

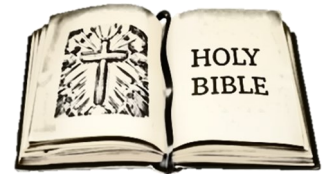
Garden Gleanings

October 2022

A monthly publication of the Garden Community Church



Give Me S'more of Jesus



With hot drinks in hand and Bibles open on our laps, 20 ladies gathered around the fire enjoying the beautiful fall weather and feasting on the Word of God. The relaxed evening on Julie Miller's patio consisted of reading Bible passages as well as discussion of scripture currently speaking to us in our life situations. S'mores and snack mix were served as refreshments and a candy corn guessing game gave four lucky winners prizes to take home. Everyone left the evening of fellowship with a little s'more favor as a reminder to the importance of a regular intake of God's Word in our Christian lives.

-Kim Kohls



Family Night at the

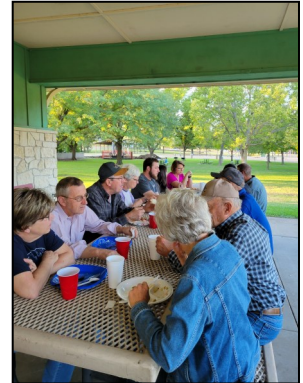
PUMPKIN PATCH

The P & M Pumpkin Patch provided a great venue for our families whose children are involved in our Wednesday evening children's discipleship ministries. The weather was beautiful and the surroundings of fall colors and falling leaves created a magical place to play and interact together! It was great to see individual families enjoying playing together. So many different kinds of play activities were available. The culmination of our evening found most of our group on the large jumping mat. Some of our parents, including our TK game leaders Scot and Jenny, joined the kiddos with the fun. Such laughter and joy was seen and heard! Our goal for an evening of family fun was accomplished!



Church Picnic

God graciously provided us with another beautiful evening for our Annual All-Church Picnic on October 9th. Kids were able to enjoy the play ground equipment at King Park in Hesston and adults enjoyed the weather visiting with each other before the potluck meal at 6 p.m.



GCC Life Groups

As Christians, we receive the unique gift of a church family designed by God to support, encourage, and carry us through life here on earth. We are instructed by the Word to encourage one another, pray for one another, bear with each other, consider the other more important than oneself, serve each other, and admonish one another. And the list could go on. God designed us for Christian community and fellowship to stand strong in our fight. Our church has a great ministry of Life Groups that further allows a deepening of relationships. Meeting regularly to share and discuss God's principles in homes provides a setting where individuals can really share life together. Through our personal Life Group experiences we have studied the Word, celebrated anniversaries and a baby shower, helped people move homes, served alongside each other, shared many cookouts and yummy snacks, and have listened and prayed for each other through difficult life experiences. Garden currently has seven active Life Groups with 69 people attending. Group size varies, but is usually kept to around ten people. Each group is free to organize and run their group how they like, but are encouraged to meet frequently and regularly, have a Biblical study they are going through, and to try to do at least one service project and one fun event together a year. If you are interested in joining a Life Group, contact Kevin Kohls, Eva Pankratz, or Mandi Crist.

-Kim Kohls



Library News

Our November church calendar is promoting a MISSIONAL month. Our annual missions conference is scheduled for the first weekend in November with a variety of activities and messages that will challenge us in our thinking and giving towards **World Missions**. Spreading the Gospel message to the ends of the earth is a mandate from Christ and is carried out by the giving and serving of people within the body of Christ. Garden Church has been faithful in *giving* and *sending* missionaries!

It is easy for us to give our money and attention globally, but often find it difficult to look across the street at the neighbor who is also in need of the Gospel message. What if we could discover the "art of neighboring" - building genuine relationships right outside our door?? What if Jesus really meant that we should love our actual neighbor? What if you could discover a more organic, more authentic way to share your faith with friends and neighbors?

Featured this month you will find books about simple ways to make disciples and ultimately change our communities and the world around us. One of the the books titled **B.L.E.S.S. by Dave Ferguson and Jon Ferguson** has revolutionized my thinking about blessing my neighbors and opening the door for conversations about Jesus.

Biblical Hospitality as a way of life by Dustin Willis and Brandon Clements is another great book to read! Allow these authors to show a biblical picture of hospitality that will fire your imagination and inspire you to act!

The Art of Neighboring by Jay Path and Dave Runyon. The reading of this book is thought provoking and yet practical. Practicing the truths in the book have the potential to transform not only your life but also your entire community.

These three mentioned books all have questions at the back of each chapter which would be great for a Life Group discussion. What if we as members of GCC would begin to bless our neighbors?? What impact could have on our neighborhoods and ultimately our church as new believers joined our ranks. The challenge is out there for YOU!!

