

## Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is a custom that FCCWP practices every year at Christmas time. It is to benefit the children living at the Great Oaks Children's Home. This is a residential foster group home for children aged 6-18 who have been removed from their homes by the court. The facility is run by the Florida Department of Children and Family Services. Usually there are 40-50 children living in the home at one time.

We contact the home in at the beginning of November to get a list of the children, their ages, gender, the cottage they live in (they are in different cottages based on age and gender), and top two gift wishes.

This information is taken and ornaments (aka gift tags) are made for the Angel Tree (one per child). The ornament gives the child's name, age, gender, cottage and gift requests. In addition, we have ornaments that specify a dollar amount and the store that a gift certificate is from.

The home is free to decide how these gift cards are spent. They may be used to help an aging out teen to set up their home, or they could be used by the home itself to fund different acquisitions. The certificate may be used as a gift to a child who needs to have their gift supplemented.

Lastly, the ornament may include household (kitchen towels, soap, dishes, cookware) and hygiene (shampoo, hand soap, wash cloths and towels) items that are placed into laundry baskets and given to aging out children to help set up their new homes.

The trees are hung with the ornaments on the day that the church is decorated for Christmas (Nov 29). Congregants or any interested party may take an ornament from a tree. All we ask is that the commitment be honored so that a child isn't left without a gift. The gifts are delivered to the church office within the following approximate 3 weeks.

**On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December we should have received all the gifts. That afternoon and evening all the presents will be wrapped and ready for pickup by the home on Monday, Dec. 17.**