

November, 2011

Operation Christmas Child
Shoebboxes are Due at Church
No Later than
Sunday, November 13

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions
Beginning Sunday, November 20
Week of Prayer for International Missions – December 4-11

Community Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 20
Vernon Baptist Church
6:00

Speaker – Rev. Charles Brown
Thanksgiving Food Boxes
Bring Canned Goods and Nonperishable Foods
To Community Thanksgiving Service
Vernon will prepare food boxes for distribution on Monday or Tuesday
Know Someone Who Might Appreciate a Food Box?
Turn Name in to Church Office
Or Call John or Gloria

Food Tree
The Food on the Tree in the Downstairs Hall
Is Available for Anyone Who Needs It
Please Help Us Keep This Tree Decorated With Food
Also Items for Babies Are Useful

Community Christmas Tree Lighting
Thanksgiving Day
5:00
In Park in Front of Creekside Plaza
In Collinsville
Carols, Devotion, Hot Coffee/Cider Provided by Collinsville Churches
Santa and Lights Provided by Town of Collinsville

Collinsville Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 10

2:00

If Your Church Group Would Like to Enter a Float Let Us Know

Community Christmas Service

First Methodist

Sunday, December 11

6:00

Rehearsals Begin

Sunday, November 6

4:00

Any Willing Singers Invited

Halloween Trunk or Treat

Downtown Collinsville

Halloween Night

5-8

All Saints Day Service

Remembering Great Christians

Sunday Morning Worship

October 30

Isaiah 43 – Crossing the Water

Turkey Trot

Saturday, November 12

Downtown Collinsville

9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Our Men Will Be Cooking – All Proceeds Go to Support Local Missions Projects
Games, Music, Food and Turkeys Will Be Tossed

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Sunday, November 6

Set Your Clock Back One Hour – Fall Back
(This Means You Get an Hour Extra Sleep)

Veterans Day

Friday, November 11

Dekalb and Fort Payne Schools Are Out

International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church
Sunday, November 13

Sunday, November 27 – Advent Begins

Sunday Nights – Bible Study and Cold Coffee

5:00

Continuing Our Study Of

I Thessalonians in November

Bring Your Bible and Any Bible Questions and Join Us

Warm Up Our Cold Coffee, Or Bring Your Own Drinks and Snacks

Casual Dress Accepted and Expected

Holiday Schedules for Our Church

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

Worship at **10:00** A.M.

No Sunday School or Evening Service

Join Us for this Special Service – We Will Conclude Before 11

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1

Sunday School 10:00

Worship 11:00

No Evening Service

Volunteer Reminders

November Lord's Supper (Nov. 13) – Phil and Vanessa Chambers

November Flowers – Martha Barksdale (6th), Carolyn Shankles (20th), Belinda

Barksdale (27th)

Sanctuary

That's a word that I learned early on in life. We were to be nice in church always. And when we went into the **sanctuary** for church (worship), we were to be very, very nice. It was different from everywhere else. It was where we met God for worship.

And then I saw *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. What a great movie. What was the actor's name? Something Laughton. He ran from the Paris mob as they mocked him. A hunchback who was different and unaccepted. He ran into the great cathedral of Notre Dame to the altar area and gasped one word – **sanctuary**. He said it with a pleading, exhausted voice that I can still hear. **Sanctuary**.

That's how I learned that there have been times in church and Bible history when a person who made it into the **sanctuary** area was to be protected as long as he stayed there. Someone throwing themselves on the altar was safe because they were in the presence of God and should not be violently removed.

I think that made such an impression on me because I understood, even as a child, that there were times that I, too, needed **sanctuary**. I needed a place where I could go and find safety after I had done something wrong. A place where I could run when I felt rejected.

And I found that place as a twelve year old when I walked the aisle. I sobbed in relief because I understood that Jesus was accepting me, forgiving me. I had no right to **sanctuary**. But He gave it to me anyway. Because He loved me. Undeserved.

And all Christians have come to that place. We are forgiven, find protection in a place – in Jesus. And we are promised in Romans that nothing can separate us from the love we found there. We are safe. **Sanctuary**.

Sanctuary is a word that has been used a lot in the immigration debate. After all, we have a big statue in New York that says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses longing to be free." But we also have laws about who can enter and when they can enter.

In the church, we have people who disagree with each about the immigration issue. Disagree a lot. As Christians, we know that we are to obey the law. But we are also to be Good Samaritans – good neighbors - to all. We know that we are

ordered to share the Gospel with all. And we struggle to do the right thing. The Christian thing.

We must respect the Law. But we must share with needing people no matter the law – food, rides, clothing. Love. And the Gospel. They need **sanctuary** just like you and I do.

And we must remember the humility we felt when throwing ourselves on His mercy. “**Sanctuary**”, we gasped to Jesus whether we said it out loud or not. That humility will do wonders for helping us to disagree with each other. And will do wonders in loving all in our community, legal or illegal.

Our country has a Statue of Liberty. And laws that should be followed if you live in this country . And those who break the law should suffer a penalty.

We in the church have something else. We have a cross.

And the cross has to be where we begin and end our feelings about all issues. On our knees feeling the blood of Jesus. Finding **sanctuary**.