



The Lily Pad

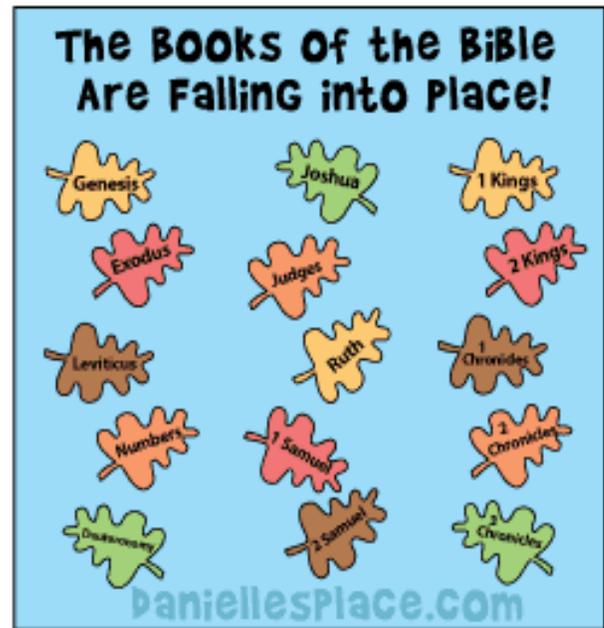


"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys."

~ Solomon 2:1 ~

My dearest Fifth Avenue Family,

As much as we would like to deny it, summer is impatiently making its exit. The trees and garden has the look of autumn and the morning air has a snap to it and the school bells ring loudly – welcoming the young and the young at heart back to their course of study. In the midst of all these changes, we gratefully move into a new season of life. Grateful? Yes. Grateful because we have lived to see this new season. Grateful for the earth's bounty and the hard work of farmers who have allowed us to put up food for winter. Grateful that the changing season teaches us something new and exciting every time.



Grateful that when we as Christians are asked the question, "What did you learn today?" that there will be a variety of Christian Education opportunities for you beginning with Sunday School on September 17, 2017. We have children and youth Sunday school classes for ages nursery through senior high. Our vibrant Adult Sunday School will continue, but will get a fresh start with new leadership and exciting new teachings that will allow the attendees to really dig into the Word, engage in real conversation about the Word, while growing in faith and understanding of our Lord. The Sunday School hour is from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Being a Christian requires continual growth in faith, so that we will be fully mature in Christ (Ephesians 4).

The presence of God in the waning light is different from that of Spring. In the season of Spring, there is a budding, buzzing presence when the earth awakens; the Autumn presence is more peaceful and deep, reflective and surrendering, much like the wisdom of our elderly who have witnessed the glory of God for many seasons. We celebrate our multi-generational church and the awesome gifts that each person brings to worship God in authentic ways.

As we begin this NEW SEASON, it is an ideal time to reflect and evaluate how the harvest of the year has been thus far. Assessing what we did right (or not) in the garden (my life); what produced good crops and what didn't. Are you living into your anointed Fruits of the Spirit? I believe it is a good time to engage in Spiritual assessment as well. It is a good time to ask, "What is working to produce peace and kindness in my life? What is not? What needs to "die off" for new Life to grow? What is the harvest of my prayer life?"

My prayer is that God would now touch us and lead us by his Holy Spirit into discovering just how deep his love is for each of us. I pray that his revelation of that Love in our lives might become increasingly real for us through the coming days and empower us to boldly step outside the walls of "church" and embrace our Great Commission – "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

This new season offers a time for self-evaluation - Does my faith lead me to follow the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Does my belief lead me to care for the poor, the homeless and the sick as Jesus commanded? Does it lead me to compassion and cooperation? Do I have respect and regard even for those who disagree with me? Without peace in our own hearts, there can be no peace in the world; Christ has told us that we are all one:

"The body of Christ has many different parts, just as any other body does. But God's Spirit baptized each of us and made us part of the body of Christ. Now we each drink from that same Spirit."

~ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 ~

Our beliefs and our faith bring us closer together and WILL increase the harvest. As the leaves fall, let us surrender the destructive, selfish parts of our lives, which separate us. Let us always and every day give thanks. These are my prayers. I pray them for all of us every day:

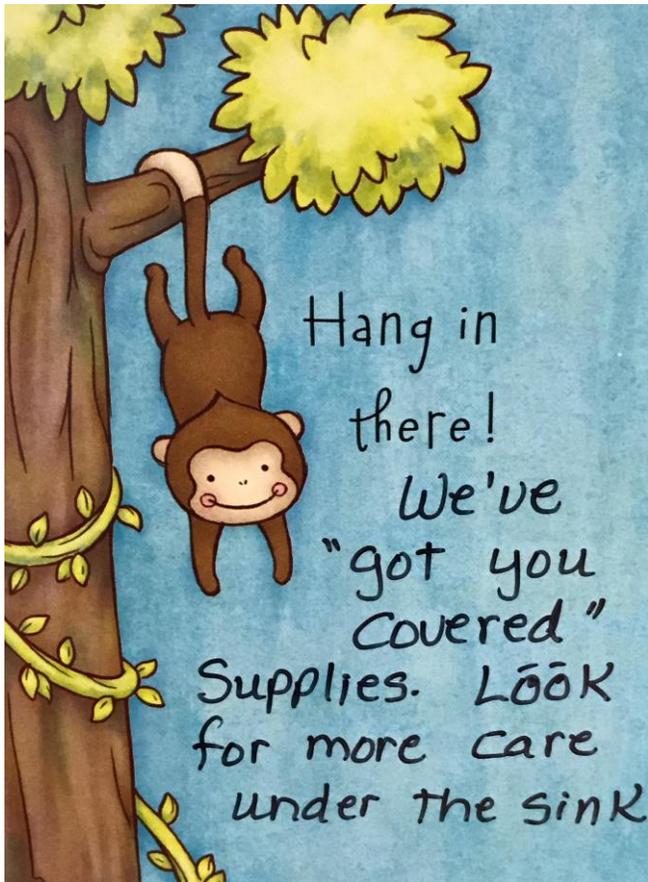
"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ~

**God Bless,
Pastor Clarissa & Martin**

"It takes more than a busy church, a friendly church, or even an evangelical church to impact a community for Christ. It must be a church ablaze, led by leaders who are ablaze for God."

~ Wesley L. Duwel ~



**WHEN IT COMES TO GOOD HOSPITALITY,
BATHROOMS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE FOOD!**

The restroom is the one space everybody uses. Not everyone visits the kitchen or nursery, but sooner or later, they all pass through the narrow gate of the necessary room.

The restroom makes an impression on guest and our preparedness to aid them in an emergency. We've "got you covered" with often-needed toiletries and other necessities to utilize during your trip to the restroom and to help you feel comfortable.

Guests and members who attend our church are likely to evaluate our facility on what they see: the foyer, the worship center, and the restrooms. So, the bathroom matters. We truly hope these little touches will be a blessing and that we have made them so nice you'll want to come back for sure!

Thanks, Carol!

**PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
IS ADMINISTERED THROUGH ACTS OF GRACE.**

This fund provides limited aid and spiritual guidance to the community and to church members. Through the blessing of the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, we exhibit compassion and sensitivity to the needs of others on a confidential basis and we attempt to reach as many people as possible.

The need over the last months have been great and funds are low. If you would like to help, please put your monies in an envelope and annotate "Pastor's Discretionary Fund." All contributions are welcomed and needed – we know God will do the increase.

Thank you for being a blessing!

