



# Voices of Christ

## Christ Church Ministries Newsletter

FALL 2010

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

### Pastor Message

#### Proper Perspective

Thursday Nov 25<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving. One day in which we like those early Pilgrims set aside time in our busy schedules to give thanks to God. Now, there is nothing wrong with that but the word of God tells us that this should be a continual, daily, attitude.

Eph. 5:19,20 tells Christians to *"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ALWAYS giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

And I Thes. 5:16-18 says, *"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Paul's main subject here is PRAISE, THANKSGIVING. Notice the other important words in these passages; ALWAYS, CONTINUALLY, and IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES. He is talking about a continual attitude for Christians - an attitude of the heart. How we are to be to each other. But how, you may wonder, can we have this attitude continually, especially "in all circumstances?" I believe the answer lies in our perspective of thanksgiving. We need the proper perspective. One young lady wrote home from college,

*"Dear Mom: Sorry I haven't written sooner. My arm really has been broken. I broke it, and my left leg, when I jumped from the second floor of my dormitory...when we had the fire. We were lucky. A young service station attendant saw the blaze and called the Fire Department. They were there in minutes. I was in the hospital for a few days. Paul, the service station attendant, came to see me every day. And because it was taking so long to get our dormitory liveable again, I moved in with him.*

*He has been so nice. I must admit that I am pregnant. Paul and I plan to get married just as soon as he can get a divorce. I hope things are fine at home. I'm doing fine, and will write more when I get the chance. Love, Your daughter, Susie*

*P.S. None of the above is true. But I did get a "C" in Sociology and flunked Chemistry. I just wanted you to receive this news in its "Proper Perspective!"*

To be thankful in all circumstances, we need a proper perspective of our circumstances and of our God. Only then we will be able to give thanks to the Lord always.

*Bishop Robert A. Baker*

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**O'Give thanks unto the LORD,  
for he is good; for his mercy  
endureth forever.  
Psalm 107:1**

# Prayer & Fasting

## What Prayer Means to me

Praise the Lord Saints. I give honor to God who is the author and finisher of my faith.

I was asked the question, "What does prayer mean to me?" At first thought, so many things came rushing to and through my mind, because prayer means so much to me. If I could tell it all, this newsletter would become a short novel.

So if I had to sum it up in one sentence, I would say, "Prayer is my direct line of communication to God," but of course, I just can't stop there. Prayer is being able to go to God no matter what time of day or night it is. The bible says that men (that includes women) ought always to pray and not faint. (*Luke 18:1*) In other words, God wants us to be in constant communication with Him. We should NEVER get tired of praying and being intimate with Him.

Prayer is not just going to Him and telling Him all about our troubles but it is a time when you should be listening for God to speak to you. By God speaking to us, He gives us directions for our walk with Him and the Lord knows that in these days we really need His direction.

The bible also tells us in *James 5:16*, "That the effectual fervent prayer of the

righteous man availeth much". That alone excites my spirit because I know that prayer causes a chain reaction. When we pray in faith, I know that Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us. (*Romans 8:34*)

I know that God is able, willing and ready to answer our prayers according to His will. The bible gives us a pattern to follow when we pray, and that is The Lord's Prayer, coming from *Matthew 6:9-13*, so we don't have any excuse not to pray.

Let me take this time to encourage someone who may be reading this article. If you do not have a prayer life, and I do not use the term LIFE loosely, it is in your favor to start today. We have power of life and death in the tongue (*Proverbs 18:21*) and prayer is just that powerful.

Pastor Baker has said to us over and over, "That when we pray, pray with expectancy." God is waiting to hear a word from you and what's even more important is what God is waiting to tell you. When you pray, have faith. I am a witness that prayer changes things. Pray my strength in the Lord and I will do the same for you. Be Blessed!!

*Minister Monica Guliford*

## Reasons to Be Thankful

Written by Muriel Larson

Years ago my husband and I were going through financial problems, and I was distraught with worry. Then I read *Philippians 4:6-7*, which told me not to be anxious about anything, but to bring everything to the Lord in prayer, with thanksgiving.

