Happy THANKSGIVING

McKinney UMC Good News Journal November 2016

Give Thanks

SONG & MUSIC WRITER: Henry Smith

WHEN WRITTEN: 1978

HYMN HISTORY: This became one of worship leader Don Moen's most famous songs, however, it was not written by him. Following the introduction of the song during a worship service at the Williamsburg New Testament Church in Virginia in 1978, a military couple reintroduced it to a congregation in Germany. The song eventually caught the attention of executives at Integrity Music. When Integrity's Hosanna! Music copyrighted the song in 1986, the author was unknown. After the Give Thanks album was released, the song was brought to the attention of original writer Henry Smith, who contacted Integrity with authorship information. Integrity later included songwriting credits on all subsequent releases, along with a writer-publisher agreement. As of 2010, the song has been recorded by over 50 companies and published in songbooks around the world.

"Give Thanks" is one of Don Moen's more recognizable songs, having been translated into various other languages, including Russian, Afrikaans, and Swedish. As of August 2011, the song is one of the Top 100 CCLI Songs reported by SongSelect, which provides online access of worship song lyrics, sound samples and download of lead sheets, chord sheets, and SATB hymn sheets. It is listed as the #1 top Songs With The Greatest Gain. The song also been included in 11 known hymn books.

BIBLE VERSE: The phrase "give thanks" is used 59 times in the KJV of the Bible.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 – "But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth."

"Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks unto the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son".

The Festival of Christ the King "is both the Last Sunday After Pentecost and the last Sunday of the Christian Year. It is not so much a climax of itself however, as it is a transitional Sunday leading directly to Advent, the Christmas cycle, and the new Christian Year. People are already thinking about Christmas, and the observance of Christ the King can help them prepare by stressing the continuity between the celebration of kingship, or sovereignty, of Christ and the expectation of Christ's coming again in sovereign glory which opens the Advent Season. We have more than a baby Jesus at Christmas; we have a sovereign Christ. 'Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King.'

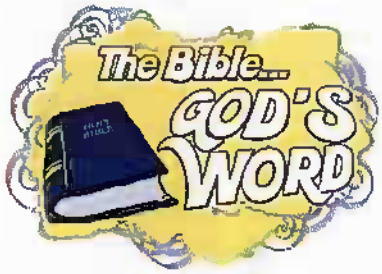
According to our Book of Worship (page 419), traditionally Christ the King is set aside as a celebration of the coming reign of Jesus Christ and the completion of creation.

"In preparing for the celebration of Christ the King it is important to study the Scripture readings. Within a given year there will be the prefiguration of Christ's rule in the Old Testament, a particularly unfolding of the meaning of the messianic age in the Epistle and a portrayal of the paradox: Servant/King from the Gospel.

"White is the customary color for this day. Gold is also appropriate; even a little purple may be introduced, as the color of royalty and in anticipation of the coming transition into Advent. Symbols of royalty may be used—crown, orb, scepter—especially when they contain, or are combined with, a cross. Images of Christ as Pantocrator (ruler of all) are appropriate." (from UMC Discipleship)

November in the UMC

All Month Native American Heritage Month (USA)
November 13 Organ and Tissue Donor Sunday (USA) / International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church / Extended Advent Begins
November 20 Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday / Bible Sunday
November 24 Thanksgiving Day (USA)
November 27 Advent 1, Year A / United Methodist Student Day What is Bible Engagement?



Bible Sunday, for centuries, the Bible has been changing lives. Bible Sunday is a day on which churches celebrate the continuing impact the Bible has on individuals and communities throughout the world.

Celebrated on the Sunday before American Thanksgiving, was founded in 1915 by the American Bible Society. It's a celebration that focuses on the place of the Scriptures in our daily lives; it's also a time to support Bible distribution efforts all over the world.

The Bible tells us that "The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword. It cuts all the way through, to where soul and spirit meet, to where joints and marrow come together. It judges the desires and thoughts of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 (GNT) The Bible is where we learn to hear God's voice.

