ROARING WIND

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard Space Force

NOVEMBER 1, 2026 PRINT / DOWNLOAD / SHARE THIS ISSUE VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3



STILL HERE, STILL STRONG

A Grateful Nation Says Thank You

There are some debts that can never truly be repaid. Not with medals, not with ceremonies, and certainly not with words alone.

Among them is the debt of gratitude we owe the men and women who answered their nation's call, knowing that doing so might require everything they had to give.

They came from small towns and great cities, from farms and factories, from classrooms and ordinary American homes.
They were sons and daughters, husbands and wives, mothers and fathers. Some were barely old enough to understand how much of life still lay ahead of them.

Yet they raised their hands, took an oath, and stepped forward into a future they could not fully know.

They left behind familiar faces, family celebrations, birthdays, holidays, and the simple comforts of home. They learned to endure exhaustion, uncertainty, loneliness, and fear. They served in distant lands, aboard ships, in the skies, and at military installations around the world.

And when circumstances demanded it, they placed their own lives on the line for the person standing beside them.

That kind of courage deserves more than a passing acknowledgement.
It deserves our lasting respect.

THE STRENGTH BEHIND THE SERVICE

We often think of courage as something displayed in a single extraordinary moment. But for those who have served, courage has also meant getting up the next morning, carrying out another difficult assignment, and continuing forward when the road ahead was uncertain. It has meant trusting the person beside you with your life – and being someone that person could trust in return.

It has meant doing what duty required, even when the heart longed for home.

Not every veteran served on a battlefield. Not every sacrifice is visible. Some endured the dangers of combat; others carried responsibilities that demanded vigilance, discipline, and years of separation from those they loved. Each fulfilled a role in something larger than themselves.

And when their time in uniform ended, another chapter began.

For some, the return home was filled with joyful reunions and new beginnings. For others, the transition was difficult. Some carried wounds that could be seen, while others carried memories they seldom spoke about.

They returned to their families, pursued careers, raised children, built businesses, worshiped in our churches, volunteered in our communities, and helped shape the country they had served.

Some found their greatest accomplishments not in military decorations, but in the quiet years that followed—in being a faithful spouse, a loving parent, a dependable friend, or a helping hand to someone in need.

The uniform may have been put away,
but the character forged through service often remained.

A LOVE GREATER THAN SELF

Those words carry a profound meaning when we consider the men and women who have stood ready to defend the lives and freedoms of others.

Not every veteran was called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice. But every person who entered military service accepted an obligation that could demand it.

And there is something deeply humbling about that willingness. Many veterans will tell you they were not thinking about becoming heroes. They were thinking about completing their mission, fulfilling their duty, and making certain the person beside them made it home.

There is no grand speech that can improve upon the quiet dignity of that devotion. It speaks for itself.

TO THOSE WHO ARE STILL AMONG US

They include the elderly gentleman sitting quietly in a church pew, whose younger years hold stories few people have heard. They include the woman standing beside us in the grocery store, whose years of military service helped shape the life she leads today.

They are our neighbors, coworkers, friends, parents, and grandparents.

Some proudly wear caps identifying the branch in which they served. Others seldom mention their military years at all.

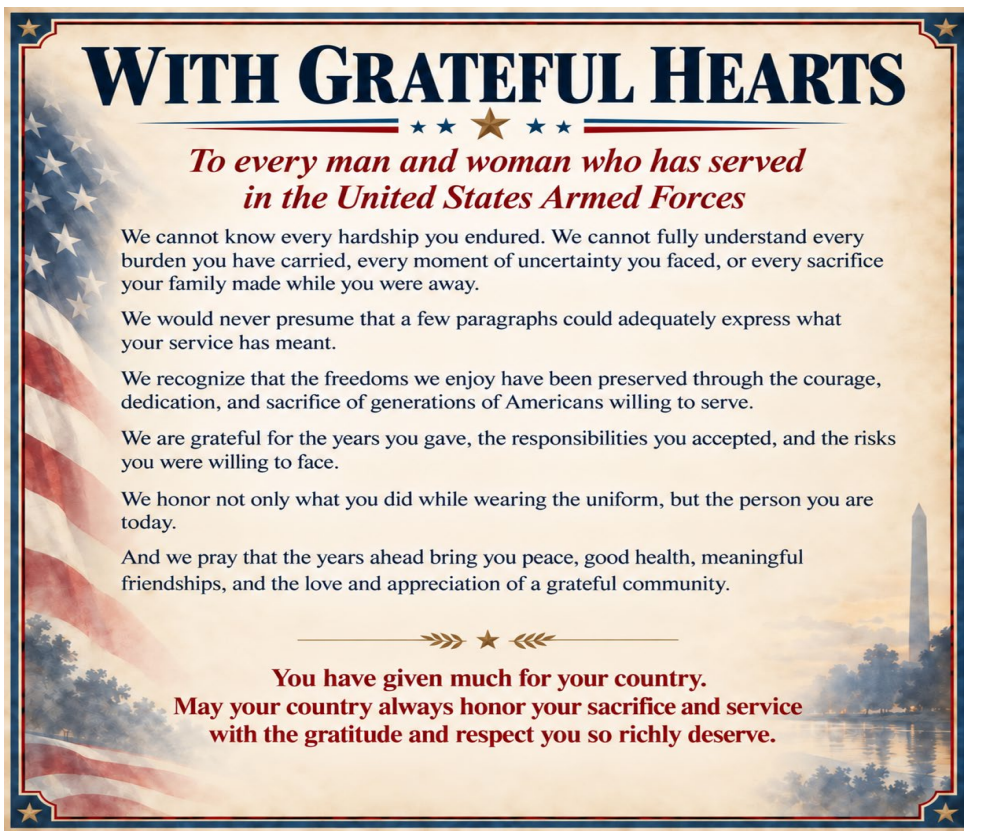
But each has a story worthy of respect. And perhaps that is one of the most important things we can remember this Veterans Day:

Behind every uniform was a human heart.
Behind every act of service was a life of immeasurable value.

These men and women were never simply names on a roster or numbers in a military formation. They were individuals with hopes, dreams, fears, and families who loved them.

They gave a portion of their lives in service to something greater than themselves.

And now, as they continue their journeys among us, they deserve to know that their service has not been forgotten.





The Quiet Courage of Military Chaplains

Serving Those Who Serve — In Faith, Compassion, and Sacrifice

When we think of military heroes, our minds often turn to the brave men and women who carried weapons, defended freedom, and stood in harm's way for our nation. We remember their courage, their sacrifice, and their willingness to place duty above personal safety.

But among those who served were others whose mission was different, yet no less important.

They carried Bibles instead of rifles. Their strength was found in faith, their calling was to comfort, and their battlefield was often the troubled heart of a soldier.

They are our military chaplains

Throughout our nation's military history, chaplains have walked alongside service members through some of life's most difficult and defining moments. They have prayed in foxholes, offered encouragement before dangerous missions, held worship services far from home, and brought words of hope into places where hope seemed impossible.

They have ministered to the wounded, comforted the dying, and stood beside those struggling with fear, grief, loneliness, and uncertainty.

Their service was not measured in battles won or medals earned, but in lives touched, burdens shared, and prayers whispered when words were no longer enough.

A Ministry Beyond the Battlefield

A chaplain's duty did not always end when the fighting stopped. Sometimes, their most heartbreaking mission awaited them far from the battlefield.

Sometimes, a chaplain stood at a family's doorstep, bearing heartbreaking news of a loved one's death. In those moments of unimaginable grief, their presence offered compassion, comfort, and the strength of faith.

No words can adequately comfort a parent who has lost a child, a wife whose husband will never return, or children who must grow up without their father.

There are moments when no human words are sufficient. Yet the chaplain came, with a willingness to stand beside those who mourn.

In those moments, the chaplain's presence was a reminder that even in the deepest sorrow, no one should have to stand alone.

The Strength to Stand Beside Another

The calling of a military chaplain requires a special kind of courage.

It is the courage to remain when others are afraid, to listen when someone's heart is breaking, and to offer comfort even when the chaplain's own heart is heavy.

Chaplains serve people from different backgrounds and beliefs, offering spiritual care and compassion to those entrusted to their care.

They, too, experience the sorrow of losing friends and fellow service members. They carry memories of battles, injuries, final prayers, and families forever changed. Yet, they continue to serve.

Perhaps some of the greatest acts of courage are never witnessed by a crowd. They happen quietly, beside a hospital bed, in a military tent, aboard a ship, or in a family's living room.

A hand resting on a shoulder. A prayer spoken softly. A moment of silence shared between two grieving hearts.

Small gestures, perhaps, but ones whose meaning can last a lifetime.

Remembering Those Who Carried Hope

As we honor America's veterans this November, may we also remember the men and women who served as military chaplains.

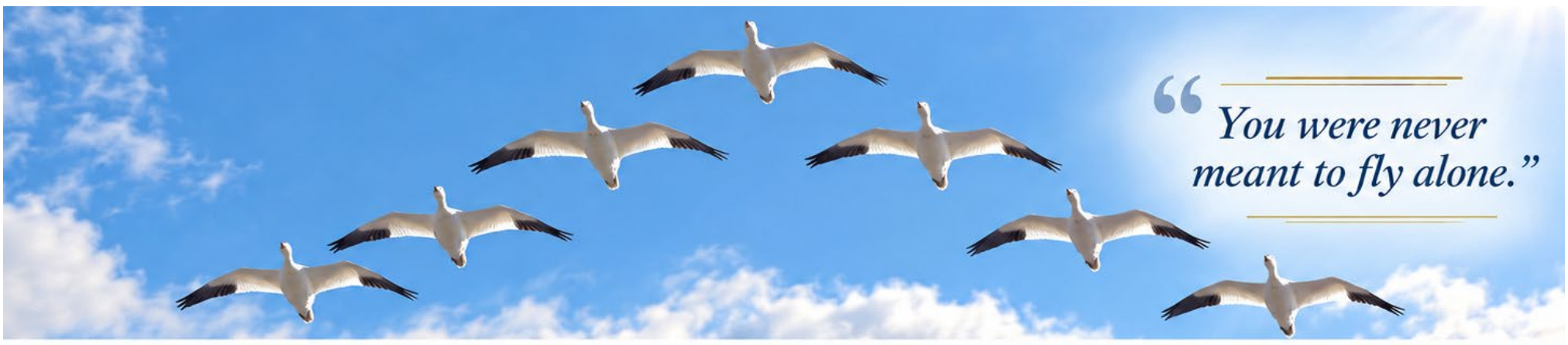
Each answered a calling to bring spiritual strength and compassion into circumstances that could test even the strongest among us. Their service reminds us that courage is not always found on the battlefield.

Sometimes it is found in a whispered prayer, at the doorstep of a grieving family, or in the quiet presence of someone willing to share another's sorrow.

To the military chaplains who have faithfully served, and to those who continue that calling today, we offer our deepest gratitude.

Thank you for carrying hope into dark places, for comforting the brokenhearted, and for reminding those who serve that they are never forgotten.

"May God bless our veterans, their families,
and the faithful chaplains who have walked beside them.



Flying in a F.I.T. Formation: The Power of Connection

By Jennifer Foxworthy

> *"You were never meant to fly alone."*

In a world where individuals often feel pressured to navigate life's challenges on their own, it's important for you to remember that success is not measured by how far we go alone, but by **how many people We help rise along the way**.

It is my heart's desire to challenge people to move beyond simply surviving and embrace the power of thriving together. This is the impact of **Flying in a F.I.T. Formation: The Power of Connection**.

When we have a **F.I.T. Mindset**, which is my business slogan for **Focused, Intentional, and Thriving**, individuals should pursue their goals with clarity, purpose, and consistent action while recognizing the importance of meaningful relationships.

We should draw inspiration from geese flying in a V formation, because they demonstrate shared leadership, communication, encouragement, and mutual support can strengthen individuals, organizations, and entire communities. Just as geese take turns leading and support one another throughout their journey, people can accomplish more when they work together.

The power of connection emphasizes the transformative roles of mentorship, collaboration, advocacy, and community connection. Whether in healthcare, human services, education, veteran support, business, or everyday life, no matter the profession, everyone has an opportunity to lead, encourage, and lift someone else.

Take some time to reflect and ask yourself,

> *"Who is in your formation?*
> *Who is lifting you?*
> *And whose load are you helping carry?"*

These thought-provoking questions should encourage us to examine our relationships and consider how they can become a source of strength for others.

If you are up to the challenge, here is a call to action to build stronger relationships, create supportive communities, and recognize that no one should face life's challenges alone.

The goal isn't simply to reach the destination.
It's to make sure we bring others with us.

Get F.I.T. Find your formation. Lift as you rise.

FROM THE ROARING WIND ARCHIVES

November 2019 — A Special Veterans Day Tribute

In November 2019, Roaring Wind Tribune had the privilege of honoring these men and women who faithfully served our nation. Seven years later, we are proud to revisit this special tribute and once again recognize their courage, commitment, and sacrifice. Some may still be serving, others have retired, and some may have since passed on. But the gratitude we hold for their service remains unchanged.

