

# Proper etiquette for returning Christmas gifts

By: Dr. James L. Snyder

The Christmas frenzy is over, and the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly are sitting back surveying our Christmas plunder. Only a few days ago, the house was ablaze with Christmas lights, and the rafters were echoing with Christmas delight. Now, much to my delight, quietness is tiptoeing through our house.

In surveying my Christmas plunder, several thoughts, like sugarplums, are dancing in my head. The primary thought is simply, what am I going to do with all these gifts?

My gifts range in several categories.

In the first category, there is aftershave, cologne and deodorant. Obviously, those who know me the best think I stink. The first thing that comes to their mind when they think of me is the Bible verse, "by now he stinketh" (John 11:39). At least they are biblical.

The second category of Christmas gifts is clothing. This covers a large area ... I'm a big man. Two sizes are associated with the Christmas clothing I get each year. Either they are too small or too big. None of my relatives knows me that well.

This brings me to my current dilemma. What can I do with all these Christmas presents, especially the ones I cannot wear or use? What is the best thing to do, re-gift, or return these Christmas presents?

I like the idea of returning presents I cannot use or wear in exchange for something I can use or wear. It is a simple matter of going back to the mall and negotiating the exchange.

If you think the mall is a dangerous place prior to Christmas, try going there the day after Christmas.

It never fails, by the time I have waited in line for my turn to do the exchange; they no longer

have my size and give me a rain check. I really hate it when it rains on my parade.

Then there is the idea of re-gifting. I am beginning to like this idea more and more. For this reason, when I unwrap my presents, I am very careful not to tear the wrapping paper. This way, I not only have next year's Christmas present, but I have the wrapping paper to go with it.

The first Christmas I thought of this was a high watermark day in my life. I was proud of myself to be able to kill several birds with one stone. Unbeknownst to me, the biggest bird I killed was myself.

This did not show itself until the following Christmas when, by not giving this proper thought, I gave people the gift they gave me the previous Christmas. Believe me; I had a lot of "splaining" to do.

Nobody tells you this about Christmas in those etiquette books, but if you are going to re-gift a Christmas present, make sure you remember who gave it to you in the first place.

It is difficult trying to find the perfect gift as only one person has mastered the finesse of it. The Bible says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17).

The gift God gives is one that you will have no reason to return.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamesnyderministries.com.

# The Not Rabbit Coat

By: Dawn Reed

In 1981, we had only been married a year. Money was really tight. We were living on love (and chicken pot pies). One day, just before Christmas, my new beloved brought in a big present that was just for me. He put it under the tree right away with instructions not to touch it.

The next day, while he was away, the gift caught my eye. I tiptoed over to it and touched it just a little. In my entire life I had never, ever sneaked and opened a present early. But just this once...

I held it in my lap, for a moment. It was so soft and puffy. I untaped the edge to take a little peak and saw fur. I nearly squealed with delight. I knew exactly what it was!

It was the era when rabbit fur coats were really popular. Oh, I loved those coats and was sure that I'd never have one until NOW... THIS year! I was really getting a rabbit coat! It was a dream come true! How on earth had he been able to afford it?! Oh, my new husband was a treasure!

I wrapped up the package and went about my business trying NOT to picture myself in the awesome rabbit

fur coat that would be ALL MINE!

And then...Christmas morning came. I couldn't wait! I can't remember what I got him; all I remember was being excited about MY COAT! We opened other gifts from family and then...finally...after years of waiting to be cool in a rabbit fur coat, it was time to open my perfect present!

My new beloved said, "I bet you don't know what your present is..." I smiled as if I didn't have a clue.

I pulled off the edge of the tape, acting like I was saving all the paper. I opened the other end very carefully. And suddenly, there it was... a BIG TEDDY BEAR! Imagine my surprise!

It really was the perfect gift-for-me-anyway. Sometimes we want things that really don't make sense. I never ever got a rabbit coat but kept that Teddy bear for a very long time.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He didn't come at all as expected. Wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, was the gift of all gifts...the promised Messiah. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift," 2 Corinthians 9:15.

