

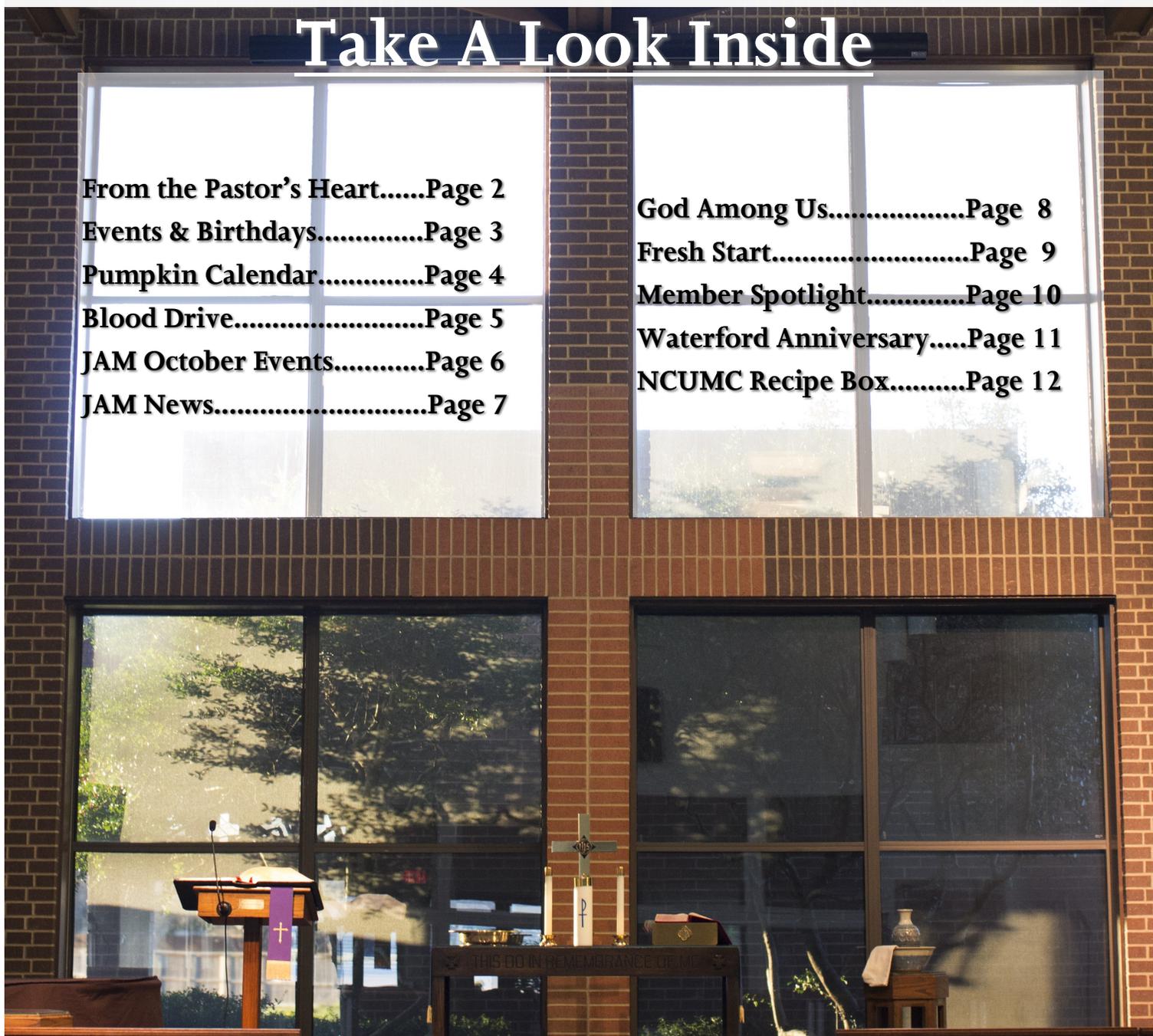


the **New Covenant** *Window*

Take A Look Inside

From the Pastor's Heart.....Page 2
Events & Birthdays.....Page 3
Pumpkin Calendar.....Page 4
Blood Drive.....Page 5
JAM October Events.....Page 6
JAM News.....Page 7

God Among Us.....Page 8
Fresh Start.....Page 9
Member Spotlight.....Page 10
Waterford Anniversary.....Page 11
NCUMC Recipe Box.....Page 12



Sharing God through love and service.

