



The Chalice

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
4 N. Main Street
Watkinsville, GA 30677

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

Lectionary for Sunday Worship

Jan. 1, 2017
Isaiah 63:7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2:10-18
Matthew 2:13-23

Jan. 8, 2017
Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10: 34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Jan. 15, 2017
Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1: 29-42

Jan. 22, 2017
Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

Jan. 29, 2017
Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

The FCCW Youth entered their “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” float in the Watkinsville Christmas Parade and won an award for “Best Float Design by A Youth Group”! Way to go FCCW Youth!!

The Youth Christmas party will be held at church on December 18th at 6:00 PM.



Nancy Watkins shares her thoughts about Christmas:

A Time Of.....

A time of cooking, shopping, writing cards, planning for THE day. As I look around I see gifts to be wrapped, cards and list of addresses waiting for my attention, cookbooks opened to cookie recipes and the grocery shopping list which is growing by leaps and bounds. Only a few more days to get all this done. Will it happen as planned or not? My first plan of attack on this mound of chores is to brew a cup of tea, gather my favorite Christmas books, plop down in my favorite chair and begin to read.

As I open each book, I find some sort of newspaper clipping I have saved over the years. Most of them are of someone's favorite Christmas memories. One of my favorite clippings is one of Celestine Sibley's columns. It is too lovely to tuck back into the book, so I share it with you and hope your heart is warmed by its message. She writes:

There comes a time every December when, workday cares and tasks aside, you suddenly are aware of the specialness of this month --- the Christmas feeling, I think it is. It hits you at different times, but looking back, I can almost remember those times for dozens of years. Sometimes it comes late, when you are tired and discouraged and feel hopelessly behind on all your projects and out of joint with the festivity which you know to be brewing all around. Sometimes a warm rush of gladness and excitement of Christmas hits you with a wallop in an unexpected place.

One year, in the midst of many projects and problems, I thought I might have to totter through the season without that sustaining wave of pre-Christmas excitement and delight.

Get through it somehow, I thought resignedly, do what is necessary, be as happy as possible, and don't count on choking up with joy unconfined. My grandchildren, Bird and Tib, now all grown up, were young enough then to go to a day care center after school. I was asked to get them one bleak December day and I went in my old pickup truck. I felt rushed and tired and distracted. The children came out looking rosy cheeked and sparkly eyed with a cookie in each hand.

They climbed into the truck making sounds of approval for their favorite vehicle. They saw a

Christmassy looking box on the seat beside me.

"It's open," Tib reported delightedly. "Can we look?"

"I guess so." My mind was on the traffic and the oncoming headlights.

I heard both Bird and Tib exclaim "Nestes Nestes for the Christmas Tree!" There was one for each of us. A handmade replica of a bird nest and a note on each which said:

Especially blessed
And happy is he,
Who finds a bird's nest
In his Christmas Tree.

(Old Swedish proverb)



Our long-time friend, Jo Severinghaus, had made them for us. After choosing the one they wanted, they started singing, not together of course but different songs. Bird sang "O Tannenbaum" while Tib sang "Silent Night". I shushed them and we started over together singing, "Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm, all is bright....."

Suddenly that December twilight was calm and bright. The darkness coming on had a velvety look. Traffic lights twinkled like stars. The voices of the children rose sweetly ---- off key, out of time but lovely. Christmas, I thought ah, Christmas ... it's here.

It IS here. Take some time, brew a cup of tea, plop down in your favorite chair, gather your memories and warm your heart.

Merry Christmas.



Christian Education

Jesus's Birthday Party will be celebrated on December 25 at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall followed our worship service. The dress is very casual and the children are encouraged to bring one toy for the Blessing of the Toys. There will be no Sunday school classes this day.

On New Year's Day, we will meet in the sanctuary at 11:00 am for our worship service. There will be no Sunday school classes this day.



Evangelism

The Evangelism committee is planning to publish a new directory this spring. If there have been changes to your contact information, please submit the changes to Elaine McTyre. Your family will be asked to sign up for pictures beginning on January 29.

Diaconate

Food was provided for the family of Traci Link, Amy Baxter's sister-in-law, after her funeral services in November.

Michelle Greenwall and Fred Thompson will serve as Diaconate co-chairs in 2017.

Cards will continue to be sent for illness, thinking of you and sympathy. Joan Moore will send out the cards for the first quarter and Kate McDaniel will send out the cards for the second quarter.

Property

A Vehicle Log will be in the bus beginning Jan. 1, 2017. This log will include: date/driver/mileage/notes. This will allow the committee to monitor usage and frequency of usage.

Outreach

The Thanksgiving Offering was \$715.60. The Christmas Offering is being accepted at this time.

Change for Change will be collected on January 29, 2017.

Disciple Women

The DW group provided gifts for six senior citizens with the Action, Inc. SOS project (saving our seniors). Pam Crawford attended the luncheon provided for the seniors in December.

The ladies are also providing Christmas stocking for our Senior Christians.

Pam Crawford is the president of the group in 2017 and Susan Hansford is vice president.

CMF

Doug Baxter will be the Chairman and Ronnie Ogletree will serve as the Treasurer for 2017.

The money was disbursed from the Chicken Mull as follows:

Benevolence Fund: \$1,500
Annex Garage: \$900
DW group: \$1,500
Youth: \$500
ACTS: \$2,000
Food for Kids: \$1,500
DEFACS: \$400

The CMF thanks everyone that had a part in making the Chicken Mull a success once again.



The Youth send a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the Christmas float possible.