

Mountain *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MCCONNELL BAPTIST CHURCH | DECEMBER 2019
84 CHURCH ST | HIAWASSEE, GA 30546 | EMAIL: INFO@MCCONNELLCHURCH.ORG

KINGSMEN QUARTET

Join us for an evening with the Kingsmen Quartet, featuring our own Alan Kendall, on Sunday December 1st, at 6 pm. For more than a half a century, no group has secured such a far reaching legacy like that of The Kingsmen Quartet. Since 1956, this group has risen from humble beginnings in the mountains of western North Carolina to one of the most beloved and innovative groups in Christian music. Their music has a message, the message of Christ.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA (Nursery provided)

Christmas. Stress. They seem to go hand in hand. Why is it that the time of Peace on Earth is anything but peaceful? In this all-too-close-to-home dramatic musical, a harried mom, Kelly, frantically pushes through the rush of the Christmas season until an unexpected accident forces her to stop dead in her tracks. Left at home alone while her family goes to church, Kelly discovers that the important thing at Christmas is not what gets her attention, but Who. Chris Adams, with the McConnell choir & band invite you and your family & friends to attend this 50-minute musical to seek the Prince of Peace, just as Kelly did... **One Quiet Night.** Friday, December 6th or Sunday, December 8th at 6 pm in the Worship Center.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (Nursery provided)

Join us on Christmas Eve at 6 pm for a special candlelight service and observance of the Lord's Supper. A benevolence offering will be taken.

Church Events

- Dec 1st – Kingsmen Quartet, Worship Ctr, 6 pm
- Dec 4th – Budget Discussions, Private, 5 pm, FLC-219 & Public, 6 pm, FLC-231
- Dec 6th - Christmas Cantata, Worship Ctr, 6 pm
- Dec 7th - Women's Christmas Lunch, FLC, 10:30 am
- Dec 8th - Called Church Conference/Budget Vote, 11:30 am
- Dec 8th - First Steps, The Lodge, 11:45 am
- Dec 15th - Children's Choir, Worship Ctr, 10:45 am
- Dec 16th - Awana Christmas Party/Store, FLC, 2:45 pm
- Dec 17th – Red Cross Blood Drive, FLC
- Dec 24th - Candlelight Service & Lord's Supper & Benevolence Offering

From the Missions Committee



Puerto Rico Mission Trip, March 7-14, 2020

We are planning to return to Puerto Rico in March to continue the rebuilding work and clean up following the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria. This work will take several years for many of the people who don't have the resources or ability to get their lives back to normal without assistance. We are looking for individuals who are interested in showing the love of Jesus to these people who need our help and assistance by going and being His hands and feet. If you aren't able to go, you can still partner with us through your prayers and your giving. Donations for the Puerto Rico Mission Trip can be made to the church by designating it for "Puerto Rico Mission Trip".

From the Finance Committee

Private budget discussions are scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th at 5 pm in the Family Life Center, Room 219. **Public discussion** will follow at 6 pm in room 231. A **called church conference** to vote to approve the 2020 Proposed Budget will take place Sunday, December 8th, 2019 following the morning worship service.

Year end contributions may be dropped in the offering plate on any Sunday in December. Since the church office will be closed December 24th through January 1st, your financial contributions must be postmarked or given online through our website on or before Tuesday, 12/31/19, to be included with your 2019 contributions.

Blood Drive

Give the Gift of Life, December 17th, 1-6 pm

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person - the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life, or even several if your blood is separated into its components - red cells, platelets & plasma - which can be used individually for patients with specific conditions. There is a critical need for blood around the Holiday Season. Won't you give this year?

Lottie Moon Offering

Over 4-5 billion people have little or no access to the gospel. Together, as Southern Baptists we are changing that. 100% of our church's gifts support IMB missionaries who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached peoples and places around the world. We, at McConnell, can play a role in accomplishing this purpose by reaching our **2019 goal of \$23,000.**

Merry Christmas

from the Women's Ministry

For those who purchased a ticket, be sure to join us on **Saturday, December 7th, 10:30 am, in the Family Life Center for a special time of fellowship and lunch.**

Thank You!
for filling 481 shoeboxes for **Operation Christmas Child!**

First Steps Class

December 8th, 11:45 am, The Lodge

If you are new to the church or want information on joining the church, please join Pastor Steve & Pastor Danny as they share information about McConnell's vision. A light lunch will be served. Please call the church office to register.

New Members



Danielle
Abbs



Tom & Lisa
Folmar



Jerry & Pam
Brock

Sympathy to

Robin & Emily Blair, at the death of Robin's mother & Emily's grandmother, Carolyn Raulerson.
Hilda Williams, at the death of her husband, Broward.
Terry Norville, at the death of her husband, John.
Patricia Podley, at the death of her husband, Bill.
Georgia Corn, at the death of her parents, Raymond & Willie Mae Bass.
The family of Peggy Lawson.

Safety Team Update

Over the past few years, our Safety Ministry Team has been working in conjunction with our church Pastoral and Support Staff to develop and implement campus safety initiatives to create a safer environment for our congregation, guests and staff. These initiatives also increase our ability to secure the assets God has entrusted to us and prevent loss. All of the decisions that were made regarding changes in our safety and security have been made in collaboration with the Georgia Baptist Convention, Church Mutual Insurance Company, the local Sheriff's Dept., and other resources with expertise in church security. Some of the steps implemented include: installation of security cameras throughout the campus, four electronically controlled door locks with a call box system for building entry and developing a building access process via a key card or PIN number.

Additionally, we have a deputy available and Safety Teams on duty at our Sunday Morning Worship service & for special events. We have also educated staff & others on safety & security. Our thanks to all of those who have worked so diligently to put all of this in place!

At this point we are ready to take the next step in providing building access by keyless entry at select exterior doors. Over the years, numerous keys have been issued to various people. We have no idea exactly how many of these keys are in circulation or who has them. Introducing the keyless entry process will allow us to:

- Reevaluate the overall need for campus access.
- We can specify who needs access, define & document who has building access and grant access based on need.
- Building access will be granted by keycards or the issuance of PIN numbers. Sunday & Wednesday access will not change.

The plans are to implement keyless access on Tuesday, December 10th. After that date, if you have an exterior door key, it will no longer unlock any exterior door. We have tried to address building access needs but you may be one of those we don't know about! Please contact the church office to discuss your specific building access needs. Any questions or concerns, please contact Frank Witkowski at 706-897-1176.



Pastor's Pen

Today marks the first real cold snap of the season and as we're getting ready to enter into the holiday countdown, I say it's about time. I love everything about the season but in our rush to get to Christmas, we often make the mistake of taking Thanksgiving for granted for a number of reasons. First, it's sandwiched between Halloween and Christmas. Second, there's little commercial value associated with it unless you are in the grocery business. Lastly, most people don't take the time to count the many ways God has blessed them, but we should.

As a matter of fact, praising God and giving thanks are two of the most repeated commands in scripture. Maybe it's because we have notoriously short memories but there is a question we should be asking ourselves when we see this command.

What is God looking for? He's not looking for a forced response or lip service. He's looking for something more... He is looking for gratitude.

Gratitude forces us to look past the things that frustrate, anger, disappoint, sadden, and depress us; and enables us to see His grace that is flowing to us right now despite our circumstances (2 Cor. 9:8, 1 Thess. 5:18). Gratitude helps us to see past those things and opens our hearts up to his peace and his presence.

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thess. 5:18

When was the last time you gave serious thought to taking the time to count the many ways God has blessed you? Why not take some time and begin to list all the reasons you have to be grateful... You'll be glad you did. And more importantly, so will He.

Thank You to all the Hosts & Leader for "You Are Not the Boss of Me!" I want to thank all of those who opened up their homes to host a small group and those who stepped up to lead a small group during our Fall Spiritual Growth Campaign. Thank you for being available and letting God use you for His glory.

SERVANTS IN SERVICE

Greeter Team - #4

Security - Frank Witkowski

Ushers

Morning: Joey Hyatt, Head Usher

Balcony Usher: L. Hollingshead

T. Bouma, B. Childress, M. Hedden, S. Ledford,
J. Sanderson, P. Turner, J. Webb

Evening: F. Witkowski, Head Usher

December 1st

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

J. Shook, N. Dearborn, B. Adams, L. Shook

PEAK KIDS - D. Byers, C. Peebles, G. Denton

FIRST TOUCH - B. Arnett, N. Donegan

WELCOME DESK - K. Long & E. Arnold

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - C. Houser

T. Rooney, P. Anderson, C. Ledford

December 8th

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

B. Rutan, F. Parris, L. Avery, M. Avery

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, C. Ledford & P. Estrada

FIRST TOUCH - B. & J. Crowder

WELCOME DESK - R. & S. Moody

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - S. Kerlin

B. Miller, JC Berrong, R. Viduna

December 15th

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

S. Watson, M. Mauldin, V. Turner, A. Awtrey

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, C. & J. Shively

FIRST TOUCH - K. & M. Joyner

WELCOME DESK - J. & J. Armstrong

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - J. Nichols

J. Noon, D. Phillips, T. Wade

December 22nd

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

C. Pearson, S. Nichols, H. Adams, T. Clark

PEAK KIDS - S. Awtrey, V. Awtrey, H. Peters

FIRST TOUCH - P. & B. Turner

WELCOME DESK - J. Benson & S. Turner

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - R. Parkman

L. Ratliff, R. Wark, H. Goddard

December 29th

INFANTS & 2 YR OLDS, 3 & 4 YR OLDS

S. Adams, D. Sims, C. Weaver, S. Dyer

PEAK KIDS - Family Worship Time

FIRST TOUCH - W. & A. Berg

WELCOME DESK - D. & C. Barry

WELCOME CARTS - Capt. - T. Taylor

C. Nicholson, T. Turner, D. Bennett

Our services are streamed live on
Facebook every Sunday morning

Find us on 

SCHEDULE CHANGES

The Church Office is closed 12/24 through 1/1 and will reopen on Thursday, 1/2.

All regularly scheduled services and activities during the weekdays during this time have been cancelled.

This includes Wednesday Night Prayer meetings, PEAK Kids, Summit Students, ESL, Hope Room, Library, Moral & Civic Concerns & Prayer Teams (Tuesday Group & For Our Country).

There will be no evening service on 12/22 or 12/29.

The deacons will not meet on 12/23 .

The Chassner Small Group does plan to meet on Monday, 12/23 & 12/30.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Bring a Friend Day
Sunday, December 8th

Our goal is 35 total kids.

If we meet our goal, then Pastor
Steve A. will have
a pie thrown in his face!

Jan 5 - Awana Zip Line, Family Life Center

Jan 6 - Preschool resumes

Feb 9 - Lord's Supper

Feb 9 - First Steps Class (Newcomers)