



November, 2015

Vol. 4, No. 10

'Tis a Gift to be Simple . . . a Gift to be Free

Overheard in front of Popsie's candy store on Pioneer Way; (In a cheerful high-pitched female voice): "Isn't it nice to see the Christmas decorations going up? That means Thanksgiving is only a month away!"

Since this is the Thanksgiving issue of the OHNaz newsletter, let's not even think of Christmas stress, but concentrate on this our grand North American occasion for giving thanks—even though the Canadians have already imbibed in their feasting.

There's a wonderful early American Shaker song that expresses a desire of my heart this Thanksgiving. It's titled Simple Gifts, and some of its many stanzas sing like this:

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shant be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning we come 'round right.

'Tis the gift to be loved and that love to return,
'Tis the gift to be taught and a richer gift to learn
And what we expect of others is what we try to live
each day,
Then we'll all live together and together we'll all pray.

'Tis the gift to have friends and a true friend to be,
'Tis the gift to think of others not to only think of me,
And when we love each other, and feel what they
feel,
Then we'll all live together with a love that is real.

Thank you Heavenly Father for allowing me to be part of a church family, as well as my family family, in which I can practice what this old song teaches. That's my Thanks giving for 2015. Pmm



Overheard in the Foyer . .

"What in the world?"

"Huh?"

"Did you notice we are Volume 3, Number 10?"

"Huh?"

"That doesn't figure."

"Hmmm."

"Wasn't November, 2014, Vol. 3, No. 3?"

"Uh huh."

"And November, 2013 was Vol. 2, No. 3."

"Hmmm."

"We've gotta get to the bottom of this."

"Forget it, no one knows the difference."

"Oh well . . .!"

(In unison) "Happy Thanksgiving!"

PB's

Current



Of the copious blessings we enjoy in the USA, none ranks higher than the freedom to live life as we see fit. Our political, religious, and social freedoms are not a right but a privilege; earned not given; temporal not permanent. As such, when we remember both our blessings at Thanksgiving and military at Veterans Day, I am thankful for our military men and women who daily keep America secure. Thank you God for them!

In September of 2005, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she took all of the desks out of the classroom. The kids came into first period & walked in; there were no desks. They looked around and said, "Ms. Cothren, where's our desk?" And she said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said. "Maybe it's our behavior." She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior." And so they came and went in the first period, still no desks in the classroom; second period, third period, same thing. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in Ms. Cothren's class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of the classroom. At the last period of the day, Martha gathered her class. They were sitting on the floor around the sides of the room. And she says, "Throughout the day no one has really understood how you earn the desks that sit in this classroom ordinarily." She said, "Now I'm going to tell you."

Martha went to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did 27 U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked in, each one carrying a school desk. They placed those school desks in rows, and then they stood along the wall. By the

time they had finished placing those desks, those kids for the first time in their lives understood how they got those desks. Martha said, "You don't have to earn those desks. These folks did it for you. They put them there for you, but it's up to you to sit here responsibly to learn, to be good students, good citizens, because they paid a price for you to have that desk; don't ever forget it."

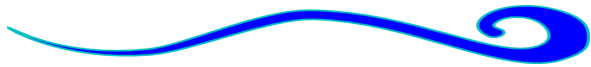
Sometimes we forget that the freedoms we have are not because of celebrities. The freedoms are because of ordinary people who did extraordinary things, who loved this country more than life itself, and who not only earned a school desk for a kid at Robinson High School in Little Rock, but who earned a seat for you and me to enjoy this great land we call home, this wonderful nation that we better love enough to protect and preserve with the kind of principles that made us a great nation. "We live in the Land of the Free because of the Brave."

May you be grateful for a heavenly Father who blesses you abundantly! You are loved, friend...

Pastor Ben



JUST BLEW IN . . .



News from the pews

For the Newbies. Leaving church the other Sunday morning, your editor was asked by one of our faithful ushers (who must have been reading a print copy of the Newsletter), “How come you give us ‘News from the *pews*’? We haven’t got any pews.” Ah, what an astute offering plate passer (though he shouldn’t be reading while PB is preaching—I-Phones are bad enough). Granted, his church manners may in question, but his power of observation is right on. The answer: “News from the *folding chairs*” just doesn’t cut it. This was explained in BREEZES, Vol. 1, No. 1.

We Trunked & We Treated! It looked like a cancelation was possible for our annual Trunk or Treat fest for the community. But the good Lord only gave us a little bit of dampness, so the maybe downpour didn’t happen. We had exceptional cooperation from our OHNazers; the trunks and truck beds were wonderfully decorated, as were the candy hander-outers. You had to see **Marian Smith** in her giraffe costume for the full effect, not to mention the handlebar mustaches gracing the likes of **Ann Martin** and **Heidi Kuzina**. The south of the border serapes and sombreros were most appropriate; the Kuzinas have just returned from a Mexico cruise.

OHNaz Info. Each family going the rounds Trunk or Treating was given a new brochure (Thank you Stacey Chastain) in the process of development for visitor distribution. The piece provides information about upcoming events, and descriptions of Children’s and Youth Ministries, as well as a “What We Believe” panel. This is going to be an excellent tool for visitors and neighbors.