Stump the Pastor



Last month I wrote on one of the two questions left in the “Ask the Pastor” box. Someone wanted to make sure that I didn’t forget about the second question. It appeared again this week with a slight change in wording. The question: Who created/made the trinity? What a question! I promised to take on any and all questions, so buckle up. Here we go.

First, what is the trinity? Regarding faith in the Holy Trinity, our doctrinal standards state:

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body or parts, of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in

unity of this Godhead there are three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

So what does that mean? Highly abbreviated, we might say that we believe in the one God, expressed in three persons (3 different entities) while remaining one substance (or one thing). Clear as mud, right? So we point to scriptures that seem to support this idea of trinity although the scriptures are not particularly straight forward about trinity either.

Early Christians writers alluded to the concept of trinity but it was not specifically stated until around 110 C.E. that Ignatius of Antioch when he urged us to be obedient “to the Father, to the Son and to the Spirit.” The first two church councils (Council of Nicaea, 325 and Council of Constantinople, 381) developed the Nicene Creed to address disputes around the nature of God and the trinity. Later, the Apostles Creed develops statements of faith around each ‘person’ of the trinity as a part of our baptism theology...thus we baptize “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Are you still confused? Maybe it would be easier to step away from brilliant scholars and just speak ‘Dana’. Trinity is a Christian doctrine that can be traced back to early Christians and finds some support in the New Testament texts. We Christians have also claimed some support from the Hebrew Scriptures, but frankly that is really pushing the envelope and uses those sacred texts in ways that were never intended. Trinity is a way in which we struggle with the tension in our faith to explain the unexplainable. Some have used the analogy of H₂O...steam, water, or ice are all H₂O. Yet ice melts into water and evaporates into steam but it is not the same with the trinity. We use trinity to try and explain how Jesus, son of God, is God. Yet while I share my mother’s DNA and even look and sound a lot like her, we are not the same person.

Bottom-line, trinity is one of the mysteries of our faith that we can’t fully explain. The same is true for the essence of Christ as both fully human and fully divine...all at the same time. It is unexplainable and we either accept it or we don’t. By the way, fully human and divine is another one of our doctrines that’s not clearly spelled out in the bible and has a history of development in the early church.

Our doctrines are attempts to understand the unexplainable mysteries of God...who God is, who we are and why God cares about us, what God wants from us, how we connect to God...and that concludes this month’s “Stump the Pastor.”

Blessings,
Pastor Dana

October

September 30 - October 28	Turn In All Saints Day Information
October 6 - October 31	Pumpkin Patch
October 3 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fellowship & Games
October 6 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Pumpkin Delivery Day! Fresh Start Worship Service
October 7 11:30 am - 12:30 pm	Ladies Luncheon
October 10 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Fellowship & Games Fall Floral Centerpiece Class
October 12 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm	2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off, Bake Sale & Silent Auction Parent's Night Out
October 13 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Fresh Start Worship Service
October 16 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Ewing House

October 17 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Fellowship & Games An Evening of Art Class Sew What's
October 19 11:00 am - 1:00 pm 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	CCK Master the Grill Class Texas Pawprints Cat & Kitten Adoption
October 20 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Children's Sabbath Fall Festival Fresh Start Worship Service
October 24 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Fellowship & Games Fall Floral Centerpiece Class
October 26 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Craft Fair Carter Blood Drive
October 27 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Newsletter Articles Due Blessing of the Little Pumpkins All Church Conference Fresh Start Worship Service
October 27 - October 30	Pastor Dana Clergy Retreat



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1: Alyssa Getto
Dorothy Moore
Cynthia Ball | 14: Michaella Michael |
| 2: Zoey Young | 16: Linda Roberts |
| 4: Gail Price | 17: Riley McTigue
Maggie Miller |
| 5: Ben Young | 23: Kathleen Skelton |
| 8: Heather Crownover
Tammie Young | 25: Linda Easton |
| 9: Daniel Davis | 26: Sandy Childers |
| 10: Tom Hopkins | 27: Chris Castillo
Andy Norton |
| 11: Mike Robertson
Cathy Wheeler | 28: Teri Hardaway |
| | 30: Marcia Matus |
| | 31: Florence Carew |

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 or text: 214-315-9992.
You can also see Linda Easton or Cindy Wolfe during services.



Pumpkins arrive this week!



