

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Resurrection Sunday is April 24!

Spring has sprung, and along with the warmer temps and sunny days, we also entered into the season where we celebrate the final week of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

April 17 is the day known as Palm Sunday, and this is when we will celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

April 24 is the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, and here at FCC of Mountain City, the men of the church prepare a breakfast for that day.

The Resurrection Sunday breakfast will begin at 9 am on April 24, and then Sunday School and Worship will be at their normal times. Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to help us celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!

For the month of April, we will be taking a break from our Sermon series on the book of James in order to prepare our hearts for Easter.

We will be learning about the message and purpose of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will learn about the message of the Messiah by reading the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, and then we will read about the Triumphal Entry, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus and what that means for us today.

Also, don't forget that we have our website up and running now: www.fccmntcty.org

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey

Earl@mkdisciples.org



Check us out online:
www.fccmntcty.org

Sermon Series:

The Life of Christ

- 4/3 - The Good Samaritan
- 4/10 - The Prodigal Son
- 4/17 - Triumphal Entry
- 4/24 - Resurrection
- 5/1 - Ascension

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 4/3:

- Mon – Psalm 68:1-19
- Tues – Psalm 103
- Wed – Galatians 6:1-10
- Thur – Romans 8:1-17
- Fri – Luke 15:1-10
- Sat – Luke 15:11-32

Week of 4/10:

- Mon – Psalm 118:15-29
- Tues – Zech 9:9-13
- Wed – Matt 21:1-11
- Thur – Luke 19:29-44
- Fri – John 12:12-19
- Sat – Mark 11:1-10

Week of 4/17:

- Mon – Psalm 16
- Tues – Isaiah 53
- Wed – 1 Cor 15:12-34
- Thur – Matthew 28
- Fri – John 20:1-9
- Sat – Luke 24:1-8

Week of 4/24:

- Mon – Mark 16
- Tues – Luke 24:13-22
- Wed – John 21:1-23
- Thur – Phil 2:5-11
- Fri – 1 Cor 15:1-11
- Sat – Acts 1:6-11

Attention Ladies!!

Georgia Christian Women's Retreat

Does a break from your daily routine sound appealing? Do you feel the need for renewal? Do you enjoy getting together with fellow Christian women?

If you answered yes, then the Georgia Christian Women's Retreat is for you! The retreat is June 3rd and 4th at Atlanta Christian College in East Point, GA. The theme for

this weekend is "Letting Go of the Past". The retreat cost for both days plus meals is \$40. The retreat offers other options if you would like to only attend one day. A flyer is on the calendar in the Christian Life Center for more information on prices.

The deadline for the money is May 1st, so if you are planning on attending, please give Michael the

money by April 27th. The GCWR is a great opportunity to meet new friends or catch up with old ones. We hope to see you all there!!!!

Women's Ministry:

We are planning a Women's Day in May. We will have a time of fellowship, lunch, and devotion. Look for more information in the weeks to come!

“ Apart from forgiveness, the monstrous past may awake at any time from hibernation to devour the present, and also the future.”
 – Philip Yancey “What’s So Amazing About Grace?”

The Power of an Invitation

On Monday a friend met me on the street. “I noticed you were absent from our civic club’s last meeting,” he said. “Will you be there next Wednesday?” “No,” I replied. “I can’t make it. Don’t look for me.”

Two men asked me on Tuesday if I could come. I said to the first, “I wish I could, but I can’t this week.” The next one I answered, “My schedule looks impossible, but I’ll try to find the time to come.”

Wednesday morning in the post office a fourth man asked if I would be at the meeting that day. “I’ll try to come,” I replied, “but I may not make it.” Before I got to my car, a fifth man stopped me, and I promised I would be there for sure.

I don’t know whose official duty it was to contact me, but I could not resist the invitation from five different men. We all like to go where we are wanted.

If you want the unsaved, the indifferent, the absentees to attend this church, you must let them know. They know that if you really want them to come, you will find you will find the opportunity to invite them. This is the task of every member of this church.

THE POINT? Before each of us lies the opportunity of inviting people to church with us. We know that Jesus Christ desires His church to grow, and there is no other way for it to grow than for ALL members to be active in inviting and bringing new people to services with them. This week, make the invitation and bring that person with you this coming Sunday.

Dear members of First Christian Church of Mountain City, Ga. As the ordaining congregation of Earl Winfrey, we are excited that he has found a new place for ministry with you.

We have Earl and your body of believers in our prayers as Kingdom work is fulfilled, growth both numerically and spiritually is guided by Earl and the Elders and that God will be glorified in all areas of ministry.

God speed and blessings through our Savior Jesus Christ and God the Father.

- Christian Church @ DeLeon Springs, Fl.

A Brief History of The Christian Restoration Association

To begin the story of the CRA we begin with the estate of one Sidney S. Clarke. Sidney S. Clarke was a Christian gentleman who left part of his estate to the keeping of the Richmond Street Christian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, for the purpose of helping to establish new churches in “destitute places,” meaning “communities where there is no church of Christ.” The elders of the Richmond Street church immediately put the money to good use and within a two-year period the estate helped establish thirty congregations in seven states.

THE CINCINNATI BIBLE SEMINARY
 Because of the infidelity being espoused in the preacher training schools, the trustees of the CRA realized that a school was needed that would produce Bible-believing preachers who would stand for the faith once delivered to the saints.

In 1923, two schools had begun, one in Cincinnati and one in Louisville. It was felt that better stewardship would be shown if these two schools could merge. In 1924, the schools merged and formed The Cincinnati Bible Seminary. The trustees of

the Clarke Fund were the trustees of the new school. H.F. Lutz was considered the first president of the new school on an interim basis. He died that first year and James DeForest Murch became interim president because of his position as President of the Clarke Fund.

