



Bethel Baptist

November 2016

Thoughts from Pastor Gene

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (II Corinthians 9:15)

Believers in the city of Jerusalem were enduring hard times. Poverty and famine were taking a toll. Believers in Corinth and other cities were moved with compassion and responded generously.

The Jewish believers, who had reservations and concerns about Gentiles becoming Christians, were humbled by the benevolent action of the Corinthians and other predominately Gentile congregations. Doubt and even animosity were transformed into feelings of gratitude and praise to God. The Jewish believers recognized that God was at work in the Corinthian church and embraced the Gentile believers as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. (II Corinthians 9:12-14)

Paul understood deeply and personally what God had done in giving His Son to sacrificially atone for the sins of the world. He knew that it was God's "indescribable gift" to humanity. Remarkably, Paul compared the believer's act of giving with the unsurpassable love and grace of the Father who "gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Gratitude and generosity go hand in hand. Those who have benefited from God's "indescribable gift" should not hesitate to bless others and to support God's work as a "cheerful giver" (II Corinthians 9:7). In doing so, the love of God and the life of Christ will be increasingly evident in our lives. And God will be praised!



Time Change Sunday

Daylight Savings Time ends on **Sunday, November 6!** So remember to set your clocks **back** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. And if you forget, no worries, you'll just be an hour early for church on Sunday!



Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is underway! Handouts on what can (and can't!) go in the boxes are available in the church foyer. This year's **Packing Party** is on Saturday, **November 12th**, from 10 am until noon. Can't attend the packing party? No problem, just bring your box or boxes with you the next day and they will be included in the **Shoobox Celebration** on **Sunday, November 13th**.

faith &
hope love

An Evening of Thanksgiving

On **Sunday, November 20**, we hope you'll join us as we kick off the holiday season with a special Thanksgiving event. We'll begin with a delicious **Thanksgiving Dinner** in our fellowship area, followed by a very special **Thanksgiving Praise and Communion Service** in the sanctuary.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, with the service to follow at 6:30. We hope you'll make plans to join us as we count our blessings and celebrate our faith in our wonderful Savior. This is also a great event to invite your friends and neighbors to join you at Bethel!

Reservations are required for our Thanksgiving Dinner. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hall at the church or you can call the church office to make a reservation.



www.bethelbaptistchurch.net

Ever wonder what's going on at Bethel? Missed a Sunday and wonder what Pastor Gene's message was? Wished you could see a Father's Day video again? Wondered what events might be coming up soon? Want to submit a prayer request or find out what missionaries we're supporting?

Well then, check out our website! You can listen to previous sermons by Pastor Gene and others, view selected videos from past services, check out the current church calendar, read through our newsletters, and lots of other information! Check the links on the toolbar and you'll find out what's happening at Bethel, as well as how to contact us if you have questions.

Brother Hoy's Christmas Food Drive

It's that time of year! Once again, we'll be participating in Brother Hoy's Christmas Food Drive. Your financial gifts will be used by Brother Hoy to purchase rice, corn, and beans to share with those in need in Mexico. The food he delivers, along with God's message, can make a huge difference in their lives!



If you'd like to participate, place your contribution in an offering envelope and indicate "Food Drive" in the "Special" section. Donations will be received beginning **Sunday, November 6**, through **Sunday, December 4**.



On **Sunday, November 6**, our kids will begin their practices for their annual program in our Christmas service! Practices will take place each Sunday during Powerhouse Kids, beginning at 11 am. All of our kids are invited to participate!

Packets with information on their program will be provided to parents. If you have any questions, please talk with Amy Dodd and she'll fill you in on the details.

And, trust us, you won't want to miss their performance!