

A Word From The Pastor

With the turning of the calendar page to August, my immediate thoughts go to our children and teens returning to the hallowed halls of education. The summer fun has drawn to an end and it is now time to hit the books and engage in the academics of learning. It is a tremendously challenging time for our young people – a time when we need to remember them especially in our prayers.

Most of us may have forgotten or simply do not know of the issues our young ones face as they return to what we think of as the safe and warm education institutions we call school.

Today's teenager faces all kinds of problems as they head off to school. For example, teens today face dating and sex. Teens struggle with the pressures of pre-marital sex, even with knowing that the Church teaches that sex should happen only in marriage. Sex is hard to avoid, because it's so prevalent in our culture. It's in the media, it is constantly around us, and pornography is so readily-accessible. Teens feel pressure to fit into this culture. Teens do not always acknowledge the consequences that come from having sex. The consequences are presented to teens, but often ignored. Although pre-marital sex is viewed as a bad thing, sex itself, when married, is viewed as a positive action because it creates life.

Substance Abuse: The term "Substances" is a generalization for drugs, both legal-such as prescription drugs – and illegal. We find the problem is not simply the use of these substances, but also the readily available nature of them in high schools today. As substance use becomes more accepted and available to the teen population there is an increased pressure for teens to participate in risky behavior. The use of substances directly affects the teens and also indirectly affects those around them and their environment. The consequences of substance use are just as prevalent as the use itself. Consequences include: physical, spiritual, and emotional harm to oneself, and a negative impact on your family, education, and your future.

One of the biggest issues teens face is family. The biggest influence in a teen's life is family. Some of the challenges teens face in their family life is the death of loved ones, divorce, disagreements, abuse, parents' involvement (or lack of), and family pressures. Experiences at home can influence who a teen grows up to be. How parents solve conflict reflects how a teen will learn to work out their problems. Teens may feel pressured to join certain activities to please their families, but as a result, it can cause additional angst. Family needs to be the core of faith and life development, and we should all look to the Holy Family for guidance.

No doubt we will see the young people of our church smiling and laughing. But let us not forget that they are under a lot of pressure from these forces as well as others. Let agree to pray for them daily and support them in other ways as we have the opportunity.

Dr. James L Fleming

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for Marion County is Thursday, August 10. Please pray for all of the students, teachers, and staff as they begin the new school year.

YOUTH HANGOUT-N-HELP

The next Youth Hangout-n-Help will be Sunday, August 20, after the morning service. Please see Clay Parton for more information.

COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Sunday, August 27, is the collection day this month for nonperishable food items for our Food Drive to benefit Interfaith Emergency Services. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex.

ABRAHAM PRAYER MINISTRY

The Abraham Prayer Ministry will meet Sunday, Aug. 27, at 5 p.m. See Pastor Fleming for more info.

YOUTH YARD SALE

The next Yard Sale hosted by the youth will be Saturday, September 23. If you have any donations, please take them to the youth room. See Clay Parton for more information.

**COLLEGE PARK
CHURCH OF GOD**

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You can also find us on Facebook

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Senior Pastor

Dr. James L. Fleming

Children's Director

Vanessa Small

Youth Director

Clay Parton

OUR SUNDAY SERVICES

10:00 a.m. - Sunday School

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays

1:00 p.m. - Small Group

Wednesdays

6:30 p.m. - Pastor's Bible Study

Thursdays

6:30 p.m. - Youth Group

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

First Tuesday - August 1

Prayer Group at 10 a.m.

Last Sunday - August 27

Food Drive Collection

OFFICE HOURS

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

DONATIONS FOR SALVATION ARMY

The Women's Ministry is collecting plastic grocery bags for the homeless mats they are crocheting to give to the Salvation Army. They are also in need of men's and women's toiletries. There is a box in the foyer for these items. Please see Irene Rogers for more information.

DONATIONS FOR KIMBERLY'S CENTER

The Women's Ministry is continuing their mission to help Kimberly's Center by collecting items such as diapers, panties, art supplies, notebooks, pens, toys, etc. There is a box in the foyer to collect these items. See Irene Rogers for more info.

TUESDAY SMALL GROUP

Everyone is invited to a weekly Bible study on Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. at the home of Aston & Olive Clemmings. Pastor Fleming leads us as we review the previous Sunday's sermon. **Cancelled August 1 & 8.**

PASTOR'S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Jim's Bible study meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. They are starting a series on "How to Grow Spiritually." You are welcome to join the class any time. For those who do not have books, lesson can be picked up ahead of time on the table in the narthex.

YOUTH GROUP (GRADES 6-12)

The youth group meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. If you are willing to provide a meal for the youth, please sign up in the narthex. See Clay Parton for more info.

CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE

Visit our page at facebook.com/CollegeParkChurchOfGod to stay informed of church happenings and receive encouragement for your daily walk with God.

Happy Birthday!

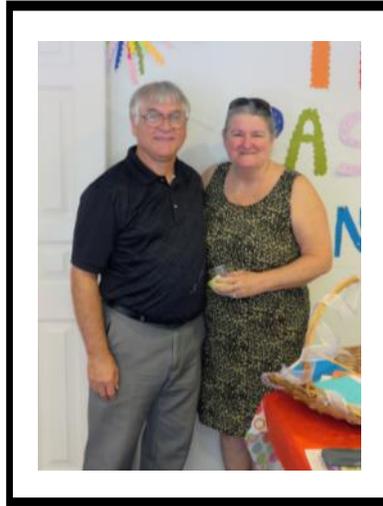
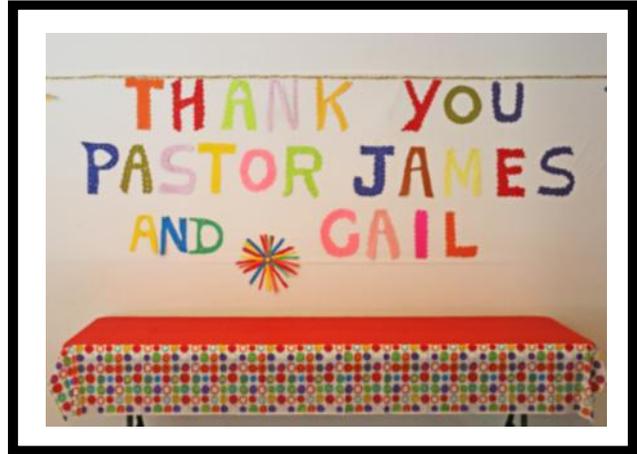
- 01 - Bud Borders
- 03 - Rebecca Weber
- 04 - Adam Labounty, Jr.
- 05 - Kiara Parton
- 05 - Shirley Wolfe
- 07 - Madison Struzzieri
- 07 - Hiram Torres
- 08 - Barbara L. Gonzalez-Bristol
- 13 - Peggy Mills
- 14 - Larry Miller
- 14 - David Pfeffer
- 23 - Ann-Marie Kydd
- 25 - Lou Borders
- 28 - Ed Mills

Happy Anniversary!

- 04 - Don & Dee Thompson
- 25 - David & Marilyn Reynolds
- 30 - Rick & Judy Morang



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



**July 9, 2017—Cookie & Punch Reception
Honoring Pastor Jim & Gail for their
15 Years of Service to College Park Church**