



# The Knoxville Focus

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## Randy Merritt named regional business development manager



Randy Merritt

Randy Merritt has been named regional business development manager for The Christman Company and will be responsible for seeking new business and project opportunities, as well as maintaining and developing relationships for the construction company.

Merritt, who previously held the title of project manager at The Christman Company, has handled projects in health care, K-12 education, industrial, hospitality and entertainment,

retail, religious structures, and public facilities. Recent projects include the Tennessee School for the Deaf high school and dining hall in Knoxville and The Foundry Hotel in Asheville, North Carolina.

His 36 years of industry experience include general contracting and construction management. His operations expertise covers surveying, highway construction, environmental services, fuel storage systems, and precast fabrication and installation.

He holds an associate degree in construction engineering technology from Mississippi State Community College.

"Randy is exceptionally skilled at forming and maintaining client and community relationships," said Marty Gibbs, vice president and general manager for The Christman Company's operations in Knoxville. "His ability to build trust and unite teams, paired with a strong work ethic, make Randy a perfect fit for this position."

A native of Knoxville, Merritt

lives in the Luttrell community with his wife, Angie, daughter Callie and her husband, Bruce, who is finishing a degree at the University of Tennessee; and dogs, Louie and Jaxx. He gives back to the community by volunteering with the United Way of Greater Knoxville and Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee and participating in church activities. In his spare time, Merritt enjoys playing bluegrass music, spending time in his workshop and caring for the family farm.

## Sharing Christmas Memories

By Mike Steely  
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The Knoxville Focus asked several people to share a Christmas Memory in one sentence. We asked all types of folks—office holders, community leaders and Focus Fans. We had such an overwhelming response that we cannot share each reply, but here are the ones we can fit.

**Vivian Shippe:** I remember all of us getting up at two in the morning on Christmas Day to have Family Christmas with our dad who had to work a 14-hour day at the post office.

**Buzz Banwell:** A couple of days before Christmas, my then teenage daughter and I gleaned extras from The Angel Tree, added food donated by Ramsey's Cafeteria, and helped a frail oncology patient at Children's Hospital and three generations of his family celebrate the holiday.

**Marshall Stair:** I remember Tom McAdams, my dad's law partner, giving us some sort of cow gift to remind my dad of his investment in a dairy farm which failed miserably.

**Betty Mahan:** I remember all four of us sisters sleeping in one bed like a slumber party on Christmas Eve so my grandparents could stay over and be part of Christmas morning with all five of us (I have a brother also).

**Pete Gaudin:** I remember one Christmas when I was a poor seminary student and my wife and I lived in an old rented mobile home on a farm. There were many cedar trees growing on the property and the landlord said we could use one for a Christmas tree, so I cut the top off of one of them and we had a Charlie Brown Christmas tree.

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Clockwise from top: Knoxville's 2012 Festival of Lights remembered by Kaye Graybeal.

Marshall and Natalie Stair pick a Christmas tree for daughter, Stella.

Knoxville trolleys are spreading the holiday spirit as they travel the downtown streets.

Community leader Vivian Shippe gets into the Christmas spirit.



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