

# The Lamplighter

*...doing the work He is doing in the world...*

November 2016

**Up-Reach  
In-Reach  
Outreach,  
Bathed in  
Prayer**

## *Pastor's Page*

### **Gateway**

I appreciate Thanksgiving Day. For me it is simpler than Christmas and therefore less stressful (with the exception of last year's trip to the ER to get 9 stitches in my finger!) What a great idea the Pilgrim's had to set aside a day to offer their thanks to God for His provision and blessing. I also like the fact that so many feel the urge to serve others at this time precisely because they have been blessed.

There is something about true (inward) gratitude that manifests itself in (outward) thanksgiving. When someone is truly grateful, they do not have to be prodded to express thanks – be it verbal or some tangible act.

I have had parents ask me, "How do you teach children to be grateful?" I wish I had a complete answer. You can teach children to have manners and say thank you. You can teach them to send thank you cards. That is all very important. But teaching them to be truly grateful can be a bit more challenging. Our affluent American lifestyle can be counter-productive to the concept of appreciation for people of any age. Things tend to be taken for granted or worse, people feel entitled. When that happens, not only does gratitude go out the window, it is often replaced with covetousness, jealousy, greed and envy to name a few. This is why in the Bible unthankfulness is listed among some really heavy sins – blasphemy, idolatry, unforgiveness (2 Tim. 3:2, Rom. 1:21). When a person fails to be appreciative for what they have, they are on the threshold of all sorts of sins. You could call it a gateway sin – it leads to others. A man who does not appreciate his wife is setting himself up for a potential fall.

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## Pastor's Page (continued)

The employee who is ungrateful for her job is setting herself up to fail when temptation to take a short cut comes. Unthankfulness is not a matter of poor etiquette, it is a spiritual issue- perhaps even a spiritual discipline to practice.



*"Often people ask how I manage to be happy despite having no arms and no legs. The quick answer is that I have a choice. I can be angry about not having limbs, or I can be thankful that I have a purpose. I chose gratitude."*

Nick Vujicic

I do not want to be all pollyannaish here. Everyone has adversity in their life which can make the act and attitude of thanksgiving challenging to say the least much less a whole day dedicated to it. But for the follower of Christ, we must recognize and be thankful for God Himself. Let's start there. On some level it is a choice. Let's choose the gateway of thanksgiving. Gratitude does not deny that pain exists. It refuses to let the pain deny that there are some things to be thankful for.

**KJV Psalm 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.**

Gratefully Yours,

*Pastor Bill*

## October Question of the Month

**With Thanksgiving here, what do you have to be thankful for??**

*Pastor Bill*

I'm a grandpa. A double grandpa! I am so blessed to be able to see my two daughters Brittany & Alexia with their babies – Magnus & Berdie. Nathan & Andrew are incredible fathers. Carina is the best Aunt ever and Uncles Luke & Liam are as desirous to see the babies on skype and in person nearly as much as me. I am a blessed man. Bernadette would be so proud to see her family now. Because of Jesus, she will!

*Emma Pratt*

I'm thankful for my family and friends

*Matie O'Brien*

Lately as I find myself transitioning from “moving forward” to “crossing over” as one of God's many children, I am thankful for the little things, that are not so little to me, at all. Some of the big things in my life are unfortunately, very broken and very much out of my control. I am broken, my family is broken, my house is on the market and my marriage of over 33 years is over. Can't get much more broken than that!

But in the midst of my tears, Jesus, the Father and the Spirit are there guiding me through the darkness, into His Promised land. Yes, I see the giants, but I choose to focus on His Power and His compassionate intimacy in the little things. Lots of little things!

One example is the personal attention to detail that the Father has lavished on me.

It comes by way of music, Christian music, mostly, right now anyway.

A number of years ago, 99.1 FM, WAWZ changed it's format. Most of my peers did not appreciate the “upgrades” from a talk radio to family centered music.... it was very noisy.

