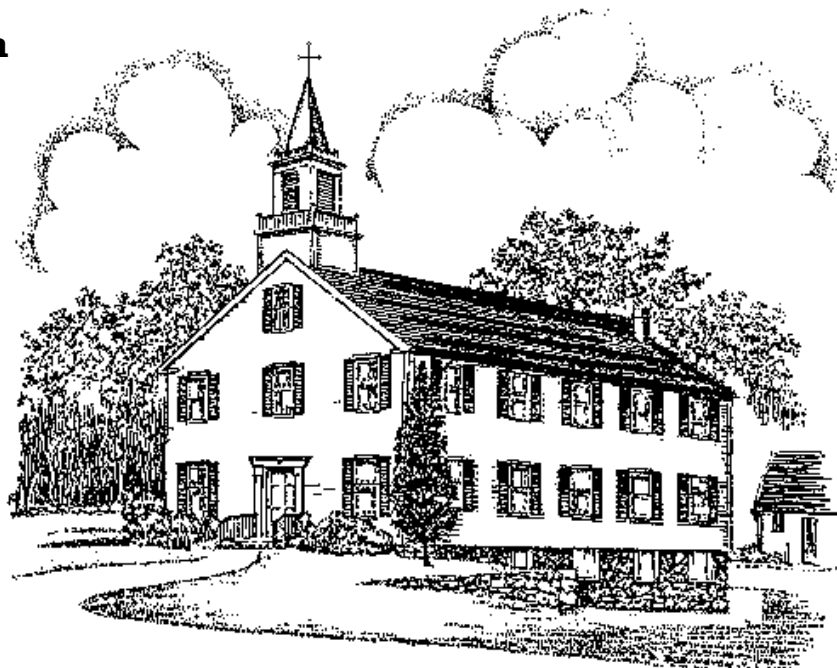


# Shine

The Newsletter of Road Church  
November 2008

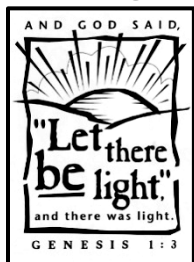


Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος  
In the beginning was the word

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## The Road Meetinghouse

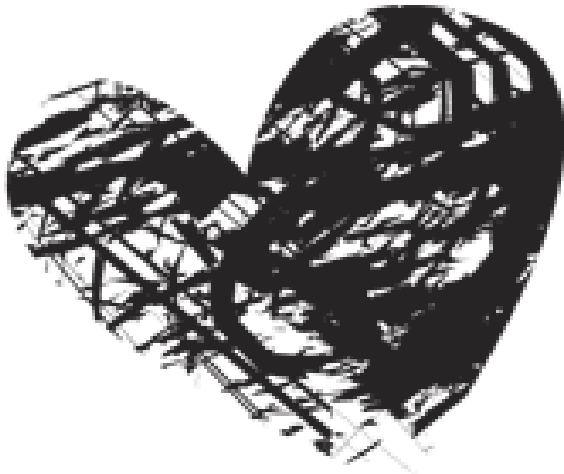
First Congregational church of Stonington  
903 Pequot Trail  
Stonington, CT 06378



Deadline date for Dec/Jan Newsletter:  
Tuesday, November 18

(860)535-0655  
(800)535-0655 (toll free)

RECIPIENT NAME  
RECIPIENT ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP



**" WE WILL  
SERVE  
THE  
LORD  
OUR  
GOD  
AND  
OBEY  
HIM."**

**JOSHUA 24:24, NIV**

## **From the Pastor's Pen**

To my Friends at Road,

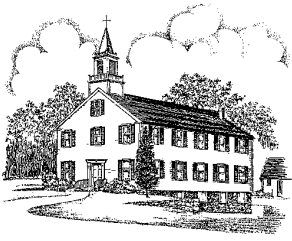
It's wonderful having the "Shine" once again. It has been too long without it. I hope we will all support the efforts of our new secretary, Colleen Riley in making the publication possible. There will be a deadline for each month. It must be strictly adhered so all may get our newsletter in a timely fashion.

I would like to welcome Colleen to the new position as secretary. Please stop by and introduce yourself to Colleen if you do not already know her. She was a member at "Road" some years back which began in our TNT Youth Group. She has participated in our Sunday School, AWANA Ministry and Choir during that time. Please let her know before Wednesdays if you have any announcements for the bulletin.

I would like to make a plea for new Hymnals for our church. Our hymnal is outdated and very difficult to read. The music committee is working to bring a new hymnal to the church for your approval. I would like to pay for it by each of us buying one or more and placing a memorial card in the hymnal for a loved one or friend. Let me know what you think.

