

## THANKSGIVING

Our nation is one of the few that has set aside a special day to offer thanksgiving. We are living in very uncertain times, where fear and uncertainty appear to be the norms. Instead of just keeping the habits that we have made for this holiday ... hurried travel in traffic and congestion, stuffing ourselves with too much food, crashing in front of the television to gorge ourselves with football games, rushing out to spend money on "Black Friday" ... why not take time to COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!

Take time this year to make a list of what you are thankful for and share it with family and friends. Turn off the television and sit with them to talk about all the things to give thanks for ... and make sure to include the youngest in your midst! Too often we forget that God has richly blessed us. Too often we let the pressures and concerns of the world overshadow the joys we already possess. Start today by making a list of things and people for whom you are thankful. Leave it by your nightstand, the breakfast table, or desk at work. Add whatever comes to mind. On Thanksgiving Day, after dinner, share your list with those around you.

Here some other ways you might keep Thanksgiving this year:

- volunteer at a local church or shelter on Thanksgiving;
- visit a shut-in or single person, include them in your holiday;
- donate money to a food or feeding program;
- attend worship with your family and friends (give thanks to God);
- while you are at the mall shopping, pick up warm blankets that can be used for the homeless and shelters this winter;
- write a letter, or call a relative you can't be with and tell them "thank you" for what they have done for you;
- Come up with some other idea to make Thanksgiving a spiritual and religious observance!

### LIVE A LIFE OF T.H.A.N.K.S.G.I.V.I.N.G.

How do we find financial stability in unstable times? Perhaps we would do best to turn to God's wisdom and knowledge for stability (Isaiah 33:6). What follows are some thoughts by Rev. Brian Kluth on our call to biblical generosity from a sermon of his along with Bible references. Try reading each line one day at a time along with the Bible passages. See if you can gain confidence and a sense of thanksgiving this

month. Take 30 days to discover a new hope and confidence to overcome the fear that grips so many people today.

**(T)ransfer ownership back to God:** Colossians 1:16-17, 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

**(H)umbly adjust your lifestyle to live below your means:** Proverbs 21:20, Deuteronomy 25:13-15, James 4:4-8

**(A)void growing indebtedness:** Proverbs 22:7, Deuteronomy 28:15, 43-44, Ezekiel 28:17-18, Proverbs 22:26-27

**(N)avigate away from financial temptations:** Psalm 119:36-37, Genesis 3:6-7, Joshua 7:20-21, Titus 2:12, Romans 13:14

**(K)now your financial status & goals:** Proverbs 27:23-24, Proverbs 21:5, Isaiah 38:1

**(S)hare with people in need:** Isaiah 58:6-8, Proverbs 22:9, 2 Corinthians 9:9

**(G)ive to God first as your highest financial priority:** Psalm 67:7, Deuteronomy 14:22-23, 2 Corinthians 8:7, Malachi 3:8-10

**(I)nvest for eternity:** Hebrews 11:8-10, 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Isaiah 33:6

**(V)iew every need & desire as a chance to trust God:** Proverbs 8:18, 13:22, 24:3-4

**(I)nsert time in your schedule to manage your \$'s:** Isaiah 32:8, Proverbs 13:6, 24:3. 14:22-23

**(N)ever be financially dishonest:** Proverbs 10:2, 13:11, 20:117, Exodus 18:21, Romans 13:7, Jeremiah 17:11, Ephesians 4:28

**(G)ain Biblical understanding:** Psalm 119:11, Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:1-3, 19:7-11, 2 Chronicles 26:5, 2 Timothy 3:16

## CAMP FAITH 2008 WRAP-UP

Fifty campers attended Camp Faith 2008 and were joined by about a dozen teenaged staffers. The children had Bible classes and skits, arts and crafts, cooking, games, athletics, weekly trips to Belle Mawr Lake to swim and various day trips.

Camp Faith is made possible largely by the generosity of a great many people, most of whom are part of the Diocese of New Jersey. The Girls' Friendly Society was once again their largest single supporter. Area parish churches and individual donation made up the rest. Grace Church gave \$2000 this year to the program.