



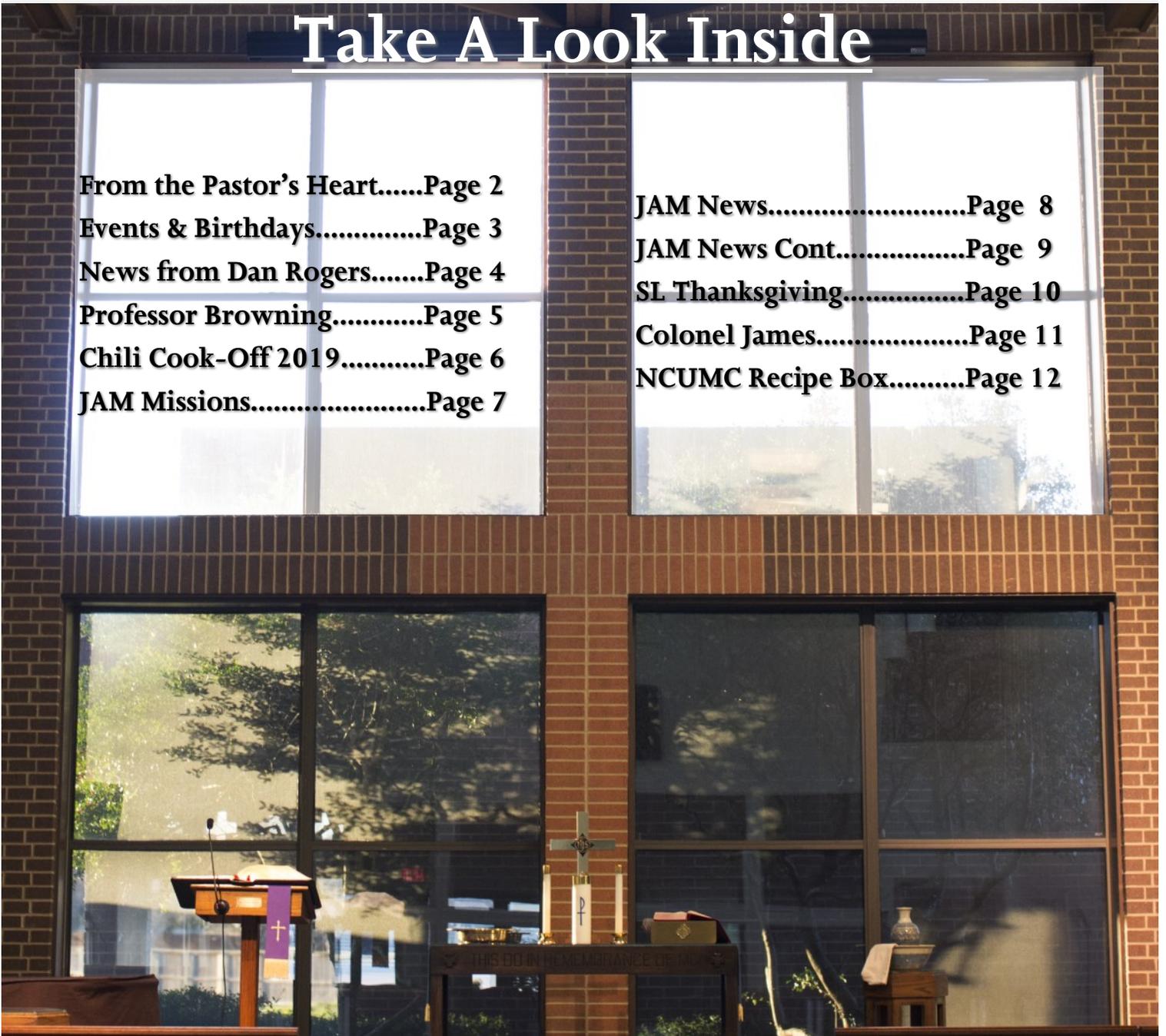
November 2019

# *the* **New Covenant** *Window*

## Take A Look Inside

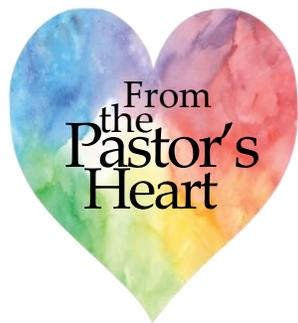
**From the Pastor's Heart.....Page 2**  
**Events & Birthdays.....Page 3**  
**News from Dan Rogers.....Page 4**  
**Professor Browning.....Page 5**  
**Chili Cook-Off 2019.....Page 6**  
**JAM Missions.....Page 7**

