



**Knit for Kids
Celebrating 10 Years**

The Knit for Kids group has been meeting at Timbercrest for over ten years. Started by Ann Rehrig in April 2014, it has always included some ladies from beyond our community who also wanted to give to children around the world who could use a warm hat, sweater, or scarf, as well as blankets for babies. The number of Timbercrest people who participate has been small but the output has been amazing.

A rough estimate of the production from this group these ten plus years comes to over 900 sweaters, nearly 2400 caps (most made on a circular loom), 75 knitted baby blankets, and 100 small scarves, plus mittens now and then. Nearly all of the yarn used for these items has been donated. The downstairs closet has tubs of yarn waiting to be used.

Ann Rehrig and Marie Willoughby have been part of the group from the beginning. In recent years Ann has stopped knitting but still does packing and counting. On September 27, 2024, Marie completed her 500th sweater for this cause. She has made improvements in her skill over time. Switching from straight needles and sewing two parts together to using circular needles has been a great help.

Most of the output has been taken or sent to Knit for Kids, World Vision, in Swickley, PA. Ann’s son and daughter have delivered some, Brian and Karen Daniels paid a large amount to ship cartons, and recently David and Mary Sollenberger have gone a little out of their way to take cartons to the sorting facility near Pittsburgh, PA. Shipping costs have become too much, so we really thank these folks for their

help. Others have also received our work – David Radcliff took 35 sweaters, 17 caps and more to Nepal in November 2023, The YWCA in Fort Wayne and the Lighthouse Mission in Wabash have also received items, and some caps are going to the Manchester Elementary School.

You can join the group at any time! We knit on our own, but gather the **2nd Tuesday (November 12) at 1 p.m. in the Education Room.** All are welcome.

Veterans Day

We invite you to join us on **Monday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the Assembly Room** as we honor the Veterans living among us.

Twenty-two of Timbercrest current residents are United States Veterans, 14 residents held the role of spouse during service and we currently have 1 Veteran employee. We are honored to call these men and women our neighbors and a vibrant part of the Timbercrest family.

If you have photos or memorabilia of your time in the service, we’d love to add it to the display table set up in the Hub. Please see Adrienne with any questions.



SHEPHERD'S CENTER PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Current Events – Chad Fitzpatrick,
Luthier @ Sweetwater, **“Making and
Repairing Stringed Instruments”**
AiL – **Andrea Zweibel**, Director of NMPL
“Your Library”

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Current Events – Leonard Williams,
Ph.D. Professor Emeritus Political Science,
“Presidential Election Analysis”
AiL – **Kelly McKee**, McKee Mortuary,
“The Benefits of Planning Ahead”

The meetings begin at **9:30 a.m.** for Current Events and **10:30 a.m.** for Adventures in Learning. Transportation will be available **leaving from the Hub at 9:15. Sign up in the Notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.**

Contemporary Book Club

The Contemporary Book Club meets **every Friday at 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.** They are currently reading “His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope” by Jon Meacham. It’s the story of John Lewis, the Civil Rights Activist. The book is available on Amazon for \$4.96. Contact David Doudt with questions @ 260-578-4748.

Sewing Sisters

Join us on the **first Monday (November 4) of each month at 1:00 p.m.** to "tie" comforters for the Linus Project - no experience needed. Quilts and comforters go to children in hospitals and other facilities. (projectlinus.org) . As of the end of August we had donated 100 quilts this year!

You can also volunteer to make quilt tops, or finish quilts at home Stop by the Quilting Room, weekday mornings for details.



Oasis

Come for inspiration and reflection every **Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.** the Chapel.

Nov 6	Life in Lyrics – hymns from Fred Pratt Green
Nov 13	Heifer International – personal stories
Nov 20	Pamela Haynes - piano
Nov 27	Lorri Miller and Friends – Thanksgiving Service

Oasis is also broadcast live on the Timbercrest Senior Living YouTube Channel. It can also be viewed at a later time on the YouTube channel.

“MESSIAH” Sing-Along

Just imagine the Mormon Tabernacle Choir right here in our very own chapel! They will be here, on the big screen via YouTube, with some of the best choruses from Handel's "Messiah," at **Oasis, 4:00 p.m. on December 4.**

Those present in the chapel will be singing along, so dust off your own score to bring, if you have one, otherwise copies will be available at the door.

Table Tennis for Fun and Fitness

Table tennis in the Recreation Room is each **Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 p.m.** All skill levels are welcome, and new players are encouraged.

