

Shine on Harvest Moon

Preparation and Decorations

Hold this activity in a gym, a large fellowship hall or an old barn. Weather permitting, it could be held outside.

Decorate with bales of hay, pumpkins, corn stalks, dried leaves, apples, gourds and other fruits and vegetables. For table centerpieces, spray sealant on small pumpkins and decorate with raffia, ribbon, cinnamon sticks, dried flowers and baby's breath. Use a hot glue gun to attach the decorations. These can then be used as prizes for the games played during the evening.

Refreshments

Serve homemade soup, chili or hot chocolate and caramel apples.

Sing-a-long

Some suggested songs are: "Sailing Along on Moonlight Bay," "Shine on Harvest Moon," "Buffalo Gals, Won't You Come Out Tonight?"

Activity

Invite a square dance group to demonstrate their talent or ask a square dance caller to teach this form of dance to the women.

Games

Pumpkin Presumption

Have the women guess the exact weight of several large pumpkins used as part of the decoration.

Harvest Bingo

Give each participant a bingo type card on which is printed harvest related words, such as: fall, pumpkin, harvest, fruit, gourd, farmer, tractor, field, wheat, beans, corn, apples, leaves. The caller draws these words from a plastic pumpkin. The first participant with a bingo wins.

Harvest Relay

Form two teams, each divided into two lines and standing a distance away from each other. The first member of each team receives the following message, "The harvest moon is shining brightly on the silvery fields in the city of Spartanburg, in the state of South Carolina." She reads the message, discards it and then runs across the room to the next person on her team and whispers it in her ear. She cannot repeat the message. That player then

runs back across the room to the next team member. This is repeated until all members have participated. The last player writes out the message as she heard it. The team who gets the message closest to the original wins.

Song Title Challenge

From the list given below match the song title with the musical show. The answers appear in parenthesis.

Think of Me (*Phantom of the Opera*)
Bali Hai (*South Pacific*)
Poor Jud is Dead (*Oklahoma*)
Getting to Know You (*The King and I*)
The Rain in Spain (*My Fair Lady*)
Maria (*West Side Story*)



Fellowship October 2003
Major Beth Petrie
Central Territory

I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean (*Brigadoon*)
If Ever I Would Leave You (*Camelot*)
My Favorite Things (*The Sound of Music*)
Goodnight, Ladies (*The Music Man*)
Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee! (*Grease*)
Silver Bells (*The Lemon Drop Kid*)
Put 'em Back the Way they Wuz! (*L'il Abner*)
New York, New York! (*On the Town*)
Luck, Be a Lady! (*Guys and Dolls*)

Musicals

The Lemon Drop Kid; The Music Man; The Sound of Music; Guys and Dolls; On the Town; South Pacific; L'il Abner; Phantom of the Opera; Brigadoon; Oklahoma; The King and I, Camelot, West Side Story; My Fair Lady, Grease

God's Abundant Provisions

Ask several women to read Psalm 100:1-5 from different translations. Sing the chorus, "I Will Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving in my Heart." Play or have sung as a solo the Ray Boltz song "Seasons Change."

"Harvest moon" is the name given to the full moon that occurs nearest the autumnal equinox. In the Northern Hemisphere, this occurs on September 22 or 23. The moon rises at about the same time for several nights and shines with such brightness that farmers in northern Europe and Canada can work until late at night to take in the fall harvest.

Many times while driving in the country late at night, I have noticed farmers toiling into the darkness to bring in their crops before an anticipated storm or drought. The joy of a job completed and a plentiful harvest drives these dedicated, tireless workers.

Most of us city folk cannot relate to this particular sense of achievement, yet we benefit daily from it. In America, we can stroll down grocery store aisles overflowing with fruit and produce from all parts of the world. We can stop at roadside markets and sample fresh sweet melons, berries, jams and vegetables.

The bounty of our country is a symbol of God's provision and faithfulness. Psalm 100:5 reminds us, "For the Lord is good ... His faithfulness continues through all generations." The food we enjoy is a combination of the efforts and hard work of man and the nurturing care of God. His faithfulness has been passed down through the ages to our generation, and we are its recipients.

The next time you bite into an apple or cut into a steak, take a few minutes to think about all the people who helped to make this possible. The farmer who sowed the seed, the laborer who harvested the crop, the worker who butchered the cow, and the grocer, who brought it to your town, were all a part of the process. But above all, we need to thank the infinitely loving Creator who made it all possible.