

IN THIS ISSUE-NOVEMBER 2021

Pg 1 Inspiration Point

Pg 2 Walking in the Gym

Pg 3 From the Pastor's Desk

Pg 4 Upcoming Charge Conference

Pg 5 Memorials and Honorariums

Pg 5 All Saints Day at PG

Pq 6 Recipe Box

Pg 7 Recommended Reading

Pg 8 UMW News

Pg 9 After School Care Post

Pg 9 News from the Nursery

Pg 10 Operation Christmas Child

Pg 10 Oak Grove Food Pantry

Pg 11 Veterans Day at PG Memorial Park

Pg 11 Happy Thanksgiving Greeting

Pg 12 Helping Families in Need for the Holidays

Pg 12 Fall Back

Pg 13 Reverse Advent Offering

Pg 14 PG Travelers Photo Gallery from October

Pg 15 Just for Giggles

Pg 16 Puzzle

WORSHIP TIMES

8:45am Bible Study Groups

10:00am Worship in the Sanctuary

CONTACT US

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Inspiration Point

Mark 1:14-20 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. And saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent, and believe in the Gospel." And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." They immediately left their nets and followed Him. When they had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and went after Him.

A faithful class leader thought it worthwhile to hold a service with seventeen present in a little Wesleyan Chapel in Colchester, England on a stormy Sunday. A young man who was present at that meeting accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. That man's name was Charles H. Spurgeon.

Stephen Grellet, the noted Friend, once felt a burden on his heart and the leading of the Holy Spirit to preach the Gospel to men in an American Lumber Camp. But when he arrived at the camp, he found it deserted, for the men had gone further into the forest.

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Feeling, nevertheless, that he had been sent there by the Holy Spirit, he stood up in the empty mess hall and delivered his sermon, heard, as he thought, only by the broad walls of the building and the lofty trees of the forest! Years afterward, crossing the London Bridge in the evening gloom, he was somewhat rudely stopped by a man who accosted him and said, "You are the man I have been looking for all these years. I have found you at last." "There must be a mistake," said Grellet, "I have never seen thee." "No," said the man. "But did you not preach at a lumber camp in the American Forest?" "Yes, but there was no one there." "I was there," responded the man, "and I heard the sermon." Then he went on to relate how he had come back from where the men were working to get a saw that had been left behind, when he was startled and alarmed at hearing the sound of a man's voice. Approaching the building, he looked through a chink of the logs and saw Grellet standing by himself preaching a sermon. He listened to the preacher, was convicted of his sin, got ahold of a copy of the Scriptures, learned the way of life, was saved, and brought others with him into the Kingdom of Heaven. (Story related by C. E. MacCartney.)

And I am sure that you have heard the story about a 17-year-old farm hand who went to an old-time tent meeting to meet girls, but heard the sermon, was convicted of his sins, and gave his life to the Lord Jesus Christ! His name is Billy Graham, and he is world famous!

I tell you these stories because God has a calling on your life! You may be aware of the calling but have no idea what it is for. Some of you may be bored in the church and want something more exciting Christianity-wise in your life. I want you to know that if you are walking with God, there are no accidents! You are exactly where God wants you to be! But God will not allow you to get behind mainstream Christianity! It just might be that God wants you to step out in a ministry! By doing so, there is a different anointing there! God will give you the opportunity to work in all your Spiritual Gifts, and you will constantly be refreshed in your Spirit! You will get hands-on training by the Master Himself!

To become a leader requires dedication, and strong Christian resolve! It means being there when sometimes you would rather be somewhere else! It means that you must have a strong prayer life and be well-founded in God's Word! But when you are operating in the area of your Spiritual Gift, God will richly bless you, and those under your ministry will grow stronger and stronger! Pray about it Please!



From the Pastor's Desk

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY MEMORIES

I remember learning that classic, ageless song back in kindergarten that went:

Over the river and thru the wood,
To grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh,
Thru the white and drifted snow, oh!
Over the river and thru the wood,
Oh, how the wind does blow!
It stings the toes,
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.

