

## Pastor's ramblings - November 2011

*"Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her and she will honor you."  
Proverbs 4:8 NIV*

Yes, I know the writer of this Proverb is speaking about wisdom. And I do not disagree. We need to embrace wisdom in all aspects of our lives. But, the word I want in this is embrace. I looked for "hug" but could find it in Scripture. Made me wonder if no one in the Bible ever needed a hug. So, not finding hug I settled on embrace - and it is only used about a half dozen times. Isn't an embrace close to being a hug?

I recall a story about a young child alone during a lightning and thunder storm. They called out for a parent and got the assurance that God was there with them. The child agreed but right now they needed someone with "skin on them." They wanted a physical presence. They wanted an assurance that everything was going to be okay--even in the storm. Alone is okay, sometimes. But are there not times when alone is not all that good. When we want someone nearby with "skin on them".

I raise this because, maybe, all of us here at First Baptist need a hug right now. I was asked for one the other day. It is not because we don't have faith in God. It is not because we don't trust God. But, right now, at this moment we want God's arms around us -- we want to feel the hug. And often that comes through the gentle hug from another person. Maybe just touch on the hand, some assurance that we are not alone -- that we are bound together by being as one. Where, we do not feel alone in a roomful of people. Where a gentle, caring embrace - hug - reminds us that we are loved and cared for.

Now, it is only in recent years that I have become comfortable hugging strangers -- always hugged Diane and boys, but strangers. It has taken me time to get semi-comfortable with hugs. Now there are days when I enjoy them. They say something more than a handshake. They, are for me, a deeper level of caring and concern. They say "I am with you". These days for us, they often come with tears. I think the writer of Proverbs knew the power of a proper "hug", an embrace. Hug someone who needs one -- ask if you must - but offer - we all need one right now.

### Sermons for November

November 6 - Communion Sunday  
Joshua 24:14-25; Amos 5:18-24  
*"Who Do We Serve?"*

November 13  
Psalm 123; Matthew 25:14-30  
*Expectations*

November 20  
Ezekiel 34:11-16; Matthew 25:31-46  
*The Least of These*

November 27 - First Sunday in Advent  
Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-27  
*We Are YOUR People*

### Words of Wisdom???

*I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compote the cranberries and bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or a pork sandwich.*

-- The Turkey