About a year and a half ago, while traveling back and forth to Long Island to care for my late sister, I also came across 96.7 FM, K-Love radio. I noticed a vehicle with two

## Question of the month continued...

bumper stickers, one of the BEATLES and another with K-Love Radio, so I decided to tune in.

These two stations have ministered to me so deeply. I was never a big fan of “exclusivity”, in fact I like to guard against that idea. I am in the world, not of it. For me that means being open to most kinds of music, within my moral compass. Jesus is everywhere and I can hear from him anywhere. I have to say, that in this down and out time, Christian Music has been my mainstay.

A few pieces of music have washed over my heart and soul and reminded me of His love, provision, hope and compassion. Danny Gokey's “Tell Your Heart to Beat Again”, Phil Keaggy's “You Must Tell Jesus”, Lauren Daigle's “Trust In You”, Ryan Stevenson's, “In The Eye of the Storm” have blessed me deeply.

I am so very thankful that these artists have crafted music to sooth my soul and remind me of who He is and to whom I belong.

To God be the Glory!  
Matie

PS. Check out these lyrics from:

Laura Daigle:

Letting Go of every dream..... Mighty warrior, king of the fight “When you don't move the mountains, I'm needing you to move”..... I will trust in you....you're ways are always' higher....I will trust in you

Ryan Stevenson's

In the eye of the storm.. You remain in control.. You alone are the anchor.. When the sails are torn.. Your love surrounds me..In the eye of the storm.....

Danny Gokey :

“Tell your heart.. Shattered, Like you never been before...The life you knew.. In a thousand pieces on the floor.... Tell your heart to beat again.. Close your eyes and breathe it in.. Let the shadows fall away.. Step into the light of grace.. Yesterday's a closing door.. You don't live there anymore

*Suzanne Bender and Scott Finter*

My husband and I are very thankful that our church family has expanded this year due to me getting a new job working in ministry. We have been meeting more and more awesome believers in Christ. These people have been a true blessing in our lives and for that we are very thankful.

*Juan, Amy, Josefina and Penelope Logrippo*

The Logrippos are so very grateful for the new addition to their family, beautiful Penelope! We are grateful for the Lord's abundant blessings and joy that come through our trials and how He continues to show us that He is sovereign and so trustworthy. We are grateful for God's faithful provision for us. We are grateful for the preaching and the fellowship here at TRBC.

*Jessica Pratt*

When I ask myself what am I thankful for, I just want to cry. I am so far from home but my friends here make me feel so thankful for their love and kindness. I have amazing daughters and the MOST amazing husband on earth. A God that NEVER leaves my side.

*Elly Farrell*

FAMILY!!!

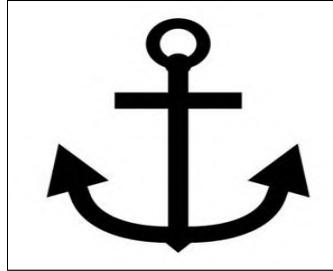
*Christian Farell*

Mom & Dad

*Maðeleine Farrell*

Only one thing!?! Because GOD and family. Friends, Grace. And Definitely my parents still being alive

**November Question of the month:**



Besides the typical definition of an anchor, in your faith what does an anchor symbolize to you?

Please send your responses to [jess\\_pratt@outlook.com](mailto:jess_pratt@outlook.com)

**Are you receiving emails from TRBC?**

Do we have your correct email to receive updates? If not, please email [TRBCcheryl@aol.com](mailto:TRBCcheryl@aol.com)  
Thanks :)



**The Hostess Committee cordially invites you to our Annual Family Supper Thanksgiving Feast!**

Come for yummy Food and Fellowship!

JOIN US!!

Bring a dessert!







