

- Thanksgiving Day has been an annual holiday in the US since 1863
- Advent begins Nov 29
- ECW News
- Gifts Given to All Saints
- Bishop Search

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

- Schedule 2
- Advent 2
- Tid Bits 3
- Congrats 3
- Vestry News 3
- Calendar-Insert

The Mustard Seed

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2009

Thanksgiving Day in the United States

Thursday, November 26,
2009

It is traditional for families and groups of friends to get together for a large meal. This often consists of a turkey, stuffing, different types of potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy and maize and other seasonal vegetables. The meal also often includes pumpkin pie. Many of these foods are native to the Americas and were not available in Europe at the time of the first settlers. This adds to their symbolism of giving thanks for a good harvest in a new country.

There are claims that the first Thanksgiving Day was held in the city of El Paso, Texas in 1598. Another early event was held in 1619 in the Virginia Colony. Many people trace the origins of the modern Thanksgiving

Day to the harvest celebration that the Pilgrims held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. However, their first true thanksgiving was in 1623, when they gave thanks for rain that ended a drought. These early thanksgivings took the form of a special church service, rather than a feast, as is common now.

In the second half of the 1600s, thanksgivings after the harvest became more common and started to become annual events. However, it was celebrated on different days in different communities and in some places there were more than one thanksgiving each year. The celebrations often included prayer and fasting and so were quite different to the modern holiday. George Washington, the first president of the United States, proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day

in 1789.

Since 1863, Thanksgiving Day has been an annual holiday in the United States. A more recent tradition started in 1947. Since then, the president has been presented with a live turkey, which he 'pardons'. The turkey then spends the rest of its life peacefully on a farm.

Not everyone sees Thanksgiving Day as a cause for celebration. The European settlers had a massive destructive effect on the Native American peoples and their culture. Each year since 1970, a group of Native Americans and their supporters have staged a protest for a National Day of Mourning at Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving Day at All Saints'

The fifth annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner at All Saints' Church will be held on Thursday November 26th at Noon. A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be shared by members of All Saints and our guests from the West Plains area.

In November of 2005 a dinner was pulled together on fairly short notice. That year approximately 15 members of the All Saints' family joined 15 folks from our area who choose to break bread with us. Many of our guests said that they either had no one with which to

share the holiday or not enough money to afford such a meal, or both. Each year the number in attendance has risen. In 2008 over 50 people shared delicious food and fellowship.

For the last couple of years most of the shopping for this meal was done in advance and members of All Saints have taken home the ingredients for the items they wished to prepare. Turkey, ham, potatoes, dressing, vegetables, salads, rolls and pies round out the menu.

Extravagant hospitality and table fellowship are the order of the

day. Our dinner is unique in that it is a shared banquet during which we open our doors and invite those who would otherwise eat alone or, not at all. For many of us the All Saints' dinner *is* our family dinner and the families with whom we share it are our honored guests. Thanksgiving Day at All Saints begins at 10:30 am with worship. Dinner will be served at noon. We would be honored if you would join us! For more information see the sign up sheets at church or contact Anne Kyle at anne@allsaintswestplains.com or by calling 417-252-1264.

Bishop Berry Howe will make his annual visit on **January 3, 2010**

The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ

Some churches mark the third Sunday of Advent with pink or rose, colors that represent joy



Clergy Schedule

Nov. 1 Mike Kyle-All Saints Sunday, Necrology

Nov. 8 Mike Kyle-Sermon

Nov. 15 Deacon Craig-Sermon

Nov. 22 Ann Kyle-Sermon

Nov. 29 Mike Kyle-Sermon

Nov. 3 Diocesan Staff Meeting & Post-Convention Meetings

Dec. 5 Campus Ministry will host a luncheon with the bishop for college students in Kansas City.

Dec. 6 Diocesan Campus Ministry Congregational Workshop in Marshall.

Friends,

The Diocese of W Missouri is making changes in the communications systems. The **Spirit** will now be e-mailed to congregations which will then e-mail to members. Those members who do not have e-mail will find a hard copy of this newsletter at church. There will also be a magazine format issued every few months. That will be in hard-copy form & mailed directly to you from the diocesan center.

Mike

Advent.....Begins November 29, 2009

Many Christians in the United States attend a church service on the first Sunday of Advent and may engage in activities such as special prayers and contributing to ideas on enhancing peace. Many Advent traditions are observed in the United States in the prelude to Christmas Day. For example, the Advent wreath is becoming increasingly popular in the United States. The wreath can be seen in various churches across the nation around this time of the year.

