

Hallelujah Herald Newsletter
November & December 2011
First Baptist Church of Laurelton
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No “Motel 6” at Plymouth Rock!

By Rev. Jim King

Thanksgiving is America’s oldest festival. The Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Mass in 1620 after a long and dangerous journey. They expected to disembark further south, but winds had blown them north. Can you imagine the thoughts of these adventurers as they climbed over the rocks of the Massachusetts coastline during blustery December?

Our forefathers were a hearty stock who liked hard work and taking risks. “Motel 6” was not waiting for them at Plymouth Rock. There were no split-level houses, fast-food restaurants, primary care units, or factories with pension benefits. They had to scratch for everything.

Half the people who left England died during the first year. Life in 17th Century New England was brutal. Despite this hostile environment, our Pilgrims took time out to thank the good Lord for the blessings.

While reflecting on that first Thanksgiving, let me suggest three everyday items which were part of the early Pilgrim’s festivities and which symbolize our celebration of gratitude.

First, a loaf of **bread** suggests a lot about the first Thanksgiving. The truth is that in spite of terrible weather and disease, many settlers survived. In fact, there was a pretty good harvest. A loaf of bread is a symbol of the Lord’s abundant provision.

Bread is also a symbol of the Pilgrim’s willingness to share with others. Tradition says the Pilgrims invited the great Indian Chief Sassasoit to their feast. He brought with him ninety Indians! Indeed, celebrations are better when they are shared. This leads me to the conviction that Thanksgiving at First Baptist was made richer because we have restocked our food pantry to assist people in the upcoming (winter) holiday season. Thanksgiving is a loaf of bread given, received and appreciated.

Second ten kernels of **corn** are a symbol of hard times and trouble. It says a lot about a difficult winter in which the Pilgrims had to survive without things we think are essential. They persevered because of their love for a new way of life in America.

People in America today are still in desperate need. They include those of every race and color, and they live in every region, rural and urban. People who are children of God, like us, suffer because of poverty, ignorance, and disappointment.

The following statement is important because it challenges us to reflect about the people of this world who literally live on “10 kernels of corn.”

“10 Kernels of Corn”

*Half the world is starving,
Half the world is over fed.
Half take sleeping pills at night,
Half don't have a bed;
Half is struggling to live,
Half sit tight.
Which side are you on, brother?
Think before the night.*

*Half the world is seeing,
Half the world is blind.
Half the world's intolerant,
Half the world is kind.
Half the world just want their children fed,
Half don't heed their plight;
Which side are you on, brother?
Think before the night.*

*Never mind your country,
Never mind your skin;
Never mind which God you love,
Which half are you in.
Half is struggling to live,
Half is sitting tight;
Which side are you on, brother?
Think before the night.
Think hard, brother,
Think before the night.*

My third Thanksgiving symbol is a jar of **cranberries**. Cranberries have a vivid red color, a round shape, and a tangy taste. They are a work of art, made by our Creator. They are associated with the early Thanksgiving feast and remain today a worthy symbol of joy of life.

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, the famous New York pastor, tells about a joyous holiday experience as a young man many years ago. Riding on a train, he got into a conversation with a man in the club car. Peale told the man he was going to visit his parents in a little village near Hornell, NY. The man fell quiet and then said; “Do you realize how fortunate you are? I hope you are thankful that you can go home.” Then he added, “my parents are gone.”

Peale recalls getting off the train and driving the few miles through the snowy countryside of upstate New York. The white house on the hill, with white columns, was completely lighted up because his parents were expecting one of their sons home for a visit. That night they sat in front of an open fire and talked while they ate doughnuts and drank cider.

By 1 AM the snow was several inches deep. The wind had subsided and the moon was shining magnificently. Before Norman went to sleep, his mother came to the bedroom and kissed him goodnight. His father came too, punched him on the chest and said: “It was great to have you home.”

Peale says his parents are now in heaven. There was joy in his heart, however, because the time would come for him too, “to cross the river, by and by.” The prospect of reunion with his beloved parents was a triumphant hope, and its our hope too.

Thank the Lord, then, at Thanksgiving for the joy of life and life eternal as promised by our Heavenly Father. **Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.**

Missions

Retired Ministers & Missionaries Offering will be received Sunday, December 11th. Please remember those who have retired after dedicating their lives in God’s service.

