



# The Spirit



Pastors: James E. Whedbee, Melissa R. Smith, Daniel M. Ogle

## Christmas Is Coming! Join Us for Worship



On the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, we will continue our sermon series on "The Road to . . ." in all our worship services. We are drawing close now to the manger. Your presence will enhance our worship.

Christmas Eve worship opportunities are as follow:

**5:00 p.m. - Family Communion & Traditional Nativity Service**

**6:30 p.m. - Contemporary Service with Communion**

**11:00 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion**

On Christmas morning we will join for *one worship opportunity in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.* We hope you will take advantage of the rare opportunity to worship on Christmas Day.

## Begin the New Year in Worship

What better way to begin the new year than in worship on January 1? We will observe our regular morning study and worship opportunities. There will be no evening activities.

## Television Schedule for Music Program

The Christmas Music program will be televised at the following times:

**Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24**

8:00 p.m. on 10News2

**Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25**

7:00 a.m. on WBIR

9:00 a.m. on WATE

9:00 a.m. on 10News2



## Worship With Us!

### Traditional Services

(8:30 & 11:00)

**December 18, 2011**

"The Road to ..

Hope" (Mary and Joseph's  
Journey to Bethlehem)

Luke 2:1-7

Sermon by Jim Whedbee



### Contemporary Service

(11:00)

**December 18, 2011**

"The Road to ..

Hope" (Mary and Joseph's  
Journey to Bethlehem)

Luke 2:1-7

Sermon by Melissa Smith

### Christmas Day - One Service

**December 25, 2011**

"The Road to ...

Praise" (Jesus)

Luke 2:8-20

*The next print of the Spirit  
will be January 4. All articles  
must be submitted by noon  
on Monday, January 2.*

Is the music of the Christmas season really more beautiful than that of any other time of the year? As wonderful as it is, maybe it is just that we only hear it once a year; so its beauty rings anew in our hearts 12 months later. However, after being blessed by our church's music program on Sunday and Monday evenings, I am thinking about some of the hymns we sing during the season. It causes me to think: "What if?"

Have you ever played that game in life? What if I had done this instead of that? What if this had happened instead of that? "What if, what if, what if. . . ?"

In some form or another, we probably do that more often than we realize. It does not change the past, but we could learn from it for the future.

One of my favorite carols is "Joy to the World." That will be our closing hymn on Christmas morning. Do you pay attention to the words and consider "what if" earth did receive her King and "what if" every heart really did prepare him room?

So it is with other hymns of the season. What if "the hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight"? What if "God and sinners are reconciled"? What if "Jesus, to thee be all glory given"? What if "where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in"? What if "love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine; love to God and neighbor"?

Think how different life would be? Perhaps as God wants it for us? No more animosity, gossip, bitterness, name-calling, strife or war. As we sing these beautiful carols, let us write them upon our hearts and seek, with God's help and strength, to do our part to make these "what ifs?" a reality so that "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Please join me in praying this prayer by Frederick Buechner in *The Hungering Dark*. It calls us to respond to all the "What ifs."

*"Lord, Jesus Christ, Thou Son of the Most High, Prince of peace, be born into our world. Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain, wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come, thou long-expected one, with healing in thy wings.*

*"Holy Child, whom the shepherds and the kings and the dumb beasts adored, be born again. Wherever there is boredom, wherever there is fear of failure, wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart, come, thou blessed one, with healing in thy wings."*

Merry Christmas! May Christ be born anew in our hearts!

— Jim

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## Financial Update

Sunday, December 4, was the day set as our commitment to our church's ministry through both the annual stewardship emphasis and the capital campaign debt retirement, Praising our Heritage – Renewing our Future.

Just one week later, we have received commitments totaling \$1,066,394 from 258 households for our annual stewardship emphasis and \$931,336 from 180 households for our capital campaign. We are truly blessed here at FCUMC to have received such generosity to continue our mission and ministries for our Lord. However, if we are to continue our current ministry, we will need at least an additional \$200,000 in commitments toward the annual stewardship emphasis. To erase our building debt in three years will require a minimum of \$900,000 additional toward the capital campaign.

