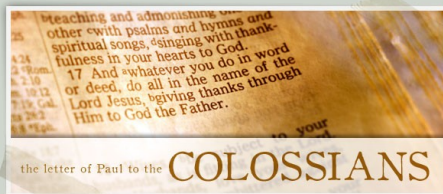


THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 2, Issue 2
February, 2012

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!



February:

2/5 - Holy and Faithful
2/12 - Who is Jesus?
2/19 - The Great Mystery
2/26 - Sweater of Unity

March:

3/4 - Growing in Christ
3/11 - Freedom in Christ
3/18 - Clothed with Christ
3/25 - Living for Christ



Check us out online:
www.fccmtncty.org

How beautiful is His love for us!

As we enter into the month when we celebrate the love we have here on earth, let us remember the source of that love! If it wasn't for God, we would not know love. God is love, and as His children, love should come naturally for us!

This month is full of exciting activities so be sure to check out the calendar of events on the last page!

Remember that we have a congregational meeting after our fellowship meal on Feb 5, and we will be discussing the Daycare along with giving a brief summary of some of our goals for the ministry here for 2012!

From a Seminary perspective, I have a lighter course load this semester so I can catch up on some projects that have been on hold.

Overall, our month is going to be a great one as we will be moving forward with the Lord leading the way!

Don't forget to read the Daily Scriptures as we need to stay plugged into God's Word so we can remain solid in our faith!

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey
Earl@mkdisciples.org

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 2/5:
Mon – Psalm 89:1-18
Tues – Psalm 89:19-37
Wed – Psalm 89:38-52
Thur – Romans 8:1-17
Fri – Romans 8:18-30
Sat – Col 1:15-23

Week of 2/12:
Mon – 2 Cor 7
Tues – 2 Cor 12:1-10
Wed – Ephesians 3
Thur – Philippians 3
Fri – 1 Timothy 1
Sat – Col 1:24-29

Week of 2/19:
Mon – Rev 3:14-22
Tues – John 13:1-20
Wed – John 13:21-38
Thur – John 15:1-17
Fri – Heb 10:19-39
Sat – Colossians 2:1-5

Week of 2/26:
Mon – Romans 12
Tues – Ps 119:97-104
Wed – Ps 119:105-112
Thur – Hebrews 12
Fri – Romans 6
Sat – Col 2:6-15

"I am a preacher of the Gospel, not the keeper of the book of life." - Barry McCarty

Gathering the Lame - David Faust (President of CCU)

He had a withered hand.

We don't know why. Maybe he was born that way, or a disease crippled him. Maybe his hand was hurt in an accident — crushed by a rock or trampled by an ox. Or it may have been the man's own fault. Perhaps he did something foolish to damage his hand — fell on the ground in a drunken stupor or punched a wall in a fit of rage.

Whatever caused his affliction, the man was at a decided disadvantage in a society that prized manual labor. Limp, useless fingers limited his ability to grasp an axe or steer a plow, to plant seed or row a boat — even to dress himself. Bullies subjected him to awkward stares and heartless comments. Did he have a family? If so, it was hard to hold his wife's hands or lift his children and play with them. Even if he made his living by begging, he had to do it with one hand.

One thing's for sure about the man with a withered hand. No matter what caused his affliction — whether he was born that way, experienced an unfortunate accident, or brought his suffering on himself—the Lord cared about him. He encountered Jesus in the synagogue, along with some who had gone there not to worship but to find fault. They watched closely to see if Jesus would heal on the Sabbath, which they considered a violation of tradition, and the Lord boldly accepted the challenge.

[3] And he said to the man with the withered hand, "Come here." [4] And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. [5] And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. [6] The Pharisees went out and immediately held counsel with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

(Mark 3:3-6 ESV)

Too bad Jesus' enemies criticized Him instead of examining themselves. Which is worse: a useless hand or a stubborn, shriveled soul? Better to have a withered hand than receive a withering look from the Master. All of us have withered hands. All of us have disappointments we endure, limitations we despise, afflictions we wish we could eliminate.

Like the man in the Synagogue, we're likely to encounter people who offer scorn instead of sympathy, criticism instead of compassion. Aren't you glad the Lord loves us in spite of our weak hands?