Pantry – A BIG Thank You! to Boy Scouts Troop 3 for the Food Drive they did and donated to our Church Food Pantry. We thank Temple Beth Or for their donations. Thank you also to David Wallis and Michael Allen for the use of their trucks and to Joy Berentes, Rosalie King, Amanda Lake, Joan Lake, Patty Rutkowski, Michael Allen and Fred Schmidt who unloaded the trucks. Also to Ronnie Barnfield, Joan Lake, Barbara Morton, Fran Rutigliano and Patty Rutkowski for sorting and stocking the pantry shelves.

If anyone is in need of food, please come Wednesdays between 10 & 12 Noon. Deacons will be on hand to help you or call the Church #732-840-1505.

CROP Walk Sunday, Oct. 23rd was a beautiful day at the Point Pleasant Boardwalk. Many thanks to Rev. Jim & Rosalie King, Al Luthringer, & Bruce, Lindsey & David Wood for walking and everyone who donated to the Walk to stop World Hunger here and around the world.

Racetrack Christmas Gifts – We will not collect gifts this year. The program has been discontinued.

Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan’s Purse Shoe Box Gifts

Operation Christmas Child provides gifts that Missionaries around the world give needy children. Missionaries also give each child a Bible in their own language. If you would like to give a Christmas Shoe Box just take a shoe box – wrap it in Christmas paper or use a plastic container shoe box size and fill it with a few of these suggestions:

small toys such as cars	balls	dolls	stuffed animals
kazoos	harmonicas	yo-yo's	small etch a sketch
pencils & sharpener	pens	crayons	markers
writing pads	toothbrush	socks	coloring books
picture books	toothpaste	comb	bar soap in plastic bag
sunglasses	t-shirts	hair clips	hard candy (lollypops) in baggie
ball caps	toy jewelry	watch	stickers

Please bring before Sunday, Nov. 20 with \$7 to cover postage and label for Boy or Girl and age group (2-4) or (5-9) or 10-14). Questions, please call Lindsey Wood #732-202-7847.



Sunday School - Don’t forget to come to Sunday School. Parents have a responsibility to see that their child has a religious education and develops spiritual life.

Ms Dina has retired from teaching Sunday School due to health problems and Lynn Masluck is teaching her class. Thank you Lynn!

Children's Sabbath was observed Oct. 23. Superintendent, Joy Berentes shared the "Time With The Children" and Kids' Club with Jill Herrmann made a cross for each bulletin.

The Sunday School children & friends and UTC Youth Group had a great Halloween Party Saturday, Oct. 22. The children had a pumpkin hunt, and the coins they decided to put the coins they received in the "Coins for Caring Box". Everyone was surprised when "Santa Claus" made an appearance. UTC enjoyed laser tag and making smores.

Thank you to Joy Berentes, Michael Allen, Lynn Masluck, Ashley Leoni, Daniel Vitello & Bruce Wood for making such a fun evening.

Trustees

Michael Allen was hired to replace the Church roof that was 40+ years old. The work was completed in two days. Thank You!

The physical aspects of the Church property are in good shape. \$26,000 from our investments has been put into the Jackson Life Investment Account.

The Board of Trustees replaced a broken washing machine in the Church Parsonage and parking lines in the parking lot have been refreshed by Fred Schmidt and David Wallis. Also, two new fire extinguishers have been hung in the Halls.

Board of Finance reports the Church is (so far) \$15,000 short on their 2011 Budget. Don't forget your offerings when you are not in Church. Utility, salaries, and maintenance bills continue and your support in paying them is needed. Work is being done to prepare the proposed 2012 Budget.

Stewardship letters, proposed budget and pledge cards will be in the mail soon. Save the date of November 13 for the Church Annual Budget Meeting. Come and share a soup lunch, and vote.

Proposed Change to Constitution:

A Pastor shall be called to the pastorate by 75% vote of the membership qualified to vote at a meeting called for that purpose and announced from the pulpit to the membership at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Qualified members in this instance are those who are 18 years of age and over who are active members.

At this Special Meeting the active members shall vote by ballot and the decision to call a Pastor shall be supported by 85% of those voting.

A Pastor shall be dismissed from the pastorate by 75% vote of the membership qualified to vote at a meeting called for that purpose and announced from the pulpit to the membership at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Qualified members in this instance are those who are 18 years of age and over who are active members.

At this Special Meeting the active members shall vote by ballot and the decision to dismiss a Pastor shall be supported by 65% of those voting.

The Active Membership of the First Baptist Church of Laurelton will vote on this Nov. 13 Mtg.

