

IN THE FACE OF A STRANGER

BY Kerri Chaney

Ahh . . . Thanksgiving! One of my favorite holidays! My memories are of wood smoke, TV parades, and my grandmother's stuffing. But, something more splashes across these pictures in my mind. Surrounding my grandparents' table were the faces of aunts and uncles and cousins, yet always the face of a stranger.

My *gramma* is one to help strangers who are needy and lonely, whether with food, sharing of the word of God, or a free house cleaning. On Thanksgiving, she has given many a place at the table of family. Through the years, the faces at the table would always change - a single father of two, a lonely college student, a recent divorcee, and many others. As I grew older, there were the faces of the strangers that I brought to the table.

The traditions of Thanksgiving may be turkey and pumpkin pie, these are ours as well. But the mainstay of our celebration was the time we took to go around that circle of faces. Family and strangers alike, telling what they had to thank God for that year. These weren't

always heart-stopping moments, but sometimes the ordinary items of thanks, like food, shelter, and health, became extraordinary when the words came from the mouths of those who had faced joblessness, sickness, or brokenness. The strangers became family and our family became larger, and we all became that beautiful image of the family of God.

Regardless of the circumstances, I know my grandparents' table taught me to give. Give to others in simple ways, like inviting them into the warmth of a family circle. This Thanksgiving I don't know if the faces of strangers will be seen at my grandparents' table. But, I know that my grandparents' practical love of God has taught each one of us that in giving we find thanks.

May it be so in your home as well this year!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

A SIMPLE & SCRUMPTIOUS

HOLIDAY RECIPE from the kitchen of Kerri Chaney



Pumpkin Crunch

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 large can of pumpkin

- 1 box yellow cake mix with pudding
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 2 sticks melted butter

Mix first 4 ingredients. Pour into greased and floured 9"x13" pan. Sprinkle top with dry cake mix and nuts. Drizzle melted butter over top. Bake at 350 degrees for 50-60 minutes.

Hot Off the Press online: www.chpc.org

SUGGESTED READING



"How, do we find joy in the midst of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties? What does the Christ-life really look like when your days are gritty, long—and sometimes even dark? How is God even here?"

In *One Thousand Gifts*, Ann Voskamp invites you to embrace everyday blessings and embark on the transformative spiritual discipline of chronicling God's gifts. It's in this expressing of gratitude for the life we already have, we discover the life we've always wanted...a life we can take, give thanks for, and break for others. We come to feel and know the impossible right down in our bones: we are wildly loved - by God.--from the Editor

lectionary for the week . online at www.pcusa.org/lectionary/daily

Monday, Nov. 21 Psalms 62; 145 Joel 3:1-2, 9-17 1 Peter 1:1-12 Matthew 19:1-12 Psalms 73; 9	Tuesday, Nov. 22 Psalms 12; 146 Nahum 1:1-13 1 Peter 1:13-25 Matthew 19:13-22 Psalms 36; 7	Wednesday, Nov. 23 Psalms 96; 147:1-11 Obadiah 15-21 1 Peter 2:1-10 Matthew 19:23-30 Psalms 132; 134	Thursday, Nov. 24 Psalms 116; 147:12-20 Zephaniah 3:1-13 1 Peter 2:11-25 Matthew 20:1-16 Psalms 26; 130	Friday, Nov. 25 Psalms 84; 148 Isaiah 24:14-23 1 Peter 3:13-4:6 Matthew 20:17-28 Psalms 25; 40
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November 20 - November 27 calendar

20. sunday		
8:00 am	Prayer	Prayer Room
9:00 am	Heritage Sunday Service	Sanctuary
10:10 am	Foundation Hour	
	• Children's Classes	Barnabas Ctr
	• Jr. High	BC 204
	• High School	BC 206
	• Adult Study Groups	
11:15 am	Kaleidoscope	Sanctuary
1:00 pm	AHG Cooking	Kitchen
5:30 pm	Teen Impact	Clubroom
6:00 pm	Tweens	Great Hall
7:00 pm	Crash	BC 205 & 206
21. monday		
6:00 pm	Karate	Clubroom
22. tuesday		
8:30 am	FOL Sorters	Off Campus
9:30 am	Bible Study	GH, Rm 3
2:30 pm	Treehouse	GH
6:00 pm	Super Choir	FH
7:00 pm	W & A Mtg	W&A Area
23. wednesday		
5:30 pm	Cub Scouts	Clubroom
7:00 pm	Depression Bipolar Support	Great Hall
	K-Scope Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Youth Dir. Search Team	Clubroom
24. thursday		
1:00 pm	FOL Dinner	Fellowship Hall
25. friday		
6:00 am	Friday Morning Men	Fireside Room
	CAMPUS CLOSED	
26. saturday		

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good. . . -Psalm 100:4