Over the river and thru the wood,
To have a first-rate play;
Oh, hear the bell ring,
"Ting-a-ling-ling!"
Hurrah for Thanksgiving Day-ay!
Over the river and thru the wood,
Trot fast my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground,
Like a hunting hound!
For this is Thanksgiving Day

Catchy tune but totally, not my experience on the third Thursday of each November. To get to my grandfather's house we didn't have to go over the river and thru the wood. It was more like a creek and several cow pastures. My grandfather did have a horse, but I don't think it could have pulled a flea out of the mud, much less a sleigh. Grandpa did have a sled or two, but he used those behind his Farmall tractor to collect his tobacco crop each summer. Whoever wrote that song must have been from up north, because having grown up in Charlotte, during November, I never experienced drifting snow, stinging toes, and wind that bites the nose. My grandpa did have neighboring farmers who had hunting hounds, and you could hear the old church bell ringing from the little Methodist Church that was four pastures away. As a matter of fact, our family never went to my grandfather's house on Thanksgiving. We saved that trip for Christmas, which has its own many unbelievable memories of which I will spare you the details.

My favorite Thanksgiving was spent in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in 1981. I was a sophomore in college and Ron Bell, Tom Bailey, and I decided it was time for a road trip! Ron was from Fort Lauderdale, and he invited Tom and me to go spend Thanksgiving with his family. So, after our last class, we loaded up my dad's '77 GMC pickup and hit the highway heading south out of Dayton, Tennessee. We took turns driving through the night and pulled into Ron's driveway that next morning. As we walked into Ron's home, I was greeted by Ron's dad literally shooting his prosthetic leg at me from across the room! Ron apologized for his dad's humor!

Our Thanksgiving holiday in Fort Lauderdale was not what you are thinking when it comes to three young college boys having fun in the sun. Call us weird, but we just played basketball every day in Ron's driveway. It was an awesome driveway for B-ball. When we weren't playing basketball, we were swimming in Ron's pool out back. Ron's family wasn't rich, they just had your typical south Florida home that made you feel at ease, relaxed, and welcomed. Ron's parents were gracious and funny. Mrs. Bell was a fantastic cook, and we had the best turkey meal ever while watching football. On Sunday we went to Ron's church, Coral Ridge Presbyterian. Dr. James Kennedy was the pastor, and the organist, Dianne Bish, and the choir were amazing.

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I don't know what your favorite Thanksgiving memory is, but I'd like to hear about it. I hope that this Thanksgiving will be a good one to remember. I pray that it doesn't start out like the movie "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" (which is a very funny movie and should be seen by all), but I do hope that your Thanksgiving holiday is one of peace and blessings. If you are traveling, I hope that you will get to worship in a church that shows you the face of God. If you're staying home this year, I hope to see you here at Pleasant Grove!

Giving thanks is but one aspect of praise and worship. I believe that when we praise Him, when we lift Him up, we bless Him. He in turn blesses us.



Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit; Who crowns you with loving-kindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle. -Psalm 103:1-5

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Byron



Annual Charge Conference Goes Virtual

Please make plans to join our annual charge conference on Tuesday, November 9th, at 6:30 PM. This charge conference will be hosted by our bishop and will serve the purpose of taking care of required church business, including approving our lay leadership for the coming year. If you serve on the church council here at Pleasant Grove, you are expected to be in attendance. However, this meeting is open to all members of the church. You can join this virtual meeting by clicking on the following Zoom link from your computer or smart device if viewing the newsletter digitally:



https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85956134769

If viewing this announcement from the print edition of the newsletter, call the church office to receive instructions on how you may join the meeting. We hope that you will take the time to join this important meeting and invest your time and thought into the future of our church.

THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OR IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY Joan Haynes

Judy Godley

Paul Walker Pina Nance

Pina Nance

Bobbie Wilson

Carson Watts Pina Nance

Pina Nance

IN HONOR

Brian Lynch

Pina Nance

Roy and Margaret Parker

Judy Godley

Mike Tyson

Pina Nance



All Saints Day at Pleasant Grove

Please join your church family as we observe All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7th, during our 10:00 worship service. During this service we will honor the church members that have gone on to their eternal glory during this past year. We will call their names, light candles in their memory, and share in a time of silence and remembrance. This is indeed, a very moving and meaningful time as a church family and we do hope that you will be able to be with us as we give thanks for these saints and their presence in our lives and in the life of our church.





The Recipe Box

November. The month of soups and stews, savory casseroles, and warm, comforting desserts! It is also the month of The Feast! You know what we're talking about...the Thanksgiving Feast! And if you are like most of us, you have traditional dishes at your feast that, if left off the menu, could incite an insurrection right there at the Thanksgiving table!!! At our home that would be Aunt Helen's Sweet Potatoes, Peggy's Green Bean Casserole, Steve's Mac and Cheese, Jessica's Southern Dressing, Sherri's Chocolate Pecan Pies, and Lisa's Honey Bun Cake. (You always need a couple of different desserts, right?)

Now, we are not at all suggesting that you leave one of the family standards off the menu. However, we just might be suggesting introducing a new dish that might become another family favorite. Sometimes you just need a little something new, a little something different to add just a bit of variety to your table. Usually, though, you don't want that new thing to be too complicated...after all, who wants to use Thanksgiving Day as the test grounds for what does, and does not, appeal to the discriminating palate of the family?

Once again, from the kitchens of Our State Magazine, we bring a tasty dish for you to consider. It is a very simple side dish that incorporates both sweet and savory flavors while also using simple ingredients and an easy preparation. Slaw might not be one of your staples this time of year, but we think that you will find the combination of cabbage, cranberries, and walnuts, along with this sweet, tart dressing to be something that pleases most folks. We do hope that you will try Cranberry Walnut Slaw and we certainly do hope that your family will ask for it over and over again...even when it's not Thanksgiving!

Cranberry Walnut Slaw

(yielding 6-8 servings)

For the slaw:

1 medium head green cabbage, shredded, about 4 cups

1 small head purple cabbage, shredded, about 2 cups

2 medium carrots, peeled and shredded

1 large Honeycrisp apple, peeled, cored, and chopped

1 cup dried cranberries

1 cup walnuts, chopped

2 green onions, sliced

In a large bowl, add shredded cabbage, carrots, apple, cranberries, walnuts, and onions. Toss to combine. Set aside. You can do this ahead of time, cover and refrigerate. Then combine with dressing just before serving.

For the dressing:

¾ cup mayonnaise

3 Tbsp. orange juice

¼ cup apple cider vinegar

3 Tbsp. granulated sugar

1 tsp. salt

¼ tsp. white pepper

In a small bowl, combine dressing ingredients. Whisk until smooth. You can do this ahead of time, refrigerate the dressing, and wait until just before showtime to combine the dressing and the slaw. Pour ¾ of dressing over slaw and toss until mixed well. Add remaining dressing if desired. Serve immediately. Enjoy!

(Submitted by Sherri Brown)

Recommended Reading



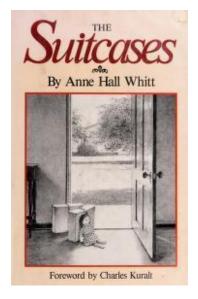
We are so excited about our book recommendation for November! We just love it when members of our sweet church family give us an idea for an article...especially a hearty endorsement for something they have recently read. Turns out that this particular book was first read years ago and has been reread over and over again! It's that good! Our very own Lib Primm brought this book to our attention and Lib did not steer us wrong!

