

# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

"And down the stretch they come!" Those words were made famous by the announcer of the Kentucky Derby, and right now, that seems to be a good way to describe this next month coming up!

We have a busy month full of opportunities for ministry, and I also have several classes I need to take in Cincinnati.

Be sure to check out everything that is going on and pray about where you fit in so you can be a big part of the ministry happening here at FCC of Mountain City!

We just finished up our Restoration History classes on Wed nights, and now Lee Lantzer will begin a series on the book of Hebrews so this will be an excellent chance to dig into the Word of God and build up your Biblical IQ!

Josh Berg will be taking over the adult Sunday School, so be sure to come out and support him as he begins this journey of teaching God's Word through a topical approach. Here are his September lessons:

- 9/4 - An Ideal Life
- 9/11 - An Industrious Worker
- 9/18 - It Takes Effort
- 9/25 - Money Matters

This will be an exciting month and I can't wait to see how God will move through our efforts to become the church that He can be proud of!

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey

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Check us out online:  
[www.fccmtncty.org](http://www.fccmtncty.org)

**Sermon Series:**

**B.I.B.L.E. James**

- 9/4 - Life is Short
- 9/11 - Treasures in Heaven
- 9/18 - Patience
- 9/25 - Prayer

**Daily Scriptures:**

**Week of 9/4:**

- Mon – Deuteronomy 7
- Tues – Psalm 18
- Wed – Proverbs 15
- Thur – 1 Timothy 6
- Fri – Matthew 6
- Sat – James 5:1-6

**Week of 9/11:**

- Mon – Isaiah 40
- Tues – Psalm 27
- Wed – Luke 8:1-15
- Thur – Romans 12
- Fri – Revelation 7
- Sat – James 5:7-12

**Week of 9/18:**

- Mon – Daniel 9
- Tues – Jonah 2
- Wed – Luke 6:27-49
- Thur – Matt 26:36-46
- Fri – Luke 18:1-17
- Sat – James 5:13-20

**Week of 9/25:**

- Mon – 1 Peter 2:1-12
- Tues – Phil 3:1-11
- Wed – Phil 3:12-21
- Thur – Phil 4:4-9
- Fri – 1 Cor 10:1-13
- Sat – Ephesians 5:1-21

## Men's Retreat October 7-8!!

We are beginning an annual Men's retreat in October, and we are looking for all men of the church to attend. This retreat will be for strengthening our present leadership while helping to ensure a strong future by developing future leaders of the church.

The cost will be \$20 per person and that includes 3 meals. Be sure to bring linens for a twin bed.

The retreat will be at Camp Pinnacle ([www.pinnacleretreatcenter.com](http://www.pinnacleretreatcenter.com)) and check in begins at 3:00 pm on Friday, October 7. Dinner is from 5:30 - 6:30 pm so you will need to arrive no later than 5:30 pm.

We will have Breakfast and lunch on Saturday, October 8 and a final session after lunch Saturday before we leave. Richard Marshall will be the guest speaker for us.

We have also invited a couple of other churches to join us so we will need to sign up soon before the beds are taken. There is a sign up sheet, and the money will be due by Sunday, September 18.

We are looking for all men who are age 16 and up for this retreat. Like I mentioned earlier, this will be an annual event, and one that you certainly don't want to miss!

## Man's way leads to a hopeless end, God's way leads to an endless hope.

Every day we are blessed with opportunities to unwrap God's grace in our scary moments. Every day we witness miracles that we know no human could perform-miracles like being able to breath, walk, talk, move, see, think, taste, and touch. Evidence of God's presence and power is all around us in the universe-the sun, the stars, the birth of each new day. Any yet, we continue to search for peace outside of Jesus, even when He is with us moment by moment on our journey.

When stormy weather rolls in around you, cry out to Jesus. No climactic change in your life is distressing or surprising to Him. Listen to His still small voice as He whispers to you. "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" When the gale is raging, you can be assured that He is standing by, speaking peace to your soul. Even the wind and the waves obey His will. —Thelma Wells

"All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before Him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and He rules over the nations." Psalm 22:27-28

By Christ all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:16-17

Your kingdom, O Lord, is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is faithful to all His promises and loving toward all He has made." Psalm 145:13

### Seminary Dates:

I will have a busy September as I will be at Cincinnati on Sept 7-9, 21-23, and 28-30.

I will also be in Cincinnati on October 12-14. Those classes are Thursday and Friday classes, so I will be missing those Wed nights since I will be traveling up.

— Earl Winfrey

## Back to School!

But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.  
- Isaiah 64:8

As the new school year begins, may we dedicate ourselves to helping the Potter guard our child's heart and form his life into a pure vessel. Our great honor and privilege is to be used by Him in shaping the life of the child He has placed in our care. Let us prayerfully seek His wisdom in guiding him to discover God's plan for his life.

Pliability - We are to be pliable to God's will, for the Potter cannot mold hardened clay. As we yield to Him, He will work in us to shape our lives into the vessels He chooses.

