



Chapel of the Snows,
Antarctica
One of seven churches
on the continent

The Billet

Parkway Presbyterian Church

November 2017 Edition
Volume 59 No. 4

6200 Camphor Street, Metairie LA 70003
ParkwayPresbyterianChurch.com
(504) 733-1644 Fax: (504) 733-1112

Pastor's Message

by Reverend Lesley Blair Paine

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Lieutenant Colonel
Tom Paine
in Antarctica

I'm finding the time difference between Metairie and Antarctica difficult. Just when I got the hang of 18 hours difference (add 24 hours so it is the next day, then take away 6), we fell back an hour here, but not there. Now we are 19 hours time difference (+24, -5). I have to keep thinking, "Is Tom getting up or going to bed?" "Is it Saturday, or has he just left worship?" Then he says how many days left, and we come up with different days away. He will not be away from us the same number of days in his experience as in ours.

He's more on his way back now because we are past the halfway point. We can see the day showing on our monthly calendar. It's exciting.

It hasn't been as hard to communicate as we thought. We are blessed that we live in 2017, not 1917, when military families had to wait months for one letter. I can't even imagine. We complain about the phone satellite being out of whack, but we can text each other. It is real-time. For a few minutes each day, it is like he is texting me from the other side of town (until he mentions the temperature!).

As I write this, I am preparing for Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) Sunday. It will come the Sunday after Thanksgiving and end our Christian calendar for 2017. Our calendar begins with Advent and the coming of Christ. Our triennial readings revolve around the Kingdom, the King, and Christ's coming (Advent). It is an exciting time in the life of our congregation.

It is when we often talk of the 'already, but not yet' time. We already have a little taste of the coming kingdom, just as we do at the communion table. But the kingdom is not yet here. It is a perpetually coming event, and we see there is a lot to be resolved before then.

Others call this The Meantime. In 'the meantime,' we live between the in-breaking of the Kingdom with the events of Bethlehem and the Coming Kingdom of God's Reign. We are out of sync with the world and in a strange place in time. Always surrounded—sometimes it feels at a great distance—but always surrounded by God's Kingdom, but we know we are "not of this world."

I know that is from an Easter reading, but the calendar year is tied together by the King and his story. When Pilate asks him what Jesus did, Jesus answers, "My kingdom doesn't consist of what you see around you....I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king....Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice" (John 18:36ff The Message).

Let us listen for that voice, for the reign of God breaking into our world, as we celebrate his reign, his coming, and his rule over our lives.

I ask for his peace and reconciliation for each of you,

Rev. Lesley Blair Paine
Stated Supply Pastor

Parkway's Sanctuary – A bit of history

A twist of fate brought Helen and Manning Green to Parkway. Manning graduated with an engineering degree from Georgia Tech and took a job with Southern Bell Telephone (now part of AT&T) in Atlanta, Georgia. Helen worked as a buyer for a large department store. When Manning was transferred to the New Orleans office, they moved to Green Acres Road in Metairie. Manning was a Methodist; Helen was a Presbyterian. The Greens were anxious to find a church for their growing family. Parkway circulated a petition to secure the names of those interested in becoming charter members. Camphor Street was still a marshland, lots of water, few trees, and abundant wild life. St. Matthews Methodist Church did not yet exist. In 1956, Helen and Manning signed the petition and became charter members of Parkway. Their dedication helped guide the church for many years

Twenty-five years later Parkway made plans to move worship from the Fellowship Hall and began construction on a new sanctuary. Helen and Manning enthusiastically supported the project.

At the time of Helen Green's death in 1982, construction on the sanctuary was nearly complete. Determined to have Helen's service in the new sanctuary, Manning, who was on the building committee, worked tirelessly to get the final inspections completed. The first service in the Sanctuary was Helen's funeral service.

When the sanctuary was dedicated later in 1982, the large window above the choir loft looked out onto an oak tree that, while a tribute to God's beauty, did not match the vision that the members had in mind. The hope was that someday the plain window would be replaced with stained glass. It became Manning's goal to do so in Helen's honor. He enlisted the help of his daughters, Patsy, Betsy, and Nancy in the endeavor.



