

Norwood Christian Grapevine

I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5

Pastor's Promptings...

WHAT'S THERE TO BE THANKFUL FOR?

Thanksgiving is upon us again. It seems like the time is going faster and faster as November is here and the end of the year is in sight. 2009 has not been a great one economically speaking for many in the community. The bottom dropped out of the construction market affecting the financial welfare of many in our community.

After struggling through such a difficult year you may find it difficult to be "thankful" especially this time of year. As Thanksgiving approaches with Christmas not far behind it is easy to get discouraged if you are struggling financially. I'd like to share some thoughts on what we have to be thankful for even in (or especially in) tough financial times.

Life: First, be thankful that you are alive. God has given you life. Life is a precious gift that we all take for granted until it is threatened by illness or close calls. None of us know how many more days we have to live. Make the most of each day and be thankful for the gift of life that God has given you. Money cannot buy you one more day on this earth. Live life to the fullest by being thankful for each day and make it count.

Family: If God has given you the gift of family then that is truly something to be thankful for. It is easy to take your spouse, children, or parents for granted. Too often we let stupid little things get in the way of our truly appreciating the gift our family is.

Family is the most valuable treasure you can have. Regardless of your financial condition, if you have family supporting you and loving you, then you can make it through the toughest times. In fact, it's during tough financial times that the value of a loving family shines. Proverbs 15:17 says,

"Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred."



When the family pulls together, makes adjustments, tightens their belts and sacrifices for one another, you can overcome any difficulties this world may throw at you. Be thankful for the family God has placed you in. Cherish that special gift.

Friends: Times of adversity have a way of showing us who our true friends are. Casual friends are okay when times are good but they are nowhere to be found when things get tough. True friends are there to help you when you are down.

Money cannot buy a true friend. Proverbs 18:24 says, "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." We live in a caring community. Be thankful for the true friends the Lord has brought into your life.

Freedom from Sin: Finally, and most important of all, we can be thankful that Jesus Christ came to free us from our sin. By accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior we receive the free gift of salvation and eternal life with our loving God.

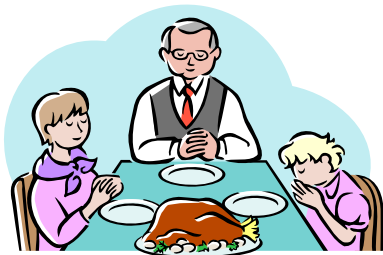
Jesus said in Mark 8:36-37, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" No amount of money can buy your salvation. Jesus has already paid the price for you. That is truly something to be thankful for.

So this Thanksgiving keep things in perspective. Be thankful for the things that really matter. You may not have any money but the important things of life don't need money. In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and

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where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."



When you stop and think about it we all have a lot to be thankful for this year. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken

THE SCREAM!

BY DAVIS WATSON

It was early Wednesday morning and I was awakened from my second deep sleep of the night by Mary, my wife of 31 years, screaming, "Oh, Wall-e." Wall-e is Mary's new little mutt pup. He was given the name "Wall-e" because he looks and thinks like your typical "Wall-e." His hair is frazzled and his thinking is dingy. He's your typical "dingbat" dog.

In those early morning hours I thought to myself, "What has Wall-e chewed up or dug up!" This dog has already chewed down whole trees and dug up every inch of the garden. What more could he destroy?

Well, this time he has come "face to face" with our friendly

neighborhood skunk or should I say rear-end to face. And you know whose face we are talking about. Yes, Wall-e has discovered the many joys of living in Norwood and has found the skunk population is alive and well!

So the next half hour I spent helping Mary bathe Wall-e with tomato juice and spaghetti sauce (we ran out of tomato juice) in the early chilly morning hours. After this "beauty" treatment Wall-e looks even more like your typical "dingbat" dog.

Day two: Mary gets up to let Wall-e out. The next thing I hear is Wall-e barking his head off. It sounds like Wall-e has just cornered the biggest bear in the world or has he come in contact with his new friend, the neighborhood skunk? I was hoping for the bear. Well it was neither. As it turns out, Wall-e was barking at the gate!

Wall-e now associates the gate, where he first met his new friend, with the horrors of meeting the skunk's rear end. Wall-e thinks his problem is now with the gate and to show who is boss, he barks at the gate. Mary and I just laugh at this situation and say, "How stupid can Wall-e be?"

I wonder how our Father in heaven looks down at us and says the same thing about us, "How stupid can you be?"

We are just like Wall-e. We do stupid things and blame them on the "gate."

Instead of playing this blame game, we first need to get off the

field by asking ourselves, "What stupid things do I do and what "gates" do I blame?" Then we need to come and start playing on God's field of mercy.

