
Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter—November 2023



Thanksgiving: The Power of a Thankful Heart

Debbie Przybylski Intercessors Arise

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



It is not always easy to give thanks, but this is the very thing we must do in order to see God's will accomplished in our lives. This is how we move into higher realms of [faith](#) for ourselves, for our city, and for our nation.

Thanksgiving has great power to bring joy and break the power of the enemy. Whenever you give thanks to God, despite the most difficult circumstances, the enemy loses a big battle in your life. When you give thanks in the midst of difficulty, you bring pleasure to God's heart. He is looking for Christians who live in a realm of praise and

thanksgiving where the enemy no longer has an ability to hold or manipulate that person. Satan is defeated when we have a thankful heart because thankfulness during difficulty is a sacrifice pleasing to God.

Are you thankful? Are you thankful for your present circumstances? Are you thankful for your [salvation](#), your friendships, and your job? Thankfulness is a key to your life. It is the key that turns your situation around because it changes you, your outlook, and your attitude. There is power in a thankful heart.

Thanksgiving Brings Contentment

Begin to thank God for all the blessings he has given you instead of dwelling on the negative. Discontent dries up the soul. Look at what Elizabeth Elliott, who lost her husband on the mission field and has faced multitudes of hardships, says about loving God's will and being content. "To love God is to love His will. It is to wait quietly for life to be measured by one who knows us through and through. It is to be content with His timing and His wise apportionment. It is to follow in the steps of the Master, as did Paul, who was able to say that he had learned

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contentment no matter what the circumstances. His circumstances when he wrote that? Prison. No easy lesson, but great gain which is the sum of godliness plus contentment (I Timothy 6:6)."

Look at the example of Jesus. He followed the will of His Father to the very end. He obeyed without complaint. In [Philippians 2:5-8](#), Paul says that we should have the same attitude. Jesus made himself nothing and took on the very nature of a servant. He humbled Himself and became obedient to death. We also are to have this same attitude with a humble and thankful acceptance of God's will for our lives.

"Jesus loved the will of His Father. He embraced the limitations, the necessities, the conditions, the very chains of His humanity as He walked and worked here on earth, fulfilling moment by moment His divine commission and the stern demands of His incarnation. Never was there a word or even a look of complaint." -- Elizabeth Elliott

Offer God a Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving

The Duke of Wellington was the great British military leader who regretted that he had not learned the secret of praise during his lifetime. He had many great accomplishments and even defeated Napoleon at Waterloo. He was a brilliant and demanding man and when he was older, he realized that there were areas in his life that needed to change. In his old age a woman asked him this question, "What would you do differently if you had your life to live over again?" He thought carefully and said, "I would

give more praise." This is a lesson for all of us; if we would learn to be people of praise and thanksgiving all the days of our lives it would be a great accomplishment.

David said in [Psalm 116:17](#), "I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the Lord." Let each of us seek to have an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving, rising to a new level of holiness in our lives.

Here are 3 ways to practice an attitude of thankfulness in everyday life:

Thank and praise God for everything in your life. Thank Him for even the difficulties. It is a sacrifice to do this. But He can turn troubles to triumph. "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise -- the fruit of lips that confess his name" ([Hebrews 13:15](#)).

Don't allow yourself to complain about anything. During the difficult times, be very careful to watch your tongue. Instead of complaining, think of ways you can verbally offer God the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Don't compare yourself with others. Don't wish that your life was different. God knows what is best. The Bible says having a thankful heart is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. When we begin to thank God for what we have rather than comparing ourselves with others, it opens the door for God's blessings.

"God smiles when we praise and thank Him continually. Few things feel better than receiving heartfelt praise and appreciation from someone else. God loves it, too. ... An amazing thing happens when we offer praise and thanksgiving to God. When we give God enjoyment, our own hearts are filled with joy." -- Rick Warren

Treasurer's Report

September 2023

Receipts \$7,541
 Expenses \$5,865
 Special Offerings:
 Wounded Warriors \$25
 Sara Wilson Scholarship Fund . . \$475
 CUOC \$140



November

Prayer Families of the Week

- 5 Ronnie & Christie Kelly
- 12 Brad & Emily Kelly
- 19 Jean Lyons
- 26 Martha Maddox



November Worship Leaders

5 – Rev. Cindy Neal
 * All Saints Day
 12 – Terry Pleasants
 * PW Thank Offering
 19 – Rev. Chad Neal
 * CUOC Turkey Offering
 26 – Nancy Wazenegger

Head Usher: Connie Wynn



November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating November birthdays.