Bible engagement is a way of meaningfully interacting with the Scriptures to learn what God is saying to us through his Word. While there are many ways to engage the Bible, here's an easy-to-follow approach for this journey:

4 Easy Steps

1. Pray with focus and openness to see what God has for you. God, connect with me here, as I seek you in your Word.
2. Read the selected selection of Scripture slowly. Take note of intriguing words and phrases. Read them a second time.
3. Reflect on what strikes you as you read. Think through what God is communicating to you at this point in your life.
4. Respond to the passage. Speak to God directly about what's on your mind and heart. Look for ways to live out what you've uncovered. (American Bible Society)

General prayer suggestions for Bible Sunday:

Pray for Bible translators and translation projects.
Pray for teachers of Scripture (pastors, Sunday school teachers, etc.).
Pray for those who don't have the Bible in their own language.
Pray that God will speak to people as they read the Bible.

Choosing Commentaries and Dictionaries

SATAN'S PLAN AGAINST US

Doubt . . . . . Makes you question God's Word and his goodness
Discouragement. . . Makes you look at your problems rather than at God
Diversion . . . . . Makes the wrong things seem attractive so that you will want them more than the right things
Defeat . . . . . Makes you feel like a failure so that you don't even try
Delay . . . . . Makes you put off doing something so that it never gets done

If you are serious about reading the Bible, we also suggest you consider getting a Bible dictionary and a one volume commentary and perhaps a concordance.

A Bible dictionary is just what you think it is, a place to look up words you find in the Bible. You can look up "David", or "Galilee" or anything you want more information about.

A Bible commentary will give you information about each book of the Bible. Typically, the article will discuss dating, authorship, the organization of the book and its main points and ideas. You do need to consider who the authors of the dictionary and commentary articles are, because their theological perspectives will obviously influence their articles.

A *concordance* is like an index to the Bible. They tell you all the places a certain work is found. Often Bibles come with a concordance, although these often do not tell you every single place a word is used. A concordance must match the translation you are using. If you use the NRSV you need a NRSV concordance.

You can also get commentaries that cover each book of the Bible. Often these are part of a commentary series. The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary, Interpretation, Anchor Bible Commentary, are a few to look at. There are many, many others, too many to cover here. Typically, you will want to purchase a certain volume because of who the author is, rather than an entire set.

There are many, many on-line commentaries and dictionaries available. However, they are older and on-line because they are in the public domain. Biblical scholarship has advanced tremendously in the past several decades. We know and understand much, much more about Biblical texts now. As a rule of thumb, you are better off with a newer commentary.

Christian education? What's that?

What images come to mind when you hear the words Christian education? Are your first thoughts of children in classrooms studying the Bible? For many of us the Sunday school is the primary place that we think of when we consider what it means to provide Christian education. But exactly what is it that happens in a Sunday school class that enables Christian education and formation to take place?

Christian education happens when people...

- **Learn the Bible.** People learn about God's love as they hear the stories of the Bible. In surveys that ask the question, "What is the most important thing children learn in Sunday school?" the answer is most often "the Bible." It is in Christian education settings that children learn the stories of the people of God and become familiar with God's teachings through their study of the Bible. It is in Sunday school that children develop a Christian understanding of the purposes of Scripture, and it is through their experiences in Sunday school that they learn to recognize God's call to them through the stories of the Bible as well as through the lives of the Christians who surround them.
- **Accept God's Grace.** Knowing the Bible is not enough. In fact, many people who are not Christians know more about the Bible than many of us who are Christians. Knowledge of the Bible doesn't create Christians. The belief that the words of the Bible are God's message to us is what impels a person to become a Christian. It is the recognition that God's love shown through Jesus Christ is real. It is the acceptance of God's saving grace offered through Jesus Christ as a special gift that enables one to become the person God created him or her to be.
- **Grow in Christian Faith.** Christian faith becomes a reality when the stories of the Bible and our personal experiences of God's love and grace inspire us to love God and to trust God's guidance. As we make decisions about living our lives each day, Christians want to learn more about Jesus' teachings. Christians want to discover the gifts of God that come through the Holy Spirit. Christians want to turn their full attention to learning more about what it means to live as a person of faith. Christians are not satisfied simply to know the Bible and to believe in God; Christians want to grow in their understanding of God's purposes. Christians want their relationship with God to grow deeper day by day and year by year.