**JAM News.....Page 8**  
**JAM News Cont.....Page 9**  
**SL Thanksgiving.....Page 10**  
**Colonel James.....Page 11**  
**NCUMC Recipe Box.....Page 12**



*Sharing God through love and service.*

## Clergy Retreat



Each year there is a clergy retreat for those of us serving in the North Texas Conference. Tanglewood is a nice setting with hotel rooms. It's a time for seeing old friends and getting to know new friends better. It's a time for letting our hair down and getting real. We celebrate and play together. Sometimes we mourn and cry together. In years past there was a nice block of time for retreat...to sleep or read or walk or whatever floats your boat. But not this year.

This year was more of a conference than a retreat. We've always had presentations and time for learning and growing. But this year it was our focus. This year focused on "fear + less" and was intense. By the end, as a group we were breaking up the tensions with singing and dancing such favorites as "Sweet Caroline" and "Celebration"...someone recorded much of it. And by now it should come as no surprise to most of you

that I participated in the group who turned over a table during one of our final exercises. Tuesday had emotionally tense moments. On Wednesday, we raised a ruckus.

I have strived to be open with all of you about the challenges that are ahead for the global UMC, the UMC in the U.S. and all of our local churches. I am thankful for the time that we have been given to prepare our hearts, minds and especially our souls for the unknown that lies ahead. No one knows what the United Methodist Church will look like a year from now. We do know that it will not be as it is today.

Change is stressful, even painful, and usually frightening. Our beloved church has not faced this much divisiveness since the Civil War when the church divided into north and south...and maybe not even then. We may be tempted to ignore what is on the horizon with the false hope that if we don't look, nothing will happen, nothing will change. Instead of stopping change, pretending will only leave us unprepared when change begins happening, and perhaps happening rapidly. We don't want to be paralyzed when we can't escape change.

To prepare ourselves, we must begin to have difficult conversations. And most of us would rather bury our heads in the sand because difficult conversations bring tension and perhaps some conflict. But the day is coming, and coming soon, when every local church will have to get off the fence. If we wrestle now with hard questions we will be prepared when we all have to answer questions such as:

- ✦ Who are we?
- ✦ Why are we here? What is our purpose?
- ✦ What do we value? Who do we value?
- ✦ What do we truly believe?
- ✦ What gifts do we bring as a church into the world around us?
- ✦ How does it feel to be a problem? How does it feel to be unwanted by some we love? How does it feel to be invisible?
- ✦ What must we do to die a good death? What must we do to rise to new life?
- ✦ How do we become less fearful in the midst of change, tension, conflict? How do we help others to be less fearful?
- ✦ Where do we find hope? What (or who) is the source of our hope?

At the clergy "retreat"/conference, we struggled with just some of these questions for ourselves and for our Annual Conference. We in the Body of Christ must all struggle with all of these questions for ourselves and our local church.

Perhaps you came from a family where you heard, "Nice people don't talk about \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank)." And yet we have reach a crossroads were we must find our way respectfully and lovingly talk about those very things that make us most uncomfortable if we are to have a future as the Body of Christ.

Opportunities for difficult (yet respectful and loving) conversations are coming soon. The more you don't want to attend, the more you likely need to be there. Few of us feel comfortable in the midst of anxiety, tension, or conflict. The possibility that we could experience someone's anger directed toward us causes most of us to want to run and hide, maybe under the covers in the dark.

If we do not face what is coming as a faith community, we will find ourselves hiding, under the covers, in the dark, and alone. Yet we are more than a social club or community outreach group. We are a faith community. We are a faith family. We are a church. And we need each other. We need to find safety with one another even in the spaces where we disagree.