Their service is part of our history. Their stories deserve to be remembered.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



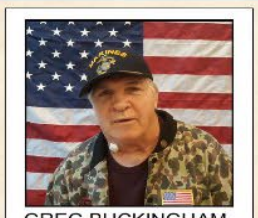
JOHN (BLINK) BILINSKY
NAVY
1983-2013
Master Chief



MIKE BILLITER
NAVY
1977-1999
Operations Specialist



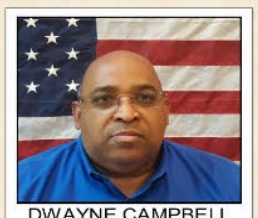
SHERRY BRETON
ARMY
1978-1985
Logistics



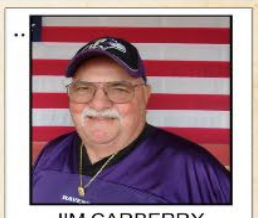
GREG BUCKINGHAM
Marine
1972-1975
Marine Pay Clerk



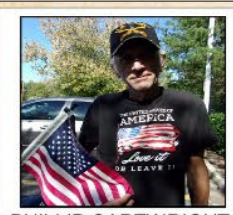
FRED BUMGARNER
NAVY
1966-1997
Cryptologic Officer



DWAYNE CAMPBELL
ARMY
1984-1993
Battery Commander



JIM CARBERRY
NAVY
1964-1966
Engineman



PHILLIP CARTWRIGHT
ARMY
1969-2005
Chief Warrant officer



AARON CRETSINGER
AIR FORCE
2001-2005
Senior Airman



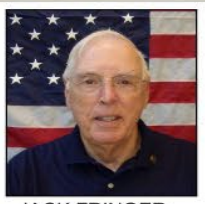
TIM DIGENNARO
NAVY
1964-1982
LCDR A4,A7 Pilot



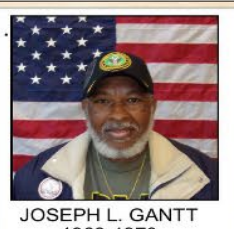
WILBUR C. DOHRMAN
AIR FORCE
1945-1951
CRYPTOGRAPHER



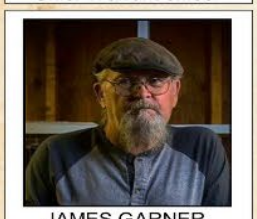
CAROLYN FREARS
NAVY
1985-2005
Aviation Admin



JACK FRINGER
ARMY
1960-1981
Logics Office



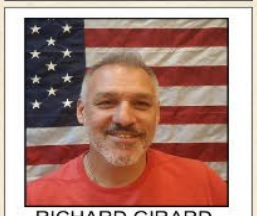
JOSEPH L. GANTT
1968-1970
Fire Crewman



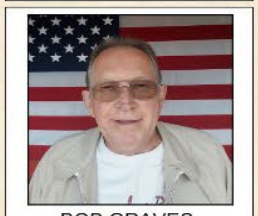
JAMES GARNER
ARMY
1969-1972
8th Infantry



SHIRLEY GARNER
1982-2002
Special Security Officer



RICHARD GIRARD
Air Force
1984-2004
Security Forces



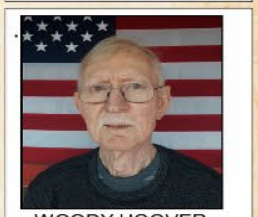
BOB GRAVES
AIR FORCE
1961-1965
Supply



JESSICA HARTMANN
ARMY
1999-2005
Military Police



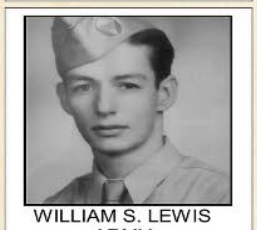
GLENN HAWKINS
NAVY
1977-1987
Electronics Technician



WOODY HOOVER
ARMY
1967-1969
Combat Engineer



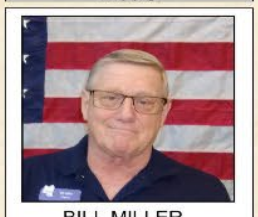
CLIFFORD HUDSON
ARMY
1970-1972
Flight Surgeon



WILLIAM S. LEWIS
ARMY
1941-1945
Paratrooper 82nd AB



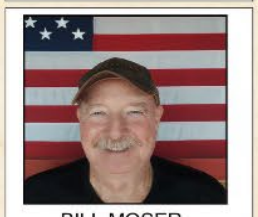
PAT MCCOY
NAVY
1971-1972
Personal man



BILL MILLER
NAVY
1967-1973
Corpsman



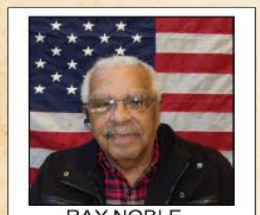
FRITZ MILLER
NAVY
1967-1989
Air Crewman



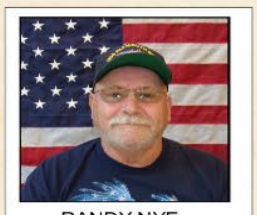
BILL MOSER
ARMY 82ND
1969-1975
Infantry



LEE NEMNAM
ARMY
1992-2018
First Sargent



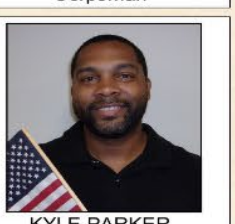
RAY NOBLE
US Public Health
1967-1969
Medical Officer



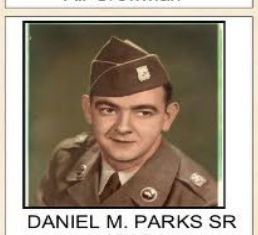
RANDY NYE
NAVY
1974-1980
Machinist Mate



SARAH ONTKO
ARMY
1984-1989
Combat Medic



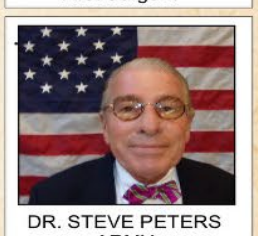
KYLE PARKER
marine
2007-2009
Food Service Specialist



