



New Hope United Methodist Church
November 2009



9825 Gore Church Rd. Logan, OH

“God is light; in him there is no darkness at all...”

Reflections of Pastor David:

If you have read my newsletter articles or listened to my sermons over the past few years, you know that I do not look forward to the time of year when the days get shorter. The kindest word to describe my attitude would be grumpy.

Light is a wonderful gift from God, so at this time of year when the darkness lingers on in the mornings, and seems to close in on us in the evenings, I can't help feeling sad over the loss of each minute of daylight.

Autumn is a season of mixed weather as well. It really is a beautiful time of the year, especially when the sun is shining brightly on the changing colors of the leaves. However, there are a lot of dark and damp days, too, and sometimes days with the dreaded snow showers that say winter is really on the way.

So the fall of the year is a good time to ponder this lesson from 1 John 1:5-7: ***“This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”***

There is an important lesson for us to learn here. In our spiritual lives, it's when we get out of step with the Lord that our gloomy days occur. On the other hand, when we walk in the light of our Lord, we feel upbeat and able to cope with our daily challenges, whatever they may be. The best of all news is that even in our darkest and stormiest times, we can come to God at anytime and start over. God welcomes those moments of reconciliation because he wants us to represent him well, to shine His light into the world. And it is still true that when the Son comes out the darkness disappears.

Why? Because he is the light of the world, of course!



THANKSGIVING EVENING SERVICE

Wednesday, 11/25 @ 7:00 pm

**JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL FIFTH SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICE, ON
SUNDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 29TH @ 6:00 PM.**

This service will be a night of shared worship of music, scripture readings, singing, music, poetry and much more.

Last year's November 5th service was so uplifting and beautiful because you made it so by sharing your gifts as part of the service.

Please sign up for this year's evening service. Some of the ways you can contribute to this worship service are through:

***Music *Scripture Readings *Drama *Poetry *Signing *Prayer**

***Inspirational stories *Sharing Your Faith Journey *or Something New?**

To participate in this worship service, please sign up in the fellowship hall or call Pastor David at 394-2705

**Pastor David's Sunday School
Class is studying the theme
"Living in Christ" this quarter.**

November 1

Living in Christ: *See God*

Primary Text: Mathew 5:1-12

November 8

Living in Christ: *Give*

Primary Text: Mark 12:38-44

November 15

Living in Christ: *Live Expectantly*

Primary Text: Mark 13:1-8

November 22

Living in Christ: *Listen*

Primary Text: John 18:33-37

**FIRST SATURDAY BIBLE SCHOOL
10:00—12:00**



**Teachers for November 7 are:
Lynda, Cheri, and the Youth Group**

**Teachers for December 5 are: Cheri, Karci
and Sharon S.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING

INFORMATION ABOUT THE

PRAYER TEAM PLEASE

CONTACT LYNDA FINK AT

394-2939.



Thoughts and Reflections from

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Greg Rush:

"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

STEWARDSHIP: The Bible tells us we are stewards of God's mysteries (1 Corinthians 4:1-2), so what does that really mean to us as Christians? A steward is someone who manages or takes care of something, and the Bible tells us we are to be stewards of all that God created. We may be effective stewards, or not so effective, but we are still stewards.

Stewardship starts with one's relationship to God, and we model stewardship through our actions and attitudes, by serving and giving. Christian stewardship should not be an effort to create a relationship with God, instead it is a response to God because of the joyful relationship He has already initiated with us. As our spiritual journey deepens and matures, our response often is to examine our effectiveness as a steward of God's gifts.

Stewardship is not an annual financial campaign, but a way of life. We are stewards of our time. We make decisions about how we spend our time; how we allot time to prayer and worship, to family and friends, to work, and to recreation. We need to reevaluate these decisions regularly. What if someone found your calendar of activities—what would they say are your priorities?

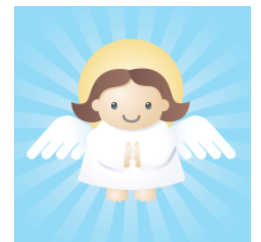
We cannot escape being stewards of God's mysteries, which include the possessions that God entrusts to us. Christian stewardship involves how well we handle our money and other resources. Jesus told many stories about one's relationship to possessions and how that can affect one's relationship with God. In our capitalistic economy, being Christian stewards of our money and possessions may be the most difficult challenge that many of us face. What if someone found your checkbook—what would they say are your priorities?

What if God found your checkbook - what would he say are your priorities?

Just something I've been thinking about..... Greg Rush

Dear Lord, as I stop today to count my blessings, I want to take this opportunity to thank You -

- *for my Salvation;*
- *for my church, where Your Word is taught uncompromisingly;*
- *for my country, where I can speak Your Name freely;*
- *for eyes to see the beauty of Your creation,*
- *for ears to hear the birds sing and children laugh;*
- *for hands to work, and feet to get me where I need to go;*
- *for providing for my needs.*



Thank You Lord for my wonderful family; for true friends, who stand with me in good times and bad; for my Christian brothers and sisters, who pray with me and for me.

Yes, Lord, as I stop today to count my blessings, I do have much to be thankful for!

In Jesus Name,

Amen

O God, we give thanks to you! We proclaim how great you are and tell of the wonderful things you have done. Psalm 75:1 (TEV)

Reflections from Brandy Stamper:

Each of us understands that individually we can experience God's presence alone at home, work or in nature, as we should. However, when we join together in a sanctuary, we experience a different quality about our worship, don't we?

At home, I can read the Bible on my own, but at church I hear about a portion of Scripture that pastor David has studied and now shares with us. If I stay home then I don't get handshakes, hugs, smiles and friendship. Nor will I enjoy watching and hearing our beautiful choir which enhances our worship experience. In Church, we are indeed united together as One Family—Children of God—each of us reaffirming our commitment to follow in Jesus' footsteps.

Another way in which we can serve God throughout our church and community is to *continue* to invite and encourage individuals to visit our church. It is surprising how timid we can be to attend a church on our own and how timid we can be to invite someone to our church. Kind of a Catch 22—a fear that we need to acknowledge and just step out on faith and conquer. At church we enjoy and celebrate God's love and the beauty of our total worship experience—***let's share this experience.***

I'd like to propose that we use our newsletter as an additional source to reach out to those who do not have a church family. I need your help though. If you are on a committee, schedule Sunday school or church meetings, or have a special announcement—could you please provide me with the upcoming information so that it may be included in the newsletter. Then it would be nice if we could each take a newsletter and give it away to someone who does not normally attend church.

Namaste

"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father" John 14:12



Family Thanksgiving Prayer

Jesus, thank you for loving us;
And providing food, shelter, and each other.
Every moment of our lives is a gift;
And we appreciate all the time you have given us.
Thank you for all our good fortune.

Family Thanksgiving Prayer