MOUNTAIN GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, 411 W. First Street/P.O. Box 321, Mtn. Grove, MO 65711, 417-926-4982

FAMILY NEWS - DECEMBER 21, 2025

BIBLE STUDY: SUNDAY 9:00 AM; WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM; **WORSHIP**: SUNDAY - 10:00 AM & 11:15 AM

Ladies Class - Tuesday 10:00 AM

www.mountaingrovechurchofchrist.com and www.MGChristianRadio.com

WELCOME! If you are a visitor YOU are our honored guest!

Signs of Grace

Paul began his second letter to the Thessalonian church with these encouraging words, "We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is only fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows ever greater; therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure" (2 Thess. 1:3–4).

Two things strike me as significant in these two verses. First, not only did Paul express thanksgiving for the Christians in Thessalonica, he affirmed that such an expression of gratitude was what he "ought" to do. The apostle believed that expressions of thanks were more than just a way to be polite; they were, to him, an ever-present obligation. Jesus implied the same point in His penetrating question to the solitary leper who expressed his thanks for having been healed, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they?" (Luke 17:17).

Second, Paul's expression of gratitude for their growing faith, love, and perseverance, was directed, not to the Thessalonians themselves, but to God. This was brilliant on Paul's part. It highlighted those characteristics as indications of God's grace, help, and activity in their lives; therefore, He deserved the credit for them. But by mentioning his gratitude to the Thessalonians, they received encouragement and got a big boost of confidence to grow even more.

Those two thoughts force me to ask myself a few questions: do I feel the same sense of obligation to give thanks that Paul felt and that Jesus enjoined? Do I look for signs of God's grace and activity in the lives of my Christian family? Do I thank God for those signs of His grace? Do I encourage my brothers and sisters to greater heights of growth and service by telling them that I am grateful for what God is doing in their lives?

With email, smartphones, and social media, it has never been easier or quicker to communicate with each other. Why not employ those means to encourage others when you see evidence of God's grace in their lives?

~Eddie Parrish, Brown Trail church of Christ, Bedford, TX, Bulletin Digest, December 2020, Vol. 39, No. 12

For what each of you mean to us, for your work's sake, for your prayers, for your love and devotion to the cause of Christ here in Mountain Grove and in other places, we THANK YOU AND LOVE YOU!

In Christian love, Keith and Cheryl

ANNOUNCEMENTS - **Max Schmollinger**
SCRIPTURE READER - **Jace Howard**
PREACHER - **Keith Cozort**

PRAYER LEADERS:
SUNDAY - 9:00 A.M. - **Terry LeBaron**
10:00 A.M. - **Brent LeBaron**
Phil Driskill
11:15 A.M. - **Terry LeBaron**
Kevin Cozort

WEDNESDAY - **Jeremiah Hicks**
Richard Sciba

SONG LEADERS:
SUNDAY - 10:00 A.M. **- Kevin Cozort**
11:15 A.M. - **Richard Sciba**
WEDNESDAY - **David Grow**

SERVING ON THE LORD'S TABLE:
PRESIDE - **Terry LeBaron**
ASSIST - **Jeremiah Hicks**
ASSIST - **Owen LeBaron**
ASSIST - **Brian Sherrell**

USHERS:
SUNDAY AM1 - **Ronnie Deaton**
SUNDAY AM2 - **Phil Driskill**
WEDNESDAY - **Richard Sciba**

TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED:
SUNDAY - **Richard Sciba** - 926-6416
WEDNESDAY - **Phil Driskill -** 259-4359

BLESSED TO SERVE:
COMMUNION PREP - **Brenda Freeman**
FLOWERS - **Lori Lathrom**

EVANGELISM PREP: December 21st
GREETERS - **Richard/Ruby Sciba**
PEW GREETERS- **Brent/Jessica LeBaron**
Phil/Donna Driskill
VISITOR BAGS - **Jude Hicks**

EVANGELISM PREP: December 28th
GREETERS - **Wyatt/Addison Hicks**
PEW GREETERS- **Brent/Jessica LeBaron**
Richard/Ruby Sciba
VISITOR BAGS - **Kenley LeBaron**

ATTENDANCE & CONTRIBUTION
WEEK OF - December 14th
SUNDAY CLASS - 37
AM1 - 61
AM2 - 45
WEDNESDAY - 27
CONTRIBUTION - $3303.00

MILITARY SERVICE -
Derek Davis family

Pray for our evangelistic efforts!

GOD'S PLAN: HEAR - Rom. 10:17; **BELIEVE** - John 8:24; **REPENT** - Acts 17:30; **CONFESS** - Rom. 10:9-10; **BE IMMERSED** - Acts 2:38; **REMAIN FAITH even in death** - Rev. 2:10. **Have you obeyed?**

Worship Leaders, please use the microphone so all can worship with you! Please silence all electronics. Children, please walk!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

*Dec. 21st - Youth speaking, men's meeting at 1:00
*Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve gathering after Bible Bowl #2. Please bring snacks, drinks, games and plan to stay as late as you wish.

FSOP Lectureship Theme: Evangelism. Please give Keith your name if you want a book. They are $20.00, payable after he gets back in January.

PANTRY ITEMS: Your choice. Thank you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ann Lake - pneumonia
Bonnie Wolfe - fell and hurt shoulder
Bill Walker - (Terry's friend)
Phil Driskill - surgery went well
Steve Peterson - pancreatic cancer, stage 4
Annette McCarty - eye issues are healing
Dwain & Sue Murphy - his surgery is January 19th
Anjie Abell - (Donna's friend) cancer treatments at Barnes
Joe Wheat - (Deloris's husband) cancer
Emmerson Taft - (Bridget's niece) seizures
Tabitha Lamer - (Liz's niece) custody issues
Roy Boykin - (Tucker's friend) cancer
Wes Roberts - (Susan Taylor) cancer
Jayne Kane - (Terry's sister), Joe Wyrick - (Linda's brother)
Sharon Endicott - (Ruby's sister)
Michael Claxton in rehab + Charlene Claxton (Sandy's friend)
Larry Hicks - (Jeremiah's dad)
Phyllis Coffman
William & Lavonne Wood - (Jodee's family) + Carla Elkhorn & girls
Bryson & fiancé Kylie - grandson of Deborah's + (Christin & Cody)
Carol Cook - Deborah's sister-in-law - rehab
Wayne Crosby
Betty Lane
churches in Jamaica (hurricane) and Ukraine (war)

On-going health issues:
Ann Newton, Lois Schmollinger, Dorthy Robertson, Sheila Deaton, Tinzie Mackey, Buddy McCarty, Effie Hicks.

WORKS WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO SUPPORT

On-line Academy of Biblical Studies (OABS); Bible Institute of Missouri (BIM); Global School of Biblical Studies; Shaddy Chapel church of Christ; Brent Green; Coby Hicks; Jesse Howard; David Bass (Instructor at the Jamaica School of Preaching).