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First Presbyterian Church
215 S. Third Street
PO Box 1159
Smithfield, NC 27577
934-0988
fpcsmithfield@nc.rr.com
www.fpcsmithfield.org

ICHTHUS

November 2011

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Smithfield, North Carolina

Reflections in the Water: A Time for Remembrance (and Service to Others)

“They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever. ‘In that day,’ declares the LORD,, ‘I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. I will make the lame a remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever.’” – Micah 4:3-5

“World War I ended on November 11, 1918, with the signing of the Armistice. In the first Armistice Day proclamation in 1919, President Woodrow Wilson called for the nation to remember those who had died in their country’s service and to make the day an opportunity for America to ‘show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.’ In 1938 Congress called for the observance of Armistice Day in churches and schools — again dedicating the day to the cause of world peace. Note the order here: the nation was telling the churches to celebrate this day. This was not an initiative arising from the churches, but from the Congress. The United States was still reeling from the effects of World War I and the Great Depression, and the political climate overall was against any sort of engagement in wars.”

– General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church

From my childhood I remember a large, oval-framed, black and white photograph with the image of a young, dark-haired man gazing solemnly down from a wall in the home of a relative. In time I would learn this youth dressed in the uniform of an American Expeditionary Force ‘doughboy’ was my maternal grandfather. Although he died before I was born, he was a man known more to his children and family as just another person born in rural eastern North Carolina who farmed tobacco. Very little is remembered or known of his service in the trenches of the Great War and how he lived and served for a brief period of his life in a unique and violent chapter of our history that continues to shape the world in which we live today. What remembrance of his service, along with the service of millions of others around the world, is recalled on Veterans Day, a time to honor and remember those who return to families and communities after service. As described in the ecclesiastical reference above, the occasion also represents an appeal from the civil government to the churches within our nation to be in prayer for peace and to remember those who have served often at great cost to themselves and those around them.

I invite you to consider by way of remembrance that 2011 is a solemn year for many reasons. This All Saints’ Sunday we remember the many who have lived out their faith with us in the Church. We also mark that we have been a nation at war for ten years. It is a time to recall times that we as a Church have been asked to observe occasions such as a special Day of Prayer following the attacks of September 11. As we approach Veterans’ Day this year, we can also remember that we have now in our midst a new generation of young men and women who have been affected by the lengthy wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and who need our actual care as well as our respect.

During a recent home visit I learned in conversation about many of the specific needs of this group of fellow citizens who return to their hometowns and families with many permanent physical and emotional scars as well as financial hardships. I do not raise this need as a political or a patriotic issue, but as a pastoral concern for our neighbors and our children. Many of our sister churches have programs in place that reach out to these returning veterans. The Evangelical Lutheran Church (www.ecla.org) has a pastoral outreach ministry called *Care For Returning Veterans* and Samaritan’s Purse sponsors an initiative known as the *Wounded Warrior Project*. Also, as we consider those affected by war, we also have an opportunity to consider on Sunday, November 13, another demographic group affected by war as we highlight the needs of orphans around the world and the need for foster care within our own community. I ask this November during our days of remembrance and thanksgiving that when you consider your role as a Christian and peacemaker in the world to remember and honor those who have lost and sacrificed so much along with their families and to remember as well as the widows and orphans in our midst.

May the grace of God abide with you,
Pastor Joe

Prayerful Support for

Mary Alice Thomas who is in Charlotte.



Marie Atkins who is home.

Eula Brown who is with her daughter

Jane Kate.

Devon Pollard who is at home.

Martha Rogers who is in Norfolk, VA.

Clara Scouten who is in Cary.

John Shallcross who is at Smithfield Manor.

Tommy Allen who is home.

Marie Gupton, Dorothy Onisko and Lib Walsh who are at Carolina House.

Congratulations to Brooke Crowder and Kyle Hepner on the birth of a son, Mason Monroe Hepner, on October 5, 2011. **Linda Crowder** is the proud grandmother.