- **Become Part of a Christian Community**. Christians recognize that the ability to grow in relationship to God is possible only in fellowship with other Christians. Although Christians value time alone in prayer and communion with God, Christians also welcome times to praise God and give thanks for God's gracious love and care in worship and prayer with one another. Through the bond of Christian relationship that develops, Christians strengthen one another so that they are enabled to carry their experience of God's presence and love into the activities of their everyday lives.
- **Answer God's Call to Christian Living**. Living a Christian life does not come automatically. It comes through study, worship, and learning together. Sunday school is a beginning for children and youth. Sunday school, as well as many other settings for Christian formation, is essential for adults! When people learn to follow the example of Jesus Christ, they become Christian examples, revealing the love of God through their own actions at home, at work, at play, at church, or anywhere they may be. A yearning to follow the example of Jesus leads Christians to recognize the needs of others and to seek ways to serve in God's name. Through Christian education activities at church, individuals and families find ways to serve God by serving others.

Christian education does not happen quickly. Christian education is not something we do once as children—then when we get older, we've simply got it. No, Christian education is a lifelong process of learning, believing, growing, and serving. Christian education is a never-ending process that is enabled in Christian community, as Christians continue to study, worship, fellowship, and serve together.

The lessons of Christian education make it possible for us to practice love and to live as children of God. How well we—children, youth, or adults—learn those lessons day by day will determine what kind of church we are Sunday by Sunday.

Christian education is a sacred responsibility. To give Christian education less than our best would be unfaithful to the life God has called us to live and to the world God has called us to serve. If there is ever a generation somewhere, sometime, that does not know the power of God's love, it will be because some generation did not continue to teach and learn. This article was reprinted with permission of Cokesbury.

Wait for COMFORT IN SORROW: Psalm 27:13-14: "I believe I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be strong, and may your heart be stout; wait on the Lord.

This may be a time of sadness and sorrow. Grief may become your companion for a little while but remember Jesus was the man of sorrows, and he was acquainted with grief so he understands. Our God is " The God of mercies," and "the God of all comfort." He comforts those who are sad and filled with grief. Wait, therefore, on the Lord, even though our sadness and grief may feel over whelming now he shall comfort you. but remember that the Lord says– "I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you, that you should be afraid?" "As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you, and you shall be comforted." God has promised to give you everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace. Your weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. Wait, therefore, on God, and he will comfort you. Wait on the Lord, PRAYING. Wait on the Lord, BELIEVING. Wait on God with perseverance.

Wait on the Lord in HOPE. (from gracegems.org)

2016 Advent and Christmas Seasons

McKinney Memorial UMC

Celebrates the Birth of our Savior

Advent Bible Studies Each Sunday Morning at 9:15 am

Christmas, The Good, Bad and The Ugly

In this four-week Advent study, author Richard B. Wilke focuses on people in the story of Christ's birth. There are those we associate with the joy and celebration of Christmas—the wise men, the shepherds, and Joseph. Yet the author reminds us not to forget that the evil King Herod is also part of the Christmas story, and how it is because there is evil in our world that we so desperately needed—and need—a Savior.

The Twelve Voices of Christmas Dec. 14th at 7:00 pm

Celebrate the Christmas Season with the Disciple Bible Study Classes

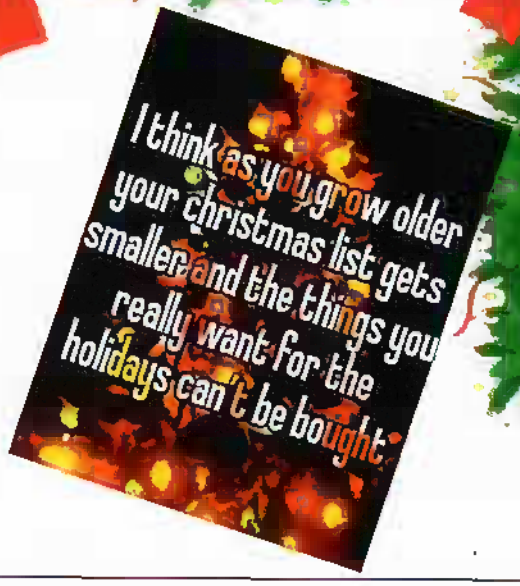
Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion Service Dec.24th at 6:00 pm

A candlelight service is a spiritual or memorial gathering that takes place in the evening or night time and is illuminated by candles. Why do people celebrate Christmas Eve? Christmas Eve is celebrated around the world as it is believed that Jesus was born late that night. Although the exact time of his birth is not known, the first celebration of Christmas occurred at midnight on December 25.

Christmas Morning Worship Service

December 25th at 9:00 am

The Christmas season is full of excitement, anticipation, and busyness. Make this Advent & Christmas season a priority for you and your family. Mark your calendars. Come and participate with us as we celebrate this glorious season.



