

The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



Volume 8, Issue 6

November 5, 2017

A DEVOTIONAL **FOR MEN ON THE GO**

EMPTY POCKETS

"You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!" HAGGAI 1:6

What a thing to say: *Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!* Sound familiar? It seems on target and relevant today. How many people do we know who really like their jobs, feel they get paid more than enough, and are totally satisfied with where they are in life? These days it almost goes without saying that our pockets are filled with holes. Nothing of this world satisfies. Contentment seems impossible to find in all the places we look.

The Lord, however, offers us rest. We really can find contentment in the Lord. In Philippians 4:13, the apostle Paul says, "I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength." Many people consider that verse to be one of the most inspiring in Scripture. But what preceded Paul's proclamation?

"Not that I was ever in need, for I learned how to be content with whatever I have. I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little." (verses 11-12)

Paul could do all things- including being content in any situation--through Christ.

This was always a challenge for me when I was coaching. Our players were as susceptible to the pulls and tugs of the world as anyone, but their situations were compounded in most cases by having plenty of money. And so, their lifestyle often included multiple cars, large homes, and other expensive items. Unfortunately, I often noticed a lack of contentment from a group of young men whose average salary was over a million dollars a year.

Paul says contentment is found in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul was a prisoner for Christ, and in the trials and difficulties of his ministry for Christ--including prison time--he found contentment and rest for each day and the assurance that he would find contentment in the days ahead.

Are you grumbling and discontent about something in your life? Stop grumbling and start thanking God for everything He has provided for you. AMEN.

UNCOMMON KEY: Consider getting a small cross to carry in your pocket. It will remind you that contentment and satisfaction will not be found in the things of the world but in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Tony Dungy and Nathan Whitaker

A MEDITATION FOR EVERY **MARRIED COUPLE**

Reintroduction

"Better one handful with tranquility than two handfuls with toil and chasing after the wind."

ECCLESIASTES 4:6

In the book *Becoming Soul Mates*, Les and Leslie Parrott have compiled over 50 stories of how couples developed spiritual intimacy in their marriages. Here's a story to encourage you to nurture this dimension of your relationship.

A couple we knew gave us some advice several months before we married twenty-three years ago. That advice has served us well and upon reflection is one of the main ways we have cultivated spiritual intimacy in our relationship.

Our friends introduced us to the "principle of reintroduction." Simply put, this principle acknowledges that every day we change as individuals based on your experiences that day. In order to build a growing relationship as a couple, then, we must make time to "daily reintroduce" ourselves to each other. We share the mundane and the profound. We disclose what's going on in our lives and genuinely inquire about each other's life.

Frankly, this was fairly easy to do when we were first married and had few distractions. We had lots of time for meaningful dialogue, cups of coffee, and sharing activities together. But as children came and other adult responsibilities began to crowd our schedules, we were grateful we had established the habit early on and that it still prevails. For no amount of reading the Bible and praying together genuinely builds our relationship if we haven't bared our lives with each other on a regular basis and feel convinced that we are "naked and unashamed" with each other in the fullest sense of that biblical definition of intimacy.

Now our daily reintroduction habit usually takes the form of a long walk, an extended cup of coffee (decaf now), or a long phone call if I'm out of town. But we keep very short accounts, and we can testify that we depend on this habit to keep us growing, both as individuals and as a couple. AMEN.

After You Say, "I Do" Devotional
— H. Norman Wright



DEVOTIONAL FOR SINGLES

Laughter: The Gift That Cures

"A glad heart makes cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken... All the days of the desponding and afflicted are made evil (by anxious thoughts and forebodings), but he who has a glad heart has a continual feast (regardless of circumstances)"

--PROVERBS 15:13-15 (AMP.)

***Laughter, it makes the world go around.
Someone said: Laugh a little. No, laugh a lot.***

These are words of wisdom. Laughter is one of God's gifts. Life is filled with incidents that lend themselves to not just a snicker, but an uncontrolled siege of laughter. Are you known as a person who can laugh? One who enjoys life? What's the laughter level in your world? Do you laugh a little or a lot?

It could be that what you don't have is eluding you because you are refusing to take God's antidote for unhappiness. Solomon tells us that God intended laughter to be our medicine during times of physical, emotional and spiritual brokenness: "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones" (Prov. 17:22).

Humor relaxes. It relieves tension. It brings a sense of balance into life. It provides a respite from the heaviness of life's concerns and griefs. Those who don't laugh tend to shrivel up like dried-out prunes.

Yes, it's true that times will occur when the seriousness of life makes it difficult to laugh. But generally, we have a choice.

Laughter can also involve our moral choices. We do have to avoid compromising our Christian standards; but for the most part, laughter enriches our lives.

Remember Lazarus in John 11, the man whom Jesus brought back to life? Have you ever related his story to laughter?

Judson Edwards wrote a fascinating statement about the play, *Laughing with Lazarus*. Consider his words:

Eugene O'Neill's play *Laughing with Lazarus* begins with Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead and deals with the change this miracle makes in Lazarus' life. After he has been raised, Lazarus becomes fearless. Try as they might, the Jewish leaders cannot stifle his gladness. **Laughter is his trademark, and everywhere he goes people are warmed and enlivened by his presence. Because he has learned that even the Final Enemy cannot defeat him, Lazarus is eternally infected with joy. It's a scenario we uptight Christians would do well to consider.**

Sheer fiction you say? A figment of the playwright's imagination? Not really--most of us are like Lazarus! **We are the people who have been raised to walk in newness of life. WE are the ones who insist that the hope of the resurrection affects us profoundly the moment we choose Jesus.** Every last one of us who claims to be a Christian has an inheritance: the same joy Lazarus experienced after his miracle at Bethany; the same fearlessness; the same contagious freedom.

The only bucket of water hanging over the fire is our unbelief. Most of us are at heart unbelievers. We refuse to accept all of the incredible implications of Calvary. We believe the lie that God is not for us. Though the prison door stands wide open, we huddle in self-imposed chains and refuse to claim our liberty. Unlike Lazarus, we refuse to leave the tomb. We cannot convince our hearts to believe that laughter is our birthright.

But, thank God, it is never too late! The door stands eternally open. And our joy and peace are sure indicators that we have walked through it.

So, do you want to know how Christian you really are? Then don't listen to your creeds or your prayers. They come from your head and reflect your mind. Listen, instead, to your laughter. It comes from your soul and reflects your heart. **Your laughter will tell you unfailingly of your faith in God. AMEN**

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Are you willing to accept the gift that cures? Will you take God's prescription for your unhealthy attitudes? How much time do you spend laughing? What changes are you willing to make today to cultivate a sense of humor? AMEN.

--Dr. H. Norman Wright, Single Purpose

- TEEN'S CORNER -

GOT QUESTIONS? GOD'S GOT ANSWERS...



QUESTION:

I've made mistakes. What should I do?

THE QUICK ANSWER:

Made a mistake? Ask for forgiveness! If you've broken one of God's rules you can always ask Him for His forgiveness. And He will always give it!

BEYOND THE MISTAKES

"Flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

2 Timothy 2:22 HCSB

Mistakes; nobody likes 'em but everybody makes 'em. And you're no different! When you commit the evitable blunders of life (and you will), do your best to correct them, learn from them, and pray for the wisdom to avoid those same mistakes in the future. If you're successful, the missteps of today will become the stepping stones of tomorrow. And your life will become a non-stop learning experience.

Mistakes are the price you pay for being human; repeated mistakes are the price you pay for being stubborn. So don't be hardheaded: learn from your experiences--the first time! AMEN.

No matter how badly we have failed, we can always get up and begin again. Our God is the God of new beginnings.

Warren Wiersbe

God is able to take mistakes, when they are committed to Him, and make of them something for our good and for His glory.

Ruth Bell Graham

There is nothing wrong with asking God's direction. But it is wrong to go our own way, then expect Him to bail us out.

Larry Burkett

Mistakes offer the possibility for redemption and a new start in God's kingdom. No matter what you're guilty of, God can restore your innocence.

Barbara Johnson

*100 Questions Teens Ask with Answers from God's Word
- By Freeman Smith*



DEVOTIONAL FOR SENIORS

Climbing the Musical Scale

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to service. (1Timothy 1:12-2:7 NIV)

DO - Do not worry over things that may never happen, and even if they happen, worry will not help. Do count your blessings before you count cares.

RE - Radiate good will and a spirit of benevolence. Like laughter, it . . . makes yourself, as well as others feel better.

