



**First Christian Church**  
**Mountain City, GA**  
*Building God's Church One Home at a Time*

# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 3, Issue 12  
 December, 2013

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

**Week of 12/1:**  
 Mon – Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Tues – Isaiah 53  
 Wed – 1 John 2:7-14  
 Thur – 1 John 3:1-10  
 Fri – John 14:1-14  
 Sat – John 1:9-13

**Week of 12/8:**  
 Mon – James 1:12-18  
 Tues – 1 Peter 1:1-12  
 Wed – 1 Peter 1:13-25  
 Thur – Isaiah 12  
 Fri – Romans 3:21-31  
 Sat – John 1:11-18

12/1 - Unexpected Gift  
 12/8 - Gift Return  
 12/15 - Gift Received  
 12/22 - Best Gift Ever  
 12/24 - Candlelight Service @ 6:30pm  
 12/29 - The Day After

*Merry Christmas*

**JESUS**  
 is still the best  
 gift of all!

Socks and Underwear FCC of Mountain City GA  
[www.fccmntcty.org](http://www.fccmntcty.org)

### Jesus is the ultimate gift!

If you grew up in a family that celebrated Christmas by exchanging presents, you most likely received at least 1 gift that you did not want. I remember receiving gifts from my Grandma that were needed even though I was not as thrilled to receive them.

This month's sermon series is called "Socks and Underwear" because we are talking about the gift that nobody wanted even though it is the gift that we all need! The Jews were looking for a Messiah to destroy the Roman Empire, but what they needed was a Messiah to restore their relationship with God.

During the busyness of this season, we should remember to take the time to reflect on the ultimate gift that we all need, and that is the gift of salvation through Jesus!

Let's grow together!  
 -Earl Winfrey  
[Earl@mkdisciples.org](mailto:Earl@mkdisciples.org)

# I JESUS L O R D

**Week of 12/15:**  
 Mon – Romans 4:13-25  
 Tues – Romans 5:12-21  
 Wed – Romans 11:1-10  
 Thur – Romans 11:11-24  
 Fri – Romans 11:25-36  
 Sat – Luke 2:1-14

**Week of 12/22:**  
 Mon – Colossians 4:1-5  
 Tues – Galatians 4:1-20  
 Wed – Titus 3  
 Thur – Hebrews 8  
 Fri – Hebrews 10:1-18  
 Sat – Luke 2:15-20

**Week of 12/29:**  
 Mon – Psalm 25  
 Tues – Psalm 26  
 Wed – Psalm 40  
 Thur – Psalm 51  
 Fri – Psalm 52  
 Sat – Acts 9:1-31

**Memory Verse:**  
 "Thanks be to God for his  
 inexpressible gift!"  
 (2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV)

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

**Mailing Address:**  
 PO Box 402  
 Mtn Cty GA 30562

**Church Office:**  
 706-746-3168

**Facebook:**  
 FCC Mountain City  
 Mkdisciples Study Group  
 Early Morning Snuggles

**Missions we support**  
 Florida Christian College  
 Open Door Libraries  
 Rio Bravo Ministries

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our

## Heavenly Scent

*“Thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.” 2 Corinthians 2:14-15*

Not so long ago, many women wouldn’t consider themselves completely dressed until they had added a dab of perfume or spritz of cologne. Some, desiring their own signature scent, kept the name of their fragrance a secret so friends couldn’t imitate it. Women were known by their fragrance-which often lingered for hours after they had left the room.

Today, some of us forgo wearing perfume or cologne out of deference to those who find scents offensive or who suffer from allergies. Yet our Lord invites each one of us to put on his signature scent, to wear it boldly, and to use it liberally every day.

His is the pleasing fragrance of patience and gentleness, forgiveness and joy. It’s the bouquet of encouraging words, the heavenly scent of willing service to those in need. It’s the lasting perfume of faith rooted in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus, of hands uplifted in prayer, of hearts turned toward love of God and neighbor.

Each time we enter a room, we bring with us the fragrance of Christ. Sad to say, this fragrance will offend some people. A coworker may consider it inappropriate for the workplace. A neighbor may suggest you use less of it, at least around her. Someone may advise you to wear it exclusively on Sunday mornings, if you must wear it at all.

Nonetheless, your Lord’s signature scent accompanies you everywhere you go. You will never feel fully dressed without it. Your Savior’s love and compassion cling to you. They leave a hint of his fragrance behind in the lives of everyone whose lives you touch. Long after you leave, the sweet memory of your godliness remains in the hearts and minds of others.

This is the signature scent you will gladly share with those who ask. Then, just like you, your friends will not consider going anywhere without wearing it.

### Ladies Night

This month’s Ladies’ Night will be December 16th at 6:30pm at Mi Casa in Franklin

## The Story of the REAL Saint Nicholas (<http://www.stnicholascenter.org/pages/who-is-st-nicholas/>)

The true story of Santa Claus begins with Nicholas, who was born during the third century in the village of Patara. At the time the area was Greek and is now on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him to be a devout Christian, died in an epidemic while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made Bishop of Myra while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Under the Roman Emperor Diocletian, who ruthlessly persecuted Christians, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. The prisons were so full of bishops, priests, and deacons, there was no room for the real criminals—murderers, thieves and robbers. After his release, Nicholas attended the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. He died December 6, AD 343 in Myra and was buried in his cathedral church, where a unique relic, called manna, formed in his grave. This liquid substance, said to have healing powers, fostered the growth of devotion to Nicholas. The anniversary of his death became a day of celebration, St. Nicholas Day, December 6th (December 19 on the Julian Calendar).

Through the centuries many stories and legends have been told of St. Nicholas' life and deeds. These accounts help us understand his extraordinary character and why he is so beloved and revered as protector and helper of those in need.

One story tells of a poor man with three daughters. In those days a young woman's father had to offer prospective husbands something of value—a dowry. The larger the dowry, the better the chance that a young woman would find a good husband. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters, without dowries, were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home—providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Sometimes the story is told with gold balls instead of bags of gold. That is why three gold balls, sometimes represented as oranges, are one of the symbols for St. Nicholas. And so St. Nicholas is a gift-giver.

Through the centuries St. Nicholas has continued to be venerated by Catholics and Orthodox and honored by Protestants. By his example of generosity to those in need, especially children, St. Nicholas continues to be a model for the compassionate life.

Widely celebrated in Europe, St. Nicholas' feast day, December 6th, kept alive the stories of his goodness and generosity. In Germany and Poland, boys dressed as bishops begged alms for the poor and sometimes for themselves! In the Netherlands and Belgium, St. Nicholas arrived on a steamship from Spain to ride a white horse on his gift-giving rounds. December 6th is still the main day for gift giving and merrymaking in much of Europe. For example, in the Netherlands St. Nicholas is celebrated on the 5th, the eve of the day, by sharing candies (thrown in the door), chocolate initial letters, small gifts, and riddles. Dutch children leave carrots and hay in their shoes for the saint's horse, hoping St. Nicholas will exchange them for small gifts. Simple gift-giving in early Advent helps preserve a Christmas Day focus on the Christ Child.

The downfall of democracy is that we are responsible for what our government does.

For the purpose of encouraging each other (Luke Turner)

I just got off the phone with Denny Coburn, director of Barnabas Ministries. What started as me calling to ask about prices and availability for the Winter Workshop quickly turned into a conversation about great preaching we've heard, friends that we get to see and memories that last for years. That's the reason Winter Worship and Workshop exists.

Every year in Pigeon Forge, TN around the middle of February a cast of characters descends on the chilly tourist town and livens things up with conversation, music, comedy and preaching. It's one of the main things I look forward to each year. Not only do I get to go see my Granny, who attends yearly, but it's also a meeting place for like minded people who are able to enjoy each other in worship.

As you sit there surrounded by friendly faces you are able to hear singing by Art and Jeff Bush, Steven Foster, Bob Creamer, and more. You become lifted up with sermons by George Faull, Kerry Allen, Willie Perdee, David Wheeler, Tony Sullivan and perhaps a few other guys you may have heard of. Fame of the speaker is not why you should go or be impressed. What should blow you away is how at easy you can feel there. It's a time like no other, when you are able to soak up the excitement and walk away feeling so much better.

The Workshop is held each year at the Music Road Resort right smack dab in the middle of Pigeon Forge. So if you love Pigeon Forge, good preaching, singing, and being one of the youngest people in attendance, like I do, then join me this year.

If you want to just go for the day then help keep the Workshop running by giving \$20 a person. Kids are free. Maybe you don't want to stay at the Resort but you want to go to the Workshop, well that's \$110 per loving, giving individual. Well what if you are awesome and want to stay at the Resort and want to attend the Workshop?

Well \$300 gets you the VIP treatment from **February 10-13, 2014**.

So if you are interested in going or want more info you can see me or go to [www.barnabasohio.com](http://www.barnabasohio.com). Registration fills up by the end of Dec so get started! Anyone who wants to try a day trip let me know so I can call Denny and tell them how many we may be sending. Lets do this people, don't be afraid to try something new. It really is one of my favorite things to do.

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?

If we're gonna be for the church we need to love them enough  
to question the assumptions of the church.

### The Christmas Tree

Many pagan cultures worshipped evergreens, saw them as symbols of immortality, and used them to ward off evil spirits. In the early 700's, Saint Boniface, who converted the German people to Christianity, demolished the Oak of Thor, the mighty sacred tree worshipped by the Saxons. From its roots grew a fir tree which Boniface took as a sign of the Christian faith. In the 11th century, Paradise plays portrayed the tree of Paradise, decorated with red apples. During the 15th century, the faithful began to erect trees in their homes on December 24, the feast day of Adam and Eve. About the year 1500, Martin Luther, inspired by a snow covered fir tree, brought a small tree indoors and decorated it with candles in honor of Christ's birth. By the 18th century, the custom of decorating a Christmas tree was well established in France, Germany, and Austria. Thus, the Christmas tree represents the original Tree of Paradise, the burning bush which spoke to Moses, the branch of Jesse from which Jesus was born, the life-giving tree of the cross of Christ, and the tree which the Apostle John saw in the Book of Revelation whose leaves have medicine for the people and which yields fruit each month for the healing of the nations. Because it is green year-round, the evergreen tree represents hope. Its needles and its narrow crest point upward, turning our thoughts to heaven. Because the tree is cut down and then erected again, it is a symbol of Christ's resurrection.

### Details and Dates

We need your help! Last year, we were able to provide Christmas for a family in need, and we would like to do the same this year! If you know of a family who needs help with gifts for Christmas, be sure to let us know so we can make a list of what is needed. The sooner we know the better chance we have to provide what is needed!

We will be decorating the church Wednesday, December 4. We need somebody who has an eye for decorating to lead us as we "Deck the halls" for Christmas! If you are interested in taking charge of the decorations, please let us know soon so we can work out the details.

Friday, December 6 @ 6pm - Mountain City Tree Lighting

Saturday, December 7 @ 5pm - Christmas Parade in Clayton

Wednesday, December 18 @ 6pm - Neighborhood Christmas Party and program at the church

Tuesday, December 24 @ 6:30pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fellowship Meal after Church	2	3 Elders' Meeting 6:30pm	4	5 Men's Night at 6:30pm	6 Mountain City Tree Lighting 6pm	7 Rabun County Christmas Parade 5pm
8	9	10 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	11	12	13 Craft Day at the Church	14
15	16 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	17 Jan. Newsletter deadline	18 Food Pantry 5pm Neighborhood Christmas Party	19 Men's Bible Study 7pm (Luke's House)	20	21
22	23	24 Candlelight Service 6:30pm	25 No Wed night Service  Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31	1 No Wed night Service  Happy New Year!		S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am  Wed Night meal and Bible Study 6:00pm	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am:  Men Discipleship Group

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

- First Christian Church of Franklin, NC
- Bethany Christian Church (Bumpass, VA)
- Providence Road Church of Christ (Charlotte, NC)
- First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
- Lilburn Christian Church, GA
- Tucker Christian Church, GA
- Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
- Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL
- Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
- First Christian Church (Kissimmee, FL)
- Salty Church (New Smyrna Beach, FL)

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

Servers for December:  
 Morning Prayer - Mark Mason  
 Offering Prayer - Shawn Albers  
 Server - To be determined  
 Communion Meditation - Lee Lantzer  
 Communion Preparation - Amanda Duke

Servers for January:  
 Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg  
 Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie  
 Server - Kaden Berg  
 Communion Meditation - Josh Berg  
 Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey