

# Heart-felt Thanks

Do you know that 2016 is almost over? How in the world did that happen? We're already into November, which brings All Saints Sunday, Election Day, Veteran's Day, Stewardship Sunday, Thanksgiving, and the first Sunday in Advent. *Whew!* As we work together in the work of the church, it's *all hands on deck* time.

And, when it's so stressful, it's often difficult to remember to give thanks. Oh, we can do it on that special Thursday, but can we give thanks daily? Can we give thanks hourly? Or are we covered up with details and happenings and deadlines and feeling so rushed that we wish somehow, that God would hurry up, too?

Scripture reminds us often to give thanks. Doing so means STOPPING if only for a moment, to recognize that it's not about me, it's not about time, it's not about doing, it's not about goals. It's about God. Whatever it is, it's *always* about God. It's about remembering that nothing I am, or have, or accomplish happens in a vacuum. And God is always, *always* awake, aware, and orchestrating. And when I remember, I must give thanks. How could I not?

Giving thanks verbally is an important first step. Giving thanks because we believe in *paying it forward* is another. We hope that you will seriously consider *paying it forward* by showing your heart-felt thanks and giving generously to your church. Those who work to divide the budget among church committees have discovered that we are using each nickel that comes in. We have allocated all your gifts sent this past year, and there is no extra. That's what we're always challenged to do. And we hope that your gratitude will be shown more abundantly to the God who gives so abundantly. If you can increase your pledge for the 2017 budget year, please do. If you can increase your time spent in ministries here, please do. If you can increase how often you share the many talents God has given you, please do. You make a profound difference with every tithe and every offering – because it's not our church, it's Jesus' church. He is the head of this church. And we can never thank Him enough. We can only thank Him more than we have before.

So, with heart-felt thanks I remind you of how very precious you are to your Creator. I remind you of how much God wants to be recognized (*see #1: Ten Commandments*). I remind you of how much you owe – yes, *owe*. Your debt can never be repaid. But with heart-felt thanks, you can try.

Friends, I am thankful for you.

*Candice*

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name, make known God's deeds among the peoples.  
– 1 Chronicles 16:8