ME - Mete kindness, understanding, tolerance and forgiveness generously. You reap as you mete.

FA - Far-reaching are the therapeutic benefits of spiritual thinking. You become as you habitually think. Resentment, hatred, spite, envy and vengeance pack radioactive fallout that gnaws at your vitals. They are self-consuming.

SO - Sow the seeds of love, friendship, empathy and helpfulness. These hardy seeds take root in the crustiest ground.

LA - Laugh at yourself now and then. You who can laugh at yourself are less apt to be at war with yourself. Laugh at yourself, even if you don't feel like laughing.

TI - Teach yourself awareness and appreciation of all the wonders of nature. Thank God daily for the precious gift of life. Genuine gratitude and discontent are never found together.

DO - Do not expect someone else to open the door to happiness for you. You must do it yourself. You alone have the key. Turn it.

Author Unknown
~~ Excerpt from *Women's Devotional Bible*

Laughter... sparkles like a splash of water in sunlight

ADAM'S RIB

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, 'Johnny what is the matter?' Little Johnny responded, 'I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'

TWO LITTLE BOYS

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

SHORT 'N SWEET HUMOROUS WRITINGS

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages.

'Momma, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together during church services. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough.

'You're not supposed to talk out loud in church.'

'Why? Who's going to stop me?' Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, 'See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers.'

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honor" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

<http://gatewaytojesus.com/humorouschurchstories.html>

THANKSGIVING FUNNIES

Biff: Why did the turkey cross the road?

Bob: I don't know.

Biff: It was Thanksgiving Day, and he wanted people to think he was a chicken!

Joke submitted by Rachy Y., Waianae, Hawaii



Charles: What is a turkey's favorite dessert?

Mary: I haven't a clue.

Charles: Peach gobbler!

Joke submitted by Charles S., Gilbert, Ariz.

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the grocery store for Thanksgiving Day, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She asked a stock boy, "Do these turkeys get any bigger?"

"No, ma'am. They're dead."

Joke submitted by Grant W., San Diego, Calif.



<http://boyslife.org/home/23855/funny-thanksgiving-day-jokes/>



MISS MANNERS ON RUDENESS IN THIS PRESENT AGE

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” (Philippians 4:8 KJV)

The renowned etiquette columnist offers an alternative list of virtues for a time when all traditional expectations are in question. ~Judith Martin

We now have Alternate Virtues:

1. Authenticity (formerly Vulgarly)

This is a newly popular concept, born of disillusionment. So many public figures have been caught doing or saying something hypocritical that paragons no longer seem plausible. So if you know enough dreadful things about someone, perhaps you have hit bottom and will be spared the shock of further revelations.

2. Frankness (formerly Discretion)

Speaking one's mind has come to be considered praiseworthy, regardless of the quality of what is expressed. Wholesale insults of segments of the society had generally been considered unfit for public consumption, however sincerely felt, but now the *sincerity* is the important part.

3. Honesty (formerly Respect)

This is the person-to-person version of saying it all. Nobody is in favor of dishonesty, but the pre-social media era, when people were told that their personal problems were all due to a lack of communication, spread the idea that there was something admirable about insulting people to their faces.

4. Safety (formerly Due Process)

As no one really knows how to combat terrorism, there are those who believe that we can only be saved if we fight as dishonorably as our enemies.

5. Open-mindedness (formerly Scholarship)

The concept of relativity has strangely given rise to the belief that the emotional power of moral conviction elevates arguments above facts.

Virtues. . . continued

6. Assertiveness (formerly Fairness)

Observing minorities using solidarity and pride to bind together and protest discrimination has given members of the majority the idea that the technique can be applied to *competing with them to obtain additional advantages*.

7. Humility (formerly Discernment)

This is the modern virtue that has, at least in theory, effectively replaced Exercising Judgment with Not Being Judgmental. Of course, people keep judging one another. But for those to whom they wish to give a pass, the who-am-I-to-judge rationale is applied.

8. Forgiveness (formerly Reputation)

We have seen saintly examples of victims and their bereaved forgiving the responsible criminals. But in the case of public figures, the concept has expanded. It no longer means giving the person a chance to repent and show better behavior, but rather erasing the record, to the extent that even mentioning it is considered to be in bad taste. Thus the person who has behaved badly has the same claim to public trust as the one who has behaved well all along.

9. Achievement (formerly Overcoming Obstacles)

The hope is that prosperity is catching, so the ideal life story for a public figure is about achieving success from poor origins, preferably not with major legal setbacks. But the dazzle of riches can be enough to obscure the journey.

10. Entertainment (formerly Setting an Example)

Having had previous years of exemplary leadership in this country, people are now hungry for the pleasures of scandal.

And finally—

11. Acting Out (formerly Being a Leader)

According to Dr. Daniel Akin's exposition on the church at Pergamum, we learned the following: "If we become more moved and teary eyed over our flag and "America the Beautiful" than we do the cross of Christ and "Amazing Grace," something is seriously wrong. **Ultimately we must remind ourselves again and again that our hope is in Calvary's Hill not Capitol Hill.** We must remember that an idol is often a good thing turned into a god thing. There is nothing wrong with loving America (or one's home country). There is everything wrong in worshiping her even if it is done unintentionally. There is no room for confusion or compromise here." AMEN.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2017/02/alternative-virtues-for-the-trump-era/516498/>, (minor revision by M. Yates)



A STORY OF HOPE

Grieving and Peace

* * * * *

He spoke well who said that graves are the footprints of angels.

-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

REACHING FOR PEACE

Thomas Ann Hines

Paul was dead. My delightful twenty-one-year-old son was murdered in a carjacking attempt, and my world collapsed. The bullet that ripped through his heart shattered mine, destroying my peaceful world forever.

Just as it seemed things would be easier for us, his life was taken senselessly, and now, mine had no meaning. I raised Paul as a single parent, and we were so very protective of each other. He was a senior in college, planning to marry a wonderful young woman, and my life would be moving into another dimension. I would no longer need to send a check each month to help with his college expenses. We chatted the evening before he was murdered about what I would do with all the money I wouldn't be sending after his graduation.

There are no words to describe the rage I felt toward the seventeen-year-old who asked Paul for a ride, then killed him in cold blood. So many times in my life I had wanted to be taller than my five feet, two inches, for it seems that power comes with height. I sat in the Austin courtroom looking at a young man, over six feet tall. If looks could kill, he would have met his doom, for nothing came from me but utter hatred.

Charles White received a forty-year prison sentence, and again I was enraged! Paul was dead, and a worthless, hardened criminal was allowed to live. My taxes would feed him, pay for his guards and furnish him with clothes to wear and food to eat. Paul is dead. That was all I could think of. It gave me no peace to know that the murderer would serve thirteen years of "flat time" for Paul's murder. Paul would never be alive again, not in thirteen, twenty-three or thirty-three years!

Every three months I sent a scathing letter to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, pouring out my great anguish and pain from the depths of my soul. How I wanted to know that someone would read those words and know the continuous, overwhelming pain that results from the murder of a loved one. Two times a year, on February 18th (the date Paul was murdered) and again each August, I made a personal trip to Austin to speak with a staff member and get an update on Charles' actions in prison. I was elated when he got into trouble and "lost good time." That proved that he was a really bad guy.

Years passed, thirteen to be exact, and I had no peace. I continued my letters and personal visits of protest and lived to hate the murder of my precious Paul. One day, as I opened the mail at my office, I received a letter from the parole board informing me that my son's killer was being considered for parole. I became physically ill and had to leave the office. My staff did not know what was wrong, but they knew something drastic had

REACHING FOR PEACE...continued

happened. How could they even think of allowing him to go free? Paul was still dead, and I felt so overwhelmed with helplessness. Through the years, I was told, "He won't be released," but after reading the letter I knew that I had to take immediate action. I would go talk with my son's murderer.

The state of Texas has a program that allows victims to meet with perpetrators, and I made the dreaded call and received confirmation that I could participate in the program. Even greater anger consumed me, for it was my responsibility to pay for my trips to Austin to work through the program. Charles, on the other hand, languished in prison, and my taxes paid for the mediator to help prepare him to meet with me.

The meeting was scheduled for June 9, 1998. Again, I paid for a trip to Austin, but was taken to the prison site in a state vehicle. Though I had been in numerous prisons as a speaker for the victim impact programs, it felt different when I went inside that prison. HE IS HERE! This is HIS prison! My heart beat frantically, and I did not know if I could go through with the meeting.