Weekly Bingo Games

Join the fun at Bingo in the **Resident Activity Room Mondays and Fridays at 11:00 a.m.**

TUG

The Technology Users Group (TUG) will meet on **Thursday, November 7, 10:00 a.m.**, in the **Conference Room**. This is 1 week earlier than usual to avoid conflicting with the All-Resident Meeting on November 14.

The TUG Tip discussion topic will be talk-to-text on both Android and i-Phones. There will be opportunity to discuss personal technology issues with computers, smart phones, and printers, etc. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Giant Crossword is Back

Do you enjoy crossword puzzles? Join Carol in the **Resident Activity Room on Thursday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m.** for Giant Crossword.

Serendipity Bible Study Groups

Everett Shattuck leads Serendipity Bible studies, incorporating sharing and discussion in the context of Bible passages. These low-key studies are geared for people new to Bible study and long-time Bible students. "Serendipity" comes through mutual discovery and reflection.

- **Fridays, November 8 & 22 at 9:30 a.m.** in **G Wing Lounge**, led by Everett Shattuck.

Eel River Community CoB Lunch with the Pastors

The Eel River Community Church of the Brethren gathers for lunch with the Pastors on the second Friday of every month. They meet at **12:30 p.m. in The Nook**. This month's luncheon is **Friday, November 8**.

Anyone is welcome to attend, especially those with any connections with Eel River Community CoB. The meal includes a salad, entrée, dessert, and beverage. Indicate special dietary needs when you sign up. Cost is \$12 per person, paid to the Timbercrest Receptionist. Residents that have a meal contract do not have to pay! You can call Carolyn Bollinger with any questions at 260-982-2722.

Sign up in the notebook at Courtyard by Wednesday, November 6.



Storyteller Showcase

The Storyteller Showcase on **Friday, November 8** will feature "Life Lessons of Gratitude" told by Carol Gebert. Catch Carol's stories at **2:00 p.m. in the Health Care Family Room** and again at **2:45 p.m. in the Assembly Room**.

"The Play That Goes Wrong" Warsaw Performing Arts Center



Spend your afternoon on **Sunday, November 10** watching "The Play That Goes Wrong" performed by Warsaw High School theatre students.

Welcome to opening night of the Cornley Drama Society's newest

production, *The Murder at Haversham Manor*, where things are quickly going from bad to utterly disastrous. This 1920s whodunit has everything you never wanted in a show—an unconscious leading lady, a corpse that can't play dead, and actors who trip over everything (including their lines). Nevertheless, the accident-prone thespians battle against all odds to make it through to their final curtain call, with hilarious consequences!

Tickets are \$13 at the door or \$10 purchased in advance. **The bus will leave from the Hub at 1:15 p.m. Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.**

Timbercrest Book Club

The Timbercrest Book Club will meet **Monday, November 11 in the Conference Room at 2:00 p.m.** We are currently reading "In order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom" by Yoenmi Park. If you are interested in joining, text or call Marilyn at 260-578-5008. We love new members!



Memoir Writing Group Invitation & Topics

The memoir group extends a special invitation to all Timbercrest people to join us on the **second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 2:00 p.m. in D Wing lounge**. Here are our topics to write about and then read aloud for upcoming meetings:

For November 12: What would you like to do on a lazy day?

For November 26: What is great about your life right now?

For December 10: Describe an important decision you have had to make.

Christmas Eve: No meeting. See you in January!

If you prefer to write about something else, that's fine—or just come to listen.

Questions? Contact Eileen Flory, 982-0088, eflory@peak.org.

Friends of Manchester University



The Friends of Manchester program on **Tuesday, November 12**, will be presented by Dr. Katharine Ings, Professor of English. She teaches journalism and among her many duties at the University, is the faculty advisor for the Oak Leaves,

the student produced newspaper. Her presentation will focus on the Oak Leaves creation process. Join us at **6:30 p.m. in the Chapel on Tuesday, November 12th**.

Our Grocery Cart Food Delivery System

Food distributed on the second Wednesday of the month comes from the Second Harvest Tailgate at the Manchester Church of the Brethren. This is a resident-sponsored program.

The schedule for food delivery on **Wednesday, November 13** is:

- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Distribution in the Manor
- 2:00-3:00 p.m. Neighborhood Home residents may pick up food in the Resident Activity Room before or after the snack in The Nook.

If you won't be home, ask a friend to get some food for you. If you would like to help, please call Mary Ebey at 982-2366.

All-Resident Meeting

Make plans to attend the All-Resident Meeting on **Thursday, November 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Assembly Room**. This month's meeting will include the annual report from the Timbercrest Board of Directors as well as be the perfect opportunity for you to ask questions of the various department heads and Resident Council.

Walmart, Here We Come!

Shop at Wabash Walmart on **Thursday, November 14 departing from the Hub at 1:00 p.m.**

Shopping lists for those unable to go must be in **CAMPUS MAIL ONLY** by **NOON, November 14**. Remember to include a phone number where you can be reached in case the shopper has questions.

Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.

Dilly's Restaurant Lunch Out with Adrienne

Have you ever driven through the small downtown area of Akron, Indiana? The small, one-stop-light metropolis hosts just a handful of businesses. Hidden among those is Dilly's Restaurant and Bar. Dilly's is a family owned steak house housed in a renovated 1912 historical brick building with a rustic charm.

Let's try it out! Join Adrienne for lunch on **Friday, November 15. The bus will leave from the Hub at 11:00 a.m.** They feature a lunch special that changes from day to day as well as items from their menu. Dutch treat but you can expect to pay no more than \$20 per person. **Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.**

Thanksgiving Dinner

Please join us for a Thanksgiving Meal on **Thursday, November 28th from 11:00 am - 1:00 p.m.** The cost for the meal is \$12.00. It is included if you are on a Timbercrest Dinner Meal Plan.

Reservations will be required by Monday, November 25th. Please call the Front Desk at 982-2118 to make reservations. Any questions, please contact Penny at 260-982-3964 or Angel at 260-982-4595.

Heifer International

Many of you are familiar with the Heifer International organization and know what their mission is about.

Did you know that 783 million people go to bed hungry every night? The Heifer project works in 19 countries around the world alongside farmers to help support their communities. By donating, you can help to support transformational change literally from the ground up! Their projects provide animals, training, and basic necessities to help lift families out of poverty.

Jim Meyer inherited a passion for Heifer International from his father. Jim will be set up in **the Hub on Saturday, November 16 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 P.M.** to assist you in giving.

Crafting with Molly

Molly returns to Timbercrest on **Monday, November 18 at 2:00 p.m. in the Resident Activity Room.**

Molly Magnus is the Programming Coordinator at North Manchester Public Library. Molly comes up with fun craft ideas for us every month. There is no cost to participate and fun is had by all!

To ensure that we have enough supplies, please **sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden or Courtyard.**

Dementia Learning Group

Family, caregivers and friends of persons with dementia are welcome to the Learners' Group, **Monday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m.** in The Nook. This group is open to Timbercrest and the general public. The mutual sharing and support is positive and helpful for those involved. The group moderator is Mari Adkins, from Bickford Cottage, Wabash.

The Princess Bride Tuesday Matinee

Make your way to the **Chapel on Tuesday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m.** for a matinee showing of "The Princess Bride."

A bedridden boy's grandfather reads him the story of a farm boy-turned-pirate who encounters many obstacles, enemies and allies in his journey to be reunited with his true love.

Pre-School Visitors

Join us on **Tuesday, November 19 at 1:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room** as we enjoy a visit from the Manchester Community Schools pre-school students.

May we spend the hour with them absorbing and syphoning their boundless energy! We will do a small activity or craft, have fun with Play-Doh, and enjoy a snack before they load the big yellow bus and head back to school. The bus ride may be the highlight of their day but the laughs will be the highlight of yours!

Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.

Manchester Church of the Brethren Luncheon with the Pastors

Timbercrest residents who are members and friends of Manchester Church of the Brethren are invited to have lunch with their pastors **Wednesday, November 20 at noon, in the Assembly Room.**

The meal includes a salad, entrée, dessert, and beverage. Indicate special dietary needs when you sign up. Cost is \$12.00 per person, paid to the Timbercrest Receptionist. Residents who have a meal plan do not have to pay. Guests are welcome and should be listed on the sign-up sheet.

If you need to cancel your reservation, please do so as early as possible. Contact the Timbercrest Receptionist or Amy Gall Ritchie. If you do not cancel in advance, you may incur a meal charge if you do not have a meal contract.

Sign up in the notebook at Courtyard by Wednesday, November 13. Contact Amy Gall Ritchie, 765-967-0657 or amymcob@gmail.com, with any questions. We hope to see you there!

