

First Edition

November 2017



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

An Opportunity Is Yours

By Pastor Marc Heinz

Last month Candace and I went on a cruise to Mexico. One of our favorite things to do when we are at sea is to walk around the top deck of the ship at night after dinner. Oftentimes the stars and moon are so bright it simply takes our breath away! However, one night as we were taking our evening stroll we experienced an incredible display of lightening and thunder. It was a night that I will not soon forget! Initially it was clear and bright & then suddenly the sky grew dark & in the distance the light show began & the thunder was so strong that at times the ship would shake from a resounding blast. I was amazed not only by the power of the storm, but also by its length. It seemed to go on and on. I must confess at times I was tempted to run and hide rather than stay on deck and watch the show.

Now I would imagine at one time or another you have found yourself totally surrounded by darkness, only to have the whole area suddenly illuminated by a flash of lightening. During the storm I recently experienced, it occurred to me that it was almost as if the light was informing the darkness that it can invade that darkness at will, & when it enters, it pushes back the darkness at the speed of 186,000 miles per second. Darkness has no defense against light. Similarly, darkness has no offense against light. For example have you ever seen a flash of "darkening" that obliterated the light of day even for a split second?

In the New Testament, Satan, his work, and His kingdom are spoken of as darkness, while God and His work are defined as "being light and in Him is no

darkness at all". Light always triumphs both in the natural and the spiritual. Moreover, we are more than reflectors of light; we are recipients of God's light.

I don't know about you, but I continue to marvel at the way God has used recent events such as Hurricanes, Floods, Forrest Fires, and senseless, violent and wicked events to draw people to Himself. Only our great and awesome God could do such things bringing light out of darkness.

At this moment, I honestly believe God is doing something gracious and wonderful! He is Sovereignly intervening and reaching out in a variety of ways to wake up our nation. So many people I encounter are searching for answers and are becoming more open to hearing the good news about Jesus Christ. And one of the best ways to make God visible and be a light for Him is to simply cling to what we know to be true about His goodness and faithfulness and then live accordingly. We have a multitude of ways to make God and the gospel visible without even speaking!

As Christians we need to ask God to give us a burning passion for the lost. We must so desire to express Christ's love that we will pour ourselves into those whom others reject, recognizing that our Savior died for everyone.

Friends, God has given us a window of opportunity to communicate His message to a desperate and hurting world. My prayer is that in the midst of these trying and challenging times God's light would so shine through each of us that those around us would be drawn to Him.

Harvest Festival -- Sharing God's Love and Light with Our Community

By Cathy Thomas

All praise to God for His blessing on the Harvest Festival here from 4-6 PM on October 31! So many came to participate in all the fun!! There were steady streams of people everywhere, from the greeting table where they were given a welcome bag, to the jump house, petting zoo and pony ride, caramel apples, popcorn, balloon animals, maze, family photos, crafts and face painting, carnival and video games and dinner of soups, chili and hot dogs!

God's love and light were shared throughout the afternoon. The puppet show, put on by our youth, provided a humorous and engaging platform to share the gospel. Raffle prizes were awarded at the end of the 5 and 6 o'clock performances as well as at the ever-popular cakewalks.

THANK YOU to all who willingly gave so much time and energy to this outreach to our community. We continue to pray for the seeds that were sown at this event.

*Oh give thanks to the
LORD,
for He is good,
For His
lovingkindness is
everlasting.*

Psalm 107:1



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

send Good News and Great Joy

HOW TO PACK YOUR SHOEBOX GIFT



SHOEBOX GIFT SUGGESTIONS



"WOW" ITEM

- outfit
- shoes
- musical instrument
- soccer ball with pump
- stuffed animal
- doll

TOYS

- toy cars
- jump ropes
- yo-yos
- toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries)

ACCESSORIES

- socks
- hats
- sunglasses
- hair clips
- jewelry and watches
- flashlights (with extra batteries)

NON-LIQUID HYGIENE ITEMS

- toothbrushes
- bar soap
- washcloths
- combs

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- pens, pencils, and sharpeners
- crayons and markers
- notebooks and paper
- coloring and picture books
- solar calculators

A PERSONAL NOTE

- a message to the child
- a photo of yourself, your family, or group

If you include your name and an address, the child may be able to write back.

