

OCTOBER 2020

The Wonders of Autumn

In Genesis we are told that God created the Heavens and the Earth and it was good. He created all the plants and animals and then He created human beings. We usually concentrate our study of Genesis on the creation of mankind. How Adam was formed from the dust and then Eve was made from a rib taken from Adam. As magnificent as that story is, let's back up just a little bit to the creation of Earth.

In the beginning, God created Earth and all the living plants. Not just those in the Garden of Eden but throughout our planet. He created trees that would produce leaves of green in the spring and as the temperature changed and the planet's rotation took our part of Earth farther from the sun, these leaves would change color. They would take on a brilliance of varying hues of reds, oranges, browns, and yellows.

In the midst of the hard labor of bringing in the crops for harvest, we are given great beauty to behold. God thought of this in the beginning. The days grow shorter and we are made to rise and get outside before it is fully light. Yet it is because of this that we are granted the opportunity to see the sun shine upon and spotlight these glorious trees.

This Autumn let us not forget to give thanks to the One who created all of this majestic beauty for us in the beginning. Before God created us, He created a place for us to live and grow and enjoy. Thanks be to God.

What's Inside

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Pastor

Grace Hammer

Session Leaders

Barbara Pearce

Kent King

Sally Schmidt

Deloris Pitts

Martha Clark

Melvin Matos

Clerk

Michelle Matos



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

By Barbara Pearce

OINK OINK

The Semi-wild Pigs roaming around Carroll County are helping us to raise money for the Joint-Venture of Mission Projects and Summer Events and Christian Camps. Because there was not any Christian Camps, this past summer, we have extra money, allowing us to also put money back for Missions. We are still looking at different types of Missions, both local and distant.

OASIS

Oasis has seen changes due to our COVID Season. The kids are wearing masks and using the hand sanitizer. They are also being spaced 6 feet apart will doing inside activities. Dinners have been sandwiches,

individually wrapped to also cut down on the possible spread of COVID-19. The children have been participating in all activities and adapting to the COVID changes. We will be taking the children to the Zoo at Columbia Park on Sunday, 9/27/2020.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Adult Sunday School has met twice. There were 6 women last week discussing the book "Finding Your Worth in Christ: A Study of Mary Magdalene".

The women have voiced their opinion that this book will benefit them in their daily lives. Men and Women are welcome to come join this class every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM.

Janessa and Brianna also had fun in the Children's Sunday School Class. Janessa and I reviewed "What's in the Bible" while we played with Brianna on the floor.

CHRISTMAS BASKET TOY STORE

By Gloria Maxwell



Christmas is just around the corner. The Carroll County Christmas Basket Program reaches out

to every corner of the county. We are gearing up to get gently used bikes & trikes ready for this year. We are searching for bikes, training wheels and helmets. Games & puzzles are needed too, along with toys for newborns through age 18.

In November, more information will come out, on how to sign up for those in need for FOOD and or TOYS. Christmas basket week will be the 2nd week of December. Any questions give me a call.

Thank you for your helping out, the kids of Carroll County.

May God Bless You!

Gloria Maxwell

Christmas Basket Toy Store chairman
765 412 2135.

NOTES

*by Chaplain
Toni*



*Amazing grace,
how sweet the*

*sound... that saved a wretch like
me. I once was lost, but now I'm
found; was blind, but now I see.*

I love this old hymn. Most of us might be able to sing "Amazing Grace," and know it by heart, but not everyone knows the story behind this beloved song. It was written in 1779 by John Newton, one of the most respected preachers in England at the time. Born in London in 1725, he was the only child of a sea captain and a churchgoing woman.

