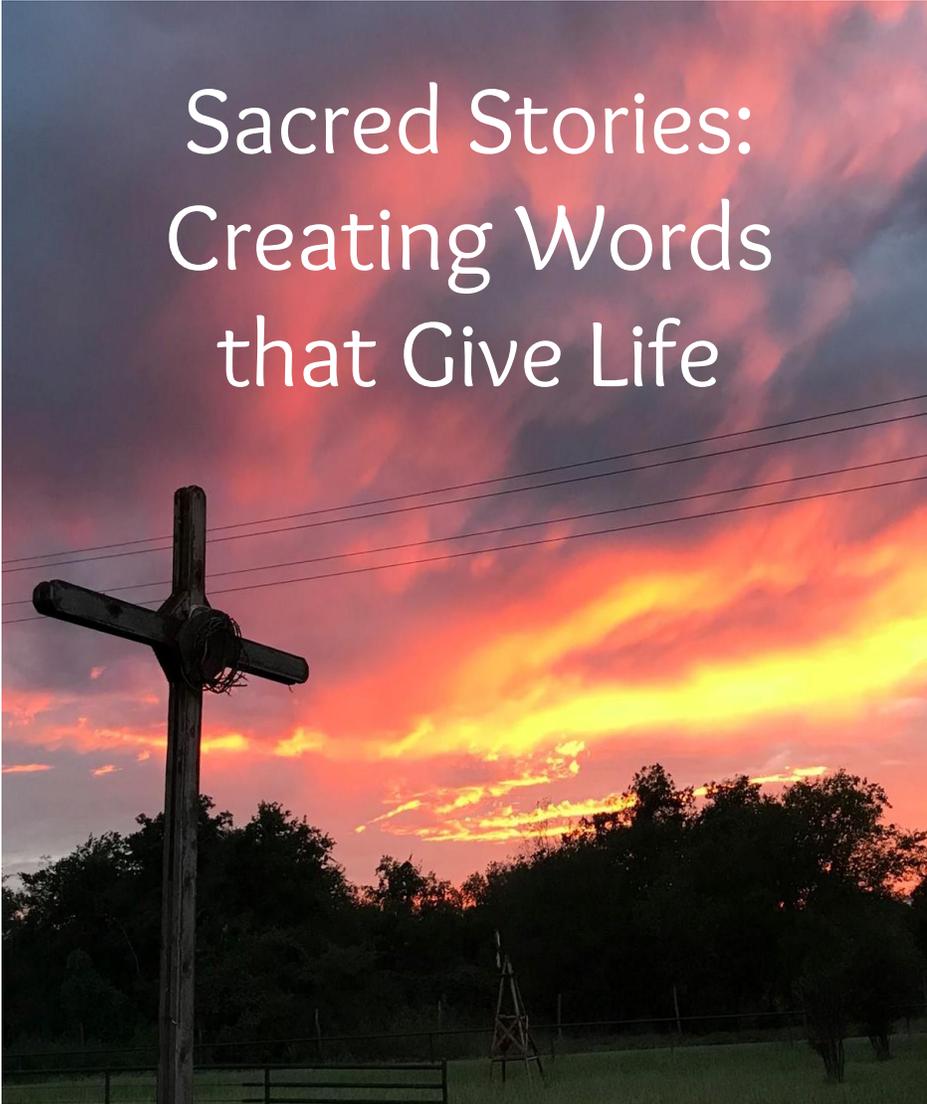


THE WITNESS

October & November 2018



Sacred Stories:
Creating Words
that Give Life

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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 4

I remember vividly, walking into the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church in Fort Worth with my family as we encountered the body of Christ present at my brother's memorial service. It was an unforgettable moment celebrating our faith in God and in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.

Our faith in resurrection is why we celebrate the saints who have gone before us; those who have modeled for us what it means to

live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

November 4, is All Saints Sunday. It is a special time to remember those who have died after giving their lives as baptized members of the church. We will offer an opportunity for attendees to light a candle in remembrance of your loved ones who entered glory. Let us give God the glory for these who have strengthened our faith in Christ.



