

Pfafftown Baptist Church is on mission to serve God by sharing joyful life and displaying love with our greater community.



Pfafftown

Baptist Church

November 2015

PBC *Connections*



Curiously Thankful

in a normal circumstance would be to curse the fleas and the God who sent them. **Remember Job's wife and friends?**

But Corrie was no normal person and her circumstance was certainly not normal, either, so curse she did not. She noticed that the flea infestation was so bad it kept the guards away from her cabin, which in turn allowed her and her mates to study the bible, right there in the camp. It has to be hard to be thankful for fleas; fleas are nasty, **but thankful they were.**

It's easy to be thankful for good things. The most fortunate among us will sit around a table full of love in a few weeks. We'll recount out loud or in silent the many good things for which we are thankful. No fleas in our Thanksgiving, that's for sure.

But a keen and appreciative mind will recollect the struggles of life, the pains that brought us low for a time, the losses that crippled us for a season, perhaps even some

(Continued on page 2)

Just in case you are not prepared for it, and many people are not, I want to whisper something, so as not to shock anyone:

Thanksgiving is just four weeks away, and Christmas only eight...

I hope you didn't pass out or have a panic attack. I know I'm not ready for either event, that's for sure, **but I am always ready to be thankful.** And such is true this year.

Perhaps you remember a story I shared not too long ago from *Corrie ten Boom*. During her captivity in a concentration camp she was in a cabin that was overrun by fleas, horribly overrun. The first reaction of any normal person

Thankful ... (continued from page 1)

that linger. And remembering such difficult times we may first think to shun them to the place of forgetting. **On second thought, however, when we remember the time is for thankfulness**, we may be aware that God can even work good and great through the least times of our lives.

Be aware this season, friends, and don't be thankful for only a percentage of life. God has been God through all of your life and let us first learn to be thankful in retrospect for the fleas that beset us in the past. And as

we learn to be aware, open to the full measure of God's spirit, we will be comforted in all times because we know that God is with us. Then we will be able to face whatever experience of life we have with full joy, thankfully aware that God is our ever-present comfort.

"Count your blessings, name them one by one." Did you think of fleas just now? You're getting there!

That's my take on things, and I'd love to hear your take. Connect with me any way you can. I'd love to hear from you.

pbcpastor@windstream.net



It's November, and Christmas programs are barely over a month away, but it's still not too late to join us on Wednesdays at 6:45 (for children's choir) and 7:30 (for Sanctuary Choir) to be apart of our upcoming programs. Please join us at any time.

Here are the dates:

Sunday, December 6, 10:25am - the Children will present their Christmas music by singing and ringing handchimes.

Sunday, December 13, 6:00pm - The Sanctuary Choir presents a new cantata by one of the best living sacred composers, Dan Forrest, called **Lord of Light**. We look forward to sharing with you this wonderful cantata.

Please save the dates and invite your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers!.

In Christ, *David*

SHALOM

Shalom dear family! I know it's been awhile since my last newsletter. The summer was busy and HOT, but many good things happened in the Lord's mighty name. I was looking forward to cooler weather and getting back to a regular routine in September. BUT, then I was faced with a BIG decision!! **Through much prayer and emotion, I have decided to retire, effective 31 Dec.** This has been a wrenching situation for me, but I believe the timing is His and I'm taking it step by step. So I covet your prayers for everything to be done in a timely fashion and that His PEACE will saturate me. I'm very overwhelmed at present. There will be a lot to take care of here and as I re-enter stateside.

~Blessings, Ann

Fall Colors Trip



10 people get into a van and ride for six hours. That may sound like the beginning of a joke, but the laughter was completely inside the van. On October 14 ten of us travelled up to Blowing Rock, down the Blue Ridge Parkway to Asheville (with a stop in the middle for lunch in Little Switzerland), and then to home. Boy, did we have a great time, and we behaved most of the time.

The leaves were not peaking, but that didn't stop the joy. The traffic was light, the views were incredible, the lunch was outstanding, and a great time was had by all. If you need some joy and laughter and beauty in your life, remember this news next time a trip is planned. There will always be a seat for anyone wanting to travel to the destinations of joy, laughter and beauty. Let Pastor Thomas know where you might like to go next time.



