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UNION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



# Thanksgiving

Our Motto: We are a changing people changing the world for Christ.

# G.T.A.H.

Great Things Are Happening

## Thanksgiving, Not Just For One Day But For A Lifetime

-Pastor Frankie Rivers



"Thanksgiving Day" is a national holiday in the United States of America. It is a day when families come together to give thanks, to feast on big dinners and to watch NFL football games. It is a day of national celebration.

In the Year of Our Lord 2005, we are approaching this national

holiday against the backdrop of a world in serious trouble. There are wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes in unusual places, hurricanes and floods that have killed, disrupted, displaced and economically destroyed families, and exposed spiritual wickedness in high places.

But even in the midst of all of this we give thanks. We thank God for His many blessings toward us. It should not be just a day of *thanksgiving*, but rather a life dedicated to giving thanks to the awesome God we serve. We should *thank Him* everyday and in every situation.

We find tremendous strength and encouragement in Psalm 100:

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves. We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting and his truth endureth to all generations."*

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### G.T.A.H. Mission Statement:

*"To aide others in spreading the knowledge of Christ and encouraging spiritual living through printed words."*

**Our Mission Statement:** To draw people to Christ, maximize our potential, and creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community.

## Thank God for the Vision Center

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“The Vision Center renovations are near completion. The food service inspection by the Houston County Health Department; inspection by the Fire Marshal from the Warner Robins Fire Department; and the inspection by the Warner Robins Inspection Department have all been completed. The center is ready for the events and meetings hosted by Union Grove. After the policies and procedures have been finalized, the Vision Center will be available for public rental.

Feel free to visit the center and share your ideas. I would like to again *thank* you for this opportunity.”

Bro. James Booker, Project Supervisor

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*Below are pictures from our first meeting held at the Vision Center on Thursday, October 27, 2005.*

We are steadily making great strides with this project and *thank God* for the opportunity He has given us with the Vision Center. If you have questions about the progress or anything related to the Vision Center please call the church office at 478-922-5514.



# A Softball Veteran's Perspective?

-Interview by Sis. LaShondria Smith



*How long have you been on the Women's softball team?*

**Sis. Margie Tuck:** I have been on the team for about 15 years.

*Tell me about the positions you've played.*

**Sis. Tuck:** I started out in left field, left center and pitching then back to left field. Due to my aging, I returned to the pitcher's mound and have become the additional hitter.

*How has your experience been on the team?*

**Sis. Tuck:** It has been a great experience. Playing softball is something I like to do and it keeps me active. Even at my age, I strive to do my best because I like the game.

*How do you feel about softball as a form of Outreach Ministry?*

**Sis. Tuck:** It's a wonderful opportunity to minister to others. It gives us a chance to witness to nonmembers, share and at times

show Christ. I recall this one incident where there were two women on the team bickering. I suggested to one of the ladies to be the better person and show Christ by turning the other cheek

and letting the situation go. By not responding and especially by not cursing or slandering the lady's name, she would be the better woman and defeat the enemy by showing Christ.

*What about the fellowship?*

**Sis. Tuck:** It is wonderful to be able to fellowship with other churches.

We always pray together at the end of the game and it just helps us get to know the other ladies and churches represented. Other teams shared with us they enjoyed playing against us and most of the time we did show Christ, that always make the difference.

*How do you feel about this season?*

**Sis. Tuck:** This year we were more of a team! Years before we were not there, but this year we were very close, as one. Even when we were losing a game we

encouraged one another it seems as if we have matured, grown together, and gained respect for one another. It was if there were no chiefs just everyone encouraging one another. We even took and asked for constructive criticism to see what needed to be done to improve our game. It was a FANTASTIC season, not because we won, but because we were a TEAM.

*What do you think the key to success was this year?*

**Sis. Tuck:** When some members on the team were asked to fast and pray during the end of the season tournament, each time we received the Victory, God just Blessed! Our prayers were answered which demonstrated that fasting and praying works.

*"...each time we received the Victory, God just Blessed!"*

This also increased our faith. There were even times we came together and prayed

when someone on the team was faced with sickness or decisions had to be made. God moved and just brought things together. With our fasting and praying, it showed that we wanted to keep God first. I am reminded of the scripture James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayers of a righteous man (woman) availeth much." God's blessings do reign on the just and the unjust meaning even those who didn't know God this softball season had a glimpse of Him because of how much HE blessed us and now they want even more of Him.