It is uncertain as to when exactly the celebration of Advent was first introduced in the Christian church. Some sources say that Advent began on November 11 (St Martin's Day) at some time in the fifth century in the form of a six-week fast leading to Christmas. Advent was reduced to its current length at some stage in the sixth century and the fasting was later no longer observed. Advent is origi-

nally a time to reflect and prepare for Christmas similarly to how Lent is in preparation for Easter. Advent has sometimes been referred to as the Winter Lent. In recent times the restrictions that Advent brings to Christians have become more relaxed.

Advent traditions spread from Europe to the United States, especially the Advent calendar, which became very popular in the United States after World War II as American military personnel and their families who were stationed in Germany brought them home and made them a part of the pre-Christmas traditions. Some people credit President Dwight Eisenhower with helping the tradition of the Advent calendar spread in the United States during the 1950s.

Purple is historically the

main color used for Advent because it reflects penitence, fasting, and the color of royalty to welcome the Advent of the king (Jesus Christ). The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Christ in his first Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his second Advent. Some churches use other colors in recent times. For example, some churches mark the third Sunday of Advent with pink or rose, colors that represent joy. Many Protestant churches use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent.

Advent wreaths are symbolic of Advent. They are usually made of fir and decorated with gold and silver ribbons or scarlet woolen threads. Lit wreaths may be displayed on the table where family and friends sit while singing carols and preparing handmade gifts.

Tid Bits

Are you Going Green?

Many of us are using the boxes in the kitchen for recycling, help save our environment

ECW-The Church Women are getting all info for our 'visitor' bags put together, **Coffee Mugs** will arrive Nov 3 (watch for more info), Seven **Prayer Shawls** are in storage, do you know of anyone who could benefit

from one? Call Dianne Ivie at 257-1407, **Pecans** are here. Call Sharon Neathery at 256-3606 or Barbara Prewitt at 252-1706 or Amy Jett at 255-0550 to get your box to sell.

Cook Books-Are still in a planning mode! We need recipes before we can print.

Wednesday Gathering-Will be every Wed. at 6:00 following

Worship Service at 5:30

Sunday School-Is at 9:30 every Sunday. Join us no matter what age you are, we have planned for classes for Nursery thru Adults, **invite a friend.**

Christmas Parade-West Plains Annual Parade will be on Dec 12 with Santa arriving. Watch for more info.



I am putting out a call for help to do the Mustard Seed & Calendar for the months of December & January.

Shirley Figley

Congratulations

Happy Birthday

- Amy Jett-3
- Elizabeth Marhefka-9
- Sharon Neathery-10
- Travis Morrison-13
- Nancy Shaw-17
- Richard Gallavan-28
- Ian Smith-29
- Jon Smith-29



The Daughters of the American Revolution (**DAR**) have been holding its monthly meeting at All Saints for some time. Each year the organization has gifted the congregation with some wonderful items. This year the group gave All Saints a VHS/DVD player and a TV set. Evelyn Vetter of the group set up both the player & the TV for our use. Thanks and Blessings (Our Susie Pease is a Member)

The Youth went to the Corn Maze on Sat Oct 17 right after enjoying pizza at Pizza Americana in Willow Springs.

The Youth are showing an interest in caroling in Dec with the members of the Presbyterian Church.

Let's give them all our support in all of their activities.

Vestry News

Bishop Search-The Rev. Russ Johnson, pres. of the Standing Committee, says the chairpersons for both sub-committees have been filled. For more info follow this link: <http://www.diowestmo.org/NewDiocesanBishop.asp>

Our **5% giving in Sept** was given to the Good Samaritan Outreach. Our **5% giving for Oct** was given to Sherry Lockett's son & family who lost everything in a fire. Donations of household items are in the asking. Contact Mike Kyle for items in great need.

The class rooms will be painted; the children will pick out the colors. All Saints' adopted the amendments in the **by-laws** at the special parish meeting on Oct 18. Anne Kyle will chair the **Thanksgiving dinner** with lots of help from the ECW



All Saints Episcopal Church

The Reverend Michael Kyle, Rector

107 South Curry

Mailing: Box 1012

West Plains, MO 65775



The little white church
with the red doors



The Mustard Seed

A Newsletter for All Saints' Episcopal Church

