

# Reflections

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

NEWSLETTER DATE: OCTOBER 2022

## A newsletter for Hillview Baptist Church

Preachers should be careful what they say; someone in the congregation might be listening.

### Giving Thanks

By: Pastor Norm

#### Special points of interest:

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**L**iving, Loving, Reaching, Growing. These four words define the goals and values of Hillview Baptist Church. The ministries we engage and practice reflect these values in part or in whole. As we grow in our faith, and consequently as a church, we strive to ensure the influence of these four values in all that we do.

At this time of year, we think most readily upon Thanksgiving. The trees changing colour, the brisk morning air, the preparations for winter, are all things that remind us of the changing of seasons, all draw our attention to Autumn. And Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving is an element of worship established in the book of Leviticus and exemplified in the life of King David: "Then he appointed some of the Levites as ministers be-

fore the ark of the LORD, to invoke, to thank, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel." -- 1Chronicles 16.4. To thank. Thanking God is located between invoking the presence of God and praising God.

A thankful heart is a necessary dimension of the Christian life. In other words, living for Jesus means being thankful. The Bible reminds us: give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. -- 1Thessalonians 5.18. There are situations and scenarios in life which preclude thanksgiving, but even in our darkest hours there is still something to be grateful for.

Thank You,  
Thank You.



As we endeavor, individually and corporately, to live out the Gospel, may it be said of us that we are a thankful people. Personally, I am thankful for each of you. Everyone who makes Hillview the church that it is has made me a better pastor and a better follower of Christ. With gratitude, I leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul:

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ.

Philemon 1.4-6



Bill Watterson

## Serving from the Sofa?

By: Greg Beleslotis



As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it's important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can't serve

**"... TOO EASY  
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from your sofa. You can't have a community of faith on your sofa. You can't experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa. Christians aren't consum-

ers. We are contributors. We don't watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together. The church needs you. And you need the church. The above message has been circulating regularly throughout social media since late 2020 and I've seen it on my Facebook news feed more than once. Can we as Christians serve from the sofa? Or does this message just touch the surface of possibly greater issues at large? There are many different ways to approach this message but I'll just touch on a few.

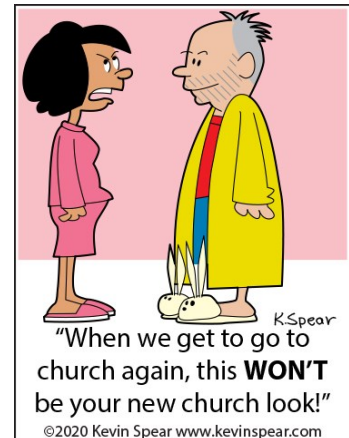
I, like many others, strongly value in-person community worship. However, as pointed out in my article from last month's newsletter, there are people

who are unable to be part of such worship due to their own personal circumstances. These circumstances may be infrequent or temporary while others can be prolonged and even permanent. In terms of

people in the second group, what adjustments can we as a church body make to accommodate them so they are not marginalized or forgotten? For the record, I think this church has made an effort into being inclusive of such people; more so than several other churches. The question remains, can we possibly do more?

The above message states that "We [as Christians] don't watch. We engage." I fully agree with the ideals of that statement while realizing that in-person church attendance doesn't always translate to engagement. Pre-covid studies show that many churches have been operating on the 80/20 rule for several years. Basically, this means that 80 percent of the church's work comes from about 20 percent of the congregation. It can be all too easy to fall into "spectator" or "consumer" mode when attending a worship service - whether in person or through livestream. Opportunities to engage, sacrifice and encourage exist in nearly every church, including ours, and a physical presence is not always required to partake in those opportunities. The problem often lies with the lack of volunteers more so than the opportunities. As our Lord said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

A final point worth noting is that North American church attendance was steadily declining well before covid and the massive livestream movement it prompted. This issue deserves an article all on its own. Maybe one day, I'll take up the challenge to write one. I recognize that the content shared within social media can encourage as well as inform followers of Christ. Some of that content however can be over generalized and possibly lead us to try fixing something that's less broken than we think. I don't have any perfect answers to resolve the issues I've brought up but having us talk about them and sharing ideas would be a major step forward.



## Christmas is Coming - Get Ready

By: Donalda Nelson



### Collection Sunday is November 13, 2022

### Samaritan's Purse

### Operation Christmas Child

#### "Pack a Shoebox Gift for a Child in Need"

To get started is so easy:

- Grab a brochure 'How to Pack a Shoebox'
- Pick up a box or two or three or more at the display in the church foyer.
- Take a free item from the laundry basket to help you get started.

