

the

Hickory Leaf

November
2010

Hickory Bend United Methodist Church, 605 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214
Gary Brock, Pastor, Phone: 615-889-1360 / www.hickorybendumc.com

A Pastoral Reflection "A Time of Surprises"

"I do most sincerely believe that nothing can hurt us but sin, that nothing can happen to us that God cannot weave into His loving purposes, and that nothing can be taken away from us that is of eternal worth, unless we willfully let it go ... Nothing can happen to you that God cannot use ... it is not what happens to us that matters in life. It is our reaction to what happens to us that matters."*

The last few months seem to have been shaped by surprises. Surprises certainly catch us off guard, but if one pays attention, they also bring messages of God's grace and understanding.

The May Flood was a reminder that human pride and Mother Nature are not always in agreement. Ignore her "capabilities" and disaster might just be the result -- or, is it merely the consequence? For us, the surprise of God's grace came in the persons of Hickory Bend.

September arrived and so did a diagnosis of cancer. A routine visit to the doctor resulted in an endoscopy to see if my symptoms were those of a stress ulcer. The diagnosis: esophageal cancer -- but not the most prevalent kind. This one medicine knows very little about except that it is on the rise. Why? No idea. Another reminder of our human limitations and the necessity to "deal with it." [Note "The Pit" in this newsletter]

Cancer is always a reminder of our finitude. It is also a reminder that God's grace, God's gift of life, comes in many different forms -- including science and medicine. The Psalmist proclaimed that our bodies "*are fearfully and wonderfully made.*" No argument here -- but our bodies can also be downright aggravating. I wonder if the writer ever experienced this?

The October surprise came in the form of multiple reminders of being loved. What a blessing: ***being surprised by love.*** There no other way that it can be described. When I was surprised with the guitar, I found myself struggling with both "thank you" and "I'm not gonna cry."

Several months of surprises. Several months of being vividly reminded of the gift of God's people. Leslie Weatherhead observed that "*being a Church member is the most wonderful privilege life can offer, and one of the most powerful ways of maintaining faith during days of stress and storm.*"*

The very vivid reminder of our humanness also must be seen in the context of Jesus' humanness. He, too, was mortal. He, too, struggled. Why should we expect life to be any different for us? "Why me" may be the beginning of a discovery about God's love. It may also be an arrogance that I should, based on some self-determined merit, be excluded from what happens to "mere mortals" as they make their way across God's earth. "Why me" needs to give way to "why not me" as we seek to live with what life has presented us.

(Continued on page 2.)

47th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will celebrate our church's 47th anniversary on Sunday, November 14, 2010, during the 11 o'clock worship service with a pot luck afterwards. Our church's history will be on display at the luncheon as well as photo albums and memorabilia.

If you know anyone who's a former church member or anyone who's been involved with our church in years past, please invite them to join us.

We hope to see you all on the 14th for this wonderful celebration!!

COUNCIL IDENTIFIES PROJECTS TO TACKLE!!

Our Council labored at the recent retreat to list and prioritize projects for our congregation to plan and execute. We used three categories, dividing our projects into those that require mostly time, those we can do with the money we have, or we are close to having, and the last category labeled "Pie In The Sky" at least for now.

The Trustees and the Long Range Planning Committee will prioritize the projects that require mostly time and attention. These projects include: showing movies outdoors, recording the entire worship service for the website, repairing the cold water tap in the men's restroom, cleaning the trail and garden, inviting more people to Sunday School, cleaning and sprucing up the shelter, building our membership by inviting others, improving our phone system, setting up the ceiling fan, trimming trees to increase visibility, moving the wi-fi, setting up an account with PayPal.

(Continued on page 2.)

A Reminder From the Stewardship Committee

If you did not turn in a commitment form on Sunday October 31, you still have time to do so. Extra forms will be available in the back of the church for the next few Sundays and also on the church's website. After prayerful consideration fill one out and turn it in any Sunday morning in November.

We are hoping for a 100 percent response as we collectively commit our presence, our prayers, our monetary gifts, and our service to Hickory Bend for the coming year. The strength of our commitment can move us forward toward becoming the church God wants us to be.



**Give to God
the things
that are God's**

Matthew 23:23

Pastoral Reflection

(continued from page 1)

Someone has noted that we will all have our own "garden of Gethsemane." However, all of this must be seen in the light of the resurrection – transforming, making alive, being lifted up by the hand of God. That is God's promise to each one of us.