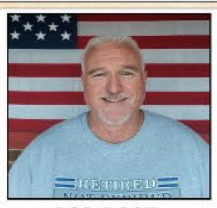
DANIEL M. PARKS SR
ARMY
1953
PFC KOREA



THERESA PASERB
NAVY
1980-2001
Medical Service Corp



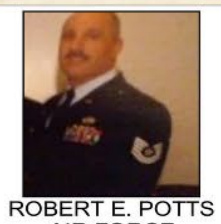
DR. STEVE PETERS
ARMY
1965-1969
Capt. Medical Svc Core



BOB POST
AIR FORCE
1985-2011
Helicopter Pilot



NICHOLAS T. POTTS
NAVY
45 YEARS
LT CMDR Patrol Bomber



ROBERT E. POTTS
AIR FORCE
Retired
Staff Sergeant



SHEILA RAUSCH
NAVY
1981-2017
Supply Officer



LEWIS P. REYNOLDS
NAVY
10 Years Service
Electronics Technician

CLYDE R. SHARROCK
NAVY
1940-1960
Aviation Mechanic

GARY SMITH
AIR FORCE
1978-2003
Jet Engine Mechanic

BOB SPRECHER
NAVY
1964-1970
Submarine

MOLLY STEVENS
NAVY
1982-1987
Air Traffic Control

NATE STEVENS
NAVY
1982-2007
Electronics Technician

BARB SWEREDOSKI
NAVY
1985-2015
Rear Admiral HR

JONATHAN THOMAS
NAVY
1998-2009
Aviation Ordinanceman

CHARLIS TRICE
1972-1974
Motor Vehicle Operator
(64c)

BERNARD A. TURNER
ARMY
1945-1946
Corp. of Engineers

MARY VIETEN
1998-Present
Commander

JON VOTH
ARMY
MASTER SARGENT
Army Band Active

DORWIN BRUCE WILE
CIVIL ENG. CORP.
1954-1981
Captain

FREDERICK WILSON
NAVY
8 Years Service
EM1 Submariner

DEAN WOODS
ARMY
MASTER SARGENT
Army Band Active

MARLISA WOODS
ARMY
ACTIVE DUTY
Violinist

BUTCH WREN
NAVY
1976-1996
Naval Air Crewman

From Battlefields to *Thanksgiving Tables*

A Story of Sacrifice, Providence, and Gratitude

When November arrives, two themes begin to meet in the American heart. We pause first to honor veterans—men and women who accepted hardship, separation, and danger in service to others. Then, almost before the echoes of Veterans Day have faded, families gather around Thanksgiving tables to count their blessings. At first, those observances may seem like separate traditions. But in many ways, they have always belonged together.

In the earliest years of our nation, Americans often gave thanks not in times of ease, but in moments of struggle. During the Revolution, while the outcome of freedom was still uncertain, leaders called the people to thanksgiving after signs of God's mercy in the midst of war. Later, George Washington invited a young nation to acknowledge the hand of Providence as it stepped forward into peace and self-government.

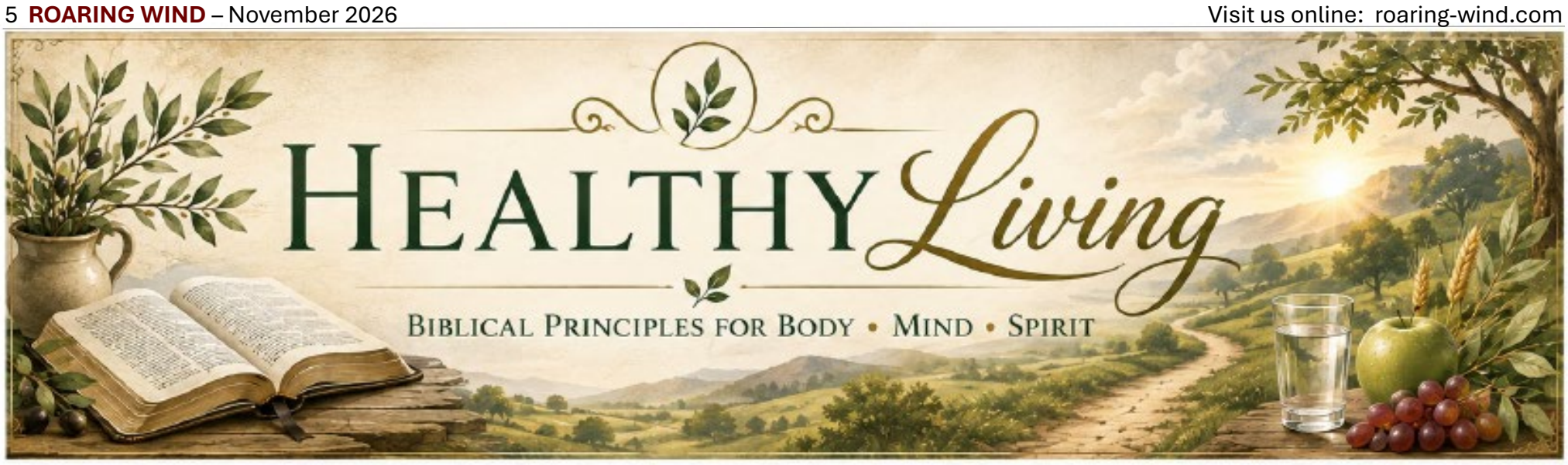
Years later, when the country was wounded and divided by Civil War, Abraham Lincoln again called Americans to give thanks. His words were not spoken in a season without sorrow. Homes grieved. Battlefields had not long been silent. Yet even then, he urged a weary people to remember the blessings that remained and the God from whom they came.

That spirit has followed American service members through later wars and into the present day. Far from home, in camps, on ships, on bases, and in distant places around the world, many have found ways to mark Thanksgiving. A warm meal, a shared prayer, a letter from home, or simply the company of fellow service members became reminders that gratitude can survive even in difficult circumstances.

Perhaps that is the bridge between Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. One calls us to remember sacrifice. The other calls us to remember blessing. One asks us to honor those who helped preserve our freedoms. The other invites us to receive those freedoms with humble, **grateful** hearts.

So as we move from honoring our veterans to gathering with family and friends, may we remember that many of the comforts around our tables were protected at a cost. And may our thanksgiving be deeper for it—filled with remembrance, humility, and praise to God, who has carried this nation through war, peace, sorrow, and grace.

"Gratitude has often been born not in comfort, but in the shadow of sacrifice."



THE ULTIMATE MISSION:
Tactical Fuel & Spiritual Stewardship



Those who serve in our military understand that physical readiness isn't optional — it's essential. The food they eat fuels long days, intense training, and the mental focus required for their mission. In recent years, the Department of Defense has made significant efforts to provide more whole, nutrient-rich foods through programs such as Go for Green (G4G 2.0), encouraging service members to choose foods that support strength, endurance, and overall health.

