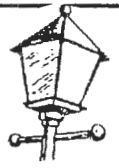


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# Lamplighter

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Let your light so shine  
before others . . .  
Matthew 5:16



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Up River Friends Meeting, Belvidere, NC 27919 -- Vol. XXXI No. 11 - November 2017

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## WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR -----

DEAR FRIENDS,

### CREATED FOR THANKSGIVING:

Have you ever thought that God created humanity for thanksgiving? We exist to magnify God through our thankfulness. One of the reasons Adam and Eve were created was to honor and magnify God. Part of the reason we live is to honor and magnify God through thankfulness. Consider the numerous biblical guidelines that demand gratitude. Thus, humanity must be designed for thanksgiving.

Since we are designed for thanksgiving, why does thankfulness come so unnaturally? Great question. The answer is, humanity fell, and when we fell, what was natural became unnatural. We were left in a state for which God never intended, but, now thanksgiving became a choice. For the first time, thanksgiving became something that had to arise in the heart of humanity.

So, the very thing that became unnatural to humanity, God uses in His plan of redemption. See, we are redeemed by thanksgiving. Think about it, God, in the person of His Son, Jesus, entered our thankless existence, living out unmatched gratefulness, and dying on behalf of our chronic ungratefulness. Jesus manifested the perfect life of thanksgiving setting the example of gratitude.

Now by faith in Christ, we are redeemed from ingratitude and freed to choose God's favor toward us. It is fitting for a Christian to be in an unremitting attitude of gratitude toward The Father. With that said, it is more fitting for one who chooses redemption to exercise this attitude of gratitude—not just toward our heavenly Father, but toward all who we come in contact.

The life that flows from such amazing grace is the life of perpetual thankfulness—as King David declared, “I will magnify God with thanksgiving.” Thus, the kind of life in which the born-again Christian is continually renewed and, increasingly being made more in the image of Christ. Only in Christ are we able to become the kind of thankful people that magnify God. After all, Jesus is the role model of appreciation. To fulfill our destiny of thanksgiving, the Christian must have both feet firmly planted in the good news. Why? Because in the Gospel's are found the only possibility for true thanksgiving—Jesus' gift of salvation.

Once we know His salvation, we can return to our original call of thanksgiving. Like David said, “I will magnify God with thanksgiving.” The word “magnify” can be used in two different thoughts. It can mean: to make something appear greater than it is, or it can mean: to make a big thing begin to look as big as it is.

David meant: “I will make a big God begin to look as big as He truly is.” We are to be like telescopes if you will. For those who love God, we are to make His greatness begin to look as great as it truly is. The whole duty of the Christian can be summed up in this: feel, think, and act in a way that makes God look as great as He is. David understood he was created for thanksgiving so he could magnify God.

This month, as you sit and enjoy a meal with family and friends, or take in a game of football, stop and remember that the roots of our thanksgiving go back beyond the Pilgrims; before we crossed the pond; older than the Motherland herself. Thanksgiving is a reality that keeps going into the present and gives meaning to our lives today. We are created for thanksgiving because through our thankfulness God is magnified throughout the world.

*Blessings,  
Chuck*

**UP RIVER FRIENDS MEETING'S MISSION STATEMENT:**

**To know Christ and to make Him known.**

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**SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY & WEEKLY SERVICES:**

10:00 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship Service  
 Nursery and Junior Church  
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01<sup>st</sup> - 04<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Fall Refreshing Revival  
 05<sup>th</sup> **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS  
 (SET CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR)**  
 06<sup>th</sup> Ministry and Counsel Meeting  
 08<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:00 pm Children's Programs  
 7:00 pm Bible Study  
 7:30 pm Monthly Meeting

09<sup>th</sup> Mobile Food Pantry in Hertford  
 15<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Choir Practice  
 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:00 pm Bible Study  
 7:00 pm Children's Programs  
**LAMPLIGHTER NEWS DUE,**  
 Thank you

