

A Word From The Pastor

I recall a statement made by a former co-worker 20 years ago, when she noticed that the gap between Halloween and Christmas seems to be closing.

“They forget all about poor, little old Thanksgiving,” she said, and I agree.

Situated between one increasingly consumer-driven holiday, Halloween, and one already a mega-consumer holiday, Christmas, Thanksgiving gets very little respect.

Where’s Rodney Dangerfield when we need him?

The airwaves are increasingly cluttered with Christmas commercials beginning earlier and earlier, and store displays go straight from Halloween to Christmas, with little or no mention of Thanksgiving.

We all know the reason why. It’s because Thanksgiving, outside of turkey, pumpkin pie, sweet potato and other food sales, isn’t consumer motivated.

It’s a holiday based in faith, tradition and family, not really a holiday in the truest form of the word.

Traditionally, it’s a day for families to get together and give thanks for a bountiful fall harvest, and for others it’s a day of rest, feasting and football.

The sounds of Thanksgiving, unlike the bells rung by Salvation Army volunteers and other charities seeking donations during the Christmas season, are the sounds of rustling leaves and a crackling fireplace.

So let me suggest that we spend some time throughout the month of November following the advice of anonymous poem:

Thanksgiving Observance

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Count on God instead of yourself.

“Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Ephesians 5:20

Dr. James L. Fleming

**COLLEGE PARK
CHURCH OF GOD**

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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor

Dr. James L. Fleming

Children's Director

Vanessa Small

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays

Evening Bible Study
6:00 p.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Women's Ministry

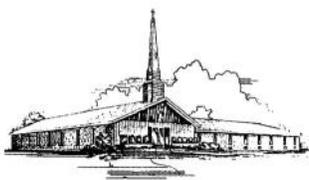
Saturday, November 13
10:00 a.m.

Food Drive Collection

Interfaith Emergency Services
Sunday, November 28

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00/4:00 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 7. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's Ministry will meet Saturday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. All women are welcome to attend.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Our church's Annual Business Meeting will be Sunday, November 14, during the Sunday School hour at 10:00 a.m.

THANKSGIVING MEAL

Our church's Thanksgiving meal will be Sunday, November 14, after the morning service. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend and let us know what side dish you will bring. Turkey, gravy, mashed potatoes, and drinks will be provided.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our final collection day for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is Sunday, November 14. Please be in prayer for the children who will receive these special gifts and hear the good news of God's love. If you would like to contribute toward the \$9 per box shipping cost, please make checks payable to the Women's Ministry, or give cash to Dee, Linda, or Lorraine.

ELECTION

Our church will serve as a polling location for the City of Ocala Run-off Election on Tuesday, Nov. 16. For more info, please visit www.VoteMarion.gov.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Everyone is invited to come and help decorate the church for the Christmas season on Saturday, November 27, at 10:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Women's Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 4, in the fellowship hall. Food will be catered. More details to come.

Happy Birthday!

- 06 - Margie Taylor
- 07 - Carol Amos
- 08 - Connie Steffey
- 14 - Nora Rucker
- 14 - Debbie Small
- 15 - Alondra Gonzalez-Bristol
- 16 - Christiana Monday
- 18 - Bret Mills
- 18 - Claudia Grissom
- 19 - Camila Perez-Bristol
- 20 - Grace Meiser
- 22 - Dee Thompson
- 24 - Althea Clemmings
- 30 - Susan Owenby

Happy Anniversary!

- 04 - Wayne & Connie Steffey



If you would like your birthday or anniversary added to this list, please contact the church office.



God's Hand Extended To Those In Need

Dear Friends,

Thank you for caring enough to support our ministry with your donation. Your donation makes it possible for us to assist people in need of basic necessities such as food and clothing. With 44% of our county residents living at or just above the poverty level and paycheck to paycheck, one minor event can put a family in financial distress. By giving of your resources, you lighten the burden of someone going through a difficult time. Your support means a great deal to Interfaith and to those we serve. We appreciate your help more than words can say!

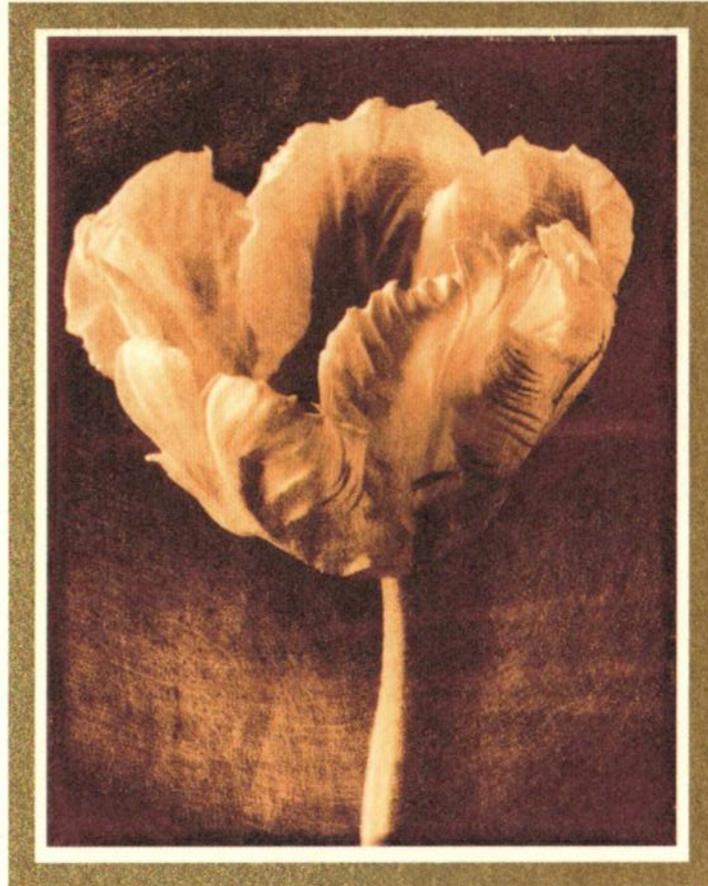
August/September Gifts to Food Pantry — 330 pounds of food

May God bless you,

Karla Grimsley

Chief Executive Officer

Thanks to All of You



Dear Pastor Fleming & Congregation,

Thanks so much for blessing me as you did.

God bless you all.

Bro. Ben Simmons & Connie

(Ben Simmons was in concert at College Park Church on October 17.)

Operation Christmas Child

The Women's Ministry met on Saturday, October 23, and packed 65 shoeboxes.

