



# The Cross and Steeple

There Will Be An  
Associational Thrift Store  
Opening Soon  
In Collinsville  
At the Old Dollar General  
We Will Let You Know  
Dates And Where You Can Bring Donations for The  
Store  
Or Volunteer to Work

Backpacks of Blessing Special Offering last week totaled \$390. That included a gift by the Collinsville Study Club in memory of Daniel Clayton. Thanks you for providing many weekend breakfasts, lunches and snacks for children in need.

The offering at the Collinsville High School Baccalaureate was \$512.71. All of this offering goes to support the Chickie Hood Scholarship Fund.

## **Sympathy**

To the family of Craig Fields  
To the family of Jerri Miller

To the family of Wade Higginbotham

To the family of Daniel Clayton

Carolyn Samples

Sympathy is expressed to all family, friends and church family in the loss of Mamie Moore. Her funeral was yesterday.

Congratulations to Gracie Foster who was selected the Chickie Hood Scholarship winner this year.

Offering at the Baccalaureate was \$512.71.

The Giving Tree has received several donations recently. Thank you.

Alabama Primary Election

Tuesday, June 5

7-7

### **Deacon Election**

Congratulations to Zach Bobo and Andy Myers on their election as Training Deacons.

School starts back August 7 or 8.

The Associational Thrift Store is open in Collinsville in the old Dollar General building next to the Piggly Wiggly.

Monday-Friday 10-5, Saturday 8-3

Volunteers to sort and work at the store are needed.

Donations are needed.

Check at the store or call Michael Evett 256-996-4496

## How Many Contacts Did You Make This Week

Our Graduates – Jones – Gadsden State Nursing

Bri Wells Northeast State College

Rachel Bobo Bachelor of Science, Chemical Engineering, University of Alabama

Collinsville High School – Isaiah Avila, Brian , Gracie

Sophia Renee Fann, Sprayberry High School, Marietta, GA She will be attending Auburn University in the fall

Feed My Starving Children has just been held for this year. There were over 700 volunteers who packed the 124,000 meals in one day in Rainsville at the Civic Center. That is enough food to feed 341 people for a year. There have been over 400,000 meals to feed hungry kids in the last three years.

Our Association will be opening its first thrift store soon. The location will be the old Dollar General building next to the PigglyWiggley here in Collinsville.

### **Final Annie Armstrong Offering**

#### **UPDATED**

Church Goal - \$1500

Given - \$1645

Goal Met and Surpassed

Thank You for Your Generosity

Thank you for your presents last Sunday morning. And thank you for your expressions of love all during this Christmas season. You are a great gift to us from God. John and Gloria

Today is Men's Day. Guest speaker is our good friend and neighbor James Payton. All males are invited to be in the choir loft.

Ronnie Ross is Directing Music

Service planned by Joey, Zach and J.R. Bobo and Andy Myers.

At the close of the worship today, there will be a special offering for the Gidons' ministry.

Patsy Pull October 6

Gracie DAR

B Team Jones

Girls Kayla, Callie, Britany all tourney

Area champs, all team Kaleb Callie Kayla

Mason drew

Elijah

Phil Chambers baptism

National Day of Prayer

Thrift store donations maybe here

Long Ranch 4 Boys is currently looking for house parents for their ministry.  
Contact church office for more information.

### **Men's Day**

Sunday, February 4

Guest Speaker – James Payton

Thank you for your support and for being so welcoming at Collinsville Baptist. We will now be able to distribute over 1,000 more testaments as a result of the church's generous donation! Join us in prayer for those that will receive copies of God's Word! James Payton

Your offering was \$1,264.86.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Final Total Given - \$1700

Goal - \$2000

Saturday, February 24

**Christian Ladies of Collinsville Retreat**

*Prayer Changes Things*

Operation Christmas Child – 22 boxes sent  
Community Thanksgiving Service – 36 food boxes delivered in Collinsville,  
Offering at service was \$500. Offering at Community Christmas was \$355.  
Community Christmas Tree Lighting – rivers of hot chocolate served.  
Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

Collinsville Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 558  
Collinsville, AL 35961

Non-profit Permit Imprint  
Permit Number 2  
Fort Payne, AL 35967

Thanks to all of you who made Men's Day so wonderful. Ronnie Ross earned special thanks for taking on leading the music. And the choir of males of all age was great. For all those who led and planned, thank you.

