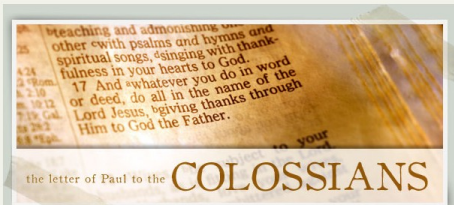


# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 2, Issue 3  
March, 2012

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

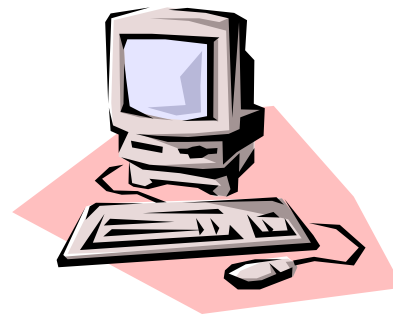


### February:

2/5 - Holy and Faithful  
2/12 - Who is Jesus?  
2/19 - The Great Mystery  
2/26 - Sweater of Unity

### March:

3/4 - Growing in Christ  
3/11 - Freedom in Christ  
3/18 - Clothed with Christ  
3/25 - Living for Christ



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

## Can you believe it is already time for Spring?

It is hard to imagine that we are already coming up on Spring! The mild winter has left us a little confused much like the plants as we are still waiting for the winter storms to present themselves.

The month of March has been known as a transition month with the entrance of warmer weather that brings about a feeling of freshness.

This warmer weather gives us an opportunity to do a little "spring cleaning" at the church, and this is why we have scheduled a work day, so we need everyone who is able to help us go through our attics and storage areas so we can work on becoming more efficient with the space God has blessed us with. There are a few repairs as well so we need help for that day!

We are going to finish our Colossians series this month as we move closer to Easter which will be April 8.

There is also a movie night scheduled this month too when we will be showing the movie "Courageous!"

Let's grow together!

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

### Daily Scriptures:

Week of 3/4:  
Mon – 1 Cor 9  
Tues – Romans 14  
Wed – Isaiah 29  
Thur – Ezekiel 13  
Fri – Revelation 2  
Sat – Col 2:16-23

Week of 3/11:  
Mon – 1 Cor 10:1-22  
Tues – 1 Cor 10:23-33  
Wed – Lev 19:1-18  
Thur – Lev 19:19-37  
Fri – Psalm 40  
Sat – Col 3:1-17

Week of 3/18:  
Mon – Matt 5:1-16  
Tues – Matt 16  
Wed – Mark 9:33-50  
Thur – James 3  
Fri – Mark 4:1-25  
Sat – Col 3:18-4:6

Week of 3/25:  
Mon – Matt 21:1-11  
Tues – Mark 11:1-11  
Wed – John 12:1-26  
Thur – John 12:27-50  
Fri – Psalm 118  
Sat – Luke 19:28-40

“The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending;  
and to have the two as close together as possible.” - George Burns

“Laziness leads to a sagging roof; idleness leads to a leaky house.” Ecclesiastes 10:18

There are No Shortcuts by Glynnis Whitwer

Life for a boy is measured in milestones. The first time you wear “big boy” underwear. The first time you are tall enough to ride a roller coaster. And the first time you eat a value meal all by yourself. For my youngest son Robbie, the last milestone came at age six. And it also came with a life-message about the danger of shortcuts.

For a first grader, lunch in the cafeteria is a novelty. With two older brothers, Robbie knew it meant I would be joining him occasionally with a special lunch instead of his normal sandwich and fruit. He couldn't wait for his turn to have Mommy show up with lunch hidden in a paper bag, stamped with a familiar golden arch. The first time I did, he was thrilled.

Robbie majestically created a plate from the paper wrapping, dumped the fries onto the “plate”, and sampled his soda. Like a king on his throne, he surveyed his lunch. Then Robbie dug in with abandon to his double-decker burger. And just as quickly, secret sauce started dripping down his little fingers.

He caught some with his tongue, but surplus sauce still oozed down his hands. I could see his shirt about to become a dining accessory, and started rustling through the bad and under wrappers. “Wait Robbie, I'm sure I brought some napkins,” I said.

“It's okay Mommy,” Robbie said raking his fingers through his hair. “My hair is a napkin.” He grinned, thoroughly pleased with himself.

I stared. Speechless.

That was a teachable moment for me. You see, I didn't know I had to tell my children not to use their hair as a napkin. Now I know.

I learned something else from that experience. Convenience trumps correct almost every time when children are small. Which is why dirty clothes get dropped on the floor directly in front of the hamper. Or glasses get set on the counter above the dishwasher. Bad habits are easily formed, and it seems in our human nature to choose ease over diligence, quick over thorough.

Sadly, with enough choices like that, we end up with a life-culture of shallow rather than deep. Instead of pushing through to the next level of excellence, we settle. Instead of a few extra seconds it takes to find a napkin, we use our hair. And then we wonder why things aren't the way we wish they were.

I catch myself looking for the occasional short cut. But I've discovered there are no short cuts to anyplace worth going.

I'll never have a clean home unless I get to work on it. I'll never save money unless I shop smarter. I'll never be an excellent writer unless I sharpen my skills. I'll never be a great wife or mother unless I make it a priority. I will never wake up one day and find that my dreams have become a reality, unless I'm willing to do what it takes to make that happen.

Besides a good story, Robbie's “My hair is a napkin” experience is a great lesson. It reminds me that convenience isn't always best. Shortcuts don't always work. And I've still got a lot to learn about parenting and life.

Attention ladies!!!!  
Make sure to check  
out the Save-The-Date  
flyer for the Georgia  
Christian Women's  
Retreat posted next to  
the calendar in the  
Fellowship Hall!!!

“How you respond to the challenge in the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser.” - Lou Holtz

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin; it was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that 1,100 people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by, and a middle aged man noticed there was musician playing. He slowed his pace, and stopped for a few seconds, and then hurried up to meet his schedule.

A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping, and continued to walk.

A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tagged him along, hurried, but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally, the mother pushed hard, and the child continued to walk, turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money, but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the most talented musicians in the world. He had just played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, on a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100.

This is a real story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste, and priorities of people. The outlines were: in a commonplace environment at an inappropriate hour: Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize the talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be:

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

Worry is the darkroom in which negatives can develop.

"Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "Noah, in six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are destroyed. But, I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. So I want you to build an ark."

Well, six months had passed, the sky began to cloud up, and the rain began to fall in torrents. The Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping, and there was no ark.

"Noah!" shouted the Lord, "Where is my ark?"

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best, but there were some problems — big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the ark's construction, but Your plans did not meet their code. So, I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a fire-sprinkler system."

"My neighbors objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, because it was killing the dandelions, so I had to get a variance from the city planning board.

Then I had a big problem getting enough wood for the ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch them so there will be no owls."

"Next, I started gathering up the animals but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to my taking along only two of each kind; they wanted me to save all of them."

"Then, the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plain. So I sent them a globe!"

"The IRS has seized all my assets claiming that I am trying to leave the country, and I got a notice from the state that I owe some kind of usage tax. Really, I don't think I can finish the ark in less than five years."

With that, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled, "You mean You are not going to destroy the world?" he asked hopefully.

"No," said the Lord, "I am too late, the government already has." - Taken from "Friend or Foe" by Dave Stone

Who is Jesus? If we were playing Jeopardy and the answer was "What Christianity is all about," the question would be "Who is Jesus?" He's our Messiah, our Savior, our Redeemer, our Helper, God in the flesh. At times, the church gets so deep into the forest that one can forget that Christianity is all about Jesus!

John 3:16-17; Acts 4:12; Isaiah 4:6-7; Acts 16:31; 1 Peter 1:3

Jesus is the one we worship, serve, pray to, love and obey. God in the flesh loved me. My life of surrender and obedience demonstrates my love for Him.

Romans 5:8; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Timothy 1:15

While we live our lives growing in faith, we can't forget that it's all about Jesus!

### New Facebook Bible Study Group:

MkDisciples Study Group is a new group I have created on Facebook so I can provide a weekly study for digging deeper into God's Word. I will post a topic/Scripture/question on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning, and then everyone will be encouraged to comment throughout the week.

Everyone is encouraged to join this group as it is open to the public. Just message me on Facebook, and I will add you to the group. You can also get to the group directly by going online and searching for it by name. I hope to see you on Facebook!

