

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

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WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

"Shall We Gather at the River?"

Recently, I have been able to spend some time getting to know some of the churches that are close to us, and I am excited at the possibilities we have in working side by side.

Our sister church in Franklin held a couple of events we participated in during the month of June, and we have invited them to join our Senior Saints Fellowship in July. We also invited Toccoa Christian Church and they have invited us to their Saturday breakfast.

I have spent some time with the Minister at Toccoa Christian Church, and I found out the details on the 5th Sunday church rallies where the Northeast GA Churches gather together for a Sunday night service with a fellowship following the service.

The month of July is looking like it will be just as busy as June was, and this is an exciting time for our church!

Be sure to keep up to date with the many opportunities for fellowship and study by looking at our calendar on the website or checking out the dates on the 4th page of this newsletter.

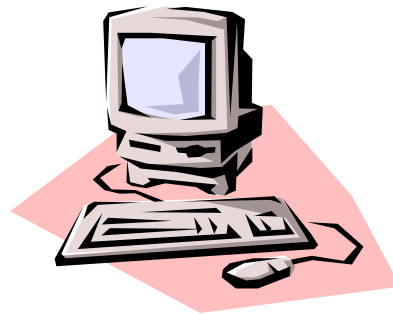
I am also enjoying my time off from the Seminary for the summer before the fall semester comes back with a full load.

Our sermon series this month will be focusing on the freedom we have both as Americans and as Christians.

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey

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Check us out online:
www.fccmtcty.org

Sermon Series:

Free to Serve

7/3 - Purpose of Freedom

7/10 - Freedom to Assemble

7/17 - Freedom to Grow

7/24 - Free to be a Family

7/31 - Freedom of Diversity

Women's Fellowship/5th Sunday Rally/Food Pantry

On Saturday, July 23, there will be another Women's Fellowship at the church at 12 pm. Michael is asking that all the women bring ideas of what they would like to study. Be sure to see Michael for any questions you may have.

Our friends at Toccoa Christian Church are hosting a free late breakfast at their church at 10 am on Saturday, July 9.

We have also been invited as a church to join the other Northeast GA churches for a 5th Sunday church rally on July 31 at 6 pm. I will have details on the location once it is confirmed.

Our food pantry has been on cruise control for a while, so it is time for us to search for a way to make it useful for ministry to the community around us.

Amanda Duke has volunteered to take over the food pantry, and she is working with the Elders to put a plan into action for collecting and distributing food along with searching for other ways to help those who are in need.

During the month of July, there will be requests made for items to fill the pantry so be sure to look out for ways you can help.

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 7/3:

Mon – Genesis 11:1-9
Tues – Exodus 32
Wed – 1 Samuel 8
Thur – 1 Samuel 9
Fri – 1 Samuel 10
Sat – Acts 4:32-35

Week of 7/10:

Mon – Exodus 18
Tues – Matt 10
Wed – Matt 25:14-30
Thur – Luke 10:1-24
Fri – Acts 15:1-35
Sat – Acts 6:1-7

Week of 7/17:

Mon – Proverbs 15
Tues – Proverbs 18
Wed – Matt 18:1-20
Thur – John 17
Fri – Romans 14
Sat – 1 Timothy 5:1-4

Week of 7/24:

Mon – Rom 15:14-22
Tues – Acts 11:1-18
Wed – 1 Corinthians 9
Thur – Galatians 2
Fri – Ephesians 2:11-22
Sat – Deut 16:1-8

Week of 7/31:

Mon – Genesis 37
Tues – 2 Kings 2
Wed – Job 2:1-10
Thur – Acts 5:1-11
Fri – Acts 13:38-52
Sat – James 3:1-12

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” - Psalm 46:1

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG
by Martha Bolton

Lord, help me today when things go wrong. When I get that shopping cart with only three wheels and they're all going in different directions, help me to know my strength comes from you. Be with me as I drop off my children at soccer practice, Little League, piano lessons, the library, a birthday party and Girl Scouts. Help me to remember to be at the right place at the right time to pick up the right kid. And today, should my washing machine break down, by dishwasher overflow, and my refrigerator decide to start making slushes out of my cartons of my milk, help me to thankful that they did make it a full week beyond their warranty expiration dates. And, Lord, when dinner burns, and the dog tracks in mud on my newly waxed floors, grant me patience as I toss them

both out. Comfort me when I realize I missed that important appointment at two o'clock because that door-to-door salesman who came at one wouldn't let me get a word in edgewise until three-thirty. And when the bottom falls out of my trash bag, help me look on the bright side. All those empty cereal boxes lying there and those opened cans rolling around on the floor mean I haven't had to go hungry. And if my mailman's late, my carpool's early, and those dinner guests I forgot I invited arrive on time, let me rest in your peace. Finally, Lord, when I dash to take the kids to school in my robe and curlers, and run out of gas at the front entrance, let me hide in your love. For, Lord, when things go wrong, I need to remember that you always have a way of making everything right again.

Heaven can wait

The teacher gathered her Sunday school class around her and exclaimed, "Well class, all those who want to go to heaven, please raise your hands!"

One boy didn't raise his hand.

"Henry, don't you want to go to heaven?" the teacher asked.

"I can't," Henry replied. "My mom wants me to come straight home after church."

The Three I's of Effective Leadership

Have you ever seen a natural leader? You ever see yourself as one? Do you ever wonder if you could be better at being a leader?

In school, we hear of the three R's. Of course, I don't understand why they call it the three R's when Writing starts with a W and Arithmetic starts with an A. In a similar way, there are the three I's of effective leadership. These are three statements that you can make in order

to be able to remain effective in your leadership role wherever you are:

1. I Don't Know.
2. I Was Wrong.
3. I Apologize.

The ability to admit that you don't know something goes a long way with building trust with the people. A great leader does not try to fake knowledge.

