

Children's sermon: October 11, 2009

**"Inch by Inch"**

Life is like a garden ... right????

Look at this garden up here ----- full of beautiful orange pumpkins!@!!

Looks almost "perfect" ... all these pumpkins ---- same color, same size.

But ---- something doesn't feel right ... or look right!@!!

Oh, look ... someone is trying to butt-in. It's FRED THE GOURD.

He's certainly a different-looking character ----- weird shape, different color.

Oh, no ----- the pumpkins are making fun of him. They don't want him in their garden.

Why? ----- just because he is different????

Fred looks at all the "perfect" pumpkins.

"OK ... you don't want me around in your garden ... then I'll plant my own.

And while I do this ... I will sing my favorite song:

*Inch by inch ... row by row ... I'm gonna watch my garden grow ..."*

So, my friends ---- here are some tools: a rake, a hoe, a sprinkler, a spade, another shovel ...

let's plant our own garden.

Now, this is fun. And look what is appearing:

*more gourds*

*little pumpkins ... white pumpkins ...*

*green and white pumpkins*

*some squash*

**LOTS OF VARIETY!!**

This is what God's garden is supposed to look like.

Variety ... all kinds of people and things and plants ... lots of color and lots of sizes ...

No garden is perfect.

No garden should have all the same kinds of plants and people in it.

When we hoe God's garden ... when we nurture it ... when we take care of it and invite everyone in ----- yes, this is what it looks like.

*No more perfect pumpkin patch.*

*No more making fun of anyone.*

**ALL OF US TOGETHER.**

Now ... as you go back to your seats ... take a pumpkin.

Love it. Nurture it. Let it roam in God's garden.