



The Olive Branch

NOVEMBER 2017

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)

Richard D. Cline, minister
Susan C. Fournier, secretary
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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 1:30PM



COMMUNITY

“Everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something.”

This past week I stumbled across the above quote. It is by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., the author of the book, *Life's Little Instruction Book*. It ties in with something that was taught to me years ago, credited to someone, somewhere: all humans, regardless of where they live on this planet, have three things in common: We are born, we live, and we die. I think Jackson Brown's words help to fill in the details of living: we all are afraid of something, we all love something, and we have all lost something. I would add one more thing: we are all searching for answers to the questions that this universal commonality creates.

We search for answers in many places. We turn to others for help. We seek out friends and respected leaders and mentors. Sometimes we just open up to strangers, sharing things with them we would not share with someone we know. We study the scriptures, we pray for guidance, and seek God's presence in quiet reflection.

Yet what I have found time and time again, is that the answers I seek can be found within my faith community. It is found being in fellowship with my church family, within the worship ritual, bowed in prayer, singing hymns, and sharing the bread and cup of the Lord's table. For it is in the church's words and deeds that the questions that come from living on this planet find their answers – and most importantly, their purpose.

So, as you gather in worship this Sunday, look at the faces of those gathered with you. We all share things in common. We are all afraid of something;

we all have loved; and we all have lost something. All of which makes us vulnerable, fragile, and broken—but most importantly, not alone.

I look forward to walking, searching, and seeking in worship with you this and every Sunday.

Blessings,
~Pastor Richard



From the book, *Circle of Grace*, by Jan Richardson
Blessing When the World is Ending

Look, the world is always ending somewhere. Somewhere the sun has come crashing down.

Somewhere it has gone completely dark.

Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the knife, the fist.

Somewhere it has ended with the slammed door, the shattered hope.

Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows the news from the phone, the television, the hospital room.

Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart.

But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose. It has not come to cause despair.

It is simply here because **there is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending**, nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling apart.

This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another one closes.

It will simply sit itself beside you among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again.

Today, for me, this table is the blessing.

Thank you, Lord. You are with us and the source from which light comes to us. We are blessed.

Take Care,
~Fred



CWF NEWS

The Community Fun Day has kept us quite busy for the entire month of October. Watch for details (and photos) of the event in a future newsletter. Without lots of help, this type of event would not be possible. From flyer distribution to auction item collection, baking, cooking, help getting the bounce house & BBQ cooker, and working at the event, many hands make this event possible. Your assistance will make it possible to give back to the community. Thank you!

God Bless!
~Kay Ainsworth, CWF Director



CWF TUESDAY MORNING CIRCLE

Tuesday morning circle met at interlude Oct. 10 with 14 attending nice to have Gaby Wolverton with us. We hope she will come again. It was also nice to have Diana Love back with us.

After our delicious meal, we sang happy birthday to Nancy Griffith and presented her with a cake (after we sampled it). Donna went over some upcoming events. Elaine's lesson was on repentance. We read scripture and spoke of our experiences.

Our next meeting will be November 14, at 11:45. Come and join us to enjoy food, fellowship and Elaine's lesson.

~Donna Haulsee



MONDAY CWF WILL MEET

on November 20th. Please join us then and on the 3rd Monday of each month as we meet in Andy's Sunday School room at 7:00 pm.

~Carole Kerr



Busy times for youth....Fall activities, school, football games, sports....oh my!

~Abby Matschke



AFTERNOON DELIGHT

The next meeting will be at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, November 7th at the Schmidt home. Come and enjoy after you vote!

