

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 2, Issue 1
January, 2012

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 1/1:
Mon – 2 Kings 12
Tues – 2 Kings 22
Wed – 2 Kings 23:1-30
Thur – Matt 17:24-27
Fri – Luke 19:11-27
Sat – Matt 25:14-30

Week of 1/8:
Mon – Exodus 30
Tues – Num 3:39-51
Wed – Matt 20:1-16
Thur – Mark 12:38-44
Fri – Acts 5:1-11
Sat – Ecc 5:8-6:12

Week of 1/15:
Mon – Psalm 15
Tues – Proverbs 13
Wed – Proverbs 17
Thur – John 12:1-11
Fri – James 4
Sat – Ecclesiastes 7

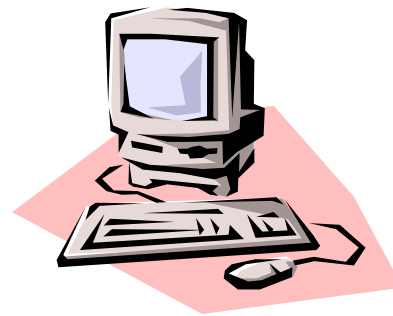
Week of 1/22:
Mon – 1 Peter 1
Tues – 1 Peter 2
Wed – 1 Peter 3
Thur – 1 Peter 4
Fri – 1 Peter 5
Sat – 1 Peter 1:3-19

Week of 1/29:
Mon – Heb 5:11-6:3
Tues – Galatians 5
Wed – Eph 5:1-21
Thur – Psalm 1
Fri – Psalm 119:1-12
Sat – Col 1:1-14

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



Check us out online:
www.fccmtncty.org

Happy New Year!!

Goodbye 2011, hello 2012 possibilities! I am excited about this new year that is upon us! We had a lot of fun during the Christmas season with the parade, community tree lightings, and the neighborhood Christmas party where we got to meet people from the community around us. As a result, we have something we can build on for 2012!

During this year, we will be looking for opportunities to work with the Mountain City Council as they are wanting to build events for everyone to enjoy, and we want to be the light in the community!

Along with community events, we will also be taking time to evaluate our ministries in the church so we can make sure we are doing the best we can for the Lord!

Be sure to keep an eye out for the newsletter and the weekly bulletins as there will be many opportunities for us to grow as God's church, and it will take all of us working as a family to make it happen!

Let's grow together!
-Earl Winfrey
Earl@mkdisciples.org

"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same god who has endowed us with sense, reason and intellect has intended us to forego their use." - Galileo

A Note From Kevin

Man of Sorrow

Everyone who goes through life experiences sorrow. Sorrow seems to be connected to death. We have all experienced some type of sorrow. Some may have lost a grandparent whom they were close to. Some may have woken to find their child has died in the night and a few months later lose another child to sickness. Some may awaken from a car accident only to find a parent has been killed in the accident. Some may have a close friend or family member killed in an accident. And the list goes on . . .

Recently I had a conversation with a friend and we got to talking about family. Early on in his family he could see that if a change wasn't made he would lose his children and God would lose them too. So he made a change - what a wise decision. Could there be any greater sorrow than to know that you could lose your child for eternity?

Why is there sorrow? God intended man to live forever. When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden they were thrown out of the garden and had to experience death - then sorrow began. But God did not leave the world full of sorrow, with no hope. He sent us a way to have hope. He sent Jesus to take care of the sin and through Him we can be restored back into His presence where there is no sorrow. Jesus came knowing He would have to face death, and not only that, He knew the type of death He would have to go through. This must have weighed on Him heavily. He could have put a stop to this, but if He had He would have lost the thing He loves the most - you and me. What sorrow He would have to endure. Jesus went through a lot of sorrow, but because of His sorrow and His death and resurrection we don't have to experience the sting of death. "But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written. 'Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'" I Corinthians 15:54-55

We might have some sorrow, but if we are in Christ, we have hope and a promise of life forever with Jesus and all those who have gone to heaven before us. What a great comfort to know that we will be reunited with loved ones! So let's make sure the ones we love - friends, family, neighbors - will be in eternity with us.

"Sweetness" - Josh Berg

As most of you know, I am a big football fan! A few months ago I was watching a documentary on the life of Walter Payton, a.k.a. "Sweetness". Walter was a very good football player. Some would say he was the best running back to ever touch a football with a career that spanned 13 seasons. He ran for over 17,000 yards and 112 touchdowns. As I was watching his former teammates tell his story one of them was asked, "How do you define Walter Payton as a player and a man?" He sat there in silence for a second pondering the question and then he simply said, "The best way I can describe Walter is this; you take wisdom and couple it with talent and you stack that on top of motivation and what you get is 'Sweetness'!" When I heard him say that it got me thinking! As Christians if we could take the wisdom we receive by studying the Word and our experiences, couple it with the talent that God has given each one of us and then, most importantly, were really motivated, imagine what we could do!! Just as "Sweetness" used those three things make the defense fear him, we could use those same things to make the devil fear what we can accomplish for the Lord!