16<sup>th</sup> 9:45 am Elizabeth White Circle  
 Meet at church for shut-ins visitation

19<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am-Thanksgiving Worship Service  
 in Sanctuary with lunch to follow in  
 Fellowship Hall, **NO Sunday School**

23<sup>rd</sup> **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**  
 29<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Choir Practice  
 6:30 pm Light Meal  
 7:00 pm Children's programs  
 7:00 pm Bible Study

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**FLOWERS:**

05<sup>th</sup> Tiffany W. Rhodes  
 12<sup>th</sup> Sherree Winslow

**BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES:**

04<sup>th</sup> Lori Winslow  
 06<sup>th</sup> Jessie Mae Williams  
 09<sup>th</sup> Heather Forbes  
 10<sup>th</sup> Tiffany Rhodes  
 11<sup>th</sup> Tiffany Upton, Jennifer McClaren  
 12<sup>th</sup> **STAN & LOUANN WINSLOW**  
 14<sup>th</sup> Lot Winslow  
 15<sup>th</sup> Melanie Hebert, Vivian Winslow  
 16<sup>th</sup> Quincy Ward  
 18<sup>th</sup> Benita Savaria  
 19<sup>th</sup> **ADAM & DENA RICHARDSON**  
 Justin Winslow  
 20<sup>th</sup> **PAT & MARY FRANCES TWIDDY,**  
 Stuart White, Dawn Boyce Stallings  
 Claire Ann Baker  
 21<sup>st</sup> Mary Frances Twiddy,  
 Amanda Crain Thompson  
 Judy Jones, Adam Lassiter  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Tyler Lee  
 25<sup>th</sup> Eloise White  
 26<sup>th</sup> Arba Clair Winslow  
 27<sup>th</sup> Shelby Harrell  
 28<sup>th</sup> **RICK & KIM OWENS**  
 Connie Baker



19<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Service  
 26<sup>th</sup> Elmer & Faye Lassiter Family

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

World leaders and those working to bring world peace. Our elders, children, and leadership of our meeting, People recovering from the massacre in Las Vegas, hurricanes, wild fires, the victims of the prison riot and fire, the Wissman/Boblit family (lost home due to fire), Christine Chappell (LouAnns' mother), Don Conner (Robert's former co-worker), Dale Hunter, Perry Robbins, Josh Phthisic, Sonya and her mother Jean Presley, Eloise White and family, Jesse Rountree, Charles Wilkins (Anna Hooten's father), Mr. and Mrs. Billy Presley, Affie Spivey, Vivian Winslow, Jeff Sweeney, Becky White, Faye Lassiter, Shelby Harrell, Dawn Alexander (Dena Richardson's sister), Marlene Pierce, Lester Baker, James Parks, Connie Baker's nieces Angie and Kim (both with cancer), Sue Hall (Sonya's aunt), Travis Hutto, Lona & Tommy Stallings, Renee Marshburn (Robin Winslow's sister), Billy Boblit, Barbara Saunders, J.D. Carver, Eleck Winslow, Herbert & Jessie Mae Williams, Janie Bundy, Parker and Barbara Copeland, Shelley Lamb, Calvin Casper, (page 2)

Pat & Mary Frances Twiddy, Barbara Stallings, Joe Liner, Sid Stallings, Deborah S. Williams, Gail Smith, Carlton Rountree, Tanner Sprague, Cecil & Ann Brown (friends of Jacque), Melody L. White, Garland Anderson, Lela Bundy, Iona Baker, Kathy Turner, Linda Givens, Anna Spivey's son-in-law Everett Egan, Leah Jonson, Conna Gessler, Robert Hall (cousin of Rose Riddick), Lois Faye, Paul White and family, Chad Winslow, Quincy Riddick, Lewis Stallings, Karen & Freddie Boblit, Beulah Phthisic, Anna Wrae Smith, Abby Baker, Anna Spivey, Carey Guyer and her best friend Erica, the family of Polly McBride (Millard T. Winslow's sister), our care-givers, youth, and missionaries. If you know of anyone who needs to be added to our prayer list, please contact Pastor Chuck or Catherine. Thank you.