HIGHLIGHTS of October Stated Session Meeting:

- Approved a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to change the name of the position from choir director to Director of Choirs.
- Approved a change in the supervision of the organist and handbell director from the pastor to the Director of Choirs as recommended by the Personnel Committee.
- Approved changes to the organist's responsibilities to allow the organist to initiate emergency repairs to the organ and piano.
- Received as information several changes to the Personnel Handbook.
- Approved asking the Strategic Planning Committee to visit several other churches to gather information.
- Approved a recommendation from the Christian Education Committee not to hold Sunday school on Christmas morning and have a "come as you are" worship service.
- Approved a Bible Study called "Journey to Bethlehem" to be led by the pastor during Advent and to be used as curriculum for the Covenant and Stephenson classes.
- Approved recognizing the second Sunday in November as Orphan Sunday.

If you have items you wish to be brought before Session, please contact Debbie Jacobs, Clerk.

— Debbie Jacobs



First Christian Church
Wednesday, November 16

5:45 p.m.

Adults: \$4.00

Children 4-10: \$2.00

Under 4 eat free.

Maximum \$12.00 per family.

Be Still and Know that I Am God: Psalm 46:10

It is great to back in the swing of work and activity. I thrive on being busy, but most importantly it is fantastic to reconnect with all of my church family. I've missed you all very much. You might get sick of hearing this from me over the next few months, but I truly learned what a Sabbatical is and what is required of you to let go and let God fill the empty spaces.

My mother loves to share stories, books, quotes and articles with me that she finds at her church or in her devotional study. She forwarded an article to me that came from her pastor the week I returned to work. It was perfect timing, or maybe divine intervention. It was article about "applause in worship" found on a daily devotional site on Facebook of all places. The author, Anthony Robinson a UCC pastor, says of applause in worship, "...it fills up the spaces, the silent spaces following a powerful solo or anthem or sharing or testimony where God's presence is palpable, or might be if it were silent." The basic point of this short article is that we should God into the silent spaces of worship rather than filling them up with applause. No matter your opinions and views on this subject, I would like for you to consider something about our quiet times in worship and throughout our week.

Have you ever just wanted your family to turn off the TV? Have you ever wished your child or spouse would just stop talking for five minutes and give you a breather? Maybe it's a woman thing, but I've had both feelings. I rush around all day, pick up Reagan from school and take her to ride her pony or to gymnastics and then there is the homework and, of course, searching for the answer to "what's for dinner?" All I really wish for is ten minutes to unwind and breathe. I admit listening for God in these times is not always on my mind.

This article I quote and my experience with Sabbatical have taught me that those quiet times when there is no noise are perfect opportunities to turn my focus to God. Maybe it's ten minutes at the end of a crazy day or a week at the beach during which God is there and ready to interact with us. How can we hear with all the noise of our lives interfering? Next time you consider filling up a quiet time with noise, pause, let go and listen. God has something to share with you.

Grace and peace,
Cameron



Dwight Dockery and the Chancel Choir for the beautiful anthems each Sunday.

Eve Creech and Betsy Olive for spearheading the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive.

Bob Worsham and David Lee for chairing the Stewardship Campaign.

Bill Sharek for replacing our neighbor's fence.

Nan Jones for heading up the October Unity Fellowship Meal.

Jennifer Foy for presenting the program at the Fellowship Meal.

All the Presbyterian Women who contributed to the hygiene kits for Disaster Relief and donated items for Harbor and Barium Springs.



October Memorials and Honorariums

Memorial for Rachel Allen

Honorarium for Betsy Olive

Donors: Roger and Eleanor Horne and Lee Johnson.



Help the
Presbyterian Women
brighten exam time
for our college students.
Make your donations for
13 Care Packages
by November 30.
See Mary Miller for more
information.

Stewardship Sunday – November 6

We are well into Stewardship season, and hope that everyone is giving prayerful consideration of their contributions for 2012. We would like to thank Sandy Perkinson, Madeline Horne, Sandra Johnson, and Tony Liverman for their faithful contributions as Moments for Stewardship speakers this year.



As a reminder, our Stewardship Sunday covered-dish luncheon will be held at the Masonic Lodge, 907 S. Bright Leaf Blvd in Smithfield, on November 6. We hope everyone has signed up to attend and made their dishes known on the sign-up sheet in the parlor. Due to the change in venue, you may drop off your dish (es) beginning at 9:00 a.m. that Sunday prior to Sunday school and worship to avoid having to leave it in your car during this time.

