

Noon every Wednesday  
First United Methodist Church  
313 N. Center St, Arlington, TX 76011

P. O. Box 441, Arlington, TX 76004

**NOV/DEC/JAN**  
**2012**

Editor: Laura Lammons 817-640-7711



**60 YEARS & \$700,000**  
**BENEFITING THE CHILDREN &**  
**COMMUNITY OF ARLINGTON!**

**2013**  
**PANCAKE**  
**DAY**  
**KICK-OFF**



L to R: **Jeremy Normand**, President-elect & Pancake Chairman; **Russell Hildebrandt**, President; **Dr. Robert Cluck**, *Mayor of Arlington*; **Laura Lammons**, Club Secretary.

***DEXTER BETTS***  
**60 YEAR LEGION OF HONOR**  
**RECIPIENT**  
&  
**CHARTER MEMBER OF THE**  
**KIWANIS CLUB OF ARLINGTON!**



President, Russell Hildebrandt presents  
Dexter Betts with his 60 YEAR LEGION OF HONOR AWARD!!!!

MEMBERS—START SELLING NOW!  
MAKE THIS THE BEST  
PANCAKE DAY WE'VE EVER HAD!

**NOVEMBER,**  
**DECEMBER &**  
**JANUARY**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

11/07 Jerry Jones  
11/10 Pete Stankosky  
11/12 Dexter Betts  
11/21 Michael Wade  
11/28 Des Fuller  
11/30 Paul Wyatt  
12/09 Frank Coburn  
12/10 Ben Armstrong  
12/17 Russ Hagan  
12/17 Lee Wiederkehr  
12/24 Jim Barnes  
12/31 Grey Pierson  
01/17 Tom McCarty  
01/29 Linda Criswell

# THANKSGIVING

In the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians Chapter 5 verse 20, we are told to give thanks to God the Father at all times and in everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanksgiving therefore, is a way of life to all mankind. It is about the best way to appreciate God for His blessings on us. That is why He asked us to pray ceaselessly, fervently and persistently. He went further to teach us how to pray by asking us to recite the prayer He taught us--The Lord's Prayer.

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday set apart for giving thanks to God, celebrated primarily in the United States and Canada. It is celebrated each year on the second Monday of October in Canada and on the fourth Thursday of November by federal legislation in 1941 in the United States. It has been an annual tradition in the United States by presidential proclamation since 1863 and by State legislation since the Founding Fathers of the United States. It began as a tradition of celebrating the harvest of the year. Because of the longstanding tradition of the holiday, the celebration often extends to the weekend that falls closest to the day it is celebrated. Several other places around the world observe similar celebrations. Historically Thanksgiving had roots in religious and cultural tradition. Today, Thanksgiving is primarily celebrated as a secular holiday.

Prayers of Thanksgiving ceremonies are common among almost all religions after harvests and at other times. The holiday's history in North America is rooted in English traditions dating back from the Protestant Reformation. The modern Thanksgiving holiday tradition is commonly traced to a poorly documented 1621 celebration at Plymouth in the present-day Massachusetts. The 1621 Plymouth feast and thanksgiving was prompted by a good harvest. Pilgrims and Puritans who began emigrating from England in the 1620s and 1630s carried the tradition of Days of Fasting and Days of Thanksgiving with them to New England. Several days of Thanksgiving were held in early New England history that have been identified as the "First Thanksgiving" including Pilgrim holidays in Plymouth in 1621 and 1623, and a Puritan holiday in Boston in 1630.

Turkey plays a symbolic role during the Thanksgiving celebration. The National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation is a ceremony that takes place at the White House every year shortly before Thanksgiving. The President of the United States is presented with a live domestic Turkey usually of the Broad Breasted White variety. Generally the National Turkey Federation and the Poultry and Egg Board are involved. Since 1989 during the first Thanksgiving of President George H. W. Bush, the presidents have granted a turkey a "presidential pardon" and thus spared the bird from being slaughtered. This ceremony is also carried out in some States like Minnesota.

