

## Family Information

### New Birth

Congratulations to Jeff and Robbie McVicker on the birth of their first grandchild. Clark Dylan McVicker was born to David and Michaela McVicker October 31, 2021; at birth Clark was 10 pounds, 8 ounces and 22 inches long. David and Michaela and Clark reside in Burleson, Texas.

### Child Care Help

The Child Care industry is suffering from a shortage of teachers. We are in desperate need of teachers. If you know someone that is interested, please let the elders know. We will provide training and help with the necessary certifications.

As a result of the shortage our current staff is having to put in a lot of extra hours. We are asking the congregation to contribute to the Child Care so we can give our staff Christmas bonuses. If you wish to contribute, please mark your contribution for Child Care. We will also be using this contribution to purchase Christmas gifts for the children. We will be collecting until Sunday 12/12.

### Gratitude Box

This month there is a decorated box called "The Gratitude Box" on the table immediately on your left as you come in (usually where Visitor Information is). There will be blank note cards next to the box (and an instruction sheet beside it). If you are willing, just fill out a piece of paper telling the church what you are thankful for. This box will be there for the entirety of November and the answers will be anonymously read this Sunday (November 28th). Feel free to provide multiple answers! No need to share your name, just tell us what you are thankful for!

## On Line Bible Studies

### Sunday Morning Class Schedule

The Sunday morning Bible class is taking a break today, November 28, for the holiday weekend. We will resume meeting next Sunday, December 5.

### Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is on the book of Galatians. Contact Karen for more details.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$4255	\$4489
<b>Designated:</b>	\$	\$92

**Minister:** Caleb Dillinger  
**Elders:** Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins  
**Deacons:** Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva  
**Spanish Ministry:** Luis Valdez

For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.

## The Lord Has Done This

*The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things. - Psalm 118:16*

The Lord has done mighty things; he made the earth and the stars, and he formed each of us with care and understanding. Our Heavenly Father has done mighty things, and his Son has come to redeem us, to clothe us with garments of salvation and his own righteousness, and to open the gates to God's presence. It is good to give thanks and praise to God - *Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. - Psalm 118:19*

Poet and author Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1850-1919) titled one of her poems "Thanksgiving" (sometimes called "A Thanksgiving Chorus"); in it she writes about the many things we can be grateful for, and helps us appreciate the things God does for us every day. As she writes, "For blessings common in our sight We rarely offer praises."

Indeed each day we see God's splendor in all the things he created; each day he pours out his grace and care on each of us. Wilcox's poem continues, "We sigh for some supreme delight To crown our lives with splendor, And quite ignore our daily store Of pleasures sweet and tender." Though worldly minds reject Jesus and his message of truth and grace, the Lamb of God is our Savior and our cornerstone, and he is marvelous in the eyes of our hearts - *I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. - Psalm 118:21-23*

Truly the Lord has done this and many more things for each of us. This word is full of fears and sorrows and worries, as Ella writes, "So unobtrusive many a joy We pass by and forget it, But worry strives to own our lives, And conquers if we let it," so God patiently calls us to look beyond this world's appearances and distractions, and put our trust in him.

As Ella Wilcox's poem continues, "There's not a day in all the year But holds some hidden pleasure, And looking back, joys oft appear To brim the past's wide measure." For this very day our Heavenly Father shows us many signs of his compassion, and his Son is our light of life - *The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad . . . The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. - Psalm 118:24, 118:27*

In another poem, Wilcox writes, "I look upon the mighty sun, Upon the humble flower; In both, O great and heavenly One, I read Thy wondrous power . . . Thou, O my God, art everywhere." And as the psalmist says, *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever (Psalm 118:29)*, for God's compassion and the purposes of his heart will endure forever.

- Mark Garner



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November 28, 2021  
Volume 30, Number 48

## A Thanksgiving

For the rosebud's break of beauty  
Along the toiler's way;  
For the violet's eye that opens  
To bless the newborn day;  
For the bare twigs that in summer  
Bloom like the prophet's rod;  
For the blossoming of flowers,  
I thank Thee, O my God!

For the earth, and all its beauty,  
The sky, and all its light;  
For the dim and soothing shadows  
That rest the dazzled sight;  
For unfading fields and prairies,  
Where sense in vain has trod;  
For the world's exhaustless beauty,  
I thank Thee, O my God!

For the hidden scroll o'erwritten  
With one dear Name adored;  
For the heav'nly in the human,  
The Spirit in the Word;  
For the tokens of Thy presence  
Within, above, abroad;  
For Thine own great gift of Being,  
I thank Thee, O my God!

- Lucy Larcom, 1824-1893

*Poet Lucy Larcom also published two collections of writings about Christianity by other writers. She founded a literary magazine that is still published, and a mountain is named after Larcom in New Hampshire, where she frequently visited.*

Always giving thanks to  
God the Father for  
everything ...



Ephesians 5:20

## A Sure Foundation For All Our Times

*Whether we are in times of hope or fear, joy or sorrow, peace or confusion, God and the message of Jesus are always a sure foundation. This week, Franklin Agyei writes about Jesus, a sure foundation who guides us and helps us when we face the storms of this life.*

### The Storms Of Life & Our Sure Foundation

*Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. (Matthew 7:24-25)*

**Let's talk about a few of the storms of life that blow across the face of the earth that can affect our life.** What sort of storms can come against us? All the common things of life. Economic hardship such as financial problems and loss of jobs are big storms that hit our lives every now and then. Sometimes the basic needs in life become difficult to acquire and we feel like life is not fair to us.

Another storm that is part of life is sickness and physical suffering. Our bodies do not work the way they were originally designed, our environment is not in the shape it was originally designed, we are attacked by bacteria, fungus, viruses, and a host of other parasites and predators. Our minds have been affected and we do really stupid things to both our bodies and to others. That is in addition to people just being plain mean and hurting one another. When these various physical ailments strike us, we can get knocked off our feet and then can easily fall into depression and despair. Without the Lord, their despair leads them to see death as the only hope to escape their pain and end what they see as pointless lives, and Christians are not immune to pain and suffering.

Another storm that comes upon us is physical death of friends and loved ones around us and our own. When someone we love dies, we grieve. Most of us know the anguish of that sorrow. Even Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb. Even for the Christian, death is still an enemy, but for those whose trust is in Christ, it is as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, an enemy who has lost its sting and its victory. We grieve, we cry, we struggle with our emotions, but we are not as those without hope, for we have a Savior and therefore an assurance for the future. When the Christians face death they can find themselves in the same perplexity as Paul in Philippians 1:21-26 of not knowing which is better, to stay and continue to serve the Lord here, or to depart and be with Him.

The unbelieving do not have this confidence when they are confronted with the death of a loved one or when facing their own death. The result is despairing sorrow which is a feeling that the world has ended and that there is no meaning or purpose to existence. Therefore, let us holdfast to the Word of God and our foundation be on Jesus Christ alone. *The Lord is exalted, for He dwells on high; He will fill Zion with His justice and righteousness.*

*He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure. (Isaiah 33:5-6) Amen!*

- Franklin Agyei