

UPDATE FROM PASTOR ANDY

Kathy and I were away for a few days last week to visit our son's family (Alex & Rebecca and grandkids). On the drive back we saw a really amazing vista in West Virginia. It's one of those sights that is so grand it's really hard to describe. We were coming down one of the mountains. For most of the trip up to that point it had rained, but the rain stopped, there was one break in the clouds where the setting sun shined through, and the mountainside on the other side of the valley suddenly lit up. It was full of reds and oranges and browns – yet the angle of the sun also created amazing shadows, and against the backdrop of the darkened sky it was unlike anything we had ever seen. It showed once again the amazing, infinite glory of our God – not only in what he created long ago, but also in how he continues to display his glory in ways that are new to us each day. He didn't just step back from creation; he continues to sustain and move clouds and show his handiwork in new ways every day. He blesses us by creating and "wow-ing" us with these glimpses of beauty and majesty. That picture is still in my mind, even several days later – I've never seen anything like it before, and I may never see anything like it again. How amazing is our God!

You might be thinking, "Andy's going to remind us to stay alert for all the ways God shows his glory each day." We should! But there's another lesson that I re-learned a couple of days later. Alex's family moved from Nashville to Lexington, Kentucky in August. For us that meant we no longer got on an airplane to visit them. Now, it's a drive that we know far too well. Kathy and I lived in Lexington for 4 years after we were married. Trips to see our parents and family in Maryland meant we did that drive. Both of our older two sons went to college in or near Lexington – we made that trip many times then. And Alex and Rebecca lived in Lexington for the first several years of their marriage, which meant more trips on that route. The drive takes us across I-68 between Cumberland and Morgantown, which in the winter (November-April up there) means dangerous driving weather. You can avoid it by taking a more southerly route – but that adds another hour or so of driving and also involves I-81 – a major trucking road that is 3 hours of stress-filled driving. When they moved away from Lexington, I thought it was wonderful because I'd never have to deal with I-68 again!

And now, 10 years later, they move back to Lexington! Getting ready for our first trip out there, I'm grumbling to myself (to Kathy also) about thinking I was done with this route. Driving out there was uneventful, yet still grumbling about having this trip come back into my life. We had a great time with them, but sure enough, when it was time to head back, we heard that winter weather was expected along I-68. The forecast didn't change by the time we hit the decision point on which way to go – so we turned south, grumbling again. And when we reached I-81, the truck traffic was incredible – more grumbling.

But then I remembered that beautiful view. And I thought about all the things that had to happen to see it. It's only because Alex moved to Lexington in August that I was driving out there. It's only because a storm came up that weekend we headed back the longer way. It's only because we were driving through rain the first 4 hours that the sky was set up for that beam of sunlight. It's even only because Daylight Savings Time ended that we were driving through there just when the sun was setting. All those things I was grumbling about.

And that is the point. I was reminded, once again, how our Father works all things for his glory and our good. He is at work, having loved us in Christ and giving his Son for us, at all times for good. And that means even the things we grumble about will result in good. So, at Thanksgiving this year, think about what you are grumbling about and give thanks for those things also! Because your Father intends every last bit of it to result in his glory and your good.

Grace and peace,

Andy

THANKSGIVING DINNER THIS SUNDAY

Our Thanksgiving dinner is Sunday, right after worship! We are delighted that so many are coming – but we need a couple of additional volunteers to make a side item. If you can help with that, please contact Erin Kilgore (717.341.8203, or erinrebekah.24@gmail.com).

Also, if you can help in the kitchen on Sunday morning or with cleanup, we need some additional hands. Again, please contact either Erin or Eleanor DeLong (717.475.5073, or ellieq20@aol.com).

After we eat, we'll sing and have a chance for you to share a short thought about something you're thankful for this year. We will also have a special offering available – proceeds will go to Solanco Neighborhood Ministries so that they can provide Thanksgiving dinners to those in need. We'll see you Sunday!

ANGEL TREE IS ALSO THIS SUNDAY!

Our Angel Tree is set up and ready for you this Sunday. What is Angel Tree? It's a ministry to families where one parent is incarcerated by providing a Christmas gift to children in that parent's name. Family ties when a parent is incarcerated are strained because children don't have access to their mother or father. They often are filled with a sense of abandonment, loneliness, and shame. Angel Tree provides a tangible way to show children that they are loved by their parent, and even more, by Jesus Christ.

This Sunday, November 21st, you'll see a tree with children's names hanging on it in the foyer. Take one of the ornaments, write down on the clipboard who you have, and then over the next two weeks purchase a gift (approximately \$25) for that child. The tag will have all the information you need – what the child likes, how to tag the gift (as in "To Johnny from Daddy"), how to contact the caregiver, etc. Wrap and tag the gift.

Then you have two options. The first (and best!) is to deliver the gift yourself – just call the caregiver and see when you can drop it off. Often, when delivering the gift, you also get a chance to tell the family that we're doing this because of the greater gift that Jesus Christ offers. Many of us have delivered before and know the joy in seeing faces light up when they see the mercy of God in action! If you can't deliver the gift, then bring the wrapped/tagged gift to worship on December 5th or 12th and we'll help make sure it makes it to the home. We do need some people who would be willing to help deliver gifts.

This ministry, part of Prison Fellowship, seeks to show the compassion and love of Christ by purchasing Christmas presents for children in the name of a parent who is incarcerated. Something as simple as a gift helps them see that their parent has not forgotten them and gives us a chance to point to Jesus Christ who provides a greater gift and never leaves us.

THANKSGIVING WEEK ACTIVITIES

The church office will be closed next Thursday and Friday (11/25-26) for Thanksgiving. Most of our usual activities during the week have a week off also – check with your group leader if you have any question. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and we will see you on the 28th for Sunday School and Worship as usual!

HOUSING NEEDED

Christine Yngve is looking for housing for her adult daughter who is moving into this area. If you have, or know of, a 1 room efficiency or even a single room with kitchen privileges, please call her at 803.917.0503.

NEEDLEWORKERS OFF UNTIL JANUARY

The Needleworkers group will pause during the holidays and restart again in January.