So I invite you to join me over these next months as we wrestle together with the hard questions in a safe place where we might be surrounded by God's love for each of us and our love for one another.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Dana*

<h1>November</h1>		<b>November 17</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service
<b>November 2</b> 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	Storage Project Work Day	<b>November 20</b> 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Ewing House (Journey Sunday School)
<b>November 3</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	All Saint's Sunday Fresh Start Worship Service	<b>November 21</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Fellowship & Games Sew Whats
<b>November 4</b> 11:30 am - 1:30 pm	Ladies Luncheon	<b>November 24</b> 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens Hot Cocoa & Hayrides
<b>November 7</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games	<b>November 28</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> Church Offices Closed
<b>November 9</b> 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Parent's Night Out	 <p>Upcoming Events at New Covenant UMC</p>	
<b>November 10</b> 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Charge Conference First Richardson UMC Fresh Start Worship Service		
<b>November 14</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games		
<b>November 16</b> 8:00 am - 11:30 am	All Church Clean-Up Day		



- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>4:</b> Barrett Price      | <b>21:</b> Elesia Atherton   |
| <b>11:</b> John Barham       | <b>28:</b> Tammy Castillo    |
| <b>14:</b> Everett Carew Jr. | Sharon Smith                 |
| Kevin Roberts                | <b>30:</b> Scotty Joe Chance |

*O give thanks  
unto the LORD;  
for he is good.*

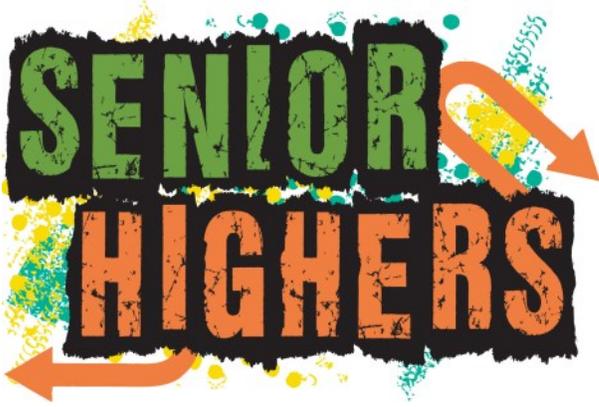
PSALM 136:1, KJV

## Pray It Forward!

Next meeting is November 4th.

**UPDATE: Meetings will be held the 1st Wednesday of each month at 5:45 pm in Hallowed Grounds.**

Please send all prayer requests & celebrations to  
Cindy Wolfe via email: [maytag9713@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maytag9713@sbcglobal.net) or text: 214-315-9992.  
You can also see Linda Easton or Cindy Wolfe during services.



## Senior High Sunday School

By Dan Rogers

The New Covenant Senior High Sunday school class is in need of interested participation – it meets Sundays at 9:45am. A few more happy faces would be most welcome in the last classroom downstairs. And it will not be dull – more faces, more voices, the better the class.

Halloween week was about “FEAR: what scares you?”

For the month of November, we will explore the following topics:

Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – “DAYLIGHT SAVINGS: What is one hour lost?”

Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – “SALUTING OUR VETERANS: Those who sacrificed all for us.”

Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> – “ACTING: Should you put on a happy face?”

Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> – “THANKSGIVING: It’s not for turkeys anymore.”

Come join us, all Senior High ages – 9<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The classroom needs you. And you know how Mr. Rogers loves to talk.

## Church Members Active with Mesquite Community Theatre

By Dan Rogers

Some of our church family members are very involved in the Mesquite Community Theatre production of **FrUITCakes** – a family friendly Christmas play about a small town adapting to a mixture of crazy situations, including: a chicken pox epidemic, a runaway teenager who happens to be a fruitcake rustler, an eccentric genius who recites poetry to catch fish, a loveable busybody who has been married six times, two bickering spinster sisters baking fruitcakes for everyone in town, a handyman known for his famous whirligigs, a Christmas pageant with dogs named Sooner and Later used as sheep, Clyde the Hunting Angel, the GRAND ILLUMINATION with thousands of Christmas lights including Buster the Christmas Hog (they even wrote a song about him) and lots of laughs.

The cheerful set design is by Linda Dunn, with Gary furnishing the craftsman labor. The play is directed by Dan Rogers, with lots of patience supplied by Kathy. Performance dates are November 22, 23, 24, then December 6, 7, 8 and December 13, 14, 15. For ticket information and reservations contact the Mesquite Community Theatre (972)216-8126. The theatre is located at 1527 N. Galloway Ave. in Mesquite. Hurry before they sell out.

You do not want to miss out on a chance to search for that stray alley cat Tutti Fruitti.

## Today's Lesson Is...

By Jim Handy

New Covenant's "Celebration" Sunday school class has recently had a notable change of delivery, in a good way. For the last several months, we have had a new guest instructor – one who uses interesting videos, does thorough course preparations, and energizes participation with his honest and enthusiastic personality.

