

November 2021

HOW SHALL I SAY THANKS?

In the words of the great Andrae Crouch, “How can I (shall I) say thanks for all you’ve done for me.” It’s a question we should all pause to ask and answer, and not just at Thanksgiving, but throughout the year. From my humble beginning in Texarkana, Arkansas to where I am today, God has been good. As I reflect on my journey; the past year; past week; past day – I see the fulfillment of God’s promise to “...*open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*” (Malachi 3:10). No, my life hasn’t been all days of sunshine and glory. I’ve had my share of dark and rainy days, and I, like you, have shed many a tear, but I won’t complain. Truly God has been faithful. He’s never left me alone. He’s always made a way. Always put the right people in my life to provide the wind I needed beneath my wings ~ until I could stand again. Sometimes the challenge was minor, and I needed a small breeze, other times I needed hurricane strength wind. So how can I *not* say thanks? When God allows a new blessing to flow your way, are you a verboast praiser? Do you break out in a praise dance? Call a friend or send a text? Does your thanks and praise lead you to think of how He can use you to be a blessing to someone? In my 44 years as PMBC’s Pastor – I’ve strived to *preach the Bible from the pulpit, and through my life, in and out of season* (paraphrase 2 Timothy 4). I’ve prayed for you, and as often as possible, physically stood or sat with you during your good and not-so-good times. As God has



blessed me, I’ve committed to being a vessel He could use to be a blessing to someone else. I’d like to think once or twice I’ve been the wind beneath your wings. So how do we say thanks? Better yet, how do we show we have a heart filled with thanks? We start by expressing our thanks to God for the little things. A breath without a ventilator. A step, slow as it may be, without assistance. The ability to think, reason and communicate. A new sunrise, a new sunset and new mercies everyday. Then as His ambassadors on Earth we show our thanks in simple deeds for others ~ “...*see that ye*

love one another with a pure heart” (1 Peter 1:22). The unexpected call to someone that crosses your mind; the greeting to a complete stranger you come into contact with in a store; the gentle touch to someone hurting; the listening ear at the end of a long day; the intentional sharing from your bounty. Kay and I have received many wonderful gifts from you – and while we are so thankful for every one, those we treasure most have no material value. It’s



the special memories we cherish of moments when you opened your heart to us. And I am most thankful to God for blessing me with His best – my beloved Kay Frances. My prayer is that we all remain vessels of blessings making a real difference in the lives of others until we are united with Christ in our eternal home.

With a heart filled with thanks, Pastor Earl C. Stuckey

A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS

Dear Jesus, I will devote myself to _____ and be watchful and thankful in everything. I will _____ your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with _____. I will give you _____ and praise your name. I will _____ thanks to you LORD, with all my _____; I will _____ of all your wonderful deeds.” I will give you thanks because you are good, and your _____ love endures forever! When troubles come, I won’t be _____ but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with Thanksgiving, I will _____ my requests to you oh God.” I will sing and _____ music in my heart to you Lord, _____ giving thanks to you God my Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” I will declare that you God are good; your love _____ forever.”

[always anxious endures enter give heart make praise prayer present steadfast tell thanks]



Congratulations to our sister
University of California,
Terrence Sims for 30 years in



Anita Bailey for 30 years with the
Berkeley. AND our brother
the automotive industry.

Join us on November 20th –

In wishing our beloved First Lady, *Kay*
Frances Stuckey, a
very Happy Birthday



On November 7th our beloved



Sister, Deaconess *Alma*
Hassen is relocating to
southern CA where she will
reside with her niece

Maracella Hailey. Let’s stay in touch: 702-
E.22nd St, Apt 212/National City, CA
91950. Phone (619) 578-1447.

*She will be 104 on November 22nd

AIN'T NO DISTANCE FAR ENOUGH TO KEEP ME FROM YOU

Marvin Gaye had a hit “Distant Lover,” but long bee-fore that, and long bee-fore on-line dating, our Bumble Bee built a love that spanned from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Oakland, California. It all started with an invitation to come to San Francisco to *visit relatives*. But nothing escapes the eagle eye of our sister, who during the casual dinner at the home of her aunt, notice a little too much secret whispering just out of sight. Not having it, she blew the cover ... but not before enjoying an evening of interesting conversation with the mystery Frat man, Leroy Todd. Leroy won Bea’s heart and sealed his plans, earning Mom’s approval with the regular flower delivery to Bea during their long-distance dating period. Two years later Leroy and *Beatrice “Bea” Todd* were married and relocating to Oakland, California. The rest is history. The Todd’s made Progressive their home, but it was all but a smooth start.

