

“We couldn’t afford to make a whole Thanksgiving dinner for 20 people.”

Sarah Naji  
Sophomore

**Thanksgiving I**  
Two roommates celebrate the holiday early by throwing a pot-luck for their friends

Continued from Page 9

“In the previous years, I was the guest of several of my friends in their house, and they had really traditional Thanksgiving dinners,” Stoyanova said. “It was so much food. I’ve never eaten so much.”

Stoyanova enjoys Thanksgiving’s family atmosphere. She said Americans need to spend more time with their family than they actually do, a concept that is more common in Europe.

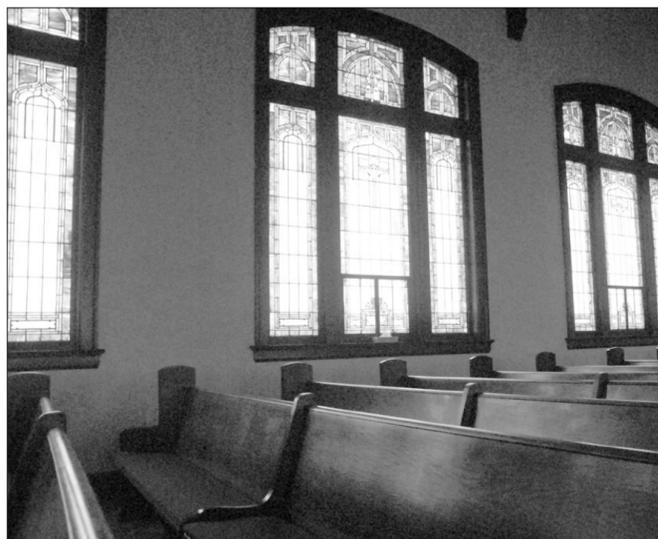
She is planning to have a Thanksgiving dinner with her friends where — European and Indian styles will be represented.

“It won’t be like the pure tradition, but we will keep the turkey and smash[ed] potatoes,” she said.

Freshman Linh Dao of Vietnam also will not travel home for Thanksgiving Break. She said she decided to leave her residence hall to go to an off-campus friend’s apartment during the break, with her other Vietnamese friends.

“I’m planning to do a big Thanksgiving dinner with my friends,” Linh Dao said. “I think I will cook some food with them, but not really in the pure American tradition.”

On the menu, spring rolls will replace turkey and mashed potatoes. This unusual food for a Thanksgiving dinner is not a problem for Dao. She said she already experienced a Thanksgiving dinner last year with her host family in Texas. Thanksgiving is not celebrated in Vietnam, she said she just does not feel the need to do anything special for it.



Brian O’Shaughnessy/Index

Author Georgia Walter wrote a book describing the history of the First Presbyterian Church, which is located on the corner of McPherson and High streets. Walter writes in her book about the many transformations that the church underwent throughout the years.

# Author tells church story

BY SHANNON WALTER  
Staff Reporter

## Historical Places

The First Presbyterian Church on the corner of McPherson and High streets was once two separate churches, occupied several buildings and worshipped outside during some time in Kirksville’s history.

Georgia Walter, author of “The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirksville, Mo.,” said she has been a member of the church since 1938 when her family moved to Kirksville. She was part of the Centennial Committee formed to celebrate 100 years and was appointed to put together the short book. Walter was the director of the library at A.T. Still University of Health Sciences for 17 years and has written several other books, including the “First School of Osteopathic Medicine” and “The First D.O., Dr. Andrew Taylor Still.”

Presbyterianism in Kirksville dates back to 1846 when the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was established, according to “The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirksville, Mo.” Reverend James Dysart came to Kirksville only five years after the small settlement had been established. The members started the Cumberland Academy in 1859, where the congregation used the auditorium for their worship and rented

it to other churches for worship. The building eventually was sold to Joseph Baldwin, who used the building to start the State Normal School, now Truman State University.

“The Cumberland Academy was built where Memorial Park is now,” Walter said. “It was a nice two-story building, and it was never completely finished. They used it for a hospital during the Civil War. Then it was finally sold to Joseph Baldwin.”

The old First Presbyterian Church was established in 1857. According to “The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirksville, Mo.,” One of the founders, W.P. Mason, erected what is said to be the first schoolhouse on the corner of Florence and Buchanan streets where he taught classes and allowed members to worship in the school on Sundays. The members commissioned to build their own church in 1868 on the corner of McPherson and Franklin streets, where Sieren’s Palace currently is located. It was the first brick church in Kirksville, but the church burned down in 1892.

“I like the part in history where

we switched churches with the Baptists,” Walter said. “The Baptists had erected a brick building at McPherson and High streets, which they found was too big for their needs. So in 1877, there was an exchange of properties. So that’s the current building we’re in.”

The merger of the two churches happened in 1906 when the pastor of Cumberland resigned. Their members were invited to the old First Presbyterian, and they began to worship together.

Jeanette Hartje is a current member who has been very involved in the church as a deacon, an elder and a member of the congregation since 1957.

“When I first became a member, the sanctuary extended in the front where the choir used to sit, and the organ was there,” Hartje said. “The organ pipes were exposed, and it was really beautiful.”

The church has added on to the original building several times, according to “The History of the First Presbyterian Church of Kirksville, Mo.” In 1922, much of the construction was completed, and in 1923 the new sanctuary, activities area, Sunday school classrooms, offices, a kitchen and restrooms were completed.

“We have added on so many different times,” Hartje said. “So now the brick doesn’t match perfectly,

and the newest portion of the building is a huge maze.”

The newest addition, known as the Traver’s Addition, was constructed in 1985 to the back end of the church. The wing has classrooms, a kitchenette, restrooms and easy access from the parking lot for elderly members.

Mary Giovannini grew up as a member of the church. She said that much has changed throughout the years but it has been interesting to watch the church through its ups and downs.

“When I was growing up in the ‘50s, we had a wonderful minister,” Giovannini said. “I still hear stories about him from people in town that don’t even attend this church.”

Walter’s book contains the church’s history from 1846 to 2006. In the back of the book, stories and occurrences that didn’t fit in other places are listed by year.

According to Walter’s book, “an interesting episode occurred in the fall of 1989 when someone noticed that the crosses in two of the stained glass sections of the doors to the main entrance were upside down. The anonymous person donated money to have them corrected.”

“We wonder how long they had been like that,” Walter said.

The church has a service and Sunday school classes every Sunday and welcomes to new members, students and visitors.

**Get The Latest School News Without Getting Ink All Over Your Hands.**

www.trumanindex.com

K i r k s v i l l e

---

Allergy ● Asthma

---

**Lary Ciesemier**  
D.O., FAAAAI, FACOI  
Board Certified  
Pediatric and Adult  
Allergy Asthma Immunology

---

**“I have not had allergies this severe until I moved to Kirksville.”**

---

2004 North Baltimore, Suite B, Kirksville, MO 63501  
Phone (660) 627-2553 Fax (660) 665-0448