Thanks to everyone for all the hard work you put forth to make our church a great place to worship our God.

In Christ, Ron



## Report of the Ecclesiastical Society

There has been a great deal of discussion in recent weeks regarding the relationship between the Church and the Ecclesiastical Society. The Society's role is two-fold: to hold title to, and maintain, the property; and to manage the endowment (funds left in care of the Society for the betterment of Road Church).

While some have expressed that the Society has not done enough to improve the properties, or that the Society has spent too much on the exterior of the buildings, a more balanced assessment might lead to a different conclusion.

Over the eight-year period, 2000 through 2007, the endowment has returned an average of \$24,000 of investment income per year. Expenditures by the Society over those years have averaged \$40,000 per year. The expenditures, over and above the recurring expenses of insuring the properties and maintaining the basic infrastructure, have primarily been directed toward five areas: necessary structural repairs to the buildings, the installation of insulation and storm windows on the church to reduce the heating bill, improvements to the drainage system around the church to address leakage in the undercroft, the upgrade of handicap access, and the installation of mandated improvements to the fire protection and potable water systems. Many of these "improvements" are not readily apparent, but all have been essential.

The fact that the Society has been able to overspend its income over the eight-year period is because the Society has received some donations and its investment portfolio has appreciated. An effort has been made to realign the portfolio to boost the income stream, and achieve a better balance between growth and income, while at the same time minimizing risk.

Recent turmoil in the financial markets has affected all investments, but has not dramatically impacted the Society's portfolio. For that reason the Society should be in a position to continue to fund necessary improvements to the facilities. The Society and the Church are now in discussions as to how to prioritize those improvements.

*Submitted by Craig Haines, Chairman of the Ecclesiastical Society*



## News from the Deaconate

Thanks to Colleen, it is nice to have the Shine back in circulation.

The 2008 Board of Deacons consists of: Susan Schneider, Chairperson, Louise Fayal, Secretary/Treasurer, Bob Elmer, Ken Laney, Judy Fales, Dixie Lufbury, Inky Lattimore and Bob Vidal. The following diaconate representatives were elected in January: Christian Ed: Ken Laney, Pastoral Committee: Bob Elmer. The deacons meet the third Sunday of each month following the church service.

In January, a prayer circle was requested. This is time dedicated to additional prayer before or after the church service and is usually held in the undercroft following the 10 o'clock service. All are welcome to attend. Since January, the deacons participated in the Maundy Thursday service and had an informal retreat at Louise Fayal's home in July. At every meeting, as well as the retreat, the concern for the struggling Sunday school is brought up. Ron requested support from the diaconate to recommend the hiring of a part time secretary to the Executive Board. Thankfully, a secretary was hired.

As of September, the balance in the Deacon's Fund totals \$2,162.79. This fund is to be used for members of our church family in need of help. This special offering is made on Communion Sundays. On September 14, 2008, we welcomed Blanca Chicas as a new member and Jack Jacobs will become a member on October 12th. Please contact Ron or any of the deacons with concerns or questions.

*Submitted by Susan Schneider, Deacon Chairperson*



## News from the Missions Ministry

It has been a year since I have had an article in the Shine. Consequently, there is much to say to you who have been members for years and to new members not as familiar with the workings of the Missions Ministry. First, let me explain our role. The Missions Ministry at Road Church is committed to the global objective of spreading the word of the Lord through supporting the following Ministries, working to evangelize unreached people and to grow churches: Pat & Don Barger with New Tribes Missions working with the Guaymi people of Panama and Joel & Elizabeth Peterson working with African Inland Missions seeking to bring God's word to Africa. The Missions Ministry is also engaged in the following "Home" Mission's projects: The Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center, the Reliance House of Norwich, and MALTA all concerned with our area resident's quality of life, Teen Challenge, providing critical services to desperate young people, and Care Net, a Pregnancy resource center. We have an ongoing effort to support our troops through the leadership of Jane Hildreth. We have supported in the past with boxes of donated items and have, of late, supported by sending phone cards and letters. This change was by request, to meet the current needs of the troops. The Missions Ministry also contributes to World Vision through the Love Loaf Program. This program provides a powerful way for churches and families to respond to the needs of a hurting world. One congregation can change the lives of thousands of children and families in poverty.