Lena Perryman Christmas Extravaganza December 13th at 10:00 am

McKinney Angel Tree Reception December 17th at 1:00 pm

McKinney Annual Christmas Program December 18th at 10:30 am

Journey Through Grief Ministry

There is help to cope with the Holiday Season.

Join us on December 18th at 4:00 pm

It hurts to loose someone you love. Scripture says that encouraging each other is a work that honors God and results in strengthened confidence in him.

The Grief Ministry wants you to know your grief matters to God and also to us. Our hope is that those who grieve find comfort and joy in God's word and His promise the "He will never leave nor forsake you."

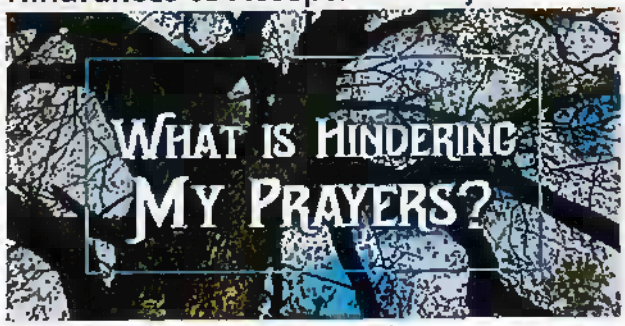
We invite all to join us at our Praise and Worship through Song program in remembrance of our loved ones as we journey through grief. Those interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact Brenda Mathews at (409) 256-1426.

Don't Stay Away from Church . . .

Barnes' Bible Charts

• Because you are poor . . . There is no admission charge.
• Because you are rich . . . Money is not everything.
• Because it rains . . . You go to work and school in the rain.
• Because it is cold . . . It is warm and friendly inside.
• Because it is hot. So are fishing, attending ball games, and golfing.
• Because no one invited you . . . People go to a lot of places uninvited, and even pay to get in. (Consider this your invitation!)
• Because of hypocrites . . . We associate with them in the world every day.
• Because of company . . . Bring them along; they will admire you.
• Because you have little children . . . Jesus says, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me" (Matthew 19:14).
• Because your clothes are not nice enough . . . God looks on the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).
• Because the church always wants money . . . That is not true here.
• Because you have plenty of time in the future . . . . . Are you sure? James 4:13-17

Hindrances to Acceptable Prayer



By allowing sin to remain in the heart
• Isaiah 59:2
By refusing to hear and obey God
• Proverbs 28:9
By praying from selfish motives
• James 4:3
By having idols in the heart
• Ezekiel 14:1-5
By maintaining the wrong attitude toward one's companion
• 1 Peter 3:7
By harboring a grudge
• Matthew 6:14-15
By stopping out ears to the cries of the poor
• Proverbs 21:13
By doubting whether God will answer
• James 1:5-8
"That your prayers be not hindered"
1 Peter 3:7

Prioritizing God:

" All attachments are not divine assignments" – the attachment will disrupt assignment. Evangelist Joyce Rogers

Benefits of Keeping God First
"As we live to please God, He promises to bless our lives and make us prosper.

When you decide to serve God with your whole heart and make Him first in your life, your soul will prosper and your joy and peace will increase. Remember to lean on Him more than anything else, and tell Him, "God, I want to do this, but I can't do it without You." He doesn't expect you to live for Him in your own strength or ability, and He understands when you make mistakes.

So if you mess up, don't be discouraged and let it hold you back; confess it and keep going. God will give you grace to do what you need to do. One day at a time you and God together can do anything!' Taken from Joyce' Meyers' book, Making Good Habits, Breaking Bad Habits Action Plan.

Do you come to church to be entertained or to be changed?