While we may not be in uniform, we all have a mission. The daily calling God has placed on our lives requires energy, focus, and the ability to serve others well. What we eat directly affects our body, mind, and mood. Caring for our bodies isn't about chasing a trend; it's about honoring the One who created us and giving our best for the work He has prepared for us.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."
1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Lessons from Military Nutrition for Everyday Life

The military's approach to nutrition can teach us valuable principles for our own health and faith journey:

1. **Choose Whole, God-Given Foods**
Nutrient-dense foods like lean proteins, vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts, and seeds provide the clean fuel our bodies need. These foods were created by God and designed to nourish and sustain us.

2. **Eat for Strength and Endurance**
Balanced meals help maintain steady energy, support mental clarity, and build a stronger immune system. The right fuel helps us handle the physical and emotional demands of everyday life.

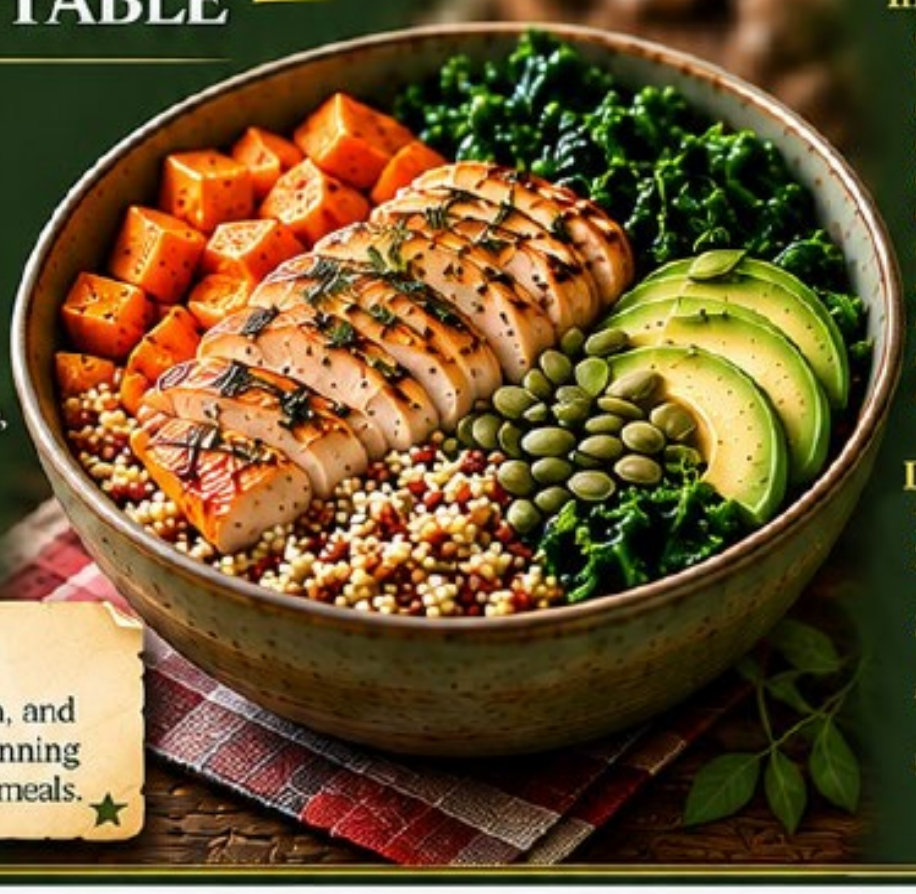
3. **Practice Disciplined Choices**
With fast-food conveniences everywhere, it takes intentionality to make healthy choices. Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and planning ahead helps us stay on track.

4. **Be a Good Steward**
Our bodies are a gift from God. When we fuel them well, we are better equipped to serve our families, our communities, and the purposes He has for our lives.

Whether in uniform or at home, the mission is the same — honor God with the lives we've been given, and stay ready for the opportunities He places before us.

FROM THE MESS HALL TO YOUR TABLE

Military dining facilities have embraced fresh, wholesome ingredients to fuel our service members. This Tactical Power Bowl brings those same principles to your kitchen — packed with lean protein, whole grains, colorful vegetables, and heart-healthy fats. It's a simple, delicious meal that nourishes your body and keeps you mission-ready for whatever God has planned for your day.



A Nourishing Tip:
Prepare extra quinoa, chicken, and roasted vegetables at the beginning of the week for quick, healthy meals.

★ Tactical Power Bowl ★

Serves 2

Ingredients:
- ½ cup quinoa, cooked
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 cups chopped kale (stems removed)
- 1 medium sweet potato, cubed
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds (pepitas)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- Optional: lemon juice or your favorite vinaigrette for drizzling

Directions:
1. Cook quinoa according to package directions.
2. Season chicken with garlic powder, salt, and pepper. Grill or bake until fully cooked, then slice.
3. Toss sweet potato cubes with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast at 400°F for 20–25 minutes, or until tender.
4. Massage kale with a small amount of olive oil and lemon juice to soften.
5. Assemble bowls with quinoa, sliced chicken, roasted sweet potatoes, kale, avocado, and pumpkin seeds. Drizzle with additional olive oil or vinaigrette if desired.



Article & Original Artwork by Alice Taylor Sharrock

Thankful for Family

As another year draws to a close and the harvest season arrives, we pause to thank the Lord for His many blessings—our health, homes, safe travels, and the gift of life itself. Above all, we give thanks for salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Among our greatest blessings is family. Whether born into a family or welcomed through adoption, it is often where our values, beliefs, and understanding of God first take shape. From infancy, we depend upon a mother's loving care. As we grow, our parents and siblings help shape the individuals we become.

In Genesis 2:18, the Lord God said,
"It is not good for man to be alone..."

God created Eve as Adam's companion and helper, and together they became the first family. Though sin entered the world and disrupted God's perfect creation, the family remains a foundation of both individual lives and society.

Family is where we long to belong. Even when relationships are imperfect, it can be a place of refuge, encouragement, and support through life's difficulties.

My own childhood family was often filled with chaos, anger, and pain. Yet I remain thankful for the good things I received. I learned about God and salvation through Christ, along with valuable lessons in hard work, persistence, loyalty, love for animals, and even how to build a house.

Later in life, I came to appreciate another important lesson found in Ephesians 4:32: *"Be kind and compassionate to one another..."* Those words helped restore my relationship with my sister. Today, we are true friends rather than competitors.

God gave me another wonderful gift when I met my husband, Russ. He was a perfect complement to my personality, and his parents welcomed me with open arms. Their godly marriage became an example for our own.