The Missions Ministry Committee eagerly and enjoyably works on their Annual Spring Fund Raiser which allows them to have a World Wide Impact and to be prepared to support disaster relief if needed. This year's Dinner/Auction netted \$4585.60, thanks to a "tiny church" doing a "big job" successfully together. Christmas in July support was given again this year to our two "Adopt a Family for Christmas" families. Each family, gratefully, received a food market gift certificate for \$100.00 and \$100.00 gift certificates for the children to shop at the Gap. The Missions Ministry sent \$150.00 to the Hope Spring Missions to help support their efforts to bring medical equipment, mosquito netting, blankets, bibles and hope to one of the worst humanitarian crisis' the world has ever seen with HIV/AIDS. Joel and Elizabeth Peterson, along with baby Isaiah, will be in Connecticut the first of November and will be sharing time with us at a date to be announced.

The Missions Ministry is happy to announce the sponsorship of Aide Yamira Sanches Panca through the Christian Children's Fund. I have been in touch with Aide and I will share more information about Aide and her family when information reaches me.

*Submitted by Bonnie Larkin, Missions Ministry Chairperson*

**"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40)**



## News from the Outreach Ministry

The goal of the Outreach Committee is to reach out to the community through volunteer services and to host events that will bring Road Church and the community together. Our officers are: Dixie Lufbery, Coordinator with Carolyn Burdick as Assistant. Other members are: Dot Costa, Jack Jacobs, Ken Laney, Helen LaFaive, Bonnie and John Larkin.

Our first event of the year was a Soup-a-thon scheduled for February 22. Due to an untimely ice and snow storm this was post-poned until Sunday, February 24 following church service. It was a great success and we may try it again next year (but not in the winter)!

We were asked to organize a dinner on March 8 following the memorial service for Chet Perkins. This was attended by well over 100 people. In conjunction with the diaconate we held a Palm Sunday brunch on March 16, replacing an Easter Sunday dinner. On April 23 we hosted a reception honoring the memory of Ray Densmore attended by a large number of people. In May we started volunteering at the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC). Every Friday morning we provide food for children in the weekender backpack food program. On one Saturday morning a month we participate in the O'ServeO program at the PNC. We also started volunteering for Malta in Groton. This organization provides clothing and food for the homeless. On Saturday, August 9, we had a most successful Fundae Sundae event offering horse rides, games and make your own sundaes. It was well attended by many children and their families. We next worked the kitchen and dining room during the annual Chowder Luncheon and Fair on Saturday, September 13. The next day,

September 14, we gave a luncheon commemorating the new organ and welcoming Jake Troy as our new organist and choir director. On Friday, October 24 we held a special storytelling night geared for the whole family with refreshments and a raffle to follow. On Sunday, November 23, we will be serving our annual Thanksgiving dinner after church service. We welcome anyone to join our committee and are open to suggestions for future activities.

Reprinted from the newsletter of the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center (PNC):

## The Road Church Reaches Out

The Road Church decided to do active outreach into the community and in doing so, blessed the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center with two delightful and dependable volunteers: Carolyn Burdick and Dixie Lufbery. Every Friday morning, year-round, they show up (*almost before everyone else!*) readying their area to serve the Stonington and North Stonington families who are participants in the "Weekender Backpack Food Program." Within these 60 families are 105 children who are in need of 6 meals for the weekend, and milk (!), for their children. Every Friday, there's a new menu to compliment the breakfast & lunch they received at school.



The Road Meeting House is the oldest church in the town of Stonington, founded in 1674. Its present structure was built in 1829. It's unique in that when you enter the church through the doors to the right and left of the pulpit, you face the congregation. When you visit, be sure to be on time! Thank you Carolyn and Dixie for your dedication to this type of service in our community. We appreciate all you do!

*Submitted by Dixie Lufbery, Coordinator and Carolyn Burdick, Assistant*



## News from the Sunday School

The Road Church Sunday School began classes in early September. Because the large room in the Undercroft was being overhauled, the class of K-7<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting in the Parish House in the new room. They have been becoming "All Stars for Jesus" with their new curriculum. It features memory verses, learning about prayer and the importance of talking to God, and Bible stories with life applications. The lessons are written for students of all grades so everyone can participate. Michele Wheeler, the primary teacher, is looking for additional people who would be interested in helping out with this class. The students have also been working on cards and letters to go with the phone cards that will be sent to service men and women who are deployed overseas. At present there are no pre-K students in Sunday School but a room and materials are waiting for them in the Undercroft when they come to church!

The senior Sunday School students have been meeting in the upper room in the church but will be moved back to the Undercroft at the end of October. They are using the workbook "Experiencing the Heart of Jesus" by Max Lucado. This is part Bible study, part workbook and part group discussion. We are in the second year of the book and are enjoying meeting during the latter half of the church service.

To help with the cleaning up of the Undercroft, Travis Robinson, Jeff Bourque, Andrew Bourque and Connie Bourque hauled furniture and toys to the gym. On the way there everything was washed and dried to remove mildew. We were able to save tables, chairs, bulletin boards, wooden toys, the boat and other articles for the room. Travis and his family will be working to restore the room after the carpet has been installed. They will paint bulletin boards and return all the furniture to the room. Travis has volunteered for this work because he is working for another badge in Boy Scouts, leading to his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout. A large *Thank You* is due to the Bourques and the Robinsons for all the time and energy they have put into making our room a better place to meet.

*Submitted by Judy Fales*



## Greetings from Christian Education

This new issue of The Shine finds us with a lot going on! First, I'd like to welcome back all of the Sunday School students! The Hall, Andrus, Testa, and Poscich families are all coming to the K-7 classes quite regularly. They're all excited about their participation banners and our new prayer tree. Please stop by and see us in our new digs in the parish hall. Look for more news about the Sunday School in Judy Fales' article in this issue. Our Adult Bible Study classes continue on Wednesday mornings at 10:00AM. They are lead by Reverend Lake. Come early for coffee and camaraderie!

We are currently seeking a new Sunday School Superintendent, as term limits prevent Dr. Judy from continuing in this roll. If you are interested in helping lead the Sunday School, please tell me or a member of the nominating committee for more information about the position. Lastly, we are hoping to start a Vacation Bible School at Road. Last year we had curriculum and staffing ready, but unfortunately did not get the word out enough to attract children to the camp. We are implementing it this summer. If you would like to join us in this exciting way to teach the Good News to children of all ages, please contact me at 860-691-2502 or [mknwheeler@aol.com](mailto:mknwheeler@aol.com)

*Blessings to all, Michele Wheeler, Christian Education Chairperson*



With the Holiday seasons coming up - Thanksgiving and Christmas - being able to be close with family is very important. Our men and women soldiers around the world are often separated from loved ones for long periods of time. Hearing each other's voices brings reassurance and love. We at Road Church would like to reinstate sending phone cards to our soldiers and are requesting donations so that these can be purchased. Throughout the months of October, November and December we will have a basket in the Narthex each Sunday for your generous contributions. Please let us know the names of young men and women that you or your friends and neighbors know and serving in the Armed Forces so that we can write or send cards to them directly.

We would also like to ask both adults and children to write a note to the soldiers. Just start it: Dear Soldier, \_\_\_\_\_ (with wishes for a job well done and encouragement and assurance that we are all thinking of them). These can be left on the table in the Narthex as well. Thanks very much. Any questions, please give Jane Hildreth a call at 536-3035 or email to [janehild@comcast.net](mailto:janehild@comcast.net).

*Submitted by Jane Hildreth*



## Here's Another Chance to Serve.....

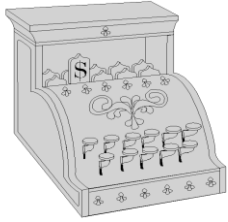
As a result of a special meeting held on September 21, 2008, it was decided to form a committee made up of members of the Ecclesiastical society and members of the Church. It is the intent of this committee to identify and prioritize the needs of the Church in all areas and develop a 1, 3, 5 & 10 year plan to address those needs and their funding.

If you would like to serve on this committee please let me know before Monday November 10th. I can be reached by email at [belmer@verizon.net](mailto:belmer@verizon.net) or you may call me at home at 860-535-4361. This is an opportunity for you to play an important role in the future of our beloved Road Church so please let me know if you'd like to participate at your earliest convenience.

Yours in Service to The Road Church, I am

Robert E.P. Elmer III, Moderator  
[Belmer@verizon.net](mailto:Belmer@verizon.net)  
401-596-4630-Office  
401-348-0113 Fax  
860-884-5244-cell





## The Treasurer's Corner

The return of the Shine is a welcomed media for all of us. Each month I provide a report to the Executive Board explaining how the Church's treasury fared the previous month as well as giving our current account balances. The Executive Board members suggested I provide an accounting in the Shine to let church members know how we are presently meeting our expenses.

In September we had an inflow of \$5,317.44 and outflow of \$4,171.16 leaving a positive difference of \$1,146.28 for the month, unlike a deficit for the prior three months.

