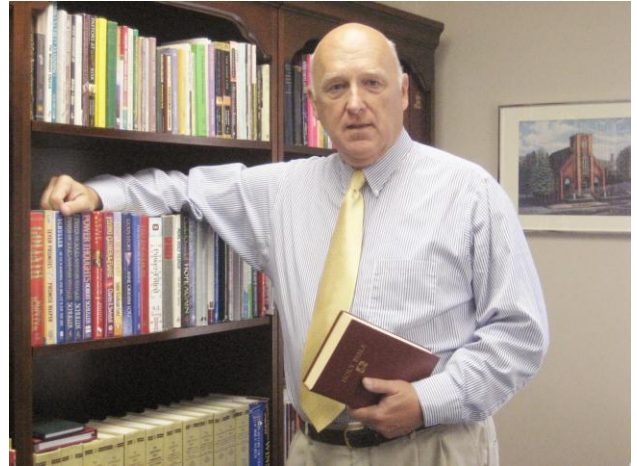


**FROM PASTOR DOUG...**

This is the month when, as Americans, we focus on giving thanks. Especially on Thanksgiving Day we remember the many benefits we enjoy even during more difficult times. For me one of the greatest benefits in life is my part in my church.

I see church not as an institution but as my family. For many of us here in Florida our natural family may be many states away, which increases the importance of our church as our r



Psalm 68:6 says something important: *God places the lonely in families.* Being together each Sunday and at different times during the week fills a great need in our lives. God clearly intends it to help address the loneliness we would otherwise feel.

Nick Stinnett in his book *Family Building* reports on his study of 3,000 families and in the report he found six qualities in strong families. I think they apply to what it means to be part of TAECC.

One, the members of strong families are committed to their family. Staying isolated to yourself or interacting with a chosen few only makes for a weak family. But we grow strong when being committed to each other as a church family is a true priority in our life.

Two, the members of strong families spend time together. That is why I enjoy Sunday so much. It's never a task or duty to perform so we can then get on to other things. We are stronger when we want to be together. The longer we hang around after service and the more opportunities we take advantage of just to be together is an indicator of our strength.

Third, the members of strong families have good family communication. That means that we talk to each other a lot and no subject is off the table. Openness is a strength.

Fourth, the members of strong families express appreciation to each other. Being a member of a strong church family means we prioritize giving affirmation. We look not for things to criticize but for anything we can praise and help others feel good about.

Fifth, the members of strong families have a spiritual commitment. This is what makes us different from other organizations. It's largely why we are a family and not an organization. Spiritual growth, personally and corporately is vitally important to each of us.

Finally, the members of strong families are able to solve problems in a crisis. If we are weak, difficulty will cause our family to scatter. But when we are strong we hang together and become stronger by facing difficulties no matter what it might be.

Again, the Bible says, *God places the lonely in families*. I believe God had his hand in placing me here. How about you? - *Pastor Doug*



### LET US KNOW!

Please let us know when someone goes to the hospital because the hospital does not! It is important that we visit our members and friends when they are hospitalized. So please call the church office (334-4978) and let us know.

### Meet our new Administrative Assistant

Kelley Nix has been attending our church for over a year and was part of our work team in Haiti this September. You may also know Kelley as the daughter of Tommy Loomis and the mother of Riley.

She is now working part-time in the church office assisting the pastor with a variety of office responsibilities and with program development. You'll find her in the office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

When you drop by the church be sure to welcome her to her new role.

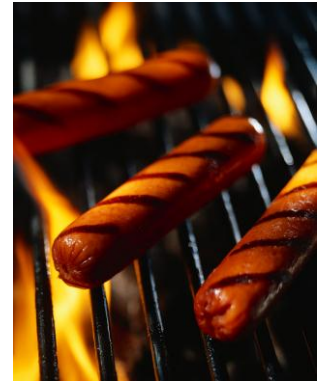


### October 2011

Budget	\$10,417
Given	<u>\$11,335</u>
Positive	918

## We're Grilling!

The church is adding a grill to our patio and it comes with a purpose. We want to have various groups and ages stay for lunch on Sundays. As a growing church it will help us bond and enhance our fellowship. The first date is coming on December 4<sup>th</sup> for our folks who are under 60. If you are 60 or over you can come if your spouse is under 60. Check for details in the bulletin and be sure to sign up. We're going to have a great time.



## SENIORS! BINGO STARTS THIS MONTH



We are adding a new activity for our Senior Saints. Here's a chance to be together and have some fun. In November we will have Bingo two Tuesday mornings starting at 10:00 AM. Join us on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. While this is mainly for the seniors in our church family you can feel free to bring a personal friend. You will pay to play and there will be prizes and snacks. From time to time Pastor Doug may take a few minutes to share items of special importance to seniors.

Sign up right away to express your interest and look for more details in the bulletin.



**Thanksgiving Dinner!** If you have no family or group you would normally celebrate with, then we invite you to join with us. Our sign up is already doubled from last year and you need to sign up quickly.

We will be posting another sign up soon for the items we need brought to the meal. We're going to have a great time so don't be alone for this holiday.

## TAECC to host Florida Association of Congregational Christian Churches

Our Florida Association will be holding its fall meeting here on November 11 and 12. The church will be in use for this purpose from 4pm on the 11<sup>th</sup> until noon the 12<sup>th</sup>. We are glad for this opportunity to interact with our sister churches.





## NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

Our new directory will be available to our members on our website as well as printable by you at any time so you can have a hard copy in color or black & white. Also this directory can be updated constantly and you can print one out as often as you wish. You are going to love the flexibility and best of all there is no cost to you and no one will be trying to sell you pictures! We do it all in house. It's going to be just one more great feature on our new website and being part of TEACC.