We are ready for our biggest fundraiser of the year. Pumpkins arrive on Sunday, after the non-traditional service. I want to thank everyone for their excitement and preparation. We've got this down to a science and we are ready!

Below is a calendar of events for October. I'm excited to have some crafting events as well as a craft fair.

I hope to add another pet adoption event, but as of today, a date is not pinned down.

Saturday, October 5		Cost to Enter
9:00 am	Pumpkin Patch Pre-delivery workday Time to get the yard ready – if you “adopted” a scarecrow, please bring them back to be placed in the yard.	
Sunday, October 6		
NOON	Pumpkin Delivery (tentative but hopeful) Please invite friends and family. Bring work gloves if you have them. There is a job for everyone – young to old. Not everything involves lifting the pumpkins (assisting in keeping the workers hydrated, guiding the tractors, moral support, etc) https://www.facebook.com/events/380151582653955/	
Thursday, October 10		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Fall Centerpiece Floral arranging class https://www.facebook.com/events/2484625898280755/	\$35
Saturday, October 12		
11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Chili Cook-off, Bake Sale & Silent Auction https://www.facebook.com/events/925605261126473/	
Thursday, October 17		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	An Evening of Art Join pastel artist, Juliana Crownover to create your own masterpiece https://www.facebook.com/events/2128023390826026/	\$35
Saturday, October 19		
11:00 am – 1:00 pm	Autumn Grilling with Chef Mike! Chef Michael will guide us through cooking a complete meal ON THE GRILL – all food included in the fee https://www.facebook.com/events/1291827824323116/	\$35
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Texas Paw Prints – Cats and Kittens Pet adoption group https://www.facebook.com/events/2622687521096603/	
Sunday, October 20		
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Fall Festival Free for all – hot dogs, bounce house, games, more https://www.facebook.com/events/1364056680419259/	FREE for all
Thursday, October 24		
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Fall Centerpiece Floral arranging class (Registration link TBD)	\$35
Saturday, October 26		
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Craft Fair – Free to attend, booths available for rental https://www.facebook.com/events/4385580867554/	Booths available – \$10 each
10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Blood Drive – Carter BloodCare will be on site for those willing and able to give.	
Sunday, October 27		
11:00 am Worship Service	Blessing of the Little Pumpkins Come to church in your Halloween costume for a special Trick or Treat blessing	



**Make it
count.**



Life

#GIVEFORLIFE

Blood Drive

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

New Covenant United Methodist Church
Carter BloodCare Bus

Contact: John Elfers | (972) 226-1092



 CarterBloodCare.org Call or Text: 800-366-2834



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NCUMC JAM OCTOBER 2019

October 12th • 12 - 2 Chili Cook-off
• 5-9 Parents' Night Out

October 13th • 12:30 - 1:00 JAM Choir

October 20th • Children's Sunday

October 27th • Blessing of the little pumpkins (wear your costume to church)

October 27th • 3:30 - 4:00 JAM Choir
• 4:00 - 5:30 JAM Group

Monthly Mission - Pumpkin Turning

The Chili Cook-off is a great fundraiser for our summer events. We are hoping to send the kids on a mission trip this year.



JAM News October

Huge thank you to everyone that was able to make it to the JAMboree on the 29th. Big shout out to Rudy Torres and Gary Dunn for stepping

in as grill

masters, the burgers and dogs were delicious! The



JAM team is looking forward to an exciting season with these fantastic kids. Be sure to check out the updated schedule of events for the month of October!



God Among Us

By Cindy Wolfe

I'm stooped down on the floor of the Dollar General looking for a birthday card for a friend. I hear something and look up to see a very tall, older gentleman slowly shuffling down the aisle with his cane. He smiled and said, "Hello". I reciprocated and returned to the task at hand. I could feel him standing there, so I looked back up and asked, "How are you doing today?" He paused for a moment and with a smile that came not only from his mouth but his eyes, he asked, "What's your name?" Well, to be truthful, "stranger danger" screamed in my head from my days of raising young children.

But this was an older gentleman with a cane. I decided I could take him if he tried anything. ;) lol I told him my name and with a twist of his hand, as if magic, he produced a nickel sized piece of metal. He said that he believed in prayer and he handed me the coin. It had an angel imprinted on one side and 3 scripture references hand carved on the back. I told him that I too believed in prayer and that I was part of a prayer group. He became a little more serious and said, "Lots of troubles? Well, God can take care of all that. Tell me your name again (I did). I'm going to remember that and include you in my prayers from now on." I smiled and told him I appreciated that. He smiled even bigger and said that we would all be in the presence of God one day. He said he would be there soon; was excited and looking forward to the journey.

