scan the QR Code below.



Wednesday Night Prayer

Service

Join us weekly on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm for praise, prayer, and communion.



Joyfully Serving

Roles	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Lay Reader	Sharpe, Mike	Schmidt, *Wyatt	Koertge, Tom	McWilliams Roy, Tekisha	Lutz, Jeannie
Ushers	Schmidt, *Wyatt	Noxon, Billy	Holmes, Jerry	Smith, Lewis	McNinch, Owens
	Hamby, Beth	Lancaster, Alma	Holmes, Gloria	Noxon, Billy	McNinch, Ann
	Eubank, Kathy	Lancaster, Albert	Croctic, Judy	Frick, Kevin	Hamby, Beth
	Craddock, Tyler	Hague, Steve	Croctic, Dennis	Craddock, Tyler	Eubank, Kathy
Greeters	Dedmon, Jessica	Smith, Lewis	Rapalee, Janet	Shand, Gil	Lancaster, Alma
	Dedmon, *Deklan	Hague, Steve	Fones, Brenda	Lutz, Jeannie	Lancaster, Albert
Children's Church	Smith, Gayle	Sharpe, Mike	Shand, Gil	Schmidt, Jennifer	Hamby, Beth
	Schmidt, Jennifer	Carlson, Mary Ann	Scheivert, Mike	Jacobs, Carolyn	Eubank, Kathy
AV Sound	Hague, Steve	Dedmon, Cody	Dedmon, Cody	Hague, Steve	Dedmon, Cody
AV Camera	Kweeder, Jim	Kweeder, Jim	Craddock, Tyler	Kweeder, Jim	Scheivert, Mike
AV Computer	Purdy, Irene	Purdy, Irene	Smith, Gayle	Purdy, Irene	Craddock, Tyler



AIR FORCE

Troy Barnett
Jerry Brown
Shannon Brown
Frankie Morris
Alan McCann

MARINES

Judy Reid
David Tyree

COAST GUARD

Mark Melancon

AIRFORCE/ARMY

Tom Koertge

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Jerry Lacks
Preston Taylor
Kent Toms

NAVY

Elton Gardner
Tekisha McWilliams-Roy
Michael Scheivert

ARMY

Troy Allen
Roger Gross
Carolyn Jacobs
Jeff Jacobs
Jack Nelson
Lewis Smith
Lynwood Thompson
Buz Walters
Bob Young
Rob Young

Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Testing Your Knowledge of Scripture

Jesus said, "You are the _____ of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people _____ a lamp and put it under a bowl."



If you filled in the blanks with the word "light," you were right. Jesus is the light of the world. He came to overcome the darkness of sin, evil, and ignorance. We are the light of the world in the sense that we reflect the light of Jesus, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. We must be careful not to cover up our light so that no one can see it. When we live our lives in faith and light, others will see the difference in our lives. As Jesus' light is reflected through us, others will be drawn to that light and come to faith.

On the Lighter Side

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in there?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you know what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "So son, what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It stands for 'Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.'"

Doing God's Perfect Will

In Romans 12:1 the Apostle Paul tells us "... to offer [our] bodies as living sacrifices . . ." Christ sacrificed himself for our sins, but, as he rose from the dead, so we Christians shall never die. We are living sacrifices who serve others in response to the grace that has been shown to us. We seek opportunities to be useful and to be God's representatives here on earth. In 2 Corinthians 5:20, Paul calls us "*Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.*" We do not have to have extraordinary abilities or spheres of influence, because we know that God is not limited by our flaws or by circumstances. We just need to make ourselves available, because God has chosen to make his appeal through us. By looking at Christian stewards, others see what Christ is like.

Christ spent his years of ministry on earth as a servant. People listened to him because they saw that his words were backed up by his deeds. God asks that we be faithful in service and promises that, through his Word, he will equip us "*for every good work*" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). God has created and redeemed us, and, through Word and Sacrament, his Holy Spirit continues his work of sanctification in us. The more aware we are of God's great love and mercy, the more we desire to serve him.

