



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(OCTOBER 2021)

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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
- FOR THE NEXT
MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



We are moving into my favorite time of the year. These next three months are jam packed with holidays both secular and religious: Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years Eve. There are also special liturgical events that take place these next three months, World Wide Communion, Reformation Sunday, Greening of the Church, and Advent. We also have several family birthdays this quarter. What a fun time this season brings but it can also be very stressful. Events of life, if we allow them, can take the joy out of the season.



I have worked hard to learn to appreciate what I have, and my many Blessings, but it has not been easy at times. I must remember to focus on all the good in my life. While we all have troubles, if we stop and do a count of our blessings, for most of us we find our blessings outweigh our troubles. Many simple things we take for granted are truly blessings. People in other parts of the world would love to have our blessings. Things like clean water to drink, a home to live in, food to eat to name only a few. When we face challenges, or if we feel sorry for ourselves, stop for a minute and count your many blessings!

Author Catherine Pulsife wrote, "I heard the saying, "I am too blessed to be stressed", at a time when I felt very stressed by the events that were happening in my life. After reading that saying, I reflected on the words of wisdom and then realized that this saying was one that I should keep posted on my desk to remind me of all the

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Calendar of Events

Unvaccinated are asked to wear masks & stay a safe distance from others. It is a good idea for others with health issues to wear masks also.

Sunday Adult Education at 9:00 AM

Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM

Communion is on the First Sunday/month

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesdays @ 8 AM

Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

Choir Practice on Wed. @ 4 PM

Oct. 17 - Session Meeting after Worship

Oct. 31 - Congregational Meeting

2021 October						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5 Yoga 1 PM	6 Choir	7 Yoga 10:30	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day	12 Yoga 1 PM	13 Choir	14 Yoga 10:30	15	16
17 Session Meeting	18	19 Yoga 1 PM	20 Choir	21 Yoga 10:30	22	23
24	25	26 Yoga 1 PM	27 Choir	28 Yoga 10:30	29	30
31 Cong. Meeting Halloween						

Carl continued:

blessings I have in my life.” I think this is great advice for all of us. Above all, the best part of gratitude is that you do not have to be grateful only for the blessings that you receive, but you can be grateful for the struggles that you have faced, and are facing, knowing the many people who have brought blessings into your life as you faced the struggles together. The moments of each day, are a special gift to us. And should never be wasted, we should feel very blessed.



So, the next time you are feeling stressed remember this saying. As Willie Nelson once said: "When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around." Don't let stress ruin your day, focus your thoughts and energy on the good things in your life. Always remember that you do have many blessings in your life! I am going to enjoy the next three months, and not let stress, or anxiety ruin the joy this season brings.

God Bless you *Carl*

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to quests - especially in the Summer)

	19th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 3	20th Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 10	21st Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 17	22nd Sunday after Pentecost - Oct. 24	All Saints Day October 31st
1st Reading	Job 1:1, 2:1-10	Job 23:1-9,16-17	Job 38:1-7, (34-41)	Job 42:1-6, 10-17	Ruth 1:1-18
Psalm	Psalm 26	Psalm 22:21-27	Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c	Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)	Psalm 146
2nd Reading	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Hebrews 4:12-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 7:23-28	Hebrews 9:11-14
Gospel	Mark 10:2-16	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:35-45	Mark 10:46-52	Mark 12:28-34

Oct. Birthdays



- Ann Faber 4
- Trish Stebbins 5
- Barbara Tindell 9
- Joan Ray 16
- Linda Lloyd 20
- Jeff Aldridge 21
- Barbara Harper 26
- Jerry Schleicher 30
- Jeanie Miller 31

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Julie Goggans needs our prayers as she goes through the higher powered chemotherapy each two weeks. She's in much discomfort three days after chemo then the days get better. The good news is that the markers are improving. We need to pray for continued effective treatments and pain control, plus the family (Jack, Chine, and Joan).

June Lubowinski's doing okay. She will be having the full round of tests this week to see if anything is growing anywhere else before her next treatment. So far, this 2nd brain tumor is shrinking and everything else seems normal. She thanks the church family for all the prayers and good wishes.