(Taken from the book "52 Monday Morning Insights" by David Faust, available through CCU Resources)

New Facebook Bible Study Group:

MkDisciples Study Group is a new group I have created on Facebook so I can provide a weekly study for digging deeper into God's Word. I will post a topic/Scripture/question on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning, and then everyone will be encouraged to comment throughout the week. We have already had some great discussions on prayer and fasting!

Everyone is encouraged to join this group as it is open to the public. Just message me on Facebook, and I will add you to the group. You can also get to the group directly by going online and searching for it by name. I hope to see you on Facebook!

"Do right. Do your best. Treat others as you want to be treated." - Lou Holtz

Tithing Questions

In light of January's sermon series, here are a few FAQ's about tithing:

1. What is tithing?

The word "tithe" means tenth or tenth part. Tithing is the practice of giving to the Lord at least 10 percent of your income. It is an act of worship, done to honor God and to remind us that He is the ultimate giver. On Mt. Sinai God commanded Moses to tell the Israelites that the tithe was sacred to the Lord.

2. Does the New Testament talk about tithing? Did Jesus endorse tithing?

Yes. Paul said that the tithe would be used for the ministry and advancement of the gospel. (I Corinthians 9:13-14)

Yes. In His warning to the Pharisees about legalism (they were tithing, but ignoring mercy and justice), he tells them that they should not neglect tithing, but also that their hearts should not neglect mercy and justice and other attributes of the law. (Matthew 23:23)

3. Should I give more than my tithe?

In the Bible the tithe is considered the beginning point, the minimum commitment for someone who is financially faithful. As our faith in God grows and we become more spiritually mature, we expect our generosity will grow as well.

God requires far more from His people than the 10 percent we sometimes assume. His command to love others as He loved us is a far higher standard than the tithe. Rather than settling for 10 percent, we should give as radically and generously as Jesus gave to us. His sacrifice serves as our standard. The tithe is always considered just a part of the generosity God's people express in offerings, sacrifices, gifts, and acts of mercy.

4. How should I give: weekly or monthly?

The frequency of your giving is a personal choice. Many people find that making a tithing plan helps them. Since the Bible instructs us to give our "first fruits," many people give on the same schedule as they are paid, making the tithe their first expenditure.

5. Can I tithe time and service rather than money?

There's no biblical precedent for tithing time instead of money. We are expected to give God a portion of our time and our financial resources, not one or the other.

6. Why is it so hard for me to commit?

Most of us are conditioned to hold and control our financial resources. God knows this, which may be why money and stewardship are talked about so much in the Bible. God wants us to trust Him and worship Him alone. God promises to bless us if we simply trust Him.

God promises blessing for those who are obedient to tithing. While it may not always be a material/physical blessing, God's word teaches the benefits. Your heart will also be changed as you learn to tithe. You get to be part of God's work here on earth. Ask people who tithe, and they can tell stories of how God has blessed their generosity. Tithing is a spiritual discipline. Like all new disciplines, practicing stewardship requires us to rearrange our priorities in favor of this new desire. There is always some frustration as we weigh our previous commitments against our spiritual values and then take action. However, there is also a reward that comes to those who honor God.

“Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.”

God’s Box of Chocolates–A Valentine’s Day Devotional

By Laura Lee Shaw

Everywhere I look near Valentine’s Day, there’s chocolate: boxes of chocolate in all the stores, chocolate on TV promising to be the only love you need, chocolate girl scout cookies–CHOCOLATE! I even saw chocolate Altoid breath mints in the grocery checkout aisle. I think that’s what led me to remember the famous quote from Forrest Gump: “Life is like a box of chocolates...you never know what you’re gonna get.” (I even remembered it with his accent).

In reality, that phrase can be true in many ways. We wake up every morning completely unsure of what the day may hold for us. We’ve make our plans. Sometimes they even happen the way we make them. But we never know for sure, do we?

The days that come with caramel in the middle are my favorite. The ones with the strawberry goo are just so so—but the ones with coconut–YUCK! I’d rather go back to bed. Then there’s the days were tragedy or difficult times come out of nowhere, and the chocolate sits in the pantry untouched...there’s no sweetness to be had in those moments, it seems.

