



Our theme for our Advent series this year is “Caught Up in Christmas.” Through our Advent devotional book and worship services, we will look at how the people who were part of the birth of Jesus were caught up in and transformed by the birth of Emmanuel, God with us. Throughout Advent, we will proclaim and celebrate the anticipation of the coming of the Christ child while making ourselves vulnerable to the work of the Spirit as we are caught up once again in the transformational work of God in our lives.

Because of what God is doing in our church through you, I am excited to say that we will designate this year’s Christmas Offering to our Food Pantry, which will soon be housed in our new Missions Center. The opportunities for ministry are great. We believe God is at work in the lives of people in our community and will continue to multiply our ability to give as you generously share your special Christmas gifts. Here is a story from Joe Campbell, one of our volunteers:

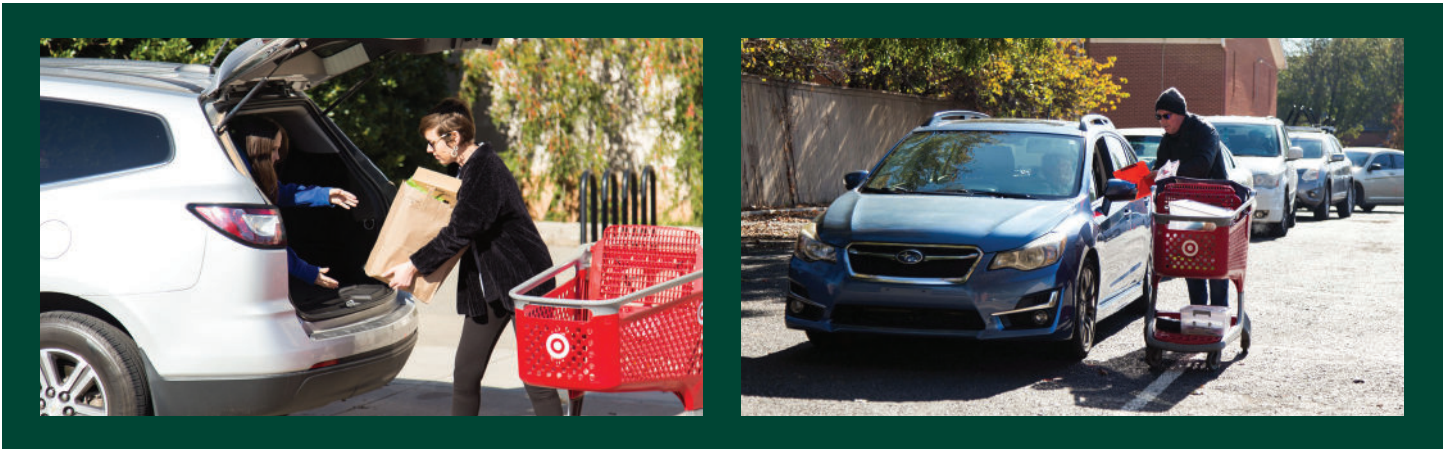
The team was busy close to the end of the day when a teenager showed up with four of her five younger siblings in the car with her. It was their first time. Mom could not make it but they had adequate information to fill out the new client form with a little help. The need was important enough for the young lady to show up with her siblings to get food for this family of eight. The team loaded them up good! It makes it all worthwhile.

That day we provided food for 22 families which came to 96 people, of which 56 were children. Thank you all for making it happen!

Our goal for this year’s Christmas Offering is \$40,000!



I am confident that all of us will be faithful in giving our regular tithes and offerings to the church while making extra contributions to this annual Christmas Offering. Even as circumstances changed for some of you, you have been committed to the church's mission. I am grateful for your faithfulness and celebrate your commitment to McFarlin.



Enclosed you will find an envelope for this year's Christmas Offering. You may bring your offering to worship services, mail your gift to the church or go online to our website (mcfarlinumc.org/give) and choose "Christmas Offering" in the drop-down menu. If you write a check, please mark it "Christmas Offering" in the memo line.



Your gift will make a difference in the lives of the many children and adults who are served by McFarlin's Food Pantry, and it will help us proclaim God's faithfulness made known in Jesus in a very tangible way. On behalf of the church, I wish you and your loved ones a joyous and holy Christmas.

Caught up in Christ with you,

Pastor Rockford