Coming Soon: A church-wide survey will be created and sent out over the next few weeks so be sure to look for your opportunity to help us improve our ministry here at FCC of Mountain City!

"Don't be a spectator, don't let life pass you by." - Lou Holtz

Make Disciples

Most everybody is familiar with the purpose of the church known as the Great Commission. However, there seems to be a shortage of those who know how to follow through with making a Disciple. Some view the responsibility of making a Disciple as a job for the paid staff or clergy if you are part of certain denominations. Others view the job of making a Disciple as the responsibility of everyone at the expense of the paid staff. People who subscribe to that extreme tend to question the value of having a paid staff to equip the saints.

Just like many other issues in the church, the answer lies somewhere in between the two extremes. The paid staff can bring the resources that are not readily available to those who have not spent time in a Bible College or Seminary to train for full-time work in God's church. They can help the people of the church grow in knowledge which in turn can give them more confidence when trying to reach their neighbors. The paid staff can also serve as a support and encourager for the people as they continue to live out the Great Commission in their lives.

Although the paid staff can bring many benefits to the congregation, the people of the church have the advantage when it comes to reaching the lost in the community. The people have grown up in the area, so there is already a familiarity and trust that would take a paid Minister years to develop. Along with that, the Minister is limited by the constraints of time because he has the responsibility of equipping the whole church and even with a small church, this is a "God-sized" task!

This being the case, the paid staff and the people of the church need to form a partnership so that the community can be reached. During 2012, we are going to be building this partnership by working together as we create opportunities for edification through special classes designed for the specific purpose of Spiritual growth. This will be in addition to the regular programs we already have in place, and they will be given at various times of the year.

I attended a workshop where I heard this quote: "You can count the number of apples on the tree but you can't count the trees in an apple." Every apple has seeds that can produce trees that can produce more apples and the cycle continues. That is a good example of Discipleship. Our goal as a church should be to make Disciples so they can make more Disciples. Once we can get to the point where this goal is part of our core, the fruit that God will produce will exceed anything we could ever imagine! So as we begin 2012, let us remember our main purpose: Make Disciples!

"We don't change God's message, His message changes us."

It Couldn't Hurt!

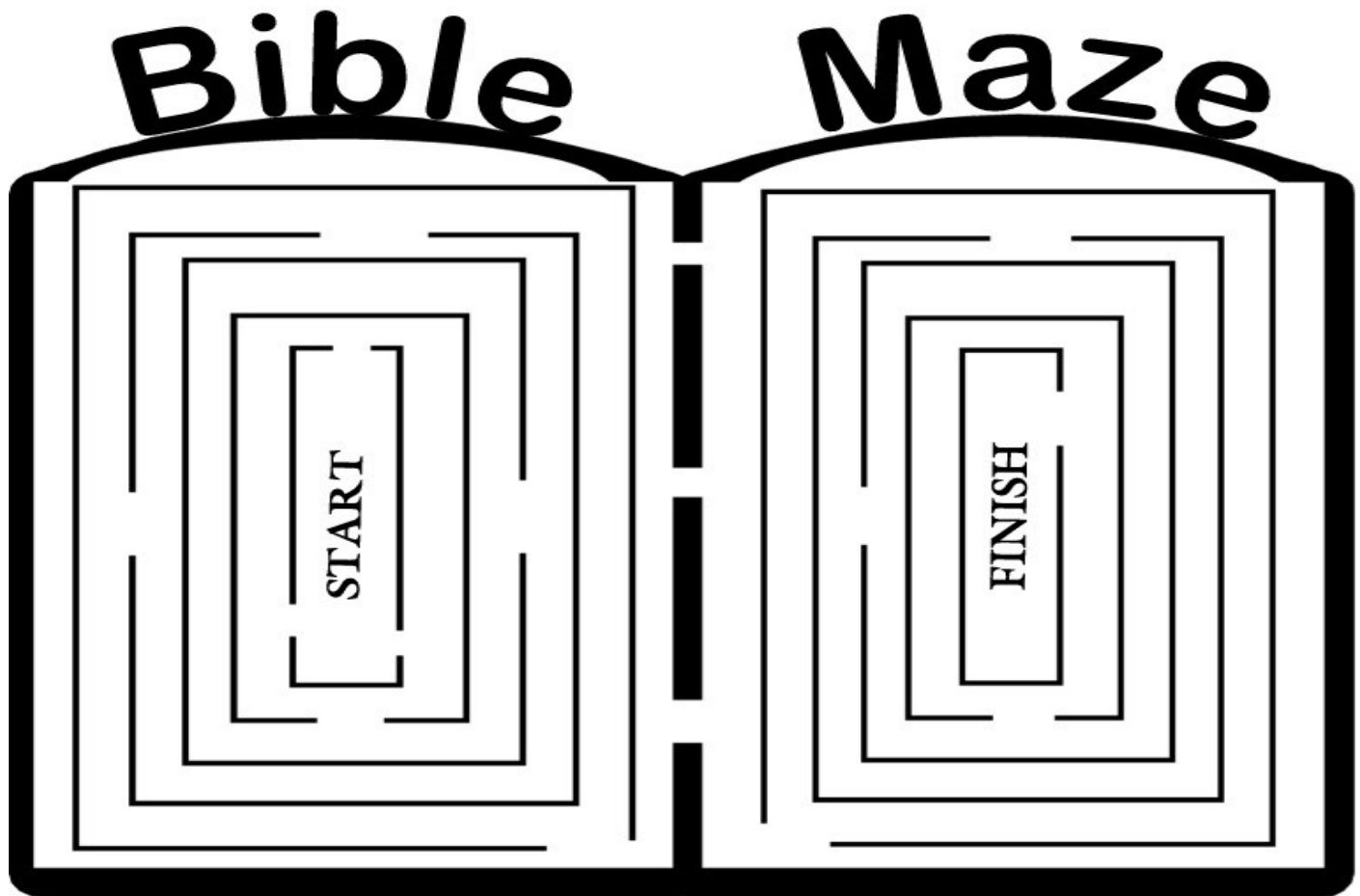
Random acts of kindness-huh!	It couldn't hurt.
I told my husband I love him.	It couldn't hurt.
I packed a note in my son's lunch box telling him how special he is.	It couldn't hurt.
I opened the door for a lady in a wheelchair in Walgreens.	It couldn't hurt.
I left a box of cookies for the mailman.	It couldn't hurt.
I left someone go in front of me in the grocery line.	It didn't hurt.
I called my brother to tell him I miss him.	He misses me too!
I sent the Mayor a note saying what a good job he is doing.	It couldn't hurt.
I took flowers to the nursing home.	It couldn't hurt.
I cooked some chicken soup for a friend who is sick.	It couldn't hurt.
I played Candy Land with my daughter.	It was fun!
I thanked the person who bagged my groceries.	He beamed!
I gave my assistant the day off with pay.	It only hurt a little!
I played ball with my dog.	It felt good!
I invited a woman who doesn't drive to lunch and to a movie.	I enjoyed myself!
I got a massage for me.	I felt marvelous.
Random acts of kindness-hmmmm, maybe I'll live this way all year.	It couldn't hurt.