Game Night with Mike and Lucy

Join Lucy and Mike McKinley for an evening of cards, billiards, dominoes, board games and refreshments **Wednesday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Recreation Room. Please note that we have moved to Wednesday evenings to better suit Mike and Lucy's schedules.

No sign-up needed. Just come for a great evening, and maybe learn a new game.

November Chapel Schedule

Come to Chapel to hear thoughts from scripture, prayer and other inspiration. Devotions are **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 9:00 a.m.** Oasis (see pg 2) is **Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.** weekly. **Worship Service at Manchester Church of the Brethren is live streamed in the Chapel at 9:30 every Sunday morning.**

November Speakers:

November 1 – Mark Steury – Timbercrest Resident

November 5 – Gene Hollenberg – Camp Mack

November 7 – Ryan Langeland – Warsaw
Community Church

November 8 – Stan Escott – Timbercrest Resident

November 12 – Mark Stahl – Kokomo CoB

November 14 – Chris Brock – Urbana Yoke Parish

November 15 – Deanna Beckner – Camp Mack

November 19 – Sandy Bendsen -

November 21 – Aaron Kline – Warsaw Evangelical
Presbyterian

November 22 – Mary Earle – Timbercrest Resident

November 26 – Chuck Bell – Manchester CoB

November 28 – Thanksgiving Day – No Services

November 29 – Sebrina Cline – Congregational
Christian Church

*Thanks to the Chapel Planning Committee
for scheduling these dedicated speakers!*

Dr. Katy Gray Brown Seniors for Peace

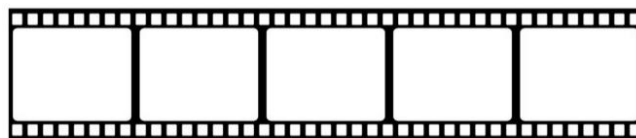


Join us in the Chapel on **Thursday, November 21 at 10:00 a.m.** as the Seniors for Peace Committee welcomes Dr. Katy Gray Brown.

Dr. Brown, Director of the Peace Studies Institute at Manchester University, will present a program honoring the history and 75th Anniversary of the Peace Studies Program.

Teaching Kitchen Coming Up

Dining Services will host a Teaching Kitchen **Thursday, November 21 at 3:00 p.m.** in the **Nook**, for both Manor and Neighborhood Home residents. Group size is limited. **Sign up in the notebook outside the Courtyard Dining Room.**



Timbercrest Film Committee Presents November Films *Come to the Chapel for our films*

Friday, November 1: Eleanor, First Lady of the World

7:00 p.m. – Chapel

Run Time: 1:36 hours w/subtitles

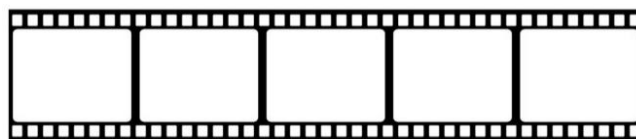
Jean Stapleton was nominated for an Emmy (1982, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Limited Series or a Special) for her portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt in this made-for-TV biography, first telecast May 12, 1982. The film picks up Mrs. Roosevelt's storied life after the 1945 death of her husband, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. At the request of new President Truman, Eleanor serves as a United Nations delegate, spending much of her time tilting with dedicated anti-FDR politico John Foster Dulles (E. G. Marshall). She goes on to spearhead the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proving to Dulles and to the Soviet delegate (Freddie Jones) that she's anything but soft on Communism.

Friday, November 15: Lincoln

7:00 p.m. – Chapel

Run Time: 2:30 hours w/subtitles

With the nation embroiled in still another year with the high death count of Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln brings the full measure of his passion, humanity and political skill to what would become his defining legacy: to end the war and permanently abolish slavery through the 13th Amendment. Having great courage, acumen and moral fortitude, Lincoln pushes forward to compel the nation, and those in government who oppose him, to aim toward a greater good for all mankind.



Abraham Lincoln: Hoosier Hero 2nd Annual Telebration



Timbercrest is excited to bring our 2nd Annual Telebration on **Friday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room.**

This year we bring to you the story of our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln. Travel with him from a log cabin to the White House. He'll regale us with stories on how he overcame hardscrabble poverty, numerous business failures, and one undistinguished term in Congress to become President.

