PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ILL AT HOME & RECOVERING
SHUT-INS & CHRONIC ILLNESS
HOSPITALS/NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING & REHAB
NON - MEDICAL PRAYER NEEDS

Olivia Harper is in boarding school. While she is there, she can receive cards, devotionals and letters of encouragement.
Her address is: Olivia Harper
175 Industrial CT SW
Cleveland, TN 37311

FINANCIAL UPDATE	
Weekly Requirements	$ 7,230.19
Undesignated – November 17, 2024	$ 4,423.00
Savings – November 17, 2024	$ 00.00

December BIRTHDAYS

3	Tommy Kerns	20	Dana Caywood
4	Eddie Land	25	Dallas Ratliff
11	Lynn Shoemaker	27	Loretta Mixon
12	Eli Depew	29	James Gamble
13	Rick Hill	30	Lydia Adedokun
	Emmanuel Adedokun		Donnie Brannen

Don't forget that we are still in need of a librarian (one or two people would be ideal) for our excellent library. See Dana Caywood and she can put you in touch with people who will train you.

SENIOR BANQUET

By now, you should have received an invitation (if you're in the right age range!) to the Senior's Christmas Banquet to be held December 5 at the Press Room at Food City. This will be a wonderful time of celebration together. Please RSVP as soon as possible.

Calvary Baptist Church

1238 Pine Street – Kingsport, Tennessee 37664
423-245-9157
http://www.calvaryofkpt.org

Pastor:	Dr. Donnie C. Brannen
Associate Pastor/Music, Ed:	Rev. D. Mikel Caywood
Youth Director:	Harrison Ihrig
Secretary:	Jennifer Ramey
Pianist:	Debbie Johnson
Keyboard:	Lemuel Mixon
Drummer:	Jeff Sturgill
Webmaster:	Dana Caywood

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The Cross and Compass

Matthew 28:19-20

Vol. VXX No. 11 **November 20, 2024**

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Morning Worship (Sanctuary)
Our preschool for Sunday School and Worship is open.

TUESDAY SCHEDULE

12:00 Noon Sr. Adult Bible Study & Lunch (CH)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

6:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting (CH)
Konnect Kidz Activities
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal – Nursery provided

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and times with family over dinner tables that abound with plenty, may we take time to stop and be thankful for all we have and for the One who has supplied it!

Happy Thanksgiving

THANKS-LIVING

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (I Thessalonians 5:18).

The year was 1744. The place was Leeds, England. Charles Wesley, the famous hymn-writer and brother of John Wesley, was conducting a prayer meeting in an upstairs room, a meeting attended by 100 people. Suddenly there was a creak in the floorboard, followed by a massive crack, and then the entire floor collapsed, dumping all 100 people into the room below. As you can imagine, the meeting erupted into chaos. Some were screaming, others were crying, some were simply in shock. Just then Wesley, although wounded in the fall, cried out, "Fear not! The Lord is with us! Our lives are all safe!" And then he began to sing the Doxology: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Praise Him above, ye heavenly host! Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!" Wesley was obviously a man who had learned to give thanks in all circumstances.

November is, of course, the month that we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. But the discipline of thanksgiving cannot be limited to one day a year. The Bible teaches us that giving thanks to God should be a daily activity, if not an hourly or minute-by-minute activity. I've often thought that it might have been better for Congress to designate a day as National Gripe Day, and the rest of the days as days of thanksgiving. As it is, it seems that we limit our giving of thanks to one day, and our griping to the other 364 days of the year. Surely, we would be better off as individuals, as churches, and as a nation, if that were reversed.

It's always easy to find something to gripe about, something in ourselves, our spouses, our families, our churches, our jobs or our nation that does not please us. For many of us, it seems that rather than looking at what's good in a situation, we automatically focus in on the one thing that is not as we would like it, and we refuse to be content until that one thing is resolved. By then, there is something else that has run afoul of our expectations and serves to disturb our peace. And thus, contentment eludes us.

