



The Chalice

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

706-769-5966

<http://fccwatkinsville.org>

2019 CALENDAR FOR HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS:

3:00 PM – Sunday, 12/15 – Watkinsville Christmas Parade! Followed by tree lighting at the courthouse (around 5:00 PM) FCCW Children, Youth and any adults will hand out hot chocolate, coffee with Advent devotionals and Sweet Treat favors. We will meet at 3:00 PM on the lawn. Donations will be accepted. Joining us on the green space is The University of North Ga Relay for Life with luminaries for the Light Up the Night and the Watkinsville Police Department. Come and join the festivities of the season in our little town of Watkinsville! This is the Sunday of JOY!

6:30 PM – Sunday, 12/15 – FCCW Elders and spouses enjoy a time together at La Cabana, Bell's Shopping Center. Please let Pam Gunter know that you can attend!

6:30 PM – Monday, 12/16 – FCCW Disciple Women invited to the annual holiday party. Bring a dish to share and a gift (\$10-\$15) to exchange. All women of the church are invited. Shared rides are possible. Our host is Pam Crawford!

9:45 AM – Sunday, 12/22 – Jesus's Birthday Party – Christian Education host refreshments and entertainment in honor of Jesus' birth.

11:00 AM-Sunday, 12/22 – Christmas Cantata presented by the choir during worship service. It will be wonderful! Invite you friends and family!

12:30 PM-Sunday, 12/22 – Christmas FAMILY Fun Party! Come for some surprises of the season! Enjoy the friendship with each other. We will start with appetizers at the church and then move to a meal! *Please bring an appetizer or dessert or beverages to share.* (let Sheila know what you will share!) A meal will be provided. *Please bring a gift for the exchange* (the children and teens will exchange gifts and the adults will exchange gifts, too) It will be a fun afternoon. We will finish by 3:30 PM.

11:00 PM – Tuesday, 12/24 – Christmas Eve Service – Candlelight and Carols in Community of Faith. Please come and join in this family-friendly time of telling the story of the birth of Christ.

Thursday, 1/2/2020 – Friday, 1/3/2020 – Youth New Year Lock-In (6th – 12th Graders) - save the dates! More details to come but FIRST – adult volunteers are requested for overnight! Please see Sheila.

FCCW Holiday Varsity Visit and Light Tour!

The FCCW Bus went rolling into Athens with eight seniors and friends for the annual visit to the Varsity and then to see the lights. Donned in festive head gear and thankful attitudes, we enjoyed the friendship of one another as we sat around table and ate the famous hot dogs, onion rings and Varsity orange.

We then traveled down town and through some subdivisions as our eyes feasted on the lights and images of the Christmas spirit displayed.

We ended our tour at the best display - our own Eddie Cobb's house and yard was decorated with thousands of lights, candy canes, trees - even one on the roof top! It was great fun to remember the magic and mystery of Christmas. Our next senior event will be lunch and Bingo at the Community luncheon hosted at our church on Thursday, February 20! Invite your friends.

Pictured are Eddie Cobb, Margo, Sue Shirey, Diana Jeffries, Grace Gilroy, Paulette, and Patsy Barrow.



FCCW Disciples Women: Service Beyond Self

FCCW Disciples Women enjoyed their November meeting as they shared around table with refreshments and a program. Their hands and hearts were busy with a special holiday project of signing Christmas cards for many of our church family who are homebound. After the program, they gathered the food and hygiene items donated for delivery to the University of North Ga-Oconee campus student pantry. This campus pantry assists UNG students who are subject to food insecurity and even homelessness as students. This collection was a local project of the month.

The FCCW Disciple Women choose a monthly outreach project for others where they give their time and donations. 2019 monthly outreach projects included: Oconee County Relay for Life; Support Our Seniors (SOS); Family Promise; Forever Families Foster families; Mercy Free Clinic; DM Blessing Box; OARC Summer Food for Kids; Silent Auction Items for Disciples Women and GALA- Camp Christian; ACTS Christmas Stockings.

In addition to the monthly seasonal projects, FCCW Disciple Women give year-long financial support in monthly contributions to the Regional Women Ministries, the Regional Disciples Ministries, Camp Christian, the Daisey Dubue Orphan Child, Oconee Meals on Wheels. They also provide wedding showers to celebrate new married couples of our church family; contribute comfort meals for grieving families; gift new parents with donations; send 'sunshine' cards of support for prayer list families; work alongside the CMF at chicken mull days; support our VBS program with meals and snacks; and donate memorial money to our church in memory of a love one. In 2018, FCCW Disciple Women contributed to help others over \$ 7,575.00!! The totals for 2019 are not available yet! The most important dynamic of DW is the intent of their generous hearts! And following most meetings, recycling of paper, plastic products used takes place as a ministry of recycling!

FCCW Disciple Women meet in December for their annual Christmas party where delicious appetizers and sweets are shared and a fun gift exchange will take place. All women of the church are invited to attend and to join the DW meetings. Meetings are typically on the Monday after the fourth Sunday of the month at 6:30 PM. The next fund-raising event scheduled is on Sunday, January 26 at 6:00 PM. This is DW's annual Chili Feed and Silent Auction! Please save the date and bring your friends!!



FCCW Christian Men Fellowship - A Benevolent Mission - The Mull!

The pots are washed and put away. The quarts of rich mull are sold out! Another first Saturday in December benevolent fundraiser has been accomplished! The CMF Chicken Mull Benevolent Fundraiser was a success! Not only did it collect over \$9000 for over 1200 quarts of mull, this signature event of FCCW was a great example of the Body of Christ in motion! Since 1972, this annual event is organized and managed by men who know how to cook the mull. Our very own CMF group guides the production from beginning to end while at the same time, inviting young and old, male and female, church family and community folks to join together in the effort of cooking 25 pots of tradition and richness!

