

EAST MOUNTAIN GOOD NEWS

NOVEMBER 2011

Count Your Blessings

Johnson Oatman, Jr.
1856 - 1922

When upon life's billows you are
tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking
all is lost,
Count your blessings, name them
one by one,
And it will surprise you what the
Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load
of care?

Does the cross seem heavy you are
called to bear?

Count your many blessings, ev'ry
doubt will fly,
And you will be singing as the days
go by.

When you look at others with their
lands and gold,
Think that Christ has promised you
His Wealth untold;
Count your many blessings, money
cannot buy
Your reward in heaven nor your
home on high.

So amid the conflict, whether great
or small

Do not be discouraged, God is over
all.

Count your many blessings, angels
will attend,

Help and comfort give you to your
journey's end.

Time to Start Counting

The old hymn, Count Your Blessings, written by Johnson Oatman, Jr., would probably be considered by many to be the best Thanksgiving song of the twentieth century. To a child, it is a happy song, teaching them that they always have blessings from God for which they should remember and be thankful. As they mature into adults with life's challenges and disappointments, it becomes an encouraging song— a song to remind them that no matter how dire the circumstance, God is in control. Either way, it is a blessing to the soul.

Maybe it has been a while since you have read the words to this great hymn. Take a moment and read it again. Do you feel like life is tossing you on its waves, never knowing where the current is coming from nor which direction you will be thrust? Do you sometimes feel like there is just no use and wonder why you even try? Does it seem as though you have no strength or energy for the next step? Try counting your blessings and see if that doesn't give you a new focus!

Near the top of the blessings list should be "freedom of wor-

ship." Four hundred years ago, many didn't have that choice. One hundred and two souls climbed aboard a boat called the Mayflower, giving up all they had and risking even their lives for a chance to come to a new world without religious restrictions. One year after landing near what would be Plymouth, Massachusetts, their population had been cut in half by death from disease and harsh weather, but God blessed those that remained with a bountiful harvest.

Generations came and went, and the struggle for freedom continued as men fought for independence from governments who had staked their claim in this New World. Finally, a new country was born (Continued on page 3)



From Our Children's Minister

Rob Bowen

What an exciting month of celebrations we just experienced at EMBC. The Lord's Supper service was eye-opening. The historical review of the Passover and what it meant to the children of Israel was yet another reminder of how great our God is! We should always be mindful of the sacrifice made by our Savior, but it is so special to dedicate a time to really focus on its significance to us, the followers of Christ.

Then, we celebrated the ongoing existence and vitality of EMBC. It was great to see and hear from those who have gone before us, who paved the way for us to enjoy a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching, evangelistic church here in the East Mountain community.

I was reminded of the Apostle Paul in Philippians chapter one when he penned,

³I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
⁴Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

⁵For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

⁶Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Celebrations and times of reflection are energizing, but to what end? Is it just to feel good about ourselves? To spend an afternoon laughing, learning and enjoying the company of others? Paul continued in his letter:

²⁷Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

"Celebrations and times of reflection are energizing... now we must focus on the future."

That brings us to the end of the month. We elected a representative group of brothers and sisters to begin the search for a new pastor. What an awesome responsibility! To the elected committee members, we are praying for you! Earnestly pray for this group (don't just say that you are). Encourage them at every opportunity. Talk to them. Participate in the church council meetings as you are able. How can we be of one mind and one spirit if we do not communicate?

We've looked into the past, and now we must focus on the future. God has a man prepared to be the shepherd of this flock. It is our responsibility to open our hearts and eyes to God's plans so that we are led by Him to that man. Selfish desires and personal preferences can be detrimental to God's leadership by obscuring our focus and diverting our attention from what really matters. Are we striving for the faith of the gospel? Is our ultimate goal to reach as many souls as we can for Christ? Let us stand fast in one spirit!

New Pulpit Committee

Sunday evening, during the regular business meeting, members for the Pastor Search Committee were selected from a slate of ten nominees to lead EMBC in the search for a new pastor. They are:

Phyllis Daniel

Mike Pritchett

Lorraine Fowler

Rhonda Wilcox.

Randy Prince

David Reynolds, alternate

Pray for these individuals as they prepare to search for our new pastor.



Where do you go to get....

the latest calendar updates?

details on events?

Family Night Supper menu and reservations?

newsletter online?

www.eastmountainbaptist.org



Joyful Traditions

Presents

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 3, 2011

At 6:00 P.M.

