

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NOV 29, 2015**

**SICK LIST:**

**HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Ruby Harrison

**HOME:** Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bettye Henderson

**PRAYER LIST:** April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Arthur Mason, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Elesia Wright, Margie Thomasson, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Wanda Self, Katie Griffies, Bruce Windham, Raymond Johnson, Joyce Jacobs, Morgan Calhoun, Patrick Parker, Robert Nelems, Gene McDonald

AM - DAVID STAFFORD

PM - DEREK PORTER

**RICKY BERGER WILL BE WITH US SUNDAY NIGHT DEC 4**

**OUR HOLIDAY MEAL WILL BE DEC 20 AFTER EVENING SERVICES AT THE BULLPEN.  
EACH PERSON ATTENDING NEEDS TO FILL OUT A MENU CARD**

**BIRTHDAY:**

Nov 29: Brandi Preston

# THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST  
26036 HWY 78  
CARBON HILL, AL 35549  
(205) 924-9038  
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

## TIMES OF SERVICES

### **SUNDAY MORNING**

Bible Class 9:30

Worship 10:20

### **SUNDAY EVENING 5:00**

### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00**

#### **ELDERS:**

Gene McDonald 924-4827  
Carlton Myers 221-0637  
Neil Myers 924-9289  
Bruce Windham 221-2348

#### **DEACONS:**

Danny Busby 387-0213  
David Preston 300-1927  
Kevin Richardson 295-8864  
Chris Robbins 388-1354  
Vince Roden 924-4062

#### **MINISTER:**

Ben Wright 522-8004

## **Thanksgiving** **Richard Mansel**

The leftovers are eaten and Thanksgiving is a memory now. I pray we remember it fondly and that we took advantage of the holiday.

Thanksgiving is a hallowed day in the pantheon of holidays. Sadly, though, it is being forgotten.

Retail rules the landscape and in their world, Thanksgiving is a non-profit enterprise.

The repugnant "Black Friday" is now trampling Thanksgiving by beginning a day earlier. People lose all evidence of sanity and become wild animals, attacking one another just to get a new phone or toy.

Americans are a hypocritical people. We criticize the government for spending money they don't have and endangering the existence of our nation. Yet, Americans live on credit cards and refuse to save money in their insatiable hunger for materialism.

Speaking of hypocrisy, too often God's people complain that sinners ignore God when we often do the very same thing.

God's people should have 365 Thanksgiving days a year.

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name" (Ps. 100:4, NKJV).

Our entire existence in Christ is brimming with blessings (Eph. 1:3). God's people should be exuberant with praise for our blessed Lord. Everywhere we look, we see God's glory.

Nevertheless, we are like the lepers who did not come back to thank God for their healing (Luke 17:12-19).

- \* God gives us everything (Matthew 6:25-34), and we complain that we have nothing.
- \* God never leaves us (Hebrews 13:5), but we sigh that God is nowhere to be found.
- \* God provides all the answers (2 Timothy 3:16-17), but we lament that God doesn't help us.

We need to shed the materialism of the world and return to the Word before we forget what Thanksgiving really means. Thank God daily and he will bless us constantly.

## THOUGHTS ON GIVING THANKS

### Dave Rogers

Unless some other nation has recently adopted the custom, the United States is the only nation which consistently celebrates a national day for giving thanks to God for the plenteous blessings and benefits we enjoy every day. Most of us, as schoolchildren, learned the story of "the first thanksgiving," in which early settlers (the "Pilgrims") set aside a day to express their gratitude to God for a good harvest to see them through the coming winter. (These folks had nearly starved to death the previous year, because they arrived late in the growing season, and to some degree, didn't really know what they were doing in trying to prepare for the coming year!) According to the history of that event, they invited their native neighbors, who willingly participated in their feast and celebration. Although it is not "politically correct" nowadays to do more than simply acknowledge the historical root of this practice (some modern people are deeply offended by the thought that there is a Sovereign God Who provides for them), the idea of setting aside a time to express our gratefulness to God for His providence is nonetheless an eminently scriptural one.

Aside from being simply "good manners," the offering of thanks for blessings received is a practice enjoined (by God) on all mankind throughout history. The book of Psalms is filled with expressions of gratitude to God for the entire range of blessings humanity has the capacity to enjoy; material, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. Note that in Genesis 8:20-22, the first thing Noah did upon being released from the confines of the ark was to offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. One of the practices enshrined in the Law of Moses was the keeping of the Passover feast (Leviticus 23:4f.): This observance not only reminded Israel of God's grace and power in delivering them from bondage in Egypt, but also afforded a time when they could (by keeping the Father's instructions) express their thankfulness for that deliverance. When we turn to the pages of the New Testament, one of the signal points made regarding gratitude is that many ancient gentiles were condemned for their lack of thankfulness toward God (Romans 1:21). Again, in Ephesians 5:20, Christians are instructed to be consistently and constantly aware of and filled with appreciation for the goodness of God shown to us! Paul likewise urges the saints at Thessalonica to give thanks to God in "everything" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). No doubt he, like James, was very aware of the fact that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning" (James 1:17). When we consider that all the things we need, both for life in this world, and for godly living here and into eternity are provided by God alone (2 Peter 1:3), we must surely realize that expressions of thanksgiving toward Him are always appropriate, not only at this time, when the nation pauses for rich food, televised parades, interminable football games, and a holiday with loved ones, but also during each day of our lives. As we take thought during this time for all the blessings we enjoy, let us also consider that we should number those blessings and thank God for them every day that we live!