TOWN HALL MEETING OCTOBER 21

TOWN HALL MEETING



God has great things in store for our faith community, and the leadership of this church has a dedication to share with the congregation through open and honest dialogue our current condition and hope for the future.

On October 21, we will come together in a Town Hall Meeting to share with one another our spiritual goals for the coming months and preceding year.

Please make every effort to be in attendance. The body of Christ needs your contribution.

Fall Family Fun Night

On October 28, at 5:00 p.m. the church will host a Fall Family Fun Night with a hayride, pumpkin painting, and a fire pit for hotdogs and s'mores.

A fun event like this is a fantastic opportunity to invite guests to fellowship and connect with others in the church.

Community Thanksgiving Celebration

Sunday, November 18, is the annual Community Thanksgiving Celebration with First Baptist Church of Brock. This year we will be hosting the event in our sanctuary and fellowship hall. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember, Daylight Savings Time ends on November 4. We "fall back" an hour at 2:00 a.m.



Honoring all who served
VETERANS DAY
11TH NOVEMBER



“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” – John Wesley

Mission Focus October

For our October Mission, we will be collecting non-perishable food items, focusing on the Thanksgiving meal, for Proverbs Place. There will be two buckets for your donations - entrance to the sanctuary and in the Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions, please call Jacque at: 817-475-8246.

Veterans Day - November 11

We will honor our Veterans on November 11 by asking all past or present service men and women to bring a piece of uniform clothing to the church to be displayed in the sanctuary. Also, we ask that family members of service men and women bring a framed picture of your loved one in uniform to be displayed in the sanctuary as well. We give thanks for the many men and women who have served our country to defend our freedoms and to model self-sacrifice.

Pastor Appreciation Brunch & One Service - October 21

The month of October is Pastor Appreciation Month, please join in the celebration by attending a pot luck brunch on Sunday, October 21, following our one service at 10:00 a.m. In addition, there will be a table in the foyer of the sanctuary with blank note cards. The table will be decorated with a basket for collecting the note cards. Please take a moment while attending services on October 14, to write a note of appreciation and/or encouragement to our Pastor. He is working hard to make our church grow in many ways. I would encourage you to ask your children to make a card for our Pastor and place them in the basket as well. We will present the basket full of cards to Pastor John at the brunch on the 21st. “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing” – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Church Prayer Time - Mondays 9 AM

Pastor John has instituted a church prayer time on Monday mornings at 9:00 a.m. During this time, we lift up in prayer any requests from the Sunday morning worship services or request that come via email and Facebook. We also take time to pray for our church and the community of Brock. If you cannot attend the 9:00 a.m. prayer time at the church, we ask that you take a moment to stop what you are doing and give a moment to prayer.

“God does nothing but in answer to prayer.” – John Wesley

Children's Ministry Update: Kids for Christ & God's Squad

The Wednesday after-school program: "Kids for Christ" and evening program "God's Squad" have kicked off with a bang! Through Brock United Methodist Church, seeds of faith are being planted in amazing ways.

The program model for Kids for Christ offers an after-school snack, Bible lesson and worship,

and a craft. Of course, there is always an opportunity for the kids to run around and be energetic as well. All of this from 4:00-5:30 p.m. for grades K-4.

Afterwards, we welcome our 5th-6th graders for God's Squad with dinner, games, Bible lesson and worship from 6:00-7:30. This group has brought a new church

family to membership in the congregation.

Please remember the children of the church and community in your daily prayers. Pray that the seeds of faith that are being planted will grow throughout their lives to become great trees of faith. (Mathew 13:31-32)

Youth Ministry Update: Calling Youth Sponsors

They are the ones silently working in the background. They are the inconspicuous people that we often overlook. Yet, we proclaim them as the future of the church. These are the youth!

