

By Carolyn Lee

The Imperial Republican

Last year many families that might not have had a special Christmas did so, thanks to many Imperial churches. "The Gift," a community mission project, provided those families with toys, presents and food to make Christmas special.

The Gift is going to be a project again this December, according to coordinator Amy Prior. Plans are already underway to coordinate the event.

In the past, First United Methodist Church had reached out to families in need. Now, with the help of St. Patrick's Catholic, Zion Lutheran, Berean Fundamental, Lighthouse Fellowship, Crossroads Wesleyan and Imperial Bible Churches, even more families than the 70 served last year may be helped.

If individuals or businesses would like to share "The Gift," they can do so by either adopting a family or by providing gift certificates. If someone adopts a family, they will be given ages, sizes and interests of the persons in the family, and will be responsible for purchasing and wrapping items for the family.

Gift certificates may also be purchased, and area churches may put them in the gift boxes.

An account has been set up at Adams Bank & Trust of Imperial to help fund the project.

Representatives of the churches will be meeting soon to discuss recipients. If a business or individual is interested in giving to The Gift, contact Prior by Nov. 19 at (308) 883-3948.

Packages will be ready for delivery no later than Dec. 18. Churches will deliver their own packages, or they will be distributed from Imperial First United Methodist Church.