In preparation for the time we would spend together, I had meticulously decided what I should have with me for this momentous meeting. I was ready! I sincerely hoped to shatter any shred of peace he felt. When I left, he would know that he had destroyed my world with a single bullet.

To say that the meeting was awkward is putting it lightly. Everyone in the room, including the guards, was deathly quiet, and frequently my soft voice was barely audible. I had not slept at all the night before; I paced the floor in the tiny hotel room, alone with my thoughts and questions. I had been instructed to write out the questions that I wanted to ask Paul's murderer and have them in order so that the meeting could progress in an organized manner. Of the seventy-seven questions I had written down, the one I asked first was simple: WHY?

The young man, who did not look much different from when I last saw him thirteen years earlier, had no answer for me other than to shake his head and say, "It was just a stupid thing to do. Stupid, just stupid, stupid, stupid..."

I felt no pity for him; he senselessly murdered my son. I wanted him to squirm and feel my pain. Tears streamed down my face as I spoke of Paul, and I said to him, "If you knew how much I loved him, you would not have killed him." He sat across the table from me, showing no emotion.

For this meeting, I had Paul's photos enlarged to fourteen by eighteen inches. I wanted him to know Paul as a real person, not as "him, the dude, the kid," as he referred to Paul in his writings to the mediator. He said he didn't even remember what Paul looked like, and I wanted to scream, "How can you not remember him? You killed him!"

I became pensive and, as if to myself, I began to talk of how Paul would call to see if my car was okay. If I thought it sounded funny, he would tell me that he was coming home over the weekend to take care of it for me. I spoke of how he would ask about our yard, telling me that he's come home because I was "too little to mow the lawn."

Something touched Charles at that point. I could not believe the tears that streamed down the face of the man across the table from me. What was going on? Charles put his head in his hands and sobbed. Without thinking, I pulled a tissue from the box on the table, handed it to him and said, "Here." Those tears of shame and remorse touched me deeply. The tone of the meeting changed; suddenly, the mother and the murderer began

REACHING FOR PEACE...continued

to connect. I listened to how Charles was raised in extreme poverty, one of several children, living mostly in the streets. Paul, by contrast, was an only child and knew only love and all the security I could provide.

For the very first time, I really looked into the eyes of my son's murderer and was amazed that I felt no hate. I encouraged him to stop being violent in prison. I asked that he attend classes and get a GED. He looked at me in disbelief, for he seemed to realize that my rage was gone. The meeting ended with him agreeing to attend classes and stop his violence. I thanked him for meeting with me, folded my hands and closed my eyes. I felt a great need to put my hand across the table and take his, but I dared not do that. He had murdered my son. If I did that, I would be reaching out to the hand that held the pistol that killed Paul. Again, I felt that I should reach out to the killer across from me. No, I just couldn't do it.

Then, almost against my will, my hand reached across the table to grasp the hand of my son's killer. A great cry of anguish was released from the depths of my soul as I felt him take my hand. He covered my hand with both of his and his tears of remorse washed over them. The same hand that, thirteen years earlier, had held a pistol and pulled the trigger, releasing the shot that shattered my peace, now clung to mine as if I were his lifeline. Though Charles never said, "I am sorry, please forgive me," and I never said the words, "I forgive you," we came to our place of peace. Our communication continues to this day.

~Chicken Soup for the Soul, Moms & Sons by Jack Canfield & Mark Victor Hansen



Hand Print on the Wall



O

ne day as I was picking the toys up off the floor,

I noticed a small hand print on the wall beside the door.

I knew that it was something that I'd seen most everyday,
But this time when I saw it there I wanted it to stay.

Then tears welled up inside my eyes, as I knew the print wouldn't last.
I saw that in the days ahead my children would grow up too fast.

Just then I put my chores aside and held my children tight,
I sang to them sweet lullaby's and rocked them through the night.

Sometimes we take for granted all those things that seem so small,
Like one of God's great treasures—A small handprint on the wall.

--Author Unknown

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017**



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES
TO EVERYONE BORN
IN THE MONTHS OF
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER!!!**

UBC COMMUNICATION CARDS: Anyone worshipping with us today and “making a decision for Christ” by using one of our UBC Communication Cards found in the pocket of the pews, is encouraged to follow-up your decision TODAY, by contacting REVEREND ALVIN L. WYATT, Minister of Christian Life and Witness at (513) 381-3858. When calling, please leave your name, the spelling of your name, the date and time of your call, and, most importantly, a telephone number where you may be reached. Reverend Wyatt will be in touch with you, as quickly as possible, after receiving your telephone call, as to the next steps regarding your decision(s) for Christ. GOD BLESS YOU.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY: For the convenience and support of the Union Baptist Church membership and our guests, a Prayer Request Box with Forms is available in the vestibule leading into the Sanctuary. Please feel free to place your Prayer Request(s) in the box at any time. Our Prayer Partners stand ready to pray with you, and for you. Thank you, Intercessory Prayer Ministry Leaders.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.: Our current Men's Bible study is based on The Jesus Challenge by Tony Evans. In this series you'll discover that increasing your Christian commitment isn't a matter of just taking on more activities. Tony Evans says it calls for something deeper than that. There is a difference between being in ministry and just being in motion. What a blessing that awaits all who participate! ~~ Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY AT 12:00 P.M.: Our current Wednesday noon Bible study is also based on The Jesus Challenge by Tony Evans. A light lunch is served after class. Remember all are welcome and we will be blessed by your presence. ~~Pastor Yates

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER SERVICE AND BIBLE STUDY AT 7:00 P.M.: Our Wednesday evening Bible study is also based on The Jesus Challenge by Tony Evans. This is a great experience of pray, study and worship for your convenience. All are invited to attend. ~~ Pastor Yates

KINGDOM MARRIAGE SEMINAR TO END ON NOVEMBER 15, 2017: This six-week Fall session class for married couples and singles contemplating marriage began on Wednesday, October 4th from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. The last session will occur on November 15th. Information for the next Kingdom Marriage Seminar will be forthcoming.

~~ Pastor Yates



INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017 (continued)

A SPECIAL USHERS MINISTRY RECOGNITION WILL BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2017: A special presentation will occur during the 10:25 a.m. worship celebration. **Please see a history of the Usher Ministry on page 15.**
~~ Bro. Charles Harris, Chief Usher

PURPOSE DRIVEN YOUTH MINISTRY (PDYM) BAKE SALE: On Sunday, November 5, 2017, **after morning worship** there will be a bake sale sponsored by the PDYM. Please support this fundraising effort. Rev. Wyatt, PDYM Leader



ANNUAL CHURCH REVIVAL, NOVEMBER 6-8, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.: The annual Church Revival will be held on Monday through Wednesday, nightly at 7:00 p.m. with guest evangelist, Reverend Thurmond N. Tillman, Senior Pastor of the historic First African Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia. **Please see the flyer on page 32** for additional details.

DRAMA MINISTRY REHEARSALS HAVE STARTED: The Drama Guild Ministry is preparing for the annual Christmas production ("A Believer's Prayer") as part of the Family Communion service on Sunday, December 3 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Rehearsals will be held every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. All choir members are asked to please attend your regular scheduled rehearsals so that Bro. Bailey can teach you the music. Parents, grand-parents, aunts and uncles are asked to please have your children at Children's Church to learn their song and get their costume. **Please see the flyer on page 33** for additional information.
~~ Sis. Cheryl Hill, Drama Ministry Leader

CONGRATULATIONS TO SENIOR HALL OF FAME NOMINEE, SIS. RUTH PHILLIPS: Sis. Ruth Phillips is a nominee for the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame and will receive an award at the 50th Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Banquet and Awards Ceremony held on **Friday, November 17, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Hyatt Regency. The Hall of Fame recognizes the contributions and achievements of our senior citizens. Please contact Sis. Portia Fuller for tickets.

HARVEST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 19, 2017: Please bring your donations for the Thanksgiving baskets on Sunday, November 19, 2017. Distribution of the Thanksgiving baskets will be on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, beginning at 12:00 noon in Hays Hall at Union Baptist Church. **Please see page 17 for additional information.** ~~Sis. Monica Ray, Ministry Leader.

8:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICES WILL NOT BE HELD DURING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER; THEY WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018.

DEACONS MINISTRY: The Deacons Ministry will meet on Monday, **December 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Page Archives Library. **Please have your monthly Ward Family Reports.** ~~Pastor Yates

ANNUAL DR. LORETTA C. MANGGRUM CHORALE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT ON DECEMBER 17, 2017: The Loretta C. Manggrum Chorale will present a musical performance on Sunday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m. at the Greater Liberty Baptist Church, located at 6209 Desmond Ave (45227). Choir members throughout the area community churches, including members from Union Baptist Church, participate in this annual event.

A THANK YOU FROM THE BELL FAMILY: We all appreciate our Union Baptist Church Family for coming out to First Baptist Church of Hazelwood to fellowship, worship and be present for our grand-daughter's dedication during our son-in-law and daughter, Pastor Donald E. and Erica Garrett's 6th year Pastoral Anniversary. Thank you very much. God bless you! Deacon Ricardo and Sis. Annette I. Bell

History of the Usher Ministry

In 1831, when Union Baptist Church was first organized, there were no ushers. Since there was a need to carry out services with dignity and good order, the deacons performed certain duties. Each family was assigned a pew and upon arrival each Sunday morning, the deacons would supervise seating of the families. Visitors to the church sat in the seats that were left.



This seating procedure went on for many years. As the membership increased and the visitors became more plentiful, a group from among the congregation volunteered to direct people to their seats. Mr. Carter was the leader of the volunteer group and could be considered the first Chief or Chairman of the ushers, although there was no definite established system. It was a duty the volunteers took on each Sunday. There was no real emphasis put on the duties or attendance of the volunteers, and there was no concern if they did or did not show up for services.

When Mr. Carter died, Mr. Carr took over and for a while the volunteer system continued. As the church grew larger, the official board and Pastor decided there was need for organization of the ushers. Mr. Carr organized an usher board with a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. He became known as “Daddy Carr” and is thought of as “Father of the Usher Board”.

Mr. Carr served for 40 years and was followed by Mr. Curtis Peeks as the next chairman of the Usher Board. Mr. Peeks served as Chairman for a short time, and was succeeded by Mr. Allen and then Mr. Butler who also both served short terms. Mr. Peeks was then reappointed and served as Chief Usher for 12 years. Under the supervision of Mr. Peeks, the Usher Board grew to 34 members.

In 1949, the official board and members of Union Baptist Church honored the Usher Board with a testimonial dinner to recognize them as one of the most outstanding non-profit organizations of the church, highly respected by the membership.

Years later, the Usher Board continued to develop. Deacon James Young served as Chief Usher for over 30 years, and Mrs. Luci Flanigan was next to serve as the first female Chief Usher.

Historic Overview of Union Baptist Church Usher Boards

Adult	1918
Youth	1962
Children	1998
Angels of the Lord	2002

The current Usher Ministry of Union Baptist Church consists of combined Adult and Angels of the Lord Ushers and combined Youth and Children Ushers.

Adult Ushers

Sis. Lynette Darby

Sis. Gwen Hall

Bro. Charles Harris (Chief Usher, Men’s Day Chairperson, 2018)

Sis. Denise Harris (Youth / Children Co-Leader, Women’s Day Chairperson, 2018)

Sis. Dorothy Lynch

Sis. Angelita Moreno Jones (Assistant Chief Usher)

Sis. Doris Mack

Sis. Valentina Moreno-Cheek

The Usher Ministry (continued)

Adult Ushers (continued)

Sis. Shirley Norman (Youth / Children Usher Leader)
Sis. Deborah Phillips
Sis. Doris Walker
Bro. Bruce Washington
Bro. Jeremy Yates

Children / Youth Ushers

Sis. Ta'nia Hoover
Bro. Aidyn Montgomery
Bro. Alonzo Montgomery, Jr.
Bro. Umi-Dae Phillips
Bro. Christopher Price
Sis. Aaliyah Mazion-Yates
Bro. Jaden Richardson

Union Baptist also gives thanks to the following Emeritus Ushers that have been faithful doorkeepers throughout many years. (* served 50 years or more)

Sis. Betty Bridges
*Sis. Peggy Burden
Sis. Roberta Crawford
*Sis. Viola Grace
Sis. Rosie Hindsman
Bro. Dorsey Hubbard
Bro. Raymond Jeter
*Sis. Dorlean Smith
*Sis. Louise Stallworth
*Sis. Ramona Swan (Money Changer)
Sis. Laura Thompson

Webster describes an usher as a doorkeeper, an officer who introduces strangers on walks before persons of rank, or an assistant master.

The Bible, however, references: "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked." (Psalm 84:10)

Church ushering is a sacred duty and a great privilege because it is a service to Christ and His church.

If you are interested in becoming an Union Baptist Church usher, please contact Bro. Charles Harris (Chief Usher).



HARVEST SEASON 2017

Greetings, we pray that all is well with you and your family as you receive this request for your assistance this Harvest Season. Our goal is to serve 100 families and the following items are needed to accomplish this goal. Please bring in a large brown bag by Sunday, November 19, 2017 so that we may quickly organize what has been received. We will distribute the bags to the community on Tuesday, November 21st.

**Corn
Green Beans
Candied Yams
Cranberry Sauce
Gravy
Macaroni and Cheese
Corn Bread Mix
Cake Mix and Icing
A donation of \$7.00 for Chicken**

God Bless you for your faithfulness! Happy Thanksgiving!!

UBC Food Pantry Ministry

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017 (continued)

MESSAGE FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT



Greeting Union,

With only two months left in 2017, the Sunday school is looking forward to ending the year with our annual Christmas program, in-conjunction with the Drama Ministry. We also will be conducting a survey of the membership to find out what we can do, to get more participation from the membership. The Sunday School is committed to providing Bible study for all ages, but we would like for the membership to become more involved. Please look for the survey to be given out hopefully sometime in November, or early December.

As always, we are asking the membership to please become more involved in the Sunday School; it is an excellent way to improve your study of the word. I am also asking for parents to please bring your children, so that they can understand what God has in store for them, as they learn more about Him.

God's peace and blessings,

Deacon Ernest Norman/Superintendent



WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Women's Ministry ministered at Matthew 25 Ministries on October 14, 2017. The members helped to sort clothes which will be sent to persons who suffered through the recent hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico. Mark your calendars for our next event at **Matthew 25 Ministries: December 9, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.** We are asking that the participants bring one person outside of the church to join with us in this ministry effort.

The **Vessels of Praise** continue to give honor and glory to God through their dance ministry. The praise dancers ministered at the National Baptist Convention, Union Baptist Church Women's Day and First Baptist Church of Hazelwood. The Vessels of Praise welcome new members of any age to join with them in their ministry efforts.

Please make plans to join us in December as we do community outreach. The exact date(s) have yet to be determined. Information will be sent out through the Call-Em-All System.

~~ **Sis. Rogena Stargel and Sis. Louise Stevenson**, Women's Ministry Leaders

GREETING CARD ADDRESS LABELS: The Greeting Card Ministry will be distributing address labels for Christmas cards for Union Baptist sick and shut in members on **December 3, 2017**. Please be sure to get an address label so that you can send a card to uplift the spirit of our many sick and shut in members during this holiday season. Thank you and God bless.

~~ **Sis. Viola Grace, Greeting Card Ministry**

FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry Ministry served **26 families** in September and none in October in order to prepare for Thanksgiving baskets.

AMAZONSMILES: The Foundation has established a program where a part of your Amazon purchases will be donated to a charity of your choice. When you are shopping on Amazon.com, please go to the AmazonSmiles site and designate *The Union Foundation* as your charity.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017 (continued)

We are entering the season where we come to love and share with one another. The Kingdom of Heaven is made for you and me with God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

(NKJ) Matthew 19:13-19:14 Then the little children were brought to Him that He should put His hands on them, and pray. But Jesus said, suffer little children, and do not forbid them: for such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

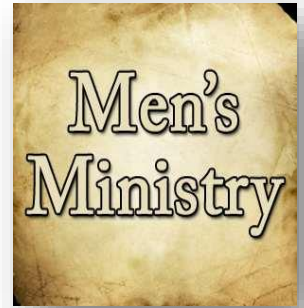
Matthew 19:15-19:18 And He laid His hands on them and departed from there. And, behold one came and said to him, Good Teacher, what good thing must I do that I may have eternal life. So, he said to Why do you call me good when no one is good but God in Heaven. But if you want to enter life keep the commandments. He said which ones? Jesus says don't murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, or bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself.