On Monday October 18th my journey as a mere mortal with a diagnosis of cancer began with chemotherapy. But, I began my journey knowing that God's surprises have filled my life with grace, love, and hope. And the journey will continue ... so,

*"Can we, then, look into the future with a confidence that He who has brought us from the past and is with us day by day in the present, will not desert us? Courage, let us press on knowing that no day can bring a situation with which God cannot deal, and realizing that the future is His also."**

Bro Gary

*Quotations are from various writings of the late English pastor and theologian Leslie Weatherhead.

COUNCIL IDENTIFIES PROJECTS

continued from page 1

The second category contains projects that we believe can be accomplished with reasonable effort. The projects in this category, in the order prioritized by the council are:

1. Moving forward with the Building Entrance
2. Replacing the fellowship hall floor
3. Replacing the kitchen floor
4. Paying our apportionments in full
5. Installing a safety gate

To guide us in our progress completing these major projects, the council has decided to form a building committee. The top priority identified by the council is our new building entrance! We have plans for a visible, obvious, accessible, welcoming entrance for our church building! Jim Adair has agreed to serve as the chair of this new committee. Many, many thanks, Jim!

For the Pie In the Sky category, in no particular order, we have listed a new building, a new sanctuary, following the original master plan for building and expansion, increasing curb appeal, giving back more, establishing an endowment, adding more staff, establishing a soup kitchen, building a retreat facility, adding a viable child care center with its own wing, adding a large kitchen with an island and two sinks, adding showers and laundry so we could host Room In The Inn, adding a women's restroom. These projects are for Long Range Planning to address.

Please let your council members know of your hopes and dreams for HBUMC. We can work together to make all of these wonderful ideas come to life.

Emalie Egan,
Council Chair



WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The Worship Committee met on October 6, 2010. Those present were: Wes Buttery, Debbie Keith, Joan Williams, Cathy Caldwell, Jeannie Gleaves, Candy Rucker. The following items were discussed.

A Stewardship Campaign will be conducted during the month of October. There will be a different speaker each Sunday during the worship service to talk about stewardship.

For the next several months, there may be a need to have folks help do certain tasks (speakers, offertory prayer, pastor prayers, benediction, etc.) during the worship service. Emalie, Mark, and Cathy have volunteered to speak. The Youth have been asked to take a couple of Sundays to speak. We will get an ordained speaker (through the conference office) to serve Communion if needed.

Service Recording: Mark has agreed to chair a sub-committee to accomplish this task. Wes and David have also agreed to serve on this sub-committee.

Laity/Outside service Oct. 17: Joan will set up the altar. Maurice Jackson agreed to speak. Jeannie has the song he has requested to be sung that day. The worship team and volunteers will meet on Saturday, October 16 at 9:00 a.m. to set up the chairs and begin to prepare the shelter for the service.

All Saints November 7: The names of HBUMC members who have passed away during the last year will be read during the worship service. Small white votive candles will be on the alter in remembrance of each member.

Veteran's Day/Church Anniversary November 14: More plans will be made at the November 3 worship meeting. Charter Member list is being distributed to worship team members for folks to be contacted by the team member who knows the charter member. Cathy will provide the history of the church in a format to be displayed at the potluck gathering. Debbie Keith will bring the picture albums she has available.

Thanksgiving Sunday, November 21: Joan Williams will again have the altar decorated with a cornucopia of vegetables, fruits and nuts. She will also have the food baskets at the front of the church for donations for the East Nashville Cooperative Ministry.

The Christmas party will be held Dec. 15 with a much-anticipated visit from Santa Clause.

The meeting adjourned with the next meeting scheduled for November 3, 2010 @5:00 pm.

Cathy Caldwell
Worship Chair

HOW TO OBSERVE THANKSGIVING

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses
- Count your gains instead of your losses
- Count your joys instead of your woes
- Count your friends instead of your foes
- Count your smiles instead of your tears
- Count your courage instead of your fears
- Count your full years instead of your lean
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean
- Count your health instead of your wealth
- Count on God instead of yourself

Council Celebrates Spiritual Gifts

BY: Emalie Egan

You are called to be a minister! What is your ministry? Each of us has spiritual gifts, and those gifts, being God given, call us into our ministry. Ministry is not only for our ordained ministers — essential as they are to our ministry at Hickory Bend UMC — they cannot do everything alone! Each of us is called and gifted for ministry.