Designed by Nancy Green Jeansonne; executed by Llorens Studios of Decatur, Georgia, 1983

*"It was an honor to be able to design the window, both in my mother's memory, and for Parkway."
Nancy Jeansonne*

Nancy, a multi-talented artist and Fine Arts graduate of LSU, began working on the design. She spent many hours researching Christian symbols and types of stained glass. In addition, the family visited churches and stained glass artists' studios here and in Georgia. The Greens chose Llorens Studios in Decatur, Georgia, which coincidentally was the birth place of both Helen and Manning.



Original drawing that Llorens used to construct the window.
Provided by Nancy Jeansonne

The window, weighing four hundred pounds, was shipped from Llorens Studios on September 22, 1983. It was dedicated January 8, 1984.

Today, as we enter the Sanctuary, our eyes seek the light that shines through the stained glass window above the choir loft. The jewel like colors of the stained glass shape and alter light in infinite ways. An image of Heavenly light symbolizes the presence of God and illuminates the blue sky above and the green and blue earth below. The artistry of the design gives a unique depiction of the Celtic cross. Christian symbolism is portrayed by the interwoven IHS, fish, and red flame of the Holy Spirit.

We can see the Holy Spirit represented again in the stained glass windows at the rear of the sanctuary indicating that the Holy Spirit surrounds us. The eight rear windows were designed by Ruth Goliwas of Art & Design studio in New Orleans. When the work was commissioned, Parkway's committee requested an abstract design. Ruth's husband, Reverend William Mackintosh, retired pastor of First Presbyterian Church, consulted with Ruth on Christian symbolism. The white triangular glass represents the boats of the Evangelists. Boats played a large role in Jesus' life and ministry; Jesus protected the apostles on the stormy Sea of Galilee (Mark 4:35-41).

The rear windows were dedicated in December 7, 1986 in honor of former members of Parkway, including James H. Faust, Jan Faust's husband and Lynn Carole Holland, Nancy and John Holland's daughter. A plaque in the Narthex lists all of the names.

We may also see symbolism in the colors of all of the sanctuary's windows. The symbolism of colors is described in "Signs & Symbols in Christian Art" by George Ferguson and at http://www.minotaurz.com/photoz/stjames_web/Intro_color.htm.

Blue, as the color of the sky, has long symbolized heaven and heavenly love. **Red** is a symbol for fire and is used during the season of Pentecost which commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit. **Yellow** can be an emblem of the sun and divinity associated with sacredness.



One of the rear windows designed by Ruth Goliwas of Art & Design

Green is the color of plants and represents the triumph of spring over winter, of life over death. Since it is a secondary color, made of primary colors yellow and blue, it also suggests the regeneration of the soul through good works and charity. Green is the symbol for the Epiphany season of the church.

Violet is the color symbol of love and truth as well as passion and suffering. **Purple** has always been the color of royalty and is often the symbol of God the Father. Sorrow and penitence are also symbolized by purple and it is the liturgical color for Advent and Lent. **White** has always been associated with purity, innocence and the holy life. This association is spoken of in the Bible such as Psalm 51:7 "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" or Christ's Transfiguration in which Matthew says Christ is seen to be "white as the light" (Matthew 17:2). White is worn by Christ after his Resurrection. **Black** is the symbol of death and mourning and is the liturgical color for Good Friday, the day of Christ's Crucifixion. **Gray**, as the color of ashes, symbolizes both humility and mourning and is associated with the Lenten season...."

Nancy Green Jeansonne, Patsy Green, Betsy Green Molaison, and Ruth Goliwas contributed to this article.

Parkway Men's Club

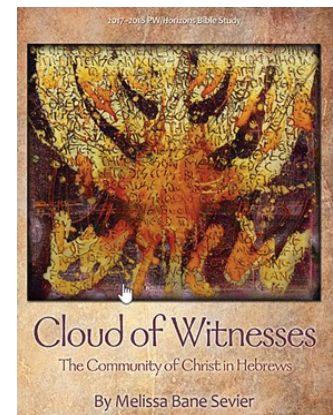
The Men's Club meets for lunch at Denny's on Veterans Blvd., near the I-10 exit ramp on the second Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am. Our next meetings will be on December 13, January 10, and February 14. We are inviting men from other Presbyterian churches to join us; all ages are invited. Our discussions stimulate thought, reflection, and understanding. It is a rewarding time well spent. Contact Tom Smith and he will put you on his reminder call list. Hope to see you there.

Miriam Circle

Our group restarted on September 12. The session runs until May 2018 and you may join at any time. We are studying *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier. We study the major themes found in Hebrews in nine lessons.

At the next meeting on December 13, we will study Chapter 4, "In Community with God's Messengers. What does Hebrews have to teach about angels and how does that strengthen community?"

Miriam Circle is a small group that meets for prayer and Bible study and interaction with the women of our congregation and community. Come join us at 1:00 pm every second Tuesday of the month in the Conference Room for fellowship, laughter, discussion, and dessert.



Condolences

Nettie Jean Spikes Foster

Parkway extends its deepest sympathy to the Dawson family on the passing of Karen's grandmother, Nettie Foster, October 19, 2017, in Valdosta, Georgia and on the untimely passing of Karen's cousin, Jeana Marie Russell, October 25, 2017, in Panama City Beach, Florida.

June Althea Dohner White

June was a longtime member of Parkway. On November 5th, June's family gathered in Jerseyville, Illinois to share their favorite memories and celebrate the life of a person who touched many lives. Parkway extends their sincerest condolences to June's family and friends.

New Members

The Dawson Family joins Parkway by Lesley Paine

On October 15th, David and Karen Dawson and their three children, Ryan, Megan and Braden became members of Parkway. Megan and Braden were also baptized.

The Dawsons have been married for twenty-three years. Karen loves Scouting, cats, and coffee (coffee should probably be first). Karen is also an elections commissioner and can cook just about anything, even in a solar oven. David is a staff RN at Tulane-Lakeside Hospital for Women and children. Ryan is a recent high school graduate and an Eagle Scout and has many, many merit badges. Megan is learning to drive, is active in Girl Scouts, is a Harry Potter fan, and is interested in medical sciences. Braden knows how to ballroom dance. He is in sixth grade and is a Boy Scout.



Megan, Braden, Ryan, Karen and David Dawson

Preschool News by Marlene Cooke

Four of our classes: Kermit, Ducks, Snoopy, and Little Bears are using the newly remodeled Children's Library weekly.

The week of November 12th, rooms 17 and 18 magically turned into Santa's Secret Shop where gifts made by Santa's helpers were available for purchase by parents, grandparents and friends. The Shop was run by the parents and all proceeds will be used to acquire large items needed by the classes.



The children will be delighted when Mrs. Claus visits the preschool on Wednesday and Thursday, December 6 and 7.

On Wednesday, December 13, the Gingerbread class will portray the nativity scene to all of the other school children. The five-day children will perform for parents on Tuesday, December 19. Then preschool Christmas holidays begin! (Photos by Sandy Doland)



In December, 1980, the Children's sermons began.

Parkway Youth

The **Penny Mission** began in 2003. The program was started to help our children become more aware of and involved in mission and they decide how the money will be spent. Save your pennies during the week and after Sunday worship place them in the collection cans that the children are holding in the Narthex.

Carley Koch is an eighth grade student at Riverdale Middle School in Jefferson Parish. Her favorite subject is mathematics and she is an avid sports player, enjoying softball, volleyball, and basketball. She plays sports at school and at Little Farms Playground.

Carley began playing soft ball at an early age under her Dad's training. She's a lefty, a left handed pitcher; and she also plays first base. Being left handed gives Carley an extended reach at first base for catching the ball. And she has a fast pitch. It was recently recorded at fifty-seven miles per hour!

Despite the name, today's softball is not very soft. It is twelve inches in circumference for fastpitch softball and is three inches larger than a baseball. The traditional pitching style in fastpitch softball is a "windmill" motion while throwing underhand. Watch this pitching style on internet videos and you will be amazed.