\* \* \* \* \*

*(The following article was contributed by Jacque Pagels – we are most appreciative of your sharing with us Jacque.)*

### **GOD'S GUIDING HAND:**

My time in Ramallah and throughout the Palestinian territories opened my eyes and my heart to new ways of seeing a culture which I had heard many terrible stories and had misconceptions. I went believing that the people of Palestine were terrorist and that their religion was a religion of violence and killing. It did not take me long to realize how wrong I was about them as a people.

Jean Zaru made a tremendous impact on my way of thinking after spending numerous hours in her presence and listening to her speak. Jean embodies the Quaker beliefs of PEACE, JUSTICE, and INTEGRITY. I would like to share some of her thoughts about her Muslim neighbors. You will be able to read her entire writing at Ramallah Friends Meeting: "What I Owe My Muslim Neighbor." I have taken parts of her message from the article to share with you.

"I have lived all my life in a country where Muslims comprise most of the population. My native language is Arabic. My culture is part of the broader Islamic culture. I have learned to affirm the meeting between God, as God is, and human beings, as they are. That is, God is envisaged, not as God is, manifest in a particular way or at a particular time, but independent of history. God as God is: The One whose very nature creates and reveals. Human as human is: the created one endowed with intelligence and will, capable of choosing that which leads one to God. God is living and God's will is to be discerned afresh each moment in the changing circumstances of life.

"I learned from my Muslim neighbor why prayer is one of the pillars of Islam. Christians pray, too, but for Muslims there is a regularity and a constancy of prayer. One basic reason for prayer is to keep one's life in perspective. Humans are weak and apt to place themselves at the center of their own universe. People too readily forget that they are creatures and not the Creator. Praying five times a day is a constant reminder of the Creator and of one's submission to the will of God. The words, "I acknowledge no God but you alone," repeated in the daily prayers, serve to remind the worshiper that God is great and that God alone is to be worshiped and served--not earthly rulers or kings, not whatever the world offers in status and wealth. Human beings are created in the image of God and are distinguished from other creatures by their superior intelligence, their free will, and the gift of speech. Speech is communication with God and is essentially prayer and invocation. This is why the Arabic language is a religious language, thoroughly saturated with the name of God. Prayer is the first of the five pillars of Islam and it is by far the most visible throughout the Muslim world because of its regularity and unabashed public practice. Less visible, but equally important, is the disposition of the heart that goes with prayer, the affirmation of faith."

Other pillars which you may read about in Jean's article are: fasting, pilgrimage, the obligation to pay zakat (an annual and voluntary tax for the well-being of the whole community).

"Many people think that when one becomes more aware, more appreciative, and more understanding of the contribution of another religious tradition, one is watering down his or her understanding of the contribution of another religious tradition, one is watering down his or her own religion. This is not so in my experience. Whether we succeed or fail in understanding our Muslims neighbors, we do so as Christians. Our Christian convictions are of the utmost importance in our work of relating to people. My work and life in a pluralistic society has challenged me to understand the fullness of Christ. But my understanding of God would be much more limited if I had lived in isolation, from my Muslim neighbors. Mutual and constructive dialogue ( Pg. 3)

between Muslims and Christians is already taking place. When Christians try to read some of the basic prayers repeated daily by Muslims, they find that the Gospel and Islam are concerned with similar matters---such as reality, the oneness and the sovereignty of God; God's call to submission and obedience; and God's justice and mercy."

"It is in dialogue that we may respond to the command to 'Love God and your neighbor as yourself'. This love sets us free to be open to the fates of others, to risk, to trust, and to be vulnerable. This love evokes in us an attitude of true humility toward all people since we know that we, together with all our brothers and sisters, have fallen short of the community that God intends."

