



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

November 2016

## Thank You Or Not!

**H**ow often do you use the words: "Thank you"? As Christians, I contend we ought to be the most thankful people on earth. With our eyes wide open we know we have so much for which to be grateful.

Now if we are not careful we could be swallowed up by a world that dilutes thankfulness and may even disdain it. I can think of three trends in our culture that potentially can destroy a sense of gratitude.

First, there is a certain feeling of entitlement. We are not thankful because it is owed to us somehow. A sense of entitlement can afflict anyone from the very poor to the very rich. I have heard many a toddler say: "Mine!" when of course they had nothing to do with obtaining that toy or other object. Adults, too, say "Minel" when in fact God gives us all that we have.

Second, there is bitterness which destroys thankfulness. Bitterness includes such things as envy, jealousy and covetousness. People ruled by such desires are very seldom grateful. They are either despondent because they don't have what they want or they are grasping people who will do anything to get what they want.

A third thankfulness killer is pride. These people are always talking about their hard work, their smarts, and their accomplishments. They are not thankful because they did it themselves. They want to be honored and thanked themselves rather than thank God and others.

The Christian attitude is so different from the above. It starts with our relationship with God. When we have faith in Jesus we come to see how undeserving we are and yet how blessed we are. If it were only for our salvation from Jesus Christ – the free gift of grace – then we would have a reason to be thankful every moment of our life.

There comes a recognition that every good thing in our life comes from God. Successful people have to be reminded that they didn't choose where they were born. They could have been born in Bangladesh instead of America. So much is out of our control. The Christian recognizes, therefore, that every item they possess comes from God. He has been extremely generous to us, hasn't He?

The Christian also appreciates what other people mean and do for them. The model is the Church where love and compassion abounds. We thank people who are encouraging to us, help us and instruct us. How can we not be thankful for all the loving people who surround us?

Who do we thank? It ought to be obvious: God first and foremost. Then let us give thanks for those who are over us and serve us like parents, teachers and civil authorities. Let us thank anyone who does us a kindness. Call them; send a card; email them; give them a gift or render them a service.

When shall we be thankful? Here let me quote the Word of God: "*give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*" (I Thessalonians 5:18)

Let us be thankful people!

~ Pastor Rich



## God is Faithful Grace Group

**N**ow organized, this group of widows is comprised of twelve regular members and Sherry Schoolcraft, our leader. We meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. We share thoughts and problems of being widows, spiritual music, and general topics of much interest. We also dine at some appropriate restaurant as a group. Come and join us if you are widowed or just have an interest in the above activities. We welcome you with open arms!

## LWML News

**O**n Saturday, November 12, we will be having a guest speaker to talk about Estate Planning, Wills, Power of Attorney, updating your Will and more. This is not only for the seniors in our congregation, but for young people making their way in the world, young couples just getting started, and of course, young families. It's something we don't like to think about, but it's necessary, especially when you have young children. Who would care for them if anything happened to you or your spouse?

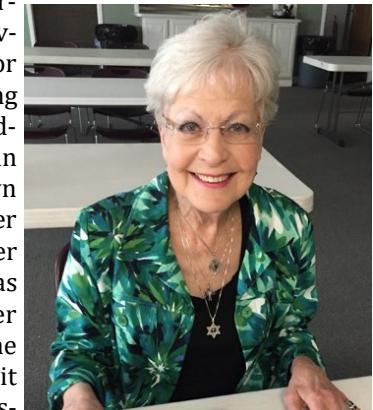
For the seniors, there will be information regarding updating and making sure all necessary papers are at hand and who should have copies.

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. with a brunch and a Blessing.