Thanksgiving is essentially a universal Christian celebration dating back to centuries past. It is usually celebrated in the month of November to thank God for a rich harvest. Christians are expected to offer the first fruits to the church as a way of thanking God for a rich harvest. Today many Christians offer money in place of farm products as many of them hardly engage in farming any longer. The harvest is usually sold at auction and the proceeds used to maintain the church.

In African countries, Thanksgiving is held to mark the New Yam Festival. Yams are usually harvested in the month of August. The custom demands that before the new yam is eaten, prayers are offered to God for a bountiful harvest and to seek His permission to eat the new yam. This ceremony is undertaken by both Christians and non-Christians alike. The Christians go to church for Thanksgiving while the traditional native worshipers go to their shrines to offer sacrifices to their gods. This ceremony involves feasting, dancing and merry making. The chief priest offers libation to their ancestors who they believe carry their offerings and prayers to God.

A Thanksgiving program should honor Thanksgiving Day by essentially reflecting on what the true meaning of the day is all about giving thanks to God for His blessings. Over the years, people have gotten caught up in holiday tradition and have completely forgotten what brought about the celebration to begin with. Even the most devout Christian has a way of putting that delicious meal ahead of remembering what the day is really about. and how it came to be. From time to time we all need to be reminded of the struggles and sacrifices for survival that our forefathers faced. Today, there are people all over the globe who are facing the same struggles, living in a hostile environment, starvation, death by diseases, etc. We as a church, the body of Christ, need to reach out to the people today who are facing these struggles and show them that they too have much to give thanks for, no matter what situation they are in.

By Innocent Ugochukwu

# Things to Do to Liven Up Thanksgiving Dinner

1. Load your plate up high, then take it to the kitchen, toss it all in the blender, and take your "shake" back to the table. Announce that it's the new Thanksgiving Weight Loss Shake.
2. When everyone goes around to say what they are Thankful for, say, "I'm thankful I didn't get caught" and refuse to say anything more.
3. Bring along old recorded football games, pop them in the VCR when Dad's not looking. Make sure it is set to the last two minutes of the game. When he comes into the room, turn off the VCR and turn on the regular TV.
4. Bring a date that only talks about the tragic and abusive conditions known to exist at turkey farms.
5. During mid-meal turn to mom and say, "See mom, I told you they wouldn't notice that the Turkey was past expiration date. You were worried for nothing."

## The Case of the Missing Turkey Leg *By Judy Solomon*

The excitement about Thanksgiving was really building that year. Grandma arrived early with a homemade pecan pie in one hand and a pound cake in the other. Dad was poking around in a cabinet, searching for his electric carving knife. Mama was in the kitchen tapping the pots with a spoon and humming *Turkey in the Straw*. Little Lonnie bounced up and down on his diapered bottom, keeping time to the music. Dad smelled the air and sighed. My big brother, Slim, who was anything but slim, sneaked off to his room with a slice of the pecan pie. Even Fido was wagging his tail.

Mama stretched a new, white tablecloth over the dining room table. She put cardboard Pilgrims and colorful fall leaves from the craft store in the center, and she set the table with real china and real silverware. Then she looked up, smiling. "Help me carry in the food," she said.

Slim, who had come out of his room by this time, went racing into the kitchen. "I'll get it! I'll get it!" he screamed. The rest of us piled in behind him, with everyone grabbing a pan or a dish. Into the dining room came the dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, and corn, Grandma's pound cake and the pecan pie, minus a slice. We placed the pans and dishes on the sideboard and looked up to watch Dad carry in the biggest, brownest, best-smelling turkey we had ever seen with Mama's hand under the platter, just in case. Together they lowered the turkey to its place at the head of the table.



It was the tradition in our family for each of us to think of something for which we were most thankful, and we knew Mama wouldn't let us eat until we had done it. We all ran to the table yelling something like "I'm thankful for Grandma" or "I'm thankful for school being out" or "I'm thankful for pecan pie!" All eyes were on that enormous turkey as we took our seats at the table.

Yes, everything was perfect except for one thing. Three hundred sixty-four days of the year Mama served the dinner, but not on Thanksgiving. That was the one day of the year when Dad sat at the head of the table and carved the turkey. It was an honor that he had eagerly anticipated for days in advance, as he discussed the relative merits of white meat versus dark meat, thick pieces versus thin pieces, with gravy and cranberry sauce, or without. Now Dad was not a well-coordinated man. He frequently tripped over his own two feet, and he could be counted on to drop just about anything. He was said to have two left thumbs, or as Mama sometimes called him, he was a clumsy ox.