Another Whiff of Breezes. To the anonymous Connection Card submitter: At this juncture in the life of the church newsletter, the only print copies of Breezes we produce go to shut-ins and those who do not have email. There are always a few copies available each month in the foyer. Of course your best bet is to read it on the brand new, beautifully designed OHNaz web site: www.ohnaz.com.

Inquiring Minds Ask. That front-row of four well behaved kids (and parents) include redheaded twin boys, **Stuart & Sterling**, non-twin **Lincoln**, and sister **Hannah**. Mom & dad are **Todd & Jennifer**. They are the **Bassett** Family.

Deployed OHNazers. Still away from home and family are **Rob Layton**, **Eric Samek** and **Chris Chastain**. As requested earlier, please keep the church office aware of military personnel away from home, so we can pray and encourage.

Cookie Bakers. Many thanks for those who supplied cookies for our annual firehouse, police communication center, and other civic distributions. There will be further deliveries early this month.

Candy Suppliers. Further appreciation to all who donated **Trunk or Treat** candy. Their dentists say “thank you,” too. Like the cookie distribution, and our work with the Help House Food Pantry, this is a well received and much needed ministry to our community.

Speaking of Food. Just a reminder that Help House will be responsible for helping needy families in North Whidbey have a Thanksgiving dinner. OHNaz has been asked to provide canned sweet potatoes/yams, stuffing mix, and evaporated milk. Please make a food donation as soon as you can. Place your items in the tub outside the children’s department.

More News from the pews

Fireside Chat. The roaring fireplace in the Fireside Room is all fired up, thanks to our handy Board of Trustee members **Todd Martin** and **Danny Horton**. Wednesday night diners, lady Bible students, and breakfast eating male Bible studyers will again have a comfy and warm atmosphere. Thanks, guys.

November Birthdays.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| (1) Angela Fernandez | (2) David Fernandez, |
| (3) Patty Horton | (3) Xavier Murdy, |
| (3) Kyndra Sherman | (5) Lianess Chastainn, |
| (5) Becky Richter | (6) Olivia Martin, |
| (6) Taylor Pryce | (7) Sandi Murdy, |
| (8) Laurie Miller | (10) Tanner Martin, |
| (11) Claudia Talmadge | (15) Stuart Bassett, |
| (15) Sterling Bassett | (16) Kainin Higbee, |
| (16) Kenny Kesler | (16) Nguyen Layton, |
| (16) Brian Pickens | (19) Holly Farrell, |
| (21) William Moyes | (26) Stacey Chastain. |

Anniversaries.

- (12) Bud & Nicole Chambers
- (23) Jeff & MaryJo Lambert
- (29) David & Angela Fernandez.



For Your Quiet Time

As you prepare for Thanksgiving, take time to give prayerful thought to some of the following.

Ephesians 5:20

The only way we can always be thankful is to look at our tough circumstances from God's perspective. No doubt that's what the phrase "giving thanks. . .in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" means.

Matthew 26:26-27

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it. . .saying, Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them. What did Jesus give thanks for?

Matthew 26:26-26

How could Jesus thank the Father for His own broken body and spilled blood? The only possible way: by looking at suffering and death with eyes that saw from an eternal perspective.

Psalm 98

If David, the writer of so many praise psalms, had lived in our day and age, he might have written a praise psalm something like this : Praise God as you drive to church. . .Praise Him as you drive to the dentist. . .Praise Him in the Safeway checkout line. . .Praise Him in I-5 traffic.

2 Corinthians 9:6

The Bible says: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly." That means, the more we give to God and His work, the more He gives back to us." Sure as anything someone now says, "Then I'll give to get rich, so I can have the neat stuff my heart desires." Wrong! Our motivation to give cannot be selfish. It's to see His kingdom advance. Thank God for His faithfulness.

2 Corinthians 9:11

God wants us to use wealth (and compared to most of the world, we are nearly all wealthy), to help other people—not ourselves. "You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion." Thank God for your "wealth."

Whatever your special Thanksgiving meal consists of, and with whomever is at your table—give thanks to God, for He is good.

Adapted from a Barbour calendar.





**A few photos from OHNaz's
Trunk or Treat!**

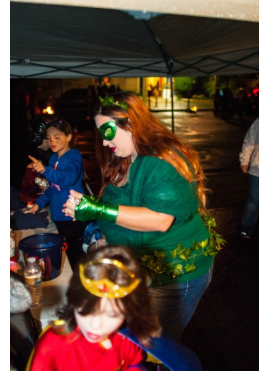
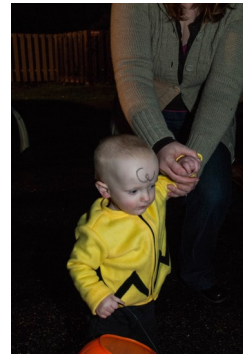


**A few more photos from
OHNaz's Trunk or Treat!**



A few more photos





A few more photos

