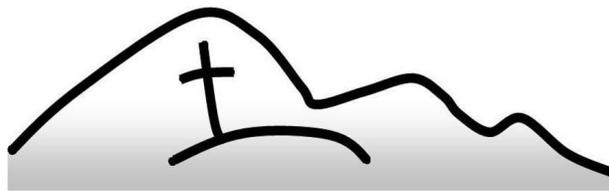


I JESUS L O R D

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER



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

Our Vision

To become a Biblically-functioning family of believers growing:

- Deeper through worship
- Larger through evangelism
- Stronger through discipleship
- Warmer through fellowship
- Broader through ministry

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 4, Issue 12
December, 2014

'Tis the Season!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! As Christmas is just around the corner, we have already seen a plethora of Christmas decorations in the stores, heard Christmas music on the radio, and received messages of what the world considers to be the true meaning of the holidays.

It is the most wonderful time of the year for those who enjoy Christmas, but what about those who do not have the blessing of a family to celebrate the Holidays with? There are many lonely people during this time of year who end up being pushed to the sidelines because of the busyness of the commercial version of the season.

As Christians, it is important for us to stay focused on what the birth of Christ means for the world. Christmas is the holiday that was designed for celebrating the coming of the Messiah, and it is important to keep this at the center of our activities. We should also honor Christ by reaching out to those who experience heartbreak during this time of year so they can know that a savior has been born for them as well! Jesus is the reason why this is the most wonderful time of the year!

Merry Christmas!
 -Earl Winfrey
 Earl@mkdisciples.org



Week of 11/30:
 Mon – Psalm 148
 Tues – Isaiah 9:1-7
 Wed – 2 Corinthians 3
 Thur – 2 Corinthians 4
 Fri – 2 Corinthians 5
 Sat – Luke 2:8-20

Week of 12/14:
 Mon – Isaiah 7:10-25
 Tues – Acts 3:1-10
 Wed – Acts 3:11-26
 Thur – Acts 4:1-12
 Fri – Luke 1:26-38
 Sat – Matthew 1:18-25

Week of 12/28:
 Mon – Genesis 37:1-11
 Tues – Genesis 37:12-36
 Wed – Genesis 39
 Thur – Genesis 40
 Fri – Genesis 41:1-36
 Sat – Genesis 50:15-21

Week of 12/7:
 Mon – Psalm 5
 Tues – Psalm 18:1-24
 Wed – Psalm 18:25-50
 Thur – John 15:1-17
 Fri – Romans 5:1-11
 Sat – John 1:1-4

Week of 12/21:
 Mon – 1 Tim 1:12-20
 Tues – 1 Timothy 4:6-16
 Wed – 1 Tim 6:11-21
 Thur – 2 Timothy 1:3-14
 Fri – 2 Timothy 4:1-8
 Sat – Acts 20:17-24

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

Check us out online:

www.fccmtncty.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

Johnson University in Florida

Open Door Libraries

Rio Bravo Ministries

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

The Best of Christmas

(Kelsa Turner)

It seems like Christmas Time has come upon us so quickly this year. It seems like stores put out the Christmas decorations and Christmas music starts playing earlier each year. I said to someone a few days ago that before long we'll start Christmas in January, and we'll just have Christmas all year. That wouldn't be such a bad thing if the meaning of Christmas wasn't lost.

It seems like the earlier we start celebrating Christmas the more it becomes about gift-giving, decorating, and doing fun holiday crafts and activities. Those are all great things, don't get me wrong. But they are also all great distractions. Wouldn't it be like Satan to use things that are good to distract us from what is best?

Now I'm not saying Christmas is of the Devil or giving gifts is materialistic. But this Christmas season, as we're enjoying all the good things that God has given us to enjoy, and as we're spending time with family, let's remember the best part about Christmas. Let's remember our Savior came into the world to pay the ultimate price for our sins so that we can spend eternity with our Heavenly family.

Details and Dates

Donations for Richard's Kids - Every year, we try to support a special mission and/or family for Christmas, and we chose Richard's Kids again this year for a local mission to support.