As you plan for your annual giving of 2012, be mindful of the many wonderful missions and ministries we support and fund. Although these unprecedented economic times have taken a toll on all of us, be understanding of the many that are less fortunate. Reliant upon your faithful commitment, the ministry program of our congregation can enter the new year with confidence that the outreach missions of this congregation in this community will continue. Please join us in prayer that God will lead us into 2012 with renewed energy, enthusiasm, and creativity for all of our missions and ministries to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

— Bob Worsham and David Lee

Cupcakes, Field Trips and Service

We had a great start to our KICKS youth group. We have had tasty cup cakes at the park and then ran the sugar off at the play ground area. We really enjoyed our visits with Lib Walsh, Dorothy Onisko and Marie Gupton at Carolina House. The kids did an awesome job singing *All Things Bright and Beautiful* to all three ladies. The kids all made great gifts for the ladies too. Their smiles seem to brighten the eyes of all they came in contact with.



We are excited about Trunk or Treat. We enjoy the sweets we find from trunk to trunk. We are going bowling in November, so come out and enjoy the fun. Our group hope is to get involved with collecting food for the local food bank and helping Harbor House with some toys and Easter baskets for the kids in need. Please watch for your opportunity to help us help others.

— Ms. Crystal

Christmas Greenery

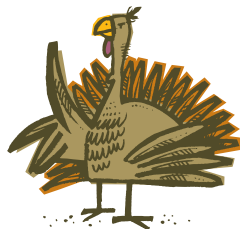
Our sanctuary is always beautiful, but it is at its most beautiful during Advent and Christmas. Once again the Presbyterian Women are decorating the sanctuary and offering you an opportunity to remember a loved one with a gift in their honor or memory. Proceeds from the donations will go to keeping our Chrismon tree, wreaths, and bows looking fresh and lovely.



Use a bulletin insert from November worship bulletins to let us know who you are memorializing or honoring. Turn in the form along with a check for \$20 made out to Presbyterian Women to the church office.

Thanksgiving Could Be Better!

“I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compote the cranberries and bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or pork sandwich.”



— The Turkey

Did You Know . . .

Troy Lester, a freshman at JCC, received the Evelyn Southerland Avera Scholarship.

Clare Howerton, a freshman nursing student at ECU, works every other weekend at Meadowview Assisted Living facility in Smithfield.

Jane and Ken Allen, Camille Boone and Tom Howerton sing for the residents of Carolina House and Smithfield Manor once a month. The residents really enjoy singing along.

Camille Boone, Judy Daniels, Diane Dockery, Dot Ellmore, Becky Peele, Ann Ragland and Virginia Williams knit and crochet prayer shawls every Monday at church. Everyone is invited to join them. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, they will gladly teach you.

Anita Liverman volunteers at Hospice House.

Dot Ellmore volunteers at the local cancer center.

Diane Dockery volunteers at Johnston Medical Center in Clayton.

Teron Sloan teaches horticulture at 71st High School in Fayetteville.

The Leonid Meteor Shower will occur on November 17 between 1:00 and 5:00 a.m. It originates from the constellation Leo — hence it's name. The strongest activity during which 100 or more meteors can be seen, will be most visible in the night skies of central and eastern Asia. In North America we will only see a dozen or so an hour.

If you have items you would like to see in this column, please contact Mary Miller.

Orphan Sunday, November 13

The Session approved the request from the Evangelism and Outreach Committee to highlight Orphan Sunday on November 13th to bring the plight of orphans around the world to our attention. November is also National Adoption Month--a time to raise awareness of children in foster care who need loving families.



As part of that outreach, we have requested The Orphans Table for use by PYC and KICKS. The meal packs, which are a part of the Table, will allow our youth to share a typical meal that may be eaten by orphans around the world.

