

November 2011

Cornerstone Baptist Church

A Reformed Fellowship

Cornerstone Connection

Thinking Biblically by Bill Moore

Thankful, But to Whom?

National holidays are known in our nation for their commercialization, and this is especially true, or so it seems, with those associated with Christianity. Easter? New clothes and Easter bunnies, must-have new baskets for the little ones. Christmas? When Christians campaign to “keep Christ in Christmas,” you know it’s a lost cause culturally.

Even the worshipers of darkness find their Halloween sullied with the buying and giving of large stashes of candy for the trick-or-treat darlings in their newly-bought outfits for the occasion. I was waiting in a check-out line at Wal-Mart a few days ago as the cashier was dealing with a customer ahead of me. A cell phone rang behind me, and the woman who answered it notified her caller that she had just picked up her Halloween costume. Glancing back at her, my first thought was . . . , oh well, never mind.

But then there’s Thanksgiving. Finally, a non-commercialized holiday, or so many think. Folks gobble their turkey and dressing as they work their way through the Black Friday sales, getting to bed early so they can get the jump on the crowd the next morning.

Really, though, that is not the worst thing about Thanksgiving. A greater problem with Thanksgiving in our day is that thanks is extended to no one in particular. Watch television news broadcasters. They will run stories about acts of kindness during the Thanksgiving season and may even share some of their favorite Thanksgiving memories, stories about family and food and football, stuff to make you feel all warm inside. But to whom are they thankful? Rarely is there even a nod to God.

Of course, things have not always been so in our country, much to the chagrin of those who try to rewrite our nation’s history. For instance, Governor John Hancock of Massachusetts issued the following proclamation in 1783 to celebrate our nation’s independence from Great Britain:

“Whereas . . . these United States are not only happily rescued from the Danger and Calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their Freedom, Sovereignty and Independence ultimately acknowledged.

“And whereas . . . the Interposition of Divine Providence in our Favor hath been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the Citizens of these United States have every Reason for Praise and Gratitude to the God of their salvation.

“Impressed therefore with an exalted Sense of the Blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire Dependence on that Almighty Being from whose Goodness and Bounty they are derived;

“I do by and with the Advice of the Council appoint Thursday the Eleventh Day of December next (the Day recommended by the Congress to all the States) to be religiously observed as a Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer, that all the People may then assemble to celebrate . . . that he hath been pleased to continue to us the Light of the Blessed Gospel; . . . That we also offer up fervent Supplications . . . to cause pure Religion and Virtue to flourish . . . and to fill the World with his glory.”

There has been for decades a concerted effort in the United States to remove any vestiges of Christianity from the public square. We lament the effectiveness of those who hate Christianity. Let’s be honest, though. They have been effective in removing Christian words and symbols because we as a nation have essentially removed God from our lives individually. It’s not a great step to remove God from our lives collectively.

There’s not much we can do directly to reverse our culture’s neglect of God, but we can do something directly in our lives and in our families. We can recover a lifestyle of verbal gratefulness to God for his blessings unto us. A people of God is a people who explicitly give him thanks. David’s words should be ours: “Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!” (1 Chronicles 16:8, ESV).

Monthly projects

United Ministries continues to distribute food to needy families in our community. Cornerstone is asked to provide flour, sugar and peanut butter.

Remember to pick-up one or more of these items the next time you are in the grocery store.

Don't forget to save empty inkjet printer cartridges, old cell phones, Campbell Soup and Tyson Chicken labels, and Box Tops for Education found on General Mills products for **Laurens Academy**.

The Laurens Baptist Association helps families in need and in crisis situations. We can help by donating the requested items each month.

Crisis Center needs for November are:
canned vegetables and canned beans

Baskets are outside the church office for collection of monthly project items.

Church Directory

The Cornerstone family directory is being updated. If you have any changes in address, email or phone numbers, please call the church office at 833-1777 or email cstonebapt@bellsouth.net.

All college students are invited to lunch after the morning service on Sunday, November 13, at the home of Drew and Claire Trammell.