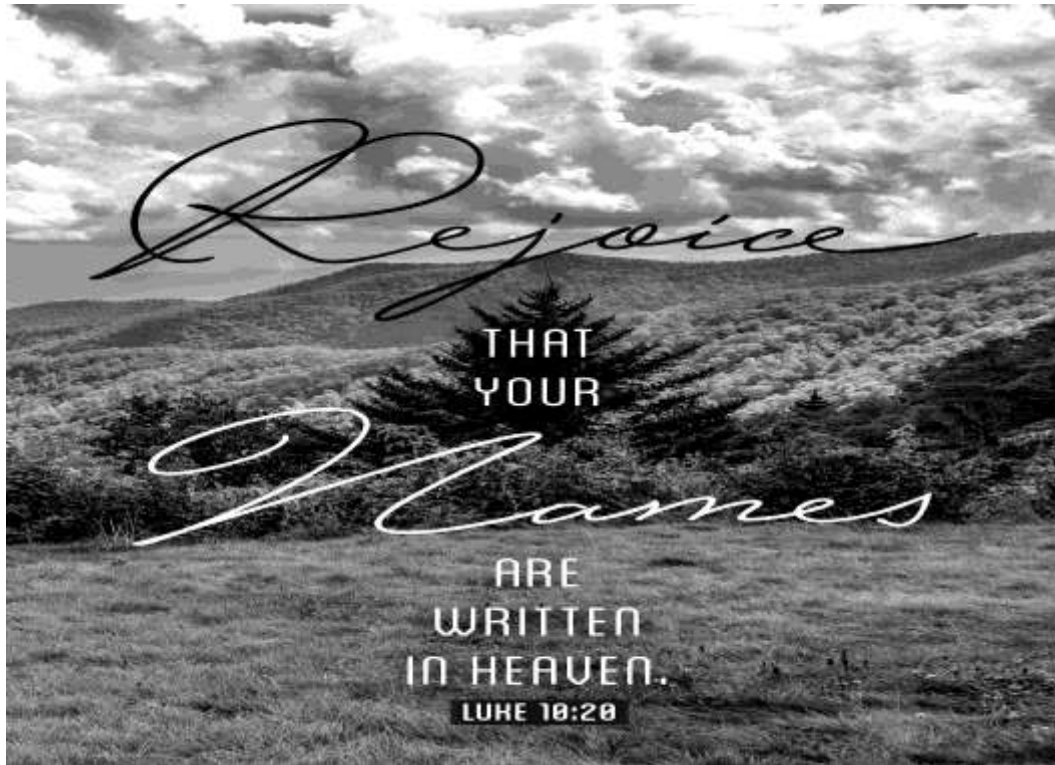
His mother taught him to read the Bible and go to services, but she died when Newton was seven years old. His father and stepmother did less to keep him on the straight and narrow, and he got into trouble many times. However; he never forgot the lessons his mother taught him. As a young man, Newton fell hard for a young woman named Mary, and when he was 19, while traveling to see her, he fell victim to a "press gang." The press gang forced Newton to join the crew of a ship, where discipline was harsh, and the food was bad and scarce. Newton's spirit was nearly broken. His mother's God seemed far away and uncaring. When he tried and failed to escape, the ship's captain had him stripped and flogged. Newton was transferred to another ship, and he became involved in the brutal 18th-century slave trade. The work was horrific and cost many human lives. Yet at the time it was legal—and lucrative. In 1748, Newton was on board a slaving ship called the Greyhound. The ship was in bad shape. During a violent storm, it began to fall apart and take on water. All night long Newton tried to keep the ship from going under. And he thought about the state of his life. He knew he had run from God, hurt other people, and made a wreck out of his own situation. He had even mocked the Gospel. Newton realized he might die in the storm. Would God still be forgiving, even after Newton had rejected Him? At last, Newton recalled what his mother had taught him from the Bible: God loves to show mercy even to people who feel they are beyond redemption. Newton asked for God's help for the first time in years. He survived the storm. It didn't happen overnight, but Newton's life began to be transformed. He learned to pray and he found friends who shared his faith and could help him understand

how it applied to his life. Eventually he gave up his role in the slave trade and stopped sailing for a living. Instead, Newton, who had married Mary, became the pastor, of a small English church. He also became a writer. One of his hymns, "Amazing Grace," describes his very personal journey out of spiritual blindness into the light of God's grace. In his later years, Newton became the pastor of a larger church in London, where he helped lead many people to the God he had once mocked. He was also active in the movement to abolish the British slave trade. When the prime minister appointed a committee to investigate the slave trade, Newton was a key witness. He explained the horrors of the "industry" from the inside out. His compelling testimony helped make the slave trade—and eventually slavery—illegal. (paraphrased from *Inside Journal* Fall 2020)

So, where are we in the story of God's Amazing Grace? Are we singing it purely by rote, or are we telling a vibrant living story? Or have we fallen mute? If we are telling our story, when do we tell it? Is it only within the safety of our church walls? Who are we speaking to? Who is our audience/congregation? Or are we watching others tell of God's Amazing Grace? These are powerful questions. As we think of the last verse of this mighty hymn, where are we? Is your face among the throng of singers?

***When we've been there ten thousand
years...bright shining as the sun;
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun.***

Blessings,



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OCTOBER 2020

B=Birthday

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 OASIS	1 Bible Study 5:30PM	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday	5 Bible Study 12PM	6	7 OASIS	8 Bible Study 5:30PM B=Craig McGill	9 B=Ava McGill	10 Bell Rehearsal 8:30 Choir 9:45
11	12 Bible Study 12PM	13 B=Jane Kearns	14 OASIS	15 Bible Study 5:30PM	16	17 Bell Rehearsal 8:30 Choir 9:45
18 Session Meeting	19 Bible Study 12PM Carroll Fall Break 19-25	20	21	22 Bible Study 5:30PM B=Melvin Matos	23 B=Mitchell Catron	24 Bell Rehearsal 8:30 Choir 9:45
25	26 Bible Study 12PM	27	28 OASIS B=Judah Pitts	29 Bible Study 5:30PM	30	31 Halloween