Ladies, The "Prayer Changes Things" Women's Retreat is this Saturday!  
Please make your plans to attend and invite your family and friends.  
CLC will meet this Tuesday at noon, and you are invited to this as well.  
Don't forget to turn in your donations for the "Upscale Yard Sale". And please remember to PRAY for the retreat.

Week of Prayer March 4-11  
Palm Sunday March 25  
Maundy Thursday March 22  
Good Friday March 23  
Easter Sunday April 1

Spring Break  
Fort Payne Schools March 26-30  
DeKalb Schools March 26-30

Sunrise Service and Breakfast  
6:30 A.M.

# FPMS Gigawatts First Lego League World Championship

Fort Payne Middle School's Gigawatts team recently competed at the FIRST Lego League World Championship in Houston, TX. The competition is comprised of 108 teams from around the world. The Gigawatts earned this berth by winning the AL State Championship in January. The four-day competition saw the Gigawatts perform their Project, Core Values, and Robot Design presentations for judges. Then they received a visit at their pit from judges for a second inquiry. The team also competed in the 2:30 robot game. At the state competition, the Gigawatts scored a 145 but improved their score to 220 for the world competition. They finished 52nd out of the 108 teams. We learned a lot about what is needed for that highest level of competition. Students will finish this year with another car race on May 19th, but they have already begun preparing to add the First Robotics Competition to our program. Next year's themes for FRC and FLL deal with space.

## Fort Payne City Schools

April 16 ·

Fort Payne Middle School's State Champion First Robotics team hosted a presentation of their World Championship competition pieces for some respected First guests. The guests were able to provide feedback and share their experiences with the team. The Gigawatts leaves to represent AL at the World Championship in Houston, TX this week. You can have the chance to watch them live Thursday through Saturday at <https://www.twitch.tv/firstinspires>.

Pleae continue to pray for our Director of Missions Ken Allen's daughter, Abby, who continues to recover from her accident at Spain Rehab Center in Atlanta.

Thank you all – women, men, teens and children – who prayed for the Women's Retreat or assisted in so many ways. We appreciate your help so much.

Christian Ladies of Collinsville (CLC)



I liked to stare at it. Especially with the blue bulb.

Christmas has lots of family traditions. That was true at my house when I was growing up. Morgan family law still followed today – if the tree is not touching the ceiling, it is too short. And it should be a cedar tree. With lots of lights. Some special bulbs – we had one bulb of ol’ Santa that lasted into my adult years. Lots of ornaments. I still have some on my tree I made as a child. Back then there was also tinsel, icicles and sometimes strings of popcorn. The cedar smell all through the house.

Mother had lots of other decorations for the living room. A little church with snow covered trees in front of it and a light inside. A large wreath she made from computer punch cards that she spray painted (no time to explain computer cards to you youngsters). Stockings on the fire place. My favorite decoration – lots of wrapped presents under the tree.

And we had manger scenes. My favorite one was the one she would let me put together. It was made out of cardboard and was not all that sturdy. It had seventeen pieces. The cardboard base, painted green for grass, had tabs. Each tab had to be pushed up from the board. Each piece had a slot that fitted into a tab so that it would stand up. And the board had printed on it what piece went in each place. Wise man here. Sheep here. No room for creativity. Do not put a camel on the roof.

So I would carefully put it together. Mother would take it and put it in just the right place. My favorite place was on the mantle. She added final touches like greenery until she was happy. The last thing was a light. An electrical cord with one tree light bulb on the end. The cord ran behind the cardboard and could not be seen from the front. The

bulb fitted into the cardboard behind the star. There was a hole in the roof so that the light shined onto the Holy Family. Especially onto the baby Jesus.

School would finally be out. The tree lights on and my mother in the kitchen making boiled custard and ambrosia. Yum, yum. My sisters mercifully leaving me alone (we had been warned Santa and his elves were on watch for bad behavior). I would go into the living room and stare at the manger scene. It was near perfect. Donkey and cow behind the family in the manger. Palm trees and Bethlehem buildings behind them. Wise Men and camel. Their gifts. Sheep. Shepherds. All the people staring at the baby. Including Mary and Joseph. I would look at each character.

I liked the old shepherd. White hair and beard. Somehow I knew he would be nice. For now, he stared at Jesus. And I liked the star on the roof. With the hidden light shining down. I knew the first Christmas must have looked just like that. I knew if I had been there I would have been staring at the baby. It was almost like I was there.

One year mother decided not to use the yellow or white bulb. She put in a blue bulb. The soft light made the scene perfect. A scene that could even tame a ten year old boy. *All is calm.* The blue light shone on Jesus. And the light seemed to flow out of the manger to me. *How still we see thee lie.* Perfect.

