



heartland connection

November, 2011



Volume 17, Issue 11



Dear Friends,

This month is the celebration of Thanksgiving and with it the annual ritual of gluttony that accompanies it. We invite family and friends to come and gorge themselves on food, fun and football. We used to love to get up early and watch the parades on television and then settle down for a long day of being a “couch potato” by watching football all afternoon into the evening. Now I’m not against eating. And I am not against family. And I’m really not completely against watching some football. But is that what we ought to focus on? Is there something more to Thanksgiving than that? Thanksgiving is one day each year that we can spend reflecting on how God has blessed us and provided for us. It is a shame that we have forgotten that the first Thanksgiving had nothing to do with football and gluttony but recognizing God for His provision, care and sustenance.

The Scriptures are full of encouragement to be thankful and to be great examples of thankful people. David says in Psalm 69: *“I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”* *“Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name.”* (Psalm 100) *“In everything give thanks”* (1 Thess. 5:18). Thankfulness is a mark of a Christian.

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From the Psalmist to the apostle Paul we are commanded to be thankful people because we know and understand that our God is a sovereign God in control of all things. The promise in Romans 8 is, *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* Because of who God is, I can be thankful for anything and everything that comes my way--both the good and the bad--because God is using it for my good. He is making me more and more like Jesus.

That is why Paul can say in Philippians, *“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:4-7).

In other words, no matter what you face, you see God's purpose and you thank Him for His presence with you and His plan being worked out in your life. You thank Him for His promises which He will answer in His way instead of questioning God, doubting God, or shaking your fist at God. He says in everything give thanks.

John MacArthur says, *“When you pray and supplicate and request to God-- in the process of doing that, do it with thanksgiving, thankful for His purposes, thankful for His providence, thankful for His power, thankful for His promise, thankful for His perfecting work, thankful for the hope of relief, thankful for the hope of glory, thankful that it is His will, thankful that He's doing exactly what He wants in your life to accomplish what He wants, thankful for past mercies that are the foundation of future blessings. You see, prayer should always be with thankfulness. This immediately releases me from fear and worry because I see God's purpose in it. I never question His purpose. I know my God is sovereign. I know He orchestrates all things for my good... and His glory. I know that whatever may come He can turn to His own praise and to my growth. And so I'm thankful....If you understand that my God shall supply all your needs, if you understand that God knows everything in your life and cares about it, if you understand that God has the power for every difficulty, if you understand that God is perfecting you to be like Christ, if you understand that nothing escapes God and nothing is outside of His tolerance and His purposes, then why would you fear and be anxious about anything?”*

When we are thankful in all things and bring all things to God in prayer, we receive peace from God.

(Continued on page 2)

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This year as we celebrate Thanksgiving, won't you take some time to truly thank God for all that you have experienced in this past year? Ask Him to show you all of the things, good and bad, that He has used this past year to make you more like Christ. Thank him for family, friends, job, church, His Word, worship, material blessings. But thank Him also for the tough times. The sickness, the pain, the hurts, the broken heart, the worries, the loneliness. God is God and He is not letting anything happen to you that He will not use to make you more like Jesus. Therefore, be thankful and rejoice!

This year as you celebrate Thanksgiving, won't you take some time to truly thank God for all that you have experienced in this past year? That is why David again reminds us:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits (Psalm 103:1,2).*

I am so thankful for the way God has been faithful to Heartland this past year. He continues to grow us and bring more people to Heartland. God continues to provide for all of our needs. More people are using their gifts and talents in ministry. That is allowing us to do a better job of fulfilling His mandate which is very simple—Glorify God as we Disciple His People to Share the Reality of Jesus with the World.

Please be praying about what your part will be in this exciting walk of faith. Keep praying that we may all be found faithful in reaching out to others with the good news of the gospel. Keep praying for your elders, deacons and pastors as we continue to seek God's will and direction for Heartland. Keep praying that God will use the elders and deacons in shepherding the people God has brought here. Keep praying that we will boldly preach and teach the Word of God. Keep praying that we will be faithful in making disciples for Jesus Christ.

*Remember
and share the
"benefits" of
God in your
life.*

May it never be said of us that we are thankless people but instead we are those who remember and celebrate the goodness of our God, not just one day a year, but every day. This year as you gather around the table, take a moment to remember and share with each other the "benefits" of God in your life. And then praise the name of God with a song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.

I pray that you will have a great month. "It is good to give thanks to the Lord" (Ps. 92). I love you all!

Thanking God for you,

George



Thank you!!

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you for your many expressions of love during the month of October. Your prayers, words of encouragement, cards and gifts were such a blessing to us and to our families. Thank you for your thoughtfulness! We truly thank our God for the privilege of serving the body of Heartland.