On Orphan Sunday, churches and families celebrate God's heart for the fatherless and how Christians can respond through adoption, foster care and global orphan initiatives. There are roughly 420,000 children in the foster system in the U. S. today, with nearly 120,000 waiting to be adopted. Globally, an estimated 18.3 million children have lost both parents. (source: orphansunday.com)

The Orphan Sunday campaign seeks to make Christian families and churches the answer to these needs. God calls us to care for them: James 1:27a - Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans...

You might ask, "How can I help?" Learn what you can do to help children in our local community. Also, learn what our Presbyterian churches through Barium Springs Home for Children are doing. Barium Springs works with many children and families. Their objectives are to:

- "Heal the Hurt" for children that are troubled, abused or neglected.
- Provide "A Safe Haven" through residential cottages and foster care homes.
- Encourage "A Healthy Start" through educational, prevention and developmental programs.

Remember, apathy is a state of heart--not of mind. Let your heart help orphans and foster children.

— Betsy Olive, Chair
Evangelism and Outreach

Preschool News

Greetings from First Presbyterian Preschool. October was a fun month for us. We learned many fire safety rules, including "stop, drop and roll," "get low and go," call 911, have a meeting place outside the house, check fire detectors, and never play with matches.

We also learned about pumpkins and enjoyed a field trip to Smith's Nursery. We went on a hayride, learned about Native Americans, explored corn and millet mazes, and we each took home a pumpkin.

Preschool Sunday was observed on October 9. Melissa Pilkington, Preschool Director, and members of the Preschool Board participated in the service.

Our preschool staff is dedicated to preparing young learners for success and providing an enjoyable preschool experience. We appreciate their dedication to this mission of FPC.



— Melissa Pilkington
Joy Worsham



Committee and program chairs — remember that your annual reports are due to the SPRE Committee by December 1.



**Samaritan's Purse
OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
CHILD
Goal: 100**

Date due: November 6

**If you prefer simply to donate items,
place them in the box in the parlor.**

Want someone else to shop for you?

Give your money to Eve Creech or Betsy Olive.

Thank Offering 2011

"For God satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." Psalm 107:9

The women of the church should have already received information regarding the 2011 Thank Offering.

Contributions are collected in November and early December. Through the gifts of the Thank Offering, many types of programs have been funded throughout the years, including grants for hospitals, schools, women's health programs, domestic violence shelters, child and youth development programs, elder care, hunger programs, homeless shelters and many more.



Thank you for your contributions to this offering.

— Judy Johnson

Cubs Going Strong

Cub Scout Pack 95 is in full swing. We have a really fine group of boys who are excited about scouting.

At our October Pack Meeting, we had eight boys earn their very first scouting badge, the Bobcat badge, including FPC's own Carson Horne. The weekend of October 21-23 was their first camping trip; its theme was Cub Scouts Are Groovy."

Pack 95 placed first in the Groovy Car Race and put on a great showing in the Groovy Pizza Cooking Competition and the Groovy Campfire. The weather was beautiful and everyone had a great time.

The cubs just wrapped up their annual popcorn sale, and will deliver orders in mid-November. We will have some extras, so if you missed ordering, please see one of our scouts, Davis Bell, or Carson Horne, and they'll fix you up!

We thank FPC members for all you do to support our scout pack!

— Evans Horne





Christmas in a Barn

**Christmas in a Barn
December 18
5:30 p.m.
Hillcrest Farms**

If you are interested in participating as a shepherd, angel, wise man, etc., or volunteering to help dress the children or set-up and clean-up, please contact Ruth Bell. If you can help with refreshments, either by providing goodies or setting up, please contact Brandy Holzshu.

Christmas in a Barn is such a special event in the life of our church. Make your experience even richer: volunteer to help!

As always, you can find a map and directions on the table in the parlor.

— Ruth Bell
Brandy Holzshu

From the Director of Choirs

“I compose music so that the weary and worn, or the man burdened with affairs, may enjoy a few moments of solace and refreshment. I know that God has bestowed a talent upon me, and I thank Him for it. I think I have done my duty and been of use in my generation by my works. Let others do the same.”