QUALITY CRAFTS

- hair bows
- finger puppets
- friendship bracelets

Check out the Operation Christmas Child boards on Pinterest for specific suggestions.

samaritanpurse.org/oc

Operation Christmas Child

We are making this outreach available to you. Simply get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. **Include a slip indicating your choice for a boy or girl and the age category you have selected:** 2-4 years old, 5-9 years old, or 10-14 years old. Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal. Fill with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo. The donation of \$9 is needed to cover shipping and other project costs. Please give this in cash or your check to First Baptist Church, and we will mail them all together.

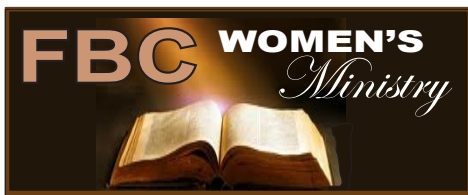
Bring your filled shoebox to church no later than Sunday, November 12, so that the boxes can be delivered to a local drop-off location on time.



Do Not include: Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

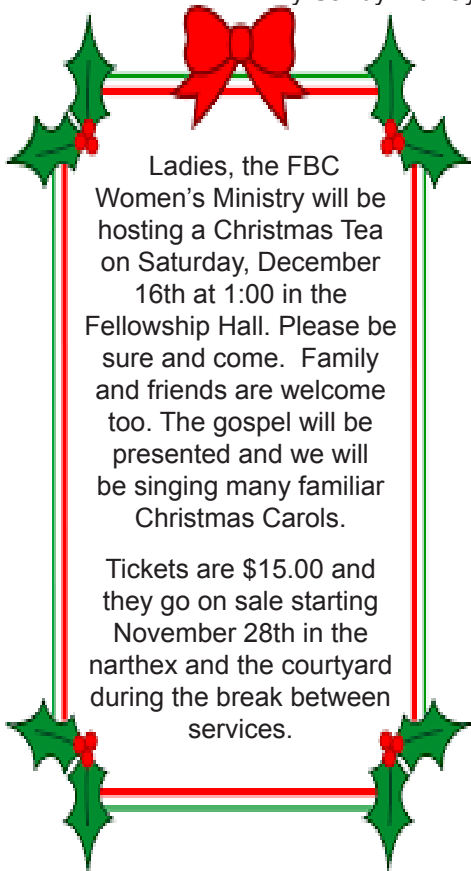
For more gift suggestions organized by gender and age, visit samaritanpurse.org/oc





Save the Date - Dec. 16, 2017

By Sandy Murray



Ladies, the FBC Women's Ministry will be hosting a Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 16th at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please be sure and come. Family and friends are welcome too. The gospel will be presented and we will be singing many familiar Christmas Carols.

Tickets are \$15.00 and they go on sale starting November 28th in the narthex and the courtyard during the break between services.

EQUIP

1 Timothy 3:16-17 CONFERENCE

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
November 10, 11, 12

The sole focus of the EQUIP CONFERENCE is to expose you to biblical teaching and preaching for the purpose of growing you, your leadership, and your church members to do effective ministry. It is our prayer that no matter what your role in the church you will find yourself better equipped to serve God and His people by investing the time to attend the conference. There is no cost to attend the conference and we will be taking a love offering.

Our Schedule

Friday - 6:00pm Conference Begins
Saturday - 8:30am - complimentary lite lunch after last session
Sunday - 10:00am - Justin Peters speaking at Grace Bible Church



THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE and DESSERT SOCIAL

Please join us on November 22, 7:00 p.m., and bring your favorite dessert to share.