Christmas Parade - Every year, we participate in the Rabun County Christmas parade that is put on by the Chamber of Commerce. We have had a great time each year with the floats and this year will be great as well! For this year, we want to add some activities to the parade so we can take advantage of the "stage" the church has during this time of year. The parade will be Dec 6.

Mountain City Christmas Tree Lighting - Along with the Christmas parade, we help out with the Mountain City Christmas Tree Lighting and they are very grateful for our support. Every year, there are at least 100 people showing up from the community so this is our best opportunity to get to know the people who live around our church. This year, the tree lighting will happen on Dec 4.

Christmas Dinner and Program - On Wed, December 17, we will have our annual Christmas Dinner with a program led by Kelsa Turner that involves our kids. If you have a desire to help out with this program, be sure to contact Kelsa and let her know ASAP.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Every year, we gather on Christmas Eve for a short service to celebrate the birth of Christ. We also have communion to remind us of why Jesus came to earth.

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be December 15 at 6:30pm (Valley Café in Dillard)
Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

Love God, love others, love life

The Happiest Place on Earth

Walt Disney World (WDW) is the king of marketing, branding, and repeat customers, but there was a time when they had trouble getting people to be as excited when they left as they were when they arrived. For several months after they first opened, the families were disappointed in their experiences which did not bode well for "The happiest place on earth." As a result, several surveys were sent out and the people responded with the reason why they were not satisfied with their experiences. The number one reason the families traveled to WDW was to see Mickey Mouse, so when they did not get to see him, they were disappointed and this caused them to regret showing up.

To remedy the situation, the people of WDW created a parade that went straight down Main Street at a set time every day with Mickey Mouse as the Grand Marshal. The families loved it because they got a chance to see Mickey Mouse, and they spread the word and the park has been leading the way for amusement parks ever since.

When we meet every Sunday as a church, the number one reason why people show up is to see Jesus. If we do not make a point to show them Jesus, we have failed with our purpose for existing. Without Jesus, our church is nothing more than another social club that benefits the community but does nothing for our souls. People want to see Jesus, so let's show them Jesus!

He was born in an obscure village

The child of a peasant woman

He grew up in another obscure village

Where he worked in a carpenter shop

Until he was thirty

He never wrote a book

He never held an office

He never went to college

He never visited a big city

He never travelled more than two hundred miles

From the place where he was born

He did none of the things

Usually associated with greatness

He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three

His friends ran away

One of them denied him

He was turned over to his enemies

And went through the mockery of a trial

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves

While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing

The only property he had on earth

When he was dead

He was laid in a borrowed grave

Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone

And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race

And the leader of mankind's progress

All the armies that have ever marched

All the navies that have ever sailed

All the parliaments that have ever sat

All the kings that ever reigned put together

Have not affected the life of mankind on earth

As powerfully as that one solitary life

(Dr James Allan © 1926)

The Need for Involvement (Part Two)

“But the people who know their God will display strength and take action.”

Daniel 11:32

Benjamin’s revelation was not the end of my surprise. The next day I called the school to object, and I learned no other parents had called. So I called one of the parents and asked if his daughter had said anything about the seminar. He said they hadn’t talked about it at all.

I then proceeded to tell him some of what she had learned. “I can’t believe they shared explicit, perverted material like that with our kids,” he said. “It really is sick.”

When I asked if he was interested in doing anything about it, his response stunned me: “No, I really don’t want to talk to her about this. And, no, I don’t want to do anything about it in our community!”

What disturbed me most was that he did not even want to talk to his own daughter about what she had heard in the seminar. In other words, he wasn’t willing to get involved in one of the most crucial issues of his daughter’s life.

More than anything, your children want you to be involved in their lives. They need more than your time; they need your attention.

It’s not just showing up at soccer games with a cellular phone in your pocket. They need your heart knitted to theirs as they make their choices and hammer out their convictions. They need you to help them think about the clothing they wear, the types of people they date and the peer pressure they face.

In order to be a parent worthy of honor you can’t just “be there” as much as possible, you have to “be all there.”

That’s a special challenge for us fathers. Too many of us are too consumed with our careers, preoccupied with our “toys” and hobbies.

Real men with real character act; they take responsibility head on. They may not do it perfectly, but they tackle issues and battlefronts courageously.

Devotion taken from “Moments Together for Couples” by Dennis and Barbara Rainey

A Frozen Gift (Sara Lantzer)

Notice~ If you have not seen the movie Frozen, some of this information may spoil it for you. Go watch it first, and then come back and read the article to your heart's content!

Christmas is about gifts and relationships. Our gifts affect our relationships. Gifts that aren't used right break relationships.

Once upon a time, the relationship between God and humans was strong. They could talk together, they could walk together, they could just *be* together. God gave a gift to each & every human: free will, a.k.a. ("also known as") the power to choose. You know how the story goes: those first humans mis-used their gift, and the relationship between God and each & every human was broken. The gift that God had designed to be used as a tool to build strength and beauty had become an opportunity to bring hurt and fear: the gift was now dangerous.

What should the humans do now? Could the relationship be fixed? Mis-use broke it, dis-use didn't fix it, and ab-use made it worse. Is there a secret to being able to use our gifts to build strong relationships? In order to find out, step into a virtual world, and keep reading.

Once upon another time, in the movie called *Frozen*, Elsa is born with a gift that she uses while playing and accidentally hurts her sister. Bother! She finds out her gift is dangerous. How should she use her gift now? Conceal it, don't let it show, tell no one about it, don't let anyone know. Double bother! She finds out the relationship to her sister is broken. How should she use her gift now?? Well, she couldn't keep it in, she *had* to feel it, she made one wrong move, and now everyone knows. Botheration! She finds out the relationship to her kingdom is broken. How should she use her gift now??? Just let it go, test the limits, have no rules or right or wrong.

Ok, stop the story right there. This is seriously dangerous! If something is not right or wrong, it cannot be true. And you see, *true* love is the secret to being able to use our gifts to build strong relationships. True love is not testing the limits of a gift. True love is not being one with the earth and sky. True love is not letting go of what is holding you back. In order to find out what true love is, step into a Biblical world, and keep reading.

Once upon a starry night, God gave another gift to each & every human. This was the freedom to use our gifts selflessly rather than selfishly, a.k.a. the power of true love. God decided the best way to show us how to use true love was to come join us in our human skin, to be born a human, to live a human life. He would eventually lay down His life so that we could eventually have a strong relationship with Him again, just like in the beginning. This is the greatest example of true love!

If, in the Biblical world, Jesus hadn't been born on Christmas, all of us would be as selfish and confused as Elsa in her virtual world: alone, with a castle of ice to live in, and not much more than a stinkin' popular song to sing about it! If this was where the movie ended, it would be about as beneficial as the New Age religion that the words of her song sound like: a.k.a. fragile and fake and destructive. But it doesn't end there! You know how the story goes: with the help of true friends, Elsa is shown true love by her sister, the kingdom is shown true love by Elsa, and relationships are getting stronger all around. Elsa's frozen gift becomes a thing of beauty.

It's a happy ending. And that, believe it or not, is only possible because God gave us a gift at Christmas, a Son who would re-build a strong relationship with humans, based on true love.

"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
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed Meal - 6pm Study - 6:45pm	1	2 Elders Meeting 6:30pm	3 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5:30pm	4 Mountain City Tree Lighting 6pm	5	6 Rabun County Christmas Parade 5pm (Set up 3:30pm)
7 Fellowship Meal after Church	8	9 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	10	11	12	13
14	15 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	16	17 Food Pantry 5pm Christmas Dinner and Program 6pm	18	19	20
21	22	23 Deadline for Jan Newsletter	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30pm	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27
28	29	30	31 No Wed Night Services			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)
- East Win Christian Church (Memphis, TN)
- 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)
- Port Orange Christian Church, 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 - Lee Lantzer
- Offering Prayer - TBD
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Meditation - Kim King/Shawn Albers
- Communion Preparation - Amanda Duke

Servers for January:

- Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg
- Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie
- Server - TBD
- Communion Meditation - Josh Berg
- Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey