

AGAPE FEAST:

It's been busy around here today as some of our ladies spent the morning decorating the Fellowship Hall for the Agape Feast this Friday. If you have attended this event in the past, you will find the décor a little different this year. We are going with a more rustic, bible-time vibe to match our program, *The Hands of Jesus*. I know by the time Friday afternoon rolls around it's hard to drag yourself out to anything. But I believe you will be spiritually (and physically) nourished by this interactive program and communion service. I invite you to come to the table!



HARVEST TREE:

All of the leaves have “fallen” from our Harvest Tree and the pile of food beneath it has really grown! **Remember, this Sabbath is the deadline for returning your non-perishables.** We'll be making up the “boxes” during Sabbath School with the help of the Deaconesses and our young people. Thanks to all who are participating!



NEXT STEP WOMEN'S CENTER:

I'm not going to repeat all the information from last week's letter about our involvement with Next Step Women's Center, but if you did not get to read it, I encourage you to go back and do so. The bottom line is that they have asked our church to pray individually for their staff (which is predominately volunteers) and write a card of affirmation and encouragement to be given to them at their Christmas party. These individuals are in the trenches of spiritual warfare daily and need our prayers and support to stay strong.

There is a clipboard at the Connect Corner with a list of staff names. Tear one off, pray for them daily, and put your card of encouragement in the basket provided by December 16. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." Thanks for doing this!



FRIENDSGIVING:

All Young Adults are welcome to join the Open Circle Young Adult Sabbath School Class for an evening of food and fellowship. November 18th at 6 pm in Alvarado TX.

Scan the QR code or click [this link](#) to share who will join and what you'd like to bring. Can't wait to make memories with you.

FROSTY FIESTA WINTER SOCIAL:

Our next church social is coming up! Bring your friends and family to our Frosty Fiesta as we enjoy a hot chocolate bar, ugly sweater runway, games and much more. See you at the Burleson Church Fellowship Hall on December 9th at 6 pm.



THIS SABBATH:

- Pastor Kevin will be bringing the Message of Hope from Galatians 6.
- The offering emphasis is for Local Church Budget (which of course covers every ministry this church takes part in)

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD:

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will **NOT** be holding our bible study group next Wednesday, Nov 22. We will resume the following week.

CONDOLENCES:

Our condolences to the Rowen family for the passing of Rusty Rowen. Some of you will remember the Rowen family as they were members of our congregation at one time. Rusty's service will be held this Sabbath at 2:00 in the Keene Church.

That's all I have. I hope this letter finds you well and like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding the fruit of the spirit in season, whose leaf does not wither, and who prospers at all you do. (Psalms 1) Blessings ~ Liz ~



GraceNotes

The grace of God moves every act of mercy and forgiveness.

Where does kindness come from?

Nothing in the narrative of evolutionary biology can tell us why one human would act with compassion or thoughtfulness toward another. In a world where survival alone is supposed to be the highest goal, nothing disinterested happens. All human behaviors should only produce results for the one doing them.

Yet kindness exists. Parents nurture children, and not only to perpetuate their genetic line. Friends do “unnecessary” things for each other—providing emotional support in grief or loss or change. Even sworn enemies surprise us by laying down their weapons to offer comfort to the wounded.

The Bible tells us that all good things, including acts of kindness, grow from the kindness that began with God: “Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).

God’s enduring kindness toward each of us—for every human being is created in His image—flows from His heart of grace. “No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:39).

The grace of God moves every act of mercy and forgiveness. Receive that love. Then move the kindness forward.

And stay in grace.

—Bill Knott

THANKSGIVING FUN FACTS:

- **The first Turkey Trot dates back to the 1890s.** Buffalo, New York, was the first city to host a Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning in 1896. Only six runners participated in the race that year, running on stretches of dirt road for roughly five miles.
- **Thanksgiving was originally celebrated in mid-October.** The first Thanksgiving celebration wasn't in November at all. In fact, some historians suggest it was held in mid-October, similar to the present-day Canadian Thanksgiving. It was President Lincoln who set the November date in order to coincide with the Pilgrims' landing on Plymouth Rock.
- **Female turkeys don't gobble.** Only male turkeys make the well-known "gobble, gobble" sound that has come to be associated with the holiday. In fact, male turkeys are even known as "gobblers." Females make other noises, such as purring and cackling.
- **Historians have no record of turkey being eaten at the first Thanksgiving.** The first Thanksgiving Day feast happened in 1621 with three whole days dedicated to the celebration. Although turkey was plentiful in the region and a common food source, it's likely that it wasn't actually the star of the festivities and other "fowling" were served for the occasion. Instead, "ducks, geese, and swans" are believed to have been served to the English settlers and Native Americans.
- **The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade featured Central Park Zoo animals.** The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was originally called the "Macy's Christmas Parade" to kick off the holiday shopping season. Held in 1924, the first parade included monkeys, bears, camels, and elephants borrowed from the Central Park Zoo instead of the traditional character balloons we know today.