



The Visitor

First Christian Church
900 South Ennis, Bryan Texas 77803

November 13, 2018

CYF Fall Rally 2018 (Overcoming Fears)



Collin Chandler and **Taylor Rasco** along with 50 other youths from the Coastal Plains Area attended the Fall Rally at the Disciples Oaks Retreat Center in Gonzales, TX this last weekend. They had a great weekend with their friends they have made over the years at camp. The theme for the rally was "Overcoming Fear." They both feel the experience from camp is like no other, it is the best.

Last Sunday's Sermon

Title: "Giving Thanks"

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Hebrews 10:10-18

[Click Here to Listen to the Sermon](#)

I've made a point of giving thanks to God the past few days, and some of my thankful prayers have appeared as Facebook posts. But it's been a good week, so being thankful is easy. Election Day was neither particularly good nor depressingly bad, so it was easy to give thanks. Since Tuesday I've given thanks for safe travel, good food, my wife, and visits with grandchildren. Not that everything was goodness and light, but nothing happened this week to rock my world or trouble my heart. So, it was an easy week for giving thanks.

Hannah's story was different. In the run up to her joyful prayer of thanksgiving in chapter 2, we learn that she was deeply troubled. To be fair, not everything in Hannah's life was bad. We know that she was married. Judging by the story, he loved her deeply and was good to her. And they seem prosperous, prosperous enough to offer all the appropriate sacrifices. And there is no suggestion that she ever did without the essentials of food and shelter. Despite all that, there was no room in her heart for joy or giving thanks. For she lacked the one thing she wanted most. With all her heart she wanted a son. Unfortunately, she was childless and that cast a dark shadow over everything else. In that culture a woman's value, and by extension her self-esteem, rested upon having children, most especially on having sons.

That lack of children opened her up to the taunts of a rival, and that only deepened her despair. Therefore, despite the good in her life, she had no room in her heart for joy. Instead of thanksgiving, her prayers were bitter and filled with grief. As 1 Samuel 1 reaches its climax, the narrative places Hannah at the shrine at Shiloh. There with her husband as part of the family's regular pilgrimage for sacrifice, Hannah entered the holy place and prayed fervently that her shame would be erased by the gift of a son. In return, Hannah promised that the child would be dedicated to the service of God. Well, her prayer was answered. The Lord blessed her with a son she named Samuel, and Hannah proved faithful to her promise. For Samuel was indeed dedicated to the service of God.

Just as it is easy to give thanks when life is good, it is also easy to give thanks when our deepest prayers are answered in the way we hope for. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with thankful prayer in either of these circumstances, what about the rest of life? Do we turn a dissatisfied face toward God when the details of life are not entirely satisfying? Is our stance toward God controlled by the obstacles in our path? We will thank you Lord when our troubles vanish. Are we able to turn a thankful face toward God during troubled times or in the midst of grief? The answers to these questions say a great deal about our faith and also our relationship with God.

Sometimes there are people in our lives who teach us much simply by their presence. For me Ruby Morrow was one of those people. She was a member of my first church out of seminary, so it has been more than 20 years ago. I still remember her well. She had the gift of a thankful heart though she had endured a life filled with loss. Folks in the congregation talked about that in hushed tones and marveled at the joyful face she showed the world. I have always believed that the joyful face she showed the world was rooted in the thankful heart she shared with God.

Presenting a thankful heart to God ought not be contingent upon our level of satisfaction. Presenting thankful heart to the Lord should not depend on our present circumstances. If life is good, give thanks! If you face trouble, give thanks! If your heart is heavy, give thanks! If it's just an ordinary day, give thanks! Amen.

Next Sunday's Message

Title: "Striving for the Kingdom"

Scriptures: Matthew 6:25-33; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Starting Point: Our celebration of Thanksgiving Day in America comes with more than a passing backward glance. We give thanks for blessings that have already arrived, pilgrims, prosperity, happy memories of days gone by. There is nothing wrong with that but let us also turn with eyes and hearts of faith to that which lay ahead. Give thanks in faith and strive for the kingdom of God!

Minister's Moment

Friends and Disciples:

The bells tolled Sunday, just as they did 100 years ago in Paris and London when the Great War, the so-called War to End All Wars, came to a close at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. Our tolling of the bells came as part of our observance of Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day.) As we remember those who died in service to our nation and thank all those who served, we ought not forget that those who answer duty's call do not set our nation's policies. Though they do not chart our course, they are the first to pay the butcher's bill.

With that grand anniversary fresh in our minds, we would do well to ask if we still remember what they had learned 100 years ago? Rather than dry words of a historian (living or dead) or a dense tome from a theologian's ivory tower to remind us of what they once knew, I offer words from two poets of the war. (Supplied courtesy of Karl Aufderheide.)

