

Stay Out of Hot Water:
Operate Pools and Hot Tubs for Energy Efficiency

Meet Your Washington
Youth Tour Delegates

A PUBLICATION FOR JACKSON EMC MEMBERS

JEMICOnews

May 2013



Get on
One AcCORD
For Safety

*Tips to Help Keep Your
Home and Family Safe*



President/CEO
Randall Pugh

Electrical Safety for All Ages

Each year, nearly 44,000 house fires are the result of an electrical failure. Unfortunately, those fires lead to an average 438 deaths, property and sentimental memento losses each year as well. May is electrical safety month; however, electrical safety and awareness is a daily duty.

Electric wiring, circuits and design can be complex subjects; but, the basics can help you prevent electrical hazards.

Electricity enters your home from outdoor power lines or an underground connection that powers your lights, TVs, large and small appliances. We're so used to having electricity at the flip of a switch, we usually don't think about it until it isn't there. But just because electricity is out of sight, doesn't mean using it safely should be out of mind.

Protect your home and loved ones with safety technology. Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRR) look like ordinary outlets. The only difference is they have spring-loaded receptacle cover plates that close off the receptacle openings or slots. When placing a standard plug in the TRR, the equal pressure will open and allow you to insert the plug. This mechanism keeps children from inserting foreign objects such as keys and hair pins into the outlet.

Test your Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults or leakage currents, which helps prevent severe shock or electrocution. To test, press the GFCI button to prepare the outlet for testing. Next, plug in an ordinary nightlight for testing. The nightlight should be on. Push the "test" button on the GFCI, and the nightlight should turn off. Last, push the reset button again, and the nightlight should come back on. You should test your GFCI outlets at least once a month.

Examine your outlets around the home. If you notice discoloration, this could be a sign of overheating. Touch your outlets. If they're warm to the touch, there could be significant heat buildup. If plugs don't fit snug into the outlet, there could be risk of overheating or fires.

Electricity is one of life's great conveniences, and we work hard to keep it priced below the national average so that you can use it without wincing over your wallet. Let's make a deal, you use it safely and we'll keep it affordable.

online@cts

Summer Rates Remain a Bargain

Higher temperatures increase the demand for electricity, but even during increased demand season, Jackson EMC's residential electric rates are 17% lower than the national average and 11% lower than the average electric rate in Georgia - among the 10 lowest in the entire state.* While electricity use increases during summer months, you'll spend fewer energy dollars than most households in the U.S. For tips on improving energy efficiency, visit our website at www.jacksonemc.com/smartenergy.

Regular Residential Summer Rates*	
Service Charge	\$11/month
First 650 kWh	8.32¢ per kWh
Next 350 kWh	7.79¢ per kWh
Over 1,000 kWh	9.36¢ per kWh



*The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment and other applicable taxes are also part of your total electric bill.

JEMCO news

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Pictured left to right: Jordan Tyler, Allison Walls, Melissa "Missy" Johnson and Logan Allen.

JEMC's Washington Youth Tour Delegates Geared for Leadership Experience

Although entitled the Washington Youth Tour (WYT), the experience begins with a journey through Georgia's rich political history. Georgia EMCs' 105 delegates gather in Atlanta for leadership and team-building activities before touring the Little White House in Warm Springs, Ga. Then, the delegates depart to join nearly 1,500 cooperative delegates from across the nation for the Washington, D.C. experience.

While in D.C., the delegates will visit historical landmarks, including the Capitol, Supreme Court, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian and Holocaust museums, and the Lincoln and World War II memorials.

Students will spend seven fun-filled days touring our nation's capital, visiting historical monuments and bonding with fellow WYT students from other states. They'll also have face-to-face meetings with Georgia's Congressional delegation. At the end of their journey, delegates will return with hundreds of digital photos, newfound friends and an arsenal of leadership training they'll draw from for the rest of their lives.

To get to D.C., JEMC's delegates advanced through several selection steps beginning in JEMC's 46 service territory high schools. Counselors and educators identified leaders within their schools based on selection criteria that included academic achievement, extracurricular activity, leadership skills, recommendation letters and community involvement. Students also completed short-answer

