## **Dear Editor:**

As we enjoy the Thanksgiving Day weekend with family and friends, please remember to take time for prayer to thank our heavenly Father for our lives, our freedom and His bountiful blessings. Everything we have comes from our Lord and Savior, yet too often we do not take enough time to humble ourselves and thank Him.

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength; even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Convention. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. And being a gift from God, there was only one way to ensure protection and that was through prayer.

Our quality of life is a direct result of our spiritual strength as a community. Prayer needs to guide us and our leaders in our daily lives and our decisions. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that they will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalm 33:12

Prayer has remained such an important part of our country that in 1952 Congress passed a law declaring the first Thursday of May as National Day of Prayer. Its constitutionality has survived several court challenges and the President signs a proclamation each year encouraging all Americans to pray on that day. Next year it will be observed on May 2, 2013.

For the past 21 years, our community has participated in National Day of Prayer with a breakfast and an evening prayer session organized by a committee of lay persons from a number of our churches. As a committee, we are reaching out to Hamilton County and asking for others to join the committee to ensure the continuance of these important and powerful prayer events.

As you pray, please ask for guidance on how you can support prayer in our community. If serving Him through National Day of Prayer is part of your answer, please contact Tom or Patti Kell at (402) 694-6370 or one of our other committee members: Cal Strong, Shane Thorell or Lisa Werner.

## Thomas Kell Aurora