OUR MISSIONARIES AT WORK

A Letter from Alan and Audrey Dianich

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your support and prayer! Thank you so much for praying for our Fall Camp for International Students. The weather was beautiful and generally things went pretty well; 36 people came to Fall Camp including students from Reno and UC Davis! Praise God!



At our Friday night Leaders Meeting, we have dinner, praise and prayer time. Then we split up into three groups for Bible Study. One group is for Christians new to our group and new Christians. This group is led by me and lasts one semester. We are covering basic things like assurance of salvation and how to witness for Christ. The next group is for students that have finished my group. They are looking at the book of Acts. The third group is for non-Christians, and they are learning about God's plan of salvation. At first, non-Christians seemed reluctant to come to this kind of Bible Study, but last Friday a Japanese, a Chinese, two Vietnamese and a Malaysian student came to this Bible Study! Please pray that they will come to know Christ soon! Thank you for so much!

FRANKLIN GRAHAM
P.O. BOX 3000, BOONE, N.C. 28607

October 4, 2017

First Baptist Church of San Mateo
2801 Alameda De Las Pulgas
San Mateo, CA 94403-3262

Dear Friends,


I am writing to express my appreciation for the generous gift you sent to Samaritan's Purse. Your support and partnership mean more than you know.

We continue to be heavily involved in hurricane relief after Harvey, Irma, and Maria. I visited our work in Texas and Florida, and have recently returned from the Caribbean where the devastation is incredible and people are going to be without power for months. At multiple sites in Texas and Florida, our staff and volunteers are working to tarp roofs, clean out mud, rip out drywall, and remove waterlogged debris from homes so that repairs can begin. We have sent generators, blankets, heavy duty plastic, hygiene kits, water filtration systems, and much more to the Caribbean, and we have teams on the ground in several locations there as well. Our hearts go out to all those whose lives have been turned upside down by these historic storms. We would be grateful for your prayers for this work and for families who are left homeless and hurting.

As we reach out in Jesus' Name, it is a privilege to be able to share the message of the One who can carry us through life's storms. *"You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm"* (Isaiah 25:4a).

Again, thank you, and may God richly bless you.

Sincerely,



Franklin Graham

FG/gd

FBC Youth

Fall Youth Regular Events:

FBC YOUTH Service- Sunday Mornings 11:00 - 12:15

pm Games, fun, worship, and our next teaching direction for our Sunday youth group meeting is going to focus on Exploring God's word and integrating knowing Christ into our daily lives.

College/Career Fellowship - Sundays 12:30-2:00 pm

Part 3 of our "True University Series" - Who is Jesus? As always, we have great discussions together about the topic we are discussing but are relating it to our own personal relationship in knowing Jesus. Lunch provided.

FBC YOUTH Mid-Week - Combined CAD and TNT (High/Jr. High) - Tuesday Nights 7:15 - 9:00 pm

Our teaching direction for our mid-week youth group meeting focusing on "Walking with the Lord" in our lives.

Nov.-Jan. Youth Special Events

Turkey Bowling - Tuesdays, Nov. 21 @ 7:00-9:00pm

Fun night of games, food, and thanksgiving, worship, and message. Great event to bring your friends.

Eucalyptus St. Christmas Lights - Tues, Dec 5 @

6:30-9:00pm (Part of FBC Youth Tuesday)

SM Ice Skating in Central Park - Tues, Dec 12 @

6:30-9:00pm (Part of FBC Youth Tuesday)

Youth Christmas Party - Tues, Dec 19 @ 7-9:00pm

Bring a friend and a <\$5 funny gift for exchange. Christmas games and celebration with worship and message.

(Part of FBC Youth Tuesday)

Youth Winter Retreat - Jan 3-6 - Cost TBA

Fun in the snow, sledding, ice-skating, snowy adventures, games, and growing in God. This 3-day retreat that will be tons of fun and change your life!!!



Men's Breakfast
December 2, 8:30 a.m.
In the Chapel
ALL MEN are welcome.



Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available.

Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.

The office staff will order your bouquet to be delivered -- so convenient, and so appreciated by your loved ones.