That's why we all eased back from the table just a bit when Dad plugged in the electric carving knife, and we all eased back just a bit more when he tested it in the air. Dad went to work on the white meat first with surprisingly few problems. Slice after slice landed neatly on the platter. Dad leaned forward and grabbed the end of the left turkey leg and cut it off at the thigh joint, placing it whole on the platter beside the white meat. His oily fingers glistened in the light of the chandelier, and Mama waved her napkin. "I'm all right, Mama," he said. "I'm all right."

But as Dad leaned forward to pull back the right turkey leg, a button from his cardigan sweater caught under the edge of the platter. He pulled back the turkey leg and lowered the electric carving knife to the thigh joint. The turkey leg slipped from his slippery fingers and popped back to its original position, splattering Dad's sweater with gravy. As Dad jumped backward to avoid the gravy, the button from his sweater lifted the edge of the platter. He dropped the carving knife and grabbed the platter. Slim and I jumped from the table in terror as the carving knife fell to the floor and began chewing the table leg. Dad looked down at the fallen carving knife and lost his balance. As he started to fall, he tossed the turkey and platter in the air. He regained his footing just in time to grab the platter and slip it under the falling turkey. Mama quickly unplugged the carving knife and placed it on the table.

"A mess!" screamed Mama. "What a mess!" She ran around the table with a napkin, mad as a wet hen, wiping drips of turkey stock from her new, white tablecloth. Finally Mama settled down, and we all pulled our chairs back up to the table. Dad looked at Mama. "At least I saved the turkey," he said.

"Tucky leg!" yelled Lonnie, bouncing and kicking in his seat. "Tucky leg! Tucky leg!"

All of us looked at the turkey. Lonnie was right! A turkey leg was missing. We looked around the room, under the table, at each other. We looked at Fido, who was standing at the toddler gate licking his lips. Little Lonnie began to cry softly for he was the one who had expressed that he was most thankful for turkey legs.

Just then a brown blob of turkey juice landed on a Pilgrim and dripped down its costume. Everyone looked upward. There, balanced on the top of the chandelier, was the missing turkey leg.

"Clumsy ox," muttered Mama under her breath.



## OFFICERS:

<b>President</b>	
Russell Hildebrandt	475-8853
<b>Pres.-Elect &amp; Pancake Chairman</b>	
Jeremy Normand	465-6292
<b>VP for Programs</b>	
Al Becker	287-1118
<b>IP President Jerry Jones</b>	266-1895
<b>Secretary / Newsletter</b>	
Laura Lammons	214-457-2254
<b>Treasurer Ken Watkins</b>	460-8888
<b>Asst Treas Al Becker</b>	287-1118
<b>Directors (4) 2-yr term exp. 9/30/12</b>	
Kerry Jordan	706-5863
Des Fuller	932-5850
Tom Dodson	228-9512
Ben Armstrong	275-2691
<b>Directors (3) 2-yr term exp. 9/30/13</b>	
Bill Bentley	967-7401
Kay Lancaster	274-2571
Larry James	528-1625

## SERVICE COMMITTEES:

<b>Sponsored Youth Coordinator</b>	
Russ Hagan	795-7860
<b>Boy Scout Oversight</b>	
Jerry Jones	266-1895
<b>K-Kids at Corey Elementary</b>	
Bill Bentley	967-7401
<b>K-Kids at Grace Lutheran Elem.</b>	
Steve Stigler	274-1654
<b>K-Kids at Little Elem.</b>	
Al Becker	287-1118
<b>Builders Club - Ferguson Jr. High</b>	
Elwood Preiss	461-6526
<b>Key Club at Arlington HS</b>	
Jamie Cisneros	228-2729
Rodney Copenhaver	739-6184
<b>Key Club at Bowie HS</b>	
Bill Bentley	967-7401
<b>Key Club - Kennedale HS</b>	
Herman Duh	214-335-5122
<b>Key Club - Lamar HS</b>	
David Damron	999-3721
Frank Coburn	682-472-0621
<b>Key Club - Martin HS</b>	
Larry James	528-1625
<b>Community Services</b>	
Al Becker	287-1118
<b>Human &amp; Spiritual Values</b>	
Kay Lancaster	274-2571
<b>Int'l Understanding</b>	
Laura Lammons	214-457-2254
<b>Teacher of the Year</b>	
Jannette Workman	496-4147
<b>Young Children-Priority One</b>	
Laura Lammons	214-457-2254
<b>Youth Services</b>	
Larry James	528-1625

