



News of Hope

Our only hope is in Him who died that we might live. Romans 5: 1-10

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DATES OF INTEREST

November 9-12
Harvest Festival
Agriculture & Forestry
Museum
www.mdac.state.ms.us

December 2-4
Chimneyville Crafts
Festival
601-981-0019

Holiday Decorating Ideas

Create inexpensive decorations by using the things in your yard or pantry.

✠ Young and old alike enjoy stringing popcorn and cranberries for decorations.

✠ Make paper chains as advent calendars. Allow children to tear off one link of chain each day. Write a scripture verse of the Christmas story and discuss it that day.

✠ Bring in fresh berries and branches from your yard or the roadside. The smell alone will put you in the holiday spirit.

Looking back...

As the year draws to an end, we relish the opportunity to sit back and take it all in. This buzzing, whirling, hectic time of complete disorganization and chaos has been one of the most satisfying times of our lives!

The house here at the farm was completed just a few weeks before the blueberries and blackberries began coming off the bush. Our oldest daughter and her family then moved from Wiggins to Starkville. Shortly after that, our youngest daughter and her family moved in at the farm to complete the renovation of their home. Guess who was involved in all three moves. I always thought that as we got older, we would be respected for our knowledge and wisdom, not our muscles. It's good to know that I can still pitch in and help. However, I informed my son that he had

better not move anytime soon.

In the midst of all this, we were busy with the new Farmers Market, Belhaven Markets and other festivals and markets around the state, as well as pickers here at the farm. We learned much through all of this; what a joy it was to experience



A beautiful and bountiful fruit harvest came in this year.

it with you, our customers and friends.

We began this journey with more than food production in mind, and we haven't been disappointed in our efforts. Our hope is that every visitor at the farm and every customer at the markets will take away from the experience, not only nourishment for the body, but some of God's grace to nourish the soul.

Whether at market or here at the farm, you blessed our hearts with your presence and attitude. Our prayer for you is that God will richly bless you through His Son. Thank you for allowing us to share God's blessings with you. Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

In His love,

Blueberry Pound Cake

1/2 cup butter
3 eggs
3 1/2 cups self-rising flour
2 cups sugar
4 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
1 cup milk

Allow butter and eggs to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Grease 10-inch bundt pan.

Beat the butter and sugar in a bowl until the mixture is well combined. Beat in eggs.

Stir blueberries into flour. By hand, stir blueberry and flour mixture into butter mixture. Stir in milk just until combined. Spread batter into prepared pan.

Bake in a 325°F oven for 60 to 75 minutes or until a wooden skewer inserted near center section comes out clean. Cool

on a wire rack for 15 minutes. Loosen cake from edge of pan with a narrow metal spatula. Remove cake from pan. Cool completely on wire rack.

Garnish if desired.

*Better Homes and Gardens,
August 2005*

Stress-Free Holiday Celebrations

So often, we come into the holiday season with the best intentions to enjoy the time with our family and friends. However, it doesn't take long before things are out of control and we dread the time from November until the New Year. There are a few things you can do to ensure a holiday season full of joy, rather than frustration.

1. **Plan**-Take some time now to plan for the upcoming season. Whether you are hosting an intimate get-together, or hosting all of your family for an extended stay, imagine how you

would like the season's activities to occur. Then take the time to plan the menus, sleeping arrangements, decorations, activities for the children, etc. Simply let your mind go, and then put it down on paper.

2. **Take inventory and shop in advance**-Look thoroughly through your pantry and see what you will need for the holiday baking, parties and meals. One meal often overlooked is breakfast. When you have overnight guests, breakfast for a crowd can frazzle even the best

of homemakers. Try an easy breakfast casserole you can make the night before. After you know what you will need, shop well in advance to avoid the crowds.

3. **Pray**-Pray over your home and family before the holiday madness sets in. Ask God for patience and a joyful holiday experience with those around you. Remember what we celebrate with Thanksgiving and Christmas, and praise God for that.

Happy planning for a happy holiday season!

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Romans 5: 1-10*

Our Story of Hope

When we purchased the property that comprises Hope Fruit & Berry Farm in 2000, it was covered with woods. After clearing the land, we went about building a farm.

While our emphasis has been on blueberries, we have also planted blackberries, raspberries, muscadines and grapes. We set out peach, apple and pear trees, and hope they will be producing fruit in the coming years. Recently we tried our hands at strawberries.

Our desire is to grow the things that God will allow us to grow, and to share them with you all for his glory. During the fruit season, we take our produce to several festivals and markets across the state. We would be happy to notify you of our schedule when it is available. Also, please feel free to visit us here at the farm to pick your own fruit. This can be a wonderful family outing, a field trip for the kids, or a great way to spend a solitary morning. If you are interested in canning your fruit or growing your own, we can supply you with information on that as well.

Our family has been so richly blessed in this work; we hope that you will come and share with us in God's glorious bounty. We hope to see you soon!