## The Key to Victory is to Trust God

By Jessica Castner

I wonder how drastically our lives would change if we completely trusted the Lord with *everything*. I wonder how many mistakes and heartaches would be avoided and how many of our dreams and hopes would be realized more quickly if we trusted God instead of growing impatient and opting for a plan B that will let us down. Trusting God seems like it should come easily to Christians, but how often have we found ourselves in a wrong relationship, making a bad financial decision, or relying on our own strength because we grew tired of “trusting the Lord and leaning not on our own understanding?”

The truth is, trusting God completely like a child trusts a parent can be difficult, especially with the desires closest to our hearts. I think many of us trust God with certain areas of our lives, but hold back in other departments without even realizing it, because of past hurts or experiences.

Having never healed from losing my father when I was 12. My dad, a pastor and father of three, passed away at 38 and my heart somehow lost its ability to trust. I needed to re-learn how to trust God in this area of my heart and receive the healing I had always avoided. It was less than pretty stuff, but after a decade of bad decisions and long inner healing sessions, I’m able to trust.

We can’t trust someone we don’t intimately know. This is why so many new Christians struggle with obedience at first, because we don’t take enough time to truly absorb the depth of love God has for us. We can all repeat the love scriptures—“For God so loved the world...” and “as far as the east is from the west so is his love for us”—but we need to deeply grasp our personal value to God before real change can happen. Until we learn to personalize these verses, meditating on God’s deep, faithful, unwavering, parental love for us, we won’t trust him with the most critical issues in our lives.

I also think our level of trust correlates with our intimate knowledge of God’s character. More specifically, his goodness. When we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God wants to give us our heart’s desires, wants the best spouse, job, house, and XYZ for us, it’s actually easy to trust. But we have to believe it. Psalm 34:8 says “Taste and see that the Lord is Good.”

So many people wonder why they don’t have a stronger sense of faith and trust, but they hardly spend quality time in prayer and the word. 1 John 3:1 says God wants to lavish his love on us. But these are just poetic sounding words unless we spend enough time with him to hear his voice, follow his guidance, experience prayers answered, and be moved by his goodness. I couldn’t really step out in trust and faith until I did this.

## **The Key to Victory is to Trust God** continued

I never understood concepts like tithing ten percent on an income, let alone when you're a single parent making writer's pay. But the moment my heart really experienced God, changing the way I viewed myself and others, answering prayers and freeing me from addictive behaviors, I began trusting him with my whole heart. And he never, ever, fails. I remember sticking that white money envelope through that tithing slot knowing a utility bill would go unpaid unless God moved...and he did, and has come through every time.

It's easy to lose trust when you've been waiting on unanswered prayers for years or situations just seem more confusing, but it helps to remember God's timing is so different than our own. It's hard to keep the faith when it seems like we've been waiting a decade for a healing, a spouse, or a financial breakthrough, but there's always a reason for God's delay.

When I've been chomping at the bit for what seems like eternity for things like a better job, God's always eventually come through with something better than I could've imagined. I'm so glad God put up with my whiney impatience when looking for mundane PR jobs a few years back, banging my head against the wall—"Why are you not providing, Lord, this resume is stellar!"—when my dream job appeared months later. We have to trust that God's plan is still underway, even when we don't see evidence or even feel like he's listening.

Whenever I feel my trust starting to diminish, I remind myself of all the ways God's come through, and all the times I've felt disheartened in the past only to receive something even greater from God in his time. He's done so much. He's saved me from so many bad circumstances, before I even knew him. He's comforted me at times I've felt my world collapsing. He's provided for me financially, when it literally seemed impossible. He's opened doors, job and writing opportunities in ways I would have never dreamed. Blessed me with the most loving, supportive family imaginable. And he's been there through the loss of loved ones, divorce, sadness, confusion, and frustration to the point where I've been able to praise him daily through the struggles. That's why we trust Him. Not because verses tell us to. Not because we're supposed to. Because he's been faithful through it all. The next situation we're called to trust him in will just be one more testimony years from now.

Whatever you're worrying about, or hoping and believing for—hand it over to God, and experience peace by trusting Him.