I've come to appreciate the wisdom of older generations. Their experiences and values have much to teach us, and their guidance deserves a place alongside the ideas of younger generations. That connection between generations is something worth preserving.

My painting, *"Grandma's Quilt,"* reflects that treasured heritage. It was inspired by my "adopted" grandmother, Cornelia Meadows, who lived in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains. She raised nine children, had forty grandchildren, and eventually lost count of her great-grandchildren.

Her faith and influence reached far beyond her mountain home, touching generations of family members across the country. In the painting, she is pictured with her great-granddaughter, Mandy, who is now a mother and teacher, influencing young lives of her own.

This Thanksgiving, I thank the Lord for the family I was born into, the family I married into, and the dear friends who have become family throughout my life.

Each has helped shape who I am. My prayer is that, through the gift of art God has given me, I have shared something meaningful with them in return.

Above all, I am thankful that God has welcomed me into His eternal family.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ..." Ephesians 1:3–5





Being Thankful in Difficult Times

By Russ Sharrock

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonias 5:16-18

Every year we gather to reflect on God's blessings. Yet for many families, Thanksgiving becomes more about food, football, and familiar routines than genuine gratitude. Those things are good gifts, but Scripture calls us to something deeper — a posture of thanksgiving that is rooted not in our circumstances, but in Christ Himself.

For many, gratitude feels harder this year. Some have faced unemployment or financial loss. Others carry the ache of loneliness, illness, or unanswered prayers. The world has been marked by pain, and many hearts feel weary.

So how do we give thanks when life hurts?

Paul tells the Thessalonian believers to "give thanks in everything." The Greek word he uses is eucharisteō, meaning to express gratitude, to acknowledge God's grace, to respond with thankful trust. This kind of thanksgiving is not shallow optimism. It is a deep confidence that God is present, purposeful, and sovereign — even in hardship.

Why We Give Thanks

Followers of Christ believe that even difficult seasons are held within God's gracious and sovereign care. Hardship is never random. God uses every trial to shape us, strengthen us, and draw us closer to Himself. We give thanks not because everything feels good, but because God is good — and He is at work in all things for our good.

As Americans, we have many reasons for gratitude, though we often forget them. My wife and I have seen real poverty in our travels — and yet we witnessed believers overflowing with joy and thanksgiving. Their gratitude was not tied to possessions, but to the presence of Christ.

Where Gratitude Begins

Perhaps this year you are the one struggling to see anything good. Look to Jesus. He never changes. His love does not waver. His promises do not fail. You can thank Him for His care, His nearness, and His commitment to work all things together for good.

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength — always present, always faithful, and always ready to help. Nations may shake, kingdoms may crumble, but God remains our fortress. Because He is with us, we can be truly thankful today.

Because He is with us,
we can be truly thankful today.

"Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
for His lovingkindness is everlasting."
PSALM 107:1



MORNING *Prayers*

Morning prayers, a ritual for millions of people and many times repetitive in nature. Those who lack insight may conclude that the effectiveness of the prayer has only a 24 hour life cycle and in need of a daily repeat. But those who have these morning encounters know that this dialogue is as much for them as it is for those they pray for. It sets the stage for the day's events, seen and unseen.

It is not checking all the boxes but speaking a letter of love and requests. Truth be told, we need these encounters. They give us a sense of wholeness and preparedness for what may come. It keeps our heart soft to the people and events around us. Much more than ritual, it is many times a restful, rewarding and renewing experience.

This morning, as you quietly sit, listen with your heart before you speak. Then gather your thoughts and concerns, express them once again. Not in anxious moments but in confident patience. Some will be familiar, some will be new. It is a heavy heart that believes God doesn't hear.

So today and everyday, pray believing, live expecting and rest knowing.

Pray believing, live expecting and rest knowing.
— MICHAEL E. WELLS —



FINDING YOUR CHURCH HOME

Faith was never meant to be lived alone

God calls us to gather together to worship, grow in His Word, pray for one another, encourage one another, and serve our communities. Scripture reminds us not to neglect meeting together, but to encourage one another and spur one another toward love and good works. Hebrews 10:24–25

Whether you have followed Christ for many years, have been away from church for a while, are new to the area, or are simply searching for answers, we encourage you to find a local church where you can grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and become part of a community of believers.

The churches in this directory represent different Christian traditions and denominations. Each has been selected after reviewing publicly available statements of faith, denominational beliefs, leadership information, and other published materials for consistency with the core biblical values and Statement of Faith of *Roaring Wind*. Inclusion does not imply agreement on every point of doctrine or church practice.

We encourage you to visit a church's website, learn about its beliefs and ministries, and prayerfully consider where God may be leading you.

There is a Church Family waiting to Welcome You!

CALVERT COUNTY

Harvest Fellowship—Presbyterian Church
9905 H.G. Trueman Rd., Lusby, MD 20657
410-326-0033
Pastor: Barry Noll
hfpca.org

Jesus the Divine Word Catholic Church
Catholic church
885 Cox Rd., Huntingtown, MD 20639
410-414-8304
Pastor: Rev. John T. Dakes
jesusdivineword.com

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church
225 Alexander Ln., Solomons, MD 20688
410-326-3535
Pastor: Father Robert "Bob" Kilner
olss.org

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church
9463 H.G. Trueman Rd., Lusby, MD 20657
410-231-2075
Pastor: Nate Wong
shepherdofthebay.com

St. Anthony's Catholic Church
8816 Chesapeake Ave., North Beach, MD 20714
443-646-5721
stanthonycal.us

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
105 Vianney Ln., Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-0223
Pastor: Rev. John Benson
sjvchurch.net

Bayside Baptist Church
3009 Chesapeake Beach Rd., Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732
410-257-0712
Pastor: Rev. Glenn Swanson
baysidebaptist.com

Dunkirk Baptist Church
11275 Southern Maryland Blvd., Dunkirk, MD 20754
301-855-3555
Pastor: Dr. Ben Holland
dunkirkbaptistchurch.org

Southern Calvert Baptist Church
12140 H.G. Trueman Rd., Lusby, MD 20657
410-326-6533
Lead Pastor: Dr. John Baldwin
scbcmd.com

CHARLES COUNTY

First Baptist Church of La Plata
9070 Hawthorne Rd., La Plata, MD 20646
301-934-9040
Pastor: Gary Schneider
fbclaplata.org

First Baptist Church of Welcome
6735 Port Tobacco Rd., Welcome, MD 20693
301-609-8759
Pastor: Rev. Mark Hashagen
firstbaptistchurchwelcome.com