Hope to see you!
~Dick & Betty Barber



Church Family: Pat Allred, Vicki Anderson, Michael Ayers, Charles & Betty Boy, The Boyd Family, Ann Bradshaw, Duie Brantley Family, Nancy Griffith, Lucy Hall, Lena Jeffries, Skylar Jensen, Ruby Jones, Jeanne Lawrence, Mary Lee Leary, Diana & David Love, Val Mason, Dallas Mitchell, Perger Family, Susan Pruitt, Cecelia Ruskey, Ellen Sullivan, Phyllis Taylor, Jim Thacker, Richard Thiel, Doris Turner, Sarah Waid, Dennis Williams, Michelle Wright

Family and Friends: The professional and volunteer women and men who protect and defend us, our nation, Sascha Barrow & her unborn baby (Karen Barrow's daughter), Cynthia Dea (Kay Ainsworth's niece-in-law), Charles Friend (Emily Friend's brother), Ryan & Chris Hudgins (friends of Gene & Cheryl Johnson), David Hunt (Jim Hunt's brother), Robert & WMA Jefferson, (friends of Irma Gustafson), Barbara Johnson (Robin Moscati's mother), Janet Marshall Family (sister of Robin Moscati), David Martin (friend of Schmidts), Ken McCrickland (friend of Thackers), Susan Moffatt (friend of Schmidts), Becky Mullins (Stacey Mullins' Aunt), Bryson Phenicie (Dallas & Joann Mitchell's nephew), Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's twin sister), Noel (friend of Thackers), June Shipley (mother of Farm Fresh Manager), Susan (friend of Carole Kerr), Charlie Tench (Larry & Louise Smith's son-in-law), Rosemary Thomasson (Emily Friend's mother), Vicki Van Cleave (daughter-in-law of Jerry Van Cleave), Jamie Ware-Jondreau (friend of Carol Pitts)



The OBCC Family extends condolences to the Wolverton Family upon the passing of David Wolverton. Please keep all the family in your prayers. Services for David were here on October 8th.



The OBCC Family extends condolences to the Brantley Family upon the passing of Duie Brantley. Please keep all the family in your prayers. Services for Duie were here on October 16, with burial at Peninsula Memorial Park (Newport News) following the service.

Thank You! I have received wonderful news after my cancer treatment...my cancer appears to be inactive. Prayers from your church family were instrumental in my remission. The diagnosis was dire, but now looks brighter. I am so thankful to God and to you for your prayers and healing thoughts. I never discount the power of prayer.

~Marolyn Pierce (Carolyn Hunt's twin sister)



Donations of food and cash have greatly enhanced our mission to feed and care for the many needy families in our community. This partnership is key to their success.

~St. Olaf Food Pantry Ministry



Worship and Wonder (Ages 3-8)

November 5 Missy Harbour
 November 12 OPEN
 November 19 Ann Bradshaw
 November 26 Landa Simmons



November 5 OPEN
 November 12 Irma Gustafson
 November 19 Cindy & Robbie Robertson
 November 26 OPEN



SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS

The following scriptures will be used during the Sunday worship services this month.

The underlined passages are the primary passages for Pastor Richard's sermons.

November 5 Joshua 3: 7-17;
I Thessalonians 2: 9-13
 November 12 I Thessalonians 4: 3-18;
Matthew 25: 1-13
 November 19 Pslam 123;
I Thessalonians 5: 1-11
 November 26 Ephesians 1: 15-23;



SERVING THIS MONTH

Elders

November 5 Fred Rothermel, Robbie Robertson
 November 12 Donna Perger, Judy Eley
 November 19 Landa Simmons, Diana Love
 November 26 Norm Harbour, Missy Harbour

Deacons

November 5 Cindy Robertson, Lewis Williams
 Jane Hatcher, Will Hatcher
 November 12 Harold Barker, Patty Barker
 Mel Watson, Kaye Watson
 November 19 Janet Neal, Kevin Waid,
 Phyllis Taylor, Harold McKeel
 November 26 Linda Garrett, Maralyn Carr,
 Sheila Yeatts, Keeta Hodson

Deaconess

Barb Nicholson



01 Karen & David Barrow
 14 Matthew & Paula Tackett
 14 Richard & Barbara Thiel
 24 James & Sharon Pullen



- 01 Curt Griffin
- 02 Andy Bradshaw
- 02 Sandy Wanner
- 05 Lorraine Beasley
- 06 Hunter Creech III
- 06 Cheryl Johnson
- 08 Irma Gustafson
- 09 Danny B Pitts
- 10 Helen Bradshaw
- 10 Elaine Henk
- 13 Sean Gormus
- 15 Abby Matschke
- 18 Becky Allred
- 24 Richard Jones
- 25 Patricia Allred
- 25 Doug Dill
- 28 Jennifer Pullen
- 29 Chris Powell

to report that the program with Becky Watson, Music Therapist, moved along like a well-oiled machine. She presented a much-enjoyed program on *The Harvest*. She hauled in mountains of drums and other instruments for group participation. You should have heard Tyler on his drums! This was a time of reaping, I tell you!

It was a full day, as it was our 2nd birthday celebration. We remembered the three guests who now call heaven home. As the names of Joe Dombrowski, Bob Gustafson, and Naomi Marrow were called, bells were rung as a remembrance of them and their time with us. We made note of three more who are no longer able to attend due to increasing frailness. God blessed again with two new guests! And Donna blessed us with the cutest block Pumpkins for our Craft. BINGO provided many prizes for all to take home, along with Trick or Treat bags of goodies!

I know that no matter how hectic some days are, I need not fear the outcome. God provides me with many rewards: Tyler's belly laugh and watching Grandma Paula lovingly meet his needs month after month; Jeanne saying, "I'm so glad to see you today"; hugs and kisses to and from everyone; Angie's phone call later saying, "Thank you for my neck massage, it felt so good".

These things cost nothing but love on our part. Do you have some extra love you would like to share with these sweet friends of ours? We could use more loving hands to help us minister to their needs and to add joy to your life and theirs. Our Day out is on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Interested? Call me (757-206-1960).

Now I wonder, could I have planned any of this, had I tried? Thank you, Lord!

Love in Jesus Name, Blessings,
~Louise Smith, ODO Coordinator



FOOD SHARING PROGRAM UPDATE

Your grateful giving brings hope to the daily lives of our neighborhood families who benefit from your food donations. We are thankful for your grateful spirit! Thanks for your loving response to the needs of the least of those in our neighborhood.

Thankful with love,
~Jane & Will Hatcher



OBCC ANNUAL MEETING SET for **Sunday, November 12**, following the 11 AM service. Join your OBCC family in the New Fellowship Hall to hear important news....and to vote on the budget and leadership for 2018. Be part of the decisions that take OBCC forward into the new year!



OUR DAY OUT

Being Coordinator of ODO has caused me to totally lean on God as my best-laid plans are sometimes laid to waste!!! At our last gathering, I knew I had to reassign some of the Volunteers, as there were situations that cropped up and could not be changed. And things continued to change throughout the course of the morning... God stepped in the way He always does, and I'm happy



WALK WITH OBCC

The Walk was held on October 28th with many Disciple Walkers attending and walking. Watch for pictures and details to come.





WORLD OUTREACH NEWS



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SUCCESSFUL AGAIN!

Boxes appeared daily throughout October. The boxes will be taken to the drop center for shipping to children all over the world. Your generosity is awesome! You will put smiles on the faces of children who do not have much to smile about in their daily lives.



THANKSGIVING OFFERING SET FOR NOVEMBER 12 & 19

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the colleges, universities, and graduate theological institutions affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities encourage students in their intellectual pursuits and form them to make contributions to community, society, and the world.

Since the beginning of the movement, higher education has been a priority for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the legacy is reflected in the continuing successes of our educational institutions.

Our gift to the Thanksgiving offering helps to underwrite the education of students attending one of our 14 colleges & universities and 7 theological institutions. Thank you for participating and supporting this year's giving efforts.

Offering opportunities occur on November 12 & 19 during both services.

~Shelia Yeatts



74 HYGIENE KITS GO IN BUNCHES TO THOSE IN NEED....WITH LOVE

On October 13, I took kits to Hampton Christian Church to ship out. Many are still in need all around the world. Our outstanding effort will make a dent in that need. Just imagine what it must feel like to have soap and towel to clean up with after enduring a storm or fire disaster!

In His Name & Blessing
~Sheila Yeatts



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

All Saints' Sunday: 11/5
Thanksgiving Offering: 11/12 & 19
Congregational Meeting: 11/12 Noon
Community Thanksgiving Service: 11/19 4 PM
Decorate for Christmas: week of 11/27
Backstage Show: 12/8 7 PM
CWF Dinner: 12/11 6:30 PM



CHURCH SERVICE REMINDER

If you attend the later service at OBCC, be sure to join you OBCC family in the sanctuary at 10:55 AM to greet each other and hear all the important news before the worship service begins. By gathering for greeting and announcements just before 11, we can make sure that the service does not run too long....and that you can move on to other fun activities with your OBCC family or your own.

See you in the sanctuary at 10:55 AM!



ALL SAINTS' DAY: This service will be on Sunday, November 5th. On that day, we will remember our loved ones, friends, and church members who have passed away since last year's service. If you wish to have someone's name listed, please call or e-mail the church office by the end of Wednesday, November 1st. Please include a full name, month of death, and relationship.

NEW! On that Sunday, please bring a stand-alone candle to be used during the service for remembrance, if you wish.

NOTE: Names on the list as of publication date are: Louise Bell, Linda Joye, Russell Waid, Elizabeth Gardner Higgins Davis, David Duke, George (Jack) Barrow, David Vass, Robert Clayton Key, David Wolverton, Duie Brantley



STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE NEWS

This committee is working hard to prepare a budget for the upcoming Congregational Meeting this month (on November 12).

~Jim Hunt



REPORT OF THE OBCC NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Here is the list of nominees that will come before the congregation on November 12th:

BOARD CHAIRMAN (2-yr/2 term max)

Doug Dill

BOARD VICE CHAIR (2-yr/2 term max)

Robbie Robertson (2nd term)

RECORDING SECRETARY (2-yr/3 term max)

Maralyn Carr

TREASURER (2-yr/3 term max)

Cindy Robertson (to complete 1-yr of term)

CLERK (2-yr/3 term max)

Mary Lee Leary (2nd term)

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES (3-yr/2 term max)

Richard Bradshaw

Joyce Allen (2nd term)

ELDERS (3-yr/1 term max)

Bob Lawrence

Kim Riffle

Josh Fulgham

Chuck Walker

DEACONS (3-yr/1 term max)

Donna Haulsee

Andrew Pfister

Linda Williams

Janet Dombrowski

Stacy Mullins

Mary Lee Leary

Val Mason

Lisa Day (new term)

DEACONESS (2-Yr/2 term max)

Karen Marrow

Barb Schmidt

Nancy Griffith (2nd term)

TRUSTEE (5-yr/2 term max)

Kay Ainsworth

Respectfully Submitted,

~Missy Harbour, Jane Hatcher, Carole Kerr, Elaine Henk, Norm Harbour

Nominating Committee, 2017



FAMILY NIGHT BEGINS NEW SERIES: on November 1st. This 4-week series, taught by Andy Bradshaw, will review Disciples of Christ history. Plan to join in the food and fellowship each session beginning at 6 PM. (NOTE: The November 22nd session may be moved to November 29th. Watch for details).



NOVEMBER IS A BUSY MONTH! REMEMBER TO:



November 4

Change Clocks Before Bed
(Fall Back 1 Hour-2 AM on Sunday)



November 5

All Saints Sunday
Bring a stand-alone candle



November 7

Election Day 6 AM – 7 PM



November 11

Say Thanks to a Vet
(Federal Holiday: Nov 10)



November 12

Thanksgiving Offering
Congregational Meeting



November 19

Thanksgiving Offering
Upper County Churches
Community Service
4 PM St. Olaf's Catholic Church



November 19

Holiday Decorating
2 PM

A crew of 6 is needed to make light work of this effort. Please contact Sheila Yeatts to if you can help (seyeatts@gmail.com or 757-880-3317)



November 24

Thanksgiving Day (OFFICE CLOSED)

November 25

Thanksgiving Friday (OFFICE CLOSED)



November 29

Bethlehem Walk Begins
(thru Dec 3rd)



**BACKSTAGE SHOW COMING
ON DECEMBER 8:**

The Backstage Production troupe will share its latest show with the OBCC family at 7 PM on December 8 in the New Fellowship Hall. It's their way of saying thank you for all that the OBCC does for them. Plan to join them for a brief performance of *Oliver Twist & the Christmas Cantata*.