Additional Information:

- The "How to Pack a Shoebox" has labels. The labels indicate boy or girl and age, and are applied to the box
- Also help yourself to a "Prayer Guide Bookmark" and pray for the ministry, the child and indeed the family that your gift will have a wonderful and positive impact throughout the community..
- Bring your gift to the church on, or before, November 13, 2022

- Any questions?

- Call Donalda Nelson at 780-440-6085

*(call after October 8 as Russ and Donalda are checking out Hurricane Fiona in Nova Scotia, who would have thought that this quiet couple are actually storm chasers. Ed.)*

## Recipe Corner



*Really, a tradition after just one newsletter - we got another recipe! A confused person plans to make butter tarts for our pie fellowship in October. Yvonne, you are making the wrong thing. Tarts are not pies. Just as hot dogs are not sandwiches. But she provided the recipe and said "it's so simple" even you (referring to me, the editor) could make them. Yvonne has a tendency to always over-estimate my abilities. ed*

### Yvonne's Butter Tarts

Mix 1/3 cup melted butter, 1 cup brown sugar, then add 2 tablespoons of milk.

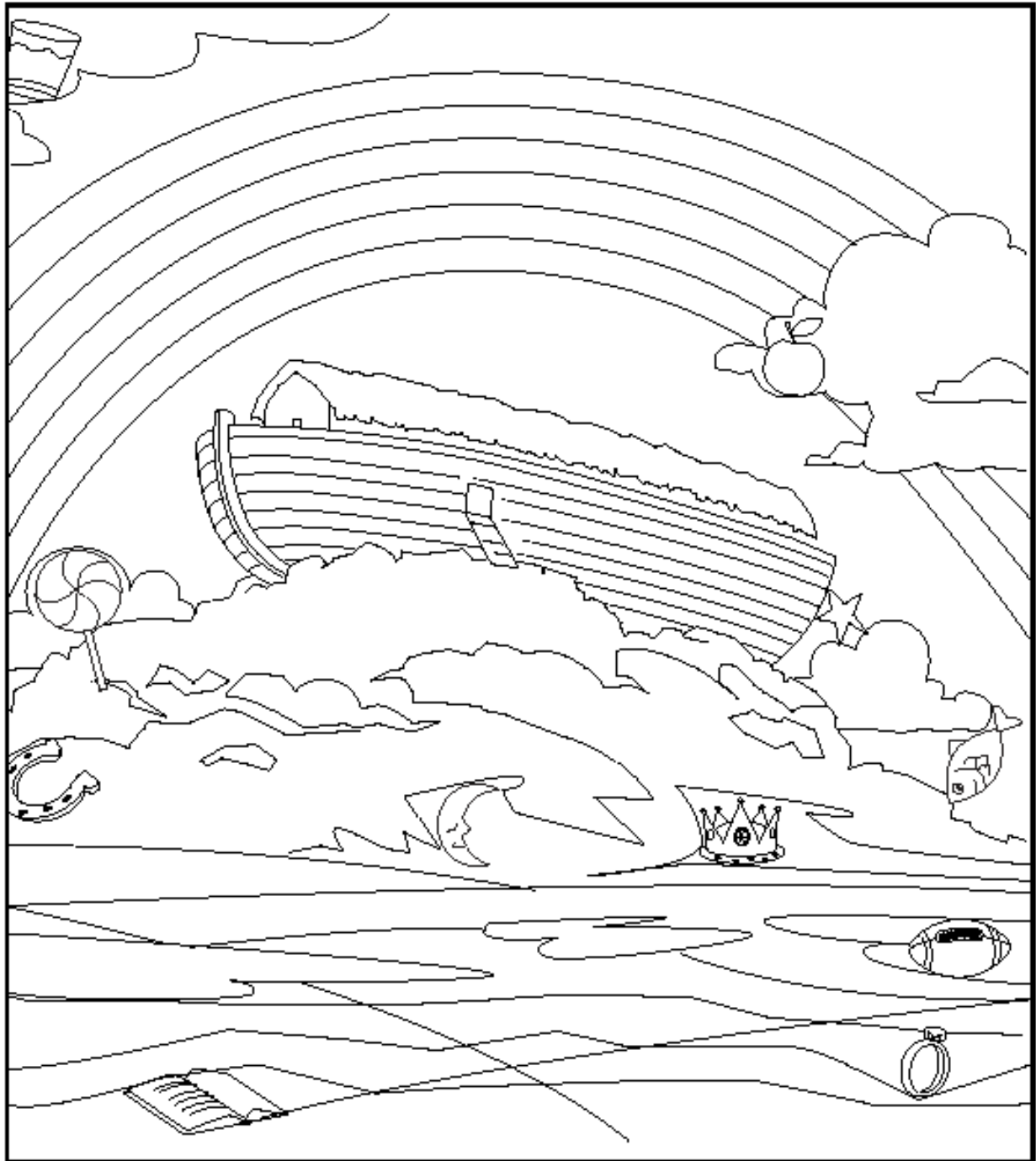
Beat an egg, add to mixture along with 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Add 3/4 cup raisins.

