

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

October - 2023

AMAZING GRACE

Portions by Pastor Paul M. Sadler



Except on the third Sunday of each month, we at Avalon Grace Church end our worship service each Sunday morning by singing the first verse of the timeless truths of John Newton's hymn "Amazing Grace:"

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me I once was lost, but now I'm found was blind but now I see.

All of us can relate: we were all lost but now we are found because of Jesus Christ!

1 Timothy 1:15 "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."

In the little town of Olney, England stands a large granite tombstone. If you were to kneel down in front of this stately stone you would read the following inscription:

"John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and Libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to

destroy." (101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck, Amazing Grace, page 28, Kregel Publications, Grand Rapids, Michigan.)

The story of John Newton's conversion is quite remarkable. As a young man he lived a life of utter debauchery and rebellion against God and his fellowman. During these years his mother prayed for him without ceasing and frequently shared the gospel with him. At a very young age he took over his father's slave trading business, transporting slaves between South Africa and England.

He recounts how on one of the return voyages to England a storm came up at sea in the middle of the night. Apparently, that old ship was nearly torn apart by the raging ocean, causing the vessel to take on water. As the waves violently swept over the bow of the ship it appeared as though there was little hope of surviving the ordeal.

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**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
(Newsletter Editor Kathleen Smith)**

All Are Welcome!

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday messages available on website)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Thursday Evening Bible Study
Currently Suspended**

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: . . ." - Ephesians 3:9

Amazing Grace (continued)

God has interesting ways of getting our attention, (consider Jonah's example)! When we are faced with our own mortality we quickly turn to spiritual things! As Newton pondered his spiritual condition, he reached into his belongings and took out a little book entitled, "The Imitation of Christ," by Thomas Kempis that his mother had given to him shortly before her death.

That evening he read the entire book from cover to cover and as a result he trusted Christ as his personal Savior. Soon thereafter he began to preach the faith he had long sought to destroy.

Literally thousands came to hear this old sea captain share how Christ had saved him from the depths of sin. In addition to becoming an advocate for the abolition of slavery, John Newton is probably best known as the author of the beloved hymn *Amazing Grace*.

Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

JOHN NEWTON'S HEART:

"Depend upon it, our hearts are all alike. To know that they are deceitful and desperately wicked, and to look to Jesus for mercy, help, and salvation—are, I think, the greatest attainments we can rise to in this imperfect state."

"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am. Although my memory's fading, I remember two things very clearly: I am a great sinner and Christ is a great Savior."

PAUL'S HEART:

Ephesians 2: 8-9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast."

Romans 10:1 "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."

Romans 10: 8-9 "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which

we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10: 11-13 "For the Scripture saith, whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

I think John Newton, was very much like our Apostle Paul in terms of rebellion and ignorance of what God did for them. Before they trusted Christ, both sought to destroy the gospel that later, because of God's mercy and grace, they embraced and preached until their deaths. Both considered themselves the worst of sinners and had a longing and desire that their countrymen might be saved.

You know, we do the same. We long for family members, friends, neighbors, and countrymen to be saved. There is no greater calling from Our Lord than to share Jesus and pray for the lost; it's hard work for sure; but the fruit of our labor will one day come to fruition in Christ!

To God be the glory, Pastor Phil

The Ship of Life by John T. Baker

Along the shore I spy a ship
As she sets out to sea;
She spreads her sails and sniffs the breeze
And slips away from me.
I watch her fading image shrink,
As she moves on and on,
Until at last she's but a speck,
Then someone says, "She's gone."
Gone where? Gone only from our sight
And from our farewell cries;
That ship will somewhere reappear
To other eager eyes.

Beyond the dim horizon's rim
Resound the welcome drums,
And while we're crying, "There she goes!"
They're shouting, "Here she comes!"
We're built to cruise for but a while
Upon this trackless sea
Until one day we sail away
Into eternity.

Looking ahead . . .



Each year, Avalon Grace Church supports and participates in Samaritan's Purse worldwide ministry, "Operation Christmas Child." It is wonderful to know that our small fellowship is a part of a greater worldwide ministry in bringing joy to children at Christmas with the good news of Jesus Christ! National Collection Week is November 13 - 20.

God is at work in the lives of these little ones and we want to collect small toys to fill shoeboxes for children needing hope by bringing the good news of Jesus and His love for them; and that He died for them and rose again to bring them to heaven one day. With every shoebox that is filled with toys and practical gifts, we include the gospel message. We never know how God will use His Word to reach a young child's heart - or even their parent's heart - but we do know that God's Word will never return void. (Isaiah 55:11).

Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry with your monetary gifts and little toys, stuffed animals, coloring books, and more to gladden a young child's heart. Please see Janet McClellan with any questions you may have. Stay tuned for more information in January 2024 about Operation Christmas Child ministry and how many shoeboxes we as a church body sent off to little children throughout the world. Thank you! Pastor Phil



Let's Gather and Give Thanks together!

We are nearing that wonderful time of year in which we express our thanks and appreciation to God for all His blessings in our lives as we

celebrate Thanksgiving. You are invited to join our church family and share Thanksgiving Dinner with us this year in Fellowship Hall, on Thursday, November 23rd (time to be determined). Please let Janet McClellan know if you plan to attend by November 19th. You don't have to do a thing! There will be many hands preparing a delicious feast including turkey, stuffing and all the traditional fixings with home-made pumpkin pie and sumptuous desserts and more!



October Reflections . . .

OCTOBER'S PARTY

By George Cooper



October gave a party;
The leaves by hundreds came-
The Chestnuts, Oaks, and Maples,
And leaves of every name.
The Sunshine spread a carpet,
And everything was grand,
Miss Weather led the dancing,
Professor Wind the band.

The Chestnuts came in yellow,
The Oaks in crimson dressed;
The lovely Misses Maple
In scarlet looked their best;
All balanced to their partners,
And gaily fluttered by;
The sight was like a rainbow
New fallen from the sky.



Then, in the rustic hollow,
At hide-and-seek they played,
The party closed at sundown,
And everybody stayed.
Professor Wind played louder;
They flew along the ground;
And then the party ended
In jolly "hands around."



AUTUMN

By Julie L. O'Connor

There's a crispness in the air
that greets the morning sun
a feeling of anticipation,
a new day has begun.

Harvest days are ending,
winter is drawing near,
yet in between is surely
the most special time of year.



They call it Indian Summer
and it seems to fit the bill,
for it's as if the Lord took a feathered brush
and painted all the hills.



Now as I sit contented
atop of one of these,
a book in hand to pass the time
the sound of a gentle breeze.

I can almost imagine an Indian child
upon this mountaintop,
looking down at the land of her forefathers
lost within her thoughts.

For in every persons lifetime
some heartache may occur,
but on these hills in quiet solitude
God helps us to endure.



So I say that the eyes are a window,
beauty is found within the soul,
and upon the hills of Autumn,
that are strewn with red and gold.



Coloring for Jesus



“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

-Matthew 5:16





October 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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5th Sharon Riedel
19th Marcine Cooney

COMING IN NOVEMBER
5th 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast
23rd Thanksgiving Dinner at Avalon Grace Church

1 9:45 Sunday Breakfast 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 AM Sunday Worship The LORD's Supper Observed 10:45 AM Children's	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School	30 Halloween	31				