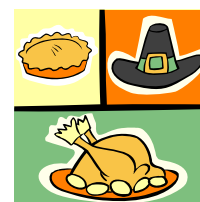
God is in the mercy game. For us to play in God's field of mercy, we need to repent of our stupid ways, be baptized, receive God's Holy Spirit and allow Him to guide and direct our daily lives.

God is not in the blame game. God is in the relationship game. To begin this relationship, come join us this Sunday at 11 AM.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER & STUDY

Don't miss our dinner and study on Wednesday nights. The ladies continue their study of how to be a True Woman and the men learn how to raise the standard in their lives as godly men.

We start with a meal at 6:00 p.m. and the study begins at 6:30 p.m. The main dish is provided. Please bring a side or dessert to share.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

The whole community is invited to celebrate Thanksgiving at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, Sunday, November 15th immediately after church. Turkey and ham will be provided by the church. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

FROM THE BERGS

Dear Norwood Church Family,

We feel that we have experienced a living example of God's amazing love. While we know that none of you would put yourselves on the same level as Christ, you have represented Him beautifully this past two years. In every way you followed the command, "...whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40b) NIV.

Jay, Abigail, and I have been blessed recipients of a loving family of God. Thank you for all the prayers you've offered, the help you've given, and the love you have shared. Many times, when life became overwhelming and discouraging, there would be a phone call, a kind word, a gift, a helping hand, offered just when we needed it. While we could never repay all you've done, we hope our lives were a blessing to you as well.

Thank you to everyone at Norwood Christian Church. We will always have a part of our heart with you.

Love,
Jay, Jacqueline & Abigail



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Collection day for Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes is Sunday, November 15th. Start shopping, packing, and praying. If you have any questions you can call Ron or Cathy Carlson at 864-7434. Thank you for participating in this annual church outreach.



COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The annual Community Choir Christmas Cantata will be on Noel Night, Friday, December 4th at the Norwood Southern Baptist Church in Norwood. The performance begins at 7:00 p.m. This year's cantata, written by Pepper Choplin, is titled *I Hear the Prophet Callin'*.

Come enjoy this unique musical experience filled with a blend of Appalachian/Celtic-style music and traditional Christmas classics. The cantata will be followed by a fellowship time. This is a great way to wrap up this year's Noel Night festivities.

SUNDAY SERVANTS

November 8th

Communion Preparation

Kathy Row

Greeters

Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence

Communion Servers

Dick Nelson & Kathy Row

Communion Meditation

Ken Lawrence

November 15th

Communion Preparation

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters

Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence

Communion Servers

Ernie Calvillo

Communion Meditation

Davis Watson

November 22nd

Communion Preparation

Betty Greager

Greeters

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Servers

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Meditation

Ken Lawrence

November 29th

Communion Preparation

Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters

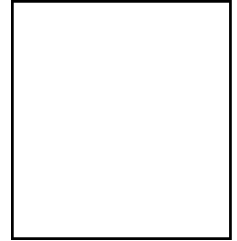
Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Servers

Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Meditation

Dean Boehler



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Ken@NorwoodChristian.com
www.NorwoodChristian.com
10 AM ~ Bible Study
11 AM ~ Worship Service



Troop 469 Update

Boy Scout Troop 469 is now officially up and running again. All the necessary paperwork has been turned in to the Western Colorado Council and we have been given approval to officially start meeting. So, Boy Scout Troop 469 and Cub Scout Pack 469 have officially begun meeting as of the last week of October.



Cub Scouts, for boys in first through fifth grade, meet for an hour at the church every Wednesday afternoon right after school at 2:45 p.m. (There will be no meeting on Wednesday, November 25th.)



Boy Scouts, for boys in sixth through twelfth grade, meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the church. (There will be no meeting on Tuesday, November 24th.)

Now is the time to sign up for scouting. To sign up your boy for Cub Scouts contact Cub Master Ken Lawrence at 327-4380 or call the church office at 327-0201. To sign up for Boy Scouts call Scout Master Davis Watson at 327-4221.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	2	3 <i>Election Day</i> <i>Medie Greager</i>	4 Dinner/Study 6 PM	5 Praise Team 7:30PM	6	7
8 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	9	10	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> Dinner/Study 6 PM	12 Praise Team 7:30PM	13	14
15 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM Thanksgiving Dinner	16	17 <i>Craig & Medie Greager-Annv.</i> <i>Jerry Spor</i>	18 Dinner/Study 6 PM <i>Evelyn Barrett</i>	19 Praise Team 7:30PM	20	21
22 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	23	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	27	28 <i>Ken & Chris Lawrence- Annv.</i>
29 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	30					