

DOLGEVILLE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Newsletter
November 2011



Beloved Saints:

It is certainly appropriate to address you as saints, which is what the people of God are. November 1st is All Saints Day. We have Father's Day, Mother's Day, and other holidays. All Saints Day-- Hey! This is our holiday, even though it has been lost in the deviltries of halloween. All hallow's eve was set aside to give thanks and remember loved ones who had died during the year. How quickly this turned to ghosts and goblins. The Lord instructed His people, His saints to not learn the ways of the nations. So let us get back on track being who we are, the saints of God, being a thankful people.

November sees the ending of one year and the beginning of another. We note the last weeks of the season of Pentecost. The new year begins with the first Sunday of Advent, which this year is November 27th. Our theme for Advent this year is HOLY ANTICIPATION. Pamela Hawkins writes, "Prepared or not, we are signed up for the Thanksgiving to Christmas marathon and will be hurtling toward the finish line." Do you feel like catching your breath already? There is an alternative and we want to investigate that during the season of advent. Advent is the season of waiting, and most of us are not good at waiting, so we will meditate on our theme of HOLY ANTICIPATION. Let us be anticipating November 27th.

Another November date is Veterans' Day. Let us be certain that we express our gratitude to God for our military personnel. We pay little attention to them unless they do something either real good or real bad. Let us regard our military with honor and respect.

Still another November event is the end of daylight saving time. This inconvenience imposed upon us ends November 6th. Be certain to adjust your clocks properly. We want to be on time for the Sunday service as Maria Scates comes to share with us. We will have opportunity to fellowship with her and the ministry during the fellowship dinner.

The big November event of course is Thanksgiving. I love Thanksgiving. It is the only Biblically mandated holiday. What a wonderful time to get together with family and other friends to celebrate and give thanks. The giving of thanks is a very important Biblical concept. When people were thankful, life was especially good, but in times of forgetfulness and ingratitude there was a descent into perversions of various sorts. We don't want to go there! The last couple of years Sandy and I have spent at the Utica Rescue Mission helping with serving the Thanksgiving Dinner there. It has been a wonderful experience, and we will probably do this again this year. Whatever you do at Thanksgiving, do so with joyful hearts. DCF is host again this year to the Dolgeville Community Thanksgiving Service, Sunday evening, November 20th at 7 pm. Let's celebrate joyfully together with our community.

Remember with gratitude who you are, beloved saints of God, and beloved to me as well.

Martin J. Freeman



Once again, we will be collecting money for Mindy Juliano and her mission work in Ghana. Each family is encouraged to collect change until the end of December for Mindy in Ghana. Be sure to pick up your "change jar". When your jar is full and/or at the end of December, bring it in and add it to the large jar that will be available at church.

The Rev. Dr. Maria A. Scates will be doing the Church Service at DCF on Sunday, November 6, 2011.

In 1995, Johnson Park Center (JPC) founder, the Rev. Dr. Maria A. Scates, came to Utica and went to the worst area in the inner city called Cornhill. It was known for drugs, crime, violence, gangs, murder and full of trash, garbage and debris. Through vision, dedication, commitment, hard work and with the community development strategies anchored to affordable low-income safe and supportive housing, they caused the revitalization of the Johnson Park-Cornhill Community. JPC is located in the Johnson Park Cornhill community in the inner city of Utica. Today, Johnson Park is beautiful, clean, safe and a place where the homeless, the poor and needy can come and get help.

Thanksgiving Community Service

Where: Dolgeville Christian Fellowship

When: Sunday, November 20, 2011

Time: 7:00 p.m.

The Rev. Roger Waldron of the Salisbury & Stratford United Methodist Churches will be delivering the message.

Intercessory Prayer

When: Tuesday's

Time: 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: DCF



Bible Study

When: Tuesday's

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Pastor Marvin & Sandy Isum's home

Dolgeville Food Pantry

The Dolgeville Food Pantry will be distributing Thanksgiving holiday baskets on November 22nd. There will be no Christmas baskets, as the funding has been cut and the money they have will be going towards normal food distribution.

Please help offset the cost by donating food items from the following list:

Pudding mix-- Scalloped potato mix--Canned gravy or dry mix--Instant potatoes-- Jell-O--Canned fruit-- Canned vegetables--Stuffing mix

If you would like to donate a 10 pound turkey or money marked for the purchase of one, you may do so. All monetary donations will be used to purchase meat. Checks may be made payable to the Dolgeville Food Pantry with the notation "Holiday basket" and sent to: Mrs. Edythe Darling, 464 Shedd Rd., Dolgeville, NY 13329.

The food pantry usage has risen this year-3.5% increase (January 2011 thru August 2011) in clients and a 9% increase in distributed meals.



Picture taken by Debbie Hess on a sight-seeing trip to Speculator.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

Any upcoming events, meetings, activities, stories, pictures, poems, or testimonies for the newsletter, please submit by e-mail to Pastor Marvin at nanowetea@msn.com or Irene Tooly at iltooly21@hotmail.com or leave in the "Newsletter Basket". Deadline for the December newsletter is Sunday, December 11 for distribution the following Sunday, December 18.