Written by Sandy Ezrine
(Taken from Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul)

Mat 25:31-46 ESV

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. (32) Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. (33) And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. (34) Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. (35) For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, (36) I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (37) Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (38) And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? (39) And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' (40) And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' (41) "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (42) For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, (43) I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' (44) Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' (45) Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' (46) And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

"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)



"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

Happy New Year, kids! It's another year for growing and learning and fun. How old will you be on your Birthday this year? How old will your brothers and sisters be? Are you starting school or going into another grade of school?

God has blessed us with good food and warm clothing and houses and nice cars to get around in. We should thank Him every day for what he gives to us. I pray that this year you will learn even more about God. Pay attention to your parents when they try to tell you about God. Listen well in your classes at church. Read your Bibles or find someone to read it to you. Learn about God. The Bible tells us all about Him. He loves us so much.

Do you know John 3:16? "This is how God loved us: He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

And this year, learn even more to honor your parents. God knows best and he loves us very much. And he tells us to honor our parents. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." You should obey your parents with a good attitude. They love God and they love you very much. God wants you to learn from them by obeying them. Obey them, and this year you will really learn. You will grow and enjoy what God has given you!

"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
 Jan 6 - Craft Day 9 am
 Jan 8 - Fellowship Meal after Worship
 Elders Meeting after meal
 Jan 11 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5 pm
 Daycare Committee 5 pm
 Jan 9-13 - Earl in Cincinnati
 Jan 13 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am
 Jan 20 - Beach Party (Game Night) 6 pm
 Jan 24 - Deadline for Feb. Newsletter
 Jan 25-27 - Earl in Cincinnati
 Jan 27 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am
 Jan 31 - Men's Night 6pm
 Feb 5 - Congregational Mtg after Worship
Servers for January:
 Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg
 Offering Prayer - Pat Conrad
 Server - Ernie Smith
 Communion Meditation - Chuck Cleghorn
 Communion Preparation - Tiffany Berg



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

**I
 JESUS
 LORD**

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:
 Does your neighbor go to church?
 Does your neighbor know that you go to church?

Partners in Ministry

Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!
 FCC of Franklin, NC
 Toccoa 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.

As we begin 2012, I will also begin a new semester at the CCU Seminary. It won't be as hectic as the last one, but I will have to be traveling to the campus again for some classes. In January, I will be gone the week of January 8, returning on Friday. I will also be leaving Wed, January 25 and returning that Friday.
 In 2012, we will also be mixing up our monthly game night with some themes. In January, we will have a beach party for game night, so be sure to be ready for some fun at the "beach!" In February, we will have a Valentine's theme to the night and in March, we will be having a family movie night. These are just a few examples of what we will be doing as the year goes by.