­Pastor’s Corner

November is here – that means the pastor is supposed to write about thankfulness and gratitude, right? After all, it’s the Thanksgiving month! So, of course I wanted to share some thoughts about thanks and being thankful in this article. But to be honest, they are thoughts I should foster and develop and share year-round, not just in the days of November when night comes early and turkeys roast in the pan.

Thankfulness can seem a bit affected, and gratitude a bit shallow, if we’re not careful. Why? Because we tend to fall towards one side of the spectrum or the other: we either express gratitude over every little thing to every single person with an over-the-top approach, or we take things for granted or even as our due and rarely utter a word of thanks. We may even say the words of thankfulness, but then discover we have treated people we’ve said them to as if their contribution or gift or presence is anything but something we appreciate. Gratitude is something we don’t fully have a handle on, at least a good chunk of the time. I certainly don’t.

I think part of it, for me at least and maybe for you, is that we don’t fully comprehend the blessings of God in our lives. I’m reminded of the story of the 10 lepers in Luke 17, a story we recently looked at in Sunday School. Jesus spoke a word of healing over ten men afflicted with the social stigma of a skin disease. He sent them to show themselves to the priests – what you did in those days to show you were cured and could reenter society. Along the way, the healing happened. Did the ten lepers run back to thank Jesus? No – only one did, a Samaritan. Why him and not the others? Did he feel less obligation to follow the rules of Jewish Law? Perhaps. But more fundamentally, I think he had a better understanding of gratitude. He was not just an exile because of his leprosy, he was an outcast because of his ethnicity and religion. Where the other lepers may have felt God owed them something, or at least that his blessing was normal, the Samaritan understood how incredible this gift of God’s healing was. He knew how important it was that Jesus reached across boundaries and included him. He felt the overwhelming gratitude of one who recognizes the tremendous work of God in his life. And so he returned and gave thanks.

Are we like the Samaritan? Do we recognize what God has done? Or – for whatever reason – does it not register with us? Do we expect God’s blessing to come easily and often? Do we see it as our due? Do we take God’s great love for granted – as expressed in personal benefit, family love, and the like? This Thanksgiving, may we be like the Samaritan. May we understand the depth of our need, may we comprehend the greatness of God’s love, and may we be thankful for the grace and the power of God in our lives.

In Christ,
Adam

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**Alma Hunt Mission Offering**—Thank you so much for all of your contributions to our October Alma Hunt Mission Offering.  **Our goal was $5,700 and our total collection was $7,247!!**  Wow!  You are amazing and remember that these funds will be used for missions around the state, nation and world.

From the Deacons

Greetings! The Deacon Council is keeping busy. We appreciate Josh Harrison and Tim Peterson serving as Deacons of the Month during November. Hank Davis and Janice Marston are Deacons of the Month for December.

During November, the Deacon Council met to share their work with the Family Ministry work. They also are reviewing the administration of the Benevolence Fund and are discussing ways to serve the needs of the church and community. As colder weather nears, we recognize that requests for electrical and heating assistance will increase. We welcome your suggestions and thoughts.

A responsibility of the Deacon Council is to support and assist the pastor in ministry. The Pastor shared with the council the Christian ministry he is leading at Grace Hills. He also represents Grace Hills as the BGAV President-Elect. During 2020, Reverend Tyler will represent Grace Hills as the Baptist General Association of Virginia President. We congratulate him on this honor. During November, deacons will be praying for Reverend Tyler and his work. You are encouraged to join in daily prayer for our pastor.

The Deacon Council is a ministry of service and Christian love. If you are aware of those for whom we should pray, visit, or assist, please contact any deacon.

May the grace and peace of God and His great blessings be with you,
 Janice Marston, Chair

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***Happenings ~ November 2019***

What an amazing event this year’s Community Senior Fair “More about Keeping a Healthy Heart and Mind” held on September 23rd, 2019 was! More than 120 participants and vendors shared a packed room and an informative time with guest speakers Dr. Mike Valentine and Mrs. Linda Peters. Numerous local and regional vendors also shared information about their services and products. We feel blessed as a Good Neighbor Council by your prayers and support.

Coming up next for Good Neighbor is the Centra Mammography Unit which will be at Grace Hills on November 23rd. Appreciation is expressed to Shirley Walton for her leadership with event for the eighth consecutive year.

Good Neighbor continues to staff the center on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. We also are reaching out to two young families by providing several group fellowship events and mentorship as needed. Please let us know if you are willing to help or want to be involved.

 Blessings,
The Good Neighbor Team

🎶 🎶 **MUSIC NOTES** 🎶 🎶

December 1st will bring a special opportunity for handbells, as they will travel to Mt. Comfort Methodist Church to present an evening program in recognition of the Methodist Women's Evening Christmas Banquet there.  Grace Hills members, you can join us for the program in the sanctuary of Mt. Comfort Church:  many of you know how to get there; if you do not, drive out of Appomattox, going by Walmart, continuing on through Penn's Lane, then turn left onto Lime Plant Road.  The church will be on your right very shortly, and there is a large parking area for your convenience.  The program will be completely Christmas music, and you will enjoy it.  Come join us as we ring at Mt. Comfort, and greet your friends there.

Morning worship on December 1st will be filled with the lovely sounds of Susan Manion on flute, accompanying the choir and piano.  Susan often volunteers her talents to enhance our worship music.  We are delighted to welcome her back to Grace Hills for the first Sunday of Advent.

The children's Christmas play this December will require 9 or 10 large "letter" posters, decorated appropriately with enlarged letters and Christmas symbols.  I need several artists to do this work.  Please speak to me at church or text me at 221-2738 if you would like to do one of these letter posters for the play.  I plan to keep them and use them during Advent in corridors or in the fellowship hall.  What a great opportunity for those of you who know you are gifted artistically.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in music at Grace Hills,

Nancy Williams

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**Wednesday Dinners**

**November 13 -** Thanksgiving Dinner - Roasted Turkey, Dressing, Creamed Potatoes, Butterbeans, Assorted Pies

**December 11 -** Christmas Dinner - Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Broccoli Casserole, Banana Pudding

The Hospitality Committee respectfully requests that reservations be made by Monday before each dinner, by calling 434-352-8847 or emailing ghbcoffice@yahoo.com. Suggested donation is $5.00/adults and $2.00/youth.

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**Seenagers’ Upcoming Events**

* On November 4th, the Seenagers will meet at Granny Bee’s for a prayer breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

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**Christmas Craft & Vendor Show**

Grace Hills will be hosting our annual Christmas Craft & Vendor Show on November 23rd from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  The proceeds from the show will go to our community missions, which includes Vacation Bible School.  If you are interested in contributing to the bake sale or having a space at the craft show, please contact Lara Peterson.

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Grace hills early learning center
Director: Leslie Galloway Bookkeeper: Lisa Dawson
Phone: (434) 352-2273 Fax: (434) 352-4422 Email: gracehillselc@aol.com

* Chapel Mondays November 4th and 18th at 9:15 a.m.
* ELC Council meeting: November 12th at 4:00 p.m.
* ELC Closed: Thursday and Friday November 28th and 29th

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**Grace Hills Baptist Church**

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Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 9:00am – 5:00pm (open later on Mondays, and closed Tuesdays and Thursdays after 11:00am). Submissions for our Deceember Newsletter are due 11/15/19 by 5:00pm. Contact the office anytime to update your information or to request a digital copy of the newsletter! Have a great November!