Jeff Browning is involved in an abundance of projects at New Covenant, so it surprised me a little when he volunteered to teach with Celebration – a class of which he had never been a member. I wondered where he got the time, motivation and energy to take on this additional weekly commitment. I had to assume that the Holy Spirit is plentiful in him, and he pays attention to it.

The videos he uses (so far) are of sermons delivered by lively, entertaining preachers. Jeff decides beforehand which parts of each video he will show in order to blend with the day's lesson and schedule. Afterward there is active group discussion. At the hour's end, he of course closes us with prayer.

I obviously enjoy Jeff's teaching style, and I'm confident the other class members feel the same. This article is my way of thanking him.

As a former college instructor, I know a naturally blessed teacher when I see one.

## 2019 Star Quilt

By: Sew Whats

Size: Double (Approx. 83" x 100")

1 Donation Ticket- \$1.00

6 Donation Tickets- \$5.00

**Drawing Sunday, December 8, 2019**

*See Linda Dunn for more details.*



## 2019 Chili Cook-off

This year's Chili Cook-off was a huge success! Thank you so much to everyone who donated items for the silent auction, baked goods, chili, time and so much more! The youth raised over \$900 for their mission trip this summer! Thank you!

I'm happy to announce our 2019 winners were....



1st Place - Cindy Wolfe

2nd Place - Linda Dunn

3rd Place - Barbara Reed





## JAM Missions November

Hello Church family! As part of our mission for November we will be filling boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

*“Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to*

*children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S.”*

Boxes will be assembled on Sunday November 17th, JAM is seeking the following items for donation:

- Shoe boxes (cardboard or plastic)
- Children's Personal Care Items such as:
  - Hair brushes
  - Wash clothes
  - Clothing items
  - Band-aids
  - Bar Soap
  - Deodorant
  - Flashlight
- School Supplies such as:
  - Pencils
  - Notebook Paper
  - Solar Powered Calculator
  - Pencil Sharpener
  - Scissors
- Craft Supplies such as:
  - Color book
  - Puzzles
  - Sewing Kit
  - Gardening Kit
  - Playing Cards

For a full list of donation suggestions please visit:

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>

**\*\*\*JAM Missions will be providing: Toothbrushes and small toys for the boxes\*\*\*  
We cannot accept: food or liquids of any kind or war related toys**

**Donations can be dropped off in the Hallowed Grounds area**

## JAM October

What a crazy fun month! Our mission for the month was to turn pumpkins at the pumpkin patch. Thank you to all of the youth who helped keep our pumpkins fresh. We had a blast at the Chili Cook-Off. Huge thank you to all of the amazing youth that came out to help! We raised a little over \$900 for our mission trip this summer!



The kids also had a great time at Parents' Night Out, we decorated some fun pumpkins and found out why the white/pink/green pumpkins are so much heavier than the traditional orange pumpkin. Shout out to Karen and Riley for solving the mystery.





Finally, we capped off the month with an excellent performance by JAM choir.  
Great job everyone!



Coming up in November:

**November 9th** - Parents' Night Out from 5-9, all ages welcome. November's theme: Fall!

**November 10th** - Nativity Play practice begins at 12:30

**November 17th** - JAM Missions: We are focused on kids in need this month. I will need a few adult volunteers for this trip to help take the kids to Walmart. We are shopping for Angel Tree! Missions will start around 2:30, immediately after play practice.

More dates to come including (fingers crossed) a field trip to the Perot Museum and an outing to AIM High Indoor Bounce House.

## Thanksgiving Food for Sharing Life Families

By John Elfers, Missions Chair

New Covenant will be starting a food drive in conjunction with Sharing Life to help needy families at Thanksgiving. We will be collecting the following items for Sharing Life families: cranberry sauce, Jiffy corn bread mix, pie crust mix, fruit pie fillings, and aluminum turkey pans. Items will be collected in a box in our Hallowed Grounds coffee area. Donations may be made to purchase \$15 gift cards for families to buy turkeys. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Karen Termin or John Elfers.

As you know, Sharing Life has been a wonderful mission partner with New Covenant for many years. The organization started out on Highway 80 and Gross twenty years ago. Their mission is to provide compassion to the poor, hungry, hurting and homeless in the community. In addition to many other services, they offer help with Medicaid and Snap applications, TXU energy and Atmos gas bills, and provide gasoline vouchers, prescriptions assistance and limited emergency rental assistance and referrals. Sharing Life provides families and individuals with food, clothing and shoes, durable medical equipment, school supplies, personal care items, and infant items as well.