Family Fun – Movie Night – Nov. 6 at 6 PM Plan on joining the fun. The movie is "North Avenue Irregulars". There will be refreshments, so please RSVP #732-840-1505. Thank you Daniel & Ashley!

The Pedal Pusher - Our Sanctuary and church grounds have been beautifully adorned with Mums, of all colors. along with Cabbage plants, Pumpkins and wreaths. A special thanks to the Erhards for their dedication and talent. Also, thank you to all who supported our Memorial

Mum Project. The harvest corn stalks were provided by Janet and Leon Sherman, which we appreciate. All summer we enjoyed various decorations, along with splendid displays of gorgeous flowers. The exterior flowers were planted by Rosalie King, Bill and Sandi Erhard. Our flowers couldn't have grown without being watered daily, a big thank you to Bill and Sandi Erhard, Bobbie Hanscom, Haddie Harris, Rev Jim and Rosalie King, Joan Lake, Ashley Leoniy, Laureen Rucki and Daniel Vitello. We can't forget the men who keep the grounds mowed and maintained, thanks to Fred Schmidt and Robert "Skip" Walters.

We will be accepting gourds of various types and sizes for our Thanksgiving display.

Flower Committee—Lorraine Vitello, Bill & Sandi Erhard

Craft Fair Fund Raiser – A Big Thank You to everyone who donated, organized, worked and cleaned up. We made a profit of \$826 for the Church.



Thanksgiving

“Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever and His faithfulness to all generations Psalms 100:4-5

Thanksgiving Sunday at FBCL, Nov. 20 – 10 AM

Baby Dedication, and come share what you are thankful for—

Community Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov. 20 – 7 PM

at Osbornville Baptist Church

Youth Group UTC – Thanksgiving Dinner – Nov. 18 at 6 PM

The Board of Deacons will collect turkeys and will give them and Food Gift Cards to those in need for Thanksgiving. If you can donate a turkey or turkey breast, please bring it to the Ivy Hall kitchen freezer by Sunday, November 20. All requests for aid are kept confidential.

Deacons will be on hand for anyone needing the Food Pantry each Wednesday 10 AM-12 Noon.

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Our Church Family – Congratulations to Jacqueline Martin and Morgan Runk who were baptized Sunday, Oct. 23 during a beautiful Sunday Worship Service. God Bless You!

☪ Congratulations to Chantel LaFrance & Jason Cosme upon the birth of their son Jason Anthony Cosme August 9th. Laureen & Bill Rucki are the happy grandparents. Little Jason will be dedicated Nov. 20. God Bless Jason and his family!

Sympathy to Gail Cannon, Ann MacDougall, Janet Anderson, Ginny Dahl, Jill Herrmann and Joan Ford upon the death of their mother, Eleanor Comstock. Eleanor had come to Church here since she was born 91 years ago. Eleanor was married in the Church, was a Trustee, and member of the Women's Fellowship. Eleanor was a faithful member and we will miss her dearly.

Sympathy to Ann (Comstock) MacDougall upon the death of, her husband Rev. Ed MacDougall. Rev. MacDougall had served our church as Youth Pastor many years ago. Ann's address is: 2561 Corral Drive, Alford, FL 32420.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Heather Barnfield, Anthony Boccuzzi, Cheryl Dahl, Eleanor Dobiles, Bill Ellis, Bonnie Feldman, Eleanor Fischer & Linda Luthringer & Family, June Grantham & Berentes Family, LaVerne Ford, Katja Hauser, Helen Hibbitt & Lauren, Kathy Hoffman, Horner Family & Alana, Ann MacDougall & Family, Carolyn Norton, Rutigliano Family, Dina Schmidt, Lorraine Vitello & Family, Sheila Walters, Gary, Erin & Connor Wood, Bruce Wood & Family.



Advent begins Sunday, November 27th.



Come as we light the first Advent Candle and begin the journey to Christmas.



Christmas Happenings



***Decorate the Church for Christmas – Saturday, Dec. 3 at 10 AM
Come join the fun!***



Children’s Christmas Pageant – December 11 at 4:30 PM

The children of the Sunday School will present their annual Christmas Pageant in Church. A free will offering will be received during the Pageant. After the Pageant, we will share a

Christmas Covered Dish Supper

All Welcome!