## The G.T.A.H.'s 2nd Year Anniversary

We thank God for allowing The Grove family and friends to express themselves through printed word. He has enabled us to produce 24 issues of the newsletter to date. We would also like to take this time to thank those of you who have submitted articles/poems/etcetera, edited, folded, or made copies of the newsletter. For without your support the G.T.A.H. would not be a reality. Lastly, we would like to elicit your support and we invite you to continue to give us your submissions in the upcoming 2006 year.



### Here are the themes for 2006 for your information:

*January: Serving in Ministry*

*February: Living History*

*March: Balancing Ministry, Family and Work*

*April: Health: Planning for the Future*

*May: Raising Children*

*June: Finances*

*July: Teenagers*

*August: No issue*

*September: A Disciple/A Continual Learner*

*October: Anger and Depression*

*November: Thanksgiving*

*December: Christmas*

## Congratulations Bro. Thorpe

Every year Channel 13WMAZ and a local business from the Middle Georgia area, requests nominations of outstanding volunteers in the community. After receiving all the names, a committee is formed to select the top five. This year Bro. Slater Thorpe's name was submitted as a nominee. He is a volunteer, usually as the team captain, with Building Together (Christmas In April). He mows the yards of several senior church members during the summer. He also participates regularly with the Life Changers Center.

Bro. Slater was given a certificate as the runner up for Outstanding Volunteerism in the Community. Although, Bro. Slater may not have been selected by the committee from 13WMAZ as a finalist, he is still Number 1 in our book!



## Thanksgiving (contd.)

Let us take time now to reflect upon God's goodness to us individually and personally. I believe this is what the songwriter had in mind when writing the words "**Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings and see what the Lord has done**". Each of us should take inventory of what God has done in our lives. Remembering that he brought us from a life of sin, a life of spiritual darkness into his marvelous light. He made a way for us to come to him through Jesus Christ. He loved us so much that he gave his son to die for our sins. The bible tells us "**..he (Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed.**" (Isaiah 53:5).

Be *thankful* unto him and bless his name. Not only on the national day of *thanksgiving*, but every day. **Thank Him** because he heard our cry and came to our rescue. **Thank Him** for his goodness and mercy. **Thank Him** because we know that he is the only true and living God. **Thank Him** for the presence of his spirit in us and around us. **Thank Him** for keeping us safe in this dangerous world that we live in. **Thank Him** for watching over our children as they go about their various activities each day. (contd. pg. 5)

## 22nd Annual Partners in Progress Achievement Awards Dinner

The 22nd Annual Partners in Progress Achievement Awards Dinner, which honors outstanding citizens, was held on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at the Holiday Inn Select Conference Center of Decatur, GA. Our own Pastor David Anthony Clarke, Sr. was one of the honorees of the evening. The purpose of the event, according to the Publisher and Organizer Dr. Harry L. Ross, was to “salute those individuals who have left an indelible footprint in our community and throughout the United States. Each year the rossreportnews.net and Harry Ross-Promotions honor those persons in Georgia and throughout the United States with the theme ‘Live the Dream, Helping Others,’ building a bright and powerful future in our society.”



## Thanksgiving (contd.)

For those of us who have accepted the gift of salvation, let us celebrate the *Thanksgiving* Holiday by making a stronger commitment to worshipping and serving God.

If you have not yet accepted the gift of salvation, now is a great time to be saved. God tells us what to do in his Word: “...confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that **God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved.**” (Romans 10:9)

If you accept Jesus Christ as your personal saviour, you will experience the peace, love and joy only God can give. And you will live a full life of *thankfulness*. You will sing with new meaning “...I sing because I’m happy. I sing because I’m free. His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches over me.”



# INFORMATION PAGE

Happy Birthday!!!

## Business Stewardship Trustees Ministry

Bro. Henry Allen 929-2931  
 Bro. Ben Respress 923-4310  
 Bro. Jermaine Smith 218-0106  
 Bro. Charlie Tuck 988-3321  
 Sis. Emma Harrison 923-2935

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 Pastor Frankie Rivers 218-2907  
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 Min. Lee McCants 953-5139  
 Min. John Dukes 953-8789  
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 Min. Antonia Simmons 953-4290  
 Min. Lonnie Klutz 971-4479  
 Min. Eugene Johnson 328-7069

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 D-F Deac. Michael White 923-2938  
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 J-K Deac. Robert Simmons 953-1173  
 L-N Deac. T.C. Caldwell 714-0155  
 O-R Deac. Monroe Clark 953-2044  
 S Deac. Charles Lenoir 953-2350  
 T-V Deac. Edward Jarvis 923-5139  
 W-Z Deac. Nathanel Davis 923-7713  
 Deac. Donald Woodard 987-9865

## “The Grove Zone Vision Statement”

*To be a global network of learning, loving, and life transforming ministries where hungry worshipers are discovering and walking in their God-given purpose with exceeding great joy.*



Archie, Angelique  
 Bemby, Trey  
 Brooks, Bryant  
 Burnett, Mary  
 Burnett, Valerie  
 Bynum, Jasmin  
 Bynum, Jessica  
 Byrd, Charles  
 Carpenter, Tammy  
 Davis, Michael  
 Durden, Shirley

Falls, Patricia  
 Gardner, Mary Ray  
 Grant, Frances L.  
 Green, Georgia  
 Harrison, Emma  
 Huggins, Jakena  
 Johnson, Patricia  
 Leggette, Eric  
 Madison, Shirley  
 Mathews, Shana  
 Mathis, Renita  
 Mathis, Shavine

McCants, Ashley  
 Medlock, Alphonso  
 Powell, Artis  
 Reeves, Kea'ya  
 Respress, Garrick  
 Richardson, Cameron  
 Robinson, Laverne  
 Salone, Kiera  
 Solomon, Catherine  
 Solomon, Stephanie  
 Tate, Cleophus  
 Thomas, Lois

## What's Going on At "The Grove Zone" in NOVEMBER 2005

- 11-6 Annual Health Brunch, (the Vision Center), after worship service
- 11-11 Parents Night Out, (U.G. Nursery & Children's Church), 7-11 p.m
- 11-13 Evergreen Baptist Church (Rochelle), 3 p.m.
- 11-17 Leadership Development, 7 p.m.
- 11-18 Puppet Team Conference, TBA
- Holidays (office closed): 11-11 Veteran's Day/11-24&25 Thanksgiving

## PLACES TO SERVE AT THE GROVE:

- **BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY-** Finance, Personnel Committee, Real Estate, Security, Trustees, and Wedding Ministries: *Contact Bro. Henry Allen 929-2931*
- **OPERATIONAL SUPPORT MINISTRY-** Bus, Computer Support, Floral, Food Service, Funeral, History, Media, Newsletter, and Public Relations Ministries: *Contact Deacon Edward Jarvis 923-5139*
- **OUTREACH MINISTRY-** Evangelism, Jail/Prison, Mission, Recreation Ministries: *Contact Minister John Dukes 953-8789*
- **SPIRITUAL MINISTRY-** Deacons, Deaconess, Married Couples, Men, Nurses Guild, Seasoned Saints, Serenity Addiction, Singles, and Women-(Ladies Retreat/Glory Girls) Ministries: *Contact Deacon Jerome Stephens 929-1476*
- **TEACHING MINISTRY-** Bible Study, Library, New Members, Sunday School, & Training Ministries: *Contact Minister Charles Byrd 218-0185*
- **YOUTH MINISTRY-** Children's Church, Genuine Praise, Nursery, Puppet, Scholarship, & Youth Outreach Ministries: *Contact Sis. Michelle Clarke 988-9358*
- **WORSHIP MINISTRY-** , Indoor Reporter, Ministerial Staff, Music, Surrendered , Ushers, and Voices of Prayer & Praise Ministries: *Contact Pastor David Clarke 988-9358*

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If you would like an online copy of the church calendar please visit: [www.thegrovewr.org/calendar/calendar.html](http://www.thegrovewr.org/calendar/calendar.html)

To contribute to the newsletter email your submissions to [newsletter@thegrovewr.org](mailto:newsletter@thegrovewr.org) by the 3rd Fri. preceding the distribution month.

The G.T.A.H. is distributed on the 1st Sunday of every month, to see previous newsletters visit: [www.thegrovewr.org/newsletter.html](http://www.thegrovewr.org/newsletter.html)