— Franz Joseph Haydn

As we enter November, we see the All Saints’ celebration upon us. Growing up, my family never celebrated this day (we were Baptist, and this was not our tradition), but it has become one of the dearest days of the Christian year for me. I find it to be both cathartic and meditative to remember those who have gone before us. To me, this is a large part of what it means to be a church – a body of people who share in each other’s triumphs and trials, their joys and their woes. But it also connects us to our religious tradition, and it allows us to remember the many generations who have been before us. It is the essence of what it means to be a congregation.



This is the reason we have traditions; they connect us to the past. But they also connect us across the intangible lines that divide us. We are one with not only the Presbyterians who went before us, we are also connected with Presbyterians across the globe. But, more importantly, we connect to all people who share in this celebration.

And this brings me to the Haydn quote. I believe that music plays an essential role in the All Saints’ tradition. Whether it is in corporate worship or private reflection, music provides ‘solace and refreshment’ to all who seek it. As Mr. Haydn notes, this is a primary function of musical creation.

I hope that the music we bring you will find your soul and relieve and revitalize you – All Saints’ Sunday, throughout November, Advent, and beyond. We inherit a great body of work from our predecessors (like Haydn!), and I hope it goes forth to the next generation, so they can continue in these great traditions.

Peace,
Dwight

Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

— Albert Schweitzer

All Saints’ Sunday, November 1, 2011



When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved . . . who are to be called saints” (Romans 1:7). Paul regarded fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God. The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved — special people set apart to receive his grace and to be witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling in them. Because God has saved us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

FPC will again this year honor our saints who have joined the Church Triumphant. Members are urged to bring photographs and mementos of their loved ones to be displayed in the parlor on All Saints’ Sunday, November 6. Candles will be placed in the chancel in memory of those members we lost during the last church year (November 1, 2010 — October 31, 2011). Those members are:

William Edmons Lawson

October 24, 1924—December 15, 2010

Evelyn Godwin Bryant

October 18, 1924 — December 19, 2010

Helen Brown Capps

February 2, 1961—December 28, 2010

Sallie Merritt Lassiter

December 25, 1915 — February 20, 2011

Luther Brown Harrell, Jr.

March 22, 1936—March 4, 2011

Archie Monroe Crowder

February 19, 1953 — March 17, 2011

Jeanie Lawson Langdon

August 31, 1947 — April 3, 2011

Margaret Johnson Dunn

February 23, 1928—May 25, 2011

Rachel Lee Allen

July 2, 1930 — June 7, 2011

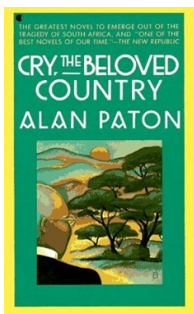
Velma Stancil McCrae

July 17, 1956—June 28, 2011

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Book Discussion Series: Cry, the Beloved Country
Monday, November 14, 7:00 p.m.

or
Wednesday, November 16, 10:00 a.m.
Orchard House Booksellers
Joseph Hester, Discussion Leader



“The most famous and important novel in South Africa’s history, and an immediate bestseller when it was published in 1948, Alan Paton’s impassioned novel about a black man’s country under white man’s law is a work of searing beauty . . . In Alan Paton’s *Cry, the Beloved Country* the statesman, the poet and the novelist meet in unique harmony . . . It is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. . . A classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.”

— Amazon.com



Alan Paton (1903—1988)
Repelled by the racism he saw all around him in his homeland, Alan Paton wrote *Cry, the Beloved Country*, a novel that had a most profound effect on the worldwide struggle against apartheid. His Christian conscience, which would not allow him to be a mere commentator, propelled him into the world of

political action.

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church
Come join us!

Coming in December
Book Discussion Series: The Journey, Walking the Road to Bethlehem
Orchard House Booksellers
Dates and Times To Be Announced

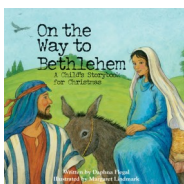
An Advent Bible Study for each member of the family.



Journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Hamilton’s use of information, archaeological date, and examinations of the stories surrounding Christ’s birth brings to life this most amazing moment in history.



Read alone or with a Sunday school class or book discussion group, you will feel yourself making the pilgrimage to Bethlehem in a most personal way.



The children’s study guide

Building Project Enters Overdrive!