BETHLEHEM WALK



Ask Jim & Paula Thacker about their experience with this unique outing:

Bethlehem Walk will return again beginning Wednesday, November 29, 2017. The interactive outdoor drama where guests experience first century Bethlehem continues through Sunday, December 3rd. As you enter the city, allow the sights, sounds and smells to carry you to a period of time that changed the world. Journey through the heart of the city to the marketplace that is bustling with activity from over a dozen authentic shops; enjoy samples from the baker's shop, see the blacksmith at work making crucifixion nails, marvel at the potter's crafts and listen for the rumor of a king's birth from excited townspeople.

Since its inaugural season in 2003, Bethlehem Walk has thrilled and emotionally touched visitors from across the Commonwealth. Each season, Salem partners with various area churches to reach thousands of people with this interactive Gospel drama that takes visitors through scenes ranging from the entrance of the Savior into the world to an empty Jewish tomb.

The tour is outside and takes approximately 45 minutes. Wait times for the event could be anywhere from 1 to 3 hours. Dress appropriately for the weather. The rough terrain is not suitable for wheelchairs; however we do have "chariots" to accommodate you. Admission is free and parking is available on the property. Shuttle service is provided to and from satellite parking locations. Donations to help defray all associated costs are accepted, and Bethlehem Walk T-Shirts will be available for purchase (all proceeds go towards associated expenses).

Bethlehem Walk is Salem's holiday "gift" to the community. Many families will take their children to

see Santa Claus at the mall this year. Bethlehem Walk is a way to experience the true meaning of Christmas.

Bethlehem Walk relies on the generous contributions of the members of Salem Baptist Church and our community. If you, your family, or your company would like to be a part of this community outreach, please consider becoming a Bethlehem Walk Partner. You can support Bethlehem Walk by making a contribution to assist in defraying the many costs that go into making this drama happen. Donations may be made at Bethlehem Walk in the fellowship tent or sent to the Cardwell Campus address.

2017 Schedule

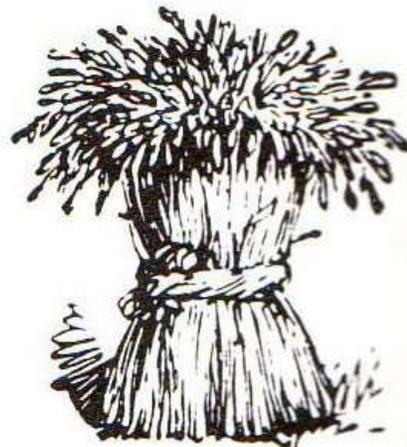
- November 29, 2017, 6 – 9 PM
- November 30, 2017, 6 – 9 PM
- December 1, 2017, 6 – 10 PM
- December 2, 2017, 4 – 9 PM
- December 3, 2017, 3 – 8 PM

Location

Salem Baptist Church (Broad Street Campus)
465 Broad Street Road, Manakin, VA 23103 (6 miles west of Short Pump)

Corporate Partners

- Gravel; Luck Stone
- Portable restroom facilities; S.B. Cox
- Chicken sandwiches; Chick-Fil-A
- Generosity of local community business leaders





The Olive Branch

NFH=New Fellowship Hall
 OFH=Old Fellowship Hall
 EB=Education Building
 SANC=Sanctuary

