

The Witness

Volume XXII, Issue XI

Newsletter

November 2024

Peace! A Natural Result of Thanksgiving!

Where does peace come from? Is it knowing God hears our prayer? To a degree, yes. But what if we are praying wrong?

Is it expecting God to answer our prayer? To a degree, yes. But what if He has different plans for us?

Philippians 4:6-7 says “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

Of course prayer is essential to us having peace. We take all things to God, as He desires us to do. But the source of peace goes beyond merely asking of God. It is the confidence that we have in Him as we pray. He gets it right when we get it wrong. He knows, with true perspective, when we are caught up in our little world. Peace comes as we interact with Him, and leave it there, as we trust Him by faith to continue to be faithful in our lives. We are giving thanks even as we pray, because we know of this faithfulness. This is our source of peace.

Peace comes from the heart that is thankful as it prays (confident in His appropriate response). We can rest in Him as we take our heart’s concerns to Him. In a sense, my thankfulness is equivalent to faith in Him.

I am thankful that He has it under control – I trust Him by faith that He does not create chaos. I am thankful that He will work all things so that I grow in Christ – I trust Him by faith to always be at the task – I trust Him by faith to always be active in my life.

We think of thankfulness as a reflection of praise for what He has already done. And it is. I am reminded of His faithfulness in my life and give thanks for it. However, I also have faith that He continues that work even now and into the future. I am thankful (an act of faith) because I am confident, that He is active in my life now and will be into the future.

By faith I release my cares and trust in Him. I am at peace because I am already thankful for what He will do.

As we approach a national time of thanksgiving, let us reflect on what God has already done in our lives, and give thanks. But also let us anticipate God still at

work and give thanks for what He continues to do – He will continue to be faithful. As we do, we will find the peace of God that comes to those who live by faith – or can I say, live thankful for what God will yet do in our lives.

Pastor Danny

At-A-Glance:

September’s Gifts: \$19,078.⁰⁰
2024 Gifts : \$188,794.⁶²
2024 Budget: \$287,270.⁰⁰

Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**
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Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**
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Fall Fest Report

Thank you to everyone who came out to help at our Fall Fest! We had a GREAT turnout (around 200 people came through), some fun fellowship, delicious food, and just an overall good afternoon. It was awesome to be able to serve our community. Also, I was very pleased with the turnout from our Youth! They showed up and showed out!

- Dennis

October Youth Ministry

This month, we had a pretty good month in youth. On Wednesday nights, we looked at different Old Testament stories that displayed faith over fear. Meanwhile on Sunday mornings, we focused on some of deeper questions we may have regarding our faith, such as doubt, suffering, and our identity.

The highlight of our month was our trip to serve at Mission Arlington. Sixteen of our students went with Sam and I to serve there. We helped distribute food, load trucks for their store, pray with people, and help get a room ready for their Fall Fest and Thanksgiving events. It was great to see our students act out their faith!

Side-note: Thank y'all for the kind messages and gifts for Pastor Appreciation Month. Sam, Adah, and I felt quite loved and appreciated.

Thank you,
Dennis and Sam

November Outreach – Seasons of Reflections

November begins a time of transition. Less external church activity. More reflection on Christ, and what He has done. November/December can be significant time of reevaluation and commitment to Christ.

Fall Festival is done. By the time you read this, Family and Friends Day will most likely be complete. Two huge days for the church. As I write this, I am expecting that these days were significant (by faith, since they are yet future for me at the moment).

November offers times to reflect on how Christ has already been at work in our lives. As a church we have Pies and Praise Sunday Night Fellowship on November 17th at 6:00. We will gather to eat desserts and praise our Savior – sort of an ol' time singing. An appropriate time for praise and thanks.

Since it is early in December, let me also mention the Church Christmas Dinner that will happen on Saturday, December 7. Later in the month will be a Sunday Evening candlelight service that will celebrate the Nativity – but that is for next month.

Holiday months are busy personally and with family. And appropriately so. But let us keep focused spiritually as well. Christ is the reason for both seasons - Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Pastor Danny

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.

She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

Pray and consider how you may give to this offering! 100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enables gospel transformation among the unreached.