



REFLECTIONS

November -December 2018

Third Presbyterian Church
4019 Central Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205

A basic principle of life is, "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." The principle of sowing and reaping applies to almost anything we do. If we sow less carbs and fat in our diets, then we will reap the benefits of weight loss. If we drive slower and keep our car's tires inflated at their proper weight, then we will reap better gas mileage. If we sow smiles and are friendly in our attitude toward others, then we will reap smiles and cheerfulness in return.

The same rings true for the work we do at church. That which we sow for the Lord, He will use and multiply not only for our good, but for the good of the whole church and the whole world. Many people don't feel qualified to do much of anything in the church. However, do you remember what Jesus said about a mustard seed? Just one tiny mustard seed if sown into the ground will grow into a large bush! Similarly, if we would pray, "Lord, use me to serve You," I truly believe the Lord would fulfill your desire and enable you to not only do what is in your heart to do, but do it far beyond your own expectations.

Moses was one of the greatest of God's people. Moses was God's mouthpiece to Egypt to release the Jews from Egyptian bondage. When God first called Moses, he was 80 years old. God said, "I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring My people out of Egypt." And what did Moses, the great man of God say? Moses said, "Me? Who am I to do this? Lord, please send someone else." (*Read Exodus 3-4 for the entire account*).

Nonetheless, with just a mustard seed of faith, Moses obeyed God and reluctantly went to Pharaoh. Did God use Moses' mustard seed of faith? Oh yeah! In time, Moses' spiritual mustard seed turned into a commanding presence of leadership for all Israel. He did far more for God than he ever could have dreamed. He led Israel out of Egyptian bondage. God used Moses' mustard seed of faith for His glory and Moses reaped a sterling character and became THE leader of God's people.

This principle of sowing seeds of faith and reaping God's bounteous blessings applies to all God's people in all situations of life. The question is not IF we will reap a harvest of God's blessings when we plant our mustard seeds of faith, but HOW we will reap God's blessings.

- Are you willing to sow a mustard seed of personal witness for someone who doesn't know Christ as Savior trusting that God will reap a harvest of salvation in that person's life?
- Are you willing to sow a mustard seed of compassion by putting together one or more Samaritan's Purse boxes so that a poor child somewhere in the world will reap a harvest of happiness?
- Are you willing to sow mustard seeds of generosity by giving unto God your tithes and offerings trusting God will continue to reap blessings to you and our community through our church?
- Are you willing to sow mustard seeds of justice that help the poor and oppressed so that all people might know freedom and equality?

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (II Corinthians 9:6)

Thanksgiving Greater than These?

by Clinton Jordan



All the wonderful traditions of the season that happen at Thanksgiving--family gatherings and feasting on wonderful foods and yes, football games--I am thankful for the love that God gave to me and the gift of His son, Jesus Christ, who gave me an everlasting relationship to the Father that offers so much more.

His everlasting presence throughout my entire life is another great blessing in my life. Nothing can separate me from His love. To name a few challenges that I have faced through my life--When I was homeless, He provided shelter; when I had cancer, He healed me; when I experienced 3 strokes, He brought me back. I was broken-hearted and He fixed all of them for me.

The Holy Spirit has been my teacher, Jesus is my strength and joy, and God is my rock. I am sure each of us have faced difficulties, but lets be thankful for all that God has given us through His Son remembering that nothing can separate us from the love He has for each of us. Be happy, be glad, but most of all be joyful in the Lord.

NETWORK MINISTRY TEAM - BY NANCY SELBY



The Network Ministry had been keeping tabs on those who are homebound, in assisted living and nursing facilities by way of visits, calls, sending cards and always keeping them in our prayers. Here are some thoughts they have expressed to the Network Committee members and members of the congregation.

- Gladys Young wants to let the congregation know that it feels good to be remembered. She feels better because of the love shown to her.
- Nellie – It makes Nellie's day to get a call from a church member.

They are so grateful and the Committee is appreciative for all the congregation does to encourage those who are in care facilities. We appreciate the congregation checking the Network list and reaching out with calls, cards and visits.

Attached to this newsletter is an updated list of our Network Members and Watch Members who we need to remember with cards and calls, especially during the upcoming holidays. Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up and they would appreciate a card or telephone call. **PLEASE** do not send them a card using the church mailbox in the narthex.

