

# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 1, Issue 10  
December, 2011

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!



Putting the **CHRIST**  
Back in **CHRISTmas!**

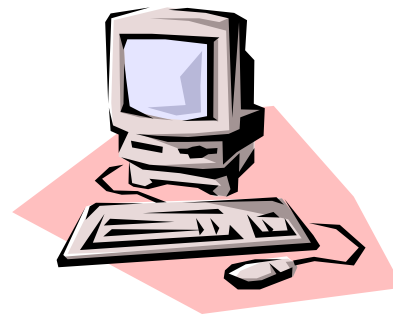
**11/27 – The Son of God**

**12/04 – The Son of Man**

**12/11 – The Son of David**

**12/18 – The Suffering Servant**

**12/25 – The Son of Mary**



Check us out online:  
[www.fccmtncty.org](http://www.fccmtncty.org)

### 'Tis the Season to Shine the Light of Jesus!!

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we have plenty of chances to shine the light of Jesus in our community!

Beginning with the city of Dillard tree lighting on Friday Dec 2, we have events going on every week that will give us a chance to get out into our community and show them the true meaning of Christmas!

Our sermon series will also follow the same concept as we will be putting the focus back on Christ where it belongs!

Let us not miss this excellent opportunity to reach those who need Jesus during this time of year when people have become so confused by society's attempt to white-wash our holiday with all kinds of counterfeits!

Don't forget to check out the calendar of events on the back page to see what events we have planned for our church during the month of December. Also, remember that if an event has not been announced, it will most likely not happen.

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey  
[Earl@mkdisciples.org](mailto:Earl@mkdisciples.org)

#### Daily Scriptures:

Week of 12/4:

Mon – Matt 1:18-25

Tues – Luke 2:21-40

Wed – Matt 2:1-12

Thur – Matt 2:13-23

Fri – Luke 2:41-52

Sat – Isaiah 11

Week of 12/11:

Mon – Isaiah 46

Tues – Isaiah 47

Wed – Isaiah 48

Thur – Isaiah 49

Fri – Isaiah 50, 51

Sat – Isaiah 52, 53

Week of 12/18:

Mon – Luke 1:26-45

Tues – Luke 1:46-56

Wed – Luke 2:1-21

Thur – John 1:1-18

Fri – Mark 6:1-6

Sat – Matt 13:53-58

Week of 12/25:

Mon – Matt 6:25-34

Tues – Matt 7:13-29

Wed – Exodus 25

Thur – Exodus 26

Fri – Exodus 27

Sat – Matt 6:19-24

"Trying to build a relationship without communication is like trying to make orange juice without oranges!"

## The Priceless Gift of Christmas

*Now Christmas is a season for joy and merrymaking,  
A time for gifts and presents for giving and for taking...  
A festive, friendly happy time when everyone is gay-  
But have we ever really felt the greatness of the day...  
For through the centuries the world has wandered far away  
From the beauty and the meaning of the Holy Christmas Day...  
For Christmas is a heavenly gift that only God can give,  
It's ours just for the asking, for as long as we shall live...  
It can't be bought or bartered, it can't be won or sold,  
It doesn't cost a penny and it's worthy far more than gold...  
It isn't bright and gleaming for eager eyes to see,  
It can't be wrapped in tinsel or placed beneath a tree...  
It isn't soft and shimmering for reaching hands to touch,  
Or some expensive luxury you've wanted very much...  
For the priceless Gift of Christmas is meant just for the heart  
And we receive it only when we become a part  
Of the kingdom and the glory which is ours to freely take,  
For God sent the Holy Christ Child at Christmas for our sake,  
So man might come to know Him and feel His presence near  
And see the many miracles performed while He was here...  
And this priceless Gift of Christmas is within the reach of all,  
The rich, the poor, the young and old the greatest and the small...  
So take His Priceless Gift of Love, reach out and you receive  
And the only payment that God asks is just that you believe.  
- Helen Steiner Rice*

[7] *Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*

As the end of the year arrives, this is a great opportunity to take a closer look at the worship of giving. Yes, giving is an act of worship, and God delights in the cheerful giving of His people!

Unfortunately, any time the church talks about money, there tends to be a tension that forms because of the stereotype created by TV Evangelists.

If you remove the stereotype and look carefully at the Scriptures, it becomes clear that giving is the focus of many teachings because it is both the most selfless act and the hardest sacrifice to master.

Let's face it, when money is scarce, we hang on tight because we don't know when the next paycheck will come. When money is plentiful, we hang on tight because we are afraid of what will happen in the future.

We will spend January talking about the "M" word during our Worship service. Until then, let us take the time to ask ourselves an important question: Are we giving cheerfully our best for God or have we settled for giving God leftovers?

Atheism: The belief that there was nothing and nothing happened to nothing and then nothing mysteriously exploded for no reason creating everything; and then everything magically rearranged itself for no reason whatsoever into self replicating bits which then became dinosaurs. Makes perfect sense!