Tickets will be on sale to members and current visitors of EMBC on Sunday, October 30 and Sunday November 6.

Tickets for outside guests will be available beginning November 13 through November 27.

For ticket sales and information, see Susan Handorf or Debi Stuckey.

Tickets are \$5 each.



Women's Winter Retreat Planned

The theme for East Mountain's Women's Winter Retreat is *God's Amazing Grace* and the date is January 20-21, 2012 with Bible Study and Worship Leader Teresa Harmening. Teresa has the unique ability to use words and music to inspire others to seek God with a fresh passion. Her enthusiasm and upbeat personality reflect a message of joy and hope that comes from spending time in God's Word, the foundation for a dynamic life in Christ.

As a worship leader, her joy is evident as Teresa steps behind the piano and begins to lead others in praise and worship. You will know that she didn't come to "entertain the saints" but to invite every participant to join together as one heart and one voice in giving a symphony of praise, honor, and glory to God.

"Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."
(Psalm 115:1)

As a speaker and vibrant communicator of God's Word, Teresa's passion is to see people awakened with a fresh hunger to know God and come into a deep and authentic relationship with God that will impact their lives for God's kingdom.

By popular demand, the retreat will again be held at Scottsville Camp northeast of Marshall. More retreat details will be presented at the November Women's Fellowship meeting. Early registra-

...*(her)* passion
is to see people
awakened with
a fresh hunger...

tion will be November 12 through December 18. Register early and get a discount!

EARLY REGISTRATION**

Register by December 18 and save \$5 per person
2 per room - \$53.00 per person
3 per room - \$43.00 per person
4 per room - \$37.00 per person

LATE REGISTRATION**

After Dec 18 - FINAL DAY FOR REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 4
2 per room - \$58.00 per person
3 per room - \$48.00 per person
4 per room - \$42.00 per person

**Includes room and two meals (breakfast and lunch on Saturday)

Mark your calendars and reserve your spot early. Plan now to come hungry for God's Amazing Grace!

Women's Fellowship

Saturday, November 12. at 11:00 a.m.

Bring a finger food to share.

We will put together Thanksgiving bags for the homebound, get updates on the cookbook sales, and Joyful Traditions.

Hanging of the Greens

Monday, November 28, will be EMBC's second annual Hanging of the Greens Christmas Party. Everyone is invited to come at 10:00 a.m. to help decorate our sanctuary and foyer for the Christmas holidays. There will be something for everyone to do with music, refreshments and sweet fellowship!



Poinsettia Reservations

Decorate our sanctuary for Christmas with a beautiful red poinsettia placed in honor or in memory of someone special!



Turn in a completed order form (found in bulletin or foyer) along with payment by Sunday, November 20.

\$12

Poinsettias can be picked up Sunday, December 25, following the Christmas morning service.

Counting *(continued from page 1)*

with the draft of The Declaration of Independence, wherein the second paragraph begins,

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their

For more than two and a quarter centuries, many have continued to fight to protect our precious freedom. Today, living in that freedom, we hear the gospel preached, which offers mankind the greatest freedom of all — freedom from a sin sick life, freedom to live in a trusting, personal relationship with the Creator of all that exists, has ever been, and ever will be! There is so much to be thankful for, we should never find the time to grumble about any circumstance. It's time to start counting!



NOVEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 <i>Family Night</i>	3	4	5
6 Fall Back <small>Daylight Savings Time Ends</small> <i>Sunday Schedule</i>	7	8 <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	9 <i>Family Night</i>	10	11	12 <i>Women's Fellowship</i> 11 a.m.
13 <i>Sunday Schedule</i>	14 EMBERS Thanksgiving Luncheon Noon	15 <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	16 <i>Family Night</i>	17	18	19 Youth Movie Night
20 Evening Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner	21 Hanging of the Greens 10 a.m.	22 No Activities	23 No Activities	24 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	25	26
27 <i>Sunday Schedule</i>	28	29 <i>Visitation</i> 7 p.m.	30 <i>Family Night</i>			
<p>Check out our website for AWANA themes Wednesday Menu and other event details www.eastmountainbaptist.org</p>						

