



I know! The above verse you would expect to see in the **November** newsletter-the season of **Thanksgiving**. However, as I am writing this missive the week before going on a long overdue vacation, so that Sharron will not have to be delayed by my impending departure, and late return, I am surely thankful.

Of course, I should tell you that I consider **thankfulness for life** itself as a good starting point for those of us who live in a time wherein it seems we are more willing to see what is wrong with the world **than** what is wonderful. We are, after all, more prone to listening to the **voices of doom** on **Facebook**, podcasts, and those entities that pretend to report the news when in fact they tend more toward talking heads making news. Personally, I liked it better when the news was more like Joe Friday on the old TV show "**Dragnet**": "**All we want are the facts, ma'am,**" which is often misquoted as "**Just the facts, ma'am.**" Sergeant Friday never said the latter, just so you know.

Here is a **truth** that we do not like to acknowledge: **The more we feel we are owed, the less able we are to be grateful for what we have.** We, I believe, live in a culture that cultivates dissatisfaction, always prompting us to hunger for more. Thus, gratitude for faith, family, and the blessings of friendship **often pales** in the clutter of possessions and promises that surround us. Strangely enough, I am seeing in my own life that all those possessions that Mo and I once sought after, e.g., books and records that we have laboriously moved through each new appointment, we now find ourselves gladly taking to the **Goodwill** store...to be sold for a dollar. Go figure.

Listen, my friends, there is **only one promise** in life that is sure: **the salvation of God.** You and I have been **rescued** from the **power of darkness** and **transferred into the kingdom of light.** I know! There are days wherein we may wonder. Again, we are a culture that is more willing to see what is wrong with the world rather than what is wonderful. The salvation of God is the one promise in life that is sure. And for people in many parts of the world, that is sufficient to make them grateful all their days. Would that it was true for more of us.

Being in ministry has been a blessing for me, for I have seen what it is to have, and to not have. There have been days when I have wondered how Mo and I made it on our income, while still providing for our sons the opportunities, and simple pleasures, like what their friends had-Friday night movies and pizza, sports camps, a college education, etc. And then there have been days when I pondered how did we get so fortunate.

And those possessions that we, like so many, chased after? Well, there is a certain joy to be found in **downsizing**...giving them away in some cases...and seeing the excitement on the faces of those who received. Or maybe it was the look of: **What are we supposed to do with this...stuff?**

Now, I find myself enjoying time. Time to take quiet walks with my wife. Time to ponder the stars in the heavens. Time to see the monthly/seasonal changes in a Full Moon. Time spent attempting to master my Mandolin. Time to ponder anew the glimpses of God's glory, even when I have moments when I can't help but see the darkness that is around me...but then I remember this: Sometimes you need the darkness to see the light.

In all my circumstances, I have learned to give thanks!

Stay faithful; stay encouraged.

**Still in His Peace,**  
Pastor William

Up-coming Dates:

Friday and Saturday, October 17th and 18th and 24th and 25th : We need volunteers to help with Fair Parking at the church. See Kent Gibson.

Friday, 31 October: Trunk or Treat and Blessing of the Animals in the Church Parking lot.

Sunday, 2 November: All Saints' Sunday (Remembering those who have entered the Church Triumphant.) Daylight Savings Time ends. Set your clocks back on Saturday night.

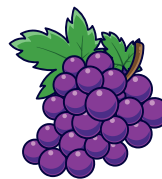
Sunday, 2 November, 3:00 PM at White Plains UMC: Charge Conference

Sunday, 16 November: Homecoming and Thanksgiving Meal, one service ONLY at 11:00.

Saturday, 29 November: Decorate the Church for Christmas.

*Please mark your calendars and plan to be with us. (More dates and events on page 3.)*





We all have different uses of the word “worship”. It’s a verb – “Let’s go and worship!” It’s a noun – “Let’s go TO worship!” Worship is often confined to a building on one day out of the week. The word worship can divide people on the basis of style and content. But those are the peripheral issues involving worship. We are missing the most critical question of all – Why Worship? Why do we do it? What are the benefits?

This 4 part series on the benefits of worship are meant to highlight why we were created to worship. Worship is not for God’s benefit. He’s not on some colossal, universal ego trip and in need of millions of people to tell Him how great He is. No, we were created to worship because God designed us to need and benefit from worship. Think of worship as medicine for our soul. Just as we need blood pressure or heart medicine for our physical bodies, we need the medicine of worship for our spirits and souls. So, let’s begin by looking at the benefits of this holy medicine for our lives...

### **Worship “Lifts”...**

**1. Our Heads** - We spend a great deal of our time on this earth looking at our metaphorical “shoes”. The world and it’s earthly concerns cause us to lose our gaze at our heavenly father, and as a result we are focused downward. We’re not going to find the answers to our life challenges on our shoes! King David wrote in Psalm 24:

***“Lift up your heads, you mighty gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.” Psalm 24:7***

The context of this verse is King David asking “who may ascend the hill, who will stand on the holy hill.” The life giving power is located UP towards God, not on the ground. As we worship the living God, our eyes and head are focused on the true giver of life. In short, when we worship, we’re lookin’ where should be lookin’!

**2. Our Perspective** – We rely too much on our own perspective – particularly when we’re in the midst of trials and tribulations. Using weather as a metaphor – we need Doplar Radar, don’t we? Without it, when the storms are raging around, we don’t how bad it is or how long it will last. But Doplar radar gives the extent and the size of the storm so we can be prepared.

In the same way, worship gives us a “God’s Eye View” of our problems. When we spend time in His presence, He can point out the upcoming difficulties, encourage us with His word that He has our back. In short, we can receive the confidence of seeing the forest, not just the trees! Isaiah said it well...

***“...but those that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles.” Isaiah 40:31***

I don’t know about you, but I’d love to have the eagle’s view of the world around us. Imagine soaring above our problems and challenges in life – seeing the entire field of view. That’s what worship can provide to us – vision!

**3. Our Hope** – We have a hope for tomorrow because God pours out His love into us when we worship Him.

***“And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.” Romans 5:5***

Worship is the “in-filling” of His Holy Spirit – giving us hope when there’s only despair around us. We can discover confidence, encouragement, answered prayers in the midst of our worship, and all of that projects hope for tomorrow, and hope for our life challenges. Worship is a hope giver!

Worship lifts us to a higher realm where we can see God, His plan, His hope. It like that feeling as a child when your Daddy put you up on his shoulders. Oh, how the world looks from atop your father’s shoulders. So, let’s lift our gaze and our hearts – there’s a great big God up there!

## *Craft circle and UWF*

Craft circle will meet Saturday, October 4 at 10:00 AM. We'll be making Gratitude Jars!

Bring-your-own lunch will be at 12:00 (all are welcome!)

United Women of Faith book study follows at about 12:30. We'll be talking about Chapter 7, Tamar.



There will be no movie or game night in October. Movie night will return in November.



## *Mark your calendar*

Oct 4 Craft circle 10:00 AM  
Oct 4 UWF lunch 12:00 PM  
Oct 4 book study 12:30 PM  
Oct 17 & 18, 24 & 25 Fair parking  
Oct 31 5:30-7:00PM Trunk or Treat & Blessing of the animals  
Nov 1 Craft circle, UWF lunch and book study  
Nov 2 All Saints Sunday  
Nov 2 Charge Conference 3:00 PM  
Nov 16 Homecoming worship service 11:00 AM only  
Nov 16 Homecoming/Westover Thanksgiving lunch  
Nov 29 Decorate church for Advent 10:00 AM  
Dec 6 UWF lunch  
Dec 6 Children's Christmas party 3:00-4:30 PM

## *State Fair Parking*

We'll be parking cars again this year during the NC State Fair weekends. This was a great fundraiser for Westover last year! If you are willing to help on the Fridays and Saturdays, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, please contact Kent Gibson at 919-614-3169.



## *Trunk or Treat*

Westover will be hosting Trunk or Treat and Blessing of the Animals again this year! Please join us, decorate your car (a little or a lot) and pass out treats to the cute little characters that will visit us.

In case of rain, we will move to the fellowship hall and pretend that tables are our cars.

There is a flyer at the end of this newsletter. Feel free to print it and share with families. Please come and bring a friend! Questions? Please contact Sharron Gibson.



❖ *Flappy Birthday* ❖

## *Happy birthday to:*

4 Budd Batts  
6 Christa Crowder Doerr  
7 Shannon Fisher  
10 Phyllis Danskin  
17 Kristen Anne Lowsky  
19 Danny Poole  
26 Deniece Land  
26 Lynne Price  
27 Yemi Adebisi  
27 Richard Gradle, Jr.  
30 Becky Rogers  
31 Bruce Smith



*If you have information or questions about the newsletter, please contact Sharron at [Sharron.Gibson9194@gmail.com](mailto:Sharron.Gibson9194@gmail.com)*

# Trunk or Treat and Blessing of the Animals

Westover United Methodist Church  
300 Powell Dr Raleigh



## October 31



## 5:30-7:00 PM



**Treats and  
Games for  
Children?**

**In the case of rain,  
we will move to the fellowship hall.**

**Treats and  
blessing for  
pets?**