The table will also hold Missionary biographies and other Mission interest books. Stop in and take a look. . Better yet, take a book home and try practicing loving and serving the people God has placed in our sphere of influence.



Dagni Anders, a volunteer at 2nd Blessing, was the special guest at the Senior Adult Event on October 14. Dagni shared about her family's escape from Latvia during WWII. She told of the hardships they encountered and also of God's protection during those times. She used Psalm 91 as a focus. A meal of Hamburger stew, homemade bread, and assorted cakes was served to 68 people in attendance.





Vonnie's Views

This year in my monthly posts, I'm commenting on my Bible reading as I journey through the Bible with two friends using a YouVersion plan. Having completed the Old Testament readings a couple of weeks ago, we've already read Matthew and are well into Mark.

I decided to reflect the purpose for four eye-witness accounts of the life of Christ. David Mathis gives insight "...consider the concept of God's word. *God speaks*. He reveals himself to us. He communicates with us. His word, as John Frame says is 'his powerful, authoritative self-expression.' Just as the words of a friend are central in revealing his person to us, so it is with God." (*Disciplines of Grace*, p. 38). One of the prime reasons we have four Gospel accounts is that we might encounter Jesus (God incarnate). This is the self-expression of God—so deep, rich, and full that we encounter *a real person*.

J.I. Packer, in his book *Knowing God*, discusses what knowing God involves: "the more complex the object, the more complex is the knowing of it. Knowledge of something abstract, like a language, is acquired by learning; knowledge of something inanimate [an object]...comes by inspection and exploration...But when one gets to living things, knowing them becomes a good deal more complicated." (p. 37). Packer explains, when it comes to "knowing" another person, we are dependent on that person revealing himself to us. We can "know" someone by their physical appearance or their mannerisms. But we cannot *really* know them until they reveal their minds to us. And even then, our knowledge of them is dependent on what they choose to reveal to us.


The knowledge of God is infinitely more complex than the knowledge of another person. We can only know God to the extent of what God chooses to reveal about himself to us. God took on human flesh and walked among us. The Bible is where we learn to *know God*. We are incapable of knowing God without God revealing himself to us. As I have been reading the Gospels, the question I've been asking myself is: "who is this Jesus?"

Let me give you an example of a glimpse into the character of Jesus (God incarnate): "He looked around at them angrily and was deeply saddened by their hard hearts..." Mark 3:5. I understand from this verse that a hard heart makes God angry and deeply saddens him. Mark 6:6 "And he was amazed at their unbelief" Unbelief amazes God—because God's revelation provides undisputable evidence of who God is, who we are, and what God requires. We are guilty of blasphemy when we refuse to believe.


So, what does all this have to do with the four unique Gospel accounts? As I'm reading the Gospels, I'm encountering a flesh-and-blood person. This person who remained Holy throughout his human life—he never sinned. What's more He gave himself as a sacrifice in my place.

A quote from Packer: "...the almighty creator, the Lord of hosts, the great God before whom the nations are as a drop in a bucket, comes to you and begins to talk to you, through the words and truths of Holy Scripture...you come to realize as you listen that God is actually opening his heart to you, making friends with you, and enlisting you...as a *covenant partner*. It is a staggering thing, but it is true—the relationship in which sinful human beings know who God is." (p. 38-39).

And this is the wonderful journey through the Bible to the heart of God. It's not merely reading, it is receiving the Holy Spirit's interpretation and application to my life, it is learning to know God's nature and character, it is accepting his invitation to believe and obey, and it is rejoicing in the love that initiated a relationship with me and draws me into divine fellowship!





But those who wish to boast
should boast in this alone:
that they truly know me
and understand that I am
the LORD...
Jeremiah 9:24, NLT



November

Prayer Calendar and Memory Verse

Memory Verse: II Chronicles 20:12—Our God, will not judge them? For we are powerless before this vast number that comes to fight against us. We do not know what to do, but we look to you.