FINANCIAL REPORT BY SONNY CONNELL

October Receipts	\$12,240	Year to Date Receipts	\$130,404
Disbursements	<u>\$13,100</u>	Year to Date Disbursements	<u>\$134,812</u>
Monthly Gain/Loss	-860	Year to Date Gain/ Loss	\$ -4,408

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS AT THIRD

All Sundays: Sunday school at 10:00 AM followed by Worship at 11:00 AM

Wednesdays: Share Life Bible Study at 10:30 AM in the church library

- 5 6:00 PM Circle 2- Debbie's home
- 6 10:00 AM Circle 1
- 7 6:00 PM FOC Prayer meeting
- 11 11:00 AM Poinsettia orders begin
- 12 5:30 PM Vision Team Meeting
- 18 11:00 AM "4 for the Poor" offering and Singing Men of Third
Operation Christmas Child Boxes due
- 18 12:10 PM Session Meeting
- 21 10:30 AM **NO BIBLE STUDY**
- 22 Happy Thanksgiving
- 25 11:00 AM Christ the King Communion



DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT THIRD

All Sundays: Sunday School at 10:00 AM followed by Worship at 11:00 AM

All Wednesdays: Share Life Bible Study at 10:30.

- 1 9:30 AM Decorating the campus for the Advent Season
- 2 11:00 AM First Sunday of Advent
- 3 6:00 PM Circle 2 Margaret's Home
- 4 10:00 AM Circle 1
- 5 6:00 PM Future of the Church Prayer Meeting
- 9 11:00 AM Second Sunday of Advent
- 16 11:00 AM Third Sunday of Advent: "4 for the Poor" offering and Singing Men of Third
12:10 PM Covered Dish Luncheon, Christmas Dessert Bake-Off, Angel Tree Celebration
- 19 11:30 AM Luncheon for the Share Life Bible Study
- 23 11:00 AM Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service and Holy Communion



NOVEMBER— TIME AND TALENT COMMITMENTS

Bible Book: Ezra **Ushers:** The VonCannons, Lisa, Wayne

Collection Counter: Al Selby

Children's Message: 4- Jim H., 11- Clinton, 18- Tammy, 25- Meg

Nursery: 4- Bethany, 11- Jane Parham, 18- Kay, 25- Meg

Elders on Call: Cory, Barry, Joe

DECEMBER — TIME AND TALENT COMMITMENTS

Bible Book: Nehemiah **Elders on Call:** Len, Bethany, Meg

Ushers: The Penningtons, Karl **Collection Counter:** Bob Stroup

Children's Message: 2- Jane Pyles, 9- Kay, 16 Jennifer, 23-Rev. Jay 30- TBA

Nursery: 2- Bethany, 9- Jane Parham, 16- Kay, 23- Meg



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5- Charles, 9- Nancy, 10- June, 13-Brad, 19-Bill P., 21- Bill H.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1- Leona, 3-Jane Pyles, 6-J Cook, 7- Michelle, 18- Bill S.,
25- Shiloh, 26- Terry, 27- Jim H., 28- Kay, 31- Nellie



UPCOMING EVENTS AT THIRD

*We will embark on a new **Bible Reading program for 2019**. Instead of assigning a Bible book for each month, you will be asked to read one passage from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament each day. This adds up to just 14 chapters per week. Each week, a different theme will be taught. This way, over the course of 52 weeks of 2019, you will learn what the Bible teaches about 52 subjects.*

- **The next Future of the Church** prayer meeting will be **Wednesday December 5**.
- **The ordering of Poinsettias has begun!** Orders are being received from now until **December 2**. The poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve service.
- Thanks to everyone who made boxes for **Operation Christmas Child** this year!
- The **Share Life Bible study** will have their **Christmas luncheon December 19**.
- Join us for our annual **Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6:00 PM on December 24 for festive music and Holy Communion**. Light refreshments will be served before the service.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! *We will be having our **Christmas covered dish luncheon on Sunday, December 16**, after worship. The meat for the meal will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert, and don't forget we'll have our annual Christmas dessert bake-off. New this year, **we will be hosting ANGEL TREE families** and giving gifts to their children. These families will be invited to worship with us and join us for the meal.*



A Program of Prison Fellowship

ANGEL TREE is a ministry of Prison Fellowship where churches are asked to provide Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners. We have been given the names of 10 children from 5 families. We need volunteers to purchase gifts for these children. Their names and ages will be given to you. Angel Tree asks that all children receive at least 1 gift valued at at least \$20. We would suggest giving 2 gifts per child and spending no more than \$30/child. The church will provide Candy Bags and a Gospel Book for each child. The best part is meeting these children and their families and sharing their joy.