Carley is currently a player in the travel ball Southern Storm 14u fast-pitch softball team (14u indicates that the players are 14 years old and under). Travel ball is the next step up from recreational softball. Travel ball requires tryouts whereas recreational ball accepts all who want to play. As the name suggests, travel ball teams travel to tournaments in Louisiana and out of state. These teams qualify for national tournament competitions where the players get exposure to college scouts for scholarship opportunities.

Softball season began in August and ends in December, with approximately ten games per season. The team practices twice a week. This schedule takes commitment by Carley who receives encouragement and guidance from her mother.

Carley's team placed second in their division during the Southern Storm showdown. She was also chosen for the Showcase team that recently played in Houston. Like big-time sports, young players are tracked and their statistics recorded to identify those who are outstanding in each category. The stats are used by college scouts in recruiting decisions. Perhaps one day Carley, with her knowledge of mathematics and sports, will be creating math algorithms that analyze athlete data for professional teams and organizations.

Any Sunday morning you will see Carley calm and attentive. Those traits are important in playing sports. One of the secrets to playing your best is learning how to keep yourself calm and focused under pressure.

Of course, as with any teenager, Carley can get excited when there is good reason, like looking forward to trading her cleats for dancing shoes for the homecoming dance next month at her school.



Carley
photo by Andrea Koch

Session Report

The **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** is preparing special services on Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas Eve. The committee seeks help with Sanctuary preparations for the Christmas season and also for the hanging of the banners on December 3rd after worship.

The **PRESCHOOL COMMITTEE** continues to catalog and organize the books in the library. The library was re-dedicated on October 15th. A children's bench placed against the library wall displays a plaque honoring Ruth Ingram, a former preschool director. Ruth donated many lovely children's books. Sharon Cooke, Marlene and Chester Cooke's daughter-in-law, donated a wonderful print of one of her original paintings to the library.

Room 10 became the library in the fall of 1975.

In November, 1979, the congregation began the practice of holding hands at the end of worship and singing "Blest be the Tie that Binds"

The **FINANCE COMMITTEE** is considering ways to fulfill the janitorial duties while the sexton is on medical leave. Two of the preschool staff have been employed to clean the preschool.

The **BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE** reports that the painting of the Fellowship Hall interior is complete. The fresh new look delighted the congregation when they met on the fifth Sunday in October for Parkway's pot luck lunch. Damaged ceiling tiles in the Fellowship Hall and the



Painting Fellowship Hall

Transepts have been replaced. New window dressings have been installed in the Fellowship Hall. The roof has been cleaned of accumulated vegetation. Floors in the Fellowship Hall and the preschool have been buffed. Everyone is asked to assist in keeping Parkway clean; pick up debris and wipe up spills. We are all stewards of our facility.

The **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE** reports that Ted Talks began on October 22nd. The Bridges class will be on break until Pastor Tom returns in December.

The **PROMOTIONS COMMITTEE** is preparing media announcements of Parkway's Christmas events. An updated brochure was placed in the registration pads in the pews and in the visitor bags.

The **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE** hired a part-time bookkeeper and continues its efforts to fill the part-time staff position of Administrative Coordinator. In the interim, one of our members has generously agreed to fill the Coordinator role on a temporary basis. The committee is investigating options regarding the sexton's medical issues.

*February 1, 1958,
Parkway started a
newsletter called
"Parkway News"
In October, 1961, the
name was changed to
"The Billet"*

PASTOR TOM left on October 16th for his Air National Guard deployment to Antarctica and will return in December. He is working with the National Science Foundation employees who are conducting research in Antarctica. His first Sunday back will be Christmas Eve.

PASTOR LESLEY PAINE is serving as Stated Supply Pastor in Tom's absence. Pastor Lesley sincerely thanks all who contributed to a smooth transition. Her regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

Mark your calendar

November 2017

November 19 is the date of the joint Camphor Street Thanksgiving service for Parkview Baptist, St. Matthew's Methodist, and Parkway Presbyterian churches. This year the event takes place at the St. Matthew's Methodist Church. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Parkway is providing the bread and butter. Worship follows at 6:30 pm. Pastor Michael Pogue of Parkview Baptist will give the sermon and our Music Director, Dale Norris, will lead the choir.