Our recent Council Retreat focused on discovering our unique gifts and exploring where they lead us in ministry. Everyone on the council was asked to complete a rather lengthy survey compiled by Charles V. Bryant. As a council, our strengths are perhaps not surprising, or perhaps they are astonishing! Out of 32 listed in the survey, here are our council's top ten:

10. Pastor
9. Spirit-Music
8. Discernment
7. Humor
6. Faith
5. Hospitality
4. Administration
3. Leadership
2. Teaching
1. Service

Does anything on the list surprise you? Do you think something is missing? If you are interested in taking Bryant's survey, we have several copies available.

How do you see God calling us into ministry here at Hickory Bend UMC? Where do your gifts call you into the Church and into the world?

Isn't it wonderful to have a congregation, gifted and called into service to celebrate our ministry?



Hickory Bend will be welcoming more homeless guests to Room In The Inn this season. Our first evening is November 26th, the day after Thanksgiving.

We will need many of you to volunteer again, and we would love to have new volunteers! Will you join us for any of these duties?

- serving supper, bringing part of the meal,
- making beds, handing out lingerie,
- making lunches, doing laundry,
- innkeeping, making breakfast
- cleaning up

Have you considered spending the night with us? We always need more innkeepers. You will spend the night with our ten guests, visiting, playing a game, listening, or just sitting quietly. The fragile lives of our guests have been torn apart by broken relationships. Do you have an evening to sit with a homeless guest? You'll never forget your conversation. Your friendship is healing and comforting to our guests.

If you have any questions about joining our ministry with Room In The Inn, call Judy at 615-754-4482, or Emalie at 615-403-8455.

Room In the Inn dates are:

- November 26, 5:00 pm - November 27, 7:00 am
- December 24, 5:00 pm - December 25, 7:00 am
- January 21, 5:00 pm - January 22, 7:00 am
- February 25, 5:00 pm - February 26, 7:00 am
- March 25, 5:00 pm - March 26, 7:00 am



BLANKET BRIGADE

BY: Gabby Troster

The Blanket Brigade is hard at work trying to refill our now empty tub so if you crochet or knit and would like to contribute, please join us. We work independently for the most part but try to meet once a month to see what each other has accomplished and for some great fellowship. Our next get together will be Saturday, November 20 from 9 until? Everyone is welcome and you don't necessarily have to bring anything with you. Most of us have extra yarn and hooks and will be thrilled to give a private lesson.

For those who find a lap blanket a little larger an attempt than you would like to try, we are venturing into some other items that can be started and completed in one sitting. We have patterns for a series of hats for preemies and newborns, and several sizes of chemo caps from small child to adult and helmet liners for soldiers. I just started last Saturday and am on my 6th hat. So if you like instant results this is a project for you. And yes.....you can read a pattern!! We will show you how.

If you are not interested in learning to crochet or knit or you just don't have time, but think this is a worthwhile mission we can still use your help. This is not an inexpensive past-time especially for some of ladies who manage 2-3 projects a week. (We all know who that is!!) It would be a great help to those doing the work to have aid in providing the supplies. We have asked for contributions and someone always steps up to the plate and brings a few skeins or scrap yarn. We have managed to utilize almost everything you have provided. Many people have approached me saying they don't know what kind of yarn to buy or what color. It is true that yarn weight is determined by what you are making. I have given this some thought and my suggestion would be, if you would like to make a contribution just purchase a gift card from Joann Fabrics, Hobby Lobby or Walmart. Then our ladies can use the card to purchase what they need and then pass it on to the next person and no money has to change hands. This will allow each crafter to get exactly what she needs for the project she's working on. Also, if you are cleaning out a closet and come across some remnant fabric you have no use for we can probably use it as well. One item Hospice is always looking for is neck pillows. I have made a pattern and we can get 3 or 4 out of a yard of fabric so by all means let us help you clean out those closets! As always we thank each of you for your support of our project. See you on the 20th.

Youth Discover Spiritual Gifts

Here are the top ten gifts of our Youth, according to the Bryant survey:

10. Leadership
9. Knowledge
8. Helps
7. Giving
6. Evangelism
5. Pastor
4. Exhortation
3. Service
2. Missionary
1. Ministry

Do not get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time . *Galatians 6:9*

October 2010 Stewardship

DATE	ATTENDANCE	OFFERING
10/03/10	67	\$3,334.35 General Fund \$ 20 Hardship Fund (Communion Rail & Piggy Bank) \$ 5 Youth Missions \$ 5 Wed Night Meals
10/10/10	94	\$1,808.10 General Fund \$ 25 Wed Night Meal \$ 13 Hardship Fund (Piggy Bank) \$ 27 Seekers S.S. Class Adopted Child Fund \$ 26 Youth Missions
10/17/10	78	\$1,323 General Fund \$ 11 Wed Night Meals \$ 12.05 Hardship Fund (Piggy Bank)
10/24/10	70	\$1,627 General Fund \$ 25 Seekers S.S. Class Adopted Child Fund \$ 10 Youth Missions
10/31/10	*	*

*Will be published in the December issue of the *Hickory Leaf*

The Pit

A man fell into a pit and couldn't get himself out. He called for help...

