

## November 2007

Issue 11

### Ministers

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### *On Our Prayer List:*

Mary Merritt is recovering from injuries received in a car accident.

Jason Noble is recovering from knee surgery.  
Larry Plott's father is recovering from heart surgery.

Continue to remember:

George and Edith Teeters  
P.D. Kirby  
Sandy Malsom's parents  
James Roberts

### **Serving Our Country**

Chris Plott  
Nathan Roll  
Matt Crabtree  
Neil Barrett  
Sam Watson  
Brandon Yarbrough

	Attendance	Offering
9//30	409	\$ 12,828
10/7	368	8,582
10/14	401	9,491
10/21	397	9,310

### **Election Day**

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Our lobby is a polling location. If you are planning to be at the building, please use the office or side door to enter.

### *Friendly Avenue Drama Ministry presents*

### **...and then one day**

*Much of life is spent in getting through to the end. Whether that end be a day, month, perhaps years.*

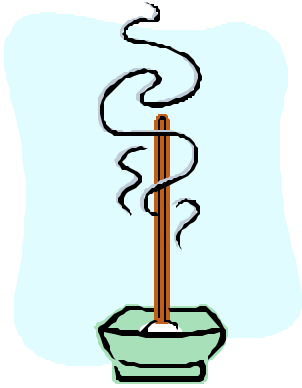
*...constantly making it through some segment of time...arriving at the end only to find the end is the beginning of yet another taunting challenge. But alas you awake, be it to sunshine or darkness, realizing that now is all you have. A choice of that moment affecting every other moment there after...and then one day*

**...and then one day A Dramatic Production  
November 15, 16, & 17 @ 7:00 pm**

### *Wednesday Night Dinners*

The Mission's Ministry will hold fundraiser dinners on the first Wednesday in November and December. Donations will be accepted for the 2008 mission trip. To help us better plan for the amount of food needed, please make a reservation. You can check the space on your attendance card, sign up in the lobby or contact the office. Thank you for supporting our Mission's Ministry.

## *A Little Morning Incense*



Aside from a transient lapse brought on by recent personal health twists, it is both my desire and my habit to set aside time in the morning hours of each day to build my daily experience from the ground up with the Lord. This is nothing new in the ages. This is nothing new in the present. Yet this is something vastly different for each of us as we spend time in God's presence there for the first few moments of the day. We can be that carefully watered garden flower, that softly touched petal, attended to with such loving care. Or we can be that cut stem sold for a beautiful moment, only to fade with the day and the moment. Think of the hand watering the most precious plants in the garden, the most delicate ones. That is one way that I see our mornings with God.

My mornings are a bit different. I awaken two hours before I have to "be there" so

that I have time to get ready and have my quiet time. I get up, come downstairs, start the coffee, and light the incense. Nagchampa, my favorite. This way, when I come back down, my desk area will smell like incense. And coffee. What a wonderful mixture for me! Nagchampa and Espresso Roast! It takes me about 19 minutes to shave and shower and dress. I might eat a yogurt while I read, and I will drink 2-3 glasses of cranberry juice. Two cups of coffee will do it. I'll play Chris Tomlin, Passion Worship Band, Travis Cottrell, Mercy Me, Third Day and a lot of praise and worship music, and almost always have music going. I will read from the Psalms and from a book in the New Testament, currently 1 Peter. I will meditate. I will meditate over the Psalms and pray through the scriptures. During these times of meditation, I just let the Lord pour over me, spread over me, wash over me like a wave. I just soak in the Lord's presence. I have left myself time to do so.



Are things getting old? Switch it around. Pray first, or maybe shower last. I just change the incense. Patchouli rose. Frankincense. Tibetan. Mayan. Papaya. Dragon's blood. It's all a matter of taste. And mood. And

concentration. And solitude. Use a prayer list. Use the directory. Use a list of the seniors. Use the church website. Think of the ministries. Always remember the hurting and the "hungry." Remember that David has confidence that God hears his prayers in the morning, and he lays them before God expectantly (Ps 5:3). Our prayers are set before God as incense (Ps 141:2). And Jesus gave us the example of that quiet time alone with God in the morning, leaving in the dark to find solitude to pray (Mark 1:35).

So get out your favorite incense (morning mist?) and your favorite coffee (Yukon Gold?) and your Bible (NIV?) and your quiet (or musically stilled) place, and meditate. Take a God shower, a spiritual soaking, before your day. You'll be lighter for it.

*Charles Delcambre*





## Overflowing with Thankfulness

"How are you today, Gladys?"

"Terrible, just terrible? Did I tell you about my gall bladder acting up?"

"Yes, Gladys."

She doesn't seem to acknowledge my, "Yes," but launches into a full-scale report on gall bladders around the world, and hers in particular. When she sees my eyes beginning to glaze over, Gladys falters for a moment. She knows she has to switch gears quickly to keep me from nodding off.

