

## Greetings!

I hope that this letter finds your family in good health and spirits. We are embarking on another season of giving thanks. I am so glad for this season primarily because it allows me to focus on all the blessings He has bestowed and helps me focus on the needs of others. Second, I must admit it leads right into Christmas. So, we go from thankfulness to giving. We get to be Christ-like in joyfully thanking Him for the blessing of His greatest gift...His Son...Jesus.

## ***BLAST*** Sunday

Sunday, November 19th, at the 10:30 a.m. service will be our first ***BLAST*** Sunday. Our children from the ***BLAST*** Children's Ministry will be in our services and we all will worship together!

Worship with our children will include various elements from their ***BLAST*** Sunday morning experience. We, of course, will have all the elements of worship that we are used to with the addition of our Thanksgiving Benevolence Offering.

## Thanksgiving Offering

Our upcoming Thanksgiving Benevolence Offering is an opportunity for our families to reach out beyond ourselves. All of the giving will be used for helping those in our congregation and the special needs of those in our community.

Giving is a matter of the heart, not the amount. God sees the intention of our hearts when it comes to giving. He knows what we are able to give whether in our regular offerings or giving at special times. His desire is for us to mature in our giving. He *enables* so that we are able. He wants us to truly embrace giving as worship. He instructs us through His servant Paul to give from a heart that has not been coerced but reflects charity with cheer. Jesus teaches us that our giving truly reflects our heart...our mindset towards God.

Make this a family worship thing! Set up a time where you sit down as a family to discuss and pray what God would have you do to support those in need. What you will find is that a sacrificial act of worship will rise from your discussion. The times that Pamela and I have done this we have been able to use it as a moment of teaching and have been blessed by the "heart" of our children. We have in turn been changed by our own children's sacrificial spirit as they have understood the burden of those with needs which challenged us immensely.

So no matter the size of the gift...consider what your family will give on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> to the Thanksgiving Benevolence Offering.

## Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at First will be a wonderful celebration of the birth of Jesus. We will have two Christmas Eve services: 10:30 a.m. worship and a Candlelight Communion service at 11:00 p.m. Our 8:00 a.m. service, Sunday Schools, and ***BLAST*** ministries will not meet. I know that you and your guests will be lifted to God as we focus on the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel!

## Elder Candidates

We will again be affirming our Elders in December. We are pleased to introduce Todd Zeter, Lloyd Hoover, Charlie Cross, and Bryan Burns as Elder Candidates for a two year term. They, upon approval, will join returning Elders Tom Headley and Randy Summers.

Each of these men have been a part of a thorough interview process. Our desire is to present to you men of God who desire the “good work of elder.” According to scripture our leaders need to be above reproach, with this, we also desire your feedback if there is a candidate for which you feel is not worthy of the position of Elder.

If this would be the case we are asking you to contact a current Elder for your explanation.

Art Cordova 344-3110  
Bud Cavin 821-1373  
Tom Harger 292-2631  
Tom Headley 293-4930  
Randy Summers 299-5891

I look forward to serving with these men in the coming year. Please be in prayer for these men and their families as they embark in another leadership step for God.

May God enrich your lives as you determine to be thankful and to be an example of His love in your giving!

Tom Caffery