*George & Vicki Granberry
AND
Rick & Robbie Franks*

*HEARTLAND'S
2012 ANNUAL
WOMEN'S RETREAT
Save the Date
February 24 and 25
Airport Hilton.*



GENUINE THANKSGIVING

(From Pastor Rick)

"You are my God, and I give thanks to You; *You are* my God, I extol You." (Psalm 118:28 NAU)

November is here and Thanksgiving is just around the corner! It is an exciting time as we anticipate gathering together with family and friends to celebrate the holidays! Unfortunately though, all too often Thanksgiving is more about family, food and football than it is about thanksgiving.

Oh, we thank God for family, health, a good church home, our salvation and a few other things. But as our minds continue down the list of things we are thankful for, the pauses grow longer and longer between the items for which we give thanks. Why is it that thanksgiving is so difficult for us to express? The Scriptures speak much of giving thanks to the Lord! I just did a quick search, and in the *New American Standard* version of the Bible there are over 135 references made to thanks and thanksgiving. So why do we find it so difficult to think of things for which to give thanks? If a person were to think long and hard there is no doubt that one might be able to enumerate various reasons for our limited thanks. Frankly I wonder if the core issue is that we think too much of ourselves; a problem that has not been uncommon in the church throughout the ages (see Rom. 12:3).

It is so easy to think of our lives in terms of ourselves rather than with God as the focus. For us to think, "I have my life that I have worked so hard to make something of. I have a career, a family, a home, friends that I can trust. Of course, God has been gracious to me to provide and to bless me; without Him I would not have what I have." Yet, subliminally, we tend to place far too much emphasis on our own efforts rather than what God in His goodness has done.

What does this have to do with thanksgiving? Well, as I think about what I am thankful for, I begin to contemplate those things that God in His goodness has given to me. I recognize that without God's goodness I would not have my wife, or children, or health, or maybe my job...but then my mind begins to get fuzzy and I cannot think of too many other

things for which to give thanks. It is almost like I have to start making things up. Is this because we somehow think that we have provided all the rest that we have? Is it because we begin to take for granted ALL the things that God has given to us; even to the point of not recognizing simply things like the gift of "today" that He has granted to us to live in His service?

What about the gift of suffering and difficulty that God has carefully put in our path? Those things in our lives that loosen the grip of self-satisfaction and attachment to the world and drive us into the loving arms of our Creator and Savior? Have you ever thought of the loving way in which God places suffering in our lives? I know that we do not often think of "love" & "suffering" as going together, but God is so gracious as to put well placed suffering in our lives in such a way as not to crush us, but to free us from selfishness & idolatry and drive us into His warm embrace. God pursues us through suffering in order to capture our hearts & affection. How humbling it is to think that God would go to such extremes to pursue His children! Sadly we often overlook such extravagant love as the suffering that God brings into our lives does not serve our purposes. It does not accomplish our expectations for our lives and those around us, therefore we view such hardship as an agent that is robbing us of something that is owed us.

There is a poem that captures the essence of what a Christian's thanksgiving can be like in the midst of life altering circumstances.

I Asked. . .

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.
I was made weak,
that I might learn to humbly obey...

I asked for health, that I might do greater things.
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things....

I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise....

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(Continued from page 3)

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God....

Thanksgiving

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things....

Thanksgiving

I got nothing I asked for -- but everything that I had hoped for...
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am, among all, most richly blessed!

--Anonymous

The apostle Paul suffered greatly in his life and he even implored of God to remove such suffering. But God did not answer Paul as he expected. God had a purpose in Paul's suffering to draw him closer to his God. You may recall God's answer to Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9 and Paul's response,

"Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me-- to keep me from exalting myself!"⁸ "Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me."⁹ "And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me."¹⁰ "Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:7-10 NAU)

Paul gave thanksgiving to God in the midst of his suffering because he viewed his suffering, not as an agent that robbed him of something owed him, but as the presence of God Himself in his life! Such a God centered focus on life frees us to genuinely give thanksgiving to God because it recognizes that **everything** that comes from God's hand is good (whether we see it that way or not from our perspective).