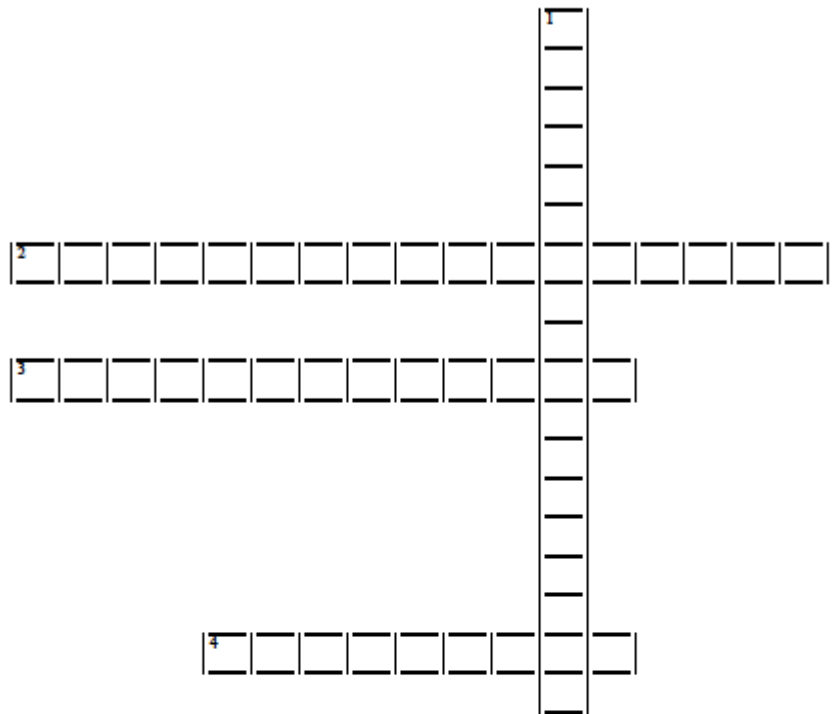
“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14 ESV)

# Who is Jesus?

Isaiah 9:6 can help you find the answers!

**ACROSS**

- 2. Parent who lives forever
- 3. A peaceful member of the Royal family
- 4. All powerful Divine



**DOWN**

- 1. Great listener who gives advice

“For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.” –Isaiah 61:11

What season of the year begins in March, kids? Spring! We move out of winter into spring. What is the weather like in winter? Cold? Snowy? What is the weather like in spring? The weather starts to warm up a little bit, and we get lots and lots of rain. What else happens in spring? Watch very closely. Grass will begin to grow again. Beautiful flowers will bloom. Will you help plant a garden with your parents or grandparents this spring?

You might see trees grow and put out their leaves again. You might be able to see a bee hover over a flower. Maybe you'll see a rabbit scurry from one hiding place to another. Maybe you'll see birds chasing each other.

Spring is an amazing and beautiful time.

Did you know that spring is like Jesus? Winter is cold and dead and sad, but spring brings warmth and life and joy. And it is the same way with Jesus. We were cold and dead and sad because of our sin. But Jesus came to warm us up and give us life and joy.

Jesus came to save us from our sinful hearts. He transforms us just like the earth is transformed from winter to spring. Have you trusted in Jesus and have you begun new life? Have you left winter and started spring?

*"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

Mar 2 - Craft Day 9 am

Mar 4 - Fellowship Meal after Worship  
Elders Meeting after meal

Mar 7 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5 pm  
Daycare Committee Mtg 5 pm

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

Mar 11 - Teacher Meeting after Worship

Mar 16 - Movie Night (Courageous) 7 pm

Mar 17 - Spring Cleaning at the church

Mar 23 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am

Mar 27 - Deadline for April Newsletter  
Men's Night 6pm

Mar 30 - Donna Ann CD Release Party

Servers for March:

Morning Prayer - Chuck Cleghorn  
Offering Prayer - Kevin Berg  
Server - Ernie Smith  
Communion Meditation - Ben Lantzer  
Communion Preparation - Denise Cleghorn



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

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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
- Providence Road Church of Christ (Charlotte, NC)
- 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.

We will be having an Education Meeting on Sunday, March 11th after church. If you are a teacher or sub for the elementary school age, please plan to attend. We have some very talented teachers with many ideas, so we will be doing some brainstorming and share ideas. Along with talking about Sunday School, we will also be discussing Vacation Bible School for the summer. We will be having a covered dish lunch and meet after we eat.