# RUSSELL COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." -Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)*

**3trees Church**  
270-866-8811  
270-250-7904  
Russell Springs Location  
3515 KY- West 80

**Campbellville Location**  
1 Living Grace Drive  
(First Wednesday of each month)

**Battlefield Baptist Church**  
954 W. Steve Wariner Dr.  
Russell Springs, KY 42642

**Beckham Ridge Separate Baptist**  
Hwy 1729

**Bernard Ridge Church of God**  
241 Stephens Ridge Rd,  
Russell Springs

**Bethel United Baptist Church**  
Decatur Road, Dunnsville

**Bethel United Methodist Church**  
Bethel Church Road,  
Jamestown

**Bethesda Community Fellowship**  
3109 S. Hwy 127,  
Russell Springs, KY 42642

**Bethlehem Separate Baptist Church**  
West Hwy 80, Russell Springs, KY 42642

**Cedar Springs United Baptist**

**Clearfork Baptist Church**  
760 Clearfork Rd. Eli, KY  
Greg Wade  
(606) 303-3336

**Coffey's Chapel United Methodist Church**  
Eli, KY

**Coffey's Friendship Separate Baptist**  
Off S. Hwy 55 (1/2 mile on Coffey's Schoolhouse Rd)

**Coffey Grove Separate Baptist Church**

**Concord Wesleyan Church**  
6033 S Highway 1680,  
Jamestown, KY

**Creelsboro Church of**

**the Nazarene Creelsboro Christian Church**  
4286 S.HWY 379  
Jamestown

**Cross Creek Church**  
1673 N. Main St.,  
Jamestown

**Cumberland Baptist Church**  
627 E. Cumberland Ave  
Jamestown, Ky  
Bus Ministry Available:  
270-343-3738

**Fairview Baptist Church**  
E. Hwy. 80

**Fairview Separate Baptist Church**  
4313 N Hwy. 55  
Jamestown, KY  
Bro. Doug Baldwin,  
Pastor

**First Baptist Church of Russell Springs**  
392 E. Hwy 80, Russell Springs  
Sunday

**Faith Temple Full Gospel Church**  
West Hwy 80 (Royville)

**First Apostolic Church**  
3563 E. Hwy 80, Russell Springs.

**First United Methodist Church of Jamestown**  
157 N. Main Street,  
Jamestown,  
Phone: (270)-343-4187

**Freedom Christian Church**  
Sun. School 10 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:45  
Wed. Service 6:30 pm  
Wendell Roberts,  
Preacher;  
Garrett Crawford, Youth Minister

**Friendship Baptist**  
E. Hwy 80

**French Valley United Methodist Church**  
2272 Hwy 379 Russell Springs

**Good Tidings Baptist**  
W. Hwy 76 - Russell/  
Adair line.

**Grace Family Fellowship**  
170 Stephens Ridge Rd.  
Russell Springs

**Grace Independent Baptist**  
Dowell Road, Russell Springs  
Phone: (270)-866-2554

**Greater Hope Christian Fellowship**  
N. Hwy 127 Russell Springs

**Grider's Chapel United Methodist Church**  
3913 Highway 1058,  
Jamestown, KY

**Hayes Chapel United Methodist Church**  
1353 W. Hwy 619  
Russell Springs, KY

**Holy Spirit Catholic Church**  
406 N. Main Street,  
Jamestown, KY

**Jamestown Christian Church**  
65 S. Main St.,  
Jamestown

**Jamestown Church of the Nazarene**  
132 S. Main St.,  
Jamestown

**Jamestown Community Church**  
312 Monument Square,  
Jamestown

**Jamestown First Baptist Church**  
165 W. Cumberland Ave.  
Jamestown, Ky 42629

**Jamestown Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
100 Freedom Church Road -  
Junc. 55 & 127  
Jamestown  
Phone: (270)507-9434

