



# Maupin's Corner

## Thanksgiving News-God Pardons (Us) Turkeys

Can you smell it? Can you just about taste it? Is it the sweet potato casserole with the pecan topping? How about the special turkey, gravy, and Aunt Bennies dressing or Cousin Pam's special Mac & cheese? And we haven't even gotten to deserts.

The wonderful aroma is not the food network; it's the real thing that is right around the corner, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving has been traditionally celebrated with a roasted turkey. As far back as 1947 the National Turkey Federation began the tradition of giving the White House a thanksgiving turkey.

When I was in elementary school I remember president John F. Kennedy saying "this year let's just keep this turkey," in effect offering it a pardon. It was president George H W Bush that first pardoned the thanksgiving turkey in 1989 and that has been the tradition of presidents ever since.

The President of the United States pardons the turkey given for the feast, and the turkey is then sent to live a long life free from the fear of dying for dinner.

Are not all of us like the typical thanksgiving tur-

key? We think if we live the good life and do good to others we will do just fine getting to heaven. But when everything is said and done, when the feast is over, just like the real turkey we enjoy at Thanksgiving, we find there is not a lot left-over.

Some will always do their best but never accept the true pardon that Jesus gave us on Calvary. Those of us who have believed in Jesus and have Him in our hearts have a lot to be thankful for. We are the "pardoned turkeys."

If our thanksgiving is to be real and authentic then we need to have a sense of urgency for our fellow brothers and sisters who are headed for the table unpardoned.

The bottom line of all this "turkey talk" is that we need to share our pardon with every stripe of turkey, poor or rich; to tell about how we have been pardoned and forgiven for all the bad we have done or could ever do by what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Paul said, *"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some."* 1Corinthians 9:22

When we serve we do so with the expressed purpose of sharing eternal life with those we serve. We know the urgency because the unpardoned will not be spared.

Paul understood this urgency when he spoke to Timothy telling him not to neglect sharing Christ, but always give it your all, so that the world will be able to see your progress. Stick with it, keep the faith, be true to God's word. If you do, you will be saved and so will those who hear you.

The foundation of our being pardoned is in what we believe, the Word, and the Word put to work in our lives. If we are faithful in that, then those who hear and see us will also come to faith and belief in Jesus.

Who are the unpardoned turkeys that need to know Jesus as the Savior and Lord of their hearts and their lives?

The greatest thanks and service we "pardoned turkeys" can show God is staying committed to offering His pardon to those in need.

Have a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Randy

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## Operation Christmas Child

It is time again to start filling those shoe boxes with gifts that Samaritans Purse will distribute to those who will not otherwise receive a gift. When asked why do you do this? Why did you come? Those who distribute the shoeboxes full of gifts respond always, "We come to help in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord."

In participating we will be saying with the Apostle Paul this Christmas, "We proclaim not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake."

We will have a planning meeting at 5:00pm Sunday November 1st and a collection time Sunday, Nov. 15th at 5:00pm both in the fellowship hall where we will pack the boxes. Below are instructions and guidelines to think about when purchasing items for your gift shoebox:

A cardboard shoe box or plastic shoe box is acceptable. The only thing they ask is that the lid fits tightly. It's also suggested that a rubber band be placed around each end of the box. The children who receive the gift often keep the box. Many countries use the plastic shoe boxes to carry water.

You're not required to wrap the box because they wrap them to get ready to ship overseas.

When purchasing gifts there are six very important things to keep in mind:

Something for the child to love such as a stuffed animal

Something for the child to wear such as socks or T-shirt

Something for the child to create with such as crayons, small tablet or colored pencils

Something for the child to take care of themselves such as soap, a washcloth, chap stick (no liquid)

Something for the child to play with such as a small doll, car or truck, ball, jump rope

Something sweet for the child to eat that won't melt, hard candy

The hardest box to get donated is for the 10-14 year-old boy. Nerf football, jump rope, solar calculator, colored pencils, small tablets, Yo-Yos, socks, T-shirt, harmonica and flashlights with extra batteries.

Age category for gifts: Boy or girl Ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14

When we make our boxes or check the contents of each box on Nov.15. We will make sure the box is labeled with the correct age and gender. If you are dropping off your box please indicate the age and gender you intend it to be for.

