

# WELCOME VISITORS

The presence of Jesus in the gathering of His people is the sweetest blessing we enjoy when we meet. We pray that you will find peace, comfort, and power for living today.

A visitor's card is provided in the book rack, to give us a record of your visit.

SUNDAY		ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY	
Bible Study	10:00 AM	Morning Worship	38
Worship	11:00 AM	Evening Worship	8
Evening	6:00 PM	Wednesday	11
WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY	6:30 PM	Contribution	\$ 758.00
Fellowship Meal (Every 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday)	12:30 PM		
Men's Meeting (Last Sunday of every month)	5:00 PM		

Visit our website at [www.brunswickcoc.com](http://www.brunswickcoc.com)

Rick Massey, Minister

[pulpit@brunswickcoc.com](mailto:pulpit@brunswickcoc.com)

910-454-0020  
Brunswick Church of Christ  
4934 Southport/Supply Rd  
PO Box 11032  
Southport, NC 28461

TO OUR FRIENDS:

## MESSENGER FOR CHRIST



## BRUNSWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 22, 2013

Is There a Dragon in Your Nativity Set?

by Tim Archer

Last year I bought myself a nativity set. It's a colorful scene, based on drawings from a children's Bible. It has Mary and Joseph, with a little baby Jesus. It has shepherds and wise men. It has an angel and several animals.

But it's missing something. There's no dragon. Every nativity set needs a red dragon.

If you don't remember that part of the story, you might want to read chapter 12 of Revelation. The writer, John, sees a woman about to give birth who is being threatened by a red dragon. The dragon wants to devour the infant, but the baby and the woman are rescued.

We could talk a lot about the interpretation of each symbol, but John, the author, leaves no doubt as to who the child is. He says, "She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter" (Revelation 12:5). That's language used in the Bible to describe Jesus himself (see Psalms 2, for example).

Why would there be a dragon at Jesus' birth? Because Jesus came into this world in the middle of conflict. His birth was a joyous time for his parents, but also one of hardship and fear. Their family was shuffled about from Nazareth to Bethlehem to Egypt and back to Nazareth, moved by political forces beyond their control. People suffered and died because this baby came into the world.

The dragon is part of the story. Without it, a nativity scene can be too clean, a bit too perfect.

There was a red dragon. Not a literal one, of course. The dragon is a symbol of that

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**"...The Churches of Christ salute you." Romans 16:16**

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great enemy of God, Satan. Specifically, the dragon is Satan working through King Herod to try and exterminate the newborn King of the Jews.

The red dragon has a place in the nativity story. The dragon reminds us why we needed a Savior in the first place. John tells us that the dragon is the ancient serpent that deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9). He is the tempter that brought about the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. Through his lies, sin came into the world.

The dragon is part of the story. Without it, a nativity scene can be too clean, a bit too perfect. We need to remember the sin and suffering. We need to remember why we needed a Savior. And still need one today.

So I may have some more shopping to do. I need a dragon for my nativity set.

Via Heartlight.Org

**God's Plan for Man**  
**Hear God's Word**  
 Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17  
**Believe in Jesus**  
 Jn. 8:24  
**Repent of Sins**  
 Lk. 13:3; 2 Cor. 7:10  
**Confess Jesus' Name**  
 Mt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10; Mt. 16:15-16  
**Be Baptized**  
 Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-19; Acts 2:38, 41;  
 Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4  
**Live Faithful until Death**  
 Mt. 10:22; Rev. 2:10

**The Bible study topic for Wednesday night:**  
**A Chronological Study of the Life of Jesus**  
**Bible study starts at 6:30 PM.**



**The bible study has been cancelled on Wednesday, December 25. The bible study will resume next week, January 1, at the regular time.**

There will be a men's meeting next week at 5:00 pm. Mark your calendar.



Opportunities to Serve		
<b>Welcome</b> <b>Song Leader</b> <b>Opening Prayer</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>Today</b> Dick Phillips Willie Gore Ed Williams *John Bowling Charlie Gamble Josiah Garner Kurt Crytzer Rick Massey Albert Sturdivant Willie Gore Lelia Gore	<b>12/29/13</b> John Bowling Dick Phillips Albert Sturdivant Willie Gore John Lloyd Bill Bartlow Charlie Gamble  Kurt Crytzer John Lloyd Marselle Eversole
<b>Scripture Reading</b> <b>Speaker</b> <b>Closing Prayer</b> <b>Evening</b> <b>Nursery</b>	Albert Sturdivant Willie Gore Lelia Gore	Kurt Crytzer John Lloyd Marselle Eversole
The Nursery will be open to receive children following the Communion.		

Please remember to pray for the sick, lonely, and especially anyone outside Christ.

**HEALTH**

Martin	Emma Jones
Bill Crisco	

**TRAVELING**

Lockey Family	Williams Family
Connolly Family	Gore Family

**DEATHS**

Clemmons Family	Lasty Family
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The complete prayer list is on the bulletin board.

**Ladies Bible Study**

The ladies bible study will be held Tuesday, at 10:00 am in the fellowship room. Our study is about " God's Promises ". Our time together will include prayer and songs of praise. You are welcome to join us.

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 "I am an old man and have known a great many troubles, many of which never happened." (Mark Twain)