Biblical Facts Concerning the Home

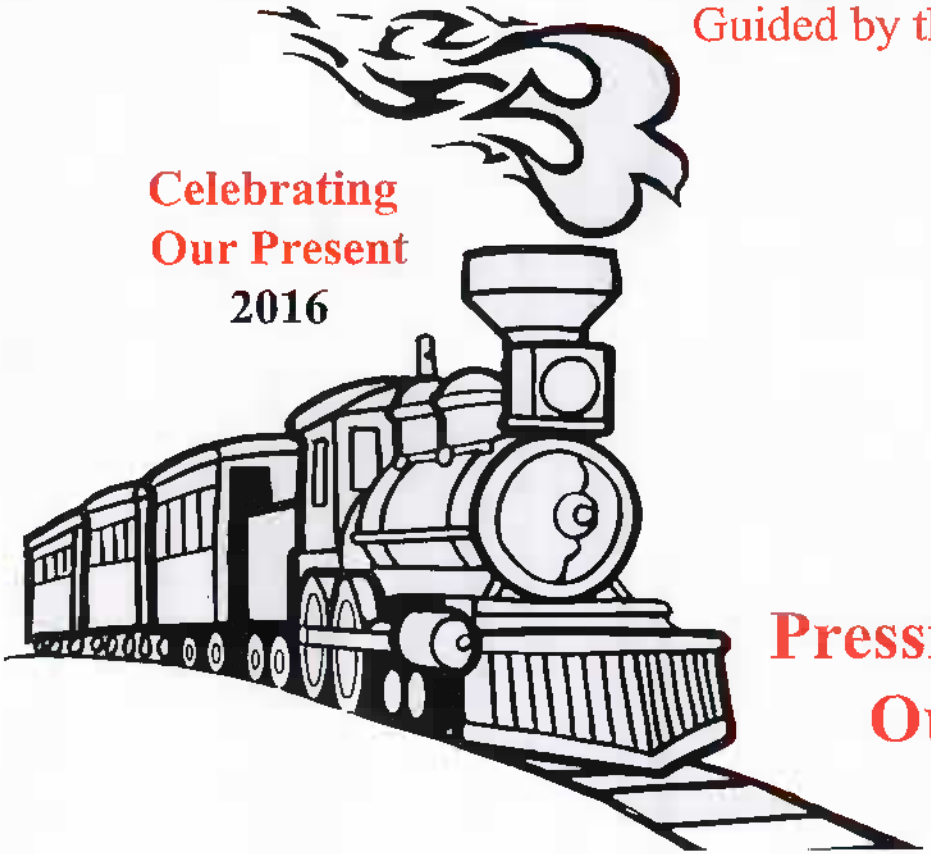
1. The home is the oldest institution on the earth.
2. The concept of home and family originated in the mind of God.
3. The husband was created first. Genesis 2:7 1 Timothy 2:13
4. God observed that it was not good for man to be alone. Genesis 2:18
5. None of the lower creation was found suitable. Genesis 2:20
6. From a rib in Adam's side God created the first woman and brought her unto the man. Genesis 2:23 1 Corinthians 11:8-9
7. God joined them together to become one flesh. Genesis 2:24 Mark 10:6-9
8. The husband is the head of the wife. Genesis 3:16 Ephesians 5:23 1 Corinthians 11:3
9. Marriage is a permanent union until death. Romans 7:2
10. Marriage and the home is the context in which children are born into the world. Genesis 1:27-28 1 Timothy 5:14
11. Marriage is the only scriptural outlet for sexual activity. Hebrews 12:4
12. The home is guided by specific laws of right and wrong . . . Absolutes.
13. The husband:
    - Is head of the family. Ephesians 5:23
    - Is to love his wife. Ephesians 5:28, 28
    - Is to provide for his family. 1 Timothy 5:8
14. The wife:
    - Is to love her husband. Titus 2:4
    - Is to obey her husband. Titus 2:5
    - Is to be in subjection to her own husband. 1 Peter 3:1; Ephesians 5:22
    - Is to be the keeper of the home. Titus 2:5
15. Children:
    - Are to obey and honor their parents. Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20
    - Are to provide care for their parents when they are old. Proverbs 23:22
16. Parents:
    - Are to love their children, and teach their children. Ephesians 6:4
    - Are to pray for their children. 1 Chronicles 29:19
17. Divorce:
    - There is only one Biblical ground for divorce Sexual Unfaithfulness, Adultery Matt. 19:9; 5:32
    - Moses, under pressure from this peers, authorized divorce . . . But without the approval of God. Matthew 19:8
18. Every person should have three homes:
    - A scriptural earthly home and family.
    - A sound and faithful congregational home.
    - An eternal home with God in Heaven.