Your part will be to cooperate with Kelley, our Administrative Assistant in having your picture taken. It's painless and can be accomplished after the service during our fellowship time.

### **An important and challenging project awaits your response!**

We **need to address the capabilities of our sound system**, so we can use additional microphones, play music through our system for the choir and soloist and be able to record our sermons directly through our system.

At the same time we **need to address our visual ministry**, so we can put the video of our sermons on the website and so we can better serve our coming overflow crowds with the projection of the service so all can see.

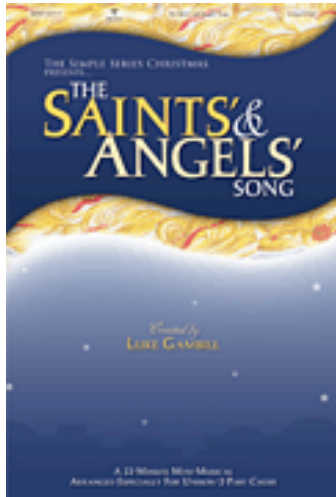


We **need to achieve this by December!** The basic plan has been developed and all we need at this point to proceed is the necessary finances. Summer attendance indicates that we are heading for attendance beyond what our sanctuary alone can hold so we need to take steps now so that we are prepared. After great things happen it becomes too late to play catch up. Now is the time.

If you have any interest in this project or have any questions please speak to Pastor Doug. Even if you cannot contribute toward the project please become a partner in prayer as nothing is impossible with God through the power of prayer.

[WWW.TAECC.COM](http://WWW.TAECC.COM)..... We encourage you to make the most of our new website. Check out all the features! Do you know that you can listen to the sermons, read the bulletin inserts, contribute through on line giving, and much more. Also check us out on Facebook and UTube. Make maximum use of this vital tool for our ministry.





## Coming our Community Christmas EVE Service!

This Christmas Eve (5PM) will be special as we reach out community through this great service. The church will be decorated. Our choir will present the brand new mini-musical *The Saints & Angels' Song*. Special guest soloist will be Debbie Marion. *O Holy Night* will be sung by Konstanze Niedung. Rachel Cox will be our violinist. We will sing carols and Pastor Doug will share a brief Christmas challenge.

It's not too early to make your plans and to invite others. This is going to be a magnificent service you will not want to miss!

## CONCERT HERE AT TAECC

Violinist, Rachel Cox  
Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00PM



## YOUTH ACTIVITY

Pizza, popcorn and a movie (*Soul Surfer*) is our activity for all our teens on Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Arrive at 6PM and be picked up at 8:45PM. RSVP! We are glad to see this new ministry begin for our teens. We are starting with some activities and we hope to expand from there.

## Brief items

1. We are still recruiting volunteers (men and women) to serve in our expanding usher's ministry. See Tom McIntyre or Pastor Doug if you have not volunteered and wish to do so.
2. Continue to pray for the growth and development of Sunshine Kids. Invite families to attend TAECC! Special thanks to our wonderful team of teachers!
3. November 6 will be our Fall Members Meeting. It will follow our service.
4. Join us in decorating at the Edison Ford Winter Estates on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. We walk over from the church at 9:45AM.
5. **Annual pledge drive for 2012** - Most of you received a pledge letter and response card. Please help us by getting your card in right away. If you did not receive a card but wish to participate, just ask Barb Buch or Pastor Doug for a card. The letter is our only pledge appeal – we do not come to your home or call you by phone. Giving at TAECC is voluntary. We appreciate you and all you do.
6. Do you have a TAECC name tag? This is important not just for members but for all the friends of TAECC. With all the new faces the name tags are a big help.
7. Average attendance for October was 79.

8. Ten more bricks have been placed in the Garden of Memories. You can secure your place in our garden in advance. By so doing you do not have to depend on others to know that this was your wish. See Pastor Doug.
9. New members are joining the church on Sunday, November 6. Our family continues to grow. Are you interested in being a full or associate member? You don't have to wait – just let Pastor Doug know that you're ready! It's always time to expand our family at TAECC.



### **HOLIDAY DECORATIONS – Important changes**

With the refurbishing of our sanctuary we have decided to move away from live plants and trees. This will make the clean-up easier, be better for those with allergies and avoid the inevitable stains that come with watering the flowers. Also as the church has grown we have had more plants donated than we could reasonably use in our limited space. So we have selected some beautiful yet artificial poinsettias and tree for the sanctuary.

We will raise funds this year for the new decorations through our normal process. Our goal is to raise \$500.00. A \$10.00 contribution will help provide for the decorations and can be given in memory of someone, in honor of someone or just as a gift to the church. The only difference this year is that you will not be taking any flowers home. On December 18<sup>th</sup> we will publish the list of those honored or remembered. We will raise these funds the first three Sundays of November so that we are ready for the *Hanging of the Greens* which will follow the service on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be beautiful and we hope you will participate as you have in years past. If you have any questions please contact the church office or Pastor Doug.

### **A Thought on Our Legacy Fund**

Remember the three important steps I've been sharing with you. First, **PRAY** – determine what God is impressing on your heart to do. Second, **GET HELP** – advice and your professional counsel is important to determine what will work best for you. Third, **DECIDE** – take the step and make a difference. Each of us is closer to our final destiny than we were when we last read these words in past issues of our newsletter. Be encouraged to take this important step now while you can do something magnificent for the future of TEACC. For more information, talk with John Buch or Pastor Doug.



**TAECC**  
Thomas A. Edison  
Congregational Church

1619 Llewellyn Drive,  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
Office Phone: 239-334-4978  
Sunday Service – 10:15AM