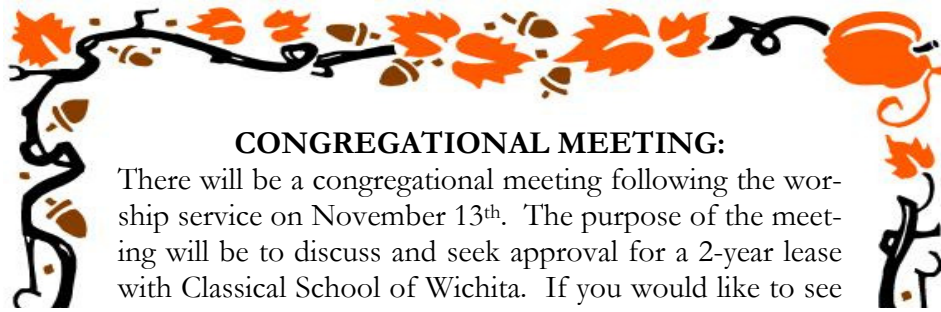
It is my prayer this Thanksgiving season that as we walk with our God we might be humbled by His presence in our lives; whether seen through His great provision, through suffering & hardship, or some other expression of His love! Let us lift our voices with Paul who reminds us,

»Rejoice!«

"Rejoice always;"¹⁷ "pray without ceasing;"¹⁸ "in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NAU)

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Rick



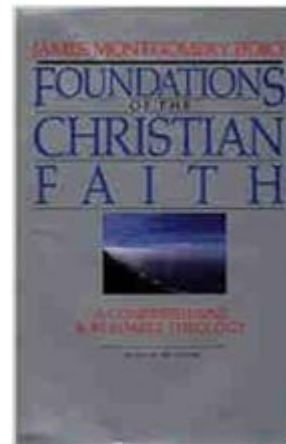
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

There will be a congregational meeting following the worship service on November 13th. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and seek approval for a 2-year lease with Classical School of Wichita. If you would like to see a copy of the lease prior to the meeting, please contact the church office.



Heartland Bookcase Focus

In the Reformation Sunday (October 30) bulletin, there was an insert about the “Five Solas of the Reformation” and featured Dr. James M. Boice, mentioning one of his books *Foundations of the Christian Faith*. Since this is one of the books in the Heartland Bookcase, it is a logical one to feature in this *Bookcase Focus*. In the Preface to this book, James Montgomery Boice writes: “Not often do I, as an author, sense an area in which no book seems to exist and for which one should be written. But the area covered by this volume is an exception, in my judgment. For years I had looked for a work that could be given to a person (particularly a new Christian) who is alert and questioning and who could profit from a comprehensive but readable overview of the Christian faith, a basic theology from A to Z. But I could not find anything that was quite what I had in mind and, thus, determined that I should attempt to write it myself.” In my opinion, there is no comparable book by any other author. Perhaps the reason why is the very nature of such a broad sweeping attempt to present the entirety of the Christian faith. Few would be tempted to even try it. It takes a man such as Boice, scholarly, pastoral, widely published, speaker at many Bible conferences, with a passion to present Christianity at a level that most can understand, to have the preparation to take on such a task. In my opinion, this is a book that should be much more widely read and referenced than what it appears to be. It should not only be read and referred to, but referred to often! It provides a map of the terrain that helps keep everything in perspective. The volume is divided into four “books” (it was originally published in four books). The first three books are about God: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are primarily doctrinal, about God and how we relate to Him. Book 4 covers how these doctrines are carried out in time, in history, how these things are practically operating now in the present, and what is to come. While Dr. Boice has written many books, and some, such as his commentaries, are much longer, in my opinion this book may well be his magnum opus.



Larry Paarmann



REFORMED THEOLOGY NIGHT:

The men of Heartland (ages 17 & up) are invited to join in Theology Night for our monthly discussion of Reformed theology, on Friday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m at the Frank’s home.. This month the question being addressed will be: ***What is “presuppositional apologetics” and how does it help us to defend and understand our faith?”*** If you have questions or would like more details, please contact Ben Franks at: ben@franksfamily.net.

LOST AND FOUND!!!

If you are missing anything that may have been left at the church, be sure to inquire at the church office.
Questions: Contact Linda at heartlandoffice@att.net or 686-0060.