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

<b>Audit</b>	
Wayne Clark	465-3232
<b>Membership</b>	
Bill Bentley	967-7401
<b>Physical Arrangements</b>	
Dale Sears	461-0930
<b>Publicity/ Public Relations</b>	
Mark Permenter	272-5363

## CHARTER ORGANIZATION REPS

<b>Boy Scout Troup 5</b>	
Jerry Jones	266-1895
<b>AA for Youth</b>	
Dave Turney	478-0830



# OUSLEY JUNIOR HIGH TEACHER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER 2012

## JADE LASWELL

Jade has a Bachelors of Science degree from Tarleton State University and a Masters of Education degree from Texas State University. She's been teaching for nine years—1 year at Ousley and the rest in San Antonio, Austin and Georgetown.

She became a teacher to make a difference. Loves working with junior high age kids and hopes to inspire them to dream big and guide them in the right direction to achieve their wildest dreams.

Jade was born and raised in Arlington, Texas, is mama to four children and wife to a Texas high school football coach. She is an engineering teacher and is the founder of Craft Hope – a global, nonprofit charity that spreads hope through handmade gifts worldwide.

Her husband is Dustin Laswell—Bowie Football Coach – and her four children's names are: Julia (9), Makena (7), Keegan (6), and Chloe (3).

Other interesting "stuff": Went to Atherton Elementary, Hutcheson Junior High and graduated from Sam Houston High School (was awarded Miss Sam Houston). Played basketball on a scholarship at Tarleton State University. Jade has also taught speech, debate, and coached girl's athletics.

### ARLINGTON HS KEY CLUB MEETING DATES:

1st Thursday of each month at Noon in Gym A

### KENNEDALE HS KEY CLUB:

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7:10 am Rm 302 & 2:50 pm in Library

### LAMAR HS KEY CLUB MEETING DATES:

2012-2013 Dates: 12/4, 1/15, 1/29, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/30  
Room 261 at 2:45 pm

### MARTIN HS KEY CLUB MEETING DATES:

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. Gym A @ Noon

### FERGUSON JR HIGH BUILDERS CLUB:

Contact Elwood Preiss for schedule at 817-461-6526

### COREY ELEMENTARY K-KIDS:

4th Thursday of each month after school in the cafeteria

### GRACE LUTHERAN K-KIDS:

1st Friday of each month at 11:30 am

### LITTLE ELEMENTARY K-KIDS:

4th Thursday of each month after school in the cafeteria

## UPCOMING ASSIGNMENTS & PROGRAMS

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<i>Prayer, Pledge &amp; Song: <b>Bob Nicol</b></i> <i>Interclubs: <b>Laura Lammons</b></i>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<i>Prayer, Pledge &amp; Song: <b>Mary Sprouse</b></i> <i>Interclubs: <b>Larry James</b></i>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<i>Prayer, Pledge &amp; Song: <b>Sabrina Jones</b></i> <i>Interclubs: <b>Don Henderson</b></i>

### Programs for November:

NOVEMBER 7—Annie Potaszniak-Communications Coord-SafeHaven of Tarrant County

NOVEMBER 14- Lea Worcester and Evelyn Barker-Special Collections - UTA Library

History of Arlington Pictorial Book

NOVEMBER 21- O.K. Carter-Former Arlington Publisher and Columnist for

*The Star-Telegram* Author: *Caddos, Cotton and Cowboys: Essays On Arlington*

NOVEMBER 28- Richard Fix-Health and Wellness Expert-"Pain Breakthrough, Featuring Star-Trek Technology