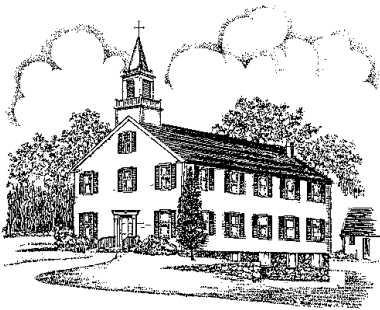
Our year-to-date inflows are \$53,658.37 while our year-to-date outflows amounted to \$61,417.63, leaving **a deficit of \$7,759.26** so far this year. The Finance Committee predicted that our total inflows would amount to \$80,700.00 for 2008. As of October 15<sup>th</sup>, we have taken in only 67% of our yearly estimate with only two and one-half months until the end of the year. This year our heating expenses will be around \$7000.00.

Church attendance averages for June, July, August and September were 49, 53, 45 and 55 respectively. Our attendance is down a little from previous years hence our main source of revenue has dipped. I have suggested many times that if everyone made up for Sundays missed, we would have a better chance of meeting our expenses. Only a few have followed suit on this idea of increasing our Sunday Contributions.

We have a few members who give monthly which is a form of pledging. Perhaps, more members might like to try this method of budgeting? We do not have a formal pledging program at Road which makes it difficult to predict our financial obligations monthly, as we never know what we can count on month to month. We have two months left to attempt to balance our budget. Hopefully, with a collective effort, we will reduce this deficit by year's end.

*Submitted by John Larkin, Treasurer*

## A Request from House and Grounds



Just a note to remind all who access either the parish house or the church building to please look around before leaving. Check to see if the heat is turned down to 50 degrees in the parish house and that all doors are locked and lights turned off. The thermostat in the sanctuary is on automatic, so should be left alone. The lights in the sanctuary and the undercroft should be checked, as should be all doors. Quite often I enter one or both of the buildings and find the above problem. Please help us to keep the facility secure. Thanks in advance.

*Submitted by Phyllis B. Borges, House and Grounds*

### Directory Updates:

It's almost that time of year when we will be updating the church directory. If you have a change to report, please mark the copy on the table in the narthex or email the secretary at: [Roadsecretary777@aol.com](mailto:Roadsecretary777@aol.com).

A special request is made for updates to your email address - to change, add or remove from/add to our email list for important announcements and our email prayer chain.



*You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.*

Deuteronomy 8:10

## A Word From the Flower Committee

Each Sunday as we come to worship there are candles and flowers on the table in front of the pulpit. Jesus said: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20). The lighted candles are a symbol that Christ is present as we gather. The flowers are also symbol, an offering to the Lord. They represent our praise, wonder, worship, honor and thanksgiving to the One who is in loving control of our lives. You are invited to supply flowers on any Sunday of your choice, if you wish. They may be commemorating a birthday, anniversary, in memory of a loved one, or just because you love the Lord and wish to honor Him. There is a flower calendar in the narthex (a sign up sheet), see Martie or email at [martiedemattia@comcast.net](mailto:martiedemattia@comcast.net), telephone 535-2966. Thank you. Your help is much appreciated.

*Submitted by Martie DeMattia, Flower Committee*



*Flowers*  
in Memory of ...

**The Publicity Committee** would like to ask the congregation to think of different or creative ways to publicize our church events and bring new people to worship with us. We need fresh ideas and also new places to either place free ads, or post flyers. We also will need people to put up flyers in their local areas for us. Please reply with your suggestions to Helen LaFaive: [hlafaive@aol.com](mailto:hlafaive@aol.com) or 860-535-2558.

*Submitted by Helen LaFaive, Publicity*



### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, November 2	Communion Service
Friday, November 11	Veterans Day
Sunday, November 9	Worship Service
Sunday, November 16	Worship Service
Wednesday, November 19	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 23	Thanksgiving Worship Service, dinner following
Sunday, November 30	Worship Service – First Sunday of Advent



First Sunday of Advent



Ongoing: Bible Study with the Pastor  
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall – call for date changes if you don't attend regularly. Come early for coffee and camaraderie!



# THANKSGIVING GATHERING



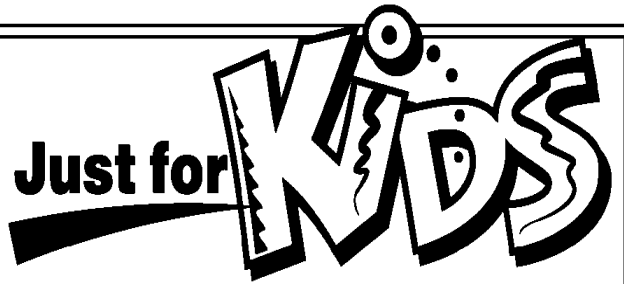
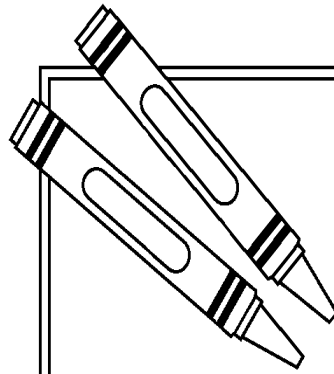
When you are with family and friends this holiday, let them know how thankful you are for them with this fun craft.

