

February 2015

Operation Christmas Child – 29 Boxes

Gideon Sunday Offering - \$294.10

World Hunger Relief - \$225

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering - \$2980

Community Thanksgiving Food Boxes – 31 more than we have ever given out
before

Community Christmas Tree and Parade – Lots of cider and hot chocolate served,
carols sung, devotion presented and candy thrown at parade featuring our quickly
assembled float

Christmas Caroling – about 20 people caroled at the Nursing Home

Trunk or Treat – 500 given candy downtown in the wind and rain

Turkey Trot – our men faithfully served and raised money for local needs

A Thank You Note from someone who received a Thanksgiving Food Box:
We are giving thanks for the wonderful persons you are. Thanks for the turkey and
can goods. They gave us a Thanksgiving dinner. May God bless all of you who
had a part in it. Thanks so much to everyone.

Brother Eugene and Sister Peggy Pippin

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

For North America

Week of Prayer March 1-8

Offering During Lent – February 22 – April 5

Men's Day

Sunday, February 1

Speaker at 11 – Al McMullin

All Men Are Asked to Sing in the Choir

Get the Day Started Early by Joining Us For

Breakfast at 8:30

Youth Retreat

Springville, AL

February 13-16

Youth Sunday

March 1

Youth Will Lead Music Service

Followed by **Spaghetti Lunch** at Noon

Meal Will Be Prepared and Served

By Youth and Leaders

Who Will Also Clean Up Afterwards

Everyone Invited

Donations for Meal Will Be Greatly Appreciated

Funds Will Be Used to Support Youth Trips and Activities

Spring Break for Schools

March 21-29 Collinsville School

March 28-April 5 Fort Payne Schools

February 18 – Ash Wednesday, Lent Begins

February 20 – Youth to Chattanooga for Concert

February 22 First Sunday in Lent

March 1 Youth Sunday

Second Sunday in Lent

March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 22 Children's Choirs Year End Program 5:00 Tentative

March 29 Palm Sunday

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 Easter Sunday

Shocco Springs Choir Week

July 13-17

February is **Disaster Relief Preparedness Month**

Volunteers for February

Lord's Supper – Clyde and Sandra Killian

Flowers –

**"New Beginnings"
Women's Retreat
March 7, 2015**

Sponsored by CLC – Christian Ladies of Collinsville
Please begin praying now and
plan to be with us then, too!

We would also appreciate your contributing any items that you are no longer using and willing to part with, for the
C.L.C. Upscale Yard Sale
To Be Held at the Retreat

Mamie – please change Lottie total to say
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal - \$3600
Given - \$3600 (as of Jan. 18)
Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

Youth Council Members – Luke Laney (Czar), Jon and Leah Perkins, Ryan Beene,
Joey Bobo, John Morgan

Speaking of Youth Ministry – Did you know that eleven of twenty two Collinsville Junior High team members (boys and girls) are active in our youth group? And that both teams finished second in the county? There are several other children and youth active in basketball programs. And other sports.

Two thoughts on giving and one on weeding.

First, looking back at Advent and Christmas and giving. So many of you gave so much to us. You gave cards and you gave money and other gifts. You came to the back door with pies and fruit and casseroles. More than that, you gave us love. I came into the living room one day to see Gloria on the phone crying. We, like all of you, sometimes have difficult times. One of you called just to say to Gloria that you loved her, you were praying for her and that you would do anything you could to help us. All we had to do was let you know. Food and money seem to disappear. Your love does not. And so Gloria was crying because you told her you loved her. We thank you for a gift that truly lasts.

Second about giving. Can you ever really give? There were a couple of times during the season when I thought that we were giving people gifts. One was when we went to the nursing home to sing Christmas carols to those living there. I wish you could have been there with the twenty or so of us. Almost every room where we sang, the people's faces lit up. They were so thankful. And it was so great to watch our young people sing to them. Oh, at first some of them were a little uncertain. Then they decided that the residents really liked them. Near the end, I stood back and watched them. And I realized that I was getting a lot more out of the night than the residents. I thought I was giving my time to help them. Instead, they gave to me as they smiled at our singing.

I had felt even more that way when handing out food baskets at Christmas. You brought the food and gave the money for the turkeys. Liberty Hill put the boxes together. Dee and Symphony came and delivered boxes all over Lookout Mountain. I got to deliver mostly down here in town. Over and over, people expressed gratitude for the gift. The last place I went, the mother came out to get the box and began to cry. She told me that she knew that our church had prayed for her and that was why God had found her a job. Then she told me that with the food we had brought they were going to be able to get through. She hugged me as tears ran down her face. And as I drove away tears ran down my face. What would you give to feel that way? I gave a box of food. She gave me joy. Can you ever really give?

Changing the subject, weeding.

The deal between Gloria and me is this – I cut the grass, she takes care of the flower beds. She put flowers in the bed by our back door a couple of years ago. She got her flowers out and mulch down last year. And then she got really busy with her mom. And the weeds began to grow. And grow.

I knew that Gloria felt guilty whenever she went out the door and saw the weeds. She knew she was making the right choices with her time, but she still felt guilty. The next time I went out to cut the grass I stopped at the flower bed. I got down on my knees and started pulling weeds. I meant to just pull a few, but I could imagine my mother pulling weeds until they were all gone so I kept pulling, sweat running out from under my big ugly floppy hat. Grass stains on me. Smell of dirt and wild onions. Watch out for fire ants. After about two hours I had the bed cleaned out. And I got up and went and cut the grass. I need you to understand I did not do it so Gloria would thank me. I did not do it because the weeds bothered me – they

didn't. I just did not want Gloria to feel guilty about the weeds as she walked out the door.

The next day as I went to get out of bed I moaned. My back was hurting. My hands didn't want to clasp and unclasp. Oh, oh, oh. It was not that I was in bad shape (me?). It was that I was in bad weeding shape. Wasn't used to being on my knees pulling weeds. And it hurt.

Lent begins in February. It is a time for us to look at how we are spending our time. At our priorities. Where we are putting God in our schedules and in our lives. We are all busy. Have demands on our time. We need to be sure who is in first place. One way to do that is to get down on your knees and pull weeds. No, not real weeds. Pull those weeds that are choking out God. Those sins that are so wrong. Those time drains that are keeping you from God. On your knees praying. (I don't care if you are standing, sitting, lying down or actually on your knees – have an on your knees attitude). And let God show you where the weeds are in your life. But I should warn you. It may hurt. Especially if you are not used to being on your knees and praying/weeding. Oh, oh, oh.