

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

November 2024

## Giving Thanks Always

The following article was written by Pastor Kevin Sadler, Berean Bible Society

***“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:20).***

Under the law and its sacrificial system, there were sin offerings. Sin offerings were constant reminders of the sinfulness of the ones bringing the sacrifices, continuous reminders of their ongoing need for forgiveness, atonement, cleansing, and righteousness (Hebrews 10:3).

The sacrificial system included not only sin offerings, but also thank offerings. These sacrifices were outward expressions of thanksgiving by the children of Israel in response to God’s merciful provisions for both their spiritual and physical needs. God wanted them offered, not by obligation, but by free will:

***“And when ye will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving unto the Lord, offer it at your own will” (Leviticus 22:29).***

As believers under grace, we

don’t bring an ongoing sacrifice for sin; instead we praise *God and rest in the once-for-all, perfect sacrifice for sin by Christ at the Cross.*

We also don’t bring thank offerings to the Lord in the manner Israel did under the law but, like Israel, we do offer our thanksgiving to God *out of our own free will*, thanking Him for His grace in providing for our spiritual and physical needs.

Thanksgiving crucifies self. It is unselfish and humble. Thanksgiving recognizes God as the Source of everything. Thanksgiving, the holiday, and thanksgiving in everyday life, remind us of our dependence on God and the continual blessings that flow from His hand.

Ephesians 5:20 instructs us *when* to give thanks: **“always.”** It tells us *what* to give thanks for: **“all things.”** It shows us *who* we give thanks to: **“God and the Father.”** It teaches us *how* to give thanks: **“in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

(continued on Page 2)



**AVALON GRACE CHURCH  
3801 GUILFORD ROAD  
NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112  
(239) 774-4214**

**avalongracechurchofnaples@gmail.com  
www.avalongracechurch.com**

**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.  
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims  
Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM  
(Sunday Messages available on website)  
(www.avalongracechurch.com)**

**Children’s Sunday School 10:45 AM**

**“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: . . .”**

**- Ephesians 3:9**

# Giving Thanks Always (continued from Page 1)

The appropriate response to what God has done and given is thanksgiving. If we are thankless, we're not looking for or seeing God in our lives. We give thanks always because we are continually the beneficiaries of His grace and goodness.

In Acts, God's Word tells us that **"He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things"** (17:25) and that **"He did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness"** (14:17).

We give thanks to God "for all things." **"All things"** means both spiritual (Eph. 1:3-14; et al) and physical blessings (1 Tim. 6:17). To thank God for both spiritual and physical blessings consecrates everything and all of life to Him. And above all, we thank God for His greatest gift of all: His Son and the victory over sin and death that we have in Him.

***"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57).***



Thanksgiving is a special time of year in the United States because it's a time to be grateful, reflect on all that God has provided for us and most important, to thank God for our salvation through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Janet and our entire family wish you and all our church family a joyful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends!

- Pastor Phil



*Gobble Gobble  
'til  
You Wobble*

Please join us for a Church Family  
Thanksgiving Dinner

(If you are able, please bring a covered dish to share)

On

Thursday, November 28, 2024



Avalon Grace Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4:00 P.M.



Please RSVP Janet McClellan at (239) 269-6122

By November 21st

Please see the Sign-Up Sheet  
on the table in back of the church

For a list of needed covered dishes and

Indicate your name beside the dish you will be sharing.

Hope you are able to join us!!

Dear Church Family,

If you have not done so already, please sign up and plan to join us for a delicious church family Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixing's on November 28th! Last year's dinner was a great success and everyone enjoyed a feast of roasted Turkey, Baked Ham, Stuffing, Home-made Turkey gravy, Cranberry Sauce, and all the traditional side dishes that make Thanksgiving Day so special.

Many hands make for lighter work for everyone, so please plan to bring a side dish and/or dessert if at all possible and indicate your name, the food/dish/dessert you plan to bring on the sign-up sheet located on the table at the back of the church so that we can plan the menu ahead of time.

The McClellan family will provide Turkey and Beverages including coffee and tea and the Smith's will provide a baked Ham and stuffing. We will be arranging and setting up tables, napkins, and place-settings in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday morning at 10:30 am, on November 27th should anyone want to help prepare and get Fellowship Hall ready for a fabulous feast on Thanksgiving Day!

Thank you so much! Spending Thanksgiving Day together as a church family has become a tradition here at Avalon Grace Church and we hope you will be able to join us this year!

VETERANS DAY  
★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



November 11, 2024

with these words - *“So help me God.”*

“Blessed be the LORD my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.” – Psalm 144:1-2

When someone enlists in the military they swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic. The enlistment oath ends

The Bible is full of accounts of battles and wars. God directed and blessed the army of Israel through many battles. Nations who battled without God’s blessing rarely claimed victory. But those who trusted in God and fought for legitimate reasons found His favor.