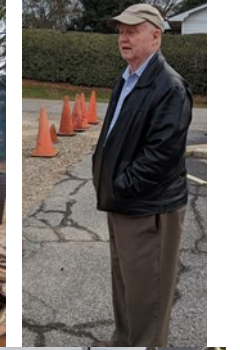
The 60 photos show a sampling of the process from delivering the chicken to the coolers to cracker crumbling and bagging to hauling the wood, pots, barrels into place. Don't forget the setup of tents where the chicken pickin' takes place and the onions and meat are grounded up for the pots of broth boiling in the parking lot. Milk, butter, crackers and special spices are added to each pot for the cooking to continue until ready to scoop into quart containers for the sale.

The sale started faster than we could scoop! We were sold out fast and unfortunately, disappointed some folks who drove through the parking lot line.

On Sunday morning at the monthly CMF Breakfast meeting, the decision was made by the participants to give away the proceeds plus a little more! Just over \$11,000. were awarded to help others in the community. The checks were being written before the day finished! Some of the recipients included the Oconee Schools lunch program for students who could not pay for lunches, the Oconee Meals on Wheels program, and a benevolent fund for individual requests.

In addition to this event, the CMF offered two "grill out" events, selling hot dogs, brauts. They collected almost \$2,000. with the two events for our Regional Camp Christian. All men of the church are part of the CMF group. Please come to the next meeting scheduled for Sunday morning at 8:00 AM on January 12, 2020. This will be a great beginning for friendship, faith and purpose!









The Very First Christmas

By
C.M. Turnbull

As told to me by Buzzy, the time traveling fly.

I met Buzzy many years ago, as I was sorting through the mail. I never expected to become friends with a simple, common housefly, but then again, Buzzy is no ordinary fly. He's an adventurer and inventor.

The day I met him, Buzzy was making a special flight suit with which he could safely travel through time.

The following account is the true story of the first Christmas, as Buzzy experienced it.

"I have read many times, the story of the birth of the Christ child, and had even read some of the prophecies of His coming. However, I wanted to see it for myself, so I set out to invent a device that would allow me to do just that. I came up with the idea to integrate the circuitry into the flight suit."

"I decided that the first stop on my journey, would be Mary's house, on the day that the Archangel Gabriel appeared to this young woman."

I landed on a nearby windowsill and waited for the story to unfold.

Mary was busy with her daily chores, when a blinding light illuminated the whole house, and the Archangel Gabriel made his grand entrance. Needless to say, Mary was so frightened that I thought she would pass out! Then, I noticed that there was a sense of comfort and peace that seemed to envelop Mary as she spoke with Gabriel.

I was in awe of all of what I was witnessing! I'm still amazed by this extraordinary event! I knew that I would want to see this thing through to the birth of the Son.

I decided then to move forward in time, and continue my journey with my next stop in Bethlehem. I programmed my time traveling suit to take me to a hillside just outside the city of David. This time, I landed on the head of a sheep.

It was a very calm and peaceful night, and the sheep were settling down to rest, and the shepherds were all just gathered around the campfire having a bit of supper.

All of a sudden, it became very bright with a light that could only come from Heaven! Like Mary, the shepherds were scared out of their wits!!! They grew very quiet as the angel began to speak. And, just as with Mary, there was a sense of comfort and peace that enveloped that group of humble shepherds.

Then, totally out of nowhere, a whole boatload of angels showed up and began to sing! "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace to all mankind!"

I had never seen or heard anything like it! The angels were more than beautiful, and their singing was amazing beyond measure.

I tried to hitch a ride on a shepherd, but he was running too fast, so I just decided to fly to the stable myself.

What I saw was amazing! It wasn't like any of the Christmas cards that we find in the store. The whole town was absolutely full to overflowing with people and animals, and there were a million conversations all going at once. It was total chaos!

I was finally able to locate Mary and Joseph, and found a great place to watch what was happening. The stable wasn't like what we have today. It was just a roughhewn cave behind one of the inns. It was full of animals and hay. It was smelly and a bit messy, but it was warm and dry, and fairly private. The animals seemed to know that something special was about to happen, because they were all gathered around and appeared to be watching the humans who had come into their shelter.

As Mary went into labor, Joseph ran to find a midwife that could help them with the birth. The midwife came with her supplies, and after what seemed like an eternity, helped Mary to deliver her Son.

Just then, I noticed that the shepherds had arrived and they were all kneeling in prayer and worshipping the Christ child. What an extraordinary sight to behold! I was completely awestruck with the wonder and beauty of this event in the history of our world.

The birth of the Savior was something that I will never forget. I too knelt in prayer, and worshipped Him.

I am truly happy to have witnessed this wonderful event, and will treasure it always.

Christmas is not just another day, not just an excuse for a party, but it's a time of remembrance and fellowship and prayer. It's a holy day. The story of the birth of the Christ child has been told and retold throughout the ages, and although it is the same, it will never get old. It truly is a love story, God's love story to His people.

God bless you all!

Buzzy the time traveling fly.



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CMF – Rotating Monthly
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Steve & Gina Hansford
Marsha Burgess


어서 오세요, 그들이 나에게 말했다



Me dijeron: ¡vamos!

COME

they told me

**a new born king to see
our finest  we bring
to lay before the king
shall I play for you
me and my **



2019 Christmas Special Offering

Our finest gifts supporting the Ministries of our Region

Received December 15th and 22nd in many congregations