Purity - We can only be used by God and have His power working through us when our hearts are pure before Him. Like David in Psalm 139: 23-24, we should ask God to search us, know our hearts, and "lead us in the way everlasting."

Passion - Our passion should be to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We must read, study, memorize and live God's Word before and with our child.

Let's commit this school year to be pliable in the Potter's hands, keep our hearts pure before Him, be passionate about loving Him, develop a closer relationship with Him, and do the work he has called us to do.

This article comes from: The Lighthouse Beacon magazine published by the Lighthouse Christian Academy

## "Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way." - 1 Corinthians 14:40

We are entering into a very busy chapter in the life of FCC of Mountain City. As I am writing this, we have finished day 1 of our food pantry distribution, and this ministry is off to an excellent start!

The playground that was approved is going to be installed within the next week, and Michael is working with the committee she formed to move forward in the creation of a Day Care. She is excited about being able to begin this vital ministry for the community and this is a chance for us to be good stewards of the resources God has given us!

Over the next few months, we will be seeing many more chances to show God's love for the people in our community as we continue to grow both spiritually and numerically.

As we are growing, there will be some pains along the way. It is part of the growth process, and sometimes it involves doing something that may be different than what has been done before. However, as long as God is guiding us, we can work through any kind of issues that may come up.

We need to continue to seek God as we develop our part of His ministry!

One area of need that I can see already is going to be in the area of facilities. A lot of our programs will be back to back, and this means that there will not be enough time for setting up the next event unless everyone works together to put things back in order after your event has ended.

If we all take a few minutes before time to go home to set things back to the way they were before the event, the people coming in to use the church after your event will have an easier time setting up.

Let's all work together to make sure that all events can function well and God can be glorified by what we do!

"A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song." - Lou Holtz

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae." - Colossians 1:1-2

The Apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church at Colossae while he was in prison. He also wrote letters to churches in Ephesus and Philippi during this time, and this is why these are known as "Prison Epistles." Colossae was a city in the country of Phrygia, which had some of its residents present at the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:10)

In Acts 16:16 and 18:23, we see that Paul visited the area during both his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys. Some people believe that although Paul was in the area, he did not personally visit the church in Colossae because of Colossians 2:10 which states that Paul has not met some of the believers personally, but this is only speculation. The city of Laodicea is mentioned as a nearby city, and contains one of the 7 churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. (Revelation 3)

The main point of Colossians seems to be to refute a popular heresy that involved the worship of angels, and did not view Jesus as God. This letter has some of the best doctrine on the Deity of Christ and can help the reader build a strong foundation of faith.

*"We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way."* -Colossians 1:9-10

A Christian in Colossae was also the recipient of a letter from the Apostle Paul, and his name was Philemon. He was a wealthy man who hosted a church in his house. The purpose of this letter was for Paul to request that a runaway slave be freed to assist Paul in the ministry. This short, 1 chapter letter gives insight to the heart of Paul to make things right in the eyes of the law as well as the eyes of God.

Although slavery was not right, the slave running away was not acceptable either, and this is why Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon carrying the letter with him. Onesimus was very helpful to Paul after his conversion, and Paul wanted to let him know that cleaning up his past is part of being a Christian.

The fact that Philemon was willing to face his former master to make things right is a testimony to his character, and also shows how Jesus had changed his life for the best. There is no solid evidence that Philemon honored Paul's request, but sources outside of the Bible records a man named Onesimus as a Bishop in Berea.

There is a lot of encouragement that can be received from reading Philemon, and the lesson from Onesimus should be followed today. Now that you are free from sin as a child of God, what part of your past needs cleaning up?

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old is gone, the new has come!"*

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Thursday - Food Pantry 3:30-5:30 pm

Sept 1 - Scrapbooking/Craft Day

Sept 4 - Fellowship Dinner/Elders Meeting

Sept 7-9 - Earl in Cincinnati

Sept 7 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5 pm

Sept 8 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am

Sept 9 - Game Night 6 pm

Sept 10 - Brunch at Toccoa CC at 10 am

Sept 13 - Koinonia 11 am

Sept 18 - Money due for Men's Retreat

Sept 20 - Deadline for Oct Newsletter

Sept 21-23 - Earl in Cincinnati

Sept 22 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am

Sept 27 - Men's Night 6 pm

Sept 28-30 - Earl in Cincinnati

### Servers for September:

Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg

Communion Meditation - Josh Berg

Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie

Server - Chris Duke

Communion Preparation - Tiffany Berg

## Partners in Ministry

**Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!**

FCC of Franklin, NC

Toccoa Christian Church

Cornelia Christian Church

Christian Church of Homosassa FL

Coastline Christian Church (New Smyrna Beach)

Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)

Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL

Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)

If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.



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

### Ben Lantzer's Prayer List

#### **-Physical Needs**

1. Strength for the challenge
2. Protection in the heat
3. Protection from injury or poison ivy

#### **-Spiritual Requests**

1. Strength for spiritual discipline
2. An open mind and heart to God's Word
3. A focus on Christ
4. Wisdom in how to obey God's leading
5. Lifelong relationships might be formed at ALERT