Thanksgiving Word Search

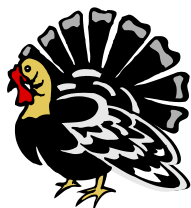
U Q V G F K N F N N G A C W N
 G C E M O C F S G R H D U P I
 K I R P L E N T Y O Q G D G K
 Z A O A C L M Z Z C N G R O P
 N C O R N U C O P I A A E T M
 F A T S X B Y T V R T J S G U
 C V I V L A E I R E L L S G P
 P Q Z D D M G R F E O E I N R
 T T K I N S P U R P S A N U F
 I U L Z K I L F J Y D S G D A
 M O R N M I R G L I P Q E D M
 H V A K R E Y A R P E N M D I
 H H O Z E K O S R I E J L F L
 T K G L S Y T V P A E B C R Y
 G A T N P S Z I W U I S N R C

Find these words:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| CORN | INDIAN |
| CORNUCOPIA | PIE |
| CRANBERRY | PILGRIM |
| DESSERT | PLENTEY |
| DRESSING | PRAYER |
| FAMILY | PUMPKIN |
| GRATEFUL | THANKSGIVING |
| HOLIDAY | TURKEY |

Let's Talk Turkey

Check out this turkey trivia:



- Approximately how many feathers does a mature turkey have?
 A. 500 B. 1000 C. 3500 D. 4000
- Approximately what percentage of American homes eats turkey on Thanksgiving?
 A. 90% B. 75% C. 50% D. 30%
- In English, turkeys say "gobble gobble." What do they say in Portuguese?
 A. Cluck Cluck B. Groo Groo
 C. Glugluglugu D. Krull Krull
- How fast can wild turkeys run?
 A. 15 mph B. 55 mph C. 5 mph D. 25 mph
- Which country consumes the most turkey per capita per year?
 A. United States B. Israel C. Mexico D. Germany

Recipe of the Month

Are you looking forward to some dressing this time of year? Margaret Wright gives us a new way to make the South's fall soul food with her recipe for *Crock Pot Chicken Dressing*. If you have company coming and making the dressing seems overwhelming, try this new take on an American Thanksgiving favorite. If you just cant wait until November 24, how about making it for Sunday dinner and invite a family to join you. Just cook the chicken and cornbread the night before, stir it up before Sunday School, turn on the crockpot, and when church is over, dinner is ready! How easy is that?

This recipe and many other holiday favorites can be found in *Our Daily Bread* – East Mountain Baptist's centennial cookbook. They are available for \$15 and make great gifts!

Crock Pot Chicken Dressing

from Margaret Wright

- 6 boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 recipe cornbread
- 8 slices day-old bread
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- dried sage to taste
- 2 (14 oz.) cans chicken broth
- 1 (10.75 oz.) can cream of chicken soup
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 (10.75 oz.) cream of celery soup
- Poultry seasoning (optional)

Cook chicken in water for 20 minutes or until cooked through. Cool and cut into pieces. Put into crock-pot. Crumble in cornbread, (bread (torn into pieces), eggs, onion, salt, pepper, sage and/or poultry seasoning, chicken broth and the soups. Stir until well blended. Dot with butter. Cover and cook on low for 3-4 hours.

Remove lid and fluff with fork.. Let rest 15 minutes before serving. Makes 16 servings. This can be done early in the day and will be ready at the last minute for a holiday meal.

All praise to God...

Who has blessed us with every
 spiritual blessing... because we are
 united with Christ.

-Ephesians 1:3

Answers to Turkey Trivia

1. 3500, 2. 90%, 3. Glugluglugu, 4. 25 mph, 5. Israel

Staff

Dr. Roy Edgemon
Pastor

Gara Handorf
Youth Minister

Aaron Handorf
Worship Minister

Rob Bowen
Children's Minister

Jodi Smith
Ministerial Assistant

Teresa Sanders
Kerah Smith
Nursery Workers

Donnie Noe
Maintenance

Deacons of the Week

Oct 30 - Nov 15

David Jones
903-374-1290

John Pitman
903-734-5029

Nov 16 - Dec 3

Shane Mayhan
903-734-1286

Mike Pritchett
903-734-1179



East Mountain Baptist Church

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Gilmer TX 75645

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www.eastmountainbaptist.org
903-759-2820

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAYS

9:30 am

Sunday School

10:45 am

Worship Service

Children's Church in the gym

5:00 am

Adult Choir Practice

6:00 pm

Evening Service

Children's Choir

WEDNESDAYS

3:30-5:30 pm

After-School Program
(K-6th grade during school year)

4:30 pm

Kids Meal

(Part of After-School Program)

5:30-6:30 pm

Adult & Student Meal

5:50-7:30 pm

AWANA

6:30-7:30 pm

Youth Service

Adult Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

Like living stones, being built into a spiritual house for a holy priesthood. ~I Peter 2:5a