Fills 15 tart shells. Bake on cookie sheet for 8 min at 450, then another 8 at 350 (or until set).

# Hidden Pictures: God Made a Promise to Noah

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: apple, book, crown, football, fish, glass of water, horseshoe, lollipop, moon, ring, star.



## Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I was looking at Donalda's Christmas Shoebox display in the foyer and it got me to thinking about Christmas and giving of gifts. It is amazing how a simple gift of a shoebox and the small items within can make such an impact, but when you've heard some of the stories and seen the clips of children receiving them, it seems like it does. To give a child who has so little, to even bring a smile to their face in that

simple gift, what a blessing it can be for us as well who perhaps have far too much.

Ultimately though, the greatest gift they can receive is a chance to learn about the ultimate gift giver, the one who loves them without end, our Saviour Jesus. The partnership of the shoebox outreach with the local churches in the area help these little ones come to know and accept Christ in their lives.

I've helped organize the shoeboxes at Hillview for a couple of years, but I've been putting together shoeboxes to send for a number of years. I've even had the privilege once to volunteer at one of the sorting facilities that help prep then for shipping. I've known a number people who also do so, every year, some that can only send one box and some who send many.

Whether on your own, with family, friends or a group, it can be so much fun to collect and package these items, to be praying for and imagining the joy it may bring for a young boy or girl across the world, to be even a small part of furthering God's kingdom around the world and sharing the truth of the gospel.

Laura-Megan Ippolito

Dear Editor,

Just wanted to tell you what a great job you have done with September's newsletter. I once edited a newsletter and know how much work is involved. Good job!

Mary Anne Dietrich

*(Mary Anne, thanks for the encouragement, but truly it was the people that wrote the stories. They deserve the credit. It is the stories that make the newsletter work.)*



## Pumpkin Party - a different fellowship activity



The Church's hospitality committee tries to have a social activity almost every month. Everyone is always invited to visit and maybe even have some fun and unexpected frivolity. This month we will be mutilating some innocent pumpkins. You are never too old or too cool NOT to carve a

pumpkin. But if necessary, bring a grandchild or borrow some neighbourhood children.

Required equipment:

- ◆ A pumpkin or 2 or 3
- ◆ Tools and/or paint
- ◆ and of course - sustenance for after all the work

*I was going to list all the people on the hospitality committee as part of the Pumpkin Story, but there are 4 teams totaling 30 people. A list of names that long would just remind everyone of Genesis 36 10-29. But surely it is actually a positive, so many people working together to accomplish something wonderful. ed*



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Living, Loving  
Reaching, Growing



## THE LAST THANKSGIVING



Roz Chast - New Yorker Cartoons

**Oct. 9:** Thanksgiving Sunday - no coffee time. Plan to surprise someone and invite them for lunch. Just warn them that it is liver and onions.

**Oct. 16:** Potluck Sunday! Last names starting with A-G please bring a large dessert to share. Last names starting with H-Z please bring sandwiches. Many (ie me) were looking forward to Joy's black forest cake, but unfortunately H is sandwiches. If we are blessed she may decide to revert back to being an Anderson.

**Oct. 28:** Carving pumpkins (see page 5)

WEBSITE:  
HILLVIEWCHURCH.CA

## Editorial Comment - a thanksgiving to all

By: Bill Holmes



Picture by Katarina Bleick

During the summer I frequently pause and take a look at the flower bed in the south east corner of the church. I enjoy observing the different plants as colours change. I know Sybil McCallum loves tending

this flowerbed, because I have seen her do it. Even in the hottest summer day, she was here ensuring the survival of the plants. I am sure there are others involved maintaining this pretty addition to our church.

It also causes me to want to thank all the other anonymous people that are involved in making our church work. I have heard of the following - There is someone who puts out the boxes for the Mustard Seed and welcome centre donations just before Christmas.

Joanne is the lead in decorating the sanctuary for special holidays /seasons – although she won't admit it. Others come alongside her to assist. Wayne maintains the pew cards/Bibles/pencils. Howard updates the outdoor sign board. The trustees are great with taking care of grass cutting and snow removal – especially Larry when he comes with his bobcat. However, it must be noted that driving a bobcat is not work, it is the ultimate fun machine.

There are many people who help behind the scenes, expect no real thanks or recognition, and yet are so important to our church.

**So, this thank you is for you.**

**You are appreciated.**