Sharing Life has plenty of varied volunteer opportunities. Volunteers can help sort and organize various donations (food, clothing, and other items) and help families shop for what they need. Intake workers greet clients and help them sign up for services.

Sharing Life is open to the community Tuesdays through Fridays 9 am to 3 pm, Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 pm, and Saturdays, 9 to noon.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALL SAINTS DAY AND ALL SOULS DAY?

Courtesy of the Farmers Almanac

All Saints Day, celebrated by the Roman Catholic church (and now other churches) on November 1, is set aside to honor church members believed to have gone to heaven. All Souls Day, November 2, was created to commemorate those who died baptized but without having confessed their sins, and thus they are believed to reside in purgatory. Roman Catholic doctrine teaches that intercessions (prayers) by earthly church members can cleanse these departed souls and prepare them for heaven.

*The following article was published in the Waterford-Mesquite newsletter last January, and submitted to The Window by Jean Miller. Since the residents of Waterford are recipients of 20 years of New Covenant's mission to bring church to the facility, it is important that our congregation gets to know a little about the people who attend our Sunday morning services there. Our church members who have provided the love, spirit and organization of these worship services include Jean Miller, Sharon Smith, John Elfers, Jeff Wohead and others who have tirelessly and joyfully helped spread the Word to these residents – some for the entire 20 years that the Waterford has been open. It may be the longest and strongest mission New Covenant has provided our community – every Sunday – and it continues to grow stronger still.*

***Colonel James, at 105 years old, is still actively involved in these services today.***

**Lee Eynon James** was born in Guymon, OK on January 2, 1914. He attended high school in Temple, TX where he was a member of the State Champion Temple Wildcats Basketball team 1931-1932. Growing up he enjoyed working on his Uncle Taddy's ranch in New Mexico during the summers. He attended Texas A & M in College Station graduating in 1936 with a Bachelor of Science degree. At this time, he is the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest living Aggie. Lee entered the Army spending 21½ years before retiring as a Colonel. While he was in the Army, he received his Master degree in Biology and his Pilot's license. During World War II, he was stationed in China, Burma, and India. After the war he was in Greece, Korea and the Philippines. Following his military service, he spent 20 years with the Texas Rehabilitation Commission for the state. He also enjoyed teaching Sunday school classes for 30 years. Lee has written an autobiography for family purposes and history called "The Life and Times of Lee Eynon James" chronicling his life. Remaining family members include 3 daughters, 7 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and many other loving family members and friends. Lee James has traveled to all 50 states. He also is an avid sports fan.

## Now

By Jim Handy

I think God's primary blessing to us is simply our existence.

I'm referring to that which is happening right now to each of us.

"Right now" is pretty much all that is real in this life, though our minds often drift away from it; preferring, instead, to spend much of our time thinking about our past and our future.

But memories of before and anticipations about later, though necessary for navigating civilized lives, are not real. They are created by our minds; they are merely imaginations. Not reality.

By focusing my attention fully on what is going on in front of me right now – being present – I am appreciating and benefitting from the greatest foundational gift God has given all of us:

The blessing of being alive.

I think that gift rates a 'Thank You' now and then.