All of this I have done in my youth. What do I lack? Sell everything and give to the poor. And follow me. Because a rich man cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven, the young man walked away sorrowful. The Worldly Way will never understand God, so try not to get overloaded with worldly desires of gifts.

We are set apart, saved by the blood of the lamb, in one, God. Our riches are stored up in Heaven.

I always heard of this scripture but could never find it. Read Matthew 19:23-24.

Men's Ministry Leader, Deacon James E. Darby



THE CITY GOSPEL MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY: The schedule of the longstanding participation of Union Baptist Church Ministers began with Reverend Shawn D. Pate, is as follows:

November 25, 2017	Reverend Barry Hixon, Jr.	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
December 23, 2017	Reverend Alvin Wyatt	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.
January 27, 2018	Reverend Emanuel Marshall	Preaching at 7:30 p.m.

Union is asked to pray for and support, in every way possible, our Associate Ministers as they serve at City Gospel Mission. The City Gospel Mission is located at 1805 Dalton St., 45215. Thank You. ~~Pastor Yates

FRICK 'N FRACK SATURDAY SOUL; KITCHEN: Melanie Montgomery announces that her catering business will be **selling dinners on Saturday, November 11, 2017 starting at 12:00 noon** at 8045 Pippin Rd. #2C, Cincinnati, Ohio 45239. The menu will consist of fried turkey or beef pot roast dinners with choices of sides, drinks and deserts. **Pre-Ordering is recommended by November 8th.** You may call Melanie at **513-349-2002 to order or for additional information.** Please leave a message if there is no answer.

UNION BAPTIST CEMETERY UPDATE

On Saturday October 21, 2017, cemetery committee members Sis. Jaci Powell, Sis. Faye Shirley, and Sis. Yvonne Sewell greeted members of the Delhi Historical Society at Union Baptist Cemetery. Union Baptist Cemetery was one of four historical cemeteries they visited that day. Our Lady of Victory, St. Joseph, and the Jewish Cemetery were others toured by the group of 45.



The visit at Union Baptist Cemetery started with a brief history of the cemetery presented by Sis. Sewell, followed by a question and answer session. They then went on a tour of the grounds. The tour included the graves of dignitaries Powhaton Beaty, Hon. George W. Hays, and Jennie D. Porter. In talking to several of the tourists, it was interesting to learn of their familiarity with the cemetery. Several of them lived in the neighborhood as



children and young adults. It was touching to listen as they shared and expressed some of the following memories: it was a place to meet; it was a place to play; it was beautiful back then; that area was the section for the babies - what happened to it?; we have watched it deteriorate over the years; and finally it looks much better now.

Sis. Powell gave an overview of the recent benefit concert by Angela Powell Walker, critically acclaimed soprano. Another concert is planned for next year, and their society would be kept informed.

The thirty-five to forty minute visit ended far too quickly. An invitation was extended to the group to visit again. There were many who said they would.



Business Corner

~ THE SHOP AT UNION ~



Our highlighted business is “**The Shop at Union,**” our own in-house store, open since 2016! If you haven’t visited **The Shop** lately, stop by and see some of our new items. Read on to learn the great things we now have in store for you!

To help you prepare for the holidays, we have new items coming in every week! Some of the jewelry coming in is really amazing! Each week, we will have new very nice faith-based jewelry for men, women, and yes, we even have some colorful cross necklaces for children. You spoke, we listened! So we now have 2X and 3X sweatshirts, hoodies and T’s – and yes, we still have smaller sizes too. Looking for a good book to read? Take out time to check out our literary section!



Also new at **The Shop**, we **now take Credit/Bank Cards!** That’s right; if you don’t have cash you can still shop at **The Shop!** (Careful—there is a \$1.00 up-charge for sales \$24.00 and under and a \$2.00 up-charge for sales \$25.00 and over.) (No worries though....our prices are sooo good, you won’t even notice!)

Last but not least, “Gift Wrap”!!! If you need your gift wrapped for a loved one, just let us know!!! We aim to please at **The Shop!**

Children and Teens of Union help staff to sell the products at **The Shop**, so whenever possible, please check and buy from the children instead of the adults behind the counter. They’re gaining wisdom on customer service, how to use the calculator, and how to process credit cards. It is a great learning experience for them, and they do enjoy it.

Just remember: **All proceeds from The Shop go directly to help support Union’s Ministries.**

Please remember to support **The Shop**, not just during the Holidays but every chance you get!

~ Sis. Angelita Moreno Jones

NOVEMBER IS THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS MONTH



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November 6-8, 2017: Annual Church Revival at 7:00 p.m.

November 13, 2017: Deacon's Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m..

November 19, 2017: Annual Harvest Sunday

November 20, 2017: Trustee Board Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

November 21, 2017: Distribution Day for Harvest Baskets at 12 noon.

November 23-24, 2017: Thanksgiving Day Observance with Family. Church office closed.

Four Things You Did Not Know About Thanksgiving

1. People disagree about when the first Thanksgiving was held.

If you could ask a Pilgrim about the three-day celebration with the Wampanoag Indians in Plymouth, Mass., in 1621, which most Americans think of as the first Thanksgiving, he would not have used the word "Thanksgiving." For the Pilgrims, rather, a day of Thanksgiving was instilled with religious meaning and set aside for prayer and worship. From the Pilgrims' point of view, their first "Thanksgiving" took place in July 1623. Governor William Bradford declared a day of Thanksgiving to give thanks for the rain that had ended a drought and saved their harvest.

2. The Pilgrims likely ate corn instead of cranberries.

If you want to eat what the Pilgrims and Wampanoag Indians ate in the 1600's, put venison, corn and oysters on your Thanksgiving menu. Turkey may also have been on the table, but unlike today, it was not the centerpiece of the meal. The early English settlers also ate duck, geese, swan, crane, gulls and even eagle.

3. Not everyone liked the idea of a national Thanksgiving holiday.

It's hard to imagine Thanksgiving as a source of political controversy. But such was the case in 1789, when George Washington called our first Thanksgiving as a nation. In his proclamation, Washington asked Americans to gather on the last Thursday of November to give thanks for the establishment of "a form of government for their safety and happiness." Some Members of Congress objected. The authority to designate a Thanksgiving Day belonged to individual state governors, not the president, they said. Others said Thanksgiving was a "religious matter" and therefore inadmissible.

4. Football quickly became a central part of the holiday.

Thanksgiving Day football games are almost as old as the holiday itself. The first Thanksgiving Day football game took place in the mid-1870s, when Princeton played Yale in Hoboken, N.J. The Princeton-Yale game was a catalyst for the creation of a popular audience for Thanksgiving Day football, and by the 1890s there were thousands of games being played across the country. As Thanksgiving football fever swept the nation, many worried that "King Football" had replaced family and gratitude as the true meaning of the day. The Chicago Tribune spoke for many when, in 1896, it asked whether there was too much football and too little thanksgiving on the holiday.

One aspect of the holiday that has stayed the same over the centuries is gratitude. On the fourth Thursday of November, Americans of all religious faiths, and of none, pause to give thanks. ~Melanie Kirkpatrick, *Time Magazine*, 11/2016)



What should be the focus of Christians on Thanksgiving?

Answer: The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December, 1621. The first winter had killed 44 of the original 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for grain, providing for their severe need. The next summer's crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.

These Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom and opportunity in America, gave thanks to God for His provision for them in helping them find 20 acres of cleared land, for the fact that there were no hostile Indians in that area, for their newfound religious freedom, and for God's provision of an interpreter to the Indians in Squanto. Along with the feasting and games involving the colonists and more than 80 friendly Indians (who added to the feast by bringing wild turkeys and venison), prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were important in the celebration. Three days were spent in feasting and prayer.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for His gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

Scripturally, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving nearly from cover to cover. Individuals offered up sacrifices out of gratitude in the book of Genesis. The Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Pharaoh's army after the crossing of the Red Sea (**Exodus 15**). Later, the Mosaic Law set aside three times each year when the Israelites were to gather together. All three of these times [Unleavened Bread (also called the Feast of the Passover) (**Exodus 12:15-20**), Harvest or Pentecost (**Leviticus 23:15-21**), and the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (**Leviticus 23:33-36**)] involved remembering God's provision and grace. Harvest and Tabernacles took place specifically in relation to God's provision in the harvest of various fruit trees and crops. The book of Psalms is packed full of songs of thanksgiving, both for God's grace to the Israelite people as a whole through His mighty deeds, as well as for His individual graces to each of us.