This past Sunday we collected First Fruits offerings toward our capital campaign. I am very excited to say that we received \$46,838 to assist in paying down our renovation debt.

Thanks to all who have made or will be making commitments for Kingdom work through Fountain City United Methodist Church. If you have any questions or would like to discuss with me in confidence, please do not hesitate to contact me, at ext. 109 or [jpatterson@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:jpatterson@fountaincityumc.org).

John Patterson, Church Business Administrator

### December Drivers

Morning: Brent Eldridge  
After Church: Robert Smiddy

**Intercessory Prayer:** Mary Bolton, Tom Harrington

### Emergency On Call

December 16-18: Melissa Smith

December 23-24: Daniel Ogle

December 25-26: LeRoy & Sandra Hatcher

**Medical Transportation:** Jean Payne

**Stephen Ministry:** Gail Clift

## "The Christmas Present"

Wednesday, December 21

6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Reception immediately following in Wesley Hall

The GPS4kids Music and Drama ensemble invites you to their performance of "The Christmas Present," a musical narrative set to the story of the Nativity. This musical will leave you with the message that Jesus was the very first (and best) Christmas gift. Joining them will be the sweet voices of the Sprouts, Wiggleworms, and Crosstrainers choirs singing various Christmas songs. What a treat! Please make plans to be with us on December 21 in the sanctuary for an evening of music provided by our youngest musicians!

## It's a Baby Shower!

Birthday Party for Jesus

Sunday, December 18 at 9:45 a.m.

All children are invited to come celebrate Jesus' birthday on Sunday, December 18. Children should meet at 9:45 in their regular classrooms and The Gathering (1st-5th grade). We will share a time of worship in the sanctuary. All children's groups will return to their classrooms for a snack and dismissal. If you are new to our church, or have children who are not attending Sunday School, they are welcome to join us for this special celebration. (Moms and Dads may also attend if this will make your child more comfortable.) Honor this special baby by bringing a baby item (diapers, wipes, clothes, toiletries, pacifiers) to be donated to the Hope Resource Center.



## Bring out the mittens!

*Help decorate the Necessi-tree*

*With gifts for the families at Jubilee.*

*Hats, socks, mittens to stay warm;*

*Underwear and panties, all new not worn.*

*Honor your teachers with gifts on the tree.*

*Everything will go to our friends at Jubilee.*

The tree is located in the main hallway outside of Wesley Hall. Everyone is encouraged to honor their teachers with gifts on the tree. Place hats, socks, and mittens on the tree and underwear in the giant Christmas boxes.



## 'Generosi-Tea'

Thank you for your support of Children's Ministry at Fountain City UMC. Because of your gifts, our children have had the opportunity to receive the blessing of being used by God and sharing that blessing with others. During the past few weeks we have delivered 214 shoebox gifts to Operation Christmas Child, raised over \$1,000 through our Children's Stewardship Art show and Auction, shared the story of Christmas with our community in the Fountain City Christmas Parade, taken our preschoolers on a 'follow the star' Christmas Celebration, and packed 525 fruit bags for Lost Sheep Ministries during Children's Worship time this week. Our children have prepared a special thank you for all of you. Please look for specially packaged bags of 'Generosi-tea' following each worship service on Sunday.

## Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. - Family Communion Service & Traditional Nativity

6:30 p.m. - Contemporary Service with Communion

11:00 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service with Communion

The 5:00 p.m. service will incorporate our traditional "impromptu Nativity" and Holy Communion. Families with young children will especially enjoy this service. If your child would like to be a part of this service, please come to the narthex by 4:30 p.m. so he or she can choose a costume.