College Student of the Month

Chloe Sizemore – UNC at Charlotte
1505 Monument Hill Road
Aspen Heights – Unit 3160B
Charlotte, NC 28213
e-mail: cbellsbs@gmail.com

November Birthdays

Jerrie Tickle..... Nov 5	Ben Busbin Nov 9	Kim Bounds Nov 18
Betty Wilson Nov 7	Melba Dameron..... Nov 13	Kelly P. Allen Nov 23
Carolyn Bauguess Nov 8	Landon Jones Nov 15	Kenny Jones..... Nov 25
Judy Hemric Nov 8	Jim Tickle Nov 15	Rita Hoilman..... Nov 25
Lori Jones Nov 8	Patti Manuel..... Nov 17	Halley Sizemore Nov 25
Joyce McGee..... Nov 8	Kalin Rierson Nov 17	Mildred Wiesener..... Nov 25



If I could think of one word to describe the month of November, it would be this: community. I mean, think about it. With the holiday season right around the corner, there are so many events and activities in November that celebrate the joy that our relationships bring us from fall festivals, to Thanksgiving, to vacations with friends and family. Living life in community with one another can be messy and hard, but November is one of those months where you get to celebrate how fruitful and beautiful it is too.

For our children and youth, I believe that one of the greatest gifts we can give them is to show them how to be invested and excited about the communities we find ourselves in. Our Barbecue Chicken Festival is a perfect example of that! Every person that coordinated the barbecue, that bought tickets, that sold tickets, that cut cake, etc., was actively modeling for our children and youth how our faith prompts us to work for the greater good of our community. Whether its school, or church, or band, or just the city at large, we have daily opportunities to be community members that show love, that lift others up, and that support one another through hard times. Let me tell you about some of the ways our children and youth are learning this.

First, our **Children in Action** participants are going to be learning about Ben & Lynley Mandrell who are missionaries in Denver, Colorado. The Mandrells specifically focus their outreach to their immediate local community. We will be discussing the ways the Mandrells are building lasting and meaningful relationships with their neighbor, how they are actively involved in their community by leading sports camps, and how they are intentional about working on community goals like ending poverty. The Mandrell family shows us that mission work is not on the other side of the world, it's here, where we are right now. And to put theory into practice, our children will be participating in local mission work themselves. On November 14th, our kids will participate in **CBF's Children's Missions Days**, where kids from churches all over will gather together to help their communities in the name of God. Additionally, our children will also participate in our larger church project of **Operation Christmas Child**. Together we will gather supplies and fill boxes to help kids have Christmas all over the world.

Likewise, our youth will also be learning about community this month, primarily through our **Ridgecrest Fall Retreat**. For 3 days and 2 nights, our youth and youth leaders will be challenged to not only grow individually, but grow together. Day by day, we will be challenge ourselves to learn from the faith journeys of others and let their example guide us as we travel down our own path. It is my hope that by the end of the weekend, our youth will know without a shadow of a doubt that they are a loved part of this community, but also that they are a vital part of this community, with a lot of unique strengths and abilities that this community could use.

As we go through the month of November, it is my prayer that we will not be afraid to take the hand of our neighbors beside us in the pew and to reach out our other hands to those who have not yet joined us and say, **"You matter. You are needed. And I am here for you"**.

Grace and peace, *Alyssa Botte*

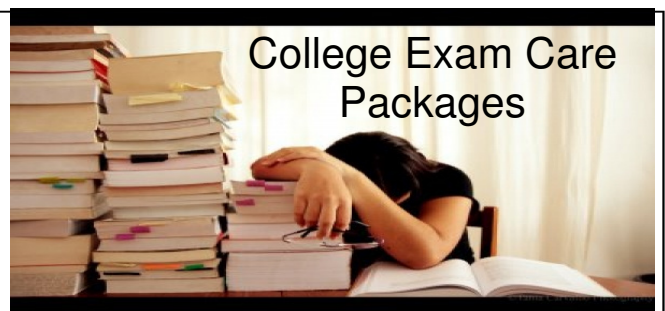
It is a wonderful treat for our college students to receive a box of *love* during exams. **Please help fill our boxes located in the foyer & the "B" building with gum, chapstick, crackers, cookies, any type of snack items, plus any small item you can think of, such as Post-it notes.**

Donations will be accepted through Sunday, November 15.