Bea recalls the “*up and down*” stares that first Sunday she attended service. It wasn’t a slip



below the skirt line; Leroy hadn’t bothered to tell the members that he had been smitten and was now married. Being in the room as Leroy taught Sunday School at PMBC birthed a similar desire in Bea; some 50 years later she still enjoys teaching. Bea (and Leroy) were both only children. Bea’s father was born to a slave, perhaps explaining his determination that life would be better

for his daughter. Their parents raised them with very different *safety nets*, but very similar goals, the best education possible. Bea’s only job was to do well in school, and she did so, determined to make her parents proud. School days have lasting memories; Leroy was a classmate of our own Betty Hicks, and Bea got the nickname “Brandy” from a classmate from her almost all-white high school. Huh, Brandy??? Bea graduated from college and enjoyed her work outside the home drawing blood and performing other tasks as a Lab Technican. Their first “house” was an apartment and Bea couldn’t have been happier for the new experience. They later overcame discriminatory hurdles and bought their home in San Ramon, where they raised their children David and Greta, and where Bea resides to this day. When it comes to cooking, let’s just agree Bea’s best dish, *bacon and eggs*, was not enough. Praise God for Leroy who over the years did most of the cooking and baking, and restaurants from IHOP to Scotts for a good meal. Timid with no opinion is not how one would describe Bea, but she credits the woman of God you see today to her beloved husband of 48 years; “*I am who I am because of the man he was and his faith that entrenched me.*” Leroy helped Bea change her focus from *stuff to the Lord*. Furnishing their home one piece at a time, each piece paid for with cash. Bea quickly learned they would live “comfortably, but not in debt.” Leroy and Bea were more than married, they were lovers. Both avid readers and students of the bible, they enjoyed live theater, dining, travel, laughing and fellowship with other Christians. Bea has fond memories of trips to Amsterdam, Europe, Jamacia and cruising to Mexico and Alaska. As for tours and excursions these days “*I’m not doing that. You go; I’ll be here on deck resting and reading when you get back.*” Bea recalls nuturing her

children to be all they could be academically and athletically. Rarely a rod of instruction, “*the rules were there, and they knew them.*” Bea and Kay Frances found a common bond as Moms of standout soccer teammates David Todd and Paul Stuckey. Bea’s game was chess, although finding competition within the family was tough. She still enjoys jigsaw puzzles, golf, reading mysteries, and telling jokes! For the past 18 years (absent 2 years when she was committed to caring for, and grieving Leroy) she has attended Tuesday morning Bible Study at Bible Study Fellowship. She has attended services at First Baptist Church (Charles Stanley) in Atlanta, Georgia, and Women of Faith conferences in San Jose and Anaheim, California, and Phoenix, Arizona. But Bea hasn’t “arrived;” she looks to the word of God, hidden deep in her soul, when she is tempted to *share a piece of her mind that is not Christian*. Testimony of just how awesome God is, at 83, Bea is adding computer skills to her list of achievements. Her two guiding principles that dovetail one another, “if I say I will do it, I will do it, even if I change my mind,” and likewise, “don’t tell me you will do something then don’t do it.” Bea’s day starts the same each day, 24/7/365. Up at 5:15, get newspaper, prayer time, scripture reading, return to bed to read the paper and enjoy coffee in bed *ala* Greta. Approaching 84, and too young for *naps*, 3:00 is *nodding* time for Nappy-Boo. Life post Leroy’s homegoing is sometimes hard. Bea gets through what she can’t get over, assured she will see him again. We love and appreciate you Bea for the Godly words of wisdom you so generously share. We close with Bea’s quote ~ “I love the Lord and I trust him;” well said sister.



WERE YOU THERE?

The semi-annual Business Meeting was held on October 16, 2021. Kudos to Pastor Stuckey and the Elders for presenting the meeting in person and via Zoom. The Church’s finances were discussed. There was considerable discussion. Members were passionate but respectful; leadership was respectful and responsive. Pastor Stuckey made two important appeals for volunteers: **Mission Ministry**. Need a volunteer to give leadership to this critical ministry, and others to make a team. **Property Development**. Looking for interested members to help develop a strategic plan for how the 4 properties owned by the Church (via a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)). To volunteer contact the office.



Talk With Jesus

prayer (Colossians 1:2); enter, praise, thanks (Psalms 100:4); give, heart, tell (Psalms 9:1); anxious, present (Phil 4:6); steadfast (Psalms 107:1); make, always (Eph 5:19-20); endures (2 Chron 5:13).