The Suitcases, by Anne Hall Whitt, is indeed a book that can and should be enjoyed by every member of our congregation. It is the story of three orphaned sisters

during the Great Depression in the South. Not just the South... the story begins right here in Charlotte and finds its way into the Blue Ridge mountains, at Crossnore School, just a couple of hours from here. The story is autobiographical, as it is written by one of the girls, and it is written in the style of a memoir, as it moves through time. For many, this is a book that is read in one or two sittings...you just don't want to put it down. For some, it must be read over time, as it is a story that truly touches the heart and pulls on the heartstrings, begging us to take a good look at and consider what some have had to endure over the course of their lives.

After the death of their mother, these three girls, Betty, Anne, and Carolyn, ages five, six, and almost eight, find themselves with a father who, overcome by his own grief, is incapable of caring for them in the way that is needed. Thus, they are removed from their home and become wards of the state. A social worker, "the lady in black," shows up at their house with three cardboard suitcases and asks them to pack their things. The girls don't quite understand, as they have never had to pack their things before, and they end up leaving home with precious little to speak of. The sisters are then shuffled from the Catholic Home to the orphanage to a series of foster homes, all while waiting for their father to come get them and take them home. As they realize that their father is not going to come for them, their hope turns to grief and anger.

Their foster home situations include a strangely religious woman with a murderous son, a farm family who needs the foster care money and help on the farm, a neighboring black woman who gives Anne kindness and understands even



when Anne does not, and a couple who agrees to take the girls for a week...just until other arrangements can be made. That one week turns into the rest of their growing up years and becomes the anchor that eventually leads them to be able to come to peace with what has been and what can be in their future.

Those three cardboard suitcases are the one constant in the girls lives as they move from location to location. Always placed under their beds, everywhere they go, the suitcases hold their treasures...a collapsed balloon, a few marbles, a walnut, and a carefully folded picture of a Sonja Henie doll. It was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nye, later lovingly called Mother and Daddy, that one of many defining moments happened for the three girls. Mrs. Nye burned their suitcases, signaling the end of a life of wondering where they would go next, and allowing them to have a sense of what their future might hold.

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As you read through this book, you will find many familiar landmarks in and around Charlotte. You will read of bus lines that some of you might have used. Your heart will hurt for the inadequacies of our foster care system, both then and now. But you will be encouraged by the fact that these three sisters remained together until school and career paths and marriage took them in different directions. Most of all though, you will be inspired by the strength and courage that rooted itself deeply in this family of children, and your heart will be warmed by the love and compassion that is shared and nurtured in the girls by the family that raises them.

You can find a copy of this book through several online booksellers...but the best place to find it is in our own Lending Library right here at Pleasant Grove. Thanks again, to Lib Primm for this great recommendation! We do hope that you will enjoy reading The Suitcases and that this sweet story will linger in your mind for a long time to come!!



News from Our United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women at Pleasant Grove want to remind you of two very important and very special happenings coming up soon. Our UMW will have a bake sale for missions in the fellowship hall on Sunday, November 14th. Items will be available for purchase before Sunday school, between Sunday school and worship, and after worship. If you would like to donate an item for the bake sale, please let Jeannie Upton know and have your donation to the church by 8:30 that morning.



Also, on the same Sunday, November 14th, Pleasant Grove will be observing UMW Sunday. Pastor Byron will be preaching and members of the UMW will be participating in the leadership of the service in different ways. If you are a member of the UMW, please try to be present to help with the bake sale and to represent our UMW with your attendance. The UMW will sit together as Sisters in Christ as we shine a light on the purpose



and vision of UMW... "to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We are turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world."

We look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday, November 14th, for UMW Sunday!!!

After-School Care Post



After School Care at Pleasant Grove is going well! We have lots of fun times coming up. The students love to sit together and talk about what sort of costume they are going to wear for Halloween, and they get very excited when they think about going trick-or-treating! We will be closed for the Veterans Day holiday and would like to thank our veterans who have served our country. Right on the heels of Veterans Day, we will look forward to Thanksgiving, our time to give thanks for all the ways we have been blessed! In observance of Thanksgiving, we will be closed on the

25th and 26th of November. A special thanks to all who will be working on Thanksgiving...our service members,

police, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and EMTs. We pray that they all have a very uneventful day! We have been working on lots of Halloween crafts and are now looking forward to projects and crafts centered on Thanksgiving. Along with these crafts, the kids love to work with Legos and love to create with melting beads. Our great group of kids at After School Care wants to wish the Pleasant Grove family a beautiful and blessed Thanksgiving and we pray that you will all stay safe!

