



With Thanksgiving right around the corner and Operation Christmas Child coming up, we want to focus this month's newsletter on giving. We want to focus especially on giving thanks together as a family and ways to get involved in OCC this year.

## Teaching Children to be Thankful

*Thank you God for all that grows,  
Thank you for the sky's rainbows,  
Thank you for the stars that shine,  
Thank you for these friends of mine,  
Thank you for the moon and sun,  
Thank you God for all you've done!*

-Traditional Child's Prayer

How do we teach our children to be thankful? How do we as parents instill gratitude in our children? Here are a few ways parents can nurture gratefulness in their children. Actually, these could be considered types of spiritual disciplines which can contribute to our spiritual formation.

1. **Do without.** Think about something you have had to wait for, go without, or never thought you would have. Think of how thankful you were when you then got it. For my family, we spent eight months looking for a job in 2009. When we finally got a call offering a job to my husband, the feeling of gratitude was bursting out of us. We are still grateful everyday for his employment, and it comes up in family prayers many nights each week. What is some luxury your family can do without (toys, electronic games, etc...) for a period of time?

2. **Be an example.** You can model your thankful heart by telling your kids about the things you are grateful for. Sometimes we take things for granted or forget that other's go without. Let your kids know you are thankful for a warm house, a healthy dinner, each other.

*Let us thank God for food when others are hungry;  
for drink when others are thirsty;  
for friends when others are lonely.*

-Traditional Child's Prayer

3. **Volunteer together.** Our church has many opportunities for your family to volunteer together. You can also find something in the community or your neighborhood that your family is passionate about and find a way to get involved in that. As children get older, ask them about ways they want to get involved in their community. This can also look more simple, for instance, take a meal to a neighbor who just experienced a loss, adopt a soldier who is far away from his/her family and write them notes and color pictures.

4. **Take responsibility for a project or task.** When a child is responsible for taking care of something, the work that goes into that care creates gratefulness. If you have a pet, assign your child the job of taking care of it. Get your kids involved in daily chores that make your household run. Older kids can take on more and see the true work it takes to care for them, their siblings, pets, dinners, and the house.

5. **Read Scripture.** The bible is full of passages about how God provides and people give thanks. "The Lord is my shepherd; I have everything I need." Psalm 23; "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love is forever." Psalm 107



**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

**Experience**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 12, 3-5 PM**

***Followed by a chili supper.***

*Please RSVP to [kids@christcommunitychurch.com](mailto:kids@christcommunitychurch.com).*

**Join us for fun and interactive activities designed to make the journey of a shoebox come to life.**

**This is an event for all ages! Everyone is encouraged to come for a wonderful time of fellowship and service!**



# November 2011



Sunday

Monday










Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<div data-bbox="309 320 1055 443" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Now recruiting volunteers for Spring 2012! If you are interested please contact <a href="mailto:kids@christcommunitychurch.com">kids@christcommunitychurch.com</a></p> </div> 				3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Preschool Playgroup 9:30-11:30 am 	12  OCC Experience 3-5 pm
13 	14	15	16	17	18 	19 
<div data-bbox="212 885 2027 997" style="border: 1px solid blue; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Operation Christmas Child Collection Week</b> Bring your boxes to the church during the OCC Experience on November 12 or on Sunday, November 13 or November 20.</p> </div>						
20  Club 45 3:45 pm	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Day 	25	26
27 First Sunday of Advent 	<div data-bbox="448 1353 1236 1481" style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 10px;"> <p>Be sure to check out the Advent Resource Table! Special advent readings, family activities and more will be available beginning November 27.</p> </div>					