McKinney Memorial UMC Centennial Anniversary

Guided by the Holy Spirit

Honoring Our Past

Celebrating
Our Present
2016



Pressing Towards
Our Future

Marcus Mathews 8/16

Centennial Theme

"Honoring Our Past, Celebrating Our Present, Pressing Toward Our Future; Guided By the Holy Spirit"

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:14 (NIV)

Written by Geraldine Carroll

1. **Honoring Our Past**. We have an honorable and historical past here at McKinney, 97 years of service as a beacon of hope in this community. We should honor our past with all of its achievements and victories. The evil one wants us to focus on how far we have fallen rather than how far we have risen, focus on our past instead of our future, how many times we failed, rather than how many times we succeeded.
2. **Celebrating Our Present**. God wants us to be grateful for what He has done for us, to celebrate how far He has brought us and how much He has blessed us. He wants us to focus on our strengths not our weaknesses, our victories, not our losses, our joys, not our sorrows.
3. **Pressing Toward Our Future**. Church, we must be future oriented in order to survive in the 21st century. Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:14 tells us that God wants us to press forward and respond to His upward call and forget what lies behind us, to focus on and magnify the works of the Lord, trust Him to provide and sustain us as we move ahead and look to the future with hope in obedience to His commands and His will for our church, keeping our eyes fixed and focused on the goal to "go and make disciples" for Him. Some of us got tired and discouraged along the way, went into self-imposed exile; stopped participating, attending church, tithing, stopped utilizing our talents and spiritual gifts. God understands; that's why He sent Jesus. Now we must get back on the train. When I look at this illustration, I see endless possibilities for God: pastoral sermons, ministries to help the poor, the lost, the least, the last, and the forgotten. We press on, as we press onward to our centennial and beyond, we must be strong and courageous, pray; keep the faith, for we've come this far by faith leaning and depending on Him. He, through the Holy Spirit and his mighty power, will guide us, strengthen us, deliver and help us reach our destiny and ultimately claim the victory in name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Beatitudes for Couples

- ✓ Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate, and loving after the wedding bells have ceased ringing.
- ✓ Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends.
- ✓ Blessed are they who have a sense of humor, for this attitude will be a handy shock absorber.
- ✓ Blessed are the married couples who abstain from alcoholic drink.
- ✓ Blessed are they who love their mates more than any other person.
- ✓ Blessed are they who thank God for their food before eating it.
- ✓ Blessed are they who attain parenthood, for children are a heritage of the Lord.
- ✓ Blessed are those mates who never speak loudly to each other and who make their home a palace "where seldom is heard a discouraging word."
- ✓ Blessed are they who faithfully attend worship services together
- ✓ Blessed are they who can work out their problems of adjustment without interference from relatives.
- ✓ Blessed is the husband and wife who can keep themselves solely for each other.
- ✓ Blessed are the husband and wife who humbly dedicate themselves and their home to Christ, and practice the teachings of Christ in their home by being unselfish, loyal, and loving.
- ✓ Blessed are they who help each other reach Heaven.
- ✓ Blessed are they who conduct devotionals in their home.
- ✓ Blessed is the couple whose home is a refuge from the storms of life.
- ✓ Blessed is the couple whose first responsibility is to God.
- ✓ Blessed is the couple whose home is exemplary to all others,
- ✓ Blessed is the couple whose marriage lasts until death.

It is Good to know!

- ❖ That God's Word is True (John 17:17)
- ❖ That God Never Changes (James 1:17)
- ❖ That Christ's Blood has Not Lost its Power (Revelation 1:5)
- ❖ That We Have an Eternal Covenant (Hebrews 13:20)
- ❖ That God is Still in Control (Acts 17:20-31)
- ❖ That there is Life After Death (John 5:24-25) That God Loves Me (John 3:16)
- ❖ I Can Conquer through Christ (Romans 8:1)
- ❖ God Still Answers Prayer
- ❖ That the Gospel is Powerful to Save (Romans

Approaches to Resolving Conflict

- ✓ GIVE UP - Use only as temporary solution to diffuse the situation, otherwise giving up will stifle the relationship
- ✓ WIN - Remember that personal relationships in marriage and family are just as important (if not more important) than achieving the goal. You can win an argument and still be the loser.
- ✓ GIVE IN
  The right motive, but it fails to resolve anything and "sets" the relationship for long term difficulties
- ✓ COMPROMISE -Occasionally may be the best ways (areas of preferences), but—compromise at the expense of truth and right is always wrong.
- ✓ RESOLVE - Always the best way because it solves problems and resolves conflicts, while maintaining a strong mutual relationship.

McKinney United Methodist Church * www.mckinneyumc.net

Rev. Carlos Phillips, Senior Pastor * Rev. Vickie Keys Associate Pastor