

Ponderings From the Pastor

By Brad Taylor, Pastor

Who'll Say Grace?

Recently I came across an old article written by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson, titled "Who'll Say Grace?" After reading it, I thought it had to be shared in its entirety. Possibly the words of Dr. Wilson will challenge you and your family this Thanksgiving.

A hot, glistening bird commands the laden table, as Grandma calls everyone to dinner. Eight-year-old Jennifer proudly lugs her July-born sister to the table. Grandpa and Dad get up slowly with a long backward glance to see the tight end catch a pass and be forced out of bounds at the 20. The game continues in the background with-

out them.

"Who'll say grace?" Grandma asks. Grown-ups look awkwardly at each other in strained silence. Finally Uncle

She recites. The feast begins.

Embarrassed silence replaces thanksgiving, gluttony displaces gratefulness. Thanks-

We read, Jesus "took the seven loaves and the fish, and when He had given thanks, He broke them and gave them to the disciples." At the Last Supper Jesus took bread and gave thanks, lifted the cup, gave thanks and offered it to His followers. Jesus always prayed before meals.

We can, too. A simple prayer of thanks at each family meal of the year will gradually restore thankfulness to us. As our children see us humble ourselves to thank our Creator, they too learn to be grateful. Robert Lintner said it well: "Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day."

John snickers and parrots the word "grace," and laughter spills over the tension. Grandma steps in. "Jennifer, why don't you say the prayer you learned in Sunday School when you were in kindergarten."

giving — an expression of gratitude to God for benefits received — is too often absent from our hollow holiday. There is, however, an ancient custom which can reclaim the day.





The Birth Of Jesus



Submitted by Mindy Taylor, Worship Leader

Reenacted at OGBC Dec. 13 and 14, 6-8 p.m.

Luke 2 1Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census should be taken of the whole empire.2This was the first census to take place while b Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3And everyone went to his own town to register.

4So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. 5He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

6While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. 9Just then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to

you. He is Christ the Lord! 12And this will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

13And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying:

14"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests!"

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

16So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the Baby, who was lying in the manger. 17After they had seen the Child, they spread the message they had received about Him. 18And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, which was just as the angel had told them.

21When the eight days until His

circumcision had passed, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.

22And when the time of purification according to the Law of Moses was complete, His parents brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the Law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male shall be consecrated to the Lord"), 24and to offer the sacrifice specified in the Law of the Lord: "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what was customary under the Law, 28Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed God, saying:

29"Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace.

Continued on next page.

November Sermon Calendar

Nov. 3 — Followers of Tradition, Mark 7:1-13

Nov. 10 — The Heart of Man, Mark 7:14-23

Nov. 17 — Food From the Master's Table, Mark 7:24-30

Nov. 24 — The Mute Hear and Deaf Speak, Mark 7:31-37

Children's Church Lesson Calendar

Submitted by Gayla Pruett

In The Beginning

Nov. 3 — Creation From Nothing, led by John and Cindy Tittle

Nov. 10 — The Garden Of Eden, led by Charles and Gayla Pruett

Nov. 17 — Sin And Consequences, led by Jeana Drew and Cassell Drew

Nov. 24 — Saved From The Flood, led by Matt and Jennifer Chambers



OGBC Youth at their Pre-Fall Festival.

OGBC Youth News

Submitted by Matt Shepard, Youth Leader

Pre-Fall Festival was a ton of fun! Our Pop Dart champion was Liam Lovett, and our Costume Contest winner was Evan Bond.

In November, we will celebrate Thanksgiving as a youth group with our Youthsgiving on Nov. 17 following the morning service (12:30-2:30 p.m.).

Upcoming youth dates:

Nov. 17 - Youthsgiving 12:30

January TBD - Lock-in

Continued from previous page.

30For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

31which You have prepared in the sight of all people,

32a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”

33The Child's father and mother were amazed at what was spoken about Him. **34**Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary:

“Behold, this Child is appointed to cause the rise and fall of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

35so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your soul as well.”

36There was also a prophetess named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was well along in years. She had been married for seven years, **37**and then was a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

38Coming forward at that moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the Child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Fall Festival 2024 Fun



Daylight Saving Time Ends

It's time to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed Saturday, Nov. 2. Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m., Sunday, Nov. 3.

November 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 Adult Game Day, 11am	2 Jim McEntire bday
3 Carol Braden bday; Deacons mtg, 5pm	4 Micah Holloway bday	5	6 Abby Jines bday; Awana & Youth, 6:30pm; Praise & Worship, 6:45pm	7 Sue Pierce bday	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 Awana & Youth, 6:30pm; Praise & Worship,	14 Crafty Christians, 10am	15 Eric Treech bday; Church reserved Santmeyer	16 Phillip Ballard & Bobby Qualls bdays; Church reserved Santmeyer
17 Youth Thanksgiving	18 Katie Curtis & Josh Moss bdays	19	20 Allen Tittle bday; Awana & Youth, 6:30pm; Praise & Worship, 6:45pm	21	22	23 Lois Gerhard bday
24 OGBC Church Family Thanksgiving Meal	25	26	27 No AWANA or Youth	28 	29	30

November Daily Bible Reading Plan

<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 1 Psalm 46	15:25—16:7	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 20 Psalm 95
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 2 Psalm 48	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 12 1 Chronicles 16:8	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 21 Psalm 97
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 3 Psalm 121	-43	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 22 Psalm 98
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 4 Psalm 122	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 13 1 Chronicles 17:1	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 23 Psalm 99
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 5 Psalm 124	-15	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 24 Psalm 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 6 Psalm 125	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 14 1 Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 25 Psalm 106:1-23
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 7 Psalm 126	17:16-27	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 26 Psalm 106:24-48
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 8 Psalm 127	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 15 Psalm 18:1-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 27 Psalm 111
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 9 Psalm 128	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 16 Psalm 18:25-50	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 28 Psalm 65
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 10 1 Chronicles 15:1	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 17 Psalm 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 29 Psalm 66
-24	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 18 Psalm 92	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 30 Psalm 67
<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 11 1 Chronicles	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov. 19 Psalm 93	

THANK
YOU!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your outpouring of love during pastor appreciation Sunday. You're are so kind and generous to Mindy and I. We appreciate your love and encouragement.

—Brad & Mindy Taylor

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