**Liberty Baptist Church**  
Wilson Street, Russell Springs, KY 42642

**Main Street Church of God Manntown United Methodist**

**Mt. Calvary Baptist Church**  
Damron Creek Road  
Russell Springs

**Mt Eden United Baptist Church**  
Mt Eden Road

**Mt Hope Separate Baptist Church**  
Jamestown

**Mt. Olive Baptist Church**  
Phone: (270)-585-9299

**Mt. Pleasant UMC**  
3944 W Hwy 92, Russell Springs  
Phone: (270)-343-2100

**Mt. Vernon Baptist Church**  
S. Hwy 619, Jamestown

**New Victory Baptist Church**  
460 Arles Hale Rd.  
Russell Springs

**Oak Grove Separate Baptist Church**  
Blair School House Road

**Old Liberty Community Church**  
W. Hwy 92, Russell Springs

**Ono Community Church**  
Hwy. 1611

**Pine Grove Separate Baptist Church**  
Below Eli

**Pine Grove United Baptist Church**  
Gosser Ridge Community

**Pine Top Church of Christ**  
Pine Top Rd. Russell Springs

**Poplar Grove Baptist Church**  
North 127

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
250 French Valley Court, Russell Springs  
Phone: (270)-866-4656

**Rockhouse Christian Church**

**Royville Friendship Church**  
West Hwy 80, Russell Springs, KY42642

**Russell Springs Christian Church**  
Main & College St,  
Russell Springs

**Russell Springs Church of the Nazarene**  
1442 W Steve Wariner Dr.

**Russell Springs Lighthouse Church**  
86 Owenstown

Schoolhouse Rd.  
Russell Springs, KY 42642

**Russell Springs United Baptist Church**  
Junction 80&127

**Russell Springs United Methodist**  
226 Jamestown St.,  
Russell Springs  
Phone: (270) 866-5180

**Sano Baptist Church**  
3005 Hwy 1729, Russell Springs, KY 42642  
Phone: (270)-585-7053

**Sewellton Church of God of Prophecy**  
253 Ballinger Road  
Jamestown, KY 42629

**Solid Rock Church**  
189 West Drive, Russell Springs, KY 42642  
Phone: (270)-866-4097

**Springs of Free Life Church**  
635 Main St. Russell Springs, KY 42642

Phone: (270)-866-8748

**The Church of God**  
P.O. Box 2121 - Hwy 1729  
Russell Springs, KY 42642

**Union Baptist Church**  
3525 Gosser Ridge Road

**Union Chapel United Methodist**

**Welfare Baptist Church**  
Middletown, Hwy 127

**West 80 Church of God**  
3733 W. Hwy 80,  
Russell Springs

**Whites Chapel Separate Baptist Church**

**Willow Oak Church of Christ**  
Half-Acre Road,

**Word of God Church**  
240 Hopper Street  
Phone: (270)-866-2696

*Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.*  
Psalm 32:1

**Clear Springs Missionary Baptist Church**

East Hwy. 619 (Bernard Ridge), Russell Springs

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Nights 6:30 p.m. • Sunday Nights 5:30 p.m.

**Jones Exteriors**

270-866-3958  
RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY  
Siding • Windows • Decks • Roofing  
Seamless Gutter • Pole Barns

**LAKEWAY MOTOR SALES**  
There's Bargains Everyday!

CARS TRUCKS  
VANS SUV'S

2915 S. HWY. 127  
RUSSELL SPRINGS  
(270) 866-2438

**EPPERSON**

Air Conditioning | Heating  
Plumbing | Electric

Est. 1970 Insured & Licensed  
www.eppersoninc.com  
License #MO1101, MP7304, CE6437

606-679-7476  
800-679-7475

i'm lovin' it®

**McDonald's**  
Russell Springs • 866-7155

**1st FIRST NATIONAL BANK**

Russell Springs (270) 866-4343

Main Office: 86 W. Steve Wariner Drive  
Downtown Branch: Main & Wilson Streets  
S. Branch: South Highway 127

*"Bank of a Lifetime"*

FEATURE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!

Call Stephanie at (270)-866-3191

We've modified our church page in 2018. Churches, if you would like additional information included in your listing we have a special rate to offer you. Please come in to our office at 120 Wilson St. in Russell Springs or call 270-866-3191 and ask to speak to Shelby or Sierra!