We honor the service and sacrifice of those who have fought for our freedom throughout the years on Veteran’s Day. For those who have protected and served, we offer a heartfelt “thank you.” Our armed forces voluntarily engage honorably to serve and protect their country, including making the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. To all who served, thank you!



CHURCH LIBRARY  
*News*

Avalon Grace Church’s library keeps growing; our Library is a lending one; and is in itself a teaching tool, a wealth of references and books available for study and individual reading. We are indeed a “Lending Library.” The library supports the mission of the church as well as the growth of individual members’ faith. In addition, there are quite a view Faith-based DVD movies for everyone to enjoy!

Please feel free to take a movie to watch or book or two for your individual reading or study. All we ask is that when you are finished with a book or DVD, please return same to the Lending Library so that others are able to enjoy these resources too! Thank you!



There is still time to participate with Avalon Grace Church in supporting the ministry of Samaritans Purse worldwide - “Operation Christmas Child.” Isn’t it great to know that our small fellowship is a part of a greater worldwide ministry in bringing joy to children at Christmas with the good news of Jesus Christ? National Collection Week is November 18 - 25. As shoe boxes are filled with little toys and other gifts, a tract is always included sharing the gospel.

Thank you for participating in this wonderful ministry with your monetary gifts and little toys, stuffed animals, coloring books, etc. to gladden a young child’s heart. Please see Janet McClellan with any questions you may have. Stay tuned for more information in January 2025 about Operation Christmas Child ministry and how many shoeboxes we as a church body blessed little children throughout the world.

Thank you so much!







# Count Your Blessings

Song by Guy Penrod



When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed  
when you are discouraged thinking all is lost  
Count your many blessings; name them one by one  
and it will surprise you what the Lord has done

Chorus:



Count your blessings; name them one by one  
Count your blessings see what God has done  
Count your blessings; name them one by one  
Count your many blessings see what God has done!

Are you ever burdened with a load of care?  
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?  
Count your many blessings every doubt will fly  
and you will keep singing as the days go by.



So, amid the conflict whether great or small  
do not be disheartened God is over all  
Count your many blessings angels will attend  
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.



"I used to ask God to help me.  
Then I asked if I might help Him.  
I ended up by asking Him to  
Do His work through me." - Hudson Taylor

"Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign  
Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be  
devoted by the people of these States to the service  
of that great and glorious Being who is the  
beneficent author of all the good that was, that is,  
or that will be." –George Washington's Thanksgiving  
Proclamation, October 3, 1789

"Thanksgiving dinners  
take 18 hours to prepare. They are consumed in 12  
minutes. Half-time takes 12 minutes. This is not a  
coincidence." – Erma Bombeck

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his good-  
ness, and for his wonderful works to the children of  
men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth  
the hungry soul with goodness.— Psalm 107: 8-9

"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to  
be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:  
For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.  
— I Timothy 4: 4-5

"From Moses at the Red Sea to Jesus preparing to  
feed the multitudes, the Scriptures summon us to  
words and deeds of gratitude, even before divine  
blessings are fully perceived. From Washington  
kneeling at Valley Forge to the prayer of an  
astronaut circling the moon, our own history repeats  
that summons and proves its practicality."  
— President Richard Nixon, 1972



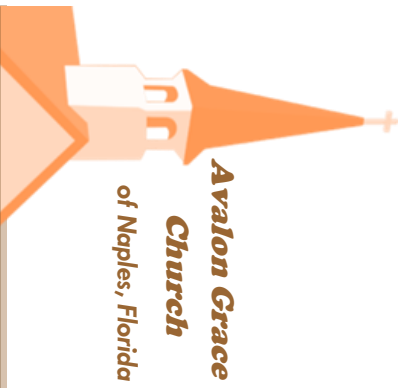
On behalf of our church family at Avalon Grace Church, Jim Anderson and Richard Smith presented Pastor Phil with an "Appreciation Award" on Sunday, October 13th - Pastor Appreciation Day - as a token of our love and gratitude for the work he does for the LORD, and his dedication to teaching, sharing, edifying, and encouraging us as our Pastor! Thank you Pastor Phil!

*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" Ephesians 4: 11-12*

# Happy Thanksgiving



“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.” - Psalm 100:4



# November 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

**HAPPY**  
*Thanksgiving*



- 2nd** Jeff Stahl
- 19th** Jessica Stevens
- 24th** Ray Holsemback
- 28th** Barbara Ramirez

**COMING IN DECEMBER**

**1st** 9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast

Day	Event	1	2
3	9:45 Sunday Breakfast		
4	10:30 AM Sunday Worship		
5	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School		
6	Daylight Saving Time ends		
7			
8			
9			

Day	Event	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10	10:30 AM Sunday Worship							
11	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School							
12								
13								
14								
15								
16								



Day	Event	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
17	10:30 AM Sunday Worship							
18	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School							
19								
20								
21								
22								
23								

Day	Event	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
24	10:30 AM Sunday Worship							
25	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School							
26								
27								
28								
29								
30								

