

# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 1, Issue 8  
October, 2011

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

### Relationships

10/2 – Imitators of God

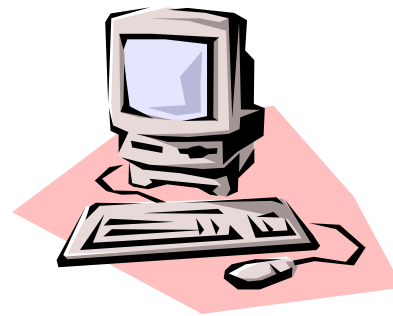
10/9 – Husbands and Wives



10/16 – Children and Parents

10/23 – Society Structure

10/30 – Christians and Sinners



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

## A Cool Wind is Blowing and Change is in the air!

We are entering into an exciting time of year for me as football season has begun and the weather is getting cooler! The trees are starting to change color, and God's beautiful creation is showing off its annual art show!

Along with God's creation, our church is also experiencing a blessed season as we have seen the fruit of our labor in the food pantry, and

the child care ministry is closer to becoming a reality. Our kids are really loving the new playground, and the people around us are starting to learn about our church and more importantly, who we represent as God's church!

Again, just like last month, we have a really busy month that will end with a fall festival at Chuck's house. Many of you may remember the last one

we did there with games and a hay ride along with good food. It will be on Saturday, October 29 starting at 4 pm.

You may also notice that we now have larger print with the newsletter. Please let me know what you think!

Let's grow together!  
-Earl Winfrey  
[Earl@mkdisciples.org](mailto:Earl@mkdisciples.org)

### Daily Scriptures:

Week of 10/2:

Mon – Gen 2:19-25  
Tues – Proverbs 12  
Wed – Prov 31:10-31  
Thur – Titus 2:1-8  
Fri – 1 Peter 3:1-7  
Sat – Eph 5:22-33

Week of 10/9:

Mon – Deut 6  
Tues – Prov 22:1-6  
Wed – Prov 23:12-25  
Thur – Luke 15:11-32  
Fri – Prov 3:1-12  
Sat – Eph 6:1-4

Week of 10/16:

Mon – Col 3:22-25  
Tues – Col 4:1-6  
Wed – Luke 12:41-48  
Thur – Luke 7:36-50  
Fri – 1 Peter 2:13-25  
Sat – Eph 6:5-9

Week of 10/23:

Mon – Matt 19:16-26  
Tues – Matt 25:31-46  
Wed – Jonah 3:1-10  
Thur – Matt 11:25-30  
Fri – Isaiah 43:1-13  
Sat – Eph 6:10-20

Week of 10/30:

Mon – Psalm 23  
Tues – Gen 22:1-19  
Wed – Matthew 6  
Thur – Matt 10:1-16  
Fri – Phil 4:10-20  
Sat – 1 Kings 17

“Stick with what the Bible says. The farther you go into speculation, the more likely you are to end up with heresy.” - Johnny Pressley (Dean of CCU Seminary)



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

It won't be long before Christmas will be on us, and as a church, we will be involved in a few events this year.

We are going to be "adopting" families who need help with presents, so if you know of a family who could use some help, be sure to let us know.

We are also going to be opening our church to the community for a Christmas party so we can share the true meaning of Christmas with those around us!

### New Priest's Ideas

The elderly priest, speaking to the younger priest, said, "It was a good idea to replace the first four pews with plush bucket theater seats. It worked like a charm. The front of the church always fills first now."

The young priest nodded, and the old priest continued, "And you told me adding a little more beat to the music would bring young people back to church, so I supported you

when you brought in that rock 'n' roll gospel choir. Now our services are consistently packed to the balcony."

"Thank you, Father," answered the young priest. "I am pleased that you are open to the new ideas of youth."

"All of these ideas have been well and good," said the elderly priest, "but I'm afraid you've gone too far with the drive-thru confessional."

Important Dates:

I will be in Louisville KY for the NACC Continuation Committee on October 3-5.

I will also be in Cincinnati on October 12-14. This class are Thursday and Friday classes, so I will be missing that Wed night since I will be traveling up.

We are also going to be taking a family vacation on November 2-11.

— Earl Winfrey

"But, Father," protested the young priest, "my confessions and the donations have nearly doubled since I began that!"

"Yes," replied the elderly priest, "and I appreciate that. But the flashing neon sign, "Toot'n Tell or Go to Hell," cannot stay on the church roof."

### In a world full of change, God is the one constant we can count on!

Life for most of us is not a steady-paced stroll through time, with a beginning, a middle, and an end, like a well-constructed play. It's filled with change. We change schools, careers, homes, relationships, and "images" almost as casually as our great-grandparents changed horses.

Not that all change is by choice. Tragedy strikes and our lives change forever. A marriage dissolves, and a woman, linked to her husband by a thousand threads, finds those threads snapped and wonders who she is. Cherished friendships change

in character or another person's choice cuts directly across our own, bringing us where we never wanted to be.

For the believer, then, this question is vital: Is our God the Lord of change? Will He be with us in change, especially when it strains our trust to its limit?