Please plan on coming we feel you will benefit from the information and fellowship

## Our Grace Family Meet Sherry Schoolcraft

**S**herry is another one of those transplanted Yankees, having been born in Decatur, Illinois. She considers herself single, having been so since 1978. She is Number 9 out of 12 children, so consider her well versed in sibling rivalry! Listed here are the members of her immediate family: 2 sons---Sean and Scott, 2 daughters-in-law--Tachsha and Kristen, and 6 grandchildren--Ryan, Colin, Cammie, Chip, Maggie, and Natalie. Sherry really enjoyed her career as an Independent Contractor with Wilson Learning Corporation, as she traveled around the country and a few times overseas to facilitate different skills-based training programs for a variety of companies in the pharmaceutical and manufacturing industries. On the more "homey" side, mention food and up pops cheese, peanut butter, steak with wine, but most appreciated Dairy Queen ice cream! She relaxes by reading and doing a variety of needle works. This leads to her contentment to be just who she is at this point of life. Memorable moments: watching the sunrise on the Sea of Galilee and spending the weekend with her kids and grandsons celebrating her 60th birthday at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV. Can't you see her eyes sparkle as she describes her dream of having a Cinderella ball gown (in the color of lavender of course!) while heading off to an elegant dinner before attending the London Royal Ballet of "Swan Lake." And once she settled down from that affair, she would take all her kids for a week's vacation at the Bitter End Resort, BVI. Spiritual insight has her appreciating the Bible given by her son and daughter-in-law when she became a Christian. And she uses it most frequently when sharing her testimony with others. So evident that she is happy to be a child of God. It shines through her smile as she reaches out to folks making them feel comfortable.



~ Pat Kopp

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Articles for GraceNet are due by the 1st of each month for the following month's edition.

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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

## Church History Highlights for November

**M**any of the new non-fiction titles added to the library this month highlight the history of the Christian church from Old Testament times through to modern day.

**After Acts: Exploring the Lives and Legends of the Apostles** by **Bryan Litfin** (270.1 Lit): Dr. Litfin's skillful research uncovers the lives of the "characters" of the Bible picking up where Luke's account in the book of Acts ends. His aim is to sift fact from fiction and truth from legend. He includes the disciples, the Gospel writers, Mary the mother of Jesus, Jesus' brother James, and Paul.

**Getting to Know the Church Fathers** by **Bryan Litfin** (270.1 Lit): Dr. Litfin continues his study of the early church as he introduces ten key figures of the early church and their significance and impact on the church.

**The Reformation: How a Monk and a Mallet Changed the World** by **Stephen J. Nichols** (270.6 Nic): As the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation approaches in October 2017, Nichols provides a Reformation history that draws you into the life and culture of the 1500's, and causes you to rejoice in the Reformation and recommit yourself to the truths the Reformation revealed and reaffirmed.

**Why Your History Matters: Strengthen Your Faith by Embracing Your Heritage** by **Tommy Daugherty** (270 Dau): This is a concisely written overview of our Christian heritage from the creation of Adam through the passing of Roe vs Wade in 1973. Daugherty stresses the importance of preserving our Christian heritage, passing it on to future generations, and why it is so important that the Christian heritage be preserved for the future.

### Other New Non-Fiction:

**The Silent Shepherd: The Care, Comfort, and Correction of the Holy Spirit** by **John MacArthur** (231.1 Mac)

**No God But One. Allah or Jesus? A Former Muslim Investigates the Evidence for Islam and Christianity** by **Nabeel Qureshi** (261.2 Qur): Qureshi also authored **Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus** (261.2 Qur).

### New Fiction Titles

Three popular Christian authors have new titles for you to check out.

**The Hawaiian Quilt** by **Wanda E. Brunstetter** and **Jean Brunstetter** (Fic Bru): Four Amish friends travel beyond their "safe" borders on a cruise to the Hawaiian Island. When two of them are stranded on Kauai, their trip of a lifetime is threatened until they meet a Hawaiian couple and a strapping surfer-worship leader.

**The Domino Effect** by **Davis Bunn** (Fic Bun): When Esther, a risk analyst, uncovers a conspiracy to devastate the world's financial markets, she finds her life in danger as well. She must decide what she must do to protect both the market and herself.



**Return to the Canadian West** series by **Janette Oke** and **Laurel Oke Logan** (Fic Oke): This series, set in the early 1900's in the Canadian frontier, chronicles the lives of the Thatcher family beginning with Beth's leaving her comfortable life in the East to teach school in the wilds of Canada. As Beth falls in love with a Canadian Mountie, she finds returning home is not possible. Titles in the series are: **Where Courage Calls**, **Where Trust Lies**, and **Where Hope Prevails**.