November 23 is Thanksgiving Day and two of our members will host their annual Thanksgiving Breakfast at Parkway from 6:00 am to 11:30 am. Everything from omelets to waffles to alligator sausage and wild game gumbo will be on the menu. All are welcome.

November 26 is Christ the King (Reign of Christ) Sunday and moves us from Ordinary Time into Advent. Ordinary Time occurs in two periods in the liturgical year. The first period begins on Epiphany and ends on the day before Ash Wednesday. The second period begins on the Monday after Pentecost, the conclusion of the Easter season, and continues until the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. Sundays in Ordinary Time are numbered. Days in Ordinary Time can also represent an event, as is the case with Christ the King Sunday.



Liturgical Year

November 26 is also the day we unpack and inspect the Christmas decorations for function and needed replacements. The Dupuys will set up the Angel Tree in the Fellowship Hall.

December 2017

*Parkway's first
Christmas tree was
created in December,
1968*

December 3 is the first Sunday of Advent. After worship we will decorate the sanctuary; volunteers are needed. Poinsettias are some of our traditional decorations. You may purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one; the cost is \$10 per poinsettia. The names of loved ones will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin if submitted by December 17. Call or email the church secretary to order a poinsettia.

December 9 is Parents' Afternoon Out for current Parkway students. The hours are 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The fees are \$15 for the first child and \$10 for each additional child. A movie, snacks, a craft and cookie decorating will be provided to occupy the children.

December 15 is the GT Woods Elementary School Christmas Party from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Call or email the church secretary to volunteer. You will have fun volunteering for this event!

December 17 is the third Sunday of Advent. Dr. Dale Norris will direct a concert of Readings and Carols. There will be a reception and fellowship from 6:15 pm to 6:50 pm. Doors to the sanctuary will open at 6:50 pm; the concert begins at 7:00 pm.

December 24 is the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. A candlelight service will be held at 6:30 pm. Prior to the service, at 6:00 pm, three members of our choir will sing Christmas Carols in the sanctuary. They are Rebeckah Kirk, soprano; Emma MountCastle, soprano; and Andrew Aceves, bass. Rebeckah studied music at Loyola University and sings in the NOVA Chorale and with District Productions. Emma is a graduate music student at Loyola University and sings with the New Orleans Opera. Andrew is a student at St. Paul's School in Covington, LA.

December 31 is the last Sunday in December and there will be one service at 10:00 am. There is no luncheon after the service.

The church office is closed November 23 and 24, and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

*Since the early 1970's Parkway
members have contributed to the
annual blood drive.*

Opportunities to Serve

A Trip to Second Harvest with Parkway Volunteers

Second Harvest Food Bank (SHFB), founded in 1982, is one of five food banks serving Louisiana and distributes food to much of southern Louisiana, from the Texas to the Mississippi borders.

*John 6:12
And when they
had eaten their
fill, he told his
disciples,
“Gather up the
leftover
fragments, that
nothing may be
lost.”*

SHFB responds to natural disasters and distributes food via traveling food trucks in communities where there is no food pantry. SHFB’s Kids Café feeds local children in after-school programs, including summers. Its School Pantry program supports fully-stocked pantries inside classrooms. Its Backpack program provides backpacks of healthy food to school children at the end of each week. Its Senior Café distributes meals to senior citizens. SHFB’s kitchen prepares many of the meals served by the New Orleans Mission. In addition SHFB provides education on cooking, nutrition, and food budgeting; and restaurant training programs

for adults.

The donated food comes from growers, manufacturers, retailers, and community donations. The products may be perfect, or may be near their “sell by” date, or may not be visually appealing. SHFB ensures that the food is safe and is legal to distribute.