After I turned everything over to the Lord and started giving thanks to Him, faith filled me – and I received "the peace of God that passes all understanding" that verse seven promises. But when we are depressed and despairing, what can we thank God for?

I have learned that thanking God for the following can lift my heart to see above the problems of this world:

**His beautiful creation.** I grew up in a summer resort in New Jersey, where living close to nature was part of my life – pine trees, water and gorgeous sunsets. My early attention to the beauty of God's world gave me added appreciation for the amazing variety of plants, creatures, and scenery God has provided for us to enjoy. When I praise God for something He made, it increases my joy. Jesus said, "Consider the lilies of the field ... Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (*Matthew 6:28-29*).

**The provisions of life.** Even though we say grace, we may take the food we eat for granted. We'd enjoy it much more if we were grateful! The next time you eat one of your favorite foods, be thankful for its availability. Many people in the world only have plain rice to eat. When we think of our less-privileged, hungry brothers and sister in Christ, let's pray, "Lord, give us this day our daily bread."

**Everything we have comes from God.** *Ecclesiastes 5:19* says, "When God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work – this is a gift of God." When we thank God for our families, our home, warm clothes and all the conveniences that make our lives easier, we are able to enjoy them even more.

**The greatest gift God gave mankind was His only begotten Son**, who gave His life to grant us forgiveness of sin and everlasting life. Through His Spirit God gives us joy, peace, and victory. Let us rejoice in our Lord and give thanks to Him in all things

**When trouble has smitten us, a spirit of thanksgiving is a soothing antiseptic.**

## The LOVE of the Saints

Times of fasting are often used by GOD to challenge us in area of our lives that need to change. Fasting plows the ground of our soul and prepares us for the seeds of the word of GOD that produces growth in our lives.

This fast the LORD dealt with me in the area of love. Last Monday I had a dream. In this dream I saw a large table. At this table sat the saints. I saw the mothers and others from the church. I was standing and intended to give some instruction to those who sat before me. I began with this statement, "you know I love you". It was simple how I began. It was not even the point to which I began to speak. However the saints' reaction stopped me from continuing.

Upon making this statement there was a verity of reactions. Some made faces turning their head. Others huffed and I heard "do we?" I was shocked... the thought that the saints of GOD did not know, I loved them troubled me. It was so troubling that I woke up instantly.

Finding no peace once the dream had ended, I began to pray. "LORD you know... do the saints know I love them?" Wednesday night after the anointed prayer I received complete understanding of what I had experienced. GOD was challenging me to show more love to his people. As a servant and minister of the household of faith, if you don't know I really love you... nothing else I could do matters.

I guess that's true of us all. We can do nothing for GOD or his people if love is not in the center. And not just having the love. I had it. But to show it, to let it flow from GOD to everyone we encounter. Saint I share this that it may challenge you as well. Endeavor to display GOD's love. Because if we don't... nothing else we do matters. GOD bless you all. Amen.

*Minister Derrick Sanford*

Fasting in general has always been difficult for me, but God had something in store for me during this month's fast. I had frequently asked God to increase my faith and He responded by designing a mountain tailored made just for me; a mountain that nothing or no one else on this earth could move but Him.

This fast was truly a seven-fold blessing for me. Stepping out of my comfort zone, denying my flesh and repenting, brought me closer to God in spirit.

I know that God has forgiven me in Jesus Name and He is able and willing to do that and more if I would just simply stop trying so hard. He wants me to truly give myself over to Him and let Him do the work in me.

Fast and praying has given me a much better insight of what it really means to Let go and Let God have His Way.

*Deacon Lionel Dennis*

## Holiday Season Tips

"That's when our antennas go up for visibility and attention around the malls and other areas," because the hustle and bustle of shoppers this time of year can inspire holiday cheer, but also ample opportunity for crime.

**Collision:** About 22% of reported pedestrian collisions during the holiday season are in parking lots. Police say pedestrians and drivers should not assume they see each other, and that shoppers should wear highly visible clothing, especially after dark. This is to remind people about driving and pedestrian safety.