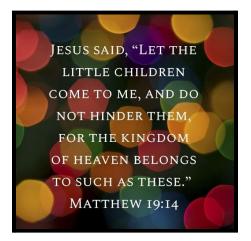




News from the Nursery

We have exciting news from our ministry to the youngest here at Pleasant Grove! We now have three Sundays each month covered for both Sunday school and worship! We want to thank those who have stepped up to say, "Yes! I want to be a part of loving on the children of our church and





I can give a couple of hours each month in this way!" But what

this means is that we still have a little way to go in being fully staffed in this ministry. If you would be willing to offer your time and your generous heart for a couple of hours, on the fourth Sunday of each month, please call Dawn in the church office to let her know of your willingness and to complete our roster of volunteers. We also need folks who are willing to substitute in the nursery when our regular volunteers are unable to be here. We have three little ones who will be eternally grateful for the love you pour into their lives and we believe that there are more kids just waiting to learn of the love of Jesus through your unselfish and Christ-like example!

Operation Christmas Child Dedication Sunday



By now, we are sure that you are well into the process of filling your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with toys, gifts, and supplies that, when they receive your box, will just light up the face of a child somewhere around the globe. As you prepare your box to begin its journey to the child that God has chosen to receive it, we remind you to pray for that child, pray for every hand that touches your box through inspection, placing them in containers, and shipping them to their destination, and pray that the Gospel Story will sink into that child's heart and take root, leading them to a lifetime of following Christ. On Sunday, November 21st, we will gather as a body of believers, to dedicate our boxes to the mission of spreading love and joy through the

simple gift of a shoebox. Please join us on this very special Sunday as we pray over these boxes and thank God for the desire to serve, the ability to serve, and the opportunity to serve...in His name!







Oak Grove Food Pantry Needs Our Help



One of the many beautiful partnerships that Pleasant Grove is a part of is the regular support of the food pantry at Oak Grove United Methodist Church. This is an ongoing, day-to-day, regular as clockwork, never-ending partnership. Because it is an on-going partnership, it can sometimes get lost in the shuffle of being one of our many outreach efforts. We want to remind you that we have donation bins in our sanctuary and office buildings to receive your donations to the food pantry. You can bring any shelf-stable, non-perishable food item to these donation bins

and we will make sure that it gets to Oak Grove. Just remember, quality over quantity!

We are called to give our best! Not our leftover, out of date pantry items. One good test of this guiding principle is if you would serve it to your family. If so, it is probably a good bet for other families as well. So, tie a string around your finger, write this donation opportunity on your calendar, or call and remind your good friends that it is time to donate! Whatever it takes, let's get behind this opportunity and give to others straight from our hearts!!!



Pleasant Grove Honors Our Veterans

Pleasant Grove has a rich history of honoring our veterans...whether through youth-sponsored veteran's breakfasts, in our sanctuary as a part of worship, or at our Memorial Park on Pleasant Grove Road. Veterans Day, in the U.S., is observed each year on November 11th. Once again, this year, we will honor the veterans who are buried in our cemetery with the placing of American flags at their gravesites. The cemetery committee will place the flags in the park several days



prior to Veterans Day and they will remain in place until several days after Veterans Day. We invite you to stop by the cemetery to see this very moving display and to pause and give thanks for all who have served our country through the military. We are grateful to live in a country that enjoys so many freedoms and we are extremely



grateful to those who have given of themselves to ensure those freedoms. God bless our veterans and God bless the United States of America!



A Happy Thanksgiving is Our Wish for You All!!!

