

# TIDINGS



## Special Dates of Interest:

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2018
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 4, 2018
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2018
- Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018
- Christ the King Sunday, November 25, 2018

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## IT TAKES GRACE...

This is a tough column to write this month. Tomorrow morning thirteen members of FPC (and one friend from Baltimore, Maryland we haven't met yet) will be flying to Merida, Yucatan, Mexico for our third Living Waters for the World mission trip. I'd love for this column to be about how wonderful it was...but it hasn't happened yet. Anticipation is high, knowing from experience what it means to help in providing a community with clean water – something every one of us has the privilege of taking for granted. Can you imagine the anticipation and joy of the members of Getsemene Presbyterian Church in Opichen? I doubt any of us really can. Just know that these partners in mission have been praying and preparing for what we will join them in accomplishing for their entire community. I hope you can feel the joy of

knowing our entire church – through prayer and financial support – will be part of Christ's plan for His body, the church. Prayer and preparation, teamwork in ministry beyond our own walls, achieving what we can only do together...yet only when our focus is on serving Jesus by loving God and loving others.

This month of Thanksgiving will truly be one of thoughtful prayer for me. I can tell you before I go that I will come home every bit as blessed as anyone we serve in Mexico. To truly be thankful comes with the understanding that we have been given so much by God, in part with the knowledge that we are to become blessings of God in the lives of others. Do we have to go to Opichen to make that happen? No. I'm fortunate to have a family, a loving church, a wonderful community and na-

tion. The question has nothing to do with *where* we serve Christ, because the answer always should be *wherever* we are. He calls us to share – our joy, our faith, our resources, our encouragement...and our gospel – the good news of God's love and grace. As I thoughtfully pray a prayer of thanksgiving this year, you are there on my list. Hopefully, I will remember the gifts of God in my life and share them always, not in selected circumstances, but in every situation of life God allows me to be in. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and take some time to figure why you are so blessed by God. See you in church, RevLon.  
 "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."  
 [Romans 5:8]

## FALL GREAT BANQUET/CHRYSALIS SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE

Pray for God's success in our final weekends for 2018:  
 Women's Great Banquet #185 – November 1-4  
 Vienna Prison Great Banquet #49 – November 15-18  
 Chrysalis #59 – November 23-25  
 SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD  
 It's time to start packing your

shoebboxes to forward on through Samaritan's Purse to children around the world! We will have shoebboxes available, along with suggested gifts and information. Our gym will once again be the county drop-off for shoebboxes. If you can help with that the week of November 12-18, it will be appreciated. On Sunday morning, November 18,

we will dedicate the boxes from FPC during worship. All boxes will be loaded on the truck for delivery on Monday, November 19 at 9:00AM.



**“And let’s be thankful for the work He has done in us to clean up the mess we once were and made us completely new!”**

## “Mess of Indecision”

As I sit at my desk I’m reminded of a mess. Any of you that have been in my office will know what I’m talking about. I have a very bad habit of allowing things to gather. There may possibly be some hoarding tendencies in me. If it runs in the family then it may very well be hereditary for me. I have an uncle who has had a few vehicles collapse under the weight of stuff he’s collected. There are even shows that deal with this condition. I’m not that bad and don’t intend to get that bad with help from family and friends. But it does make me think, “Why do I and others hold onto things that need to be filed away or thrown away?”

Indecision may be part of the reason for me and others. Maybe, I’m not sure of course. J Being unable to pull the trigger, make the leap or climb the hill or whatever clichés there are for not being able to move or make a decision can cause small piles to become heaps of trash. Sometimes I think it’s because I really think “I need that” or “I could use that”. And that has happened a few times but more times than not it’s sat there until I decided to throw it away or grew legs and walked away

on its own.

I do want to get better though, and at times you can actually see most of the top of my desk, just not now. I’ve even considered building a closet in my office for my stuff thinking that I just don’t have enough room. Am I just in denial? Seriously though what is at the root of collective tendencies? If we’re honest we all have stuff that we know we need at the time but in reflection maybe it wasn’t as important as we thought.