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1 Pray for God's help in letting go of something He wants you to release.	2 Pray for Daniel and Krissy in language study, to become fluent and accurate.	3b Ask God to help you live guided by godly wisdom and not worldly wisdom.	4 Ask God to show you anything you have placed before Him in your life.	5 Pray for prayer retreat James is hosting in Brazil.
6 Search your heart and forgive anyone you are holding ill feelings toward.	7 Pray to be wholly yielded to the Holy Spirit, nothing held back.	8 Pray God leads Mark & Molly to people whose hearts are ready to hear of Jesus.	9 Pray for an opportunity to share God's truth with your neighbor.	10 Pray medical personnel give care with tenderness and wisdom.	11 Praise God Joe & Denise are back in the field and able to encourage the work.	12 Pray for a family member that is in a hard place right now.
13 Pray for hearts open to hear the Word of God and to obey.	14 Pray for Josh & Camila as they settle back into Brazil.	15 Pray those in nursing homes remember the promises of God and cling to them.	16 Pray kids in Wed night programs never forget the lessons taught.	17 Pray those in the hospital sense God's peace and comfort.	18 Pray for Ivan & Mary to be vessels of love and truth to the kids.	19 Pray young adults seek God's leading in life decisions.
20 Pray local churches preach the whole truth of God clearly and boldly.	21 Ask God to show you where and how to give in service to others.	22 Pray Elwyn & Linda have sweet times of fellowship with Jesus.	23 Ask God to make you a light to someone walking in darkness.	24 Pray David & Tonya have times of refreshing away from their jobs.	25 Pray we have hearts burdened for the lost, willing to share the gospel.	26 Pray for family members that need salvation.
27 Praise God for His goodness - even when things look horrible.	28 Pray those in prison find forgiveness and healing in Christ.	29 Ask God to break down the walls we build around our hearts.	30 Pray board members and Pastor have wisdom in making decisions concerning our church.			



NEW HOPE HAPPENINGS

Happenings at New Hope • October 2022

STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

People often ask why the New Hope Shelter is necessary. It has been here since 2005 for people like “Joan”. She lost her place to live when she was kicked out by a roommate. She came into the Shelter with no job in the summer. Less than three months later, she is working 63 hours a week and is the final stages of securing an apartment of her own. We are all about helping people to get a new start. Hundreds have had that opportunity over the years and hundreds more will be assisted as we move forward in building our new facility.

Nationally the statistics show that 70% of the Homeless population are men. That is not the case locally. Our population is routinely 50% women and children and calls for beds come almost every day. We have factored that in to our planning for our new facility.

Many of you have asked for an update on the Building and the Campaign. We have purchased five acres fronting on Meridian Road just south of Casey’s in Newton. That parcel has been surveyed, platted, and the new subdivision has been approved by the City of Newton. We are hoping to select a General contractor before the end of the year and start building in early 2023 with completion of the project before the end of 2023.

We need an additional \$800,000 to secure our Foundation challenge grant of \$1,000,000, enabling us to build. Your commitment can come in cash or in a pledge over a period of years. It can be a gift of appreciated stock, farm commodities, real estate or an in-kind gift. The important thing is that every written commitment counts toward our goal, even if it is paid over a period of years. Every dollar counts as we press forward to meet the Challenge. If you have questions, or need more information, please call Brian Bisbee at 316-283-7711. Pray with us as we move forward.

We Love You. Brian Bisbee

As You Head into the Holidays.....
Join [iGive.com](https://www.give.com) and designate the New Hope Shelter, Inc. as your designated charity.

Sign up for [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and benefit the New Hope Shelter, Inc. It will take a



To the Team Leaders and Church Teams who provide us with Meals every Night.
You have been faithful and the food has been so tasty.

To Chaplain Michael Unruh of Bethel College and the teams of Bethel College students who assisted us on September 21 at the Food and Supply Drive. Thanks also to Meridian Grocery, Dillon's North and South, and Wal-Mart for sharing your space with us that day and a Big Thanks to all of you who shopped on our behalf.
We were able to restock some of our shelves.



Fruit cups
Pudding cups
To Go Containers
Chips
Granola/fruit bars

Napkins
Paper towels
Bread
Milk
Sliced meat and cheese



October 16, 2022

Dear Garden Community Church,

A quick update from the Republic of Georgia, yes, we made it with an uneventful trip if you can call a 14-hour flight uneventful! We did have two days before the Avant leadership retreat started which allowed us to get SIM cards for our phones, get cash at an ATM and rest a little before the retreat started.

There were about 26 of us from the East region, some of us had not seen each other since before the pandemic and of course, there were some new faces! It was a great time of fellowship together and a wonderful speaker who brought us a spiritual feast from Hebrews 12. He must have spent a month preparing these sermons for us, what an encouragement! Our discussion about various leadership issues was also a fruitful time getting us caught up on situations faced by us on the fields.

The last day of the retreat we finally did find an apartment and signed up for it. Just before leaving the hotel in the lobby, Joe missed an unmarked step and went sprawling. He immediately felt he had broken his right wrist, so a teammate took us to a hospital to get x-rayed with the verdict that he would need surgery, so our next night was spent in the hospital before we were able to move into our apartment. The following day the team leader tested positive for covid and now his wife also, so we haven't spent much time with them yet.

The two groups that are working with Ukrainian displaced persons have some big challenges with winter coming on soon. Please pray for wisdom on how best we can help them prepare for this difficult season. One group especially, needs places for the people still in their Ukrainian city to live, as most of their homes have been destroyed.