BRIDAL SHOWER: Please join us to celebrate the upcoming marriage of Katie Kahrs to Barry Anders. A bridal shower will be held on Sunday, November 13th from 3-5 pm at the home of Sherri Kahrs, 201 Post Oak, Wichita, KS, 684-0104 (please RSVP to Sherri). You may send contributions for a group gift by November 6th to Susan Yourdon, 9944 N. 143rd St. E., Valley Center, KS 67147. If you prefer, Katie is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Kohls. Katie would like to have a collection of favorite recipes from the women of Heartland. If you have a favorite recipe(s) to share, please send it to Rachel Bouma via email j_r_bouma@msn.com or to 7955 S. 103rd. St. W., Clearwater, KS 67026. We are excited to rejoice with Katie as she prepares for her new home with Barry.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Small group information can be found at www.heartlandpca.org under "Ministries".</i></p>		1	2 Ladies Bible Studies 9-11 a.m. Youth Grp 7:00 p.m.	3 Session 6:30 pm	4 <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i> Reformed Theology Book Club 7:00 pm Heartland Presbytery—in Ks City	5 Mens' Open Basketball 8-10 a.m. (Gym) Women's Retreat Committee Mtg 9:30 (Library)
6 <i>Lord's Day</i> <i>Communion and Mercy Offering</i>	7	8 Deacon's Mtg 6:30 p.m.	9 Ladies Bible Studies 9-11 a.m. Youth Grp 7:00 p.m.	10	11 <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i> Theology Night 6:30 p.m.	12 Mens' Open Basketball 8-10 a.m. (Gym)
13 <i>Lord's Day</i> Congregational Meeting Katie Kahrs Bridal Shower 3:00 p.m.	14 <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i>	15 Finance Mtg 7:00 am	16 Ladies Bible Studies 9-11 a.m. Youth Grp 7:00 p.m.	17 Session 6:30 pm	18 <i>Pastor George's Day Off</i> Reformed Theology Book Club 7:00 pm	19 Mens' Open Basketball 8-10 a.m. (Gym)
20 <i>Lord's Day</i> Homeless Outreach 7:00 a.m. Pot Providence	21 <i>Pastor Rick's Day Off</i> NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22 Waalkes Bridal Shower 7-9 p.m.	23	24  Church Office Closed	25	26
27 <i>Lord's Day</i> <i>ADVENT</i>	28	29  7pm - 10:00pm Evening Prayer	30 Morris - Ladies Bible Studies 9-11 a.m. Youth Grp 7:00 p.m.			

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Luke 10:2



NURSERY SCHEDULE



Sunday School 9:00-10:35

Worship 10:35-12:??

Nov 6	Ruby Nelson/Hanna Larson/ Lauren Pohlenz	Deb, Elizabeth & Timothy Johnson/ Anne Wegener
Nov 13	Phillips/Ralph Drayer	Mark & Sherri Kahrs/Stephanie Shelden/Sarah Franks
Nov 20	Matt & Sherry Haslam/ Erin Sundquist	Leanne & Ellen Kurtzweil/Beth Franks/Lois Johnson
Nov 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	Willis Family/Lisa Paine
Dec 4	Arryn Parker/Kay Coon/ Melanie Scharping	Brian & Julie Jansen/Sara Johnson/ Stephen Paine

Happy Birthday In November

- 2: David Whitman
- 3: Bradon Doctor
Esther Scharping
4. Brian Blackman
Julie Peters
- 5: Molly Strain
- 7: Rolaine Hetherington
- 8: Claire Kahrs
- 9: Stephen Paine
- 10: Dieter Grebe
Deb Johnson
- 11: Cayden Yourdon
- 12: Sherah Snowbarger
- 13: Courtney Doctor
- 14: Sam Vaughn
- 15: Janet Ralston
- 17: Cora Gouldner
John Hetherington
Hannah Larson
David Vigilius
- 18: Bryce Brinkman
Jamie Bruce
Stephanie Carrigan
Shelby Doctor
Gabriella Formenti
Annie Tinius
- 20: Rebecca Doctor
Chris Jackson
Ashley Mathews
Roy Peters
- 21: Jason Foss
- 25: Caroline Kahrs
- 26: Rebekah Bouma
- 27: Shelby Ford
Lynne Foss
Matt Phillips
Taylor Strain
Daniel Vigilius
- 28: Tim Jaeger
- 29: David Jansen
- 30: Candy Snowbarger

Worshippers In Training Schedule

Date	Music	Trainer	Helpers
11/6/11	Melanie Scharping	Ken Larson	Arryn Parker Sarah Franks
11/13/11	Rolaine Hetherington	Ruby Nelson	Kay Coon Anna Hetherington
11/20/11	Cynthia Shelden	Cynthia Shelden	Brigitte Crist Daniel Johnson
11/27/11	Abby Hannaford	MaryKay Larson	John hetherington Lois Johnson
12/4/11	Erin Frost	Ruby Nelson	Kay Coon Seth Larson

Date	Prayer of Confession	Prayer of Thanks/Supplication
11/6/11	Dan Lawrence	Brad Welles
11/13/11	Zeb Long	Bryan Yourdon
11/20/11	Jens Lukoschat	George Bruce
11/27/11	Tom Paine	Steve Castro-Miller
12/4/11	Barry Malcom	Rick Franks

GREETERS

November: Mark & Sherri Kahrs & Family

December: John & Rachel Bouma & Family

Please arrive at 10:15 a.m.