

# Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

*"Bringing God's People Together To Serve God's People in Need"*

FALL 2009

*"we gather together  
to ask  
the Lord's blessing"*



Join us for a service of worship and praise as we gather as a faith community to give thanks. Leaders from area religious and social service organizations will participate with Bishop Will Willimon providing the message. We invite participants and banner carriers to meet in the foyer of First Presbyterian at 3:00pm.

**INTERFAITH COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
HOSTED BY: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ANNISTON  
NOVEMBER 22 AT 4:00PM

*" Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.  
Give thanks to him, bless his name.  
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures for ever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations. "*

- Psalm 100:4-5

## Music for the Thanksgiving Service

Children are invited to sing at our Thanksgiving Service under the direction of **Dunnaway Connor**. Please bring your child and/or childrens' choir to a rehearsal on Sunday, November 8 at 3:30pm in the sanctuary at First Presbyterian Church. There will be a second rehearsal at 3:00pm on the day of the service.

As always, there will be a combined community adult choir which will have a rehearsal at 3:00pm before the service on the 22nd. They will sing an anthem "Let There Be Peace on Earth" arranged by choir director, **Dr. Lindy McCleod**.



**Meals-On-Wheels Founding Ladies:  
Dixie Roberts, Shirley Messer, Rita Judge,  
Ann Lybrand, Martha Hand.**

## Meals-On-Wheels Founding Ladies

In early October, Interfaith Ministries hosted a luncheon for five grand ladies; who, 25 years ago, were instrumental in the founding and early development of the Meals-on-Wheels Program for Calhoun County.

A wonderful lunch was served and then everyone enjoyed the stories and experiences of the early days of the MOW Ministry. The work of these dedicated and knowledgeable women has provided the foundation on which our organization operates today. We all truly salute their efforts and accomplishments

## Child Internet Safety



We are pleased to tell you that Family Links, Inc. has implemented a new internet safety program. This program is designed to protect children in Calhoun County from predators, pornography and other potentially harmful internet web sites. Family Links is currently teaching the program in the school systems and promoting it through community outreach in churches, after school programs and kids clubs.

You may contact Family Links at 820-5911, **Jessica Breazeale** or **Tara Phillips**, will be glad to do a program for your school or youth group.

## NEEDED at Interfaith:

- An upright vacuum cleaner
- Bookshelves
- Clean sleeping bags
- Small heaters
- Snacks
- Toiletries

We appreciate all of our supporters who donate these types of items.

### Programs Available:

Meals-On-Wheels  
Senior RX  
Dental Assistance  
Christmas Clearing House  
Homebound Program  
Food & Clothing  
School Supplies

### Yearly Events:

Pastors' Breakfast Prayer Service  
Community Thanksgiving Service  
Annual Meeting  
Angel Tree Camp



A United Way Agency

### Contact us at:

Interfaith Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1444  
1431 Gurnee Ave., Suite A  
Anniston, AL 36202

**256-237-1472**

**[www.interfaithcalhoun.org](http://www.interfaithcalhoun.org)**

# Interfaith Gives Thanks

Interfaith Ministries is being blessed in many ways! Each person who works in our agency is committed to "bringing God's people together to serve God's people in need." We can give thanks for our staff and a community of believers" who share the vision of Interfaith, a ministry that serves God through serving others.

We are blessed by our clients who share their lives with us and teach us as we assist them. The Open Door brings many to our office in need of a place to stay, a shower or identification. To hear their stories of economic hardship, jail and mental illness is sobering.

Our location has proved to be a blessing as we are in close proximity to The Community Enabler, Meals of Mercy, The Soup Bowl and other helping agencies. Clients seeking assistance with transportation, prescriptions, utility bills and rent are flooding into our offices. They are new faces, the faces of recently unemployed.

Wednesdays are particularly busy as **Kelly Champion**, who coordinates The Interfaith Adult Dental Clinic, comes in to screen people who need dental care. Some are referred to offices of dentists who have agreed to see our clients. Most clients have seldom or never seen a dentist. These clients need extractions that can be done at the clinic. We appreciate the volunteer dentists and assistants who help with our dental program.

Christmas is coming! **April LaFollette** is working with **Hilda Hudson** and **Emily Robison** from First Presbyterian Church to organize Christmas Clearing House. Volunteers from area religious organizations work with The Salvation Army in screening applicants and providing gift certificates for food, clothes, and toys from Wal-Mart. Our Oxford and Anniston Wal-Marts will again provide gift cards with the Christmas Clearing House logo. Their employees are also

trained to know what items can be bought with CCH cards. Over 900 individuals were served last year. One can only wonder what the challenge will be this year.

Someone recently asked me what I do as executive director of Interfaith Ministries. I answered "Make money to give it away." We hear the needs of people which energizes our staff to speak, to search, to ask for funds that can be used to help others.

At the end of September, **Renee Williams**, our financial assistant, showed me the numbers for emergency assistance. Even with or maybe because of the economic downturn, we had served persons from throughout Calhoun County in the following ways:

Shelter	\$10,311.00	111 served <small>(see notes below)</small>
Prescriptions	\$14,674.00	288 served
Dental	\$7980.00	48 served
Utilities	\$56,355.00	475 served
Miscellaneous*	\$6,243.00	326 served

*\*Transportation, Identification, Trolley Passes, and Food Vouchers*

*Number served - Many more have been served when family members are counted.*

*Dental - An additional 180 were served by the dental clinic at no expense by volunteer dentist*

I was amazed! My first response was "How could we have given that amount when money is so tight? Renee smiled and pointed up. Truly, it is God who is blessing this ministry called Interfaith. Thank you for being a part of the blessing.

- Martha Vandervoort

MAKE SOMEONE'S  
Christmas Brighter

# GIVE TO CHRISTMAS CLEARING HOUSE

\*A MINISTRY OF INTERFAITH MINISTRIES



Gift certificates will be given to screened applicants in early December.  
To be a part of this, please send your donations to:

Christmas Clearing House  
P.O. Box 1444  
Anniston, Alabama 36202

(256)237-1900

# CHRISTMAS CLEARING HOUSE

## Meeting Our Community's Needs

*"I don't know what I would do without the help from Christmas Clearing House.  
My husband has lost his job and we are struggling"*

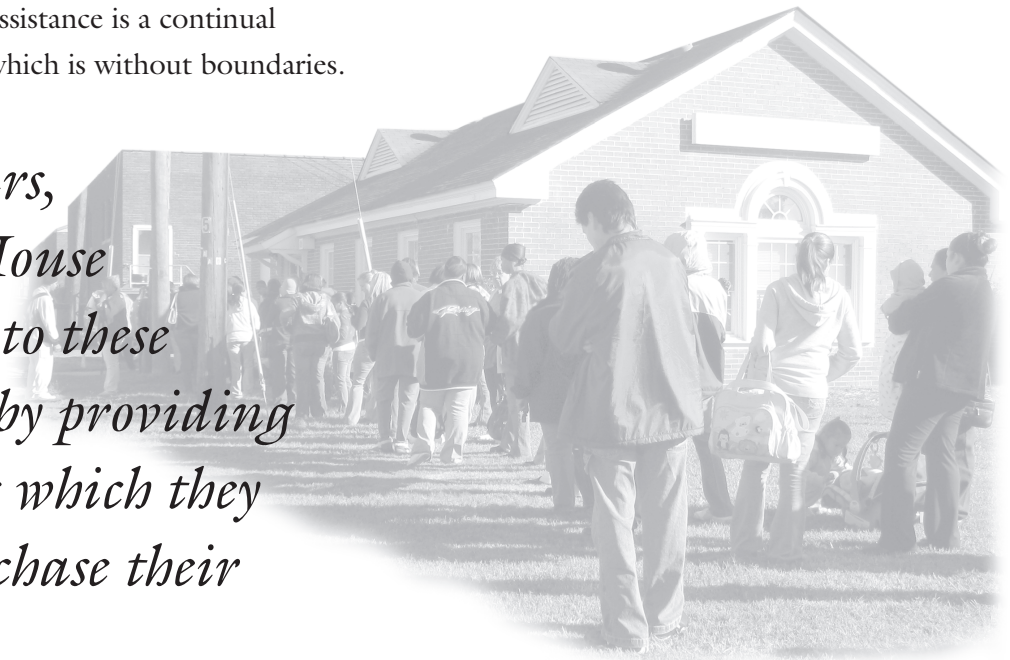
2009 applicant for Clearing House Assistance

*"I'm behind on my power bill and without this help, I would be further behind.  
I am so thankful for every little bit"*

2009 Elderly applicant for Clearing House Assistance

These are just some of the comments we have heard from those who are applying for assistance through Christmas Clearing House. On our first day of screening applicants, the line began to form at 4:30 am, even though we didn't open our doors until 9:00. The lines of those applying are long, with well over 200 people in line each day when we open the doors. These lines and the people in them remind us that the need for assistance is a continual presence in our community which is without boundaries.

*For over 50 years,  
the Clearing House  
has ministered to these  
needy families by providing  
gift certificates which they  
may use to purchase their  
families wishes.*



In 2008, over 1500 individuals were served. We have again coordinated our efforts with the Salvation Army and we are focused in our pursuit of helping all who apply.

We know that the needs of our community are great as we approach this holy season. As we all work together, we can make a difference in their lives and meet our communities needs.

*"Bringing God's People Together  
To serve God's People in Need"*



*Pastor Anthony Cook  
will give the devotion*

Please join us for

## **The Interfaith Pastors' Prayer Breakfast**

**November 5th at 9:00**

**At the Bridge - on 15th Street and Gurnee Avenue**

**Sponsored by the Chaplains Office at Regional Medical Center**

**Please let us know that you will attend by November 3rd**

**by calling 237-1472 or e-mail [rwilliams@interfaithcalhoun.org](mailto:rwilliams@interfaithcalhoun.org)**

### **Interfaith Ministries, Inc.**

1431 Gurnee Avenue, Suite A

P.O. Box 1444

Anniston, AL 36202

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