In one moment, we proclaim their importance to the body of Christ, and in the next we must be reminded of existence.

Yes, youth live very busy lives. Often, in their business they neglect church attendance. However, if these young people are as important to us as we say they are we must make room for them in our lives.

You can have an impact on the lives of these youth. As much as we cannot survive without them, they cannot survive without us to

encourage them, mentor them, and disciple them.

You might say, "I'm too old for that, let the young people do it." Never, these young people need you.

Consider the people who have had an impact on your life. Now it is your turn.

Grace Christian Academy

In July, at Vacation Bible School, Pastor John was introduced to a family who participates in a cutting horse association and whose children attend a private home-school group called Grace Christian Academy.

During the conversation, the mother informed the pastor that the school was in search of a

new location for the 2018-2019 school year.

In August, the trustees and Administrative Council approved a short-term, introductory contract with Grace Christian Academy for the fall semester.

With now two teachers in place, Karla and Mitzi, and approximately 20 students,

Grace Christian Academy are meeting in the classrooms of the Fellowship Hall Monday - Thursday from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

We are praying that God will allow us to extend this relationship into another semester and a long-term relationship with the school. We appreciate your support.

Sacred Stories: Giving Life to Words

I am blessed with a family that enjoys telling stories. Stories of our past that make us laugh at ourselves, stories of others in our lives as we bring each other up to date on our happenings, and stories that must be told every time we gather; as if neglected, we fear they may never reappear.

These are sacred stories. Words that fashion us into a people of sacred worth. If I were to tell you some of the incidents that happened between my brothers and me some twenty years ago, you might faint; but these moments are sacred moments because the retelling of the stories have made us into more than just passing bodies. No, we are a people who have experienced life together, even amid the nastiness of life.

For many of us, our stories have grown into epic tales of grandiose proportion with characters larger than life and incidents that could only happen in our imagination. For others, our stories are gentle and quiet; unassumingly encouraging our family members to consider the idea that maybe we are more than just flesh and bones.

I suggest, it is not the words in and of themselves that are holy, but the breath that

speaks them. When we create words with our breath we are participating in a spiritual practice that began with our Creator.

Our stories become sacred because we are creating holy words with spiritual breath. We are given breath from our Creator.

“We use God’s breath within us to give life to the words we create.”

We use God’s breath within us to give life to the words we create. Therefore, our stories are sacred because they are rooted in God.

This should inspire us to create more words; because the more we use our words to create stories, the more we participate in God’s creative act. So, let us give life to words and share with others our sacred worth.

In Christ – Pastor John

**The words which
I have spoken to
you are **spirit**
and are **life**.**

JOHN 6:63

Observing a Holy Advent

The Christian faith has a long history of preparing for two major feast days: Christmas and Easter. However, as we have been somewhat faithful in the observance of Lent in preparation for Easter we have almost given up Advent.

I readily admit, it is not the style of our consumerism culture to prolong the celebration of the Christmas. In fact, we hear Christmas music earlier and earlier every year. And, as we enter retail stores we encounter decorations for Christmas before Halloween. It is no wonder we have, for the most part, thrown Advent out the window.

While most congregations give one to two Advent Sunday mornings to children's programs and cantatas, we neglect the prophets call to prepare our minds for an encounter with God's son.

"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (1:14 KJV), John tells us, "He came into his own, and his own received him not." (1:11 KJV) It is easy to celebrate Christmas, it is not so easy to celebrate Advent. We don't want the prophets, we want the Christ child. But, maybe we should consider the importance of the preparation?

What if we gave just as much credence to Advent as we do Lent? What if preparing for Christmas with a Holy Advent allows us to receive more from God in the Son? How about we give it all we have and allow God to transform our minds in Advent, just as much as Lent?

Christians long ago most likely had a clue that this time of preparation in Advent was just as important as the feast day itself. As John proceeds to tell us, "But as many received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them who believe in his name." (1:12 KJV)