# Linda Dunn's Prize-Winning Chili

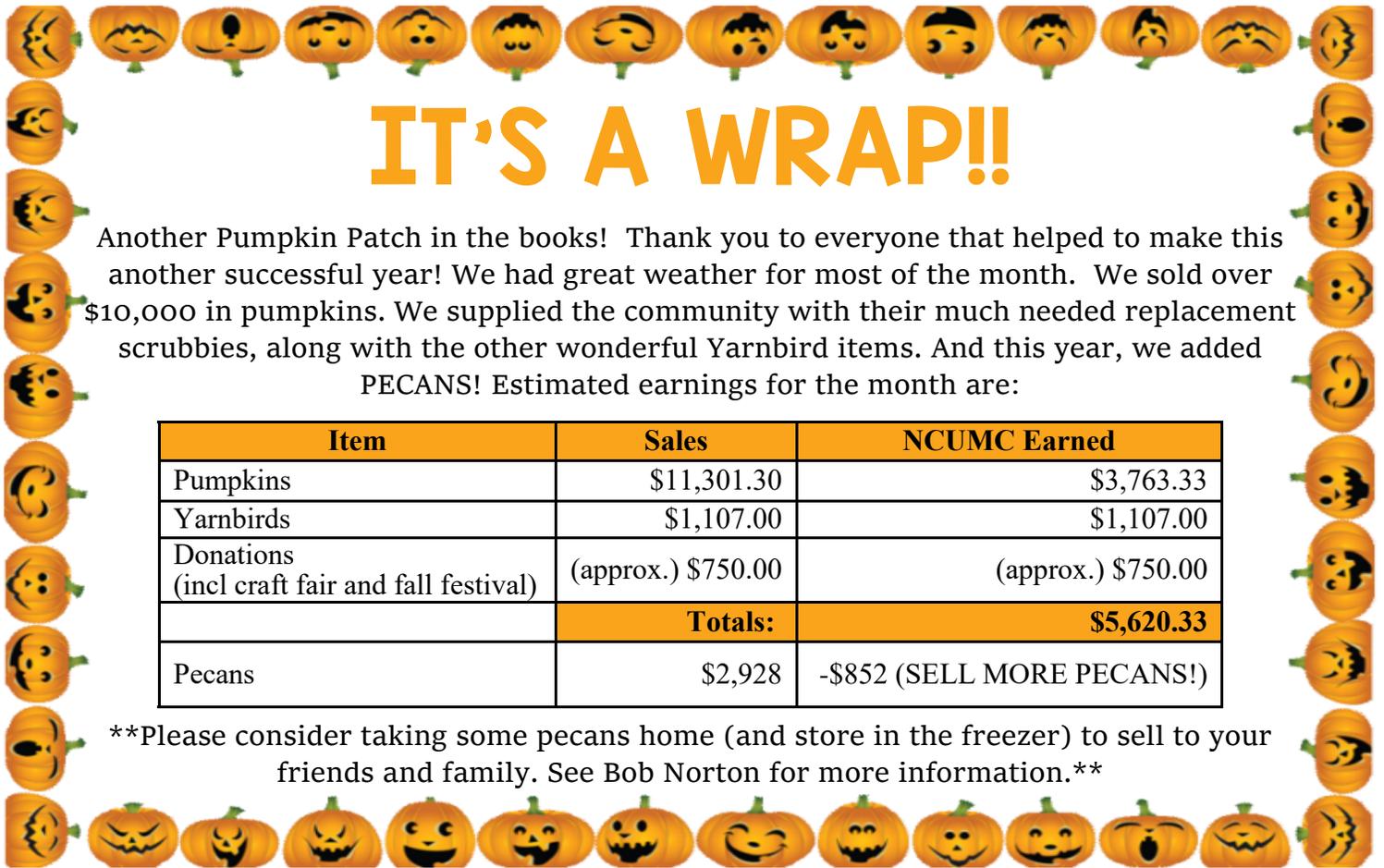
\*\*First time this recipe has been outside of Linda's brain!\*\*

## Ingredients:

- \* About 3 pounds of hamburger (93%)
- \* 1 large yellow onion, chopped
- \* Fresh garlic, to taste, minced
- \* 1 large can of whole tomatoes
- \* 1 medium can tomato sauce
- \* 1 can red kidney beans, drained
- \* 1 can Bushes Chili beans
- \* 1 small can green chiles
- \* Chile powder, to taste
- \* Tiny touch of cinnamon
- \* Salt and pepper to taste

## Directions:

- \* Brown hamburger and onion, drain any grease and add the rest of the ingredients.
- \* Squeeze the tomatoes into little bits.
- \* Simmer for several hours, do a taste and final seasoning.
- \* Add beef bullion cubes for heartiness
- \* Note: Sometimes I also add a can of pork and beans or some other beans.



# IT'S A WRAP!!

Another Pumpkin Patch in the books! Thank you to everyone that helped to make this another successful year! We had great weather for most of the month. We sold over \$10,000 in pumpkins. We supplied the community with their much needed replacement scrubbies, along with the other wonderful Yarnbird items. And this year, we added PECANS! Estimated earnings for the month are:

Item	Sales	NCUMC Earned
Pumpkins	\$11,301.30	\$3,763.33
Yarnbirds	\$1,107.00	\$1,107.00
Donations (incl craft fair and fall festival)	(approx.) \$750.00	(approx.) \$750.00
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$5,620.33</b>
Pecans	\$2,928	-\$852 (SELL MORE PECANS!)

\*\*Please consider taking some pecans home (and store in the freezer) to sell to your friends and family. See Bob Norton for more information.\*\*