

# Pastor's Pen

Thanksgiving!

**Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.** 1 Thess. 5:16-18

On this upcoming Thursday, families around our nation will gather to celebrate Thanksgiving. In September of 1789, the first Federal Congress passed a resolution asking former president George Washington to recommend a day of Thanksgiving to the country. This prompted Washington to issue a proclamation in October 1789, declaring November 26 as an official holiday of "sincere and humble thanks," according to the U.S. National Archives. Later in 1863, former president Abraham Lincoln encouraged Americans to mark the last Thursday of November as "a day of Thanksgiving." In 1870, Congress passed legislation that made Thanksgiving a national holiday.

As followers of Christ, we don't need a national holiday to remind us to thank the Lord for all He has done for us. We are commanded to give thanks to God for everything that occurs in our lives. And yes, that means everything, even the bad. Paul reminds us that even when trials and tribulations come in and out of our lives, God uses that for His purposes and glory. In Romans 8:28, we see God's promise: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

As we gather with family and friends this week, let us share the love of Christ by proclaiming our King's message. May each of us with boldness proclaim Christ crucified, Christ buried, and Him raised from the dead.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark

# Grace Gems

That hair's-breadth has sufficed to direct the current of our life!

(Charles Spurgeon)

"Now the donkeys belonging to Saul's father Kish were lost, and Kish said to his son Saul: Take one of the servants with you and go and look for the donkeys." 1 Samuel 9:3, 20 Saul went out to seek his father's donkeys. He failed in the search, but he found a crown. He met with the Prophet Samuel, who anointed him king over God's people, Israel—and this was far better than finding the obstinate donkeys. Let us consider this amazing incident. Perhaps, though it treats of donkeys, it may yield us some royal thoughts. Observe how the hand of God's providence causes little things to lead on to great matters.

This man Saul must be placed in the way of the Prophet Samuel. How shall a meeting be brought about? Poor beasts of burden shall be the intermediate means! The donkeys go astray and Saul's father bids him take a servant and go seek them. In the course of their wanderings, the animals might have gone North, South, East or West—for who shall account for the wild will of runaway donkeys? But so it happened, as men say, that they strayed in such a direction that, by-and-by, Saul found himself near to Ramah, where Samuel, the Prophet, was ready to anoint him king.

On how small an incident the greatest results may hinge!

The pivots of history are microscopic!

Hence, it is most important for us to learn that the smallest trifles are as much arranged by the God of Providence, as the most grandiose events. He who counts the stars, has also numbered the hairs of our heads! Our lives and deaths are predestined—but so, also, are our sitting down and our rising up. Had we but sufficiently powerful perceptive faculties, we would see God's hand as clearly in each stone of our pathway, as in the revolution of the planets.

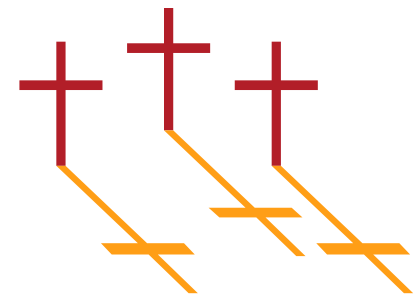
In watching our own lives, we may plainly see that on many occasions the merest trifle has turned the scale. Whereas there seemed to be but a hair's-breadth between one course of action and another—yet that hair's-breadth has sufficed to direct the current of our life!

Providence may be seen as the finger of God, not merely in those events which shake nations and are duly emblazoned on the pages of history, but also in little incidents of common life—yes, in the motion of a grain of dust, the trembling of a dewdrop, the flight of a swallow, or the leaping of a fish!

## Quote of the Week



"It is only with gratitude that life becomes rich!"  
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# Weekly Gatherings

## Bible Classes

Old & New Testament Classes  
Ladies Class  
Young Adults    Young Parents  
Youth            Surge  
Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM



## Weekday Meetings

Mondays | 7PM  
Men's Bible Study  
1st and 3rd Saturday  
Women of Grace | 9AM



## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
every other week @ Chambers, Cox's,  
Patrick's, Brown's and Royall's



## Build the Body Teams

If you would like to serve on a BtB Team  
and forgot to sign up, please contact the  
team leader at the appropriate email  
address.



## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study and AWANA!



## Service Times

Sunday Services 8AM & 11:00AM  
Sunday School 9:30AM  
Children's Church @11:00AM



Giving from service on 11/13/2022

General Offering ..... 7,306.23  
Building Fund ..... 941.20  
Uganda ..... 170.00  
Total.....8,417.43

Attendance ..... 244  
Sunday School ..... 187  
Online.....23

## Build the Body Ministries

Women's Ministry-women@ghbcva.org  
AWANA-awana@ghbcva.org  
Outreach Ministry-outreach@ghbcva.org  
Worship Ministry-worship@ghbcva.org  
Men's Ministry-men@ghbcva.org  
Children's Ministry-children@ghbcva.org  
Youth Ministry-youth@ghbcva.org  
Prayer Team-prayer@ghbcva.org  
Maintenance-maintenance@ghbcva.org  
Fellowship-fellowship@ghbcva.org  
Communications-communications@ghbcva.org  
Front Line-frontline@ghbcva.org  
Security-security@ghbcva.org



ghbcva.org | 804.561.3742  
9821 South Redfield Drive, Amelia, VA 23002

# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Nov 20, 2022

Welcome