Grace Lutheran Church & School
1200 Charles St., La Plata, MD 20646
301-932-0963
Senior Pastor: Rev. Jeff Marquardt
growingwithgrace.org

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
7365 Indian Head Hwy., Bryans Road, MD 20616
301-375-7507
Senior Pastor: Rev. Christopher M. Ogne
lcoos.org

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
201 St. Mary's Ave., La Plata, MD 20646
301-934-2261
Pastor: Rev. Scott Woods
sacredheartlaplata.org

Saint Ignatius Catholic Church, Chapel Point
8855 Chapel Point Rd., Port Tobacco, MD 20677
301-934-8245
St. Ignatius Chapel Point on Facebook

Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church
100 Village St., Waldorf, MD 20602
301-645-7112
Pastor: Rev. Agustin Lopez
olhoc.org

St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church
30 Mattingly Ave., Indian Head, MD 20640
301-743-5770
Pastor: Rev. Francisco M. Tovar
staroftheseaindianhead.org

The Church @ St. Charles
136 Stoddert Ave., Waldorf, MD 20602
301-638-0589
Pastor: Rev. Fred Caudle
thechurchatstcharles.org

Trinity Baptist Church
2671 Mattawoman-Beantown Rd., Waldorf, MD 20601
301-645-7889
Pastor: Rev. Courtney Street
tbcwaldorf.org

White Plains Baptist Church
8470 Marshall Corner Rd., Pomfret, MD 20675
240-776-4326
Pastor: Rev. Randall Accord
wpbcmd.org

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Callaway Baptist Church
20960 Point Lookout Rd., Callaway, MD 20620
301-994-0655
Pastor: Dr. Daniel Moore
Callaway Baptist Church on Facebook

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church
23075 Town Creek Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-862-5016
cornerstonepca.org

Faith Bible Church
26325 Three Notch Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659
301-373-2273
Senior Pastor: Rob McNutt
faithbiblemd.org

Holy Angels Catholic Church
21340 Colton Point Rd., Avenue, MD 20609
301-769-3332
Pastor: Rev. Timothy K. Baer
angelsinavenue.org

Holy Face Catholic Church
20408 Point Lookout Rd., Great Mills, MD 20634
301-994-0525
Pastor: Father Scott Holmer
holyfacechurch.org

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church
28297 Old Village Rd., Mechanicsville, MD 20659
301-884-3123
Administrator: Rev. Paul Nguyen
immaculateconceptionmd.com

Leonardtown Baptist Church
23520 Hollywood Rd., Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-2131
lbcmd.org

Our Lady of the Wayside Church
37575 Chaptico Rd., Chaptico, MD 20621
301-884-2502
olwrcc.org

Redeeming Grace Baptist Church
20741 Soaring Eagle Way, Callaway, MD 20620
240-450-2890
Lead Pastor: **currently in pastoral search**
rgbcmd.org

SAYSF Bible Church
46544 Rue Purchase Rd., Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-862-3755
Pastor: Greg Ryan
saysf.org

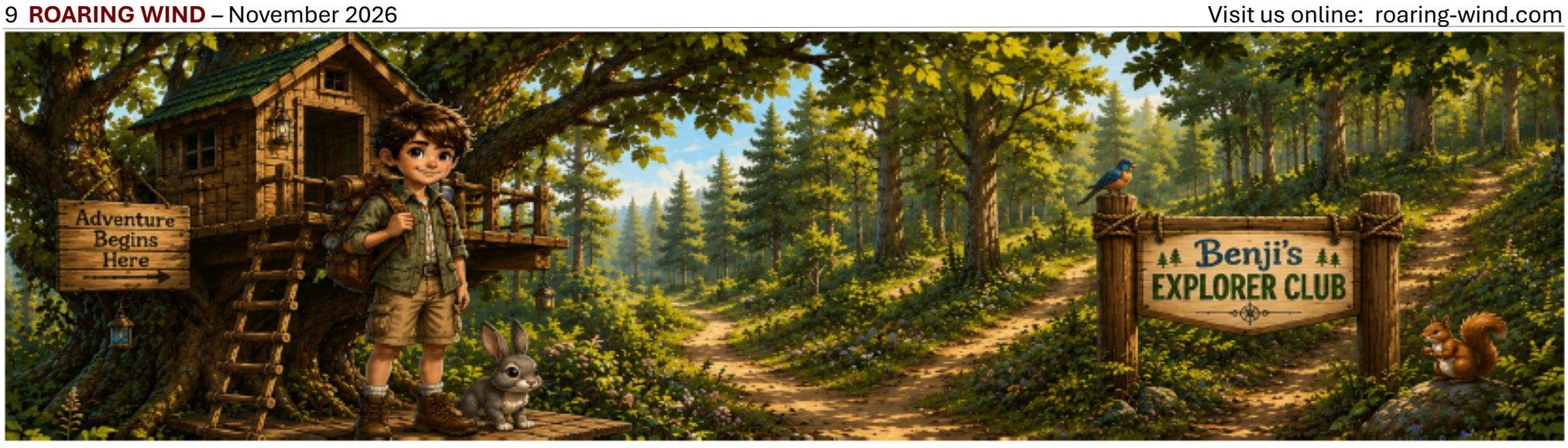
St. Aloysius Catholic Church
22800 Washington St., Leonardtown, MD 20650
301-475-8064
saintaloysiuschurch.org

St. John Francis Regis Parish
43950 St. Johns Rd., Hollywood, MD 20636
301-373-2281
stjohnsparishhollywood.org

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
16922 St. Peter Claver Rd., St. Inigoes, MD 20684
301-872-5460
stpeterclaverchurch.org

St. Ignatius Church
47750 Villa Rd., St. Inigoes, MD 20684
301-862-4600
Historic St. Ignatius

Trinity Lutheran Church
46707 S. Shangri-La Dr., Lexington Park, MD 20653
301-863-9512
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Earl Borrasso
trinitylutheranlp.org



Welcome to Benji's Explorer Club!

Meet Benji and his little companions, Nova and Gilly

Benji is a curious young explorer who loves discovering the amazing world God created. With his backpack ready and Nova nearby, every walk through the woods can become an adventure, and every adventure can reveal something new about God's creation.

MISSION #002

THE GREAT ACORN MYSTERY

An Adventure in God's Amazing Autumn Forest

The morning sunshine spilled through the golden leaves as Benji climbed down the ladder of his treehouse. Crunch! Crunch! Crunch! The fallen leaves crackled beneath his boots. "Come on, Nova! Come on, Gilly!" he called. "It's a perfect day for exploring!"