I know there were real problems for that family. Far from home. Roman soldiers, a forced census. Herod plotting and scheming. A fast dash to Egypt for safety upcoming.

But that is the point. We desperately need that soft light from the manger. Mother must have bought that manger set soon after World War II. A world not that different from Mary's. In the middle of war and hatred, our hope is still in the baby Jesus. And we all desperately need to be able to feel the peace of Jesus in our lives. *The hopes and fears of all the year are met in thee tonight*

I don't know what happened to that manger set. The cardboard tabs must have worn out, so frayed they could no longer hold up the characters. I remember trying to strengthen the tabs with scotch tape. The decision must have been made to throw it away.

That's okay. I still remember. Memories, especially Christmas memories, are powerful. And I can close my eyes and see the soft blue light again. And the baby Jesus. I feel the peace and I smile. Even after I open my eyes.

That peace is inside me. Because He is. Oh, I hope and pray He is with you. That's why He came. For you. For me.

*Picture above is of an identical manger scene to the one I had as a child.*



### **Thank You Notes**

*Thanks to all of you who honored us with the dinner. We appreciate and love you. Thank you for your love and support for forty years service together. John and Gloria.*

Thanks to all who helped with Trunk or Treat. Especially Joey Bobo who continues to teach children that: Jesus loves you.

Thanks to Veda Carter and those who helped with the Football Dinner November 1

Thanks to Margaret Myers and Donzella Bobo and all those who helped with the basketball team dinner

And thanks Veda for providing a Wednesday night dinner.

Delilah Jones has now overseen several Wednesday night dinners. Thanks for rushing in from your job at the nursing home to help all of us here.

Thanks to Gloria Morgan for Advent decorations in the church.

And thanks to all those who sang in the Community Christmas program. J.R. Bobo was specially recognized and honored for his commitment and service. And our two soloists really blessed everybody. Naomi Jones and Gloria Morgan.

Thanks to Bri Wells and the youth group for building the church's Christmas float.

Thanks to Darcie Mashia and Symphony Graves for the donation of a new Keurig coffee maker for the church. It is given in memory of Al Graves. And it is red because that was his favorite color.

Thanks to the Stewardship Committee for its hard work on a budget that was adopted this month. And to the Nominating Committee for its continuing work.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Andy and Melissa Myers who were married at the church on November 4.

Congratulations to Sandra and Clyde Killian who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in November.

Congratulations to Brooklyn Barksdale for being part of the Fort Payne State Champion Cross Country team.

And to Elijah Morgan for being part of the Robotics team that won regionals and will be participating in the State Tournament in January.

### **Sympathy**

Sympathy is expressed to Morgan Taylor who lost her father recently

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Peggy Elliott who passed away at the end of November. She is the mother of Judy Jones and leaves many of the Jones family grieving.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Rev. Reynes Perez. Brother Reynes served as pastor to the Hispanic congregation in Fort Payne and also here at our church in Collinsville. He loved the Lord, and he loved this community.

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Ruth Clayton who passed away in early December. Thanks to all of you who helped with the meal for the family.

*We would like to thank everyone at Collinsville Baptist. The poinsettia is beautiful. The meal was delicious. The love and friendship means so very much to us. We said our final goodbyes to both Mama and Daddy in the church. We were both baptized there. The church is very dear to us. Thank you for everything. God bless. Lynn and Lecia*

*And an additional note – To the wonderful, loving ladies of Collinsville Baptist Church – We were so very blessed by the delicious meal. All of you added a sweetness to our difficult day. We are so thankful for each of you. With love, Lynn and Lecia.*

We rejoice today in the baptism of Sheri Powell. She made her profession of faith in Jesus Christ last Sunday. Today she confirms that profession in the waters of baptism. Jan 28  
Pray and Rejoice with her today.

### **Schedule**



**Christmas Monday Dec 25**

*I send blessings for all of you this Christmas season. With love and prayers.  
Carol Zulker*

**Youth Lock In – December 29**

**Wednesday Night**

6:00 Youth Group

6:00 CBC Kids – Returning on January 3

6:00 Adult Bible Study

7:00 Youth Praise Team

7:00 Sanctuary Choir – Returning January 10

Quarterly Ministry Meeting and Covered Dish

Sunday, January 14

Noon

Men's Day

Sunday, February 4

Guest Speaker – James Payton

Lent Begins Feb 14

**Easter April 1**

**Nicaragua Mission Trip**

July 15-22, 2018