With the demolition of the florist done and the asbestos abatement finally in the “rear view mirror,” our building project has reached *overdrive*. As anyone passing the church can see, there is a lot going on. We have turned the corner on prepping for construction and have finally begun the construction of our new building. After weeks of demolition on the interior of the fellowship hall, classrooms and preschool, we have now begun to lay the footers for the two-story section. If you have noticed on the exterior the growing piles of concrete you can see the by products of the interior work being done. Inside we have almost completed the excavation of the sections of the concrete floor to install our new electrical and plumbing lines. Only a few stud walls on the interior remain standing.

We have experienced a slight delay because of the required removal of the old heating oil tank from the florist property. We must follow state testing and guidelines to remove the contaminated soil and refill the excavated area with clean fill. We expect to have this completed in a week or so, depending on weather. Our interior committee is hard at work behind the scenes with the final plans for the interior décor under Anita Liverman’s superior supervision. I am glad I am not on that committee as all my “taste is in my mouth.”

The financial portion is moving smoothly and all procedures, checks, and balances are in place to assure accountability and transparency in the financial end of the project. A big shout out to Bob Worsham and Billy Duncan for arranging all these parts of the project and making sure the money is safeguarded and reported accurately. Pledges continue to come in each week and we encourage everyone to keep the pledge commitments coming. So far we have not needed to draw from the loan, but that will be necessary in just a short while. The more we collect on pledges, the longer we can wait to draw on the loan and *the more interest we save*.

I want to remind everyone that the site of construction has a number of hazards, and we all need to refrain from entering the construction site. Clancy and Theys have strict and good safety requirements to which we are expected to adhere. Greg Keeler, our project on-site superintendent asks that he be notified if there is a need for anyone to be in the building and in the construction area and he will do everything in his power to accommodate within his safety guidelines. We appreciate your watching, but request it be from the safe areas around the site.

We all continue to be excited about seeing our mission slowly by surely being realized and ask for your continued prayers and the exceptional support of this project. Please feel free to call on our committee members for any questions or concerns you have.

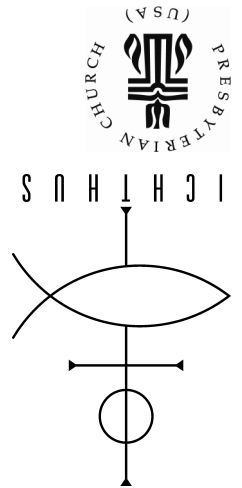
— Bill Sharek, Chair
Building Communications



November

*We give thanks for family,
for friends,
for growth,
for God's guidance.*

Thanksgiving



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2011

PERMIT #93

SMITHFIELD, NC 27577

US POSTAGE

NON-PROFIT STD MAIL

First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 1159

Smithfield, NC 27577

PUZZLE

Give Praise

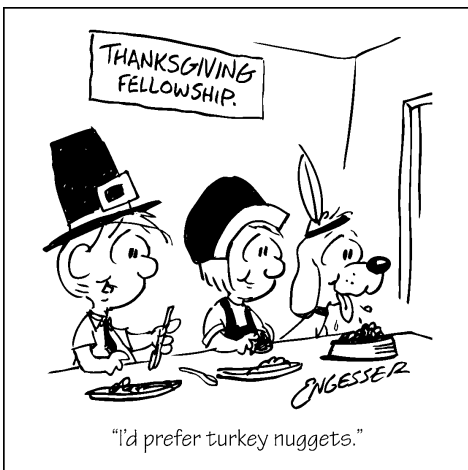
Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Give
Take
Grab | 2. peanut
praise
pear | 3. temple
house
LORD | 4. proclaim
past
present | 5. name
boy
lad | 6. ruin
destroy
make |
| 7. pine
acorn
known | 8. train
nations
bus | 9. done
donut
muffin | 10. Sing
Sleep
Yawn | 11. she
him
girl | 12. sun
praise
moon |
| 13. tell
fast
slow | 14. red
all
blue | 15. horrible
dreadful
wonderful | 16. acts
sisters
aunts | | |

" _____ to the _____ , _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____ , sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ . " PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts.
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)



Thanksgiving

SIGN OF THANKFULNESS

Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.

