

The Bandon Chapel Notebook - A Thankful Heart Is A Real Blessing

By Maggie B.
Hi, Neighbors! A thankful heart is a real blessing. So many people today take our countless blessings for granted, failing to realize that many lives have been lost in making our lot in life easier. I was reading an article by Major J.W. Marshall, USA (Ret.). In it, he described a journey he took while stationed in China. One day, he and his Chinese driver were driving up a steep mountain on very rough roads. They had to cross over a river on a bridge built by coolie labor, using mountain rocks. On one side of the bridge entrance, there was a sign with Chinese characters. He asked the driver what the sign said. The driver replied that it asked travelers using the bridge to say a prayer for those who had died building it so that they

would have an easier journey. That sign stayed in his mind and had a profound influence on his life. He concluded the article as follows:

"In the homestretch of my pilgrimage of life, which has covered many trails in its search for meaning and truth, these conclusions have been arrived at: the best source of strength is faith; the best bond for human relations is love and friendship; and it is always good to give thanks. This boils down to having faith, hope, love, and thanking God."

On this Lord's Day, the air was fresh and pure following the welcome rain Saturday. Waters of the mighty Chowan lapped gently against the bulkhead, the bounty of God's handiwork was everywhere — just right to enter the church of your choice to have your spiritual batteries recharged.

The fine folk assembled at Bandon Chapel for Sunday School were warmly welcomed by Supt. Meta Mason. An enlightening lesson, "God Gives Jacob a

New Name", Gen. 32: 9-12, 22-30, was presented by Margaret Bunting. It was brought out that our problems and difficulties bring us closer to God and lead to a deepened understanding of our Heavenly Father.

Prayer List: When we pray, we ask that God's Will be done, for only He knows

what is best. Please add our friends to your prayer list. Joseph Harrell, Jr., brother of Mary Julia Parrish, was struck by lightning Monday. He's confined to Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City and needs prayer; Joe Harris, husband of Thelma Harris, is confined to Chesapeake General Hospital, Chesapeake, Va., where he is recuperating from surgery performed last week; please remember Samuel Oakes; Ella Powell; Lucille English; Len Koraska; A.J. Woolney; Mildred Carper; Elton Boswell; Robert Harvey and Jessie H. Davis. Add Tom Boals, Rt. 1, Chowan Beach; and Olga Kay, wife

of Arthur Kay. Pray for our Nation, its people, and that God will guide the decisions made by our leaders; remember our missionaries and our Pastor, Rev. Robert S. Harrell and his family.

"Happy Birthday" was sung by all in honor of Robert Cumbia. We wish him many more.

At our Worship Service, Bandon's Shepherd, Rev. Robert S. Harrell, brought a beautiful message entitled "Discipleship", based on Mark 8:31-38. Resume: We are all engaged in some kind of learning experience every day. The New Testament has a word for it — "Discipleship"...learning and maturing in our

Christian faith under the greatest teacher of all, Jesus Christ. "Disciple" means "Learner". Our Scripture emphasizes three points: 1) "If anyone would be My disciple, he must deny himself": Self denial means subordinating our selves to the full claims of Jesus Christ on our lives. 2) Cross bearing: Jesus was talking about accepting the consequences of obedience. At the time He was speaking, He was preparing to die on the cross for our sins. We must learn to depend on each other and accept discipline. 3) "If you be my disciple, follow me": Jesus is talking about loyalty. If your loyalty is half-hearted, you might as well stay on the other side of the

fence. Our society today places emphasis on freedom — "I will do my thing" or "I will live my life as I please". That would be O.K. if you were the only person in this world. But, sooner or later what I do will affect you and what you do will affect me. Some see being a Christian as taking all the joy out of life; however, the people

I've met who are the happiest in this life are those who have committed themselves to Jesus Christ and His way in their life. Try it — be a "learner"!

Miss Vicky Nelson played a flute solo as our Special Music, entitled "He Leadeth Me". It was beautiful — Vicky made that flute talk!

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