

Preparing our Hearts for Thanksgiving

"...and now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you O lord, have given me. Place the basket before the Lord your God and bow down before him. And you and the Levites and the aliens among you shall rejoice in all the good things the Lord your God has given to you and your household." Deuteronomy 26:10-11

I love the season of Thanksgiving because it gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the blessings we receive all year. I like to think of this special time as a 'season' and not just a single day, because Thanksgiving Day seems to get overlooked as the focus is on Christmas. And that focus is more about shopping and football than on gratitude. In most churches it seems stewardship campaigns take place in October or November, possibly as a reminder that we have much to be thankful for as God's people. Maybe it is also a reminder that all we have comes from God.

Yesterday was Stewardship Dedication Sunday and like the Israelites, we too brought forth our gifts out of gratitude for all the Lord OUR God has done for us.

My hope and prayer for the coming months is that we will find ways to do more hands-on ministry and missions reaching out to "the Levites and the aliens" that live among us.

It's a joy to serve as your pastor.

Blessings,
Mike