[Thanx Bill McCann]

"I can't believe that God put us on this earth to be ordinary." - Lou Holtz

### Snapshot of Isaiah

**The Man:** Occupation: He served in the royal court as historiographer before being called by the Lord to be a prophet. He recorded the acts of both King Uzziah (2 Chr 26:22) and King Hezekiah (2 Chr 32:32).

**Ministry:** After the Lord's call, Isaiah served 60 years during the reigns of Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

**The Book:** The book of Isaiah was written mainly to encourage the Southern kingdom of Judah to remain faithful, or they would suffer the same fate of their sister kingdom (Israel) who were captured by the Assyrians. In order to help Judah understand the importance of their kingdom, there are many prophecies concerning the Messiah written in this book. These prophecies were fulfilled in the life of Jesus.

#### **Structure of Isaiah:**

##### I. Threats of Judgment

###### A. Chapters 1-35 (Assyrian invasion anticipated)

1. Mingled rebukes and promises (Ch. 1-6)
2. The Book of Immanuel (Ch. 7-12)
3. Burdens (Ch. 13-23)
4. General Judgment (Ch. 24-27)
5. Woes (Ch. 28-33)
6. General Judgment (Ch. 34-35)

###### B. King Ahaz

1. Was told not to worry about the Assyrians
2. Refused to rely on the Lord and sought political solution instead

##### II. Historical Connecting Link

###### A. Chapters 36-39 (The Book of Hezekiah)

1. Assyrian attack
2. Babylonian invasion anticipated

###### B. King Hezekiah (Son of King Ahaz)

1. Refused to associate with the Assyrians
2. Later in life, sought alliance with Babylon
3. Babylonian invasion begins

##### III. Promises of Deliverance

###### A. Chapters 40-66 (Babylonian Conquest Assumed)

1. Book of Cyrus (Ch. 40-48)
2. Book of the Suffering Servant (Ch. 49-57)
3. Book of Future Glory (Ch. 58-66)

###### B. Cyrus (King of Persia)

1. Used by God to destroy the Babylonians
2. Under the reign of the Persian Empire, Jerusalem is rebuilt.

"Don't put a question mark where God puts a period."

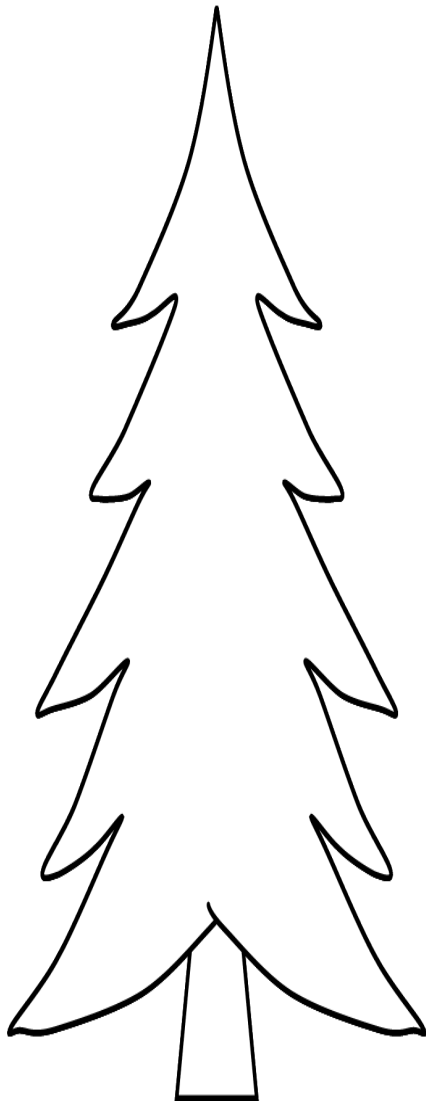
## The True Meaning of Christmas

- C** is for the Christ child who was born nearly 2,000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem. " And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS." Luke 1:31
- H** is for the HOPE that Jesus brings to all who believe in Him and trust Him with their salvation. " By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:2 I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11
- R** is for resurrection of Jesus Christ who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was both man and God, died on the cross for all of our sins, and then was raised from the dead (resurrected) and is now sitting at the right hand of God in heaven. " For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Corinthians 5:21
- I** is for Israel who God chose to bring forth the promised saviour of the world. " Of this man's seed hath God according to [his] promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:" Acts 13:23
- S** is for the salvation that Jesus offers to all who are willing to confess their sin, believe in Him, and confess their belief in Jesus with their mouth. " For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16
- T** is for the empty tomb on Easter morning. " He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you." Matthew 28:6,7
- M** is for the mercy God has shown the world by sending His only Son to suffer for our sins and bridge the gap between man and God. " Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16
- A** is for our AWESOME GOD who loves us all unconditionally. " Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13
- S** is for the shining light that Jesus brought to the world! " Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

[1] In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2] This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3] And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4] And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5] to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. [6] And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7] And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7 ESV)



“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14 ESV)



## The Spirit of Christmas

The crowds asked John, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." Luke 3:10-11 (CEV)

Words are taken from Luke 3:7-11 (NLT).