A SUBJECTIVE person came along and said: "I feel for you, down there."

An OBJECTIVE person came along and said: "It's logical that someone would fall down there."

A PHARISEE said: "Only bad people fall into a pit."

A MATHEMATICIAN calculated how he fell into a pit.

A NEWS-REPORTER wanted the exclusive story on his pit.

A REALIST said: "Now THAT'S a pit."

A SCIENTIST calculated the pressure necessary (kg/sq. m) to get him out of the pit.

A GEOLOGIST told him to appreciate the rock strata in the pit.

The PROPERTY-TAX DEPARTMENT asked if he was paying taxes on the pit.

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT asked if he had a permit to dig a pit.

A PROFESSOR gave him a lecture on: "The elementary principles of the pit."

An EVASIVE person came along and avoided the subject of his pit altogether.

A SELF-PITYING person said: "You haven't seen anything until you've seen MY pit!"

An OPTIMIST said: "Things could have been worse."

A PESSIMIST said: "Things will get worse!!"

A FUNDAMENTALIST said: "You deserve your pit."

A CHARISMATIC said: "just confess you're not in the pit."

AN EVANGELICAL said: "You should be saved from the pit."

"Jesus, seeing the man, took him by the hand and lifted him out of the pit"

Adapted from Kenneth D. Filkins, The Wittenburgh Door



TOYS FOR TOTS

Once again this year, Hickory Bend UMC will be participating in the Bethlehem Centers of Nashville, *Toys for Tots* program. Children receiving the toys will be newborn to 12 years old.

If you'd like to donate a toy or toys, please bring them (unwrapped) to the church and give them to Becky Williamson. The deadline for all donations is Sunday, December 5th.

REMINDERS

HOLY COMMUNION OFFERING - Money left on the communion rail helps to fund much of what we are able to do in the community.



"Lions Recycle for Sight" Chuck and Becky Williamson are continuing to collect glasses, (reading or prescription) and sunglasses (regular or prescription) for the Lion's Club. Please see one of them if you have any glasses you'd like to donate.



HELPERS NEEDED

If you're interested in helping in the Nursery on Sunday mornings, please check the church web site (hickorybendumc.com) to sign up, or stop by the nursery on Sunday morning and sign up. Bethany Caldwell will be in the nursery from 10:00-12:15 on Sundays.



For all of us who are Seniors...

.. for all of you who know seniors--- and for all of you who will be seniors.....It pays to be able to laugh about it when you are a senior!

'Where Is My Paper?' The irate customer calling the newspaper offices, loudly demanded to know where her Sunday edition was.

"Ma'am", said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered 'til Sunday."

There was quite a pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition. "So that's why no one was in church today."

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

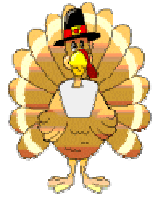


Mike Baker, Elizabeth Clingan, Barry Cloyd, Caleb England, Kenny England, Brian Ginnetti, Russell Lewis Jones, Mitch McDannald, Jeff McInturff, Amanda & Brad McMahan, Matthew Miesner, Joshua Mitchner, Jason Nevitt, David Parker, Joshua Snowbarger, Jess Summar, Zachery Taube, Luvann Whited, Bobby Woods.



RECIPE CORNER

November Wednesday Night Meal



Grandma Gini's Bread Pudding

- ½ Cup Butter
- 7 slices of white bread
- ½ cup raisins soaked in hot water 30 minutes
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 pt. half and half
- ½ tsp vanilla
- ¼ tsp cinnamon

Butter a 9X9 baking dish. Trim crust from bread and butter one side of the bread well. Arrange the bread, buttered side down, in the baking dish layering with the raisins. Lightly beat the eggs, sugar, half & half, vanilla, and cinnamon. Pour over the bread and let stand for 30 minutes. Cover with foil and bake in a 350 degree oven for 35 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking until the pudding is lightly browned and set about 35 to 40 minutes.

Serve warm with ice cream.