Anthem for Doomed Youth

*What passing-bells for these who die as
cattle?
— Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
Only the stuttering rifles' rapid rattle
Can patter out their hasty orisons.
No mockeries now for them; no prayers nor
bells;
Nor any voice of mourning save the choirs,
— The shrill, demented choirs of wailing
shells;
And bugles calling for them from sad
shires.*

*What candles may be held to speed them
all?
Not in the hands of boys but in their eyes
Shall shine the holy glimmers of good-byes.
The pallor of girls' brows shall be their
pall;
Their flowers the tenderness of patient
minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of
blinds.*

— Wilfred Owen (1893–1918)

Song-Books of the War

*In fifty years, when peace outshines
Remembrance of the battle lines,
Adventurous lads will sigh and cast
Proud looks upon the plundered past.
On summer morn or winter's night,
Their hearts will kindle for the fight,
Reading a snatch of soldier-song,
Savage and jaunty, fierce and strong;
And through the angry marching rhymes
Of blind regret and haggard mirth,
They'll envy us the dazzling times
When sacrifice absolved our earth.*

*Some ancient man with silver locks
Will lift his weary face to say:
'War was a fiend who stopped our clocks
Although we met him grim and gay.'
And then he'll speak of Haig's last drive,
Marveling that any came alive
Out of the shambles that men built
And smashed, to cleanse the world of guilt.
But the boys, with grin and sidelong
glance,
Will think, 'Poor grandad's day is done.'
And dream of lads who fought in France
And lived in time to share the fun.*

— Siegfried Sassoon (1886–1967)

Though Siefried Sassoon cited only fifty years, when I hear the rumbles in the news, both far and near, I fear the lesson has been lost, if ever learned at all. Perhaps someday we will hear the bells toll once more, not just for the cessation (however brief) of war's awful cost, but for the inbreaking of God's own peace.

"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:34)
"Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:21)

Yours in Christ,

Jesse

Thanksgiving Luncheon

Please join us for our annual Thanksgiving luncheon this Sunday, November 18. We'll have turkey, dressing and all the fixin's. Please add to this with your choice of a vegetable, a salad or a dessert. If you'd like to help in the kitchen either prior to the luncheon or on clean up, please call Vicki (823-5451) or Ann (820-3815). We could use some guys to help us take down tables and put chairs up. If you can help with that, please call Vicki. See you Sunday if not before. Please see additional article in this publication about helping the Brazos Church Pantry.

Perishable Food Collection

Instead of just joining in for great fellowship at our Thanksgiving luncheon, we are sponsoring a non-perishable food collection to go to the Brazos Church Pantry. Please bring as many items as you feel you can to the luncheon on Sunday or on the following Sunday. We are all so blessed and don't have to worry about our next meal, let's band together to help those who might be less fortunate. Cub Scout Pack 317 (our pack) will also be contributing to this endeavor.

Prayer Concerns

While we believe everyone needs prayer, those named on our list have specific and ongoing needs:

Evelyn Lively
Polina Rouland
Bob & Liz McGee
R. J. Bozeman
Roger & Emily Nichols
Mark Stadelman
Hector Cortes
Caton Milstead
Jim Conway (cousin of Bob Richards)
Brad Slocum (brother of Stacy Atterbury)
Christopher Cravey (Jeanette Phariss's nephew)
Diane Andrews (friend of Cheryl Aufderheide)
Elaine Pruett (Tonya Chandler's grandmother)
Leatha Jeffrey (Calvin Jeffrey's mother)
Cathy Deason (friend of a colleague of Karl Aufderheide)
Butch Thomas (friend of Larry & Vicki Green)


Ellie Erin Albrecht
Julie Atterbury
D'andre Fleeks
Gerry Hart
Jim & Stacy Atterbury
Kevin Rodgers
J.C. & Delores Shaw
Cherry Chandler
Rose Bowden
family of Vi Cotton

Shut-ins

Henry & Rosemary O'Neal
Gene Holt
Marge Shepperd
Nancy Wright

Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee met Monday, November 12 and our estimates of giving for 2019 are looking pretty good. We will be meeting again next Monday, November 19 to develop our proposed budget for 2019. If you have not yet submitted an estimate of your giving for 2019, it's not too late. Please get those to **Ann Pittman** by Sunday the 18th. Thank you for your faithful service and contributions to this church.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH B/CS						
NOVEMBER 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 CYF/Youth 3: PM Daylight Savings Time Ends Disciples Men Hosting Breakfast 8:30 AM Morning Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM	5 Young Life SFA 7:00 pm	6 House Church 6:00 PM	7 Choir 7:30 PM	8	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10
11 CYF/Youth 3: PM Morning Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Veterans Day	12 Young Life SFA 7:00 pm	13 House Church 6:00 PM	14 Choir 7:30 PM Disciples Women 9:30am	15	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 CYF/Youth 3: PM Morning Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM	19 Young Life SFA 7:00 pm	20 House Church 6:00 PM	21 Choir 7:30 PM	22  Thanksgiving	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 CYF/Youth 3: PM Morning Worship 10:45 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM General Board Mtg (after Worship)	26 Young Life SFA 7:00 pm	27 House Church 6:00 PM	28 Choir 7:30 PM	29	30 OFFICE CLOSED	