Nova, his little gray-and-white rabbit friend, hopped down the woodland path, her green bandana fluttering in the breeze. Gilly bounded along beside them, her floppy ears bouncing and her tail wagging happily.

Suddenly—PLOP! Something small and round dropped from the branches overhead and landed right in front of Benji's boots. "Whoa!" Benji exclaimed, bending down to pick up a shiny brown acorn with a little cap on top. "Look what I found!"

Nova twitched her nose. "An acorn!" she said. "There are hundreds of them!" Benji looked around. She was right. Acorns were scattered everywhere beneath the enormous oak tree. But then he noticed something strange. Some acorns were whole, others were cracked open, and near the old fallen log, there were little empty spaces in the leaves where acorns seemed to have disappeared. Benji scratched his head. "Where are all the acorns going?"

Gilly lowered her nose to the ground and began sniffing. Sniff, sniff, sniff! Then she stopped, lifted her head, and gave a little bark. "Woof!" Something was moving behind the log! A bushy tail disappeared beneath a pile of golden leaves. "Look!" whispered Benji.

A squirrel popped out, holding a fat acorn between its teeth. It scampered across the ground, stopped beside a tree, and began digging furiously with its tiny paws. Scratch! Scratch! Scratch! The squirrel pushed the acorn into the hole, covered it with dirt, patted the ground, and hurried away.

Benji's eyes widened. "Did you see that? He buried it!" Nova tilted her head. "Why would he do that?" Benji thought for a moment. "Maybe he's saving it for later!" He remembered something his grandfather had told him. "Some squirrels hide acorns in different places so they'll have food when winter comes. It's like having little grocery stores all over the forest!" Nova giggled. "That's a lot of grocery stores!" But Benji wondered, "How does he remember where they all are?"

Just then, a loud "JAY! JAY! JAY!" echoed through the trees. The three friends looked up. A brilliant blue jay landed on a nearby branch with an acorn held tightly in its beak. "Another acorn collector!" Benji exclaimed. The bird hopped along the branch, then spread its blue wings and flew toward the distant trees.

"Blue jays hide acorns, too," Benji explained. "Sometimes they carry them far away and bury them in the ground." Nova's ears stood straight up. "Even birds save acorns?" "Even birds!" Benji answered with a smile.

They followed the winding path beside the sparkling stream. Suddenly, Gilly stopped again, her ears perked up. Beyond the wooden fence, a beautiful white-tailed deer stood quietly beneath another oak tree. It lowered its head, picked up an acorn, and began chewing. "Shhh," whispered Benji. "Let's watch." The deer continued eating, unaware of the three friends watching from a safe distance.

"That deer isn't burying acorns," Nova whispered. "Nope," said Benji. "Deer eat them to help build up the energy they'll need when the weather turns cold and food becomes harder to find."

A rustling sound came from the rocks beside the path. Out popped a tiny chipmunk! Its cheeks were stuffed so full that Nova nearly fell over laughing. "Look at his face!" The chipmunk dashed toward a little opening beneath a fallen log and disappeared underground.

"He's taking food home!" Benji said. "Chipmunks can store food in their underground burrows so they'll have something to eat during the winter." Gilly tilted her head, watching the little hole. "Woof?" Benji laughed. "No, Gilly. That's not your house!"

The three friends continued walking until they reached a quiet clearing beside the stream. Benji sat on a moss-covered rock and emptied a few acorns from his pocket. "Let's see," he said thoughtfully. "Squirrels hide acorns. Blue jays hide acorns. Chipmunks store food. And deer eat acorns to get ready for winter."

Nova looked puzzled. "But Benji, if all the animals eat or hide the acorns, how will we ever get more oak trees?" Benji stopped. He hadn't thought about that! He looked up at the enormous oak tree spreading its branches high above them. Then he looked down at the tiny acorn resting in his hand. "Wait a minute," he whispered.

He knelt beside the soft earth and gently brushed away some fallen leaves. There, tucked into the soil, was an acorn with a tiny root beginning to grow. "Nova! Look!" The little rabbit leaned closer. "What is it?" "It's an acorn that's starting to grow!" Nova blinked. "Into what?" Benji smiled and pointed toward the towering oak tree above them. "Into one of THOSE!"

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Continued from page 9

Nova stared at the enormous tree. "That BIG tree comes from something THAT small?" "It sure does!" Benji explained that squirrels and blue jays sometimes forget where they've buried their acorns. If an acorn lands in just the right place, with enough moisture, soil, and sunlight, it may begin growing into a new oak tree.

Nova looked at the little acorn again. "So the animals aren't just collecting food. Some of them are helping plant the forest!" "Exactly!" Benji exclaimed. Gilly wagged her tail as if she agreed.

Benji held the acorn carefully in his palm. "Isn't God's creation amazing?" he said. "He made these tiny acorns to grow into mighty oak trees, and those same acorns help feed so many of His creatures."

Nova looked around at the golden leaves, the sparkling stream, and the woodland animals busily preparing for the changing season. "Everything has a purpose," she said softly. Benji nodded. "And sometimes the biggest things begin with something very small."

As the afternoon sunshine painted the forest in shades of orange and gold, the three friends headed back toward the treehouse. But Benji had one more idea. "Hey, Nova! Do you think our Explorer Club friends could solve the Great Acorn Mystery, too?" Nova's ears perked up. "Oh, YES!" "Then let's give them a mission!" Gilly gave one enthusiastic bark. "WOOF!" And just like that, another adventure was waiting to begin.

A Little Lesson from God's Creation

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Genesis 1:11

A tiny acorn may not look very important, but God designed it with the ability to grow into a mighty oak tree. Along the way, acorns help feed squirrels, birds, deer, and many other woodland creatures. **Something small can have a very big purpose!**

YOUR EXPLORER MISSION:

Can YOU Solve the Mystery?

Benji, Nova, and Gilly need your help!

Head outdoors with a grown-up and see what clues you can discover. Look for fallen acorns, oak leaves, squirrels, birds, and signs that animals have been gathering food.

Then open your November Explorer Packet for the **Great Acorn Detective Hunt**, the **Squirrel's Secret Stash Challenge**, and your very own **Acorn Discovery Journal**. Remember, good explorers observe wildlife without disturbing animals or their food supplies.



Find Benji's Explorer Club @ Roaring-Wind.com

Monthly Adventures • Full-Color Printable Exploration Scenes

Coloring-Pages • Nature Challenges • Field Notes • FREE Printables

Explore together • Learn together • Grow in faith together

https://www.roaring-wind.com/benjitheexplorer/benjisadventurepackets