November 11: Denise Jalilie
November 16: Aihua Li
Janet White
November 19: Dave Shelton



Happy Anniversary

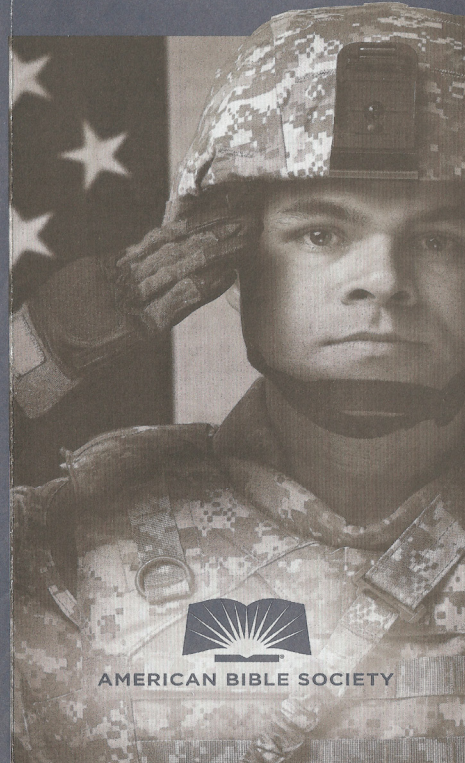
November 27:
Garrett and Nici Smith
November 28:
Jeff and Becky Olson

Special Offering

for November will go to
Bibles for Soldiers.

BIBLES FOR OUR TROOPS

AMERICAN HEROES NEED THE
COMFORT OF GOD'S WORD



AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY



PRAY FOR OUR U.S. MILITARY

Ask God to provide special courage, grace
and strength for those in danger zones.

Pray for physical healing for those who
have been wounded in battle.

Pray that every Service Member who
needs a Bible will receive one.

Strengthen Troops through Scripture

When our Service Members have God's
Word, they are able to experience peace
where there is none.

Every \$5 you give can provide a Bible.
They risk their lives for our country
— for you and for me. Let's show our
appreciation by helping give them
God's Word.



**“A man's relationship with
God tends to grow a lot closer
during an experience like war.
The Bibles gave us strength
and courage throughout
the deployment.”**

*Lieutenant Charles Vick**

**“I had a Bible that I always
carried in my cargo pocket [to
remind me] that all things on
earth are temporary and to
have an eternal perspective.”**

James King, Veteran*

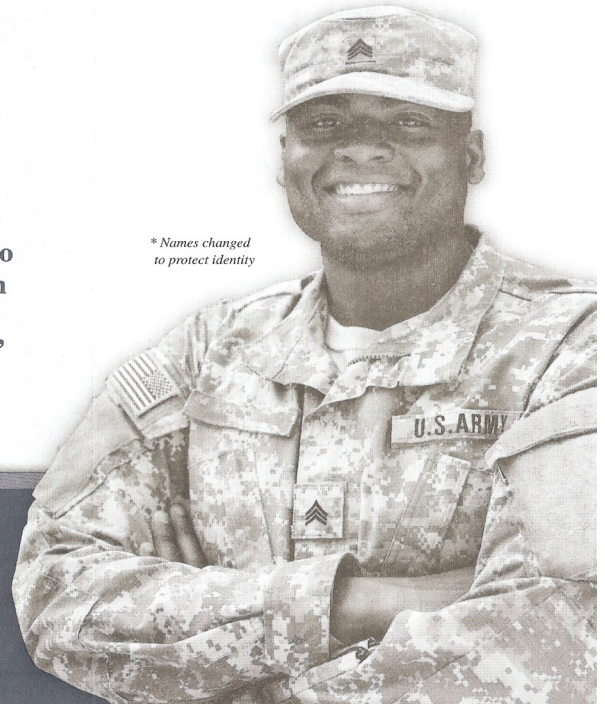


AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

**“Not a day goes by when a
Veteran does not ask for a
Bible or Scripture to help with
healing and coping spiritually.”**

U.S. Chaplain

** Names changed
to protect identity*



**“We don't all have Bibles.
We would like some help.”**

Sgt. Brad Davis, USMC*

**“We put a literature rack
inside our dining facility . . .
The Bibles are placed in the
rack in the morning and by
lunchtime they are gone!”**

*Navy Chaplain Jerry Cox**

The quotes in this document are from
eyewitnesses and real people who are
serving to protect our freedoms in the
most dangerous regions of the world.

