

*Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.*

This Thanksgiving Day will mark 400 years from the first known Thanksgiving/Harvest celebration in North America. The pilgrims celebrated the harvest of 1621 with three days of celebration- though there was a more formal thanksgiving celebration in 1623 which followed a time of fasting and prayer unto God. The pilgrims had arrived in the new world in December of 1620 and suffered through a terrible winter that claimed nearly half of the arrivals. They came to the new world so they could worship the Lord as the scriptures instructed. Interestingly, Europeans colonizing the new world was a result of the Protestant reformation that swept Europe starting with Martin Luther on October 31, 1517.

In England, King James I (1566-1625) declared the purpose of the Pilgrims Plymouth Colony was "...in the hope thereby to advance the enlargement of the Christian religion, to the glory of God Almighty."

Today my brothers and sisters we are to have this be our aim living here in these United States. We are to advance the Christian religion, to the Glory of God Almighty! This advancement of the kingdom can be found in our sharing our faith with others and more importantly living out our faith by following biblical commands. Perhaps the biggest way we can show our faith in the Lord in these times is by being joyful, thankful people. These are markers of true believers in Jesus!

I know that it has been a tough year for many- but if we cannot offer thanks to God in good and bad times, what makes us any different from the rest of the world? Though we may be in great distress we can always thank Him for His sustaining grace and the salvation we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. In so doing, we can further the Christian religion here in our nation. This is the path to national blessing!

Have a Blessed November,

Pastor Paul

MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

Galatians 6:9: And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

BLESSING BOX

This is located in the church parking lot. Food, paper goods and hygiene items can be put directly in the box.

FOOD PANTRY

Collecting food for our local Food Pantry is a mission opportunity. We have many volunteers from First Baptist who give of their time each week working at the local food pantry. We have a food collection box in the hallway beside the church office where you can place food items.

BENEVOLENCE

This fund is used to help in the local community and in our own church family with whatever needs may arise. Giving to the benevolence fund helps us to continue to meet these needs.

MILE OF PENNIES

Loose change is collected each Sunday until we reach a mile. It is then sent to the Baptist Children's Homes. We just recently sent in our 39th Mile!!

Baptist Children's Homes Thanksgiving Offering **November Offering - Goal \$1,500.00**

There is a MISSION FIELD all around us! Did you know 70% of Baptist Children's Homes residents are un-churched and unreached for Jesus? When our church participates in the Annual Offering, hope is shared, and miracles happen. Our church plays a vital role in introducing North Carolina to the love of Jesus.

We will have a speaker from the Children's Homes on Sunday, November 21.

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoeboxes

We encourage everyone in our church to prepare a box. We have free official Samaritan's Purse cardboard boxes in the church office for anyone who would like to use them.

**Collection dates are:
November 15-20**

ANGEL TREE MINISTRY

Each year our church participates in the Angel Tree Ministry through our local Social Services. It is a list of children and disabled adults who, without you, would not have very Merry Christmas. The tree will be in the Sanctuary in the next couple of weeks. Be sure to pick your Angel.

**Don't forget to turn your
clocks back Saturday,
November 6, 2021.**

**The church office will be closed on
Thursday, November 25 and Friday,
November 26.**

**We will observe
Communion on Sunday,
November 7.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Susan Sawyer 11/2
Hulan Williams 11/2
Blake Gurganus 11/10
Harry Ward 11/11
Lorita Simonds 11/16
Paul Lilly 11/17
Kayla Stotesbury 11/17
Kristen Stotesbury 11/17
Katelyn Cooper 11/18
Dianne Swain 11/23
Jordyn Lyle 11/23
Gage Brabble 11/28*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Food Pantry Truck is scheduled for Monday, November 1 at 9:45 am.
- Buildings and Grounds will meet Monday, November 1 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Mission Action Group will meet Monday, November 1 at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Helen Peele Group meets Tuesday, November 2 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Deacons will meet Monday, November 8 at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall with Lora Craddock hosting.
- The Finance Committee will meet Monday, November 15 at 6:00 pm in the Craft Room.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*Robert & Phyllis Dickerson 11/16
Bill & Linda Sermons 11/25
Bill & Renee Sexton 11/25
John & Sue Smith 11/26*

Beginning January 3, we will begin the women's winter Bible study. If you would like to join us, contact Mary Kay at [252-799-7072](tel:252-799-7072). We will be studying Max Lucado's newest book *You Were Made for this Moment*.

Queen Esther concealed her Jewish identity. As far as anyone knew, she was pure Persian. But then came the royal decree that would annihilate her people. She had to make some tough choices. Would she remain silent or would she speak up? Would she blend in or would she stand out? Esther could have refused. She could have cowered in fear. But she spoke up. She stood out. And God used her to save the nation. It's not hyperbole to say that her courage changed the course of history. Nor is it an overstatement to say that God can do the same with you. You don't need to become undone by tough times, you can become unleashed by our triumphant God. You, friend, were made for this moment.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

CHURCH FAMILY: *The family of William (Billy) Sexton, Sr., Bill Sexton, Sandy Stotesberry, B.J. Lyle, Tracie Wildman, Hulan Williams, Robert Dickerson & Phyllis Dickerson, Marguerite Sexton Hart, Kristie Nicholson, Faye McCombs, Oliver and Frances Lucas, Barbara Peyton.*

OTHER CONCERNS: *Gavin Blount (friends of Jim & Susan Sawyer), Nyal Watson, Christi Rogerson, Vicki Livingston, Waylon Rogers (Son of Wade Rogers), Mae Oliver, Keith Sawyer, Jonni Kephart, Don May, Sue Owens, William Sexton, Alfonzo Boyd.*

NURSING HOME RESIDENTS: *Three Rivers- Christine McMurtrie #209, Sandy McMurtrie #209, River Trace Nursing & Rehab Center, Washington- Pauline Humphreys #418; Carrolton- Tim Elks; Chowan River Nursing Home- Rae Owens.*