### What you need:

- Photos (group or individual) of each person
- Ruler                      • Pencil
- Scissors                  • Envelopes
- Cardstock or construction paper
- Glue sticks

### What you do:

1. Collect photos of the people you'll be seeing. For group shots, make a copy for each person.
2. On the back of each picture, use a ruler and pencil to draw vertical and horizontal lines. Space the lines 1 inch apart to make a grid with 1-inch squares.
3. Starting in the top-right corner, number the squares beginning with 1. Number the top row across, then the second row and so on.
4. Cut out all the squares and put them in an envelope. Write the correct person's name on each envelope.
5. On the bottom of each piece of cardstock, write "I thank my God every time I remember you, Philippians 1:3 (NIV)." Then sign your name.
6. Give each person an envelope and a piece of cardstock. Instruct people to put the squares in order to reveal their picture. Tell them how many numbers go across and down.
7. For a special keepsake, have people glue their finished photos onto the cardstock.

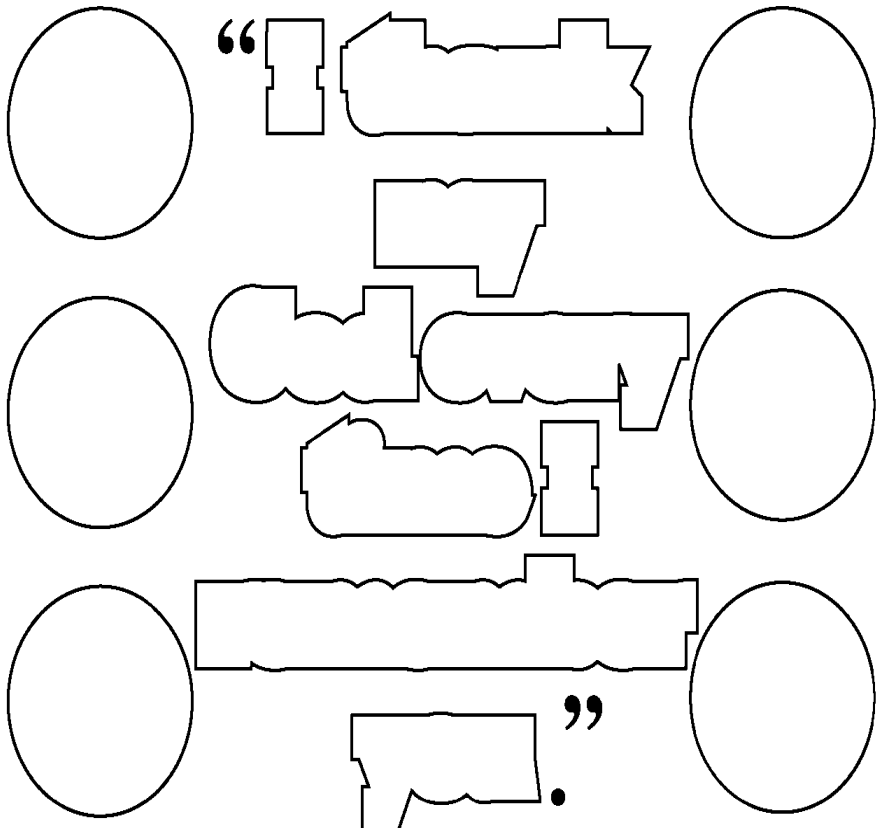


# Thanksgiving and Prayer

When Paul sent a letter to the church at Philippi, he told his friends how he felt about them. Finish this puzzle to read what Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3.

Match words in the list below to the correct word shape. Then write the letters inside each shape. In the circles, draw the faces of people you're thankful for in your life.

**WORD LIST:** remember    time    you    I    God  
I    my    thank    every



Answer: "I thank my God every time I remember you."

## CONTACT US:

Rev. Ronald Lake (860) 451-5868

Church Phone (860) 535-0655

Toll-free w/i Conn (877) 433-4018

E-mail: [rev.lake@gmail.com](mailto:rev.lake@gmail.com)

All numbers are area code 860 unless otherwise noted.