Joe Carroll has done well since coming home from the hospital. His weight is up due to feeding tube, but appetite has not come back. Some of the delirium and weakness from the surgery continues. Their daughter spends two days a week helping. Joe will start physical therapy at Integrity. Susan and Joe are very grateful to the church for your prayers! Pray for both physical and mental strength plus appetite.

Shirley Pinkston continues to improve following a bout with sepsis. After 3 days in the hospital, she is glad to be back home and able to teach Adult SS.

Bob Todd is continuing a three-week immunotherapy injection program which is controlling his cancer and is considering ear surgery to improve his hearing. He is still playing golf frequently but is not happy with his scores.

Jeanette West got rear-ended on I-35 coming home from Denton on Saturday while the other driver did a hit-and-run. She was not hurt but the back of her car is a mess. She needs prayers as she searches for an apartment in Georgetown.

Nancy Healey's brother, John, has "sailed" through his knee replacement partly from being a determined Navy guy but *mostly* from answered prayers. Thank you for your kind prayers. Next he flies to Japan October 2nd which will be a long haul. Please offer your continued prayers for a safe flight and that when he arrives he can quarantine in his home - not in a hotel.

Rip and Shay VanWinkle's daughter, **Michelle**, had a cancerous thyroid removed in a day surgery on Tuesday (9/28). She will have a follow-up consultation on October 8th. Please pray that continued tests indicate no further treatment is required and healing is complete.

Carl Thompson is not feeling well. They are still trying to diagnose the blood situation and what is causing it. It is getting worse but they don't know why. Pray for a resolution.

Emily & Greg Faber are expecting a baby the middle of March. Actually, the entire family is looking forward to having a baby in the family - from Aunts & uncles to cousins plus the doting grandmothers, *grandmother Ann & Emily's mom, Mamita Sonia.*

Seekers Adult Education

The Seekers Class is continuing its study of the Covenant; with discussions about our relationships with God and each other.

This month, we will read and discuss chapters from Psalms, Job, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Isaiah as we study Lessons 18 through 21.

We will take a break on the last Sunday in October to enjoy a time of questions and answers with Carl. You might want to get your questions to Carl before then; or, you can just bring them on the 31st.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the discussions. As always, coffee and cookies will be available.

Shirley Pinkston



The September 19 Class with *Substitute* Teacher - Evelyn Thompson

♪ Musical Notes ♪

"For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18:20

First, choir practice has a new time, 4-5 pm on Wednesdays.

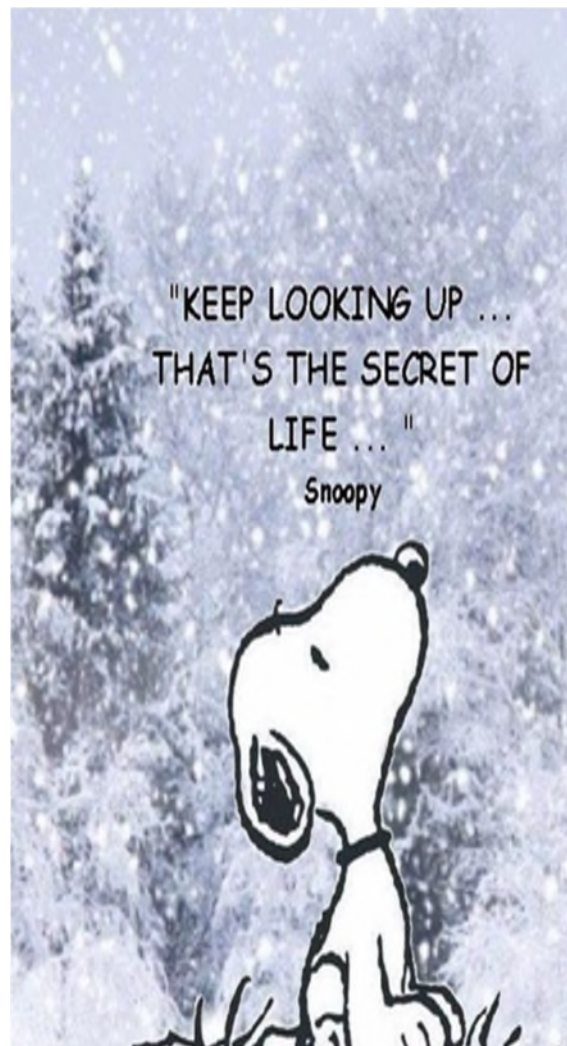
What a great start to the reorganization of our church's choir ministry! Ten adults (4 men and 6 women) are participating in Wednesday choir practices and the opportunity to help enhance our congregation's worship through singing on Sunday mornings!