## November Birthdays and Anniversaries!

### BIRTHDAYS

Marc Dyer 1  
Katelyn Jones 2  
Amaya Casterlow 4  
Katelyn Dyer 8  
Jessica Staines 10  
Brian Salisbury 11  
David Pratt 13  
Davita Pullen 16  
Elizabeth Buckridee 17  
Samuel Farrell 19  
Bill Page 21  
Kiara Thomas 28  
John Farrell 29



### ANNIVERSARIES

David & Chereece Sparrow 4  
Dennis & Norma Byrne 7  
Ken & Christy Caruso 16  
Charles & Trudi Karpel 30

### **Calendar of Events**

11/22 Thanksgiving Supper  
12/3/ Ladies Fellowship  
12/3 Men's Fellowship (stay tuned)  
12/18 Christmas Breakfast  
1/11 Monthly Family Night Supper  
2/8 Family Night Supper  
3/8 Family Night Supper  
4/12 Family Night Supper  
5/10 Family Night Supper  
6/14 Family Night Supper



## Focus Community Church

**The Church is us...you and me & the many people God calls to himself with the purpose of encouraging one another towards deeper intimacy & faith in Jesus. But often times the local church doesn't look like that. In fact, many times the "church" is defined more by what it's against rather than what it's for.**



**Join us this Sunday at 12:45pm at 600 Cleveland Avenue, Plainfield, NJ as we examine "Church: It's A Team Sport!" and discover your place at Focus Community Church!**

Calendar of Events

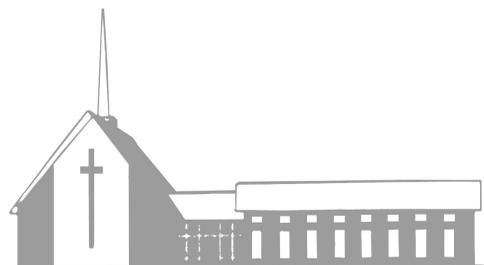
Vietnamese Church  
Uses Building  
Sundays 2 - 5 p.m.

**November 2016**

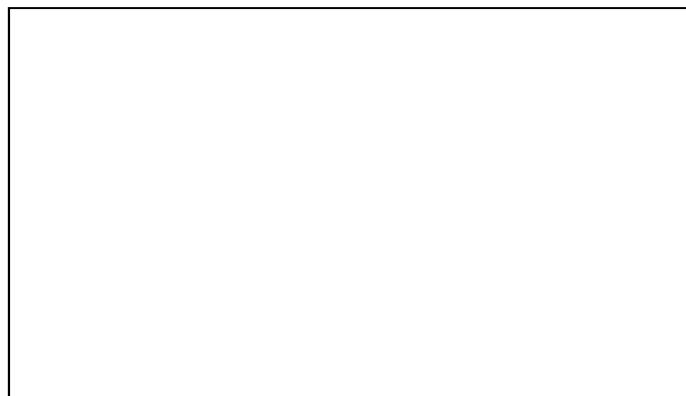
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Prayer Meeting RA's & GA's			
		1	2	3	4	5
Daylight Saving Time Ends			Prayer Meeting RA's & GA's			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Lord's Supper			Prayer Meeting RA's & GA's			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Thanksgiving Dinner at TRBC		Happy Thanksgiving		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Ashbrook			Prayer Meeting RA's & GA's			
27	28	29	30			

# The Lamplighter

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  
Phone: 908-322-7151  
E-Mail: Terrillrd@aol.com  
Church Website: trbc4him.org



*Terrill Road Baptist Church is a Bible-believing Church where people connect with God, each other, and influence our world for Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.*



Find us on Facebook!  
**Terrill Road Baptist Church, Scotch Plains, NJ**



## TRBC Sound Booth Schedule

November 27—Spring & Alexis Casterlow

Thanks to all of you!

Scan this into your smart phone for instant access to TRBC's website.

Thank you for reading this months edition!! Happy Fall!  
-Jessica Pratt, Editor