In the New Testament, there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers. Some of the most remembered passages on the giving of thanks are the following:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (**Philippians 4:6**).

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" (**1 Timothy 2:1**).

Of all of God's gifts, the greatest one He has given is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus paid our

The Focus of Christians on Thanksgiving...continued

sin debt, so a holy and just Judge could forgive us our sins and give us eternal life as a free gift. This gift is available to those who will call on Christ to save them from their sin in simple but sincere faith ([John 3:16](#); [Romans 3:19-26](#); [Romans 6:23](#); [Romans 10:13](#); [Ephesians 2:8-10](#)). For this gift of His Son, the gift which meets our greatest need, the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" ([2 Corinthians 9:15](#)).

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about (the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones), but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society becomes increasingly secular, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him ([James 1:17](#)). For those who know Christ, God also works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good ([Romans 8:28-30](#)). May He find us to be His grateful children.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/thanksgiving-Christian.html>

A Prayer for a Thankful Heart



Lord,

Teach me to offer you a heart of thanksgiving and praise in all my daily experiences of life. Teach me to be joyful always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all my circumstances. I accept them as Your will for my life (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). I long to bring pleasure to Your heart daily. Break the power of the enemy in my life. Defeat Him through my sacrifice of praise. Change my outlook and attitude into one of joyful contentment with my present circumstances. I thank You for... [Name a difficult circumstance in your life presently and thank God for it.]

Jesus, I want to be like You who obeyed the Father without complaint. You embraced the chains of humanity when You walked this earth. Convict me whenever I complain or compare myself with others. Give me Your attitude of humility and thankful acceptance. I want to be like the Apostle Paul who learned contentment in every circumstance. I choose to continually offer You a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that give praise to Your name (Hebrews 13:15). I long to bring a smile to Your face. Teach me the power of a thankful heart. I know that Your truth dwells in a thankful heart.

"*I* will give thanks to the LORD because of His righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High. O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens" (Psalm 7:17-18:1).

In Jesus' name, Amen!

- Debbie Przybylski, Intercessors Arise International

VETERAN'S DAY - NOVEMBER 11, 2017



Veteran's Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. Veteran's Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for our veterans.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called Armistice Day. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veteran's Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Five ways you or your group can mark the occasion of Veteran's Day would be:

1. **Treat them to a treat.** Consider honoring and recognizing veterans by hosting a lunch in their honor. Whether formal or casual, a special lunch or reception honoring your veterans shows respect and appreciation. There are some in your family and at your church.
2. **Recognize them.** Perhaps highlight the experiences of several veterans, showing their successful transition, emphasizing their transferrable skills (from military to their civilian careers), and their hobbies, families and interests.
3. **Share their story, if appropriate.** With respect and sensitivity, share the story of the veterans you know well. Oftentimes, civilians are intimidated to inquire about the career choice to serve in uniform, and this is an opportunity to show what military service is like, the challenges and accomplishments of your veteran family and friends, and the sacrifices made to ensure our Nation's liberties.
4. **Serve the family.** When a service member commits to military service, their commitment impacts their family significantly. Honor the families of those who serve – through events, special gifts or recognition or just being there for them.
5. **Serve the community.** Every community has veteran service organizations (VSOs) whose focus is to provide support to military veterans and families. Thanks and Happy Veteran's Day!

<http://www.military.com/veterans-day>; <http://www.military.com/veterans-day/5-ways-to-celebrate-your-veterans-on-veterans-day.html>

**CONTINUED INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017**

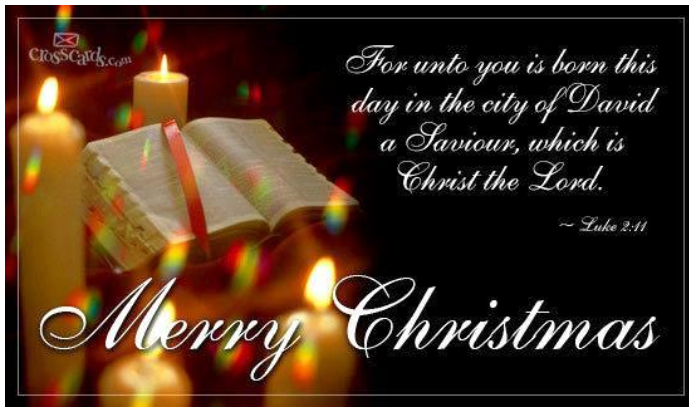
DECEMBER IS ADVENT SEASON



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

- December 3, 2017:** 8:00 a.m. Worship Services are cancelled in December and will resume on January 8th.
- December 3, 2017:** Annual Christmas Production / Drama Guild Ministry / Sunday School / Mass Choir along with the Observance of Annual Family Communion and right hand of fellowship extended to New Members at 4:30 p.m.
- December 4, 2017:** Deacons Ministry Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- December 10, 2017:** A Wedding Vow Renewal will be observed during the 10:25 a.m. Worship Celebration for all married couples desiring to renew their wedding vows.
- December 17, 2017:** Special Christmas Worship Celebration at 10:25 a.m.
Special Baby and Children Dedication also at 10:25 a.m.
- December 17, 2017:** Annual Loretta C. Mangrum Chorale Community Concert at 5:00 p.m. at Greater Liberty Baptist Church in Madisonville.
- December 18, 2017:** Trustee Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- December 24, 2017:** Pre-Christmas Day Worship Celebration at 10:25 a.m.
- December 31, 2017:** Watch Night Observance and Celebration (Fellowship at Home with Family)





"Love came down at Christmas; Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, stars and angels gave the sign."
~Christina Rossetti

Keep Christ in Christmas this holiday season. We pray that this story will bless your soul!

~Newsletter staff

The Best Christmas I Never Had

by Mary Janice Davidson

My sister, Yvonne, was fourteen the year our home and everything in it was destroyed. I was seventeen. Our home was heated by a wood-burning stove, and every fall, my family and I would mark dead trees, cut them down, haul the wood and stack it in the basement. The week before Christmas, the basement was half full of dry wood.

Yvonne and I were home from school, and she did as either of us had done a thousand times before: checked the furnace, tossed a few more logs on the fire and slammed the door shut.

At the time, I was upstairs sulking. I had a sink full of dishes to wash, homework to tackle and my grandfather, after a lonely day at home, wouldn't leave me alone. Stomping around the kitchen, listening to him chatter, I thought about how I couldn't wait to get out of this house, this town. Lightning could strike this very spot and I wouldn't care. Or so I thought.

The house seemed a little smoky, but that wasn't unusual. It often became that way after the furnace had a few new logs to chew up. I simply waved the smoke away and kept doing dishes and daydreaming of getting away from my family. My sister's cats were no help they were as starved for affection as Grandpa, and kept twining around my ankles.

My sister wandered in and said, "Don't you think it's a little too smoky in here?" I shrugged sullenly and kept washing dishes. But after another minute, we knew something was wrong. The smoke was much too thick. My sister and I looked at each other, then at our grandfather. He was the adult, but he lived with us because he couldn't take care of himself. If there were decisions to be made, my sister and I—high school students—would make them. The thought was daunting to say the least.

Without a word to each other, we went outside and opened the garage door (foolish in retrospect) and stared in disbelief as smoke and flames boiled out.

We had no time for tears or hysterics. That would come later. Instead, we both turned and ran up the hill. My sister shot through the kitchen door and raced for Grandpa's coat while I searched frantically for my keys. "There's a fire, Grandpa," I said abruptly. Where in the world had I put my purse? "We have to get out."

"Oh, okay." He agreed. Amiable as a child, Grandpa stood still while my sister jerked him into his coat. She made sure he was warm and tightly bundled, forced warm slippers on his feet and hustled him out the door. I was so busy wondering where my keys were and trying the phone, which was dead, I never noticed that in her great care to make sure our grandfather was protected from the elements, she had neglected her own coat and boots.

I glanced out the window, blinking from the smoke. December in Minnesota was no joke... and no place for two teenagers and an old man to wait for help. If I could find my keys, I could get back down to the garage and probably, if the flames hadn't spread that far, back the van out of the garage. We could wait for help in relative comfort, and at least my mom's van could be saved....

Memory flashed; I had tossed my purse in my room when I'd come home. My room was at the end of a long hallway, far from the kitchen. Daughter and granddaughter of professional firefighters, I should have known better. But things were happening so quickly—I had to get the van. So I started for my room, the worst decision I've ever made.