But the good news is that we can retrain ourselves to focus on what's good in every situation such that we can give thanks even in less than perfect circumstances. Paul, in the passage quoted above, commands us to give thanks in all circumstances - in good circumstances when it's easy to give thanks (but all too often we neglect to in our enjoyment of the good circumstances) and in bad circumstances, when it's hard to give thanks (but most necessary to keep us from spiraling into despair). He reminds us that whatever we're going through, it is the will of God for us. What is the will of God for us? It is the will of God for us to give thanks in all circumstances, but whatever we're going through is also the will of God for us. Nothing comes into our lives that God has not sent or else allowed into our lives for a higher purpose. In whatever situation we find ourselves in, we can thank Him that He has the situation well in hand, and that He is using it to teach us and to create in us a greater Christlikeness and a greater usefulness in His Kingdom. As Christians, we have the assurance that our difficulties are not simply meaningless hassles on the road of life; they are planned experiences that bring us closer to Him.

It is for this reason that God takes grumbling, griping and complaining so seriously. When we grumble, we are rebelling against God's work in our lives rather than humbly submitting to it. In I Corinthians 10:6-10, Paul enumerates the sins of the Israelites during the days of Moses. He says that they set their hearts on evil things, committed acts of idolatry and sexual immorality, and last but not least, grumbled. If a sin is known by the company it keeps, grumbling is in poor company indeed.

Anytime we find ourselves grumbling, we should stop and ask ourselves, "OK, what's RIGHT about this situation?" Once we've thanked God for everything right about the situation, then we can beseech Him about the things that are wrong about the situation. No matter how bad the situation might be, we can automatically know something that would be worse - going through it as a lost person.

Dr. Alexander Whyte was a famous preacher in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was known for his eloquent pulpit prayers, which were always overflowing with thanksgiving. One dark, cold, stormy, miserable Sunday morning, one of his parishioners thought, "Surely, Dr. Whyte will have nothing to thank God for on a miserable morning such as this." But as Whyte mounted the pulpit, he prayed, "We thank Thee, O God....that it is not always like this." Whatever we're going through, if nothing else, we can thank God that "it is not always like this." And we can thank Him that it will not always be like this, that one day, He will wipe away every tear from our eyes in a place where there will be no more pain, no more suffering, no more death, for the former things have passed away (see Revelation 21:4).

So, as we proceed through this month of November, let us commit ourselves to the discipline of thanksgiving until it is no longer a discipline, but a lifestyle, a lifestyle of continual thanks-living.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This coming Sunday, November 24, at 5:00 P.M., will be our annual Church-Wide Thanksgiving Meal in the Fellowship Hall. The church will provide turkey and dressing, drinks and all of the plates, silverware, etc. We are asking those who are coming to provide side-dishes, breads and desserts.

There will be no Wednesday night activities on November 27.

Looking further ahead, our Senior Adult Christmas banquet is December 5 at 6:30 P.M. at the Press Room at Food City. If you haven't already, please RSVP to the church office at 245-9157 by November 25.

Our choir and musicians are working diligently on their Christmas Cantata, which will be presented as a celebration of worship on December 15 during our morning worship.

On Wednesday, December 18, at 6:00 P.M., we will have our business meeting that was postponed from November. During that meeting, we will present, discuss, amend if necessary, and vote on our budget for 2025.

On Tuesday, December 24, our Christmas Eve service will take place at 5:00 P.M.

Numbers 6:24-26,

Bro. Donnie

Thanksgiving Beatitudes

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

- Author Unknown

We are collecting boxes of cereal and breakfast items now through December 1st in support of the KCS Homeless Education Program & Family Resource Center's winter break food box distribution. Calvary's goal is to collect 150 "family-size" boxes of cereal and/or breakfast items (such as cereal bars, pop tarts, etc.), which will be included in the food boxes distributed to families in the HEP & FRC programs right before Christmas break. Bins are located in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop off your donation. Thank you in advance for your help in this effort!