"And I have this terrible skin rash that drives me so crazy that I can't sleep at night."

I am trying hard to be polite. "Oh, I'm sorry...."

I attempt to stop myself, but it is too late. The ill-fated word has crossed my lips -- "sorry" -- and now I have fed Gladys her first morsel of real food for the day. She seems to take new energy, and as she describes her itching, I begin to sense little crawling things in my scalp. I unconsciously reach up to scratch my head, but nothing gets by Gladys. Oh, that's the first sign...." she begins.

You've met Gladys, haven't you? It might be a different name. Gladys goes under a number of aliases and dons many disguises. But it's the same complaining, self-centered woman.

Too often, however, I meet Gladys in me. I want people to sympathize with me, so when something is going wrong, -- and when doesn't it? -- I begin to complain. The 49ers are having a bad season. The morals of our nation are terrible. The election was depressing. My spouse is in a bad mood. It doesn't have to dwell on the interior plumbing of a sick Gladys. Normal complaining comes all too easily to my lips.

So when I read Colossians 2:6-7 it hits home. The phrase, "overflowing with thankfulness," begins to repeat itself over and over in my mind.

"Overflowing" -- "abounding," some translations say -- brings the mental picture of the Thanksgiving cornucopia spilling out an abundant harvest blessing. Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." What is in my heart? Complaining? Selfishness? Pride? -- or Thanksgiving?



Thanksgiving is the mark of a Christian, because thanksgiving points out and up while my complaining points only back to me and feeds my pride and dissatisfaction. Thanksgiving towards God and man fits the Great Commandment like a glove, to love God with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love my neighbor as myself. What better vehicle than thankfulness to express love?

The Pillsbury Doughboy® has that endearing quality that when you poke him he doesn't flare up but automatically responds with a friendly, perky, "Oh!" I want to be like him. Not so plump, mind you, but that full of friendliness. When someone pokes me I want my first instinct to be thankfulness rather than anger. I want people to find thankfulness oozing out of me. I want thanksgiving to mark my conversation and manner. I want to abound with it, be full of it. I want to overflow with thankfulness.

How about you?

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

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Colossians 2:6-7 reads: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (NIV)

## Please Join Us

### Sunday

Bible Study 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM

### Sunday Evenings

Small Group Bible Studies meet in homes at various locations. Please call the church office for a group near you.

### Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

## Our Ministries

Assembly Management  
Audio – Video  
Benevolence  
Deaf  
Drama  
Education  
Fellowship  
Finance  
Financial Peace University  
G.E.M.S. (Women's Ministry)  
Hospitality  
Interior Design Coordination  
Interfaith Hospitality Network  
LASC  
Leadership Training for Christ  
Maintenance (Building, Grounds)  
Marriage and Family  
Missions  
Man to Men (Men's Ministry)  
Music  
Nursery/Children's Worship  
Rainbow of Christians  
Small Groups  
Spanish Ministry  
Super Seniors  
Worship  
Youth

## Announcements...

### Children's Ministry Schedule Change

Beginning in November, all children from age 2 – grade 6 will meet in the Fellowship Hall for an activity before being dismissed to their classes. Their teachers will take them to class.

### Items Needed in the Pantry:

Flour & sugar           canned vegetables, soups, meats and fruit  
Cereal                    pasta products           peanut butter & jelly  
Dried beans             gelatin                   bar soap

\*Holiday Items: stuffing mix, sweet potatoes, frozen turkey

### Friendly Red Hatters

We do not have an activity planned during November. Each Red Hatter is asked to bring some canned goods for the food pantry during the month.

### Children's Winter Clothing Needed

The Newcomer's School is a new school located just a few blocks from our building. This school is working with children who have come to the United States from refugee camps with the help of various relief agencies. If you have winter items to donate, please bring them to the office.

### Volunteers Needed to...

...help in Children's Worship – see Matt Rennie  
...help in the nursery – see Jennifer Hardiman  
...work at Potter's House Soup Kitchen – see Nathan Hardiman  
...take meals to shut ins or sick – see Malinda Gregory  
...help with our lawn care – see Randy Blackwood  
...help with set building for drama – see Jim Crotts

### Thanksgiving Schedule

Combined Classes on Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>  
Office Closed November 22 & 23  
Spanish Language Ministry Potluck Holiday Meal – November 22  
Combined Adult class on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Thank You Notes

To All the members,  
There are no words to capture, no exact words to say; to lose a child so abruptly; but just knowing God has place such special people, such loving and caring, compassionate individuals, somehow makes healing and facing tomorrow a little easier. Thank you all for your cards, words of encouraging, books and other acts of kindness. The Washington Family

To the Family at Friendly,  
Linda and I want tot thank you for your concern, love and prayers during a difficult time with the loss of our niece, Neichel Washington. We thank God for a family of living Christians and His amazing strength to guide us through these times. May He continue to bless you all and His church.

In Christ, Les and Linda Jenkins and Washington family.