

## Family Business

This past week was a busy one for me and many of the members here at Columbus Avenue. Because we were going to host the Thanksgiving Eve service last Wednesday, a number of us spent some real quality time here at the church building in an attempt (successful!) to get the building ready for our guests from around the city. I wanted to take a little of the space I am given in the NEWSLETTER to recognize those who put in time and effort. All of us should be grateful for the spirit of volunteerism and hard work setting up tables and chairs, cleaning, painting, vacuuming, dusting—all kinds of things—that they did. Thanks to: Arthur and Kathy Norton, Jerry and Jolene Price, Micaela Bonner, Jeanne Dickerson, Toni Stephens, Maricela Cuellar, and her daughter Nancy. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone. If I did, someone please tell me and I will certainly make mention next week.

There were LOTS of people who brought or sent food items for the fellowship after the singing—really too many to mention by name. In addition, thanks to those who set up the refreshments (you know who you are) and kept the tables full. The singing was a HUGE success—about one hundred and fifty came from the surrounding churches of Christ and participated in a service of thanks to God in song. There is nothing like strong voices singing to the Lord in a building like ours. I hope we can do it again in the very near future. Thanks again to James Fine for spreading the word and organizing the service.

On Thanksgiving afternoon, we lost our dear brother James Tountas. As the notice to the right indicates, his services were held at OakCrest this past Tuesday. I want to say that I felt privileged to participate in recognizing James for being the consummate shepherd to the flock here at Columbus Avenue for the past fifty-three years. His leadership has been an inspiration to many and he served this congregation with grace, dignity, and wisdom. He will certainly be missed. Please, in your prayers to God, remember Edith, her sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

On Friday night from 6-8, Jeannie Dickerson will be hosting a Christmas Party for the Columbus Avenue family at her house. As a regular attendee, let me say that if you don't get to be there, you will certainly be missing out on a wonderful time of fellowship. Oh, yeah, there is also some really, really good food! Soups, snacks, and desserts are in abundance. Let's get enough people there this Friday so that Jeannie and Mickey will have to worry about running out of food...PLEASE, take time out to stop by, if only for a short time. I promise it will be worth it.

Let me say that I truly feel blessed to be able to serve this congregation as your minister. Let me know if there is anything that I can do to make your worship experience a better one. I love you all.