

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

November 2021

Try Thanksgiving



Gently Lifted from Our Daily Bread Ministries, November 2020

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High:

To shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the psaltery; upon the harp with a solemn sound.

For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy work: I will triumph in the works of thy hands.

O LORD, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep.

A brutish man knoweth not; neither doth a fool understand this.

When the wicked spring as the grass, and when all the workers of iniquity do flourish; it is that they shall be destroyed for ever: But thou, LORD, art most high for evermore.

For, lo, thine enemies, O LORD, for, lo, thine enemies shall perish; all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered."
– Psalm 92:1-9 KJV

When we're going through a difficult time, we may not feel particularly grateful. Yet, even in periods of suffering and fear, we can thank God for His abundant promises and unfailing goodness.

When we do express our gratitude to God, a wonderful change takes place within us.

Henry W. Frost, veteran missionary to China, discovered this for himself. He said, "I had received sad news from home, and deep shadows had covered my soul. I prayed, but the darkness did not vanish. I summoned myself to endure, but the darkness only deepened. Then I went to an inland station and saw on the wall of the mission home these words: Try Thanksgiving. I did, and in a moment every shadow was gone, not to return. Yes, the psalmist was right. 'It is good to give thanks to the Lord.'"



AVALON GRACE CHURCH
3801 GUILFORD ROAD
NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112
(239) 774-4214

avalongracechurchofnaples@gmail.com
www.avalongracechurch.com

Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday Messages available on website)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

"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

Try Thanksgiving (Continued from Page 1)



Perhaps you have felt a shadow come over your spiritual life recently. Or maybe you're struggling under heavy burdens that seem unbearable.

If so, bow your head and thank the Lord for all He has done for you. Tell Him you know He loves

you and has not abandoned you. Express your gratitude for your salvation, for life itself, and for the good things He has given you.

Then you will begin to experience for yourself the blessing of thanksgiving.

Janet and our entire family wish you a very Blessed Thanksgiving celebration!

~ Pastor Phil



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 15 - 22.

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 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, etc. to gladden a young child's heart. Please see Janet McClellan with any questions you may have. Stay tuned for more information in January 2022 about Operation Christmas Child ministry and how many shoeboxes we as a church body send off to little children throughout the world.

Thank you! ~ Pastor Phil



BIBLE STUDY

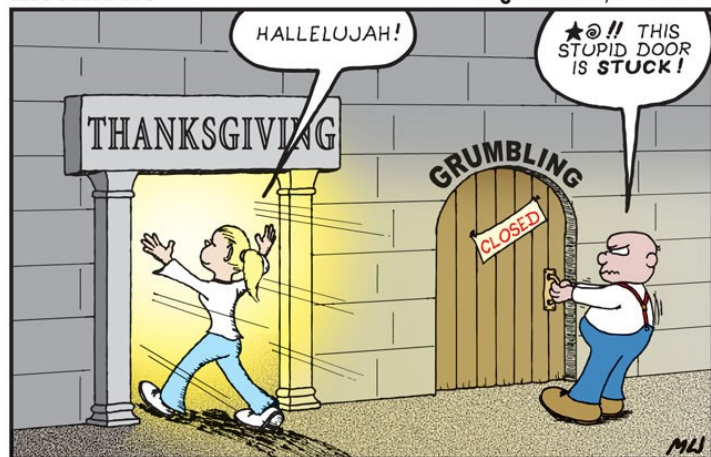
Our Weekly Bible Study will not meet on Thanksgiving Day, but will resume on Thursday, December 2nd at 6:00 PM.

If you are able, please join us in Fellowship Hall or online via Microsoft Teams.



ENTER IN

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. PSALM 100:4 KJV

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“Blessed be the LORD my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.” – Psalm 144:1-2

November 11, 2021

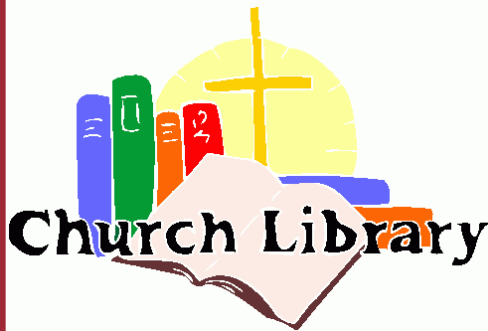
Veteran's Day is a day to thank our men and women in uniform for their service to our country. God bless you Veterans!

When someone joins the military they swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The enlistment oath ends with these words - *“So help me God.”*

Long before our US Armed Forces were fighting for freedom and peace, the Israelites fought for the same ideals and they too asked God for His help.

The Bible is full of accounts of battles and wars. God directed and blessed the army of Israel through many battles. Nations who battled without God’s blessing rarely claimed victory. But those who trusted in God and fought for legitimate reasons found His favor.

We honor the service and sacrifice of those who have fought for our freedom throughout the years. For those who have protected and served, we offer a heartfelt “thank you.” Our armed forces engage in a task that few can claim- to honorably serve and protect their country, including giving up their life if necessary. To all who served, thank you!



Paul wrote to Timothy, "The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments." 2 Timothy 4:13.

Paul had need of books: how much more the growing Christian of today needs the stimulus of books for reference, for Bible study, for inspiration in Christian living!

Spurgeon wrote of Paul, "He was inspired, and yet he wants books! He has been preaching for thirty years, and yet he wants books! He has seen the Lord, and yet he wants books! He has a wider experience than most men do, and yet he wants books! He had been caught up into the very heaven, and had heard things that it was not lawful for a man to utter, and yet he wants books! He had written the major part of the New Testament, and yet he wants books!"

Avalon Grace Church’s library has been recently re-organized; our Library is a lending one; and is in itself a teaching tool, a wealth of references and books available for study and individual reading. We are indeed a “Lending Library.” The library supports the mission of the church as well as the growth of individual members' faith.

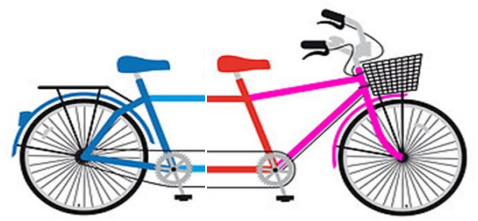
Please feel free to take a book or two for your individual reading or study.

In addition, there are excellent Christian DVD movies (old and new) that are available for you to take home and enjoy on a lending basis.

All we ask is that when you are finished with a book or DVD, please return same to the Lending Library so that others are able to enjoy these resources too!

Thank you!

A Tandem Ride With God



Author Unknown; article appeared in the January 2016 issue of the Lancaster County Edition of the Fish Wrapper

At first, I saw God as my observer, my judge, keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I really didn't know Him.

But later on, when I met Christ, it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed Christ was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was that He suggested we change places, but life has not been the same since. When I had control, I knew the way. It was rather boring, but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But, when He took the lead, He knew delightful detours, up mountains, and through rocky places at breakneck speeds. It was all I could do to hang on! Even though it looked like madness, He said, "Pedal!"

I was worried and anxious and I asked, "Where are you taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer, and I started to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into the adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared," He would lean back and touch my hand. He took me to people with gifts that I needed—gifts of healing, acceptance, and joy. They gave me gifts to take on my journey, my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again! He said, "Give the gifts away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving, I received, yet still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him at first in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it; but He knows bike secrets—knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, knows how to jump to clear high rocks, knows how to fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to be quiet and pedal in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze in my face as I travel with my constant companion, friend, and LORD, Jesus Christ.

And, when I'm sure I just can't do anymore, He just smiles and says, "Pedal!"

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to you on this day for giving thanks, mindful of your many gifts.
For each one, we are grateful.
For each one, we are blessed.
For each one we are opened to the abundance of your love.
May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder to be generous with others, as you are with us.
We praise you.
We rejoice in you.
We give you thanks.
Amen.



On behalf of the congregation at Avalon Grace Church, Jim Anderson and Richard Smith presented Pastor Phil with a big "Thank You" and token of appreciation for all his work he does for the LORD, and his dedication in edifying and encouraging all of us! Thank you Pastor Phil, and to Janet, & the McClellan family as well in serving God. (Eph. 4:11)

Coloring for Jesus

Happy Thanksgiving



“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.” - Psalm 100:4



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida

November 2021



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|----------------|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Set Your Clocks Back  |
| 7 9:45 Sunday Breakfast 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School Daylight Saving Time ends | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11  6:00 PM Bible Study | 12 | 13 |
| 14 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 6:00 PM Bible Study | 19 | 20 |
| 21 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26 | 27 |
| 28 10:30 AM Sunday Worship 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School | 29  | 30 Hanukkah | | | | |



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



- 2nd** Jeff Stahl
- 11th** Josh Barrett
- 19th** Jessica Stevens
- 24th** Ray Holsemback

COMING IN DECEMBER

- 6th** 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast