

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

11/4 - Genealogy of Jesus

11/11 - Announcement: John the Baptist

11/18 - Announcement: Jesus

11/25 - Mary and Elizabeth

12/2 - John the Baptist

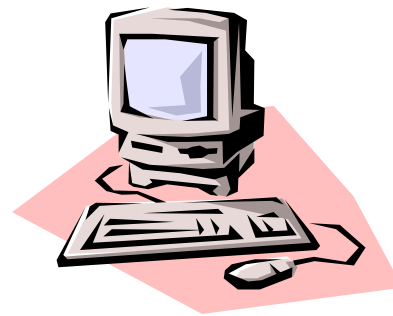
12/9 - Joseph

12/16 - The Journey to Bethlehem

12/23 - Birth of Jesus

12/30 - Presentation of Jesus

Merry
Christmas



Check us out online:
www.fccmtncity.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!

We had an excellent time with the Mountain city Tree Lighting and Rabun County Christmas Parade, and on Friday, December 14 @ 7pm, we will have our Christmas party for the neighborhood with a kids program!

This will give us a chance to get out into our community and show them the true meaning of Christmas!

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 whitewash 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.

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

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 12/2:
Mon – Deut 22:13-30
Tues – Leviticus 21
Wed – Isaiah 53
Thur – Heb 9:11-28
Fri – Hebrews 10:1-18
Sat – Matt 1:18-25

Week of 12/9:
Mon – Genesis 10
Tues – Gen 35:16-29
Wed – Ruth 4
Thur – 1 Sam 16:1-13
Fri – John 7:37-52
Sat – Luke 2:1-7

Week of 12/16:
Mon – Psalm 23
Tues – Psalm 85
Wed – Psalm 148
Thur – Is 44:21-28
Fri – Haggai 2:1-9
Sat – Luke 2:8-20

Week of 12/23:
Mon – Leviticus 12
Tues – Gen 17:1-14
Wed – Ex 13:1-16
Thur – Psalm 98
Fri – Matthew 2
Sat – Luke 2:21-38

Week of 12/30:
Mon – Proverbs 9
Tues – Isaiah 40
Wed – Psalm 40
Thur – John 10:1-21
Fri – 2 Timothy 4
Sat – Psalm 90

Who am I? - Chuck Cleghorn

I am Accepted

- I am a child of God (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
- I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
- I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him (1 Cor. 6:17)
- I have been bought with a price. I belong to God. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- I am a member of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:27)
- I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- I have been adopted as God's child. (Ephesians 1:5)
- I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:18)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (Colossians 1:14)
- I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

'Is there anything breakable in here?' asked the postal clerk.

'Only the Ten Commandments.' answered the lady.

I am Secure



- I am free forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)
- I am assured that all things work together for good (Romans 8:28)
- I am free from any condemning charges against me (Romans 8:31-34)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Romans 8:31-34)
- I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
- I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3)
- I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil. 1:6)
- I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7)
- I can find grace and mercy in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- I am born of God, and the Evil One cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)

I am Significant

- I am the salt and light of the earth (Matthew 5:13-14)
- I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15:1, 5)
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
- I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
- I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16)
- I am a minister of reconciliation to God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
- I am God's co-worker (2 Cor. 6:1)
- I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm (Eph. 2:6)
- I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
- I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12)
- I can do all things through God who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

A PRAYER OF PRAISE

- P- praise His excellent Greatness.
- R- repent of your sins
- A- acknowledge how he has blessed you
- I- Intercede with prayer for others
- S- supplication make your requests known
- E- end with exaltation of His greatness

When God ordains, He sustains.

"It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test." - Lou Holtz

"And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart." (Luke 2:51)

The last reference to Jesus as a child gives the place where He lived, Nazareth. Later in the Gospels, there are additional references to Jesus living in Nazareth, so it can be determined with certainty that Nazareth was His hometown.

Located near the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth is situated in a basin in the south side of a hill. A ten minute climb to the top of that hill is the best view in the whole area of Galilee. Looking to the north, there are fertile hills and valleys, and in the distance, the snow capped Hermon can be seen. There are many prosperous cities in the midst of the fertile hills and valleys, one of which could be Sepphoris. Three miles from Nazareth was the ancient home of Jonah, Gath-hepher. To the south, the Plain of Esdraelon extends from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea. Ten miles west of Nazareth is Mount Carmel in full view, where Elijah had the contest with the prophets of Baal. Southwest from Nazareth, about the same distance as Mount Carmel, is the famous battlefield of the nations, known as Armageddon. There are many other sites located eight miles south of Nazareth: Shunem was where Elisha raised the Shunammite's son from the dead, and Gideon battled against the Midianites near the spring of Harod. Jezreel, Mount Gilboa, Endor, and the Kishon River were also significant during the Old Testament period. All of these places were visible from the top of the hill that is located beside Nazareth.

Nazareth is in a location that is rich with Biblical history, but the town itself is not known for anything as Nathanael mentioned in the Gospel of John, "*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?*" (John 1:46) During the silent years of Jesus, this town was very small compared to Sepphoris, which was three miles away. With three hundred people living in Nazareth, there is a chance that the majority of the people came from one family. Considering the small size of Nazareth, it is hard to imagine that there were many opportunities for work within the city limits. Expounding upon the statement made by Nathanael in the Gospel of John, the possibility of anything significant coming out of Nazareth was as likely as the small town of Mountain City, GA becoming known as an international city. This being the case, it is very likely that the men of Nazareth had to seek work in neighboring cities, and with Sepphoris nearby, it is possible that the men would commute to Sepphoris so they could provide for their families.

Around 4 BC, the city of Sepphoris was destroyed by the Roman Empire because of a regional revolt. When Antipas gained control of Galilee, he received imperial permission to rebuild Sepphoris so he could use that city as an administrative capital and a model city of Greco-Roman culture in Galilee. Because of this status, several significant structures were being rebuilt, and a theatre was also created to support the fine arts. In contrast to Sepphoris, the small town of Nazareth was nothing more than a farming community. No significant structures have been found, and there is no mention of Nazareth in the Old Testament. Nazareth could have been settled by the Maccabees when they were relocated during the inter-testamental period. Just like other cities around Sepphoris, Nazareth supplied the food for the capital city, so the main industry was farming. Keeping this in mind, a carpenter would have to travel outside of Nazareth to find work of any significance. If this was the case, it is logical to believe that part of the reason why Jesus waited so long to begin His public ministry is because He could have wanted to finish the theatre project in Sepphoris before leaving Nazareth.

There are three kinds of memory: good, bad, and convenient.

“Beauty Upon Us”

“Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us.” (Psalm 90:17)

There it is. The little “throw-away” word us sits so innocently at the end of the line. Funny how such a little word can trip us up, especially as we pray. Amazing, how easily and often it can become a stumbling block. Us. Hmmm.

Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us.

We are eager to pray this prayer for ourselves. But let’s face it. It’s easier to pray this prayer for some sisters in Christ than for others.

For instance, it’s easy to pray it for the sister who puffs along beside us in spin class and tells us how great we look as we settle for jeans a size larger than the ones we bought last spring.

It’s easy, too, to pray it for the beautiful sisters in Christ who mourn with us at the loss of a loved one. Or for the sister who encourages us as we fight against an ugly addiction.

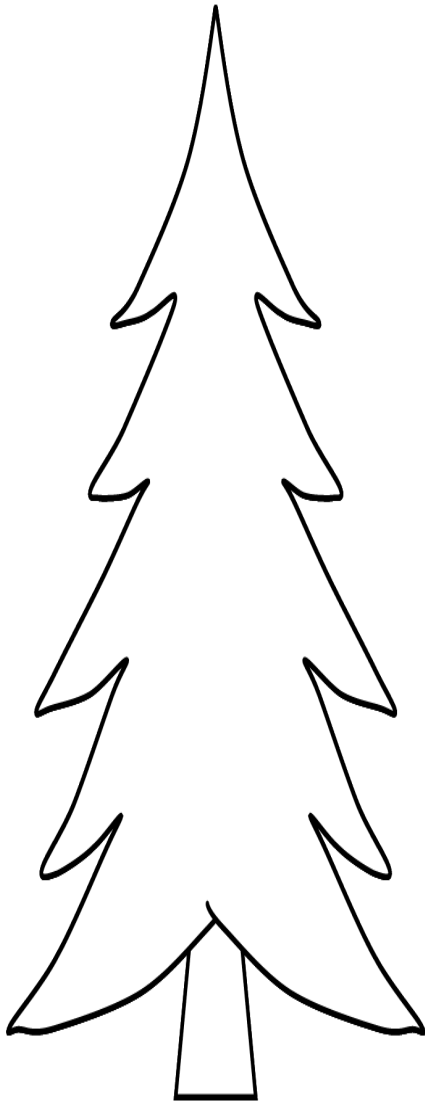
But then there are those other sisters...

- *The ones who seem to have so many friends, but who betray our confidence-every time;*
- *The ones whose lives seem so perfect, but who say ugly things about us behind our back;*
- *The ones who take advantage of us, and then breeze past us at parties to spend time with the “more important” people there.*

Pray for these sisters? That’s a lot harder! Still, it’s the call the words of Psalm 90:17 place on our lives. What makes it so hard to ask God to place His beauty upon them? Why do we hesitate? In a word-an ugly word-envy. Envy hisses, “She doesn’t need your prayers. She already has it all. She isn’t praying for you! She’s only out to use you!”

Don’t listen to this temptation! Instead, repent of it! Ask God to forgive you and to remind you of the beauty you have received from Him in the cross of His Son. Then, from a beautiful heart speak beautiful words of intercession for your sisters in Christ.

(article taken from “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord: 25 Devotions for Women”)



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

[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)



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Tuesday - Men's Discipleship group at Chick-Fil-A in Clayton 7am

Dec 2 - Fellowship Meal after Worship
Elders Meeting after Meal

Dec 4 - Men's Night 6:30pm

Dec 5 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5pm

Dec 7 - Women's Bible Study 6:30pm
Craft Day 9am

Dec 14 - Neighborhood Christmas Party 7p

Dec 18 - Men's Bible Study - 7pm

Dec 19 - Food Pantry 5pm

Dec 21 - Deadline for January Newsletter

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service 6:30pm

Dec 26 - Wed night services cancelled

Jan 6 - Fellowship Meal after Worship
Elders Meeting after Meal

Servers for December:

Morning Prayer - Luke Turner
Offering Prayer - Josh Berg
Server - Chris Duke
Communion Meditation - Lee Lantzer
Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey



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)
- First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
- 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.

While driving in Pennsylvania , a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... 'Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust.'

Albers' Presentation Rescheduled

The Albers' presentation has been rescheduled for Wed, January 9 following the Wed night meal. They will be sharing their experience they had when they went to China to adopt their beautiful daughter Lydia!