

Ladies of the Lake – November 2019  
by Barbara Galvin

On a brisk day, November 6, 2019, the Ladies of the Lake met at the pavilion to think Thanksgiving and to celebrate early with friends.

The hostesses, Darlyne Ackers and Barbara Galvin, made the pavilion look like Autumn is supposed to look, at least on the Hallmark cards. So, lovely colored leaves made the orange tablecloths glow with red, orange, and yellow. (Our “real” Autumn changed its mind and left many green leaves around, until snow and ice knocked them to the ground!)

After thanking the Lord for our food and one another, the ladies were happy to sample some hearty dishes. Stuffed Pepper Soup was the first stop before sampling Alfredo-Vegetable Lasagna and scalloped potatoes plus a favorite, especially in cold weather, chicken and noodles. An old recipe with a new spin, 7-Layer Salad, was also enjoyed.

This group of ladies never needs reminding “to save room for dessert.” THEY KNOW! The desserts were scrumptious. There were brownies, cinnamon bread, chocolate chip muffins, plus a decadent strawberry-whipped cream dessert. Not to forget everyone’s favorite: Truffle cheesecake and apple-cherry pie, plus frosted sugar cookies.

Jane Stevens called the ladies to order to discuss the Christmas Party, at Lake Bracken on December 4 at 11:30AM. The December hostesses are Cindy Hanning, Elizabeth Hiel, and Kay McKinley. A grab bag exchange will be held with gifts of \$10.00. The hostesses would also like to repeat the cookie exchange that was so popular last year. So, if you have a delicious cookie recipe for Christmas, please share cookies with us.

Jane Stevens gave the treasury report and passed around the sign-up sheet for hostesses for 2020.

Once business was over, the ladies relaxed to think about their blessings and also to remember either the best Thanksgiving Day celebration or the worst one.

Barbara Jonckheere began the narratives with her worst Thanksgiving, when the pipes in the house burst and the bathtub became the substitute dish washer. But, never fear, Barbara also had a best Thanksgiving Day memory when twelve members of the family flew to Florida for four days. They were celebrities as Barbara’s brother-in-law led a parade through the neighborhood in one of his antique cars.

Sharon Butler volunteered her memory of her worst Thanksgiving, when she poured boiling hot water into a punch bowl for punch of course, but when the hot water hit the glass, the punch bowl split in half. That wasn’t the worst part! Her guest had to do a quick change to avoid being scalded by the hot water which flowed his way. There’s one to try to forget.

Sandy Morrow just remembered sad Thanksgiving Days, because her family was unable to visit. We hope this year is different, Sandy! Tell them you’re celebrating Christmas in November! (It might work...)

Barb Dunlap remembered “extravaganzas” at her business, where 200 people would bring dishes, with the blessing of the boss, whose idea was to share. Imagine 200 different dishes!

Barbara Galvin remembered Thanksgiving Day as part of hunting season in northern Wisconsin. The table rarely had turkey! Instead, there were gourmet dishes of venison roasts, pheasant, quail, maybe bear, and other wild meats from the freezer for all to enjoy.

Judy Brown remembered the Thanksgiving Day dinner that wasn’t! A tremendous snowstorm made traveling impossible. (We tried to come up with a date. Maybe 1967 or 1979?)

Pam Gaskill shared her Thanksgiving Day without invited guests in the 1980’s, when the snow would not stop. But Pam said the neighbors got together and shared their dishes, because no one had out-of-town visitors.

Sandy Morrow shared a funny Thanksgiving Day phone call, when her son called and asked her, "Mom, what do you do for frozen turkey?" Sandy replied, "no turkey," so change the menu.

Sandy's story also jogged everyone's memory of the Butterball Turkey Hot Line that answers all questions. It is the busiest time of the year!

One thing leads to another and soon we were sharing how many of us had cooked the bag of giblets inside the turkey, because we did not know it was inside the turkey! That's how we learn if we live long enough!

Ladies of the Lake enjoying the pre-turkey celebration were Darlyne Ackers, Patty Anderson, Kay McKinley, Barb Dunlap, Sharon Butler, Barbara Jonckheere, Pam Gaskill, Sandy Morrow, Jane Stevens, Judy Brown, and Barbara Galvin.

Please remember to count your blessings and to give thanks to the good Lord. We all have so many people who love us, even if they don't say so. Love shows us.

Make a date to share December 4 with the Ladies of the Lake at Lake Bracken. Bring your favorite Christmas cookies to share. Wrap a grab bag gift for \$10.00 and prepare to have a wonderful luncheon. See you on December 4.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!