This is only a portion of what Jean has written about her Muslim neighbor. As I do not view all Christians as being alike in mind or spirit, I do not want to view any religion, culture, or ethnic group as being of like mind. Let us accept each individual on his or her own merits and character.

Blessings and Peace,  
Jacque

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS and REPORTS ON PAST EVENTS:**

### **HOMELESS FEEDING:**

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, forty-two homeless people in the Elizabeth City area were fed by friends/Friends from Up River. It is a time of witnessing and sharing with people less fortunate than most of us.

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### **THE LORD'S TABLE:**

On Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup>, fifty-nine people in the Hertford area were served lunch at the Lord's Table at Hertford United Methodist Church. It is most rewarding to see smiles on faces as they sit down for a hot meal. God is so good to each of us all the time.

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### **ELIZABETH WHITE MISSIONARY CIRCLE:**

The Elizabeth White Missionary Circle met on Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> with 6 members in attendance. Rose Riddick shared the program *Serving with Gladness* followed by a very informative time of sharing.

Our next meeting will be incorporated with a time of visitation to our shut-ins in the community. This is something we have looked forward to over the past years.

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### **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE:**

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a special **THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE**. All are invited to come and bring a friend.

There will be NO Sunday School with service beginning at 10:30 am in the sanctuary followed by a meal in the fellowship hall. The meat., tea, and rolls are being provided and we are asking members to bring the sides. The hospitality committee will host this meal. Dessert will be provided by some of our families.

Also, the weeks leading up to the 19<sup>th</sup>, we are asking you to bring canned goods along with other items to make a thanksgiving meal. This will be distributed along with the turkeys which are being provided.

*"Be thankful in all things and praise Him for all of your blessings... .."*

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### **ALBEMARLE CHORALE CONCERTS:**

The Albemarle Chorale will present "In Bethlehem", their annual concerts for the Christmas Season, Sunday, December 3, 4:00 pm, Edenton United Methodist Church, and Sunday, December 10, 4:00 pm, First Methodist Church of Elizabeth City. The program, taking its theme from the opening work "Who Will Go To Bethlehem?", will feature classics by Mozart and Ralph Vaughan Williams, as well as settings of Christmas carols old and new. The Chorale will be joined by guest cellist Steven Clark for "Fantasia on Christmas Carols", and a new arrangement of "O Little Town of Bethlehem". The public is invited to attend. Admission is free, however, donations are accepted.

(pg 4)



Please join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving, Sunday, November 19, at 10:30 am in the Meetinghouse. **There will be no Sunday School this Sunday.** We will begin promptly at 10:30 am.

As approved by Monthly Meeting, there will be a special love offering received for Gloria Wissman at Thanksgiving worship.

We will enjoy a time of food and fellowship after worship. The Meeting will provide the meat, and some special Friends are providing desserts. Please bring your favorite side dish.

Now through Sunday, November 19, Up River Friends will collect non-perishable food items. Please help us fill the back of the Meetinghouse with your favorite non-perishable grocery items.

All the items collected will be distributed to select families in our community in hopes of making their Thanksgiving a little brighter.



Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name. For the LORD *is* good; His mercy *is* everlasting, *And* His truth *endures* to all generations. Psalm 100:4-5 (NKJV)

# October Christmas\* in Ramallah

As many of you are aware, the money collected at Vacation Bible School was designated to add a third classroom at the Ramallah Refugee Camp Kindergarten.

I wired the \$3,000 to the U.N. Representative with whom I worked while in Palestine. Ten tables, forty chairs, three dry erase boards with markers and erasers, and school supplies were purchased with this money. Thank you!

The project is finished, and the class is staffed with room to add more students without being overcrowded as when I volunteered there. The Up River community and neighbors have blessed these children in a way that takes my breath. For without your support and prayer this ministry would not have been as fruitful as it has been. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart as do the mothers of these children who will have time to go to the Women's Center at the refugee camp and learn a skill which will enable them to earn money. May God bless all of you for reaching out to these children of God and for adding sunshine to their daily lives at the camp. You have given these children hope and something to look forward to each day in their young lives.



by Jacque Pagels

10/4/17 "The Lord's Table"

Menu: Sloppy Joes  
Pork n Beans  
Chips  
Cheese Sticks  
Assorted Desserts

Welcome To:  
"The Lord's Table"  
Up River Friends Meeting  
Serving Today

URF served 59 at  
The Lord's Table  
in Hertford.