God knows that life as it pertains to circumstances is uncertain for us. That’s why He comforts us and reminds us so many times that He is our constant companion, our steadfast friend, our consistently loving God and Savior. He doesn’t keep promises the way we do:

“When people make promises, they guarantee them by appeal to some authority about them so that if there is any question that they’ll make good on the promise, the authority will back them up. When God wanted to guarantee His promises, He gave His word, a rock-solid guarantee–God can’t break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable.” (Heb. 6:16-18, the Message)

You see, no matter what chocolate we are “in the middle of” right now, He is there—with the certainty of His promise today as well as His hope of heaven in the future.

“We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It’s an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God where Jesus, running on ahead of us, has take up His permanent post as high priest for us, in the order of Melchizedek.” (Heb. 6:19-20, the Message)

I love the visual picture of grabbing on to Him with both hands as He runs ahead of me to the Father. That makes me able to get up today and praise Him for whatever comes my way. This faith, this confidence, this hope is our unbreakable spiritual lifeline—His love for us no matter what, when, how, or why. Let’s binge on His priceless box of chocolates today...the sweetest and most satisfying of them all.

★★★★★★★★★★

God so loVed the world
That he gAve
His onLy
So BegottEn
SoN
That whosoever
Believeth In Him
Should Not parish
But have Everlasting life

John 3:16

★★★★★★★★★★



“Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him.” (Psalm 34:8)

"But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14 ESV)



"We love because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19 ESV)

Hey kids, do you sing the song, "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so"? Do you know that God has shown his love for us? Jesus showed his love for you by dying on a cross so that you can be with him forever. Are you glad that Jesus loves you?

"By this we know love, that Jesus laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay our lives down for the brothers." 1 John 3:16

In February you might hear the word "love" used often. Valentines Day is in February and a lot of people use that day to tell others that they love them. If you hear the word "love" this month, remember that Jesus' love for us is the greatest love in the world. Jesus' love is the greatest kind of love. Jesus loves us so much! Try to copy that love. Love your brothers and sisters and parents and friends. Be kind. Give to others and share. Since Jesus loves us like he does, we ought to love like him!

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Thursday - Food Pantry 4:30-5:30 pm

Feb 1 - Elders/Deacons Meeting 5 pm
Daycare Committee 5 pm

Feb 3 - Craft Day 9 am

Feb 5 - Fellowship Meal after Worship
Cong. Meeting after meal

Feb 8-10 - Earl in Cincinnati

Feb 10 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am

Feb 17 - Game Night 6 pm

Feb 21 - Deadline for March Newsletter

Feb 23 - Ladies Night (Boiler Room) 6 pm

Feb 24 - Women's Bible Study 10:30 am

Feb 28 - Men's Night 6pm

Servers for February:

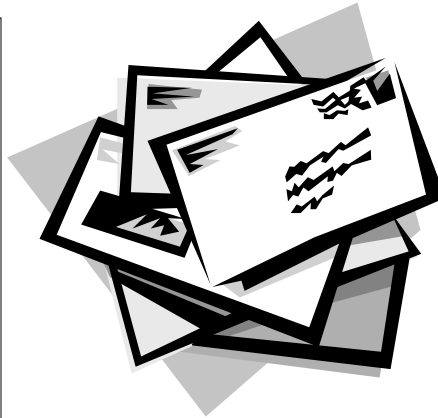
Morning Prayer - Josh Berg

Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie

Server - Bill Grist

Communion Meditation - Lee Lantzer

Communion Preparation - Lantzers



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

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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

Evangelistic Opportunities:

Does your neighbor go to church?

Does your neighbor know that you go to church?

Partners in Ministry

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

FCC of Franklin, NC

Toccoa Christian Church

Providence Road Church of Christ (Charlotte, NC)

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.

Mary had a little lamb. His fleece was white as snow. And everywhere that Mary went. The Lamb was sure to go. He followed her to school each day. It was not even the rule. He made the children laugh and play, to have a lamb at school.

And then the rules all changed one day, illegal it became; to bring the Lamb of God to school or even say his name.

Every day got worse and worse. And days turned into years. Instead of hearing children laugh we heard gun shots and tears. What must we do to stop the crime that's in our schools today? Lets let the Lamb come back to school and teach our kids to PRAY!!!