Missions

A special offering for the **CUOC Turkey** program will be collected on November 19.

CUOC NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

CUOC is very short on volunteers. They need more people to help with the distribution of food. **Please help if you can.** Connie Wynn or Nancy Mead can provide more details.

Communications Committee

We printed 250 Halloween cards for distribution at local long-term care facilities.



Property & Grounds

We have a new dehumidifier in the lower hallway that will reduce the dampness in that area.



Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee is planning a **Polar Express Lock-In** in the fellowship hall. It will start on Friday night at six p.m. on **December 15**. Pick up will be Saturday morning.

We ask that all of you ask our children to come for this time of celebrating not only the birth of our Lord and Savior but also be a time to reconnect with one another. All the fun activities are being planned.

Mark your calendar and bring your sleeping gear. For those who are not able to spend the night, come for the movie and join us for fellowship. See you then!

THE POLAR EXPRESS MOVIE





Member Appreciation

Spaghetti Lunch



October 29, 2023



Sunday, November 19, at Noon, in the Fellowship Hall

Thanksgiving Covered Dish Lunch

Turkey and Ham will be provided

Fellowship Committee

We are planning a covered dish Thanksgiving lunch November 19. Details will be posted at church soon.



Presbyterian Women

The Edgewood Presbyterian Women met Monday, October 9 and continued the lesson series—**“Sacred Encounters”**, The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ Luke-Acts by Olive Mahabir. Jean McSwain lead the lesson.



New Christmas Tree



Our church has a new Christmas Tree thanks to our **Presbyterian Women**. It's pictured above along with the 2 elves who tested it.

Quilts Donated by Edgewood Piecemakers

A group of ladies who meet regularly at Edgewood made these quilts to contribute to Levine Children's Hospital in Charlotte. These 32 quilts will be delivered to the hospital this week. They have more quilts in progress and have made contributions in the past.

No value can be placed on the comfort that these quilts bring to the young patients who are wrapped in the love and concern that went into every piece of cloth, every cut, and every stitch.



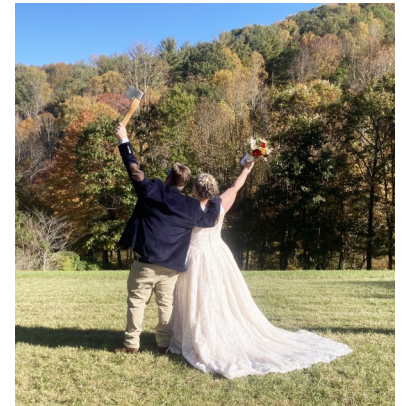
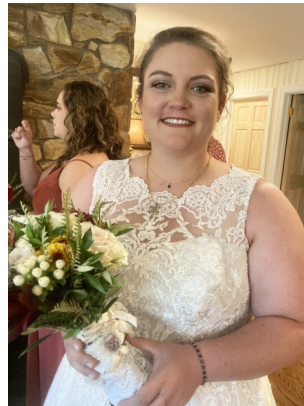
Some of the quilters who contributed to this project.



October 15, 2023

Church in the Park

The **Church in the Park** service took place October 1. Maggie Yow Buchanan delivered the sermon, Brittain sang and played guitar. Rev. John Taylor (Jonesboro Presbyterian), Rev. Dr. Jenny Lee (Pocket Presbyterian) and the First Presbyterian worship band also participated in the service.



Why do you need to attend church?

As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient, it's important to remember why church for you and your family matters so much.

You can't serve from your sofa. You can't have community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren't consumers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.

The church needs you.

And, you need the church.

- Michael Carl

Williams-Stricklin Wedding

Jimmy and Jeannie's daughter Rachel Williams was married to Will Stricklin on Saturday, October 21st. They were married by Jonathan Sherrod. They were married in their front yard in Bakersville, NC.

Their new address:

Will and Rachel Stricklin
110 Fred Sparks Road
Bakersville, NC 28705



Stephanie, Brooke and Alyssa participated in the "Pumpkin Trail" celebration at First Presbyterian Church. They made this game, managed it at the event, and provided the prizes. Thanks for representing Edgewood!



*Johnny & Trish
having some
"Pumpkin Patch"
fun at
Dalrymple Farms.*

