

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Summer is almost here and we are starting to gear up for a great summer!

We have been invited by the youth group at First Christian Church of Franklin, NC to join them in some of the activities they have planned during the next couple of months. I am looking forward to building some good relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Be sure to check our calendar for the many events that are planned.

Our Wed night Bible Study is still going strong with our study in Restoration History. We began with the 2nd generation church just after the Apostles passed away, and we have worked our way up through the movement as we know it today. Presently, we are right in the middle of the 19th Century and we will continue through the summer.

We will also be working on some Evangelism classes so we can start planning strategies for reaching the lost in the neighborhoods we live in.

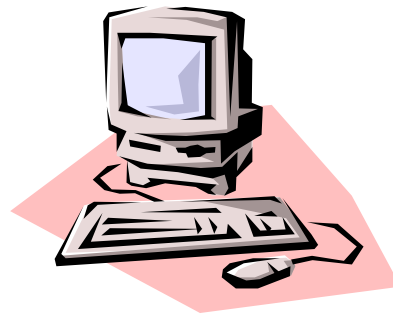
Don't forget to check out our church website as we will be adding resources as time goes by. We also have a Facebook page thanks to Michael so be sure to like us if you are online.

Our Senior Saints Fellowship began with a good attendance last month, and we are building other programs so we can have a well-rounded church with plenty of opportunities for everyone.

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey

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Check us out online:
www.fccmntcty.org

Sermon Series:

Heroes of the Bible

6/5 - Joshua

6/12 - The Fiery Furnace

6/19 - Barnabas

6/26 - Jeremiah

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 6/5:

Mon - 1 John 2:1-17
Tues - 1 Peter 4:12-19
Wed - 2 Timothy 1
Thur - Daniel 1
Fri - Daniel 2
Sat - Daniel 3

Week of 6/12:

Mon - Acts 9:1-31
Tues - Acts 11:19-30
Wed - Acts 13:1-12
Thur - Acts 14
Fri - Acts 15:1-35
Sat - Acts 4:36-37
/9:26-27

Week of 6/19:

Mon - Jeremiah 1
Tues - Jeremiah 7:1-29
Wed - Jeremiah 11
Thur - Jeremiah 12
Fri - Jeremiah 18
Sat - Jeremiah 20:7-18

Week of 6/26:

Mon - Romans 6
Tues - Romans 8
Wed - Romans 12
Thur - 1 Corinthians 10
Fri - Galatians 5
Sat - Matthew 9:35-38

The North American Christian Convention

The NACC will be taking place on July 5-8 at Cincinnati this year. This will also be the first of 3 years that I will be serving on the continuation committee.

It is a great honor to be chosen for this committee, and I look forward to helping with the future events as we begin our planning sessions in October. This convention is our big event that keeps us united.

The NACC stands for North American Christian Convention, and it is held every year at various locations as a gathering of ministers and volunteers who serve the churches who are a part of the Stone-Campbell or Restoration movement.

This is an opportunity for the ministers and volunteers of the churches to fellowship with fellow

brothers and sisters in Christ across the country as they have worship services as well as Bible Studies and Workshops that will help the people become better in the areas they serve.

This is also a time for alumni to gather from the many great Bible Colleges that this movement supports.

“And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will” - Romans 8:27

A FAITH THAT BREATHES.....

.....seeks Him with a focused vision. God says, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13). The Holy Spirit is not “out there” somewhere, waiting for us to have just the right combination of perfection and success in our spiritual lives before He’ll reveal Himself to us. To believe this is deception. The Holy Spirit resides inside us. How can we see inside ourselves? By becoming quiet for a few seconds and focusing on who we are in Him in this moment and who He is - the character of God. Remember what Jesus did for us on the cross. We must see ourselves as valued and re-deemed by Him.

.....seeks Him through prayer. “Ask at it will be given to you,” the Lord reminds us. “Seek and you will find; knock and

the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

.....seeks Him as a follower. The Holy Spirit is the presence with us, causing us to become one with Him in spirit-even before we meet Him face-to-face. He joins Himself with us in a sacred union. He is creating us from the inside out into that image of “oneness” where our unity with the Holy Spirit causes us to be made over into His likeness. Love transforms us.

.....seeks Him minute by minute-despite busy schedules. Take a few moments every day, even if it’s just for a few seconds, to quietly soak in the presence of the Holy Spirit. This will bring both refreshment and His creative, purifying presence into the moment with you. As He promised, He will never leave you nor forsake you. -Theresa “Tess” Cox

THE MASTER BUILDER

God is the master builder, His plans are perfect and true, and when he sends you sorrow, it’s part of his plan for you.

FOR YOU, O GOD, tested us: you refined us like silver.
Psalm 66:10

Today sculpt and work on your life for you are creating a masterpiece a work of art in partnership with God.

Equipping the Saints

I have always considered myself an equipper for the people, and as I go about the calling God has for me, I am blessed to be able to gain my resources from some of the best Biblical scholars in my lifetime.

I have had the privilege of learning from a faculty of Godly men at Florida Christian College, and now, I have the opportunity to learn at the feet of Godly

professors like Jack Cottrell, Johnny Pressley, Jim North, David Roadcup, Tom Thatcher, and others as I pursue my Master’s of Divinity from Cincinnati Christian University.

David Faust has done an excellent job of maintaining integrity in the faculty as we continue to grow in our knowledge of God’s Word. The college is still faithful to the text in every aspect, and I am excited

to be a part of this fine institution.

Please pray for Cincinnati Christian University as well as myself as we go about fulfilling the Great Commission by equipping the saints for works of service. Whether it is at the college level, or in the local church, Biblical scholarship will always be top priority for us as we train God’s workers.

- Earl Winfrey

A Note From Kevin:

Recently I made a trip to Minnesota to attend the funeral of my 98-year-old father-in-law, whom was a Christian and a leader in the local Christian church. A young preacher, new to the congregation, visited Ernie in the nursing home. Ernie was losing his hearing and eyesight and was unable to hear much of what was being said and he was unable to read his Bible, but would attend services every Sunday. The young preacher asked the question “Why do you come if you can’t hear or see?” Ernie was a kind, pleasant, gentle man and being patient with the young preacher his answer was “to be an encouragement to others.”

After I thought about this answer I

realized that it was a great answer. We know that we are to be faithful until death. I think part of being faithful is being useful. I know that as we get older and our bodies start to fail it is harder to be useful, but we must persevere. The Bible doesn’t say remain faithful until our eyes grow dim or until we can’t hear well, but it instructs to remain faithful until we die.

As I grow older and start to experience an aging body (not that I’m that old ☺) one of the toughest things I find to do is to be the best Grandpa that I can be. How do I do that? One way is to watch and listen to the older generation who already have experience in being good grandparents. So, I will be looking to learn from them.

With young children, parents are the best teachers for their kids. They will teach them

many things, but the greatest of these is that they will teach them to love. So how does a grandparent fit into this process? After some thought, I believe that it is the job of a grandparent to show their grandchildren (or the younger generation) how to love. This can also be a goal for the older people in the church. The little children, youth, and young adults should see older married couples sharing kind words with each other, encouraging each other, holding hands, sharing a gentle touch or even a kiss on the cheek, being helpful by holding a door or pulling out a chair. Even these simple acts of kindness can help us be an encouragement and an example of faithfulness. All of these things I will struggle with, but if I’m going to encourage my grandchildren and show them how to love, I must.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.." - The Apostle Paul

"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." - Acts 17:11

The church in Berea was known for their hunger for the truth. The people were constantly checking the scriptures to see if they were being represented correctly. This was not a result of their distrust for the speaker but instead, it was their maturity in their faith as they understood the importance of making sure the information that was being passed on to them was truth. Here are some helpful suggestions so you too can become a good Berean:

- Know your Bible

The people in the church of Berea would not have been able to discern what was true if they were ignorant of the Scriptures. Likewise, we can't expect to be able to tell the difference between a false teaching and a truth if we don't know our Bible. Take the time to build a solid foundation by reading the Bible every day and studying it to gain a fuller understanding of what the Word of God contains, and it will be much easier to spot a fake.

- Don't be afraid to ask for clarification

If there is anything that is the most harmful when it comes to checking up on a teaching, it is failing to take the time to understand fully what is being taught. Take plenty of notes, ask for clarification on what is not clear, and if possible, check with somebody who heard the teaching to see if you might have misunderstood what was being taught. A few extra minutes at the beginning checking on what was taught could save you from spending hours later trying to apologize for the misunderstanding.

- Know what you don't know

This is the hardest part of being a good Berean because sometimes it is hard to admit when you don't know something. It is ok to ask for help in understanding scripture because we are all human, and none of us are "Experts" when it comes to interpreting the Bible. Anyone who claims to be the authority on scripture should be questioned as only the Lord Himself can make that claim.

- Have good resources available

This is a tough one because of the abundance of material in today's Christian bookstore market. Finding good resources can make the difference between being accurate and being misled so be careful, and seek advice as to what resources would be good for you. I can help you find the resources you need if you will just let me know what you are looking for.

- Innocent until proven guilty

It is very important for you to enter into a "Berean" situation with an optimistic outlook. If you begin the process with the assumption that the teaching is false, it will be hard to find the truth. Keep an open mind and assume that the teaching could be true, and don't pass judgment until the evidence presents itself. Way too often, a teaching gets rejected based on the fact that it doesn't sound like anything that has been taught before, and this can cause tunnel vision when it comes to correctly handling the Word of God.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 3 - 4 GCWR at ACC
- June 5 - Fellowship Dinner/Elders Meeting
- June 8 - Elders/Deacons meeting 5 pm
- June 11 - Family Day at Westley Park 10 am
- June 14 - Senior Saints Fellowship 11 am
- June 17 - Game Night 6 pm
- June 21 - Deadline for July Newsletter
- June 24 - Teen hike at Tallulah Gorge 9 am
- June 28 - Men's Night - 6 pm

Servers for June

- Communion Meditation - Tom Labbie
- Morning Prayer - Chuck Cleghorn
- Offering Prayer - Roy Noblitt
- Server - Chris Duke



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
- College Decisions
- Members
- Visitors
- Lost Souls
- Those needing work/Home sales
- The persecuted church
- Missionaries
- Future Kingdom Workers
- Those serving in the Military
- Government
- Schools

PAINTING THE CHURCH

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke. "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"

Sin

In Matthew 4:1-11 we read of Jesus' victory over the tempter/devil/Satan. In Hebrews 4:15, we read that Jesus was tempted in every way as a man, and yet was without sin. Temptation comes at us fast and hard throughout every day of our lives. We are tempted to:

Give in to sexual sin, Give in to alcohol or drugs, Give up on God, life, or our marriage, Steal or cheat or Gossip

When we are tempted, we should pray out loud to Jesus, asking Him to respond to Satan. After all, Jesus knows the devil is just a fallen angel. Here are some passages from scripture to help to get you started.

– Matthew 4:4, Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

– Matthew 4:7, Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

– Matthew 4:10, Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' "

(Written by Joe Putting from Tomoka Christian Church)