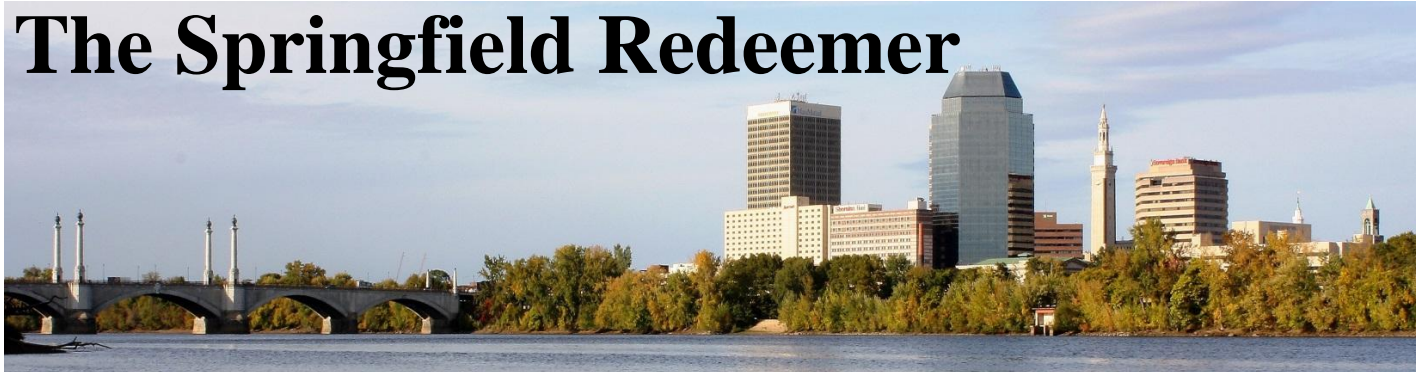


The Springfield Redeemer



The Newsletter of Redemption Gate Mission Society

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“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” 1 Chron. 16:34

Does Your Thanksgiving Glorify God? by Roberta D’Amico

Thanksgiving is still 4 weeks away, but November 1st is not too early to be thinking about what it means. Of course, as Christians, we ought to be thinking about giving thanks to our wonderful Creator and Savior every day! Nothing makes God more pleased and makes the devil cringe more than to be thankful and grateful for all that He does every day. Realize that every day we live, nay, every breath we take, is a gift from God.

Every one of us is guilty of sin and deserves condemnation, but God in His grace sent Jesus to take our sins upon Himself and bestow on us His righteousness, so setting us free! So by His grace and mercy we live and breathe another day. Plus, God has given us eternal life and His Holy Spirit to live in us and to teach, protect, and guide us here on earth, and not to leave us, ever.

So why do we choose a special day once a year to celebrate being thankful? It goes back to the founding of our blessed country, America. Remembering our history, after the first awful year of starving in Plymouth, and the following year’s good harvest, the Pilgrims had much to be thankful for. They knew all about the biblical feast of

Sukkot, the Feast of Booths, which God instructed His people to celebrate after their harvest, and used it as a model for their thanksgiving feast.

Many aspects of the Thanksgiving traditions have deep meaning. They had a bountiful harvest and game was plentiful, and so they praised God for the abundance. We, too, have abundance. They shared with their neighbors, as we ought also, to share with family, friends, and those in need. Not just once a year, either.

Yet with all that we have, we complain and grumble, just like the Israelites did in the wilderness journey, after God had delivered them from bondage. God had provided for their needs, but they were not satisfied, because they did not get what *they* wanted. This penchant for dissatisfaction is from our human nature and goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. The only remedy is to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit and surrender our desires to Him.

For Christians, the desire to get together for the holiday, is symbolic of the unity of the Body of Christ and our need for fellowship

with other Christians. God designed us to desire and need intimacy with others; but this need cannot be fully satisfied by other humans, sinners like ourselves. Only God can fully satisfy it, and He gave us the desire for it to draw us to Himself. But still, God calls us to join together in fellowship; to help each other grow spiritually; to learn to love, serve, and minister to one another here on this earth.

This month is a good time to think about all the people in need right here in America. Many in Texas were flooded out, in Florida many lost their homes in the hurricane, and even more in Puerto Rico. At the same time, the fires in California were destroying the homes and belongings of multitudes. It will take them years to rebuild their lives, so let’s not forget them. Pray for them and continue to support relief organizations like Samaritan’s Purse. But, let’s not forget we have homeless folks right here in Springfield who come to Holy Grounds Coffee House daily. Please remember us in your giving and volunteering. We need your donations to continue. God bless your Thanksgiving!

Fund-Raiser is a Sweet Success!

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, at Holy Grounds, we shared sweet fellowship, delicious home-cooked food, and a good amount of support for the Coffee House, at the Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fund-Raiser! I don't know which one was the sweetest, the food, the funds, or the fellowship!

The food was plentiful, hot and delicious! We served spaghetti, meatballs, lasagna, salad, pizza, and cake. Of course

there was coffee, tea, ice tea, hot chocolate, and cake. Everyone who signed up to bring food, brought an abundance. All the sauce was made by Melody. Brother Bruce especially enjoyed serving.

Some took their meals to-go, but most gathered in small groups around the tables to chat while they ate. Pastor Cooley said it was awesome! He and Gloria sang some songs. His favorite was The

Spirit of the Lord, (about David's dance.)

As a fund-raiser, it was quite successful, raising \$900. We served around 50 people. It was good to see the community come together. There was lots of help to clean up, and left-overs to serve on Monday. All-in-all, a wonderful job was accomplished putting it all together. Thank you, Body of Christ, the Church, at Holy Grounds Coffee House!



Ongoing Events

SUNDAY SERVICES: 10 a.m.- Pastors Bobby & Kim; 2 p.m.- Pastor Brian Greene; and 6 p.m.- Transformation Centered Healing Ministries with Prophet Eric Thomas & Pastor Susan.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.

WED.: Trust Jesus Recovery – 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m.

SATURDAY: Lunch 2 to 4 p.m. except the first Saturday of the month. **1ST SATURDAY:** "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHTS: Nov. 11, 7 p.m., Band - tba; Nov. 25, 7 p.m. Open Mic with Cathy Marvici.