



*November
2011*



Thanksgiving

Some stories need not just to be told but to be retold again and again. These are the stories that we must remember. One such story is the “Thanksgiving Story”.



It was September in the year 1620. A small ship called the Mayflower left England carrying 102 passengers. These men and women were Separatists. That means they had separated from the Church of England because they believed people should worship God according to their consciences and not in the way laid down by law. After 66 days they arrived near the tip of Cape Cod. One month later the Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay and the Pilgrims (as they became known) began establishing a settlement at Plymouth.

That winter was harsh and many chose to live on board the ship. Exposure, scurvy and contagious diseases meant that half the original passengers and crew died. The following March they went ashore and received a surprising visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. A week later he returned with another American Indian, Squanto, from the Pawtuxet tribe. Squanto showed the Pilgrims how to survive by cultivating corn, extracting the sap from maple trees and catching fish from the rivers. The English settlers formed an alliance with the Wampanoag tribe, which was to last more than 50 years.

In November 1621 the first corn harvest was successful and Governor Bradford organized a feast to celebrate. The Pilgrims’ Indian friends were invited and they brought deer and fowls probably cooked in the traditional Native American way using spices they were familiar with. Although the term was probably not used, this was the first Thanksgiving.



In 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States. At the height of the Civil War, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.” This was to be held on the last day of November and was celebrated on that day every year until 1939 when Franklin D Roosevelt moved it up a week to encourage sales during the Great Depression. This was met with much opposition and in 1941 Roosevelt reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.



Over the past few weeks we have been collecting food which will be given to help families in need. This collection will continue in November and will form part of the decoration of the church for Fall and the Thanksgiving Season. Make sure you come and see the church decorated to celebrate this time of year. On Sunday November 20 our Worship Service will have a special Harvest and Thanksgiving theme. The service is to be followed by a Harvest Lunch.

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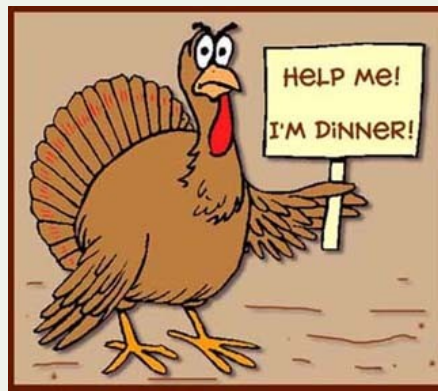
Harvest celebrations are mentioned in the Bible. It was at the time of the barley harvest that Ruth who had returned from Moab with her mother-in-law went to glean (that is pick up grain left behind by the reapers) in the fields around Bethlehem. It was the right of the poor to go and pick up what had been left behind or dropped. For many it meant the difference between surviving and starving. Ruth went into a field belonging to a man called Boaz. Boaz was impressed at Ruth's hard work and care for her mother-in-law and ordered his workers to leave grain for her to gather. But this is also a love-story. Ruth and Boaz fell in love and eventually married. And they all lived happily ever after.

Jesus used the picture of harvest to speak of the judgment that will come at the end of the age. Just as the grain is harvested and gathered into the barn, so the day will come when God will reap a harvest of souls. Those who have responded to his love and accepted Christ will be gathered into his barn (heaven) safe for ever.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in Thy garner to abide;
Come, with all Thine angels come, raise the glorious harvest home. (Henry Alford)

So:

Come ye thankful people come



November

BIBLE STUDY

Some less-familiar Judges.

November 2 - Deborah: Trust and Betrayal

November 9 - Gideon: Let Baal contend against him

November 30 - Jephthah: God's dysfunctional family

SERMONS

November 6, Stewardship—**Do Not Rob God**

November 13— **Wheat and Weeds**

November 20—**Harvest Thanksgiving**

November 27, Advent Sunday—**Names of the Messiah (1) Wonderful Counselor**



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NICE WORK FELLAS ... IT'S BEEN A LONG
WHILE NOW AND THEY ARE STILL REMEMBERING
TO THANK ME

FOOTPRINTS... A New Version

Imagine you and the Lord Jesus are walking down the road together. For much of the way, the Lord's footprints go along steadily, consistently, rarely varying the pace.

But your footprints are a disorganized stream of zigzags, starts, stops, turnarounds, circles, departures, and returns.

For much of the way, it seems to go like this, but gradually your footprints come more in line with the Lord's, soon paralleling His consistently.

You and Jesus are walking as true friends!

This seems perfect, but then an interesting thing happens: Your footprints that once etched the sand next to Jesus' are now walking precisely in His steps.

Inside His larger footprints are your smaller ones, you and Jesus are becoming one.

This goes on for many miles, but gradually you notice another change. The footprints inside the large footprints seem to grow larger.

Eventually they disappear altogether. There is only one set of footprints. They have become one.

This goes on for a long time, but suddenly the second set of footprints is back. This time it seems even worse! Zigzags all over the place. Stops. Starts. Gashes in the sand. A variable mess of prints.

You are amazed and shocked.

Your dream ends. Now you pray:

'Lord, I understand the first scene, with zigzags and fits. I was a new Christian; I was just learning. But You walked on through the storm and helped me learn to walk with You.'

'That is correct...'

'And when the smaller footprints were inside of Yours, I was actually learning to walk in Your steps, following You very closely.'

'Very good.... You have understood everything so far.'

'When the smaller footprints grew and filled in Yours, I suppose that I was becoming like You in every way.'

'Precisely.'

'So, Lord, was there a regression or something? The footprints separated, and this time it was worse than at first.'

There is a pause as the Lord answers, with a smile in His voice..

'You didn't know? It was then that we danced!'

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: A time to weep, a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3:1,4.



November 2011 Newsletter

VISIT US ON THE WEB www.orlandoccc.org

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Sundays

10:00 a.m. Sunday School, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner, 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
(Excluding November 16 & 23)



COUNCIL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

- The **Stewardship Dinner and Concert** will be held on Saturday, **November 5**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. JR Nascimento and his Praise Band will perform, along with the music and comedy of Russ Durham. If you aren't able to be here in time for dinner, plan on dropping by around 6:30 p.m. for the entertainment. This event is open to the community—please invite your family and friends to join us. Check out our ad in the Dr. Phillips section of *The West Orange Times* newspaper.
- The annual Stewardship cards and letters are being mailed out this week. If you do not receive an envelope in the mail and you would like to, please contact the church office. On Sunday, **November 6th**, the proposed 2012 budget will be presented to the congregation, with approval the following week, **November 13th**. Sunday, **November 20** is Pledge Card Sunday, when you will be able to offer your pledge card during the worship service. As John mentioned on page one, we will have a Harvest and Thanksgiving theme this day, followed by a **Harvest Lunch**. As always, please feel free to invite anyone you'd like to this special Thanksgiving service and luncheon—we look forward to the fellowship and fun!
- **The Missions Committee** has collected several complete Thanksgiving meals for the *Holiday Harvest Food Drive*. There is still time to donate non-perishable food items, or a gift card or money toward the purchase of frozen turkeys. Be sure to stop by to see how beautifully decorated the church is with an emphasis on the Harvest items. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed to this worthy cause!
- Thursday, **November 3rd**, the Land Use Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m.
- The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, **November 7th** at 6:30pm. All are welcome to attend.

Janell Newton
Church Council Secretary