Our conversation moved to his purpose there; to buy a birthday card for a friend in another state. And then that was that. In a few short minutes, this older gentleman shared the love of God with me, prayed for me and left me with something as a reminder. All of that while stooped down on the floor of the Dollar General. Needless to say, I left the Dollar General that day with much more than the birthday card that I went in after.

Folks, I cannot express the deep joy and love I received this day from what would seem to be a complete stranger. And although a stranger, I am certain God sent him to give me a word of love and encouragement. This is what it looks like to be the hands and feet of Jesus. This is what the Kingdom of God on earth looks like.

God is so good!!



Matthew 25:40

And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

Are you under 40?

Looking for a FRESH way to worship?

Well do we have something just for you!!

Fresh  Start

Come check it out every Sunday, at 6:00 p.m.
Childcare will be provided.

New Covenant Pumpkin Patch

Shift workers needed.

Sign up today!

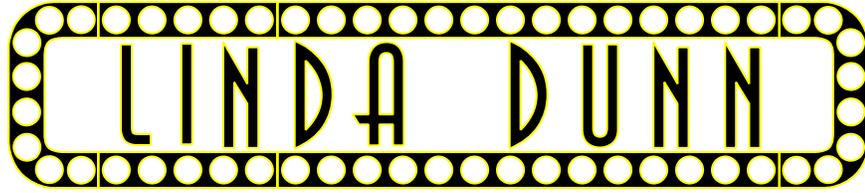
Education Wing - Missions Bulletin Board

Contact Cindy Wolfe

214-315-9992

maytag9713@sbcglobal.net





Member Spotlight

By Kerri Embrey

Talents come in all shapes and sizes and then there are talents that some people have that really there is no way to measure. Linda Dunn has been a member of New Covenant United Methodist Church since September of 2005. Linda and Gary were attending Russell Memorial Methodist Church in Wills Point when they moved to the area and decided it was time to find a church home a little closer for them. She stumbled onto New Covenant when she saw that there was fellowship in the form of food on Wednesday nights. She and Gary started attending the Wednesday Pot Luck Dinner earlier in the summer that year and decided to make New Covenant their church home as the church was celebrating its 25th anniversary in September that same year. As they began attending regularly on Sunday's and Wednesday's, they also started attending the Seekers Sunday School class and as expected, the infamous Mr. Connie Pullen won them over with his knowledge of the bible, his eloquent delivery of the message of Christ and his ability to just draw people in. Linda and Gary are still faithful members of the Seekers class.

With each week that passed, Linda became more excited about attending church and the events that it had to offer. Prior to meeting Gary, Linda had been out of church for quite some time and with most of us that did not grow up in a Methodist church, she decided very quickly that this was the place for her. Linda was still working full time as a litigation defense paralegal where she provided the research and plan of attack for the attorney's she worked with when she decided to jump in feet first into Yarnbirds, a mission that Linda is still active in today.

An eye for all things that can and should be decorated might be a good name for Linda. She perused the church and looked for opportunities to make the church as beautiful as she knew it could be. The first Christmas service they attended, Linda began looking around at the decorations and asked the pastor, Kevin Strempeke, if he minded if she changed them up a little and he gave her the go ahead. She added greenery to the sides of the sanctuary and to the straw wreaths to add to the already beautiful sanctuary.

A short time after, she was asked to assist with the altar where she was responsible for the preparation of the communion elements and changing out the paraments. She would also bring flowers every Sunday to enhance the beauty of the service. Linda educated herself on the proper way the altar was to be presented and she worked her magic. The altar as it is presented today is because of her diligence in making sure it was done correctly. Linda has an innate ability to see something and know exactly what it needs to enhance the beauty of it. The idea that seasons should be recognized and celebrated are evident if you just look around the church. Especially from Lint to Pentecost which is her absolute favorite time of the year. Her talent is used for every occasion and holiday that happens at New Covenant.