Names and other identifying
information have been withheld
to protect these individuals.

**“Having God's Word to rely on
for daily guidance is what helps
keep me from despair.”**

*Corporal Laurie Schwartz**





November 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship After Church: College/Career Study & Fellowship			1 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	2 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	3 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	4 8:30am Men's Breakfast Daylight Savings Time Fall Back
5 Communion	6 7pm FBC Youth	7 7pm FBC Youth	8 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	9 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	10 6pm 8am Equip Conference at Grace Bible	11 8:30am Equip Conference at Grace Bible
12 Deadline to Bring Your Shoebox for Operation Christmas Child 12:30pm Children's Leadership Meeting	13 7pm FBC Youth	14 7pm FBC Youth	15 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	16 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	17 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	18 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA
19	20 7pm Youth Turkey Bowling	21 7pm Youth Turkey Bowling	22 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service and Dessert Fellowship	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service and Dessert Fellowship	25 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service and Dessert Fellowship
26	27 7pm FBC Youth	28 7pm FBC Youth	29 6:30 Bible Study	30 6:30 Bible Study	31 6:30 Bible Study	All Events Are Subject to Change.

Growth Indicators

By Doug Andrews

"...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

I can usually tell when students are starting to grow in the Lord when I hear several things change in their speech. One of the first things that changes is how they talk about their experience in being a Christian. When people first come to the Lord, they are excited about church, youth group, and events. They talk about God in terms of "it" and are excited about the things that happen in their life and how they feel being around other Christians and a part of certain events. They are trying to explain their experience, but are still looking at life as a non-believer; based on externals. But once they begin growing in their personal relationship with the Lord, things change. When prayer, personal Bible reading, and individual worship start to become regular habits in their daily life, they begin to understand and function in personal connection with God. They start to express their thoughts, feelings, and actions in terms of knowing Him. Things are not abstract and unclear any longer.

Another thing that changes, is when people stop asking the question, "Is this really a sin?" And they start asking, "How will this help me get closer to Jesus?" New believers may tend to want to hold on to the fun or enjoyable parts of their old sinful life apart from Christ, and think that they can experience the joys of Christianity AND the pleasures of this world. So they'll approach these issues trying to justify their old ways. But once they start connecting with God, He brings clarity, and closeness with Him becomes the priority over having the 'pleasures' of this world.

John Piper talks about this when he says, "Ask the maximal righteousness question, not the minimal righteousness question. We need

to seek a trajectory that is so much better than the minimalist ethic that merely asks, 'Well, what is wrong with it? What is wrong with it?' I don't even want to talk about what is wrong with it. Let's ask, 'Does it help me run?'

"You know why that question isn't very often asked? Because we are not passionate runners. We don't want to run. We don't get up in the morning saying, 'What is the course today? What is the course of purity? What is the course of holiness? What is the course of humility? What is the course of justice? What is the course of righteousness? What is the course of love? What is the course of self-control? What is the course of courage? O God, I want to maximize my running today.

"If you have that mentality about your life, then you will ask, not, 'How many sins can I avoid?' but, 'How many weights can I lay down so that I am fleet-footed in the race of righteousness?'"

It is such a joy to take part in helping students embark on new steps in their trust, faith, and personal knowledge of God. There is so much more to experience of God than just getting questions answered about Him, but really experiencing Him daily in their lives is where it is at. To see the light come on and the awakening of hearts wanting to live in deep connection with Jesus daily is amazing and rewarding. When I hear their expressions about their lives in Christ change to now remove the hinderances and embrace righteousness and holiness, I know the Spirit is working.