Our current Choral Call to Worship is "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place." Lanny Wolfe wrote the words at the dedication service of a new church in 1977, in Columbus, Mississippi. He remembered Jacob's dream of the ladder, in Genesis 28, about the angels ascending and descending from heaven. In Genesis 28:16 (NIV) it is recorded, "When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."

I cannot help but ask myself, "How many times a day, a week, a month, do I fail to take a moment to realize God's presence where I am and in what I am doing? God is omnipresent, always with us everywhere. Also, one of the names of Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. Whether we take time to acknowledge God, the Father; God, His only Son Jesus Christ; or God, the Holy Spirit, He is forever with us.

Sharing In Christ's Service,

Jeanette West



The God Who Sees Us - Linda Lloyd



Recently, I wrote an article about our trip home from Pennsylvania. It focused mainly on the sadness I felt at losing so many friends and family to dementia. What I didn't tell you, was the amazing thing that God did for me that week. But I knew that at some point I would give witness to what happened. And when I was praying about what to write for the newsletter this month, God made it clear to me that this was the time.

One of the scriptures that we read in church recently, talked about "the God who sees us". I have been a believer for a very long time. I would think that by now, nothing the Lord did would ever surprise me. And yet, I continue to be awed and amazed at how much He loves a sinner like me and how He knows and cares about every little detail of my life. And how He truly does "see me" and knows my every thought and every desire of my heart, even the ones I haven't voiced to him.

I'm not much of a believer in coincidence. But I am a great believer in what I call a "God incidence." A "God incidence" is something that only God himself can orchestrate.

You may remember that we stopped in Arkansas to visit Ralph's nephew and his family on the trip home from Pennsylvania. Just before we got to our hotel, I saw a sign that said "Tontitown." Tontitown is the home of Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, who have a reality TV show. I've been watching the show since it first aired in 2008. At that time it was called "17 Kids and Counting". It is now called "Counting On".

What I like about the show is the fact that Jim Bob and Michelle seem to be genuinely in love with the Lord and are raising their many(20) children and grandchildren to love and follow Him. There's no cursing or angry words or confrontation. It's just a family show that anyone can watch.

I especially like Michelle. She seems so sweet and kind and has a heart for God. I really admire her strength in the face of adversity. (Two of her babies died). Not to mention the fact that she birthed 20 children and home schooled them all. I love her soft spoken manner and sweet smile. For a very long time, I have wanted to meet her, and speak to her, if just for a few moments.

Every time we go to Arkansas and I see that sign that says Tontitown, I tell Ralph the same thing. "I wish we could go see the Duggar's." This time Ralph's reply was "What if we went shopping and ran into them?" And I, ever the skeptic, said, "And what are the chances of that happening?"

After we left Ralph's nephew and his family late one evening, we decided to stop at Baum's for ice cream. As we pulled into the parking space, I saw a lady with several children getting ready to leave the ice cream parlor. I

said, "Ralph, that is Michelle Duggar and some of her children." At first he didn't believe me. But I was positive that it was her. "Well then, you'd better get out of this car and go talk to her", he said. As I exited the vehicle, Michelle and the children were approaching the door. When she opened the door, I said, "Mrs. Duggar, I don't want to be rude, but can I speak to you for a moment?" She replied, "You're not being rude. Of course you can."