URF gave over 50lbs.  
of grocery items to  
P.C.H.S. for the Hunger Heroes program.

For I was hungry, and you  
gave me food... Matthew 25:35a



URF served 42 at S.O.U.L.S Homeless  
Feeding in Elizabeth City.



URF participating in Fields of Faith with many area churches  
at PCHS. 178 youth and adults praying together.

# Fall Refreshing

Featuring these anointed speakers

11.1 :: Pastor **Jim Lewis** :: from Ark International

11.2 :: Pastor **Mandy Baker Smith** :: from Corinth Friends

11.3 :: Pastor **Buck Leary** :: from Chappell Hill Baptist

11.4 :: Pastor **Todd Kemp** :: from Bagley Swamp Wesleyan

Services begin at 7:00pm :: special music nightly



Stan & Lou Ann  
**pumpkin patch**  
2017



**THE QUERIES:** The following comes from the Faith and Practice (Book of Discipline) of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends under the heading THE QUERIES. *Please take time to consider these thoughts and hopefully our meeting will grow both Spiritually and numerically.*

**PEACE:** Do you consistently practice the Christian principles of love and good will toward all men? Do you work actively for peace and for the removal of the causes of war? Do you observe the testimony of Friends against military training and service? Do you endeavor to make clear to all whom you can influence, that war is inconsistent with the spirit and teaching of Jesus?

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*To each of you who contributed to this newsletter, **THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.** If you would like to share in upcoming newsletters, please feel free to do so – just give me a call at 297-2485 or e-mail me at [lcwjr@inteliport.com](mailto:lcwjr@inteliport.com). Also, if you have a loved one or a friend whom you think would like to receive our newsletter – or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let me know. Thank you very much. Catherine G. Winslow*

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## Prayers of thanks

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The Bible's close connection between prayer and praise caused 19<sup>th</sup>-century preacher J.C. Ryle to proclaim, "I dare not call that true prayer in which thankfulness has no part." He points, for example, to Paul's words in Philippians 4:6 ("By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God") and Colossians 4:2 ("Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful"), both NIV.

Whenever we speak to God, Ryle adds, thoughts of his mercy and the hope of heaven should be at the forefront of our minds. "Surely," he writes, "we should never open our lips in prayer without blessing God for that free grace by which we live, and for that lovingkindness which endures forever."

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## What's your rule?

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J. Wilbur Chapman, a traveling evangelist in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, practiced what he called a rule for Christian living: "Anything that dims my vision of Christ, or takes away my taste for Bible study, or cramps my prayer life, or makes Christian work difficult is wrong for me, and I must, as a Christian, turn away from it."

St. Paul offers similar advice – presented in positive terms – for Christians: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8, ESV).

What guidelines do you follow in your daily walk with Jesus?

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## Thank you, veterans!

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On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

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## Exercising our gratitude muscles

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Expressing gratitude isn't just a good thing to do; it also appears to be good for us! Indiana University researchers found that participants who performed gratitude-focused writing exercises felt uplifted and were more likely to express gratefulness through generosity, even weeks later.

Furthermore, brain scans revealed increased gratitude-related activity even months down the road (*New York Magazine*).

Though the study was small, we seem to have a "gratitude muscle" that can be strengthened through exercise. If so, there may be more than we thought to the popularity of gratitude journals and Mom's insistence that we write thank-you notes. Not to mention the biblical call to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" (1 Chronicles 16:34, for example).

Might God have hardwired us for gratitude – not only at Thanksgiving but year round – because it's good for us as well as for those we thank? To that, we respond, "Thanks be to God!"