### For Tweens

From bestselling authors **Jim and Elizabeth George** are two guides for Tweens on how to know Jesus as a friend and how to follow Him daily. Find these two helpful guides in the Young Adult (YA) section of the library. Look for **You Always Have a Friend in Jesus for Boys** (YA 248.8 Geo) and **You Always Have a Friend in Jesus for Girls** (YA 248.8 Geo)

Look for all of these materials on display in the library throughout the month.

~Mary Schultz-

Martin Luther was one of the most influential persons of religious reform in the history of the world. But he was so much more. He addressed a variety of important issues throughout his life. Today, his words remain relevant to our lives. Each month one of his messages will be shared in this space taken from the 2004 Thrivent Financial Calendar.

***The Purpose of Possessions:*** "Possessions are not given that we may rely on them and glory in them...but that we may use and enjoy them and share them with others. ...Our possessions should be in our hands and not in our hearts."

## Why Be a Christian?

**S**ooner or later everyone looks at life, even one's own life, and asks, "What is it all about?" Just under the surface there are four very related questions: "Who am I?" "Where did I come from?" "Why am I here?" "Where am I going?"

Some make no sense of life and see only futility. They may self-medicate with adventure and fun, but aging or an injury or a very serious illness can change everything. Some who look for meaning in fun and adventure later realize such a pre-occupation with one's own self leaves us empty.

Some look for meaning in achieving success or in gaining coveted possessions, including wealth. These things are like a wonderful birthday gift we received in the past. They excite us for a time, but we soon become bored with them. When everything becomes meaningless and futile, there is personal pain and suicide becomes an increasingly attractive option.

One need people have is to be loved in their good and bad times without condition or qualification. People pursue religions and religious philosophies to find meaning in life. There are many good religions by which to live. Most teach some version of The Golden Rule (treat others as you wish to be treated). We imagine we have increasing merit because of how we have treated others. But, sooner or later we see a glimpse of ourselves that reminds us of big failures in which we looked only to save ourselves, even if it meant using others for our own purposes. There can be a lot of guilt at how we violated even our most carefully crafted values and betrayed others near to us. We protest that it will never happen in our lives, but it eventually does and the guilt can be crushing.

The Christian Gospel is about God Who made us to live in fellowship with Him and about how He loves us even when we are completely unlovable, about how He provided His own Son to bear our failures and to bring to us complete and unconditional forgiveness of our selfish failures to be what we know we should be and also not to be what we know we have become.

Our society has often been called a death denying culture. People go to great effort and expense to stay young, to avoid death. For the Christian death is a curse of sin, but also the gateway to eternal life with Jesus. "Lift up your heads and rejoice! Your redemption draws near!" and, "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." says the Bible.

Life as a Christian becomes a matter of joyfully serving God and others in our daily vocations because God first loved us in Jesus. We become like beggars telling other beggars where to find bread. We are never free of all personal troubles and trials, but finally we have something bigger and more meaningful than ourselves, and it is very good.

~ Rev. Phil Bohlken

**HealthLine** is a 30-minute Medical Education television show hosted by Grace member Sheila Wittke.

**NEW AIR TIME: Monday evenings at 9:00 p.m.**

**STATIONS:**

CTV COMCAST Cable Channel 12 (Knoxville)  
CTV CHARTER 193 + WOW Channel 6 (Farragut)  
AT&T U-Verse Channel 99



**NOVEMBER 2016 SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND GUESTS**

- 07 - Treatment of Shoulder Problems including Dog Bone Implant - Dr. Paul C. Brady
- 14 - Hearing Loss and When to Get Hearing Aids - Dr. William Horton
- 21 - Saving Lives with Heart Bypass Graft Surgery - Dr. Thomas Pollard
- 28 - Newborn Screening Tests - Dr. Mark Anderson



Psalm 95:2, NIV

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)  
Wednesday Worship: 6:30 p.m. (Blended)  
Sunday School & Bible Classes @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:

