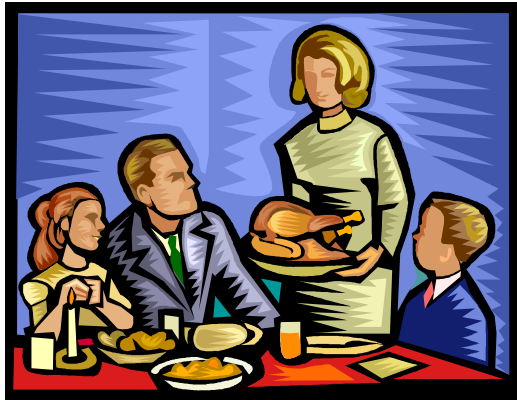


# Sunrise Christian Church

## November 2010 Family Newsletter



“Blessed art thou, O LORD our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread out of the earth” (a traditional Jewish blessing).

.....  
Where does wisdom come from?

“Listen and hear my voice; pay attention and hear what I say. When a farmer plows for planting, does he plow continually? Does he keep on breaking up and harrowing the soil?

When he has leveled the surface, does he not sow caraway and scatter cumin? Does he not plant wheat in its place, barley in its plot, and spelt in its field? His God instructs him and teaches him the right way.

Caraway is not threshed with a sledge, nor is a cartwheel rolled over cumin; caraway is beaten out with a rod, and cumin with a stick. Grain must be ground to make bread; so one does not

go on threshing it forever. Though he drives the wheels of his threshing cart over it, his horses do not grind it. All also comes from the LORD Almighty, wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom.” Isaiah 28:23-29, written about 700 years before Jesus Christ was born.

### America’s Freedoms

In 1943 the famous painter Norman Rockwell painted four paintings which to him represented the ideas of the nation of America. Titled: **Freedom of Speech, Freedom to Worship, Freedom from Fear,** and probably the best known, for it shows a family setting down for Thanksgiving dinner, **Freedom from Want.**

These appeared in the then well-known magazine- Saturday Evening Post, along with articles following along the lines of though that his paintings represented.

With that, Americans have long thought of themselves as a nation blessed by God, a fact which made its way into our Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, among them are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Yet we also know that to retain these rights means that we have to work hard to preserve them, and that they are meant to be shared. And so, in many and various way, America has been the breadbasket of the world. And perhaps the reason we are so richly blessed is because we have richly blessed others with we have been given.

There is a biblical principle that goes with this idea of mine, “He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be

generous on every occasion, ...” II Cor. 9:10-11a.

This year as we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving, let your praise be to God for how He has taken care of you this year, how He has provide for you. Then let your hand be open to those in need, whether this is through our local food bank, or a national or international organization. God will bless you for this.



For the fourth year, Ontario’s First Christian Church, along with other area churches, has been hosting a free **Community Thanksgiving dinner.** This is open to everyone- to anyone who does not have any where else to go or does not have the money to buy a meal.

Several hundred people come that day, and so they also need help serving, as well as with the purchase of turkeys and hams. If interested in helping in some way, call Frank at FCC, (541) 889-6716.

Did you know that **Benjamin Franklin** once suggested that the turkey would be a better national symbol than the Bald eagle? Writing to his daughter, he said, " For the Truth the Turkey is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America . . . He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on."

And every Thanksgiving millions of Americans agree with him!

## Caring Enough to Share Classes



You need not have attended the last set of classes to get some good out of these.

The classes this time will deal with A) Building bridges into other people's lives, B) The Roman road to salvation, C) Personal commitment, D) What a church can do to get ready to disciple these new people, and D) The story of Nicodemus- a tale of our times.

To get an idea of how well the first class was received, here are some of the comments from the evaluation forms: **“Very good”**; **“It continued to stimulate my thinking”**; **“What was shared was very good”**; **“The entire session was excellent and very well put together, I really enjoyed it and am looking forward to the next one”**, and **“Great class, let God lead you again!”**

I expect the upcoming class to be every bit as good as the last one, so make plans today to join us. Look for the signup sheet so we can let Valley C.C. know how many to expect for lunch that day.

The date will be **Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm**. It will be held at **Valley Christian Church**, which is located just off Hwy 95 at the intersection of NW 11/2 Ave and Whitley Drive. **Hope to see you there!**

.....  
Three things we can all do today;  
To pause a moment just to pray,  
To be a friend both tried and true,  
And to find some good that we can do.

Wm. A. Ward

## Did you know?



Because we live in rural southeastern Oregon and southwest Idaho, it sometimes is hard to know how it's going with other Christian Churches. Here is some information from a survey taken by Standard Publishing Company. In their April issue, they list **60 Christian churches with attendance over 1,000**, with 11 over 5,000, of these 3 have average attendance over 12,000, with the largest over 18,000!

And just in case you think these 60 churches at someplace far away, you'd be wrong! Two are in Boise; one is in Post Falls, ID; in Oregon, Beaverton and Happy Valley; and in Washington State, Everett and Tacoma had one. Central Christian Church in Henderson, NV baptized 2,302, but Crossroads Christian Church on Corona, Calif. surpassed them in percentages by baptizing 2,278. **Yahoo!**

Six of these churches grew by more than 26% in 2009, fifteen churches by between 11 and 25%, and seventeen churches by between 6 and 10%.

Four of these churches are less than ten years old, and seven broke into the 1,000 plus range just last year.

Now each of these had a larger population than does the Ontario, Nyssa, Fruitland, and Payette area, but I'm sure that they had godly leaders who were help lead their people to have a heart for the lost. And I doubt Sunrise Christian Church will ever be as big as Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Ky.

(18,749 in attendance), but we can be the biggest church in this “neck of the woods.”

Yes, things will have to change for this to happen, but change can be exciting- for example, no one likes to eat the same thing for breakfast, lunch and dinner all the time! We all like variety and change is part of variety.

Can this happen over night? No, but the ground work we lay today will reap benefits for us in the future. Our eye should not be just on this generation alone, but also on those who will follow, those not yet born.

Remember, God is the God of the harvest; as Jesus said, **“Behold, I say to you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest!”** John 4:35



## Children's education ministry

Carol DeHaas, Thelma Smith, Debbie Lammers, Myra Dietz, as well as Pam and I met over lunch recently one Saturday afternoon to map out a plan for growing our children's ministry. All these ladies have a heart to teach kids about the love that God has for them, taking Jesus at his word when he said, **“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”** to heart (Matt. 19:14).

They are already currently busy cleaning out old storage closets, sweeping and cleaning and arranging classrooms, and making plans for the future. So I hope you will encourage these women and offer them whatever help they might need. Also, keep them and the children in prayer as this ministry grows.