In a threatened world, in the kaleidoscopic whirl of our life patterns, it can be enormously reassuring to remind ourselves that God is unchanging: "I the LORD do no change" (Malachi 3:6). "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)

"The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations." Psalm 33:11

"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should change His mind. Does He speak and then not act? Does He promise and not fulfill?" Numbers 23:19

"I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever; with my mouth I will make Your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that Your love stands firm forever, that You established Your faithfulness in heaven itself." Psalm 89:1-2

### Moses and the Burning Bush

The scene with the burning bush is a very popular scene that has been reproduced many times for many different reasons over many years. From VBS to the movie screen, the burning bush scene with Moses is included in every depiction of the Exodus. But what did the burning bush mean? Why is that scene so important? For starters, if the burning bush scene did not happen, there would not have been an Exodus for God's people. This is the scene where Moses received the call from God to be God's agent in delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

This scene happened thousands of years ago, and it is recorded in the Old Testament, so what significance does this scene have for us today? In this scene we see some very important actions from God as He called Moses to service. We also see that God's calling was not a spur of the moment event, but something He has been grooming Moses for since the beginning of his life. In the same way, we receive a call from God as a result of a lifelong preparation. God has a specific purpose that He has been grooming you for and when the time comes, He will reveal it.

It is important to note that God is calling Moses at a time when he could be the most effective. In Exodus 2:11-15, there is the account where Moses killed an Egyptian, and the Pharaoh wanted to kill Moses. Later in that chapter, we learn that the Pharaoh died, so it would be safe for Moses to return. If God would have called Moses before the Pharaoh died, he would have been killed before having the chance to speak out on God's behalf.

In the same way that the time had to be right for Moses to be called by God, we too have to receive our call in the right time. How often do we rush into something we feel led to do and end up failing because we went ahead of God? How many times have we decided to go in a different direction because we did not have the patience to wait for God to move in His time? Timing is very important when it comes to the call of God, and this is shown in the fact that Moses was called to action later in life.

We see in Exodus 3:1 that he was tending the flocks when he found the burning bush on the Mountain of God. This indicates that Moses was a shepherd. Being a shepherd was preparing Moses for a greater task of shepherding the Israelites out of Egypt. Growing up in Pharaoh's household gave Moses the opportunity to learn the inside track of the Egyptians, and this also granted him access to the Pharaoh when the time came for the confrontation. Moses was fully prepared to accomplish what he was called to do because his life was leading up to this point.

As Moses approached the burning bush, God had to establish the rules. Moses was told to remove His sandals because the place where he was standing is holy ground. God then introduces Himself so there would be no confusion about who is giving this charge. When God calls, He usually gets your attention in a way that would leave you no doubt about who is calling you. In the case of Moses, the burning bush caught his attention, but being called out by name convinced him that this was from God. And when God introduced Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses knew then that his life was never going to be the same.

God never calls people to a task that He is not a part of. God is always there to make sure His will is carried out, and with Moses, this is evident in Exodus 3:13-15. Moses is struggling with the thought of approaching the Israelites, so he asked God to give him something to say that will prove the authenticity of the charge. God's response seems a bit strange because of the name "I AM," but this name represents the description the Israelites had for God. The "I AM" basically means that God is timeless. He has always been, and He will always be, so He transcends all generations. By declaring that the "I AM" sent him, Moses is reassuring the Israelites that God has heard their cries, and Moses is the one being sent to deliver them from Egypt.

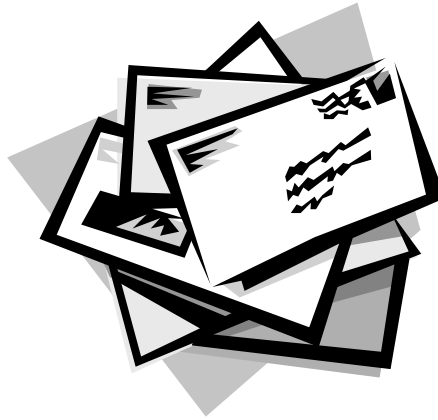
Moses accepted the call from God, and the Israelites were saved. God was with Moses during the confrontation, and Moses was fully prepared to act on God's behalf. This is how it is when God calls you to service. God prepares you for His purpose, He gets your attention and lays out the rules, and He promises to be with you every step of the way. So what have you been called to do? Think about your path through life, and you will see a pattern forming that could lead up to a call to service for God.

"A lifetime contract for a coach means if you're ahead in the third quarter and moving the ball, they can't fire you." - Lou Holtz

*"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
- Oct 2 - Fellowship Dinner/Elders Meeting
- Oct 3-5 - Earl in Louisville
- Oct 5 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5 pm
- Oct 7 - Scrapbooking/Craft Day
- Oct 7-8 - Men's Retreat @ Camp Pinnacle
- Oct 11 - Koinonia 11 am
- Oct 12-14 - Earl in Cincinnati
- Oct 14 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am
- Oct 21 - Movie Night 7 pm
- Oct 25 - Deadline for Nov. Newsletter
- Oct 28 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am
- Oct 29 - Fall Festival at Chuck's 4 pm



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

### Servers for October:

- Morning Prayer - Lee Lantzer
- Communion Meditation - Chuck Cleghorn
- Offering Prayer - Kevin Berg
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Preparation - Cleghorns

## 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)
- N. Citrus Christian Church (Citrus Springs, FL)

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

### **Paul Harvey RIDDLE:**

When asked this riddle, 80% of kindergarten kids got the answer, compared to 17% of Stanford University

What is greater than God,  
 More evil than the devil,  
 The poor have it,  
 The rich need it,  
 And if you eat it, you'll die?

Answer: Nothing!