As we think back over the last year, we have so very much for which to be thankful! The volunteers at "Pleasant News" realize that one of our richest blessings is the church family here at Pleasant Grove! Through all the tough times and trials, in the midst of our joys and celebrations, we have been blessed to have each other. No matter what we have faced, we have had this sweet family to walk with us, support us, and serve God with us. Isn't that just a true blessing for each of us? So, as you sit down with loved ones to share a meal together, take a moment to pause and reflect on God's goodness and His steadfast love poured out on us all. Together we can remember and proclaim the words of the psalmist:



"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations."

Happy Thanksgiving, Pleasant Grove Family! We wish you all a beautiful and blessed day!



Helping Our Neighbors

Pleasant Grove has had a long-standing relationship with Oakdale Elementary School. We have been neighbors for "who knows how long!!!?" and we have helped the school, its students, staff, and families in many varied ways throughout the years. We have had school supply drives and school uniform collections. We have volunteered as tutors, lunch buddies, and as readers on Dr. Seuss's birthday. We have helped with campus beautification. We have fed the staff on workdays and have provided goodie bags to new staff members at the beginning of their first year at Oakdale. Most notably, we have served the families of Oakdale who find themselves in food-insecure situations through our Backpack Buddies Ministry for the past eleven years. And although our Backpack Buddies Ministry is not in



operation this year, that doesn't mean that we don't have a good relationship with the school anymore. We still have the opportunity, and the call, to serve families with young children who find it difficult to put food on the table...especially around the holidays.



This year, we will be providing 10-12 families from Oakdale School with grocery store gift cards for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. We would like to be super-generous this year so that not only can they put a nice holiday meal on their table, but maybe they can stock up on some of the essentials for their own pantry for just ordinary, regular days too! If you would like to be a part of this effort, simply place your donation in the offering plates on Sunday or take your donation by the church office. You can also give online. Just be sure to mark your donation for Backpack Buddies and we will see that it goes toward this most worthy cause.

Then, as you sit down to your special meal with your loved ones gathered at your table, just remember that, because you gave to others, God's love and kindness and generosity have shown up and shown out. God's care and provision are truly a blessing for us all and this blessing grows exponentially when we share that blessing with others!!!





It's that time of year to...

Check the operation of your smoke detectors and change the batteries.

Inspect and ready your heating system.

Empty the ashes and clean the soot from your fireplace.

Check the weather stripping around your doors and windows and replace those that are worn.

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 6th. This will ensure that you arrive for church services at the right time on Sunday!!!

Blessing Others as We Have Been Blessed!!!

Again, this year, Pleasant Grove will use the Advent Season as a reminder of how very blessed we are and how we are called to bless others! It's so very easy...and so very festive!!! Just get a good-sized box, wrap the empty, open-topped box in some beautiful holiday paper. Then, each day, follow the schedule above to fill the box with good things to eat. Also, read through the book of Luke throughout the season as a way of staying grounded in the reason for the season. The boxes are due back by Christmas Eve, to the Family Life Center, and will then be delivered to Huntersville UMC Food Pantry for distribution. What a beautiful way to love our neighbors with the Love of Christ in a real and tangible way!!! Let's put the "Merry" in Christmas by sharing out of our abundance!



As Seen by The PG Travelers!!!





The PG Travelers recently spent a day in the mountains of North Carolina. We enjoyed our fellowship together, eating, shopping for one-of-a-kind items at several stops, eating, the beauty of God's marvelous creation, and, of course, eating!!! Stay tuned for our next outing and be sure to join us as we hit the road again!!!

















Just For Giggles!!!

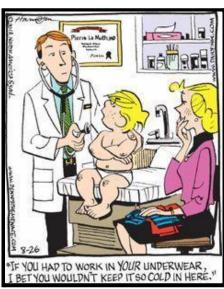




















Apple
Blessings
Cornucopia
Cranberry Sauce
Family
Feather
Give Thanks
Gobble
Greatful
November
Pumpkin
Scarecrow
Thanksgiving
Tradition
Turkey

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Chicken Scratch NY