

November 2008



*Rio in the
Leaves*

INTERESTING THINGS FOR LIVING AND GIVING

Riversong Studio

Falling In!

Wow! It was my intention to get a newsletter out when fall first started. In fact, I had most of it written, but because I didn't finish and send it, what I wrote back then no longer applies. Apparently I was busy enjoying the season and got distracted! So here goes another attempt now that fall is almost over...

It sure was a gorgeous autumn! It seemed the trees were extra beautiful and bright, illuminating the ground around them with a brilliant light. Now the leaves are mostly off the trees, Halloween and the election is behind us, and the hunters are getting ready for their big day outdoors. We are all looking forward to the holidays that are just around the corner.

I absolutely love Thanksgiving. It is such a wonderful, peace-filled time when we remind ourselves to count our blessings. Even if the economy is slow and the world events may not be what we'd choose, we still are

extremely blessed in this country and can be thankful for that!

My newest blessing, Little Rio, is such a joy. I can honestly say I am soaking her up every day. I often hear how great it is to be a grandparent because people feel more relaxed and don't sweat the small stuff. So maybe because I am older and have been through it a few times, I am more relaxed with her. I enjoy watching her every move and her thought processes as she learns new things. Even something as simple as a leaf is a piece of fascination to her. And her smile is just contagious! Another blessing, Mason, is thankfully thriving in school this year, having turned a corner in his own learning process. He is looking forward to snow so badly that the little bit we got last Saturday morning absolutely thrilled him. His shouts of joy woke us all up at 6 a.m. Even though it was his day off, he ran right out to make a tiny snowman before breakfast! Wouldn't

it be great to look forward to snow like a kid again? Carter has been industrious outside, raking leaves without being told, just as long as he can use the bucket on the tractor to pick them up, kind of like a huge dustpan! My oldest son Chandler got the call that he leaves for Air Force basic training on February 3rd, so I am really enjoying him when he's around, knowing in a couple months he'll be so far away!

Now the days are getting colder and the colors of nature are fading away. Without the bright colors of flowers or leaves to look at, nothing is as cheery as the twinkle of white Christmas lights or a single candle light in a house window, especially now that it gets dark so early. So I will be putting lights wherever I can this season to chase away the gloom!

I hope your Thanksgiving is healthy and happy, and that there are too many blessings in your life to count!

Garden Time

Don't forget to protect any shrubs and trees from animals over winter if you haven't already. Last winter the deer devoured my newly planted shrubs right in the yard, and the hungry rabbits got after some shrubs they usually ignore. So this winter I will be putting fencing around them!

Instant Relaxation:

This winter when you are rubbing hand lotion into your dry hands, take a moment to then rub the back of your neck. You will be surprised how great it feels! It's just like a tiny massage to unwind some stress and takes only seconds.

Dates Of Interest:

Holly Days Trail

November 21, 22 & 23

Annual Deer Hunting Weekend

Holiday Open House

Pick up a map of participating shops! Each shop will donate an item available for blind auction bidding. The proceeds will benefit the Appleton area Salvation Army. Also, register at every location for a chance to win the huge Grand Prize themed gift basket "A Warm and Cozy Christmas" filled with items donated by every store! A \$250 value!

Giving Thanks Sale!

November 28, 29 and 30th

Enjoy coffee and cookies while you browse. Also, share your blessings and save! For every canned good you donate, take 20% off one item. Unlimited number of canned goods = unlimited savings!

December 6th

Fremont's Old Fashioned Christmas

Join us in downtown Fremont for a fun-filled family time! Events include gingerbread house contest, Best Soup in town, 1 mile Jingle Jog, bingo, raffle prizes and Christmas parade. Early registration for Jingle Jog is November 28th.

See our website for details!

www.fremontriverrun.org

Riversong Studio's Autumn Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday (10-5);

Sunday (12 to 4). Closed Mondays.

www.riversong-studio.com

If you need anything this holiday season—special hours, a custom gift basket, or a gift certificate—just let me know!

Baked Apple Pancake

It's become a tradition in our house that Sunday morning means a special breakfast. Carter recently told me he loves Sundays best because that's when we all eat breakfast together. One of his requests? This easy, but special dish!

- 6 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup flour
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 to 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 large Granny Smith apples
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar

Blend together the eggs, milk, flour, sugar, vanilla, salt and cinnamon. Put butter in a 9 x 13 inch glass baking pan. Put in a 425 degree oven to melt (not burn). Remove from oven when melted. Peel apples and slice thin. Arrange apple slices in bottom of pan over the butter. Put back in over till butter sizzles. Remove and pour blended ingredients slowly over the apples. Sprinkle with brown sugar. Bake at 425 for 20 minutes. It puffs when baking. Test for doneness and serve immediately with maple syrup, if desired. This is especially good with a little piece of ham for flavor and a great cup of coffee!

New Stuff!



New Popcorn Tops - a fun, stretchy shirt you have to try on to believe how good it looks. Beautiful colors look great alone or under a jacket. Origami styles reveal crinkles of color underneath! Only \$18.

Swap Watches Are Back! After so many requests, I've reordered the popular watch with bead bands. New looks to choose from! A great gift for 16!



Mitts by Jude: Lined, wool mittens handmade from recycled sweaters, in all sorts of funky color combinations! Really warm and only \$25!



Host, gift basket or Wedding Gifts: Monogram Cheese board w/spreader (\$19.95), monogram wine bottle topper (\$9.95) or elegant monogram coaster set