Daniel Haas, son of Dr. Douglas & Linda Haas and Jennifer Keiper, daughter of James & Deborah Keiper will be united in marriage on Saturday, November 12th, 2011 at the First Baptist Church in Little Falls, NY.

DCF Ladies' Meeting

Ten ladies met on Saturday, October 15 at 9:30 a.m. They started out with a song session with Debbie Hess at the piano. After this, they went into the cozy "sitting room" for a very interesting message given by Linda Haas on "Spiritual Insights of the Wedding Ceremony". It ended with delicious food with great conversation and much laughter.

The next meeting will be Saturday, November 19 at 9:30 a. m. with Debbie Hess as the speaker.

10.2.11

Note from Clara Calabrese

Dear D.C.F. Family,

We love and miss you all! Can't wait to see you again! Thank you for all your encouragement→in letters, phone calls, e-mails and facebook. We are doing well...adjusting to baby #4 who we named Christopher, Jr. We are balancing all our responsibilities...work, home life, soccer, school, church, coaching (etc...) the list goes on so...here is my quick note to give you the update on us. We are doing our best to stay connected to the Body of Christ... (to Please God!) Live Right! Raise our children and keep our marriage (Alive) Wow! We could not do it without our Father God! He gives us peace. Thank you for your love/prayers and your continued friendship! We are almost finished with our 4-bedroom addition...and we are thankful we owe nothing on it because we believe in not owing or having debt, so we saved up! Chris is doing well with increasing the business, God has blessed us. I am fine...will be better soon. Pray for my (emotions)!...taking care of baby/kids, (home) and home schooling. May God Bless & keep you! Love, Clara

THANKSGIVING WEATHER FORECAST

In the pre-thanksgiving rush, we have received an early weather report from our in-house weather reporter.

Turkeys will thaw in the morning, then warm in the oven to an afternoon high near 190F. The kitchen will turn hot and humid and if you bother the cook, be ready for a severe squall or cold shoulder.

During the late afternoon and evening, the cold front of a knife will slice through the turkey, causing an accumulation of one to two inches on plates. Mashed potatoes will drift across one side while cranberry sauce creates slippery spots on the other.

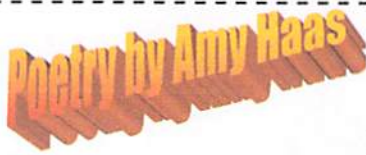
A weight watch and indigestion warning have been issued for the entire area, with increased stuffiness around the beltway. During the evening, the turkey will diminish and taper off to leftovers, dropping to a low of 34F in the refrigerator.

Looking ahead to Friday and Saturday, high pressure to eat sandwiches will be established. Flurries of leftovers can be expected both days with a 50 percent chance of scattered soup late in the day. We expect a warming trend where soup develops.

By early next week, eating pressure will be low as the only wish left will be the bone!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Submitted by Wendy Polivka



The Smallest Seed of Faith

By Amy Haas

June 12, 2003

Matt. 17:20

Mountains rise before my path, giants strong and tall
They have stood before me long; will they ever fall?
Craggy peaks block out the light, hindering my view
Pass or break I cannot see in which I might tread through
Mountains strong of fear and doubt paralyze my feet
Sentinels, they guard my path; I fall in shamed defeat
My pilgrimage is halted, for I cannot walk the way
Leading to my Lord and King; the mountains firmly stay
I cannot stop and turn around, retracing all my steps
Behind me many mountains stand of pride and selfishness
A man-made pass in them is seen, if I should ever choose
But I have glimpsed my God and King, and Him I cannot lose
I face the mountains once again and make a feeble try
To climb the rocky barricade, but, no, it is too high.

But Lord, you said if I have faith as mustard seeds so small
I can say to mountains, "Move!" and from their place they'll fall
Increase my faith, oh God, I pray, increase it to a seed
May it grow and flourish, Lord, my earnest prayer please heed
And with my tiny seed of faith I'll face the mountains tall
I'll face the fear and doubt that stand a hindrance to my walk
And to the giants of despair I'll rise and I will say
"You have no place here in my life, so leave this place today!"
And with my faith so small yet real, impossibilities
Will disappear, and in my life I'll see the mountains flee.

Mountains rise before my path, giants strong and tall
They have stood before me long; will they ever fall?
Picking up a mustard seed, the mountains now I face
"In Jesus' name, I now command your wall to leave this place!"
And as I stand before them with the seed clenched in my hand
The mountains tremble, move, and fall as castles made of sand
The light breaks through where peaks have stood as quietly I kneel
While all the wounds from rocky climbs begin to slowly heal
"My Lord and King," I try to speak, but stop and choke back tears
At last the way is passable that has been blocked for years
"I cannot speak the gratitude for what Your strength has done
By Your power and Your might, these peaks are overcome
Lord, help me as I humbly walk this road and now pass through
My pilgrimage is long and hard, but, Lord, I walk with You."

