

A Word From the Publisher

Thanksgiving...what a special day it was! Of course, fall is my favorite time of the year. I love the colors of fall and I have an obsession of sorts with pumpkins! I just love to purchase them early and place them all around our yard. We don't carve any, as I leave that up to our children to handle that for the grandchildren! Have I told you how long a pumpkin can survive if it is not carved? Umm...several months. I believe our last one last year survived until March. It's crazy but I love them. I did have a little issue this year with a couple of my pumpkins. We have had them for several



years and nothing has ever bothered them except for this year. I caught two squirrels sitting on top of two of my prettiest ones. Now they weren't sharing...they each picked one. Funny thing was (of course I didn't see anything funny about it) I think they were the only ones interested in them! They were just sitting at the top near the stem and scratching. Of course, I ran them off. The next morning, they were sitting on them, scratching out a little bit of pumpkin and eating it. I ran out there, found me a towel and covered them up. I was so aggravated. Once Roger got up he saw that I must have started war with our little rodents! Of course, once they broke through and realized the entire thing wasn't all full, they lost interest.

I'm not really sure what peeked their interest this year to scratch into my pumpkins but I'm pretty sure they don't think kindly of me anymore. In fact, I think they sit in the tree sometimes and throw acorns at me! Now it seems kind of comical to me that the squirrels had me

so irritated. All they were looking for was something else to eat besides our acorns and bird seed!

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving at our home with my parents, children, grandchildren, brother, nieces and nephews. It was a wonderful time of eating and visiting. Friday we (Roger, me & my parents) went over to visit my sister and her oldest son (and children) who were visiting from Texas. We had a great time just spending time with them! Sunday, Roger's mom came over and had lunch with us! The week was so wonderful! We have many, many reasons to be thankful!

I listened to my daughter telling about asking some of the children at school what were they thankful for? Many really didn't know what that meant. Oh...we have so much to be thankful for! As we wake up each morning, be thankful. It is only by the grace of God who gives us the breath to breathe that we wake up. Yes...our breath. And it goes on from there. When we can find many things to worry and complain about it is so much easier to be thankful.

As we draw nearer to Christmas, my prayer is that each morning we all begin our day with a prayer of thanks to our Heavenly Father! For without Him...we are nothing. Let's not all get trapped in purchasing, shopping and stressful ways of the season but remember the True Reason for The Season!

Have a blessed week!

Dawn S. West