

# Pastor's Pen

## Giving Thanks

*And having said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all. And he broke it and began to eat.* Acts 27:35

This Thursday, we will celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a national holiday that was established in our country by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 and passed into law in 1870 by Congress. But did you know the date of the Thanksgiving holiday was not set? It was left to the discretion of the sitting President. With few exceptions, each President until Franklin D. Roosevelt followed Lincoln's lead by declaring the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. President Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the third Thursday of November. Why? To extend the Christmas shopping season in order to help businesses still suffering from the lingering effects of the Great Depression.

As Christians, we don't need a date set aside by the government to give thanks. But have you ever wondered why Christians give thanks at every meal? It's because we follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Matthew recorded that before He fed the 5000, He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up toward heaven, He blessed the food (Matthew 14:19). He also blessed the bread that He broke at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26). Paul after being in the storm on a ship heading to Rome Paul encouraged those who were guarding and transporting him to take food because they had not eaten food for fourteen days. He then took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of all (Acts 27:33-36).

In these modern times, especially in America, there are very few who go hungry for more than a few hours. As I matter of fact, there has never been a time in my life that I have gone without food to the point I was worried about where my next meal would come from. Living in such abundance has caused many to take for granted where their food comes from. Jesus Himself taught us to ask God for our daily food. Yet when it is as easy as looking in the refrigerator or our cabinets for our food, we can become complacent and think God has nothing to do with my "daily bread". Giving genuine thanks at every meal reminds us where all of our blessings come from.

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving and let us never forget the greatest blessing God gave to each of us who declare His Son Lord and Savior, that is, eternal life with God forever.

Your shepherd,

Pastor Mark Wells

## Quote of the Week

"What peace can they have who are not at peace with God?"  
-Matthew Henry

# Grace Gems

"A Happy Old Age"  
1870 Ashton Oxenden

Oh, this is a sad sight!-  
One would think that the longer a person lived, the more willing he would be to leave his present earthly abode. But this is not always the case.

Sometimes, alas! we see very aged people clinging to this world even more tightly than the young. We see them close to the grave's mouth—and yet loving the riches, the pleasures, the trifles of this world with all their affections! Oh, this is a sad sight! It is sad to see a poor dying creature entering upon a solemn eternity—with a heart glued to the world which he is leaving, and full of its concerns!

When this is the case with a Christian, God often in mercy sends us some affliction. He withers our gourds which have grown up around us, that He may lead us to seek a truer and a safer shelter. He sees that we are too fond of these clay cottages of ours; so He makes the walls to crumble, that we may be content to leave them at His call.

Look at your growing infirmities, dear reader—as so many mercies. Let them serve to remind you that you will not be here always, and that this world "is not your rest, because it is polluted!" Let your growing infirmities make you long for that happier land, where there shall be no more old age; where sorrow and sighing shall be unknown; and where "the inhabitant shall never say, I am sick."

Oh, it is well for us that all is not health, and strength, and sunshine here—else we would be even fonder than we are, of our present earthly home.

"But our citizenship is in Heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body!" Philippians 3:20-21



# 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  
Wednesdays | 6:30PM AWANA

## Family Groups

Thursdays @ 7PM  
Please check church website  
for start date and directions to each

## Build the Body Teams

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

## Youth Study

Wednesdays @6:30PM  
Youth Study & Surge!

## Service Times

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

Giving from service on 11/12/2023

General Offering .....	10,450.92
Building Fund .....	6,347.00
Uganda Missions .....	177.00
Benevolence .....	52.00

Total.....\$17,026.92  
Attendance ..... 222

## 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



Grace Harvest  
Baptist Church  
go • gather • grow • go



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# Grace Harvest Baptist Church

Nov 19, 2023

Welcome