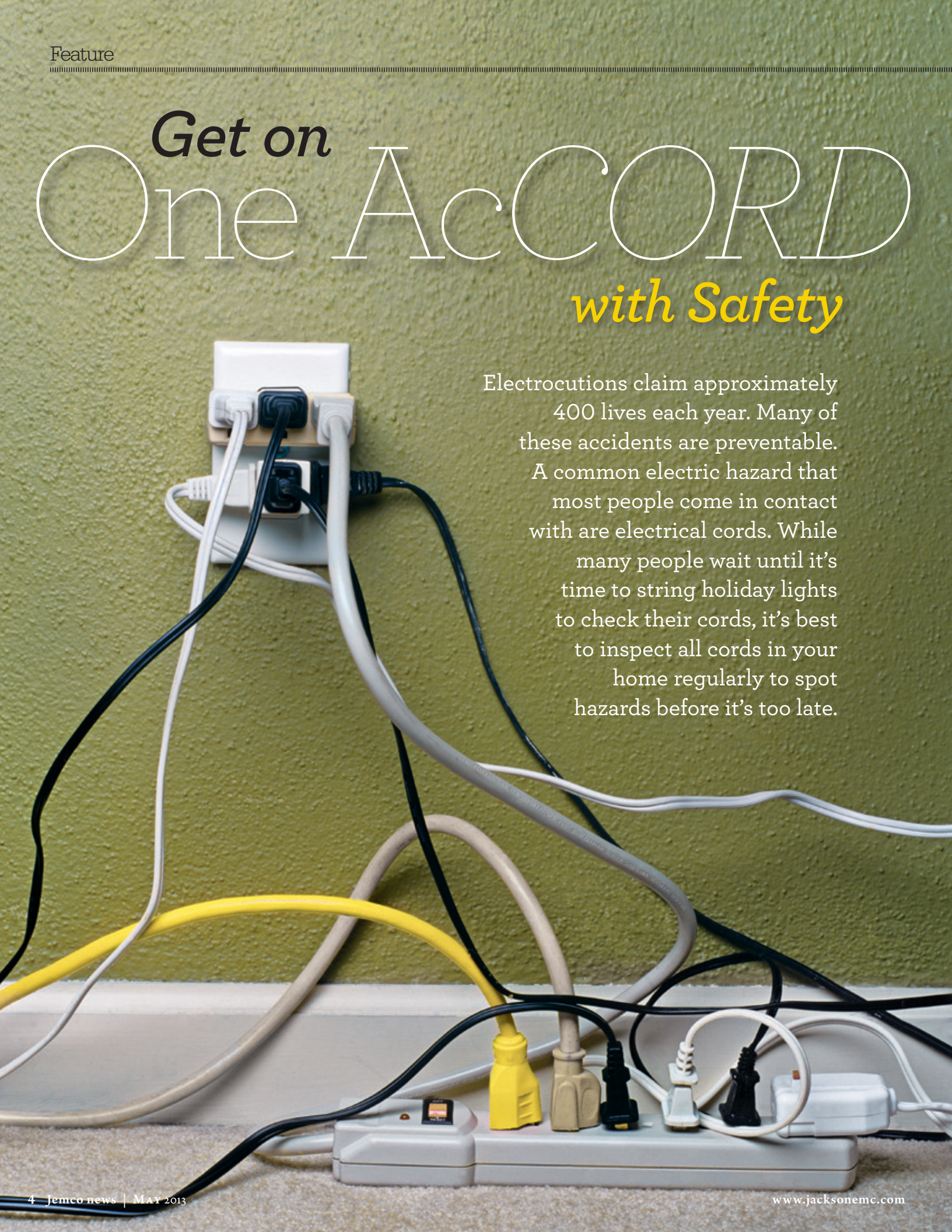
questions and an essay. For the final round, 10 finalists were chosen to compete in the panel interview.

This year's WYT delegates are: Logan Allen, Chestatee High School, son of Connie Allen of Gainesville; Missy Johnson, Dacula High School, daughter of Kenneth and Deborah Johnson of Dacula; Jordan Tyler, Jefferson High School, son of Gregory and Gena Tyler of Hoschton; and Allison Walls, Flowery Branch High School, daughter of Mark and Julie Walls of Buford.

"The Washington Youth Tour provides students a bird's eye view of our nation's leaders at work. Our young people will experience an opportunity that many never will, and that's why we consider the Youth Tour a trip of a lifetime," says Randall Pugh, Jackson EMC president/CEO. "We're proud of every student who made it to any round of this competition, because it's designed to select the very best."

For more information on the WYT, visit us at www.jacksonemc.com/wyt. ▲

Get on One AcCORD *with Safety*



Electrocutions claim approximately 400 lives each year. Many of these accidents are preventable. A common electric hazard that most people come in contact with are electrical cords. While many people wait until it's time to string holiday lights to check their cords, it's best to inspect all cords in your home regularly to spot hazards before it's too late.



Damaged Cords

Examine cords to see if they're cracked, frayed or damaged. Damaged cords may have exposed wires that could be a fire or shock hazard. Replace the cord or equipment.

Trying to Extend Your Reach?

Extension cords are designed for use on a temporary basis. Using extension cords for long periods may damage the cord. Determine if you'll need a licensed electrician to install new outlets where needed or move the equipment close to the outlet.

Cords Going for a Magic Carpet Slide?

You may think hiding unsightly cords under rugs or carpets will keep people from tripping or falling; however, they can easily overheat if there's no airflow around them. This creates a fire hazard. Move the cords or remove the rugs.



Do You Know Where Your Cords Are?

Do you have any cords running to equipment or appliances that may be pinched by windows, doors or furniture. Pinched cords can damage wire strands and create a fire hazard. Be sure to move furniture to relocate cords or remove the cord on that window sill.


Are Your Cords Intact or Held by a Tack?

Nails and staples may puncture insulation or break wire strands. If your cords are attached to anything with nails, thumb tacks or staples, remove them and examine the cords for damage. If damaged, replace immediately.

It Looks Neat, But Creates Excess Heat

Do you have those entertainment system or computer cords wrapped for neatness? Wrapped cords trap heat, which can weaken the insulation or melt the wires. Unwrap your cords.

In honor of electrical safety month, take some time to examine the cords around your home.

When they're out of plain view, we tend to forget about them, but safe cord use can prevent fires, hazards and accidents. For more information on using electricity safely, visit our website at www.jacksonemc.com/safety. 



Making the Ends Meet

Nearly 40 million retirees and their dependents receive Social Security; however, many senior citizens report that their income barely covers their living expenses. For lower-income seniors, housing, medical care and necessities such as food often take the lion's share of their money. When there's barely enough to make the ends meet, a Jackson EMC Foundation grant can relieve some of the financial strain.

The Foundation awarded nearly \$3,200 to help Carter Stephens* cover the costs to repair damaged bathroom flooring and replace a dangerous porch. The 75-year-old Stephens received an estimate to replace damaged and mildewed carpet, install linoleum flooring and build a new deck to replace the rotting wood on the existing deck. Necessary for health and safety concerns, the repairs will

improve the living conditions in frequently used areas in the home.

Legally blind and suffering from severe arthritis, Adelaid Bevers* received a Foundation grant to repair an accessible walkway, purchase a hearing impaired telephone assistance device and rolling walker. Bevers is currently enrolled in a community program that allows nursing home qualified citizens to continue living independently and safely within their own homes. The repairs will improve Bevers ability to get in and out of her home, while the telephone upgrade will allow her to quickly contact family or emergency services. The Foundation awarded Bevers a \$1,689 grant.

For more information about the Jackson EMC Foundation or to apply for a grant, visit www.jacksonemc.com/foundation. ▲

**Names changed for confidentiality.*

operationroundup

March 2013

The Jackson EMC Foundation Board of Directors awarded a total of \$70,879 in grants during their March meeting, including \$66,000 to organizations and \$4,879 to individuals.

Organizational Grant Recipients:

\$15,000 to Hebron Community Health Center in Lawrenceville, a nonprofit organization providing medical and dental care to low-income, uninsured Gwinnett residents, to provide diagnostic follow-up testing, eye exams and prescription glasses, and prescription medication, glucose monitors and glucose strips.

\$12,500 to My Sister's Place, a Gainesville shelter for homeless women and children, to purchase appliances such as washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers and ovens, along with desktop computers for the shelter's expansion at a new location that will enable it to serve a greater number of people.

\$8,000 to The Potter's House to help feed, house, counsel and provide educational programs such as adult literacy to men recovering from

substance abuse through an intensive residential program of the Atlanta Mission on a 570-acre working farm in Jefferson.

\$7,500 to American Heart Association - Athens to purchase CPR Anytime for Family and Friends kits that contain everything needed to learn basic CPR skills, for distribution to community organizations in Clarke, Barrow and Madison counties.

\$7,500 to American Heart Association - Gainesville to purchase CPR Anytime for Family and Friends kits that contain everything needed to learn basic CPR skills, for distribution to community organizations in Hall, Gwinnett, Jackson, Banks and Lumpkin counties.

\$5,500 to the Guest House, a Gainesville nonprofit that helps seniors with functional impairments

maintain some independence and social contact while providing caregivers with a respite, to help provide a hot, balanced and nutritious lunch and snack to these frail, elderly clients.

\$5,000 to the Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse, a Gwinnett nonprofit organization that helps individuals recovering from traumatic brain injury to regain employment and living skills, to provide 12 months of rehabilitation program fees for brain injured adults in the counties served by Jackson EMC.

\$2,500 to Childkind, a nonprofit supporting families that care for children with special health care needs and developmental disabilities, to purchase supplies for its Home-Based Services program that prepares parents to adequately and successfully care for their child or foster child at home.

\$2,500 to Diamond in the

Rough, a Snellville faith-based youth development and leadership program for girls 10-18, for the Clusters long-term mentoring and leadership development program which uses small group meetings one day per week for 1-2 hours during the school year to build self-image, character, leadership, health and wellness, financial stewardship, healthy relationships and spiritual enrichment.

Individual Grant Recipients:

\$3,190 to repair damaged bathroom flooring and replace a dangerous porch for **a senior citizen**.

\$1,689 to help **a disabled senior citizen** purchase a hearing impaired telephone assistance device and a rolling walker, and repair a dangerous walkway.

TIME FOR A CHECKUP?

We see our doctors for checkups to maintain our health, get our cars tuned-up to keep them running properly, and have our scheduled home inspections for termites to ensure our walls remain standing. Taking care of what's important and valuable is often a natural instinct, but when's the last time you ordered a whole-house checkup?

A Right Choice™ Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Audit is your home's energy efficiency checkup that identifies weaknesses in your home's ductwork, airflow, heating and cooling and more. An audit can save you hundreds of energy dollars and increase your comfort. A technician will conduct the scientific analysis, and in a couple of hours

you'll have a prioritized recommendations list. From there, you decide where you'd like to start. Some members choose the low-cost, minor improvements first, while others may opt for big ticket improvements - it depends on what makes sense for your wallet, comfort and potential savings.

Many improvements qualify for JEMC rebates and federal tax credits as well. Just getting an audit alone qualifies you for a \$200 rebate, decreasing the out-of-pocket expense to as low as \$150 for some homes.

Schedule your home's checkup today. Visit us online at www.jacksonemc.com/audits to get started. Let us help you improve your home's comfort and efficiency. ▲

smartconnections

Stay Out of Hot Water

Operate Pools and Hot Tubs for Energy Efficiency

While your swimming pool or hot tub can be a great place to unwind, you may tense up again when you get your power bill.

There are ways to keep your power costs to a minimum. Start with regular maintenance. For pools, keep the pump and strainer baskets clean, and backwash the filter according to the manufacturer's recommendations. For spas, be sure to change old or dirty filter cartridges.

Take a look at the pool pump and how you operate it. Make sure the pump is properly sized by a pool professional.

It's more economical to keep the pool clean by manually removing most debris and keeping the chemistry at the right level than by constantly recirculating water. Experts suggest using a timer to operate the pump six hours a day. If the water isn't clean enough, gradually increase the run time. In a study by the Center for Energy Conservation at Florida Atlantic University, homeowners who reduced pumping to less than three hours a day found that the water quality was fine - and they used as much as 60 percent less energy.

Consistently using a pool cover reduces evaporation, time spent cleaning the pool and the amount of chemicals used. A pool cover is particularly important for saving energy if your pool is heated.

Heating can extend the pool season, but if you do decide to heat your pool, consider an energy efficient heater, such as a heat pump water heater or solar pool heater. The cooler you set the temperature, the less energy you use. The American Red Cross recommends 78°F water for competitive swimming.

To reduce the cost of operating a hot tub or spa, start with an energy efficient model. Make sure your insulated cover is still in good condition and hasn't become waterlogged. Adding a floating blanket can decrease the amount of heat lost. For energy efficiency, set the hot tub thermostat to 96°F during warm weather and no higher than 102°F when it's cooler. ▲



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what's cookin'?

Cooperative **Cooking**

Each month *Jemco News* features recipes which represent the people and products of Jackson EMC.

If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Jackson EMC area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to:

Cooperative Cooking
Jackson EMC
P.O. Box 38
Jefferson, GA 30549

Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Jemco News* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.

Molasses Drizzled Buttermilk Pie

Ingredients:

½ cup butter	1 cup buttermilk
2 cups white sugar	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour	1 9-inch single crust pie shell
3 eggs	2 tablespoons molasses

Instructions:

In a large bowl, cream butter until light and fluffy. Gradually add sugar, and beat well. Beat in the eggs. Add flour, buttermilk, and vanilla; beat until smooth. Pour filling into pie shell, and bake at 400°F (205°C) for 5 minutes. Reduce heat to 350°F (175°C); bake for an additional 45 minutes, or until set. Cool at room temperature, then chill. When serving, drizzle individual servings of pie with molasses.