

DEC. 15, 2013



# Real Life News & Notes

*church of Christ of Grand Junction*

*A Relevant, Serving, Growing Family of Jesus followers*

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## **Love and Christmas**

*The article below was sent to me by Terri Binder, a former member here who has moved to Denver. It is an adaptation of I Corinthians 13 to our Christmas Holiday practices. Some food for thought and guidance for us during this busy time of the year. You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving, John Cooper*

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

**Memory Verse For December— Isa. 9:6**

**"to us a child is born, a son is given".**

### Our Gathering Today

**Sermon:** My friend Nolan Grigsby and I will co-preach on the theme of **Jesus remaining cool and calm in the storm**. May God bless our gathering this morning and may each of us receive a word of encouragement and challenge as we listen with open hearts!

**Word of blessing:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - **Romans 15:13**

**Doug is collecting socks, candles and hand warmers for the homeless ministry. Thank you!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Meeting Cancellations

Due to all the Christmas rush and other related activities, we will not be meeting for Bible Study on Wednesday December 25 (Christmas Day) or Wednesday January 1, 2014 (New Year's Day). The agape meal on December 29 has also been cancelled so that families can spend some un-winding time together and some quiet, reflective time with the Lord.

### Empty Nester Christmas Party:

Tuesday, December 17, 6:00pm. In the fellowship hall. Each person needs to bring a white elephant gift. Please reply to Wilma Seela at 985-4726 .

### Christmas Day Dinner

Darlene Rettig will host Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day for those who have no family to share it with. Dinner will be served about Noon. See Darlene for further details.

### Creative Christian Arts & Crafts Guild

The Guild will meet today at 1 PM. Darlene Rettig will be presenting a demonstration on Yule Logs.

### Marriage Seminar

John Cooper needs the names of those who plan on participating in the Marriage Seminar he will be conducting in January on or by December 22 so that he can order materials. See John for questions.

### Wednesday Evening Classes

Bob Heath has completed his study on the Miracles of Jesus and Doug Clayton will be conducting the adult class in the auditorium beginning Wednesday evening December 18. His subject matter is 1,2,3 John.

### Mountain States Coin Collection

We received a warm "thank you" from Mountain States Children's Home. The collection in the coin cans came to \$499.03. These funds are used by the home to purchase perishable goods.

### Youth Group News

**No huddle tonight:** Enjoy an evening with your families!

**Wednesday night worship:** As usual, we'll be meeting at 7pm in the high school room on Wednesday evening for a time of fellowship, fun, praise, and worship. This is a great place to bring a friend.

**Progressive dinner is this Friday!** We'll be meeting at the church at **5pm** for an evening of adventure and delicious food. The costume theme is *North Pole*. Elves, Santa, narwhals, that sort of thing. Make sure you bring a cheap (under \$5) white elephant gift!

Continue to pray for those with ongoing illnesses, and their families...GARY WALLACE extensive brain cancer, EARL DUBOSE, has PSP, under hospice care. Also pray for continued recovery for ROSE BRANSON, DONNA DELANCEY, CHESTER AULT, & MARY LOU (S. Gabriels daughter,) GINA REED, blood clots, MARY CATHEY..in rehab at Larchwood to go well so she can return to her residence.

THE LARRY LUCERO FAMILY...continue to pray for Alyssa Pray for healing for her, and for healing for Larry from his back problems. Pray for strength and health for the rest of the family, both physical and spiritual.

JOHN AKERS.....Had a procedure done in Denver, last Tues. Pray for healing from this and other issues. And for Barb ....for strength and comfort for both.

Continue to pray for one of our quilting ladies (Millie) son. He has Lou Gehrigs Disease, which is progressive. Pray for peace and comfort for him and his family as they do through this difficult time.

RAGS RAGSDALE....continue to pray for Rags as he deal with the return of his lung cancer. Pray for healing, comfort and peace for him and his family.

Pray for HERB TINKLE ..intestine obstruction, pray for treatment to be successful, for comfort and strength for him and his family and wisdom for the medical people caring for him.

MELVA WILLBANKS & FAMILY—Melva’s grandson was killed in a car accident last Wednesday. Pray for the comfort of his wife and children and for Melva, to comfort them and give them peqace.

Continue to Pray for travel safety for the many that are and will be traveling during the upcoming Christmas and New Years holiday season.

Pray for MISSIONARIES....for safety, strength, guidance and wisdom...and success in the work God has sent them to do. For God to open the hearts and minds of those they are trying to reach. And for physical safety as some of the places they are working are dangerous places. For peace to come to these areas.

Pray for the MILITARY....pray for their safety and for spiritual uplifting, for wisdom and strength ....and for their families. Also pray for those who have returned from combat and are having a difficult time adjusting, and those who are wounded, physically and/or mentally.

Gifts

With ruffled hair and footie pajamas the little boy woke up early Christmas morning, ran to the den and excitedly squealed, **“Look mommy, Santa brought me gifts even though I was naughty.”**

Our most special gifts are frequently the simple hand-made cards or crafts given to us by a child. I received clothes, cards, tasty treats and other well wishes for my birthday recently but no gift was more treasured and meaningful than the plain little piece of white construction paper with a mass of squiggly colored lines drawn by my little grand-buddy. He was so proud to jump up in my lap, point his tiny finger at his artistic creation, hug me, and say, **“Ha pee bir day Papa...ware da cake?!”**

Of all the gifts of Christmas what do you desire and need most this year? Obviously, we are not talking about newer gadgets, nicer clothes, better phones, gift cards, or the “next big thing,” but about those rich and lasting packages that offer true joy, deep worth, and a reminder of Love’s greatest gift.

Perhaps this Christmas season as we consider our place in the kingdom of God we might include a few of these items on our wish list: The gift of embracing the unlovable, the gift of going the second mile, the gift of turning the other cheek, the gift of calm in the storms of life, the gift of new eyes to see what Jesus sees, the gift of letting go of anger, the gift of enduring friendship, the gift of recognizing our own pretense, the gift of releasing our will to God’s desire, the gift of patience in an impatient world, the gift of enjoying simplicity, the gift of replacing sarcasm with blessing, the gift of making peace, the gift of surrendering complaint for encouragement, the gift of experiencing freedom in Christ, the gift of kindness and gentleness, the gift of extending more grace and less judgment, the gift of loving completely without completely understanding, or maybe the sacred gift of hearing the gentle voice of Jehovah more clearly.

What good and perfect gift are you willing to receive from the **Father of lights** this Christmas? How might that gift bless and transform your perception, your faith, your family dynamic, and your future? You can ask God for whatever you want, whenever you want, and if you ask in faith you will receive it. And yes, our heavenly Father gladly and graciously showers us with gifts from heaven despite our being naughty. **“For while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Romans 5:8).

**May Immanuel be born again this season and always in the manger of our heart**



# Church of Christ of Grand Junction

2893 Patterson Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Phone: 970-245-4210  
Web: grandjunctionchurch.org

### For the Record

Dec. 8, 2013

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Attendance                    | 220            |
| Average Attendance, 3rd. qtr. | 265            |
| Contributions                 | \$5,718.00     |
| <br>Budget                    | <br>\$6,208.96 |

### Honored to Serve the Lord's Table in December

Tony Clayton  
Lane Coale  
Bryan Crowe  
Tom Deister  
Lonnie DeLancey  
Paul DeLancey  
Scott DeLancey  
David Downey

### Communion Preparation—December Dielle Norton & Daughters

### Communion Table 12/15/13

Lane Coale

Announcements: Ron Wilson

### Sunday Morning Adult Classes—9:00 AM—9:45 AM

Ron Wilson—Covenant of God—Auditorium  
Young Adult (Under 30)—Room 207  
Sermon On The Mount—Vince Urbina—Room 103

### Wednesday Evening Adult Classes—7– 8 PM

Doug Clayton— 1,2,3 John—Auditorium  
Shirlene Caraway—(Starts Sept. 18)—103

### Sunday Morning Children's Classes

Cradle Roll—Birth to 2—Nursery  
2 & 3 yr. old—104  
Pre KK, Kindergarten—205  
1st & 2nd Grade—209  
3rd thru 5th Grade—208  
Middle School—213  
High School—203

### Wednesday Evening Children's Bible Study

2 & 4 yr. old—104  
Kindergarten 1st & 2nd—205  
3rd thru 5th Grade—208  
All teens meet in—203

## Sunday morning worship begins at 10:15 AM

### Mesa View Retirement Service Schedule

Meets Sundays at 10 AM

|        |                                |               |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Dec 15 | Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman | Mark 8:1-13   |
| Dec 22 | Bobby Heath, Matt King         | Mark 8:22-26  |
| Dec 29 | Jerry Austin, Craig Austin     | Mark 8:31-9:1 |
| Jan 5  | Chuck Tourney, Bud Treu        | Mark 9:2-13   |
| Jan 12 | Bill Tidwell, Wes Yeager       | Mark 9:14-32  |
| Jan 19 | Bob Heath, Darren Mahoney      | Mark 9:33-36  |
| Jan 26 | Paul Delancy, Scott Delancy    | Mark 9:42-50  |
| Feb 2  | Hunt Zumwalt, Steve Bagga      | Mark 10:1-12  |
| Feb 9  | Bill Barslund, Sandy Harris    | Mark 10:13-16 |
| Feb 16 | Scott Ferguson, Dave Scheurman | Mark 10:17-31 |
| Feb 23 | Bobby Heath, Matt King         | Mark 10:32-45 |