In addition to the cost of the gifts, a \$7 check is suggested to pay the cost of distribution and can be made out to Samaritan's Purse and included with the box.

A booklet, "The Plan of Salvation," is also included telling each child how important he or she is to God. And a big thing is to write a letter to the child telling them who you are, praise that child and include a photo of your family. Also pray for the box and pray for the child.

Please see Susan Triplette or Mitch Lesslie if you have additional questions.

## Christmas Party

Everyone is invited to the Maupin Christmas Party sponsored by Women’s Ministries. This event will take place on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00pm at the church. The “Hat Lady” will be providing the entertainment.

### Meet the Hat Lady!!!



What was once a favor, became a calendar full of speaking engagements for the Hat Lady! When Kim Sheeks told a friend that she would come up with a program featuring some of her hats for a Mother-Daughter Banquet, she never dreamed that the event would be the first of many speaking engagements. Not only has she performed at Mother-Daughter events, she has spoken at numerous civic, teacher, senior citizen and church organizations.

Kim is a retired first grade teacher from Morgan Elementary School in Rowan County, and has taught in Alexander County and in Lexington, South Carolina. She has served as Teacher of the Year at Morgan and at Wittenburg Elementary School in Taylorsville, North Carolina. A graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne College with a BA Degree in early Childhood Education, Kim is, also, a graduate of Alexander Central High School. She is member of Immanuel Lutheran Church where she is a youth advisor, choir member, Senior High Sunday School teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, and has been a member of the Church Council. Also known as the "preacher's wife", Kim is married to the Rev. Bruce Sheeks, and they have one son, Charles, who is a recent graduate of NASCAR Technical Institute located in Mooresville.

Other organizations in which Kim belongs is the Rowan Rowdy Rosebud Red Hat Society. She is a member of the Rockwell Civitan Club, and the Gamma Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Educator's Society where she served two terms as District III Chairman and as State Chaplain.

#### Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Brandon Sheets** and **Michael Swensen** who were inducted into the National Honor Society at Salisbury High School on October 6!

#### Women's Ministries

The **Day Circle** will meet Monday November 9th at 2:00PM  
The **Night Circle** will meet Monday November 9th at 7:00PM.

#### Covered Dish

Please plan to invite family and friends to our Thanksgiving Covered Dish Dinner that will be served Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm. The WOC will take a special Thank Offering at this time.

Following the dinner we will be decorating the fellowship hall and Sanctuary for the Christmas season.

#### November Birthdays

Nov. 3	Elizabeth Lesslie
Nov. 5	Brian Dwyer
Nov. 6	Hugh Deadwyler
Nov. 10	Brandon Sheets
Nov. 17	Pat Freese
Nov. 27	Sandra Boyer
Nov. 28	Denise Harris
Nov. 29	Brandy Harris

## Health Team Summary

The Health Team met on October 27, 2009 at 7 pm in the church office. Those present were Nicole Boyer, Bob Crawford, Randy Foster, Jill Ruffy, Gale Spry, Betty Sunding and Susan Triplett.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a short devotional on using our spiritual gifts, followed by a review of what had been happening at the church since our meeting one month ago. The *Dinner and a Movie* was a nice event; the *Christmon Workshop* headed up by Pat Freese yielded quite a few new and different decorations for the tree; the *Fall Festival* for the children went well; *Pastor Appreciation Sunday* was a very nice occasion with several visitors, and a new member for the Health Team was recruited from the neighborhood.

Coming up next month is our annual *Thanksgiving Dinner* on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 22 at 5 pm.

Jeff Fisher is designing a small brochure for the welcome packet for visitors and Susan has volunteered to look for the clear plastic bags on the internet. We hope to get a few of these together before our next meeting. We are now following up on visitors with a visit from Randy and another church member with a loaf on home made bread donated by Jeanie Bridges.

Susan reported that after much researching they found our church (only three blocks from their home) on our Web site. Wilma Begly also said that is how she found our church, so what a great blessing to have this way of reaching out to the community and beyond.

Jill had many ideas to present about things that we could do to boost our church health. Here are a few examples: Have a thankful book, family life center, family enrichment, back yard Bible club, offer an evangelistic event, evangelistic block party for the community, scrap booking, increase Sunday School attendance, off campus Bible studies, members to commit to daily quiet times, Sunday morning coffee and breakfast fellowship, discipleship training, spiritual, family and church growth, family and marriage enrichment (weekend retreats and conferences), parenting skills, training people to assist families in crisis, using our spiritual gift of ministry for the families in our community, sending out postcards to the community inviting them to join us.