Judy Hafford, Margaret Stricker, Dave Hafford, Jay Stricker, Betty Bankston

Parkway members volunteer on the second Thursday of every month from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. On November 9th, we arrived at SHFB on Edwards Avenue in Kenner. Volunteers assembled in the Conference Room, signed in, and picked up name tags. The Parkway volunteers were the Betty Bankston; Judy and Dave Hafford; Margaret and Jay Stricker; their friend, Glen; three ladies that Parkway’s group has “adopted”; and me.

Other volunteers included two young men from the Church of the Latter Day Saints, two LSU medical students, two engineering students, a retired postman and a retired offshore services salesman. Our job was to inspect, sort, and pack food and grocery products.

A pallet stacked high with banana boxes awaited us. The boxes did not contain bananas. They contained a jumble of food items that had been “culled” by a food supplier or supermarket. Some products were slightly dented or near their expiration dates. The volunteers began emptying the boxes onto a conveyer belt and checking the dates and condition of the goods.



Betty, the “adoptees”, and Jay in the sorting area.

Vincent, our SHFB staff supervisor, powered up the conveyer belt. The sorters routed products to packers who put them into new SHFB boxes. There is a box weight limit for each type of product; for example, canned goods are packed into small boxes until the box weight is twenty pounds. The boxes are taped and labeled and placed on pallets. The canned goods pallet can hold 2400 pounds. When filled, a pallet truck is used to move the pallet to another part of the warehouse and an empty pallet is brought into the boxing area.



The postman, Dave, and LDS men in the unpacking/ inspecting area

It was a busy two hours and a very efficient, very organized operation. The students provided some of the heavy lifting. The Haffords were two of the inspectors. Betty sorted dry goods. Jay sorted cans. Margaret and I taped and labeled boxes. Others sorted beverages and condiments or packed boxes.

What seemed refreshing about the two hours was the human interaction – person to person, no cell phones, emails or tweets; just folks working as a team and getting to know each other better. It was a good feeling; and it was actually fun.

Near the end of our shift what seemed like an endless quantity of cans of Vienna sausage moved into the boxing area; little cans marching toward us on the conveyor belt like a phalanx of soldiers ready for the attack. After packing his third box, the retired salesman announced that he hated Vienna sausage - the packing, that is. He likes eating them. I hadn't eaten Vienna sausage in years but when I returned home, I added Vienna sausage to my grocery list.

There are many opportunities to volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank. If you are interested, contact Dave Hafford or go to <http://no-hunger.org/>.



Students, Vincent, Margaret, Glen, and the retired salesman in the boxing area

Corrections and Amplifications

Thanks to Lesley Paine and D. Eckelmann for proofing; Chester Cooke for photography except where noted; contributors Lesley Paine, Marlene Cooke, Sandy Doland, Jan Faust, and Session Elders; and to everyone who contributed their memories to Parkway's history.

Communications at Parkway

If you have an article or event to promote in *The Billet*, please give it to Parkway's Secretary. The more information submitted by committees, task forces, and groups of the congregation, the better informed the members will be.

We have a link to PayPal at www.parkwaypresbyterianchurch.org. The link button is on our main website and is regularly featured on Facebook and Twitter. This is significant because it gives our members and friends around the country the capability to give to the church with their credit or debit cards in a quick, easy, and secure way. Anyone who gives to Parkway electronically or through more traditional means will receive a statement of giving for tax purposes. And, more importantly, they will be empowering this congregation to continue the mission and work of our church, preschool, and kindergarten in the years to come.



6200 Camphor Street, Metairie LA 70003
(504) 733-1644 Fax: (504) 733-1112
www.parkwaypresbyterianchurch.com

Tom@ppc.nocoxmail.com
Marlene@ppc.nocoxmail.com
Chetta@ppc.nocoxmail.com
Dale@ppc.nocoxmail.com
ParkwayPreschool@ppc.nocoxmail.com
Secretary1@ppc.nocoxmail.com

www.pcusa.org
http://pbysouthla.org
https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParkwayPresbyterianChurch
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https://twitter.com/ParkwayMetairie

Parkway Presbyterian Church is a congregation of God's people. Its purpose is to witness to God and God's love as revealed in Jesus Christ."

Philippians 4

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.