### Shine Newsletter & Bulletin

Colleen Riley 599-3066

E-mail: [Roadsecretary777@aol.com](mailto:Roadsecretary777@aol.com)

### Clerk

Martie DeMattia 535-2966

### Conferences

Ed Burke 536-5230

### Christian Education Coordinator

Michelle Wheeler 691-2502

### Christian Ed Superintendent

Judy Fales 572-9295

### Deacons

Bob Elmer 535-4361

Judy Fales 572-9295

Louise Fayal 535-1152

Ken Laney 859-9871

Inky Lattimore 599-5134

Dixie Lufbery 535-3548

\*Susan Schneider, Chair 376-5161

Bob Vidal 599-2544

### Flowers

Martie DeMattia 535-2966

### Greeters

Dixie Lufbery 535-3548

### Historian/Librarian

Jane Preston 535-1486

### House and Grounds

Phyllis Borges 535-2966

### Hospitality

Tony Testa (401) 364-1028

### Missions

Bonnie Larkin 535-2668

### Moderator

Bob Elmer 535-4361

### Pastoral Committee

Ken Laney 859-9871

### Organist/Choir Director

Jake Troy

### Outreach Missions

Dixie Lufbery 535-3548

Carolyn Burdick 401-596-4450

### Publicity & Directory

Helen LaFaive 535-2558

### Scholarship

Craig Haines 536-7424

### Treasurer

John Larkin 535-2668

### Assistant Treasurer

Helen LaFaive 535-2558

### Visitation

Jane Hildreth 536-3035

### Ushers

Bill Kahler 446-0361



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Pulpit Assistant

November 2: Jane Hildreth

November 9: Ada Elmer

November 16: Tom Wheeler

November 23: Bob Elmer

November 30: John Schneider

### Deacon of the Month

November: Louise Fayal

December: Bob Vidal

### Greeters of the Month

Dot Costa & Judy Fales

### Coffee Hour

November 30: Toni Nadherny  
Jane Hildreth

December 28: No Coffee Hour

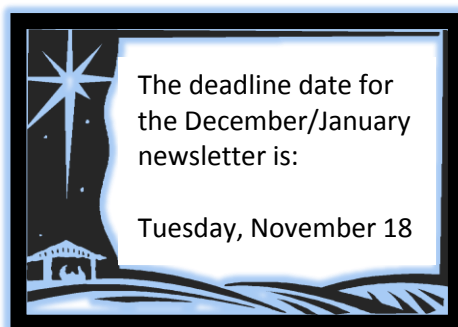
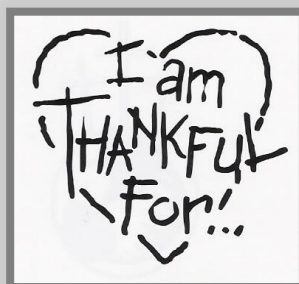
### Flowers

November 2: Tony Nadherny

November 9:

November 16: Marjorie Adams

November 23:



For just  
as the  
BODY  
without the  
SPIRIT  
is dead,  
so  
FAITH  
without  
works is  
also dead.  
James 2:26

.....**Prayer**..... with a repentant heart, bringing our needs and concerns to God. Letting go, letting God. The Disciples Prayer teaches us that we are to praise God with **adoration** for all He is. We are to cleanse ourselves of sin daily through **confession**. We are to come to God in prayer with **thanksgiving** for all our blessings and lastly, **supplication** – asking God for help with our needs and concerns. Think of it this way: ACTS - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication.....**Prayer**.



Holly Adams – November 24  
Jane Anderson – November 14  
Betty Anne Caldara – November 14  
Stuart Chambers – November 6  
Bryan Chesebrough – November 11  
Thurlow Coats – November 8  
Elizabeth Elmer – November 25  
Margaret Hauschild – November 13  
George Heegar – November 18  
Harald Hefel – November 11  
Joshua Hickey – November 9  
Julie Loftus – November 26  
Dave Main – November 25  
Ethan Palmer – November 30  
Stephen B. Palmer III – November 3  
Robert Recor, Jr. – November 26  
Dana Robinson – November 29  
Linda Snurkowski – November 23  
John Nick Stedman – November 9  
Carrie Towns – November 5  
Brian Towns – November 17  
Rich Watrous – November 11  
Tom Wheeler – November 14



John & Jean Brooks – November 24  
Terry & Angell Chambers – Nov. 22  
Evie & Bob Shaver – November 3

Prayer or Praise

If you have a prayer or praise you'd like to share, please let us know. We'd like to share in it with you.