One would think that Linda's natural ability to see the beauty in things is her greatest passion, but if that is what you guessed, you would be wrong. The Pumpkin Patch is what she puts as much energy as she has into. Her vision is that every year, it gets bigger, better and to make it more than what it seems. She likes to create an illusion so that people feel like they are truly in a pumpkin patch where they can take pictures with their kiddos or as one woman did, her elderly dog. The pumpkin patch even hosted a couple who showed up and asked if they could take engagement pictures there. Making people feel like they have stepped out of their busy lives and into a rural farm with a big orange pumpkin as a backdrop for pictures, hay bales, scarecrows and lots of pumpkins is the delight in all of this for her. The pumpkin patch also serves as a way to reach out to the community so that the love of Christ resonates through all that work there and the ones that attend can feel it. Her attention to detail creates an opportunity for all that attend to find something they love about it.

In addition to all of the work Linda does at church, she is a proud mom to her two sons, Dan and Kevin. She has been blessed with four grandchildren who are the light of her life. This church is blessed to have so many people like Linda, that love the Lord and are always working hard to allow His light to shine by using talents He gave them.

1 Peter 4:10-11 "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

Hear ye, Hear ye!
Special 20th Anniversary Celebration
of the Waterford Worship Services

By Jean Miller

On October 6, 2019, New Covenant UMC's long-standing ministry will be celebrating twenty years of worship services. I am so very proud to announce that this service, which serves the retirement community at The Waterford Retirement Center and has long been a much unknown but very rewarding ministry, has actually lasted for twenty years. So has the group of folks that have made it happen. Dedication and faithful service is so gratefully appreciated by this coordinator for the endless hours given to provide love, attention and the Word of God to our senior citizens.

Please feel free to join us for this anniversary service!



The Jesus in Me

By Jim Handy

“The Jesus in Me sees the Jesus in You.”

During one of her sermons last month, Pastor Dana led us in saying, out loud, to her and then to each other: “The Jesus in Me sees the Jesus in You.”

I love that phrase for a number of reasons, one of which is that it is so core to the reason God led me to my lifetime career as well as my personal inclination.

Psychologists in private practice are sometimes questioned about the motives and sincerity of their work. Are you just a paid friend? How can you say that you truly care about all the patients who pay you to try to help? The best answer I've heard to this question is “That's easy. I find something about each one of them to love.” The implication is that we *all* have features deserving of love. All one has to do is look for them.

When I refer to the Jesus in another, I mean that essential part in each of us that is honest, caring, vulnerable, trusting, and spiritual. I mean the part that comes out when the defenses go down, when fear does not intrude, when the community of God shines forth. I can only see the Jesus in you when looking through the eyes of the Jesus in myself. It takes one to know one. Each and every one of us is a child of God, so we all have the ability to recognize the Jesus in each other.

The Jesus in Me sees the Jesus in You. And then the Jesus in You often looks right back.



Spicy Pumpkin & Collards

From: Food Network Magazine

Ingredients:

- * 2 2-to-3-pound sugar pumpkins
- * 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- * 1 small onion, diced
- * 1 plum tomato, diced
- * 1 Scotch bonnet chile pepper, seeded and finely chopped
- * 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- * 1 clove garlic, chopped
- * 4 scallions, chopped
- * 1 pound frozen chopped collard greens, thawed
- * Kosher salt
- * 1 cup evaporated milk
- * Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
- * 4 tablespoons breadcrumbs (preferably panko)
- * 1 1/2 cups shredded sharp white cheddar cheese
- * 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese

Directions:

- * Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Slice off the top 1 1/2 inches of the pumpkins and discard. Scoop out the seeds and stringy pulp.
- * Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, tomato, chile pepper, thyme and garlic and cook, stirring, until the onion is slightly tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in the scallions and collard greens, add 1 1/4 teaspoons salt and cook, stirring, until the greens are slightly tender, about 15 minutes. Stir in the evaporated milk and nutmeg and bring to a gentle boil. Stir in 2 tablespoons breadcrumbs, the cheddar cheese and the remaining 2 tablespoons butter and cook, stirring, until the cheese melts and the mixture thickens slightly, about 2 minutes. Put the pumpkins in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish and fill evenly with the collard greens mixture.
- * Toss the remaining 2 tablespoons breadcrumbs with the parmesan. Sprinkle over the filling. Add 1 inch of boiling water to the baking dish. Cover loosely with foil and bake until the pumpkins are tender, about 1 hour, 15 minutes. Remove the foil and continue baking until browned and bubbly on top, about 30 more minutes. Let cool 5 minutes, then scrape the pumpkin flesh and serve with the collards.