In His grip,

Joe & Denise



Dear Friends and Family

October 2022

Well I think it has cooled off here in Wichita, which means blankets, will be in high demand. If you have extra blankets, please consider passing them along to 2nd Blessings.

Isaiah 25:4&5 you have been a refuge for the poor. A refuge for the needy, in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall, and like the heat of the desert. You silence the uproar of foreigners as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud, so the song of the ruthless is stilled.

At 8:30 A.M. a faithful volunteer arrived to work. She had tears streaming down her face. We immediately went into the chapel. She began to tell me the heart breaking situation her family is facing. I could not relate to what they were and are facing but as I listened my heart broke.

Their son who has served in the military in Afghanistan came home with severe PTSD as well as an alcoholic. Every July the fireworks really causes his PTSD to manifest in alcohol and anger. When this happens he blacks out and does not remember at all what he has done. This last July he was arrested for what he had done which was very serious charges. He is now facing a very lengthy prison sentence as the counts against him are many. Here is a wonderful Christian family involved in a great local church here in Wichita. This young man's parents are trying to prepare for the days, months, and years ahead. Long story short she was amazed how the Lord brought her to 2nd Blessings as a volunteer, now it has been made very clear to her. She could not believe how I came along beside and was there for her and her family to listen and pray. She asked if I would go visit her son. As hard as it was I did go and the Lord was with me all the way. Such a sweet Christian man who really messed up and is now paying the price. This type of ministry has increased over the past year as we visit and pray with people whose churches, families, and friends disintegrate before their eyes and no one is there for them. 2nd Blessings is there for each and every one seeking comfort and prayer. Thank you Lord for the opportunity given to me as Chaplain at 2nd Blessings.

Mosie Lister wrote "Till the Storm Passes By. My prayer is that it can be a comfort to you as it was for this lady.

"TILL THE STORM PASSES BY"

In the dark of the midnight have I oft hid my face, while the storm howls above me, and there's no hiding place, mid the crash of the thunder, precious Lord, hear my cry, keep me safe till the storm passes by Many times Satan whispered, There is no need to try, for there's no end of sorrow, there's no hope by and by. But I know Thou art with me, and tomorrow I'll rise where the storm never darkens the skies. When the long night has ended, and the storms come no more, let me stand in Thy presence on that bright peaceful shore. In that land where the tempest never comes, Lord, may I dwell with Thee when the storm passes by.

Till the storm passes over, till the thunder sounds no more, Till the clouds roll forever from the sky, Hold me fast, let me stand in the hollow of Thy hand, keep me safe till the storm passes by.

Please remember to pray as we continue to minister to the hurting and lost. The weight some are carrying around is beyond anything most of us could ever imagine.

Pray also for Tayna and I as we process the burdens and struggles facing us while serving here in Wichita.

Thank you all again for your faithful prayer, and financial support.

Awaiting HIS Return

David and Tayna McCloud

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dmcccloud1964@gmail.com

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022



OCTOBER 2022? WOW! It's nearing the end; is it the end of the YEAR, or the end of TIME? That still remains a mystery. So, Christ is still calling as He did from the beginning in Genesis 7:1, "*Noah, COME thou, and all thy house into the Ark*" and still calls, all the way to the end of Revelation. 22:17 "*COME and let him hear, Come, let him that is athirst, Come. and whosoever will; let him take the water of life freely.*" He closes the invitation as he did the door of the ark with Noah and his family, and ends the book of Revelation with verses 20-21. "*HE which testifieth these things saith, Surely, I COME quickly. Amen. Even so COME Lord Jesus. Verse 21 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*

We are confident you were waiting for, and wondering why, this newsletter did not "come" earlier. Ev is my secretary, and she had Covid, but we were so thankful God granted her many long hours of sleep during her sickness. Through the power of the prayers of those who knew about it, she went back to church after 23 days. It seems to have affected her hearing the most.

Since then, various events have been attended by either or both of us: church, our great-granddaughter's volleyball game in Hutchinson, and a family reunion in Pretty Prairie. We also visited what we thought would be 4 people we knew in the Sunset home in Pretty Prairie. We ended up visiting with other relatives/friends we did not know were there. Needless to say, we were tired when we arrived home that day.

We are looking forward to Thanksgiving in November and wish you a great Thanksgiving Day, as you celebrate with family and friends.

Norvin & Evelyn Schrag



Dear Friends,

Thank you to those who called asking about my welfare during Covid. Prayer was what I needed most, as Norv is adept in the kitchen and took good care of anything I felt like eating. In times when I am sick, I can truly say, "*It is good that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.*" I had time, other than sleeping, to reflect on my life, feeling the gloom of Paul in Romans 7, and also the excitement that Romans 11:33-36 brought me. Thank you again for your love and concern.

Ev Schrag