And as I rise up from my knees and leave the mountains' place
I press the seed onto my heart, the smallest seed of faith.

Victorian Fashion Show/Tea Party October 23, 2011
held at the Dolgeville Christian Fellowship
sponsored by the Dolgeville Violet Festival



Jeff Ecker



Pastor Marvin & Sandy Isum



Sue & Becky Ecker



Linda & Bethany Haas



Bonnie Kaminski & Bonnie Boyd



Becky Ecker



Pictures of some of the participants and attendees.

Pictures by Debbie Hess

AS YOU WAIT UPON THE LORD

As you wait upon the Lord, you learn to see things from
His perspective, move at His pace, and function under His directives.
Waiting times are growing times and learning times.
As you quiet your heart, you enter His peace;
as you sense your weakness, you receive His strength;
as you lay down your will, you hear His calling.
When you mount up, you are being lifted by the wind of His Spirit...
When you move ahead, you are sensitive to His timing...
When you act, you give yourself only to the things He has asked you to do.

(Roy Lessin)

Isaiah 40:31-- But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength...
May your quiet time alone with God be fulfilled in your daily walk with Him.

Submitted by Sandra Eysaman

Thank You

9.26.11

Dear Brother Isum, Church Members & Friends,

I have been meaning to write this for quite a while now, but keep getting overwhelmed, not only by the emotion & sadness of our loss, but also by the kindness & generosity you have all shown our family over the last 14 months. It is difficult to express our gratitude, thank you just doesn't seem sufficient. Your support & grief & many kindnesses when Simon passed really helped us to remember the good in Humanity at a time when we were dealing with so much anger & hurt. I never could have imagined the many levels & facts of grief, the profound way it affects everyone & the many ways we all try & cope or deal with it. For Dad this process was excruciating. His heart was broken, but as a husband, father and grandfather, he had to find a way to be at Peace. This is where many of you, people from the community, but mostly his relationship with God played a big role. He was determined to find forgiveness in his heart for the people who had left Simon in his moment of need. He had such compassion for people who came from families with little or no love. We have always been so very blessed with our family and the intensely unconditional love we give each other. The last three weeks of Dad's life, in various hospitals and enduring unbelievable pain, the "peace that passes all understanding" that he has always believed in, settled over him in the most beautiful & comforting way.

Please continue to keep Mom & all of us in your thoughts & prayers.

Many blessings to all of you who have been such a blessing to us.

Thank you & Peace, *Hannah*

INTERESTING--WHAT DO YOU THINK...

Jacob was a cheater, Peter had a temper...

David had an affair, Noah got drunk...

Jonah ran from God, Paul was a murderer...

Gideon was insecure, Miriam was a gossiper...

Martha was a worrier, Thomas a doubter...

Sarah was impatient and Elijah was moody, intimidated and depressed...

Moses was a murderer and also stuttered...

Zacchaeus was short...

Abraham was old...

And Lazarus was Dead!

Now, what's your excuse?

Can God use you?

Author: unknown

Submitted by Gail Whittaker

A LITTLE RELIGIOUS HUMOR

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was very nervous. When it was his turn,

he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly,
"The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

Stay Young My Friend

We all need to read this one over and over until it becomes a part of who we are!

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

1. *Try everything twice.*

On one woman's tombstone she said she wanted this epitaph:
"Tried everything twice. Loved it both times!"

2. *Keep only cheerful friends.*

The grouches pull you down.
(Keep this in mind if you are one of those grouches!)

3. *Keep learning:*

Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever...
Never let the brain get idle. 'An idle mind is the devil's workshop.'
And the devil's name is Alzheimer's!

4. *Enjoy the simple things.*

5. *Laugh often, long and loud.*

Laugh until you gasp for breath.
And if you have a friend who makes you laugh,
spend lots and lots of time with HIM/HER.

6. *The tears happen:*

Endure, grieve, and move on
The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves.
LIVE while you are alive.

7. *Surround yourself with what you love:*

Whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever..
Your home is your refuge.

8. *Cherish your health:*

If it is good, preserve it.
If it is unstable, improve it.
If it is beyond what you can improve, get help.

9. *Don't take guilt trips.*

Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county,
to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is.

10. *Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.*

***MOST IMPORTANT - Hold onto God's hand - because
whatever you are doing, wherever you are, HE is always with you,
sharing good times and bad, laughter and tears.***

Remember! Lost time can never be found.

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.



Dolgeville Christian Fellowship
3 Elm Street
Dolgeville, NY 13329

Happy Thanksgiving



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HE THOUGHT THIS APPROACH WOULD LEND MORE
AUTHORITY TO HIS SERMONS, BUT IT ONLY
RESULTED IN SPRAINED NECKS

November Memory Verse: Psalm 107:1
"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his
love endures forever." [\(NIV\)](#)