Admitting a mistake is another strike against the pride of most leaders, but it does keep you humble. Along with that, apologizing for the mistakes you made lets people know that you are human too.

If you practice the three I's of effective leadership, I don't know, I was wrong, and I apologize, you will find it a little easier to follow the example of Christ as you lead your group.

Wisdom from Grandpa:

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg, or a goose egg, depends a lot on the kind of chick he marries.

Trouble in marriage often starts when a man gets so busy earning' his salt that he forgets his sugar.

Too many couples marry for better, or for worse, but not for good.

When a man marries a woman, they become one; but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one.

If a man has enough horse sense to treat his wife like a thoroughbred, she will never turn into an old nag.

On anniversaries, the wise husband always forgets the past - but never the present.

A foolish husband says to his wife, "Honey, you stick to the washing', ironing', cooking' and scrubbing'. No wife of mine is gonna "work"."

Many girls like to marry a military man - he can cook, sew, and make beds and is in good health, and he's already used to taking orders.

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

You know you are getting old, when everything either dries up or leaks.

Old age is when former classmates are so gray and wrinkled and bald, they don't recognize you.

Have a GREAT day.....and keep Laughing!
It's good for the soul .

"You'll never get ahead of anyone as long as you try to get even with him." - Lou Holtz

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." - 1 Cor. 9:22-23

**"When you pass away, of course people are going to miss you.
The question is, why are you going to be missed?"**

We all know of the Great Commission, but do we really know how to make a Disciple? How can we proclaim the Gospel to those around us? Here are a few suggestions for how we can go about fulfilling our call to be the light of the world:

The Times have changed, and so have the people: The hardest part of evangelism is when we have to admit that the old methods don't work as good as they used to. People have become busier than ever, mothers are having to help support the family financially, kids have become bombarded with extracurricular activities, and the list goes on and on. If we continue to try doing the same stuff we have always done, we may not be able to reach those who do not have the time to visit with us face to face.

Technology is not the enemy: The church has always had a reputation for being decades behind society when it comes to technology. The internet has been in existence for many years, and churches are still working on creating websites and podcasts. This is an obvious handicap as there are many people out there who use the internet every day, sometimes more than they watch TV, and yet they very seldom see a positive message about how they need Jesus. Our church website is a resource that can help us gain ground on a society that has gone almost completely paperless. The weekly podcast for the sermons can be a way for people to hear the message before coming to church so they can know what to expect when they get here.

On a personal level, building a website may not be an option, however, you have the next best thing in that Facebook has replaced the telephone in many ways for today's younger generations. If you have friends on Facebook, you have a network you can reach by simply posting a comment about your church. Let them know what's going on at church, and why you are excited about it. You can also write notes for people to read that will show them what you believe, and why you believe it. If you have the administration skills, you could even build a group to help promote the Gospel. People build fan clubs for their favorite singer or actor, why not build a group for the most important person in your life, Jesus?

Everyone has a Story to tell: No matter what your view is on the best way to reach the lost, there is one thing that everyone has in common; everyone has their own personal story of salvation. If you have been baptized into the Family of God, you are fully equipped to share the Gospel with somebody else. Just simply tell your friends the story of how you came to know Jesus. If your friends can see the difference that Jesus makes in your life, they will be more open to hear what you have to say. Remember that as a Christian, you have an identity that is different from the world, and it is up to you to show that difference in a positive light.

Be creative, be proactive, be passionate about evangelism, but make sure that you never lose your identity as a Christian. There are many ways to share the Gospel without compromising your personal integrity or God's message. Overall, don't waste your time guessing about how to reach your neighbor. Build relationships with those around you, and it will be easier to find out how best to reach them.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 6 - Elders/Deacons meeting 5 pm
- July 9 - Breakfast at Toccoa C.C. 10 am
- July 10 - Fellowship Dinner
Annual Congregational Meeting
- July 12 - Senior Saints Fellowship 11 am
- July 15 - Game Night 6 pm
- July 23 - Women's Fellowship 12 pm
- July 26 - Deadline for August Newsletter
Men's Night 6 pm
- July 31 - 5th Sunday Rally 6 pm



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

Servers for July:

- Communion Meditation - Chuck Cleghorn
- Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg
- Offering Prayer - Josh Berg
- Server - Ben Lantzer

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

Keep on Keeping On - Harold R. Nelson

When life gets tough and I see no relief in sight, there is no need for fright... for I remind myself to keep on keeping on.

When pain is difficult to bear, and I feel I have more than my share... I pray for grace to accept what has come my way. I turn again to those brave words to keep on keeping on.

In my own day I've seen much loss and grief. Some have found a blessed release as they slipped away to greet the dawning of a new day. Until my time comes, I'll continue to keep on keeping on.

Life is a gift and it helps me to see that I'm never alone. My beloved is with me night and day... She's never far away. I'll walk the path come rain or shine... Then those words divine come to me to keep on keeping on.

There will be a time when I walk this earthly path for the last time. I'll stop and ponder a bit as I sit near the crystal river that flows by the throne of God.

I'll keep on keeping on until...

I reach the beautiful land of the great beyond.

(Harold Nelson has been close to death more than once. He continues to write from the heart.)

Left-handed compliment

A father was trying to explain the creation to his son as they walked through the woods. "Son, God made all of this - every single leaf on every single tree."

"Yes Dad, I know," the boy responded. "And He did it with His left hand!"

"With his left hand? Where did you ever hear such nonsense?"

"My Sunday school teacher read it to us from the Bible," the boy replied. "It said that Jesus was sitting on His Father's right hand."