November 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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<div style="text-align: center;">12</div> <p>8:30 AM Worship 9:30 AM Dominion Village 9:45 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship & Wonder Church 12:30 PM Congregation Annual Mtg (NFH) Thanksgiving Offering</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">13</div> <p>10:00 AM Prayer Group (EB)</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">14</div> <p>10:00 AM TOPS (OFH) 11:45 AM CWF Tuesday Morning Circle (All are welcome. Please bring a dish to share. (Interlude-5395 Riverview Rd) 6:30 PM Hand Bells Rehearsal (OFH) 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal (SANC)</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">15</div> <p>6:00 PM Family Night (NFH)</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">16</div> <p>10:30 AM Disciples Men Bible Study (EB) 5:00 PM Burrnt Ordinary Meal 7:30 PM Handchimes (OFH)</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">17</div> <p>5:00 PM Backstage Productions (EB)</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">18</div>																																																																																											
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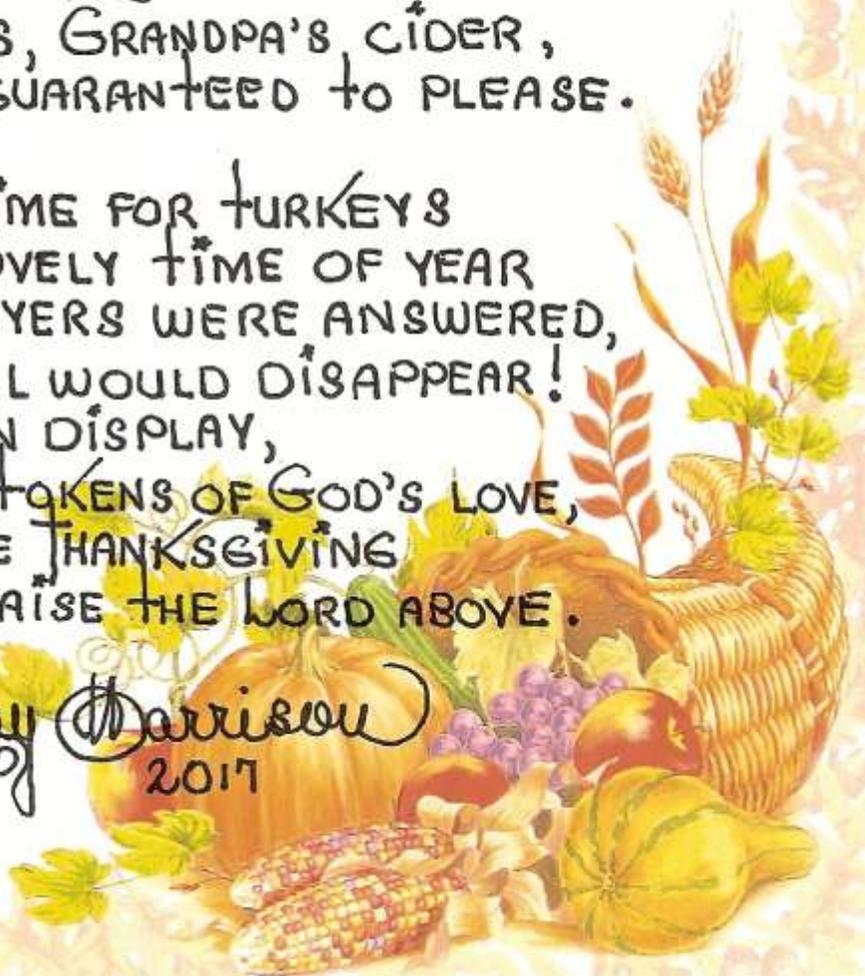
THE GRACE OF GRATITUDE

BETWEEN SUMMER'S HEAT AND WINTER'S CHILL,
NATURE SETS A PENSIVE MOOD
AS WE CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING
DURING AUTUMN'S INTERLUDE.
THERE IS A GRACE OF GRATITUDE
ON SMOKY DREAM-FILLED DAYS
WHEN WE PAUSE TO COUNT OUR BLESSINGS
AND OFFER GOD OUR PRAISE.

WE GATHER WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY,
GIVE THANKS FOR DAILY THINGS,
FOR THE BOUNTY OF THE HARVEST
AND JOYS THAT FREEDOM BRINGS.
IT IS A TIME TO REMINISCE,
FOR SHARING RECIPES -
GRANDMA'S PICKLES, GRANDPA'S CIDER,
EACH GUARANTEED TO PLEASE.

IT'S A FEARFUL TIME FOR TURKEYS
THIS LOVELY TIME OF YEAR
FOR IF THEIR PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED,
THEY ALL WOULD DISAPPEAR!
NATURE'S ART IS ON DISPLAY,
GRAND TOKENS OF GOD'S LOVE,
AS WE CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING
AND PRAISE THE LORD ABOVE.

May Harrison
2017





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November