Our thanks to Cathy Caldwell for sharing her mother's recipe with us!!



NOVEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- November 7th *"He's just like his dad"*
Text: Ephesians 1:11-23
- November 14th *"Well, she said that ..."*
Text: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13, 16
- November 21st *"Whatever"*
Text: Philippians 1: 4-9
- November 28th *"Are you ready for some ..."*
Text: Matthew 24:36-44

- November 3 Open Pot Luck
- November 10 Spaghetti Dinner/
Charge Conference
- November 17 Thanksgiving Dinner
- November 24 No Meal Served

November will be a fast month for Wednesday night fellowship. The 10th we will share our meal with the District Superintendent as we prepare to have our charge conference following the meal. Everyone is welcome to attend both the dinner and the conference. It is a great time of reflection for the year that has just been, and hopes for the year to come.

November 17th we will have our church wide Thanksgiving dinner. Jim and Shari Adair have agreed to prepare the turkey and dressing, but don't put your aprons up just yet. We'll need to add the rest of the "fixins" and I've not heard anyone sign up for that very special cranberry jello salad, sweet potato pie OR pecan pie.

We will take the 24th off to be with our families, prepare our Summit dishes, and try to thaw that turkey that did not thaw in the refrigerator, even though it's been in there for a week!

Enjoy, and thanks to everyone for being so supportive of the Wednesday night fellowship events. We have been averaging 42-45 folks for the meal and we've had great food, lots of laughs, and many prayers shared.

COMING NEXT MONTH..

Church Christmas Party,
Wednesday, December
15th. Special guest will
be Santa Claus!

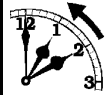



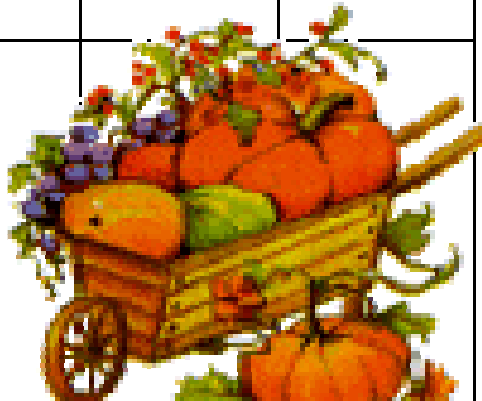


NOVEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	SCRIPTURE	READER	CHILDREN'S SERMON	COMMUNION SERVE / SET UP
11/07/10	Ephesians 1:11-23	Samantha Perkins	Cathy Caldwell	Set up: Caldwell Serve: Trosters / Parkers
11/14/10	2 Thessalonians 3:1-13, 16	Gabby Troster	Emalie Egan	
11/21/10	Philippians 1: 4-9	Lauren Rucker	TBA	
11/28/10	Matthew 24:36-44	Robbie Williamson	Mitzi Anderson	
12/05/10		Miranda Bilbrey	Cathy Caldwell	Set Up: Lilli Parker Serve: Gurkin/Anderson/Gibson



November 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 Worship Mtg 5p Wed Meal 5:15p Bible Study 6p Band 6:15p Choir 6:45p B: Helen (Litle) Mitchner	4	5	6 B: Leta Rose Phillips
7  Bell Choir After Worship UMYF 5:30p DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 	8	9 A: Dean & Jerry Walker	10 Wed Meal 5:15p CHARGE CONFERENCE 6:30P	11  VETERAN'S DAY A: Alan & Bobby Jones	12	13
14 HBUMC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION & POTLUCK LUNCHEON B: Josh Gibson Marci Griggers	15 B: Ethel Burnett	16	17 Wed Meal 5:15p THANKSGIVING MEAL Bible Study 6p Band 6:15p Choir 6:45p	18 B: James Parsons	19 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	20 BLANEKT BRIGADE 9 AM
21 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY Bell Choir After Worship UMYF 5:30p B: Emalie Egan	22 A: Eddie & Teresa Watson B: Brianna Caldwell	23 B: Jim Bilbrey	24 A: Albert & Ethel Burnett Andy & Alison Egan	25  B: Rhonda Walls	26 ROOM IN THE INN	27
28 HANGING OF THE GREEN 	29 B: Noah Bearden Callie Grace Griggers	30				

FUNNIES



When did the Pilgrims first say "God bless America?"
The first time they heard America sneeze!

Why can't you take a turkey to church?
Because they use such fowl language.

What does a Pilgrim call his best friend?
A palgrim.

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?
Pilgrims!

