



November 2015

What's Happening

Special Events

- Nov 1 All Saints Day
- Nov 3 Election Day
- Nov 7 Family Movie Night
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov 21 Hanging of the Greens 9:30 AM
- Nov 26 Thanksgiving
- Nov 29 1st Sunday of Advent



NOVEMBER

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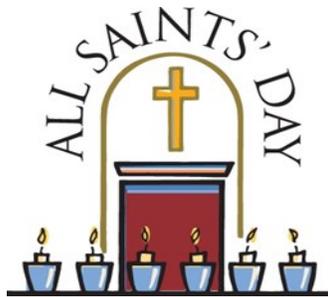
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November 2015 Minister's Column by Rev. Craig Pinley

In California, he was known as Coach or TP, in Guatemala he's Tomas, and in my home church the adults called him the Pied Piper of Kids. I call him a saint, or at least the closest version I can come up with.



Tom Palmer was my first youth pastor. He had grown up in Phoenix, AZ and had cut his teeth in ministry in a city called Troy, NY, helping out kids who would be deemed "under-served" today. He arrived in Oak Lawn, IL not long after, taking a position at Trinity Covenant Church, where he ministered to youth and teens in a church of 500 and led a summer youth program that reached into the neighboring village, called Hometown. Tom coached a Little League team named the Senators, often taking kids to the well-known Rainbow Ice Cream place after games. He also helped coach our church high school and junior high basketball teams. As if he didn't have enough to do, he drove a school bus to supplement his meager salary.



In the spring of 1979, my freshman year in high school, Tom moved to San Diego, CA, to be the children's pastor at College Center Covenant Church. There, he did the same quality ministry to kids he always did, but managed to create a ministry to Mexicans at the border town near his apartment, as he'd learned Spanish in his younger days and was a competent bilingual communicator. He also coached baseball (as in Illinois) and became a teacher's aide at a local school.

Eventually, he took another children's pastor job at Grace Covenant Church in nearby Spring Valley – same type of church responsibilities, a job coaching JV high school baseball, some ministry in Mexico, though putting on the hat of 'foster parent' for a kid who needed a place to say. The dream of starting a school in Guatemala began to percolate for him after doing a mission trip there; he'd eventually fork over some of his own money and sweat equity to begin the building project. It was at this juncture of his life (the winter of 1998) that I came back into his life.

Tom graciously offered a bedroom in his home and I stayed with him for six months when I needed a place to stay. During that period, I came to know him in a deeper way – via being roommates and by coaching with him - and realized the full extent of his generosity with others. Tom had stayed single his entire life, not because he had no suitors but because being single freed him up to minister in the most versatile way possible.

Tom gave a large percentage of his income to his church, to parachurch ministries, and to families. He drove a beat-up VW van for years because it allowed him to take a load of kids to ballgames and other events without his worrying about the upholstery. He has recently moved to Guatemala to be more active with his school near Lake Atlitán, living in that small community and even having a few young men stay with him for short periods. He'll come back to San Diego for a couple of months to take care of fundraising and logistics to bring mission teams to assist in building projects.

(continued page 2)

In 2007, Mary and I were ordained by the Evangelical Covenant Church at the denomination's annual business meeting in Portland, OR. Tom was our guest that week, the truest hero in ministry I've ever met. He's affected how I relate to kids and why I still am passionate about working with them. He's affected how I think about money and how I judge success.

November 1 is known as All Saints Day in our church tradition. On October 31, which was known a long time ago as All Hallows Eve, legend had it that the spirits of the dead took over the world on that day and that on All Saints Day the communion of saints for God took back the world on earth for the good. I believe, with the Apostle Paul, that we are "surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses" and that the legacies of the saints in our lives (those living or those long gone) are part of what can make us a more motivated Body of Christ. All of us have climbed up on the shoulders of countless folks whose faith and modeling guided our own behaviors.



In the U.S., November is a season of giving thanks, culminating with stuffing our faces on the fourth Thursday of the month, sometimes remembering what we're thankful for but often oblivious to what sentiments brought on this holiday in the first place. Perhaps we can pause on the first day of the month to give our gratitude to God for those saints whose lives are a witness to Christ. I urge you to use our All Saints Sunday worship services to consider those people and to emulate their faith as we continue in ours.

WITH GRATEFULNESS FOR CHRIST'S SAINTS,

Pastor Craig



Come join us on Saturday, Nov 21st at 9:30 AM for the Hanging of the Greens. Share this time with others as we decorate the church in preparation for the Advent season.

Bible quiz

Of what ethnicity was the one leper out of 10 healed who returned to thank Jesus?



- A. Syrophenician
- B. Samaritan
- C. Syrian
- D. Judean

Answer: See Page 4



President of the Congregation

As summer comes to an end and fall begins we see the signs all around us, leaves changing colors, the temperatures getting cooler and the daylight becoming shorter. The seasons in the church are changing too and we are preparing for Thanksgiving and Advent. We need to take time and reflect on what we are thankful for everyday. We will be gathering on Saturday, Nov 21st @ 9:30 AM to share in the experience together of Hanging of the Greens. The decorating of the church is just a small sign of the Advent season and I encourage each of you to focus on Jesus during this time.

Our 36th Annual Harvest Happening was a success and a big round of applause to all who helped to make it another great time. I am thankful for all those who volunteer to show the love of Redeemer Church to those who come for dinner and socializing.

At the Congregational Meeting in October we discussed that we need to maintain our building and grounds and with our approved budget the Trustees will start prioritizing the repairs and upgrades. During that meeting we discussed the number of light bulbs that had failed in the Family Life Center and needed replaced. Soon after that meeting a donor came forward offering to pay for the replacement of all the overhead ceiling lights, 18 in total with state of the art LED fixtures. These lights are more energy efficient to operate and the bulb lifetime is much longer than fluorescent. The total cost was \$2,000 which was completely covered by the donation received and they were installed before the Harvest Happening dinner. Praise God for this blessing and thank you to the donor for your special gift.

I would continue to encourage anyone who has questions, concerns or suggestions to contact me or another person on the leadership team. Rumors get started with bad information and can spread faster than a wild fire resulting in hurt feelings, anxiety, anger or worse. Let's all work together to make communication a top priority this year.

In Christ.

Sam

The Power of Gratitude

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

—Melody Beattie



The Evangelical Covenant Church



**REMEMBER
OUR SHUT
IN'S**

Redeemer Church has a number of members who are either confined to their homes or residing in Care Centers. Please remember them with a card or call. Remember, if you send a

Norma Gammell
Heartland of Woodridge
3801 Woodridge Blvd Apt B-402
Fairfield, OH 45014

Evelyn Warner
c/o Andrew Lampl
130 Farmington Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013

Charles Caldwell
Ohio Veterans Home
3416 Columbus Ave
Sandusky, OH 44870

Willard & Hester Childs
2877 Long Pine Court
Hamilton, OH 45011

Serving in Worship

Liturgists

- Nov 1 Larry Kachner
- Nov 8 Rose Marie Stieh
- Nov 15 Lisa Mannix
- Nov 22 Karl Oakley
- Nov 29 Stephanie Tillman

Prayer Intercessors

- Nov 1 Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Nov 8 Charlotte Burkhart & Lisa Mannix
- Nov 15 Carrie DeFevers & Jen Jorgensen
- Nov 22 Carol Moore & Linda Hoover
- Nov 29 Nancy Henry & Faye Muddlell

Flower Chart

- Nov 1 still available
- Nov 8 still available
- Nov 15 still available
- Nov 22 still available
- Nov 29 still available

Ushers

1st Service

- Nov 1 Ron & Gloria Spurlock & Bill & Sherry Phillips
- Nov 8 Gail Anderson, Nancy Henry, Ed & Kathy Swope
- Nov 15 Ron & Sue Peters, Brent Clark & Lisa Mannix
- Nov 22 Jim & Mary Van Lieu, Bob & Dot Huntington
- Nov 29 Dan & Bev Childs, Steve & Cora Kearns

2nd Service

- Nov 1 Lori Lohrer
- Nov 8 Carol Hanh & Lee Skorupa
- Nov 15 Duane & Claudia Cantrell
- Nov 22 Don & Judy Miller
- Nov 29 Jenny Zellar & Lori Lohrer



Community Corner

KROGER

Redeemer Church has been approved as a Nonprofit Organization in the new Kroger Community Rewards Program. Please visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your Kroger Plus card.

Redeemer's NPO # is 80053.

Birthday list		
	11/26	Becky Taylor
	11/27	Carrie DeFevers Oscar Tirado
	11/30	Evelyn Warner
11/02	Betty Berry	
	Dee Dee Ashdown	
	Larry Kachner	
11/05	Caleb Hoskins	
11/07	Naomi Shah	
11/08	Judy Shillinglaw	
	Sherry Denham	
11/09	David Kirk	
11/12	Neil DeFevers	
11/13	Judy Meyer	
	Amy Hyatt	
11/16	Doris Hall	
	Steve Kearns	
11/19	Katherine Beyerlein	
11/21	Bill Phillips	
11/24	Doug Shepherd	
	Jack Dermen	
11/25	Mikola Fuhrman	
	Kenton Myers	

Thanksgiving Beatitudes



Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

Bible Quiz Answer: B (See Luke 17:16.)

—Author unknown