May we all seek to draw near to Him

So then, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:22-23.

College/Career Fellowship Update

By Doug Andrews

This winter and spring our college group has been meeting and examining the scientific and historical evidence of God's existence and the reliability of the Bible through the Focus on the Family series designed for college students, called "True U".

Each week we meet Sunday from 12:30 - 2:00pm. Lunch included. It's been a really great study for our college students to go through. Many great discussions have been sparked and I know we all have grown. Currently we are on section 3 of the study, "Who is Jesus?" There are many opinions and theories in popular media who try to portray Jesus in various ways. Around Christmas there are always documentaries that attempt to historically describe Jesus as a good moral teacher or a revolutionary. But when we actually read the Bible, a clear and unambiguous picture emerges. He is God, King, Messiah, and Savior of the world. As C.S. Lewis stated, "He does not leave any other option for us to conclude."

It has been really amazing to delve into this issue so that our college students can clearly learn how to discuss these important issues with friends, co-workers, fellow classmates, and even professors. We are learning to do as Peter challenged us, "to give an account of the hope we have, with gentleness and respect.

If you are a college/career person or know of one, come join for a really great time of fellowship and learning together. If you'd like to bless this ministry please pray for us. You may also consider giving a special gift towards the ministry to help us cook lunch each week or take a Sunday and make a meal for these students. Contact Pastor Doug for more information.

Thank you so much for our continued prayer and support.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



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First Baptist Church
2801 Alameda de las Pulgas
San Mateo, California 94403

Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by biblegateway.com for our use.

November

.Wed.	01	John 1-3
Thurs.	02	John 4-6
Fri.	03	John 7-9
Sat.	04	John 10-12
Sun.	05	John 13-15
Mon.	06	John 16-18
Tues.	07	John 19-21
Wed.	08	Acts 1-3
Thurs.	09	Acts 4-6
Fri.	10	Acts 7-9
Sat.	11	Acts 10-12
Sun.	12	Acts 13-15
Mon.	13	Acts 16-18
Tues.	14	Acts 19-21
Wed.	15	Acts 22-24
Thurs.	16	Acts 25-28
Fri.	17	Romans 1-3
Sat.	18	Romans 4-6
Sun.	19	Romans 7-9
Mon.	20	Romans 10-12
Tues.	21	Romans 13-16
Wed.	22	1 Corinthians 1-3
Thurs.	23	1 Corinthians 4-6
Fri.	24	1 Corinthians 7-9
Sat.	25	1 Corinthians 10-12
Sun.	26	1 Corinthians 13-16
Mon.	27	2 Corinthians 1-3
Tues.	28	2 Corinthians 4-6
Wed.	29	2 Corinthians 7-9
Thurs.	30	2 Corinthians 10-13

Our God Is an Awesome God!

By Doris Waddell

As I was spending time with our LORD a couple of days ago, I was reminded that since I'd asked others to write articles for First Edition, I needed to do this myself!

The first thought was how He works in individual lives. My friend, Stenya and I often share ways He has helped us - sometimes with small things like finding a parking place when we're going to lunch, or helping find a lost item, sometimes through the help of strangers just passing by. (Ask Stenya about that!)

But then, I remembered the baptism on Oct. 29th - 4 young men, one young woman, and a grandfather! The rejoicing - clapping and some cheering after each baptism. The joy in our LORD being

expressed exuberantly! And afterward the great fellowship as we ate together the meal prepared for us.

And on October 31st, the large attendance - 350+ of children, adults, neighbors and others. The joy of the children bouncing in the jump house, the puppet shows, and experiencing the joy being expressed by a young woman who'd been attending services for a few weeks.

And then the beautiful Presence of our Father as we shared communion, remembering what our Savior has done for us. Not only did we worship then, but all these activities were filled with great joy and thanksgiving!

Our God is truly an awesome God.