Nicole suggested seasonal picnics outdoors 3-4 times a year and a drop and shop service to keep kids at the church while their moms get out for a little shopping. She plans to make the Fall Festival an annual event.

Susan has been led to cook and feed people who may not have a place to go on Christmas Eve. (2-5pm walk in) She was planning to do this in her home, but we suggested she might want to use the fellowship hall. She also has ordered 15 kits for Operation Christmas Child and would be willing to head this project up for the youth or anyone interested. It involves providing your own shoe box and filling it for a needy child. The boxes must be turned in by November 16. She also suggested that we might be interested in helping out with the Sunday meal and short service at the RHM, a project known as "God's Table".

Bob Crawford suggested that we might want to have revivals before Christmas and Easter. Randy informed us that our church will be on the front of the Fulton Heights neighborhood calendar that will be coming out in 2010.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Randy. The next meeting is November 24.

Betty Sunding

# November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10:00am— Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	<b>2</b>  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00am— Sunday School 11:00am— Worship/ Children's Church	<b>9</b> <i>Circles meet            2:00p/7:00p</i>  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Deacons meet            6:30pm</i>	<b>11</b> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Prayer Break-            fast 8:00am</i>
<b>15</b> 10:00am— Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	<b>16</b>  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Dinner 5:15pm Bible Study 6:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00am— Sunday School 11:00am— Worship/ Children's Church 5:00pm-dinner	<b>23</b>  <i>Pastor's day off</i>	<b>24</b> <i>Health/Prayer            teams meet            7:00pm</i>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00am— Sunday School 11:00am— Worship 5:30pm-Youth Night	<b>30</b>  <i>Pastor's day off</i>					

# MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES

Maupin Avenue ARP  
Church

## YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS

from Bill Fisher

FOR YEARS YOU DID YOUR PART BY PAYING INTO MEDICARE. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THE BENEFITS YOU'VE EARNED. IF YOU HAVE LIMITED INCOME AND RESOURCES, THERE'S A MEDICARE PROGRAM CALLED LOW-INCOME SUBSIDY (OR EXTRA HELP) WHERE YOU PAY \$2.40 FOR EACH GENERIC DRUG AND \$6.00 FOR EACH BRAND NAME DRUG AND YOU WILL NO LONGER HAVE A COVERAGE GAP.

INDIVIDUALS WHO MAKE LESS THAN \$1,354 PER MONTH MAY QUALIFY (MARRIED COUPLES LESS THAN \$1,822). TO BE ELIGIBLE YOUR RESOURCES MUST BE LIMITED TO \$12,510 FOR INDIVIDUALS (\$25,010 FOR MARRIED COUPLES). RESOURCES INCLUDES THINGS LIKE BANK ACCOUNTS, STOCKS AND BONDS, BUT NOT YOUR HOUSE OR CAR.

SENIOR'S HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION PROGRAM (SHIPP) VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP YOU APPLY FOR THIS BENEFIT BY CONTACTING:

ROWAN COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES

1120-A SOUTH MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVENUE

SALISBURY, NC

704-216-7704 FOR AN APPOINTMENT STARTING THIS MONDAY NOVEMBER 2, 2009.

THEY CAN ALSO HELP WITH THE BEST HEALTH PROGRAM FOR PRESCRIPTION MEDICARE -D. THIS OFFICE IS LOCATED AT RUFTY-HOLMES SENIOR CENTER. OPEN 8-5PM MONDAY-FRIDAY.

REMEMBER: NOVEMBER 15, 2009-DECEMBER 31, 2009 IS A TIME FOR YOU TO CHANGE YOUR MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN (PART D) OR DO A CHECK-UP TO MAKE SURE THE PLAN WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

CALL ROWAN COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES FOR AN APPOINTMENT, 704-216-7700

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You may contact Kel-  
sey Foster at:

Kelsey Foster

555 Paul Hardin Drive

Craige Hall Room 606

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

(note corrected zip-code)

Happy



Fall

A woman was asked by a co-worker, "What's it like to be a Christian?" The co-worker replied, "It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stiff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

From Edie Lesslie