

From: Rep. Bill Taylor  
Sent: 11/26/2014 3:01:18 PM  
To: Haley, Nikki  
Cc:  
Subject: Giving Thanks !

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## **Giving Thanks**

Dear Friends:

This Thanksgiving most of us will join family and friends in celebrating another Thanksgiving. Amid the turkey, stuffing, pumpkin pie, and football it's important to remember the times of greatest thanks for our country, those times when we as a nation and people faced great adversity, as we do today.

<http://ih.constantcontact.com/fs150/1103106317947/img/686.png> When the first settlers arrived in New England in the early 1600's, they left to seek a new life. Throughout those years they faced great adversity, from starvation to disease. Even though our ancestors faced tremendous challenges, they never stopped being thankful for what they had, and the opportunity to govern themselves in the way they saw fit.

In 1621 pilgrims and Native Americans gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts to give thanks for what little they had that day, and also to be thankful for what they would be given great and small in the future.

The spirit of being thankful for what we are given took on great meaning more than 240 years later.

In the midst of a brutal and bloody civil war which threatened to rip apart the fabric of our nation, President Lincoln set into law a day of Thanksgiving to be marked each year. In the face of war that pitted brother against brother, Lincoln was willing to give thanks both for the good and the bad our young nation was experiencing.

Whatever we have faced in this country, from Pearl Harbor to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, we have given thanks for what we have and have been thankful for what is to come.

As we gather around the Thanksgiving table and give thanks, please give special prayers for what we must do together to make sure our country and our state remain strong, now and in the future. America is worth our thankfulness.

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## **OUR GIVING COMMUNITY**

Today in Aiken, many volunteers donated their time, talents and food to the Salvation Army to insure those in need were served a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank You!

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Monday evening, a 'Thanksgiving Feast' was held at Aiken's Solid Rock Church for clients of Aiken's Mental Health America and The Tri Development Center. Our family joined the many church members in helping serve. It was a joyful experience.

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While Aiken's One Table is taking a hiatus after nine years of service by the many volunteer cooks and servers, the caring folks of Wagener are once again offering their 'Community Harvest Table' to share the Thanksgiving spirit. Their bountiful feast is cooked in many homes and dished out by CTFK (Churches Together for Kids) led by Cindy Blizzard and her many volunteers. Wagener's 'Community Harvest Table' demonstrates the strength of community spirit and the uplifting promise of people sharing with people. Stop by CTFK at 231 Main Street South in Wagener to dine-in or take out between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Day.

Many other organizations take this time of Thanksgiving to share blessings of