Teacher: "Why do we have a Thanksgiving holiday?"
Student: "So we know when to start Christmas shopping!"

What would you get if you crossed a turkey with an evil spirit?
A poultrygeist!

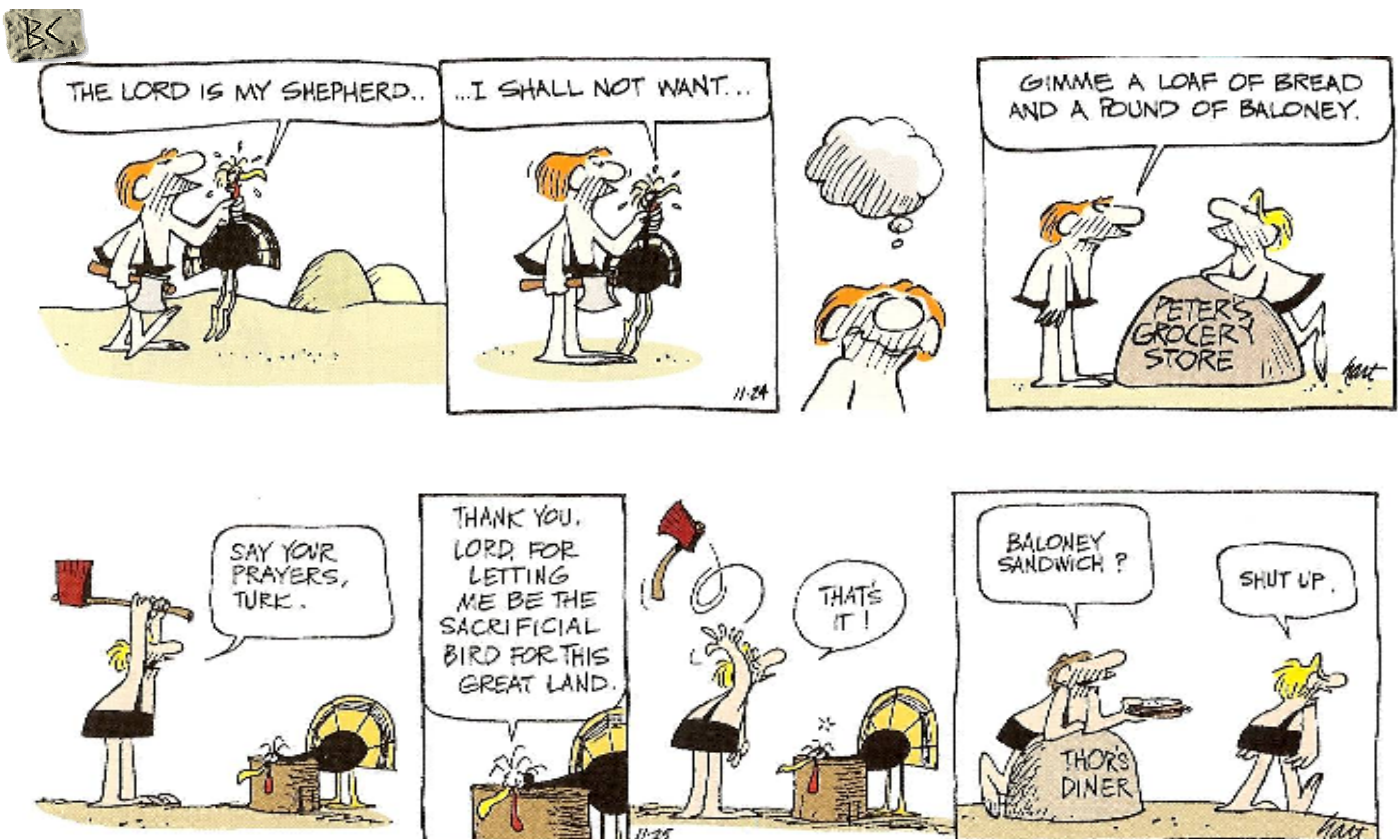
When the Pilgrims landed, where did they stand?
On their feet!

Why did the Pilgrim eat a candle?
He wanted a light snack!

Why did the Indian chief wear so many feathers?
To keep his wig warm.

What sound does a space turkey make?
Hubble, Hubble, Hubble.

A child was watching his mother sift through and delete a long list of junk E-mail on the computer screen. "This reminds me of the Lord's Prayer," the child said. "What do you mean?" the mother asked. "You know. That part about 'deliver us from E-mail.'"



**Happy
Thanksgiving**

