

Turkey

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cording to a federal test two years ago, the most recent of its kind, DeWaal said.

The rest of the trip to a safe turkey dinner includes good defrosting, refrigeration, handling and cooking procedures. Some include:

♦ **Storage and handling.** The grocery should be the last stop before heading home, the government advises. Once home, immediately put the turkey into a refrigerator that maintains 40 degrees, or a freezer that stays at zero. In such a refrigerator, whole raw turkey can stay fresh for up to two days or 12 months in a freezer.

♦ **Defrosting.** The government

recommends three options: in the refrigerator, in cold water and in the microwave. For refrigerating, allow one day for every five pounds of turkey to thaw. That means for Thanksgiving, a 20-

Keeping a turkey dinner safe means paying attention to storage, handling, defrosting, serving and cooking procedures.

pound turkey needs to start defrosting on Sunday. In water, submerge turkey in its airtight packaging, changing the water every half-hour. Turkey defrosted in a

microwave should immediately be cooked.

♦ **Handling.** Make sure counters are clear. Keep turkey and juices separate from all other foods. Pay attention to everything that has touched the raw or partially cooked turkey, and later scrub them with warm soapy water. These include hands, thermometers or other implements.

♦ **Cooking.** Use a meat thermometer, even if the turkey has a pop-up thermometer. Set the oven no lower than 325 F. Cook until the thick part of the thigh reads 180 degrees, the breast reads 170, and the center of the stuffing inside the bird reads 165, according to DeWaal's group.

♦ **Serving.** Do not leave turkey out for more than two hours.

Singing Tree

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production and what it means for the church's ministry. "During 'The Singing Christmas Tree,' we will welcome over 11,000 people to our beautiful church campus," he said. "I don't know of any other medium that allows the local church to touch the lives of so many people in such a short period of time, and for many who attend the performances, it's their first introduction to Shandon Baptist Church."

Tickets to "The Singing Christmas Tree" are \$7 and can be purchased at Shandon Baptist Church on Forest Drive, by phone at 790-1274 or at such Columbia Christian bookstores as Family Christian Stores and Living Vine.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockmixeditor@hotmail.com



Performance Schedule

"The Singing Christmas Tree" will be presented at Shandon Baptist Church on Forest Drive at the following dates and times:

- ♦ Wednesday, Dec. 11 – 7 p.m.
- ♦ Thursday, Dec. 12 – 7 p.m.
- ♦ Friday, Dec. 13 – 7 p.m.
- ♦ Saturday, Dec. 14 – 1:30, 4 and 7 p.m.
- ♦ Sunday, Dec. 15 – 1:30, 4 and 7 p.m.

PHOTO BY ANASTASIA WALSH/KRT CAMPUS

On the cover

First-year hotel, restaurant and tourism management student Charlotte Balsler sits on Santa's lap.

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