I C P W Y O H P P S V Q V S A  
 A G T R F Q W R R O H G A X F  
 L H O U O K V P L O O I O Y U  
 C Z U P R D P U T O V R R O U  
 H Z F N Q N U C R X T E T T D  
 U F O F G E E C E U W S E P S  
 I R O Q M R J D E Q E R C F D  
 P U D S C N Y Q J K A K D E Q  
 C I U E U F Y S A H U R H T R  
 I T X M L Z E N S W A R N E D  
 S I N S I G S I O U W C V Q P  
 H E X Z V I S R M T W O I W A  
 K E O A E V B F C R O W D S Q  
 T O A R L E D R E P E N T N O  
 Z G L Q O H B O B A P T I S M

baptism	give	poor	share	tree
crowds	good	produce	shirts	turned
food	hungry	prove	sins	two
fruit	live	repent	snakes	warned

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105 ESV)

Its December again, kids! I’m sure you are looking forward to Christmas. Maybe you are already counting down the days until the 25th of December.

Do you think we’ll have snow this time of year? What is your favorite thing to do in the snow? Go sledding? Make snow angels? Make snowmen? Have a snowball fight? The snow can be a lot of fun for us. But the snow also waters the earth. The snow helps refresh the earth too!

Long ago there was a man named Isaiah who actually spoke words for God! The Bible has a lot of

what Isaiah said. One time, Isaiah compared snow to God’s Word! (Isaiah 55:10-11) Isaiah said that just like the snow had a purpose, so God’s Word does too! As the snow refreshes the ground, so God’s Word can change our life!

We celebrate Christmas in December. But do you know what Christmas is all about? It is all about the birth of Jesus, God’s son. Isaiah talked about Jesus way before Jesus was born! (Isaiah 9:6-7) And Jesus was going to refresh the earth too, wasn’t he? He was going to save us from our sins. Our sins leave us dirty and smelly. But God wants to make us white as snow through Jesus!

*"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Thursday - Food Pantry 4:30-5:30 pm

Dec 2 - Craft Day 9 am/Dillard Tree Lighting 6 pm (City Hall)

Dec 3 - Clayton Christmas Parade 5 pm

Dec 4 - Fellowship Meal after Worship  
Elders Meeting after meal

Dec 7 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5 pm  
Daycare Committee 5 pm

Dec 9 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am

Dec 10 - Mtn Cty Tree Lighting 6 pm

Dec 17 - Christmas Party 7 pm

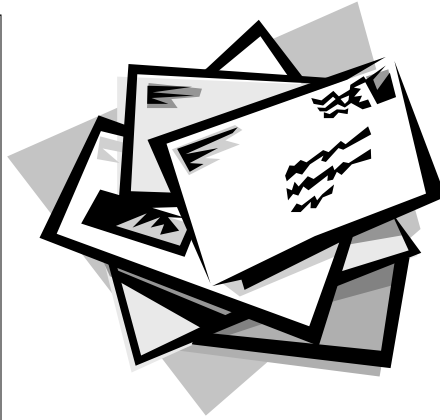
Dec 20 - Deadline for Jan. Newsletter

Dec 24 - Candlelight Service 6:30 pm

Week of Dec 25 - All weekday activities cancelled/ Merry Christmas!

Servers for December:

Morning Prayer - Lee Lantzer  
Communion Meditation - Earl Winfrey  
Offering Prayer - Benjamin Lantzer  
Server - Chris Duke  
Communion Preparation - Sara Berg



Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

I  
JESUS  
L  
O  
R  
D

General Prayer Items for the month:

(Please see the weekly bulletin for the church prayer list.)

- Church Leadership
- Ministries of the church
- Members
- Visitors
- Lost Souls
- Those needing work/Home sales
- The persecuted church
- Missionaries
- Future Kingdom Workers
- Those serving in the Military
- Government
- Schools

**Evangelistic Opportunities:**

- Clayton Christmas Parade
- Mtn Cty and Dillard Tree Lightings
- Neighborhood Christmas Party

### Partners in Ministry

Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!

- FCC of Franklin, NC
- Toccoa Christian Church
- Cornelia Christian Church
- Christian Church of Homosassa FL
- Coastline Christian Church (New Smyrna Beach)
- Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
- Christian Church at DeLeon Springs, FL
- Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
- N. Citrus Christian Church (Citrus Springs, FL)

If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.

**The "M" Word**

*Faithfully Financing God's Church*



**Jan 01 - Money for Building**  
**Jan 08 - Money for Maintenance**  
**Jan 15 - Money for Service**  
**Jan 22 - Money for Missions**