Paul made mention of this in his letter to the Philippians. He knew how it was to have plenty or have nothing. Abundance or shortage didn’t matter to someone who had figured out what was most important. I’m sure Jesus reminded him of what to hold tightly to and what to let loose. Jesus reminds us to not store up treasures here but to store up heavenly treasures in how we love God and others and how our lives are a reflection of that relationship. As we near the largest shopping season of the year let’s remember to give with a generous heart. And to give what’s most important, Jesus! May His Holy Spirit guide and direct your thoughts,

speech and actions as you near the celebration of His birth. And let’s be thankful for the work He has done in us to clean up the mess we once were and made us completely new! Thanks for all your love and encouragement as we continue to live out our faith here in this church and community! God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

“God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” Ephesians 2:8-10

In Christ’s Love,  
Rob

Romans 12  
PS – Thanks so much for all your support, cards, gifts and encouragement you showed Denise and me during October. We are truly blessed and feel your appreciation always.

## YOUTH NEWS



November 7th will be our annual fundraiser meal for our Angel Tree shopping. Please help us support the children of our community in giving them gifts to show how much they are valued and loved. We appreciate the generosity you show and we pray we’re reflecting our Creator, Sustainer, Savior and Lord to those we served in this local mission.

Thanks so much!

November 9-11 is our annual Fall Retreat at Camp Loucon. Please be in prayer for those that are going and those leading on the weekend. Cost this year is \$35 per person and that includes all food at the camp, activities and rooms. Hope to have another memorable

retreat as we seek to know Him more deeply and love Him more dearly.

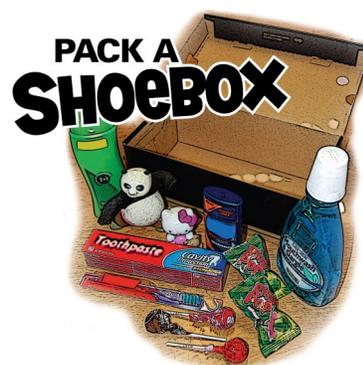
## SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts – filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items – and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received. Since 1993, they have

collected and delivered more than 157 million shoebox gifts to children in more than 160 countries. This year, Operation Christmas Child hopes to reach another 11 million children.

Once again, our church is the drop off location for Hopkins County. We have OCC boxes available at the church. Hopefully, we will have lots of

folks in the church pick one up, pack it, and bring it back in for our dedication on Sunday morning, November 18, during worship.



## The Genius of Generosity

Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that “there is a certain genius in generosity.” He explains that when we open our hands — figuratively speaking — to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it with tightly clenched fists, God can give us new blessings.

“God cannot pour more into hands that are already clinging tightly to what they hold,” says Wellman.

Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, God’s genius cycle of

generosity goes on and on.



## CHURCH FINANCES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Income	\$25,984.16	YTD Income	\$252,676.73
Expense	<u>-\$36,054.92</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$251,793.75</u>
Net	-\$10,070.76	YTD Net	\$882.98
<u>Undesignated</u>		<u>YTD Undesignated</u>	
Income	\$17,533.16	Income	\$211,803.50
Expense	<u>-\$20,600.30</u>	Expense	<u>-\$189,018.35</u>
Net	-\$3,067.14	Net	\$22,785.15
<u>Designated</u>		<u>YTD Designated</u>	
Income	\$8,451.00	Income	\$40,873.23
Expense	<u>-\$15,454.62</u>	Expense	<u>-\$62,775.40</u>



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Agin	24 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Hofmann
	Doris Thomas		David & Merry Brooks (A)
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lance Millard	25 <sup>th</sup>	Burl & Paula Milligan
12 <sup>th</sup>	James & Glori Cope (A)		Becky Moore
14 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Hendrix	26 <sup>th</sup>	Connie Conover
18 <sup>th</sup>	Ross Thomas	27 <sup>th</sup>	Erlene Ewing
19 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Carter	29 <sup>th</sup>	Becca Wilson
20 <sup>th</sup>	John Bushong		
21 <sup>st</sup>	Janet McClain		
	Heather Ricketts		
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Luanne Cole		



# November 2018

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1	2	3
					Women's Great Banquet #185	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
→ 	6PM G.B. Team Meeting	6PM Session Mtg	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	← 6PM G.B. Team Meeting		Samaritan's Purse Operation 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	Shoebox Drop Off	→ Vienna Great Banquet #49	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
→ Shoebox Dedication	9:00AM Truck loading Shoeboxes		No Activities			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal		Chrysalis—FUMC	