In 1928, the CRA trustees helped set up another board of trustees for the Bible college and helped established it as a separate institution from the CRA. The first official president was Ralph Records.
www.thecra.org

Misunderstood Thomas

One of the most famous scenes in the Bible after the resurrection of Jesus is the proof required by Thomas.

On Easter Sunday, Thomas required more evidence that Jesus was alive than the testimony of his peers, and this gave him the title, “Doubting Thomas.”

I believe this is an unfair assessment for this Apostle of our Lord. A better label for Thomas would be “Misunderstood” because everyone seems to miss a very important quality in this Apostle.

There are very few references to Thomas, but there is enough to find out that he was a fisherman (John 21:2), and he was not afraid to speak up (John 11:16). His personality seems to be a lot like the Bereans in Acts 17:11. The Bereans were known for checking up on the teachers to make sure that what was being taught was in accordance with scripture. Thomas was doing the same thing when questioning the reports of the other Apostles.

As we enter into the Easter season, let us remember that Thomas helped prove the evidence of the resurrection by questioning the testimonies of the other Apostles. Let us therefore be confident that the resurrection has withstood the test of proof and should be celebrated with confidence as there is no doubt that Jesus rose from the grave just as He said He would!

- Earl Winfrey

"Change is inevitable, except with a vending machine." - Robert C. Gallagher

"Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together
with the overseers and deacons." - Philippians 1:1

You may have read the letter to the Philippians several times. In fact, you may have studied the letter on many occasions with all of the lessons that come from this work of the Apostle Paul inspired by God. But have you ever taken the time to get to know the people Paul wrote to? Have you ever wondered how their church got started? The book of Acts shares the story of the Apostle Paul's first encounter with the church in Philippi, and it is this text that will be the focus of this month's article. So grab your Bible, and read Acts 16 to see the story of the beginning of the church in Philippi.

At this particular point of the second missionary journey of Paul, he was joined by Timothy, who was a well known disciple, and they traveled with Silas and Luke to Troas. While at Troas, Paul had a vision of a Macedonian man begging for help, so Paul changed his plans and headed toward Philippi, which is a leading city in the district of Macedonia. Since Philippi was a Roman colony, there were not enough Jews to establish a synagogue, so Paul had to go outside the city gate to find a place of prayer that was established near the river by some faithful women. Among the women who were worshipping God was a woman named Lydia, whom Paul baptized while at the prayer group. Lydia was a dealer in purple cloth which was the most expensive color available, so she had many resources that proved useful as the church began to grow.

One day, while Paul and his companions were going to the place of prayer, Paul performed an exorcism for a slave girl who was making a lot of money for her owners. The owners got angry with Paul and had Paul and Silas arrested and thrown into prison. While in prison, the Lord caused an earthquake that shook the prison, and the shackles fell off the prisoners. The jailer was afraid that everyone escaped, but Paul assured him that everyone was still there, and then proceeded to convert the jailer and his family.

Once released, Paul and Silas returned to the church that was moved to Lydia's house and encouraged the faithful. When it was time for Paul to move on, he decided to leave Luke behind to minister to the church in Philippi and establish Elders and Deacons. After 5 years, Luke rejoined Paul and his companions indicating that the church in Philippi was now able to function independently.

At the time the letter to the Philippians was written, 12 years had passed since Paul's visit to the church in Philippi, and after reading the letter, there is evidence that the church continued to thrive and even supported Paul while he was on his missionary journeys. The church had humble beginnings as a prayer group led by women beside a river outside the city gates, but it grew into a thriving church that served as an example for other churches to follow. Paul was closely attached to this church as he expressed his gratitude and excitement for everything they have done. May our church be just as faithful with our task of reaching our communities for Christ!

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Scrapbooking - TBD

April 3 - Fellowship Dinner

April 13 - Elders/Deacons meeting 5 pm

April 15 - Game Night 6 pm

April 19 - Deadline for May Newsletter

April 24 - Resurrection Sunday Breakfast

April 26 - Men's Night - 6pm

April 27 - Deadline for GCWR Registration

Servers for April

Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg

Morning Prayer - Chuck Cleghorn

Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie

Server - Chris Duke

Communion Prep - Charlee Cleghorn



Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

General Prayer Items for the month:

(Please see the weekly bulletin for the church prayer list.)

Church Leadership

Newsletter Improvements

Members

Visitors

Lost Souls

Those needing work/Home sales

The persecuted church

Missionaries

Future Kingdom Workers

Those serving in the Military

Government

Schools

A WORD ABOUT SUBMISSIONS

I am encouraged to see the response from everyone already with submissions for the newsletter. As we continue to grow, the newsletter will increase in size. This will mean that more articles will be needed, and I will be using member submissions as we go.

As everyone submits material, we need to keep a few things in mind.

I will try my best to use the submission as soon as possible with the understanding that church news will take priority over member submissions. However, if we are consistent with the number of submissions, I will increase the size of the newsletter to accommodate the needs of the church.

Please remember that this newsletter is for the church, so some submissions may not be used, but I will do my best to let you know up front if it is appropriate. Credit for the submissions will not be printed unless it is an original work so please do not get offended if your name does not appear with your submission. Thanks for helping us with the newsletter!

I am a Messenger

I have no personal credentials or amazing abilities.

I was not appointed by any group or human authority.

I was selected by God Almighty.

It is my responsibility and privilege to proclaim to my generation the good news of Jesus Christ- that believing in him as Savior & Lord is the exclusive path to eternal life.

It may not be politically correct, but it is the truth.

And I will carry this message with ultimate resolve till the end of my days.

- Chuck

(Inspired by Galatians 1)