For anyone unable to purchase items, monetary donations will be accepted by the College & Career committee. Also, the students would love to hear from you with an encouraging note that says you're thinking of them during exam time.

Thank you!

~Amy Stinson, Debra Rierson & Becky Parker



PBC Bulletin Board

To Do List

1. Buy Items for shoebox
2. Fill shoebox
3. Bring shoebox to church on Nov 15.



Thanksgiving Service

Everyone is invited to a Thanksgiving worship on Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. We will thank God, praise God, remember God and experience God, and

that's a lot for which to be thankful!

Come be a part of this wonderful celebration.



CHURCH SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 3 Election Day
Nov 7 Baptist Men's Breakfast
Nov 9 WMU Night Group
Nov 10 WMU Day Group
Nov 11 Veteran's Day
Nov 16 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Nov 22 Deacons' Meeting
Nov 24 Thanksgiving Service
Nov 26 Thanksgiving Day
Nov 26-27 Church Office Closed

Newsletter information can be sent to kim_bounds@hotmail.com.



H A P P Y
Thanksgiving

*Blessings to Your Family
From ,
Pastor Thomas, David, Alyssa and
Becky*

Missions Groups

Baptist Men meet for breakfast on Saturday, Nov 7 @ 8:00am.

Night WMU Group meets on Monday, Nov 9 @ 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your bags/cans of ground coffee .

Day WMU Group will meet on Tuesday, Nov 10 @ 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall.



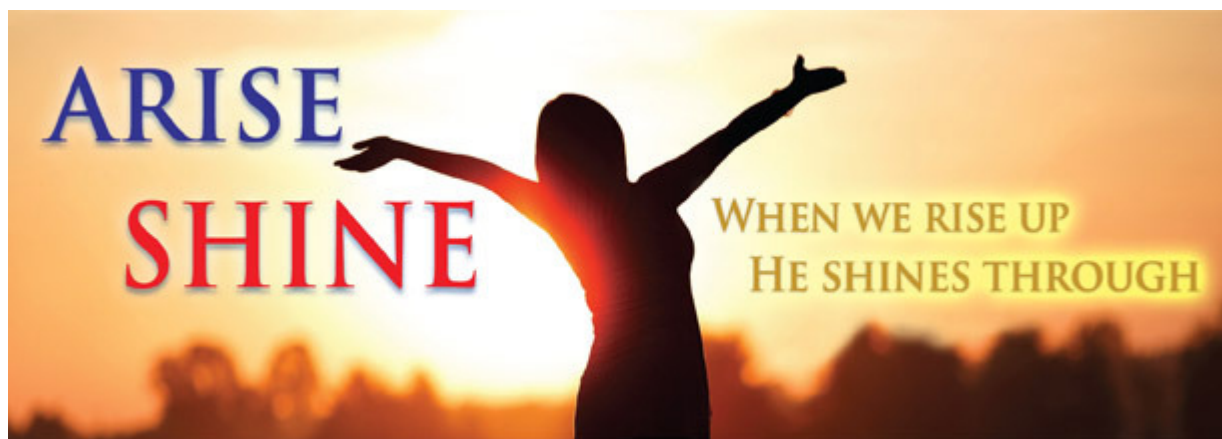
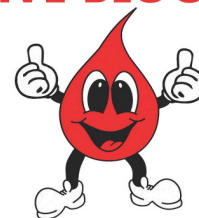
Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00am on Sun, Nov 1st. Don't forget to set your clocks **BACK** one hour on Saturday evening!

**WHEN DID YOU
LAST
GIVE BLOOD?**

Sunday, Nov 1

1:30 - 5:30pm

Sign-up in with Becky Parker or online at americanredcross.com



Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
November 2, 2015

PFAFFTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH

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