The smoke was gag-inducing, a thick gray-black. It smelled like a thousand campfires and I tried not to think about what was being destroyed: my family's pictures, their clothes, furniture. I'd gone three steps and couldn't see, couldn't hear, couldn't breathe. How was I going to make it all the way to my room?

I wasn't, of course. I instantly knew two things: if I went down that hallway, I would die. Number two, what was I still doing in this inferno? Ten-year-olds were taught better. My sister was probably terrified, and in another moment, she'd come after me. How stupid could I be? I stumbled back to the kitchen, took one last glance around my home, and then went out into the snow.

Yvonne was sobbing, watching our house burn to the foundation. Grandpa was patting her absently. "That's what insurance is for," he said. A veteran of the New York City Fire Department, I couldn't imagine how many house fires he had fought. For the first time, I could see him as a real person and not my aged, feeble grandfather who took up entirely too much of my time with his endless pleas for me to sit down and talk to him.

"I'm going to the neighbors' to call for help," Yvonne said abruptly. She was wearing a sweater, jeans and slippers. I was in sweatpants, a T-shirt and socks. The closest neighbor was down the length of our driveway and across the highway, about a mile.

"Okay," I said. "Be careful crossing the..." But she was gone, already running through the snow and down the driveway.

Then I remembered Yvonne's three cats, which were, I guessed, trapped in the house. When she remembered them, I thought, she would go right out of her mind.

It seemed she was only gone for a moment before I saw her puffing up the driveway. "I called," she gasped, "they're on their way."

"You should have stayed with the neighbors and gotten warm," I said, mad at myself because I hadn't told her to stay put. She gave me a look. "I couldn't leave you out here in the cold."

"Actually, I'm not that..." I began, when suddenly Yvonne clapped her hands to her face and screamed. "Oh my God, the cats!" she shrieked, then burst into hoarse sobs.

"It's okay, Yvonne, it's okay, I saw them get out," I said frantically, reaching for her. I could tell she didn't believe me, but she didn't say anything more, just wept steadily and ignored my fervent assurances—my lies.

As it swiftly grew dark, our burning house lit up the sky. It was as beautiful as it was awful. And the smell... to this day, whenever someone lights a fire in a fireplace, I have to leave the room briefly. A lot of people find fireplaces soothing, but to me the smell of burning wood brings back the sense of desolation and the sound of my sister's sobs.

We could hear sirens in the distance and moved out of the way as two fire trucks and the sheriff pulled in. The sheriff screeched to a halt and beckoned to us. In another minute he was talking to my grandfather while Yvonne and I sat in the back of the police car, getting warm.

After a long moment, Yvonne sighed. "I just finished my Christmas shopping yesterday." I snorted... and the snort became a giggle, and the giggle bloomed into a laugh. That got my sister going, and we laughed until we cried and then laughed some more.

"I got you the CD you wanted," I told her. "Really?" she said. "I bought you a new Walkman." We listed all the things we had bought for friends and family that were now burning to cinders. Instead of being depressing, it was probably the highlight of the evening. The sheriff interrupted our spiritual gift-giving to open the door and say, "Your parents are here."

We scrambled out and raced down the driveway. If I live to be one thousand, I'll never forget my mother's face at that moment: bloodless and terrified. She saw us and opened her arms. We hurled ourselves at her, though we were both considerably taller than she was and nearly toppled her back into the snow. Dad looked us over, satisfied too that we weren't hurt, and some of the tension went out of his shoulders. "What are you crying about?" he asked, pretending annoyance. "We've got insurance. And now we'll get a new house for Christmas."

"Dad... for Christmas... I got you those fishing lures you wanted but..." He grinned. "That reminds me. I picked up your presents on the way home." He stepped to the truck and pulled out two garment bags. Inside were the gorgeous jackets Yvonne and I had been longing for since we'd fallen in love with them at the mall.

We shrugged into them, ankle-deep in snow, while the house crackled and burned in front of us. It was a strange way to receive a Christmas present, but neither of us was complaining.

"We'll have to come back here tomorrow," Dad said. "It's going to be depressing and stinky and muddy and frozen and disgusting and said. Most of our stuff will be destroyed. But they're only things."

The Best Christmas I Never Had ... continued

They can't love you back. The important thing is that we're all okay. The house could burn down a thousand times and I wouldn't care, as long as you guys were all right."

He looked at us again and walked away, head down, hands in his pockets. Mom told us later he had driven ninety miles an hour once he'd seen the smoke and that they both gripped each other's hand as he raced to the house. Not knowing if we were out safely was the worst moment of their lives.

Later we found out the pipe leading from the furnace to the wall had collapsed, spilling flaming coals all over our basement. If it had happened at 2:00 A.M., we all would have died of smoke inhalation. In less than half an hour, our house transformed from a safe haven to a death trap. Asleep, we would have had to chance.

We lived in a motel for more than a month, and we spent Christmas Day in my grandmother's crowded apartment eating take-out because she was too tired to cook. For Christmas Yvonne and I got our jackets and nothing else. My parents got nothing except the headache of dealing with insurance companies. All the wonderful things my family had bought for me had been destroyed in less time than it takes to do a sink full of dishes. But through it all I had gained long-appreciation for my family. We were together. That was really all that mattered. **I'll always remember it as the best Christmas I never had.**

~ Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul

The Real Meaning of Christmas

*Two thousand years ago the King of Kings was born.
'The Lamb of God' later made to feel the thorn,
If his words are accepted and not scorned,
They will make us all reborn.*

*Through God's grace, Joseph and Mary presented
A gift to the world that day, which we can all repay,
by living the ten commandments each and every day.*

*Try to remember and keep in your heart and mind
Jesus's gospel while here on Earth,
Redemption not a life lived in constant mirth.
Peace on Earth, good will toward man
Everyone should try it, whenever they can.*

*The Lord gave us the option and choice of 'free will,'
Now it's up to us to fit the bill.*

*So when you're Christmas shopping for family and friends,
and money is tight at both ends,
Remember that the greatest gift of all,
Is your love of Jesus in the manger stall.*

~Poet - P. Martino

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

IMPORTANT NOTICE: All members are asked to be mindful that no one should be in the **church building between the hours of 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.** due to security reasons. Any necessary exceptions should be coordinated and approved by the Chairman of Property and Space, Bro. Don Johnson, at least one week in advance. God's blessings to each of you from the Trustee Board Ministry. ~~~**Dr. Carolyn Turner, Ministry Leader**

MEMORIAL RECOGNITION TREE: Anyone who is interested in adding a leaf to the Recognition Tree, please see Sis. Doris Blaine-Smith or Sis. Faye Shirley. Thank You!

UNION BAPTIST'S EMAIL ADDRESS: The church has an email address for all ministry announcements. Please send all forms of communications (church announcements, flyers, upcoming events, etc.) to unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Thank you!

REMINDER FOR DEADLINE FOR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS: The deadline for Church Announcements for the January-February 2018 Newsletter is **December 27, 2017**. Requests for announcements should be **e-mailed in care of Sis. Shirley Norman, Public Relations Ministry Leader**, at Union's email address: unioncincinnati@gmail.com. Please note **"Sis. Norman – Announcement"** on the subject line. **Please note: any announcements received after the deadline date will be included in the March - April 2018 newsletter.**

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH OF CINCINNATI WEBSITE: Please visit our website (www.union-baptist.net) which is both informative and interactive for those who are seeking the Will of God in their lives. **On our website, you will see upcoming events; evangelistic missions inclusive for men, women and children;** discipleship opportunities for building God's kingdom; exploratory devotional links for personal spiritual growth; and, community connections that have demonstrated, in the past, and continue to demonstrate, the POWER OF GOD throughout the Greater Cincinnati area, and beyond.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH RADIO BROADCASTS: You can now also listen to the Union Baptist broadcast on WCVG 1320 every Saturday from 8:00 am to 9:30 am through live stream radio by connecting to the Union Baptist Church website at www.union-baptist.net

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ON FACEBOOK: The official Union Baptist Facebook is also linked to the Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati website at www.union-baptist.net.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Opportunities for anyone interested in volunteering in the church office or other areas of the church are still available. Please contact Bro. Dale McAllister, Executive Church Administrator. Thank you.