Memorials

*Given in memory of Mrs. Betty A. Meadors
(mother of Karen Windsor)*

By: Gerald & Kathy Foster

November Birthdays

Shayne Faulkner	3
Dustin Faulkner	3
BJ Smith	10
Kathy Foster	15
Harrison Fisher	16
Jake Fisher	17
Rebekah Sears	25
Debra Taylor	27
Micah Sears	30



The Cornerstone family is invited

to a spaghetti supper/baby shower honoring
Matt and Courtney Frick on
Saturday evening, November 5, at 6:00 p.m.
in the church fellowship hall.
Matt and Courtney are expecting
a boy in December.

Registered at:

Buy Buy Baby

Target



Don't forget that the monthly financial reports will be on the table in the narthex on Wednesdays after the first of each month.

The reports are also available in the church office at any time.

For this year's **Clemson-Carolina Challenge**
the Women on Mission are asking for
donations of canned goods
for the Laurens Baptist Crisis Center.
There are two boxes in the hall of the educational building
for collection. Support your favorite team by placing
your donations in the box marked for your team.
Please bring items no later than November 27.



The **youth group** is sponsoring the annual Operation Christmas Child. Gift boxes are sent to children around the world. Bring your gift box no later than November 16. If you prefer to give a donation, the youth will purchase items on November 9 and prepare a box for you.

The **G.L.O.R.Y. group's** Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 8.
Look for details soon!



Bill and Kynette Moore announce the birth of a granddaughter born October 24.
Felicity weighed in at 7 lbs. 4 oz.
Kimberly and Andrew Sheffield are the proud parents.

Updates from missionary friends:

Peter and Sharon McMillan in Madrid, Spain
www.psmcmillan.blogspot.com

Craig and Ava Cook in Spain
email the cooks at craig.cook@worldteam.org and ask to be included on their email newsletter list

Paul and Elvie Barner in Philippines
www.barner.org

Dear Cornerstone Family,

Thank you so much for your donation to our matching funds program at Laurens Memorial Home. This will allow our mission to care for the sick and elderly of our community to continue for years to come. May God shower his blessings upon you for your love, prayers and support.

Love in Christ,
Carolyn Penland

Thank you for your time and service for Flight of the Dove 2011. We greatly appreciate all you do to ensure our ride is a success. This year, with your help, we hosted 300 cyclists and raised \$23,300.

All money raised by Flight of the Dove goes directly to patient care here at Hospice of Laurens County. Please know your service and time make a great difference in the care of a terminally ill patient and their family.

Yours truly,
Linda Brown

Dear Church,

As I pen these words, our next Romanian project begins in about two weeks. Through the last several months and especially now, the main thing that needs to be done is to pray. Would you join us in prayer for this project? Pray we will have divine appointments where Romanians and Americans are prepared to meet each other—with Romanians who are unsaved meeting with Americans who are saved—so that the unsaved go away from the conversation—as new born babes in Christ! Intercede for us as we minister to Romanian women with the Word of God! May many Eastern European women come to know Christ in such a way that they will be free to obey our Lord Christ! Pray with us that those who “see” with new reading glasses will read the Word of God and will go away “seeing Jesus” for the first time in their lives! Intercede for us that boys and girls will come to know Christ as Savior and Lord so that they will have zeal to evangelize their homes, their schools, their friends, etc. Thank you for standing with us in prayer. We desire for this project to be a success as our Father measures success!!

Please pray for PIMI and as God leads you, please help us financially. I know God will bless you for your faithfulness.

Bob Ward

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

SHOE BOX

Use an empty shoe box (standard size, please) or a small plastic container. You can wrap the box (lid separately), but wrapping is not required.

BOY OR GIRL?

Determine whether your gift will be for a boy or a girl, and the child's age category: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Use the appropriate boy/girl label available in the church office. Mark the correct age category on the label, and tape the label to the top of your box.

FILL WITH GIFTS

Fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring delight to a child.

INCLUDE YOUR DONATION

Please donate \$7.00 or more for each shoe box you prepare to help cover shipping and other project costs. You can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note “OCC” on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box. If you or your family are preparing more than one shoe box, please make one combined donation. Place a rubber band around each shoe box and lid and drop off at church by November 16.

GIFT IDEAS

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

DO NOT INCLUDE

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers; aerosol cans

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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