UTC Christmas Party – Dec. 16 at 6 PM – Food, Music & Presents for Youth



Angel Tree

Poinsettias for Church

Names of children in need will go on the Angel Tree Sunday, Nov. 28. If you would like to furnish a gift, take a name and bring the gift with tag to the Ivy Hall Christmas tree by Dec. 11. If you know a child in need please call Dina at the Church #732-840-1505.

If you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate the Church for Christmas in memory of a Loved One please let us know. Poinsettias will be \$12 each and the deadline for orders is Dec. 15. Thank you for the flowers!

Ye Old Post – If you would like to exchange Christmas cards with your Church friends, you may use the Old Ivy Hall Post Office Boxes.



Christmas Concert & Worship Service, Sunday, Dec. 20 at 10 AM

Rosalie King will host a Christmas Brunch for all after the service

Christmas Eve Candle Light Service – Dec. 24 at 7 PM with Rev. Jim King

Christmas Day Sunday Worship Dec. 25 at 10 AM with Bruce Wood preaching

Calendars

November

- 1 Trustees' Meeting 7 PM
- 2 Noon Bible Study
Choir 7 PM
- 3 Bible Study 6 PM
- 4 Kids' Club 4:30 PM
- 5 Board of Finance assembles letters 9:30 AM
Birthday, Daniel Herrmann, Marie Plattel
- 6 Adult Bible Study 9 AM, Worship & SS 10 AM
All Saints Day
- 8 Election Day – Voting in Hall
Deacons' Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 Noon Ministers Meeting
Bible Study 2 PM
Choir 7 PM
- 10 Bible Study 6 PM
Anniversary – Donna & Vinnie Volinski
- 11 Birthday, Morgan Runk
- 12 Birthday, Julie Braeckman
- 13 Stewardship Sunday
Annual Budget Meeting & Soup Luncheon
Adult Bible Study 9 AM, Worship & SS 10 AM
Birthday, Eleanor Dobiles
- 14 Board of Missions Mtg. 12 Noon
Birthday, Barbara Gordon
- 15 Anniversary, Bill & Sandra Erhard
- 16 Noon Bible Study
Birthday, Jim Mays
- 17 Noon Bible Study
Choir 7 PM
- 18 Kids' Club 4:30 PM
UTC Thanksgiving Dinner 6 PM
- 20 Thanksgiving Sunday
Adult Bible Study 9 AM, Worship & SS 10 AM
Baby Dedication
Christmas Shoebox Gifts Due
2 PM Hans Party
Community Thanksgiving Serv. 7 PM
at Osbornville Baptist Church
- 23 Noon Bible Study
Choir
- 24 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 First Sunday of Advent
Adult Bible Study 9 AM, Worship & SS 10 AM
Angel Tree
- 28 Lifeline Screening in Halls 8 AM – 5:30 PM
- 30 Noon Bible Study
Choir

December

- 1 Bible Study 6 PM
- 2 Kids' Club 4:30 PM
- 3 Decorate the Church for
Christmas 10 AM
- 4 2nd. Sunday of Advent
Bible Study 9 AM
Worship & SS 10 AM
Birthday, David Wood
- 6 Trustee Mtg. 7 PM
- 7 Noon Bible Study
Choir 7 PM
- 8 Bible Study 6 PM
- 10 Dinner Setup 10 AM
Birthday, Ronnie Barnfield
- 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
RM&M Offering Received
Bible Study 9 AM
Worship & SS 10 AM
Christmas Pageant &
Dinner 4:30 PM
- 13 Deacons' Mtg. 6:30 PM
- 14 Noon Ministers' Meeting
Bible Study 2 PM
Birthday, Lauren Rucki
- 15 Bible Study 6 PM
- 16 Kids' Club 4:30 PM
UTC Christmas Party 6 PM
- 18 4th Sunday of Advent
Bible Study 9 AM
Worship & SS 10 AM
Kings' Christmas Brunch
- 19 Noon Mission Meeting
- 21 Noon Bible Study
Choir 7 PM
Birthday, Gabriella Fiore
- 22 Bible Study 6 PM
Birthdays, Eleanor Hoefling
and Gianna Vitello
- 24 Candle Light Christmas Eve
Service 7 PM
- 25 Christmas Worship 10 AM
Birthday, Marjorie Meade
- 27 Anniversary, Jill & Dan H.
- 28 Birthdays, David Wallis,
Eva Antich, Donna Volinski
- 30 Birthday, Joy Berentes
- 31 Birthday, Lori Vitello