**Safety:** Shoppers should be aware of their surroundings and stay alert, and park in well-lighted areas and be as close as possible to the mall or stores. Car doors should be locked and packages hidden in the trunk or under the seat. Shoppers should not carry large amounts of cash and may want to consider paying by check or credit card instead. Police advise shoppers not to be encumbered with large packages and to carry purchased items to their vehicles if they continue to shop. Purses should be carried close to the body, and wallets should be placed inside a coat or front pants pocket.

### *Theft is one of the most common crimes.*

There are specific items we know are being stolen, and those include G.P.S, iPods, cell phones, laptops, purses, things of that nature, that are left in open view - typically, in many cases, where a door is left unlocked. If we can eliminate these

opportunities by removing valuables or not having them in plain sight, we will reduce the number of victims of this crime, which is our goal. People are greatly impacted when affected by a crime like that, and it is a significant nuisance.

**Being Alert:** Pedestrians should walk with confidence, be alert and attuned to their surroundings, and be clear about their direction. Trust your instincts and avoid anyone who makes you feel uneasy. If you suspect you are being followed, then change direction, cross the street, or walk toward a lighted area such as an open store, restaurant or house. People should have their key in hand before reaching their car or house door, you can always push the panic button on your keys to bring attention to yourself for help if needed.

### (Also can be used for a late night knock at the door, keep keys by bed)

"Through education, we can have impact and reduce the number of victims, never think it cannot happen to you."

### **Communication with Law Officials:**

Targets of attempted robbery should offer no resistance, and relinquish property rather than endangering their lives. Police should be contacted immediately after a crime to increase the chance that the perpetrator will be apprehended and to prevent additional crimes.

**Let's make this not only a happy holiday season but also a safe and bless one."**

*Lieutenant Harry Lewis*

## Whatever

As I was driving to work a few weeks ago, I happened to notice a saying on a church marquee. It simply read "Whatever". To my amazement, I thought maybe a few of the other words had fallen off. But, to my surprise, that was not so. The saying was just simply "Whatever". For a whole week the word "Whatever" remained on the marquee. At first I thought it strange just putting "Whatever" and nothing more for a thought for others to see. You know what generally comes to mind when someone says "Whatever", it means a person just doesn't care or a person is being a smart-mouth.

When I began to ponder the thoughts in my spiritual reign, the word "Whatever" began to take on a different perspective. The Lord began to deal with me in my spirit. That is to say, the phrase "Whatever" applied to: *Whatever* mission, Lord, you are about to send me on, I'm willing to go. *Whatever* task you have set before me, Lord, I'm available because you have already paved the way. *Whatever* situation arises, Lord, you have it all in control. *Whatever* trial or test, Lord, you will keep me safe in your arms and give me peace in the midst of it all. "Whatever" that thing that has me bound, Lord, you will set me free.

So, whenever you see the word "Whatever", use it to your spiritual advantage in Christ Jesus. Hope this encouraged someone as it did my soul!

I love you, Lord. *Whatever* the cost, I will serve you!

*Sister Dorothy J. Powe*

# Fall Festival





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Visit our Website for additional information about  
Christ Church <http://ccam.org>



Everyone is encouraged to submit writings, church ads, poems, and testimonies. All items are not limited to the above listings, but must be received by the 15th of the previous month to be approved and used in the newsletter. Please submit your articles to [m.a.hackney@hotmail.com](mailto:m.a.hackney@hotmail.com) or the following

Committee Members

Mary Hackney, Angie Bruce, Kathy Wright,  
Sheila Green, Marie Singleton & Ashley Turntine

## Worship Service Schedule

**Sunday:** Sunday School – 9:30 am  
Morning Worship – 11:15 am

\*\*\*\*Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Children's Church – 11:15 am\*\*\*\*

**Tuesday:** Prayer – 12 noon (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Prayer – 7:00 pm (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>)

**Wednesday:** Bible Study – 12 noon,  
Christian Living – 7:00 pm

**Saturday Prayer** – 8 am



Lashonda Sanford  
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***We invite you to come and fellowship with us***

A warm welcome and a loving smile will greet you the moment you walk through the doors. You will experience anointed worship and hear an inspiring message from our Pastor that will bless you. We believe you will experience the touch of God's Holy Spirit and power as we worship.