Quilting Circle

Quilters, past, present and ant-to-be, will gather on **Wednesday, November 27 at 3:00 p.m. in the Resident Activity Room.** We will not meet in December. Come share a project you have completed, or an idea you have found. This is a "sew and tell" to share your ideas!

Breakfast Out with Carol El Volcan

Once you've had the opportunity to digest all the great food from Thanksgiving dinner, join Carol for breakfast out on **Friday, November 29 at 8:00 a.m.** El Volcan has recently become a favorite of Carol's and her husband Ed.

The bus will leave from the Hub at 8:00 A.M. Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.

Chautauqua's Old-Fashioned Christmas Oakwood Resort

Travel back in time on **Saturday, November 30** to Christmas long ago.

Chautauqua-Wawasee's Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration features a live Nativity Scene, cozy horse-drawn wagon rides, and a special reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by one of Santa's Elves. They will light their 50-foot Christmas tree for the first time of the season, have a festive photo booth, and carolers.

The event is free of charge and begins at 5:30 p.m. **The bus will leave from the Hub at 4:45 p.m. Sign up in the notebooks at Rose Garden and Courtyard.**

Midweek Breaks

A tasty treat is served each **Wednesday from 2:30-3:30 p.m.** in The Nook. This month features:

- November 6** Home Baked Goods from *Beth Sollenberger*
- November 13** Pumpkin Treats
- November 20** Ice Cream & Pumpkin Bars
- November 27** Popcorn Parlor

Your Opinion Matters!

Did you know there are suggestion boxes located near the Courtyard Dining Room and the former Rose Garden Dining Room?

These boxes are checked routinely and shared with Resident Council at their monthly meetings.

Be sure to include your name when you turn in a suggestion or idea. That helps us follow up with you if more information is needed or, when a change is made, we can find out how things are going.

Shopping Guidelines

Weekly Local Shopper

- 1) ***Tuesday is the only day for local shopping.***
- 2) Shopping lists are due at Jennifer Gearhart's office ***by 8:00 p.m. Monday evening.***
- 3) Shopping pick-up time is ***after 2:00 p.m.*** on Tuesday.
- 4) Items will be clearly labeled and available for ***pick up in the Resident Activity Room.***
- 5) ***All purchases will be charged to your Timbercrest account.***

Exercise Opportunities

Our exercise classes have undergone some exciting changes!

- Chair Aerobics – **Monday through Friday at 9:30 a.m. in the Recreation Room**
- Chair Tai Chi – **Monday at 10:00 a.m.**
- Strength Training – **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Recreation Room**
- Walk & Roll - **Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00 a.m.; Rose Garden Lounge**
- Chair Yoga – **Friday at 10:00 a.m. in the Recreation Room**



Fitness Center Training Sessions

Carol will host training sessions in the Fitness Center **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30-11:00**. If the equipment seems intimidating, you find equipment difficult to adjust alone, or you just want company, join Carol for a simple workout in the Fitness Center.

A Friendly Lift Will Get You There

Friendly Lift drivers take non-drivers to non-medical destinations. They are paid independently to take people shopping, visit family and friends, for joy rides and more. For details, see Jennifer Gearhart.

- Carolyn Bollinger, 982-2722
- Tim Ritchey Martin, 982-0031
- June Stealy, 982-0055
- Marie Willoughby, 982-6970

GrandSpartan Season

Timbercrest

GrandSpartans are preparing to kick off their 2024 Season! What is a GrandSpartan? Many moons ago, a small group of Timbercrest residents that enjoyed attending the Manchester



College Women's Basketball games thought it would be fun to partner with the team and become their surrogate grandparents.

We find many ways to support and encourage the ladies throughout their season and form bonds to last a lifetime. The Grands attend every home game at Stauffer-Wolfe Arena as well as spend time with the team hosting pot-lucks and game nights. The first home game is Saturday, November 23 at 1:00 P.M.

If you are interested in becoming a GrandSpartan, please reach out to Carol Gebert at 260-982-3925 or cgeb@timbercrest.org.

Deck the Halls

Christmas decorating will begin on Friday, November 29 when we will relocate the Christmas tree forest from the basement to the halls of the Manor.

Many hands make light work! If you would like to help with decorating this year, please let Adrienne know. You can call 260-982-3940 or email akamphues@timbercrest.org.

Donation Request!

Former Director of Program and Services, Brian Daniels, and resident Lin Metzger are scheduled to embark on a mission trip to El Salvador in January. Brian has been going for many years and this will be Lin's second time.

Timbercrest residents are welcome to contribute by making simple donations. Requested items include travel size hygiene and toiletry items such as: shampoos, conditioners, individually wrapped tooth brushes, tooth paste, lotion, and bar soaps.

The clinic services many children in the villages. Sometimes the children are a little frightened and very timid. It is helpful to have small stuffed animals and/or children's books written in Spanish to gift them.

If you feel led to donate, a collection box will be placed in the Sun Room at the Hub now through the end of December. Questions can be directed to Lin Metzger at 260-248-7809.

Shuffleboard

Have you noticed the new addition to the Recreation Room downstairs? New residents, Ron and Karen Warren (I110), graciously donated a Shuffleboard Table to Timbercrest.

Carol Gebert is currently researching and learning everything she can about the game. If you are able to shine any light on the subject, you can call her at 260-982-3925 or email cgeb@timbercrest.org.

Enjoy at your own leisure. Thank you so much to Ron and Karen for the added fun!



If you have something you would like featured in the Timberline or a group you would like highlighted, please email Adrienne @

akamphues@timbercrest.org

Maintenance Request Line

For Maintenance concerns, call the Work Order Request Line @ 982-1147. Questions? Call Maintenance!

WATCHWORD:

11 As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. 12 As he entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance, 13 crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" 14 He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. 15 One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" 16 He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. 17 Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you." Luke 17:11-19

Meditation:

A Month of Thanks

Don't miss the question. ¹⁷ Jesus asked, "Has no one returned to give glory to God?"

The German philosopher, Meister Eckhart, once wrote: "If the only prayer you ever say in your whole life is 'thank you,' that will suffice."

I think we underestimate the importance of the 'thank you'. The acknowledgment of a gift given, assistance provided, support extended, or simply friendship that has no qualifications, it's just always there, and 'thank you' speaks volumes.

Thanksgiving is an opportunity to think back on what we have been given...and to give something in return: thanks. Actually, "thanks" seems too small a word. Gratitude may be better. Gratitude is like a personality characteristic, it just shows up nearly all the time in all that we do. We are here, in this place to give *gratitude*. Maybe we should call this month "Gratitude-giving." We are here to honor, with grateful hearts, what God has done for us.

The scripture tells us to ask and we shall receive, and to knock and it will be opened. So, we ask, and we knock. And...? But what happens then? In Luke's telling of it, 10 people are cured by Jesus of leprosy. Only one comes back to say thank you. To complicate matters, the person who comes back is a Samaritan. He isn't Jewish. To have any contact between Jews and Samaritan was taboo. Yet, there it was, and it was the Samaritan that returned to express gratitude.

Here is a point of fact about Luke. Of all the disciples, Luke was the only one that was not Jewish. His gospel was written for those, like himself, who were on the outside, perhaps looking in? A clear statement that Christ's message was meant for everyone. But note,

in the gospel story, not everyone comes back. Implicit in this passage is the idea that something is missing. Giving thanks is a vital and necessary part of our relationship with God.

Most of us know someone who is having a difficult time this Thanksgiving. Maybe it's medical. Maybe loneliness. Where are the blessings for these and others who are feeling, in a particular way, burdened, afflicted, cursed?

That is why we are here: to pray those words of support and thankfulness, and to make them matter. We know there are many ways to communicate, and keeping in touch has great value because it expresses caring, and love. It is our way of 'Loving our neighbor as Christ loves us.'

Let's remind ourselves of God's blessings, wherever we find them, however they come to us. And give thanks for them, every day, in every moment. So be it.

Bulletin Board:

Thanksgiving Divorce -- A man in Phoenix calls his son in New York the day before Thanksgiving and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough. "Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams. "We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the father says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her." Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up. The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife with a smile. "Okay, honey," he says, "they're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own way."

Closing Prayer:

Thank you, Father, for having created us and given us to each other in the human family. Thank you for being with us in all our joys and sorrows, for your comfort in our sadness, your companionship in our loneliness. Thank you for yesterday, today, tomorrow, and for the whole of our lives. Thank you for friends, for health, and for grace. May we live this and every day conscious of all that has been given to us.

NOTE: Watchwords are written by Stan Escott and are sent out in e-mail every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To subscribe to these free devotionals, go to bosworth30.com/watchwords, and enter your e-mail address, or call Stan Escott (578-2519).