Choosing Our Path

God wants us to follow him, but he gives us the freedom to choose what path we will take and whom we will serve. As we stand at the crossroads of life, God continually reaches out to us through his Word. In Jeremiah 6:16 we read, *"This is what the Lord says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.'"* Daily we are at the crossroads of life. The choice we make is our own. As Yogi Berra said, "When you get to a fork in the road, take it." The road we take will have eternal consequences. Will we choose God's way or the ways of the world? With God's help, our answer can be like Joshua's:

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua's choice was that he and his family would be servants and stewards of the Lord. When you reach the crossroads in life, you will hear God's call, "Follow me." The call to serve yourself and the ways of the world will be loud and boisterous. If you don't reject God's call and you follow, as Jeremiah did, the ancient paths, you will turn away from your self-interests and focus on ways to serve the Lord.



Your lifestyle will reflect your relationship with him. As followers of Jesus, we acknowledge God's ownership and love. We become stewards of what he entrusts to us. As followers of the Lord, we see others as brothers and sisters in Christ. We live with an eternal perspective.

Fill out the Acronym for Grace:

G
R
A
C
E

(God's Riches At Christ's Expense)



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 am Opening Exercise 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am – Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	2 6:30 pm - TL and AHG 6:30 pm – Women's Bible Study - Library	3 7 pm - Deacon's Meeting	4 10:00 am - The Village Sandwich Crew 11 am - Kingdom Seekers Class - Rm.2 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Prayer 7:30 pm – Praise Team Practice 7:30 – Backpack Packing	5 8:30 am – CPR Training 6:00 pm – Handbell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30 pm – Cantata Rehearsal (Community Choir)	6	7 7 am - Men's Alliance 7 am – Men's Emmaus Follow-Up Meeting - FH
8 9:00 am Opening Exercise 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am – Sunday Worship 12 pm – Youth Group 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	9 6:30 pm - TL and AHG 6:30 pm – Women's Bible Study - Library Israel Tour	10	11 11 am Kingdom Seekers Class - Rm.2 6:30 pm - Wed. Night Prayer 7:30 pm – Praise Team Practice 7:30 – Backpack Packing	12 11 am – Knitting Gals 6:00 pm – Handbell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30 pm – Cantata Rehearsal (Community Choir)	13	14 7 am - Men's Alliance 8 am – AHG -FH, PV, RMS 2, 6, 8, YTH Rm 4 pm – Richmond Emmaus Board – RM 2 6 pm – Richmond Emmaus Gathering -FH & Sanctuary
15 9:00 am Opening Exercise 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am – Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible	16 12:30 pm – CPR Training 6:30 pm - TL and AHG 6:30 pm – Women's Bible Study - Library	17 7 pm - Methodist Men **Newsletter Deadline**	18 11 am - Kingdom Seekers Class - Rm.2 11:30 pm – CPR Training 6:30 pm Wed. Night Prayer 7:30 pm – Backpack Packing	19 6:00 pm – Handbell Rehearsal 6:45 pm - Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:30 pm – Cantata Rehearsal (Community Choir)	20 7:00 pm - Gospel Music Night - Reverent Quartet	21 7 am - Men's Alliance 10 am – Women's Ministry Friendsgiving
Israel Tour						
22 9:00 am Opening Exercise 9:15 am - Sunday School 10:30 am – Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	23 6:30 pm - TL and AHG 6:30 pm – Women's Bible Study - Library	24 7 pm - Administrative Council Meeting	25 11 am Kingdom Seekers Class - Rm.2 11 am – Knitting Gals 7 pm - Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed 	27 Office Closed	28 7 am - Men's Alliance
29 9:00 am – 5 th Sunday Brunch 10:30 am – Sunday Worship 5 pm - Men's Bible Study	30 6:30 pm - TL and AHG 6:30 pm – Women's Bible Study - Library			AA Meetings Monday @ 5:45 pm Wednesday @ 12 pm & 5:45 pm; Saturday @ 10 am & 8 pm		

Return Service Requested



HOPEWELL METHODIST CHURCH
6200 Courthouse Road
Chesterfield, VA 23832

“You cannot afford to be too busy to pray.”

— **Billy Graham**

