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HILLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

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Making a Difference in the Lives of People Through the Power of Jesus Christ

www.hillendalebaptist.org

Little things, small happenings can have big and long-lasting consequences for good or evil. Did you know, for example, that the infamous feud between the Hatfield's and the McCoy's started over a hog that both families claimed to own? How much better for them and their descendants if they had divided the poor pig, turning the misunderstanding into a celebration or a picnic!

Instead, they allowed the quarrel to build up, like a windstorm sweeping down a mountain into a valley where nothing can stop the wild wind until it is spent. The bitterness, anger, and hatred between the Hatfield's and the McCoy's became a way of life for them for more than forty years, and it was not over until there were freshly dug graves on both sides of the fence.

Remember when you played house as a kid? Some small thing would happen and that was the end! Bingo. I'm taking my marbles and going home. We adults do the same. I'll quit coming to church if you don't do what I want, or if you don't sing my songs, or if....

November is a time of beauty and transition to the darker days of winter. Get ready for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Thelma and I really appreciated the cards, thoughts and gifts during Pastor Appreciation month. It is hard to believe I preached my first sermon at Hillendale in May of 1990!

Hope to see you in church Sunday.

Birthdays In November

Sarah Stephenson	November 5
David Brown	November 14
Steven Holt	November 14
Garry Scutt	November 19
Darryl White	November 22
David Critchfield	November 24

Anniversaries In November

David & Maureen Holt November 7

WHO WILL SAY GRACE?

A hot, glistening bird commands the laden table, as grandma calls everyone to dinner. Eight-year-old Jennifer proudly lugs her July-born sister to the table. Grandpa and dad get up slowly with a long backward glance to see the tight end catch a pass and be forced out of bounds at the twenty. The game continues in the background without them.

"Who'll say grace?" grandma asks. Grown-ups look awkwardly at each other in strained silence. Finally Uncle John snickers and parrots the word "grace," and laughter spills over the tension. Grandma steps in. "Jennifer, why don't you say the prayer you learned in Sunday School when you were in kindergarten." She recites. The feast begins.

Embarrassed silence replaces thanksgiving, gluttony displaces gratefulness. Thanksgiving--an expression of gratitude to God for benefits received--is too often absent from our hollow holiday. There is, however, an ancient custom which can reclaim the day.

We read, Jesus "took the seven loaves and the fish, and when he had given thanks, he broke them and

gave them to the disciples." At the Last Supper Jesus took bread and gave thanks, lifted the cup, gave thanks and offered it to His followers. Jesus always prayed before meals.

We can, too. A simple prayer of thanks at each family meal of the year will gradually restore thankfulness to us. As our children see us humble ourselves to thank our Creator, they too learn to be grateful. Robert Lintner said it well: "Thanksgiving was never meant to be shut up in a single day."

This habit of family thankfulness can begin round our tables this Thanksgiving--the first of many prayers of thanks to be offered, not just by Jennifer, but by her thankful mother and father as well.

- All who coordinated, decorated and participated in the celebration of the HBC's 37th birthday.
- Patricia Hartmann and the Fellowship Committee for coordinating the Harvest Fest and all who attended.
- Garry, the choir, musicians, soloists and all participants in the All Music Service on October 31st.