UBC MEMBERSHIP DATA FORM: All members who have not completed their updated UBC Membership Form, are urged to complete and provide your updated information, including, any name change; your current home address; your home, cell and work telephone numbers; a number where you may be reached in case of an emergency; and, an emergency contact person, etc. Membership Data Forms are available in the wall receptacle near the church office. When you have completed your form, please give to **Sis. Gwendolyn Hall**, Church Office Receptionist. Thank You.

UNION BAPTIST CHURCH

405 West 7th Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
Phone: 513 381-3858
Web: www.union-baptist.net

Annual Church Revival November 6-8, 2017 - 7:00 P. M. Nightly



Reverend Thurmond N. Tillman, Guest Evangelist **Senior Pastor of the Historic First African Baptist Church** **Savannah, Georgia**

The following ministries are requested to serve:

DATES	DEVOTIONAL LEADERS	CHOIR MINISTRY
November 6, 2017	Deacons, Deaconess and Minister's Wives Ministry	Vision and Joy
November 7, 2017	Deacons, Sunday School Teachers	Male Chorus
November 8, 2017	Deacons, Trustees	Combined Choirs

- ❖ All ministries are asked to be in uniform, as much as possible, on the nights serving.
- ❖ Parking security will be provided nightly.
- ❖ Holy Communion will be observed on Wednesday night.

A Believer's Prayer

Presented by
The Drama Guild Ministry, Music Ministry,
Sunday School, and Praise Dance Ministry



Family Communion Sunday

December 3, 2017

4:30pm

Come witness this powerful worship
through dance, music, and drama!!

Union Baptist Church

405 W. 7th Street

Cincinnati, OH 45203

Phone: (513) 381-3858

**Rev. Dr. Orlando B. Yates,
Pastor**

**Sis. Cheryl Hill,
Directress**

**Sis. Raven Spratley,
Assistant Directress**



CHRISTMAS BIBLE QUIZ

1. **What does Jesus' other name, "Emmanuel," mean?** (*Matthew 1:23*)
 - Son of God
 - Anointed One
 - God with us
 - He who is God
2. **When Joseph first discovered that Mary was pregnant, he: _____** (*Matthew 1:18-20*)
 - Rejoiced
 - Beat her
 - No longer wished to marry her
 - Tore his robe
3. **Why did Joseph and Mary go to the city of David?** (*Luke 2:4-5*)
 - To visit Joseph's parents
 - To seek the prophet Simeon
 - To pay taxes
 - To celebrate their wedding
4. **In what city was Jesus born?** (*Luke 2:4-7*)
 - Galilee
 - Bethlehem
 - Nazareth
 - Cyprus
5. **Why were Mary and Joseph unable to stay in an inn?** (*Luke 2:7*)
 - All the inns were closed
 - They didn't have enough money
 - The innkeeper hated them
 - There was no room for them
6. **With what did Mary wrap newborn Jesus?** (*Luke 2:7*)
 - A blanket
 - Swaddling
 - Joseph's cape
 - A scarf
7. **After Jesus was born, where did Mary lay Him?** (*Luke 2:7*)
 - In a pile of hay
 - She held him
 - On the ground
 - In a feeding trough
8. **What was the shepherds' initial reaction to the angel who visited them?** (*Luke 2:9*)
 - They were upset
 - They were afraid
 - They were excited
 - They were angry
9. **What did the angel tell the shepherds?** (*Luke 2:10-12*)
 - To not be afraid
 - The location of the newborn Savior
 - All of this
 - How to recognize the newborn Savior
10. **Who visited Joseph, Mary, and Jesus on the night He was born?** (*Luke 2:15-16*)
 - Shepherds
 - Shepherds, wise men, and all those dwelling in Bethlehem
 - Shepherds and wise men
 - Wise men

Quiz...continued

11. The wise men traveled _____ to Jerusalem. (Matthew 2:1)
 - Northward
 - Southward
 - Eastward
 - Westward
12. How many wise men brought gifts to Jesus?
 - The Bible never says
 - None
 - 3
 - 2
13. Who diligently asked the wise men about baby Jesus? (Matthew 2:7)
 - King Herod
 - King David
 - King Elias
 - King Pilate
14. Why did this man (Question 13) want to learn more about Jesus' whereabouts? (Matthew 2:16)
 - He wanted Jesus to heal him
 - He wanted to kill Jesus
 - He wanted to ask Jesus to be the heir to his throne
 - He wanted to worship Jesus
15. What guided the wise men to find Jesus? (Matthew 2:9)
 - An angel
 - Their dreams
 - A dove
 - A star
16. What gift did the wise men NOT give Jesus? (Matthew 2:11)
 - Gold
 - Myrrh
 - Frankincense
 - Silver
17. What was Jesus' approximate age when the wise men presented Him with gifts? (Matthew 2:16)
 - 10 years old
 - less than 2 years old
 - 12 years old
 - 6 years old
18. Why did Jesus' family flee Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:12-13)
 - The Gentiles hated Joseph
 - The king of Jerusalem wanted to kill Him
 - God would destroy it
 - They couldn't pay all of their taxes
19. To where did Jesus' family flee from Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:12-15)
 - Samaria
 - Nazareth
 - Greece
 - Egypt
20. When they returned, where did Jesus and His family dwell? (Matthew 2:23)
 - Egypt
 - Greece
 - Samaria
 - Nazareth

<http://www.religionresourcesonline.org/bible-quiz/print-12-christmas-bible-quiz>

Union Baptist Church of Cincinnati



"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests."
—Ephesians 6:18

The Prayer Band is a group of people dedicated to the ministry of prayer and intercession. Our mission is to serve the Body of Christ locally and around the world by praying for their needs and requests via conference calls with one another. ~~Sister Gwen Hall

BAND MEMBERS

Sis. Gwen Hall
Sis. Inez Austin
Sis. Sara Bell
Sis. Johnnie Moreno

Sis. M. Ruth Phillips
Sis. Doris Walker
Sis. Marge Yates

Please contact Sis. Gwen Hall if you would like to be a part of this ministry.



I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.
Philippians 1:3 KJV

I would like to say "THANK YOU" to the Union Baptist Church Family.

I was surprised that the church family orchestrated a surprised event for me. I am eternally grateful for your love, kindness, support and prayers over the years. I am blessed to have served as your Minister of Music. I would like to thank Pastor Yates for being an exemplary leader and great role model in the ministry. In addition, I would like to thank Dr. Ruth Phillips and Sister Renee Payne for their leadership in coordinating the banquet. Thank you again, I love you ALL!!!

Yours in Christ,

Bro. Jason Bailey,
Minister of Music



Drinking From The Saucer

by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune,
And I'll never make one now.
But it really doesn't matter
Because I'm happy anyhow.

As I go along my journey
I'm reaping better than I've sowed.
I'm drinking from the saucer
Cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have a lot of riches,
And sometimes the going's tough.
But with kin and friends to love me
I think I'm rich enough.

I thank God for the blessings
That His mercy has bestowed.
I'm drinking from the saucer
Cause my cup has overflowed.

He gives me strength and courage
When the way grows steep and rough.
I'll not ask for other blessings for
I'm already blessed enough.

May we never be too busy
To help bear another's load.
Then we'll all be drinking from the saucer
When our cups have overflowed.



TruthSeekers
Small Care Group

The members of the Small Care Group "TruthSeekers" meet every Monday from 6:00 – 7:15 pm in the Avondale Branch Public Library to study God's word and grow through the five purposes of the church, worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and evangelism. Please feel free to join us as we learn about God's Word and how to become more Christ like.

"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." (John 17:20, 21)

For more information, please contact our ministry leader, Rev. Shawn Pate.

Union Baptist Church
405 W 7th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45203
(513) 381-3853
Rev. Dr. Orlando B. Yates, Pastor
Rev. Shawn Pate, Minister of Small Care Groups
unioncincinnati@gmail.com



**"Your crown has been bought and paid for.
All you must do is put it on your head."**

~James Baldwin

*T*here is nothing you need that you do not already have. There is nothing you need to know that you do not already know. There is nothing you want that does not already exist. There is nothing that exists that is too good for you. There is nothing anyone has that you cannot have. There is nothing more powerful, more intelligent, more sacred (other than God) than you. You have been chosen at this time, in this place to be among the living. You come from a long line of successful living beings. You are one of the king's kids. You were born into the world to inherit the kingdom. You are equipped to handle anything,

You live by grace, built by love. You are the cause and the reason of everything you see. You are one with the Source. You are creative. You are alive. What else could possibly matter?

Today I Claim my Divine Inheritance.

~Acts of Faith, Iyanla Vanzant