### Children's Ministry Event Calendar

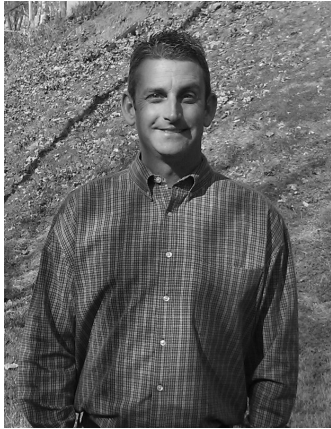
December 18, 9:45 a.m.  
Birthday Party for Jesus

December 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Christmas Program

December 24, 5:00 p.m.  
Impromptu Nativity Family Worship

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## NEW MEMBERS



Please welcome Bill Sivyer to our congregation. Bill joined by transfer of membership at the 11:00 *Journey* service on Sunday, December 4, 2011.



Please welcome Brandon and Paige Walton to our congregation. Brandon and Paige joined at the 8:30 traditional service on Sunday, December 4, 2011.

### Upcoming Youth Events

**December 17, 2:00 p.m.**

Youth Serving at Volunteer Ministry Center

**December 18, 6:00 p.m.**

Youth Group Christmas Party

Resurrection 2012 Deposit Due (\$40)

**January 4, 2:00 p.m.**

Youth Serving at Volunteer Ministry Center

**January 7, 9:00 a.m.**

Youth Serving at Volunteer Ministry Center

**January 8**

Parent Meeting

Resurrection 2012 Balance Due

**January 13-15**

High School Resurrection

**January 20-22**

Middle School Resurrection

**January 29**

Youth Sunday

**February 19-20**

Ski Getaway

### Friday Morning Young Men's Bible Study

The Young Men's Bible Study will pick back up on Friday, January 7, at 8:00 a.m., as we will be reading together *The Good and Beautiful Life*, the second book in the three-book series on the spiritual life by James Bryan Smith. We hope that you will join us for good coffee and good conversation as we learn together how to grow deeper in relationship with God and those around us. Contact Daniel Ogle at 689-5175, ext. 110, or by email at [dogle@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:dogle@fountaincityumc.org) for more information.

### Inspiring Youth

On Sunday, November 20, the youth kicked off the capital campaign with a breakfast and a study on the Matthew 25 parable of the talents. At the end of the study each youth was given a \$5.00 bill and challenged to find ways to be a good steward of the resource they had just been given. This past Sunday, December 11, that \$245 investment had grown to \$571.00 to be given as a first fruits gift to the capital campaign from the youth group. Youth did extra chores, some added their own resources to the \$5.00, while others combined their resources with other youth to purchase supplies to make baked goods to sell. One youth even used his five dollars to come up with a creative way to harvest mistletoe that he then sold for Christmas decorations. Way to go youth!

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## SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### Summer International Mission Trip New Dates: May 26 - June 2

Our international trip for 2012 has changed! Our trip is now scheduled for May 26 - June 2 to Guatemala. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 8 at 5:00 p.m. At that meeting we will have final costs and details about the opportunities available to us in Guatemala.

This is an exciting mission trip that will allow us to have three teams - medical, VBS, and construction. This will be our first trip to Guatemala and we will be partnering with Samaritan's Hands, a ministry of Fairview UMC.

Samaritan Hands has established an orphanage called The Hogar del Nino (The House for Children) near Santa Cruz del Quiche, about 3 hours northwest of Guatemala City. Construction teams will work on building churches and the upkeep of the orphanage. Medical teams will set up daily clinics in various parts of the region to meet the needs of those who would otherwise not receive medical care. VBS teams will provide Vacation Bible School for the children each morning and afternoon.

Who should consider going? Individuals who are willing to live in a simple, rustic environment, willing to share God's love in word and deed, and committed to work together to reach the goals of the team. This trip is a wonderful experience. The children at the orphanage will capture your heart, and it is a place of beauty and wonder.

### Collections

Don't forget to bring in your items for the *Necessi-tree* and baby items for the Hope Resource Center. For more specific information, check out the *Children's News* page.



### Scroggie Mission Endowment Fund Now Taking Applications

Applications for 2012 funds from the Scroggie Mission Endowment Fund are now being accepted through January 31. You may stop by the church office to pick up an application, download the application, or apply online.

For more information, please check the church website.

### Cookies on Christmas Eve 2011

Help us spread the joy of God's love with our community this Christmas. Members of FCUMC will be delivering homemade cookies to people who are working at local businesses and hospitals on Christmas Eve.

We need volunteers to **BAKE** cookies and bring them to the church office by 1:00 p.m. on December 23 or to the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. Cookies should be bagged by the dozen or put into plastic containers. Volunteers are also needed to **DELIVER** them during the day on December 24 or after the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Contact Donna Daller at 776-9640 for more information.

#### Let's Sing Christmas Songs! Fa La La La La La

Saturday, December 17, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Gym

Bring two dozen cookies

One dozen to share and

One dozen to send to Wesley House

*(please, no nuts or peanut butter in cookies)*

*Sponsored by the Women's Ministry*

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## IN MEMORY AND HONOR



**Capital Campaign: In Memory Of: *Jim Ted Collins*** by Carolyn Collins McCarter  
***Mary Catherine Gentry*** by Dick & Judy Shane; Harry & Tondra Gentry; Polly Kelly  
***Hubert "Bud" Scott*** by James W. Scott  
***Jonathan Haywood, Evelyn Shipman*** by Polly Kelly



**Choir Fund: In Memory Of: *Gwen Sprouse*** by Ernest Sprouse  
**In Honor Of: *Leslie Graves*** by Warren & Pat Prator



**Fountain City Ministry Center: In Memory Of: *Mr. & Mrs. Peyton Brown, Sr., Gordon Kerley*** by Pete & Elizabeth Brown  
**In Honor Of: *Dave & Mary Fredna Danford*** by Tom Harrington



**General Fund: In Honor Of: *Ron & Roz Irwin*** by Martha B. Kerley



**Lost Sheep Ministry: In Honor Of: *Martha Kerley*** by Pete & Elizabeth Brown



**Transportation Fund: In Honor Of: *Van Ministries*** by Mary Ruth Hudson

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to Amanda Schneider and Nick Oliver, who were married on December 10.



## WE REJOICE

We are happy to announce the birth of ***Elise Isabelle Kilday*** on December 7, 2011. Congratulations to Dan & Liz on the birth of their daughter. Big brother and sister are Rhett & Kennedy.

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## Disciple III

On January 8, the Disciple III Class will begin studying "The Letters of Paul." This 16-week unit is intended for those who have already had Disciple I. Disciple III meets on Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

Please contact Betty or Jim Dougherty (687-6073) if you would like more information about this class.

## Flower Calendar

The Flower Calendar for 2012 is now posted in the church office. Please stop by or call the office to reserve your date to place flowers on the altar. The current cost for ordering altar flowers is \$60.00.



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## CHURCH CALENDAR DECEMBER 16 - 31

### Friday, December 16

6:30 PM Discovery Class Christmas Party

### Saturday, December 17

2:00 PM Youth to Volunteer Ministry Center  
Fa La La La Party (Gym)\*

### Sunday, December 18

8:30 AM Worship (Sanctuary)+  
9:30 AM Coffee & Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)  
9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages (Church-wide)  
Birthday Party for Jesus (Sanctuary)  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)+  
*The Journey* Contemporary Worship (Gym)+  
3:30 PM 21st Century Class Caroling  
4:00 PM Disciple III (208)  
6:00 PM Youth Christmas Party

### Monday, December 19

8:30 AM Preschool (M-F)  
9:00 AM Aerobics (M, W, F) (Gym)  
3:15 PM The NET (M-F)  
4:00 PM Dance For Joy (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 PM MOPS/MOMsnext (Wesley Hall)\*  
7:00 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting (Various)  
Boy Scouts (Various)  
8:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous (M, W, Th, F, Sa)  
8:30 PM Men's 40+ Basketball (Gym)