You all know that I'm seldom at a loss for words, but I was so excited that I could hardly think what to say. We stood on the sidewalk and talked for a couple of minutes. I told her that I have been watching the show since the very first time it aired; that I try never to miss it, that I greatly admired her and her family, and that I have prayed for them, especially for her daughter Josie, who was very ill when she was born. Michelle said, "That is so special. Thank you so much." She told me that they had just come from Bible School, and that it was "Crazy Hair Day." Then she said, "We should take a selfie." I thought my heart would beat right out of my chest. Ralph was ready with his cell phone and took a picture of Michelle and I together. Then she insisted that Ralph get in the picture too. So he took one of the three of us. (I'm not including it in this article; because I do not have her permission to use it. But Ralph and I both have it in our phones and will be happy to show it to anyone who would like to see it).

I never in a million years would have imagined that I would ever meet Michelle Duggar, talk to her, or have my picture taken with her. I was simply astounded. But I know exactly why God made that happen. And I know that I have to bear witness to it. *God knew how distraught I was over my friends and family, how many tears I had shed that week. And He knew how much I needed a sign from him before I went on to visit my friend in Oklahoma. He knew how weak and helpless I was feeling.* He really does "see me" and you, and all those who love him. But I think that sometimes we just don't "see" Him. I think that we, like the disciples, just don't recognize Him.

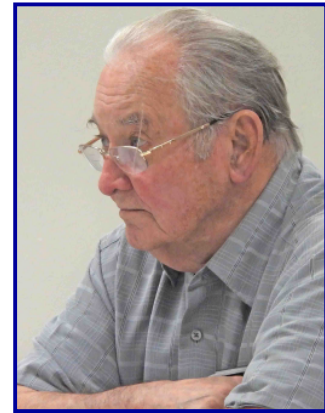
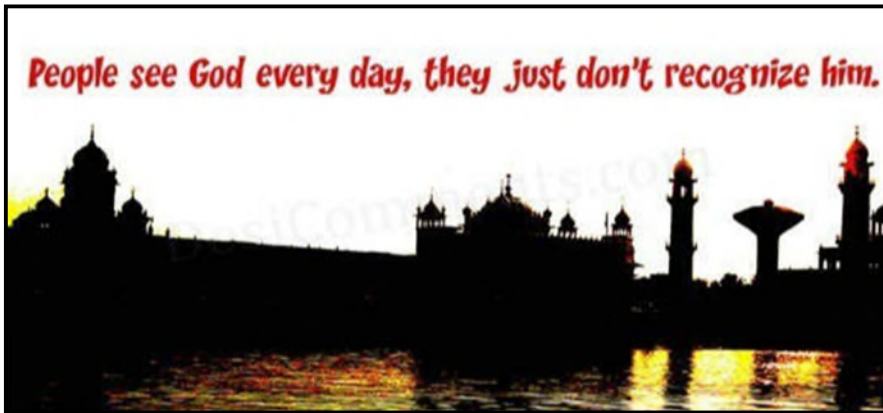


The God Who Sees Us - Continued

One of the devotionals that I read is called “60 Days of Prayer”. Here is what I read yesterday:

“God is present in every part of your life. Sometimes people are too busy to notice—or are expecting an earth-shattering sign, when instead His fingerprints shine in the ordinary and in every day activities. During dinner with your family, a quiet moment in devotion, even grocery shopping—God is with you, blessing your life”.

From a Merry Heart
Linda Lloyd



A note from the author:

A few days after I submitted this article to Pete, I read some disturbing news about the oldest Duggar child, Josh. It seems that he is under indictment for downloading and possessing child pornography. The article also stated that people are upset with the Duggars for their continued support of their son and his family, despite their deep Christian values. The TLC network has cancelled their show.

My first inclination upon reading the article was to not publish what I had written, even though I felt that God had led me to it. However, after some discussion with Pete and Carl, it was decided to go ahead. The intent of the article was to give God the glory for what he had done. And the intent is still the same.

And after all it is not our job to judge the Duggars. They raised their children in a God loving, Christian home. If indeed, they are to be held accountable for what their adult son has done, that call should be made by the Lord God Almighty.

Hebrews 8:12 “For I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more”.

Ephesians 4:32 “And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake, hath forgiven you”.

