

November 23, 2014
Thanksgiving Week

Roots

This week we will celebrate Thanksgiving. It is a great holiday with an even better name. As Christians, we are called to be thankful to God for all of His blessings to us. So today, in that spirit, I thought that I would count my blessings and be thankful to God for his many blessings to me, especially those He gives me through all of you.

First off, I would like to thank you for an excellent voter's meeting last week. It went very well, with no visible hitches (or invisible ones that I know of for that matter). In the highlights of that meeting; we passed the budget, and we welcomed new officers and board members who will begin positions at the first of the new year.

That brings me to my second reason for being thankful to you all. I would like to thank all of those members who will be taking on new positions in their church this coming year. I am grateful to have willing and capable members step up to new challenges as we move forward here at *Tree*. In this same bit of thankfulness, I would like to tip my hat to those members who are stepping down from various leadership positions in the church to now take on a new roles. Your leadership and service was vital to the church. Thanks to all of you. And, I wish to acknowledge my gratefulness to those of you who are staying on in the same positions as

well. Your willingness to continue to lead is admirable and much appreciated. God's peace

to all of you who will serve or have served in some capacity for the various boards here at *Tree* and thank you.

Now on a personal note, I would like to thank you all for your help in getting my family settled here in Texas. Moving can be scary and difficult for anybody, but it seems a different kind of scary for a pastor and his family. There are so many unknowns when coming into a call that it can be difficult to adjust, but you all made that adjustment and period of transition go smoothly for us. Thank you very much.

In closing, I would also like to thank you for helping me transition into being a pastor. Make no mistake, the seminary trained me well to be a pastor, but until I got here I was not a pastor. That transition from student to "sheepdog" went exceedingly smoothly thanks to you with the help of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for being willing to listen to and be led by this "new dog."

These are just a very few of the things that I am thankful to God for blessing me by this year. I pray that the Holy Spirit lead us all to lead thankful lives to the creator, redeemer and sustainer of us all, the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. To him be all honor, glory and praise. Amen.

Pastor Carl O. Johnson