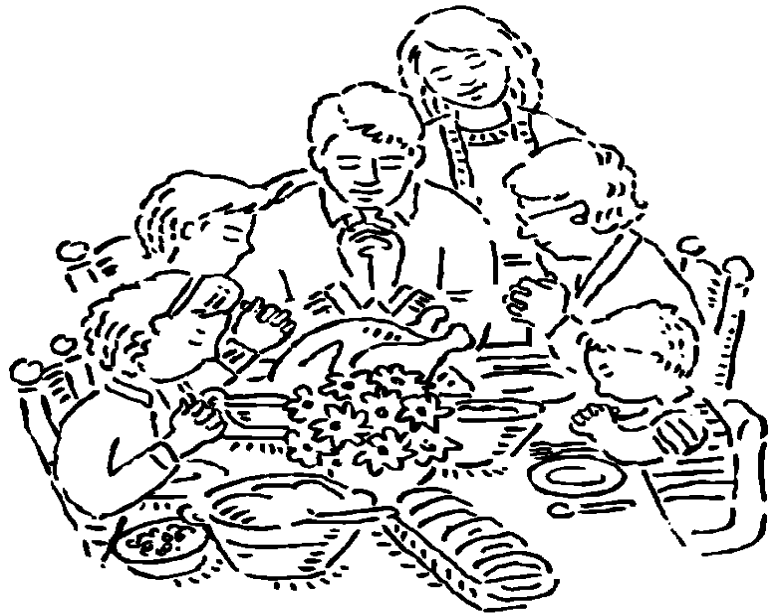


## Our Sincere and Humble Thanks

A presidential proclamation....

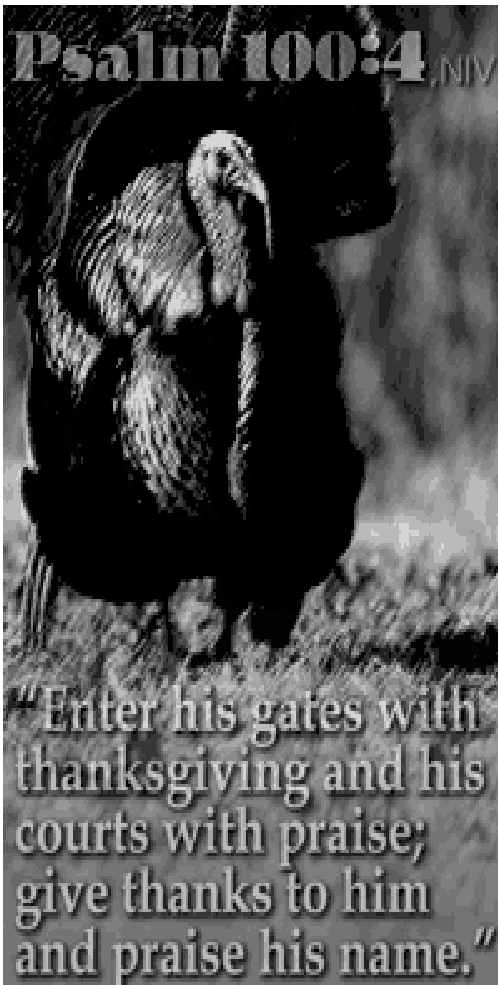
America's citizens, especially Christians, can be very grateful that this nation has chosen a time for annually giving thanks. Of course, we know about the pilgrims' first celebration with help from their Native-American neighbors. But it was George Washington, the "father of our country, who issued the first official presidential proclamation.

In the fall of 1789, Washington assigned November 26 of that year "to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be." He called upon the people to offer "our sincere and humble thanks" to God. He also asked the citizens to pray to "the great Lord and Ruler of Nations" that God might "pardon our national and other transgressions."



***"Blessing and glory and  
wisdom and thanksgiving and  
honor and power and might  
be to our God  
forever and ever! Amen."***

*Revelation 7:12, NRSV*



### An Alive Church

Author Unknown

- An alive church has parking problems;  
a dead church does not.
- An alive church has lots of "noisy" children and young people;  
a dead church is fairly quiet.
- An alive church often changes the way things are done;  
a dead church doesn't have to.
- An alive church often asks for more program and mission money;  
A dead church has plenty of money for what it does.
- An alive church asks people to open up and risk involvement;  
a dead church plays it safe and never risks.
- An alive church sees challenges and opportunities;  
a dead church sees problems and dangers.
- An alive church apologizes, forgives and seeks forgiveness;  
a dead church never makes mistakes.
- An alive church uses its traditions and facilities to serve people;  
a dead church uses people to preserve facilities and traditions.
- An alive church believes in God's future and "lets go" with faith;  
a dead church believes in the past and "holds on" tightly.
- An alive church is filled with committed givers;  
a dead church is filled with tippers.
- An alive church dares to dream great dreams for God's kingdom;  
a dead church has only nightmares.