### Tuesday, December 20

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (137)  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting (137)  
10:00 AM Bridge (135)  
4:00 PM GPS4Kids Music (Choir Room)  
4:30 PM Dance for Joy (Fellowship Hall)  
7:00 PM Young Adult Bible Study (Offsite)

### Wednesday, December 21

5:00 PM Children's Program Rehearsal (Choir Room)  
6:30 PM Youth Open Mic Night (135)  
Children's Music Program (Sanctuary)  
7:30 PM Reception for Children (Wesley Hall)  
*The Journey* Rehearsal (136)\*

### Thursday, December 22

5:30 PM Dance For Joy (Fellowship Hall)  
6:30 PM Personally Experiencing Prayer (102)

### Friday, December 23

*Church Offices are Closed*

### Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM Family Nativity Service (Sanctuary)  
6:30 PM Contemporary Service (Gym)  
11:00 PM Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 25

10:00 AM One Worship Service (Sanctuary)+

### Monday, December 26

*Church Offices are Closed*

### Tuesday, December 27

7:00 AM Men's Bible Study (137)  
9:00 AM Staff Meeting (137)  
7:00 PM Thinking Positively (Choir Room)

### Wednesday, December 28

9:00 AM Aerobics (W,F) (Gym)  
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)\*  
*The Journey* Rehearsal (136)\*

### Thursday, December 29

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group (112)  
6:00 PM Adult Yoga Class (Wesley Hall)  
6:30 PM Personally Experiencing Prayer (102)

\* Childcare provided for children from birth to fifth grade if previously arranged  
+Activities provided for children from birth through 3-year-old Sunday school

***Please notify the church office of any changes to scheduled events so that the calendar will be correct!***

## End of Year Giving Reminder

Thanks for your contributions to the Fountain City United Methodist Church. Please remember that if you want your contributions for the remainder of 2011 to count towards your 2011 giving, we must receive it in the church office by 4:00 p.m. December 30, or it must be postmarked by December 31.

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## THE SPIRIT

Fountain City United Methodist Church  
212 Hotel Road  
Knoxville, TN 37918-3296  
(865) 689-5175/FAX (865) 689-4693  
Web: [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org)  
Email: [fcumc@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:fcumc@fountaincityumc.org)

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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## OUR PRAYERS

### Church Family in the Hospital:

*Removed for privacy*

### Recently Discharged from the Hospital:

*Removed for privacy*

## OUR PRESENCE

### *Sunday, December 4, 2011*

Sunday School	497
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship	239
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	311
11:00 a.m. The Journey	131
WEE Worship (8:30 & 11:00)	45
Total Morning Worship	726

### *Sunday, December 11, 2011*

Sunday School	513
8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship	262
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship	346
11:00 a.m. The Journey	82
WEE Worship (8:30 & 11:00)	42
Total Morning Worship	732

## OUR GIFTS

### WEEKLY OFFERINGS (GENERAL FUND)

November 29 - December 5	\$43,709
December 6 - 12	\$41,390
YTD Receipts	\$1,309,681
YTD Expenses	\$1,261,325
Difference	\$48,356
Salt & Light (December)	\$75

## OUR SERVICE

### December Ushers:

**8:30 Traditional Service:** Charles & Celia Thompson, Head Ushers; Lee & Susan Iglehart, Ed & Joanne Owens

**11:00 Traditional Service:** Al Debusk, John Shipman - Head Ushers; Melissa Shipman, Paul Koontz, Neal Cook, John McTeer, Rachael Hedgepeth, Bob Chandler, Bill Reseigh, Tyler Slack, Jimmy Villarreal

**The Journey:** Pam Stewart, Missy Adams

**December Greeters:** Mary Simpson; Chris, Anne Marie, & Maria Hurst; Jerry & Joan Griffey; Lili Holbert; Betty Hicks