

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

July 1 - Hosea

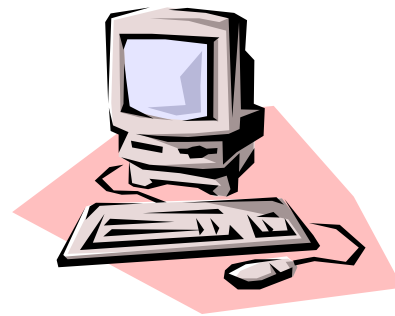
July 8 - Jonah

July 15 - Nahum

July 22 - Ezra

July 29 - Haggai

HEROES OF THE BIBLE



Check us out online:
www.fccmtcty.org

Daily Scriptures:

Week of 7/1:
Mon - John 3:1-21
Tues - 1 Cor 9:19-27
Wed - Jonah 1
Thur - Jonah 2
Fri - Jonah 3
Sat - Jonah 4

Week of 7/8:
Mon - Luke 16:19-31
Tues - Matt 16:1-16
Wed - Matt 3:1-12
Thur - Nahum 1
Fri - Nahum 2
Sat - Nahum 3

Week of 7/15:
Mon - Ezra 1
Tues - Ezra 3
Wed - Ezra 4
Thur - Ezra 5
Fri - Ezra 6
Sat - Ezra 7

Week of 7/22:
Mon - Acts 1:1-11
Tues - Jude
Wed - Isaiah 49
Thur - Acts 4:1-22
Fri - Haggai 1
Sat - Haggai 2

Week of 7/29:
Mon - 2 Sam 7:1-17
Tues - 2 Sam 7:18-29
Wed - Psalm 9
Thur - Hebrews 4
Fri - Luke 1:26-38
Sat - Matthew 6:5-15

Our Country Tis of Thee

When I was young too many years ago than I am willing to admit, the Methodist church I was part of used to sing "My Country Tis of Thee" on a regular basis. I grew to love that song as much as the national anthem as the lyrics hit at the heart of what is most important.

We should remember to keep God as the top priority for our nation!

"Our fathers' God, to thee, author of liberty, to thee we sing; long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by thy might, great God, our King."

Our sermon series this month will focus on men who stayed faithful while living in a nation that turned its back on God. What a lesson for us to learn as we need to be faithful even when others are not!

Last month's VBS went great as it was an exciting time for our church! Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen and I am looking forward to our VBS next year too!

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey
Earl@mkdisciples.org

⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7

I know there are days when I look around at other Christian women and I can't help but to wonder...why do they seem to have it so together and why can't I have that same thing? There are probably some of you out there that feel the same exact way! The biggest problem is that you and I line up someone else's outside to our inside. We try so hard to fit in the shoes of others when God designed our feet to walk in our own! God desires so much more from us! God wants us to be women that desire His heart...not someone else's "outsides"!

So, how do we become women after God's heart? There are some practical instructions that hopefully will draw us continually closer to the heart of our Creator!

1. We need to have a **HEART FOR BLESSING** during prayer! What is one of the most important keys to any healthy relationship? You show me two people with a healthy relationship and I will show you a bond built upon good communication! Whether it be husband/wife, parent/child, or friends, communication is needed to help the relationship grow. We spend so much time talking to each other...do we spend as much time talking to God? In order for God to shower us with His blessings, we have to have open communication with Him.

2. We need to have a **HEART FOR PASSION** during prayer! We all have things that we are passionate about. When we talk about those passions, we are fully engaged. Are we passionate about our prayer life? Do we go to God on fire, excited for another chance to speak with Him? Or do we fall asleep half way through our prayers because we're so tired from our day? Our attitude changes when we passionately go to God.

3. We need to have a **HEART FOR DISCIPLINE**. My days usually start early with the pitter-patter of one or two sets of feet running down the hall towards our room. We snuggle up together and watch a few cartoons while I attempt a few more winks of sleep! Then it's breakfast, play, lunch, nap, play, dinner, play, bedtime; and the whole process starts all over again the next day! All our schedules are packed full of running here and there, school work, and meals! We try to "find time" to squeeze God into our jam packed days. We need to discipline ourselves to set aside time daily to be with our Father!

(**Bold** parts are taken from How To Be "A Woman After God's Own Heart" by braniac)

If you would like to find out more about how to be a woman after God's heart, join us for a study using Elizabeth George's "A Woman After God's Own Heart". The DVD study will last for 10 weeks and we will be holding it in Franklin, NC. Our study will be held every other week, with two chances to attend. For those who want to attend during the day, we will be having it on Friday mornings at the home of Sara Berg. We will also be having the same study during the evening, however, we have not finalized a place. Each person will need a workbook, which costs \$10. Please see Michael Winfrey if you are interested in attending either one of the bible studies.

Attention!!

The Women's Bible Study will return in August! See Michael for more details.

"I think everyone should experience defeat at least once during their career.
You learn a lot from it." - Lou Holtz

North American Christian Convention

Meeting with a newfound friend who used to be part of the Church of Christ Acappella side of our movement brought my mind back to the 2006 North American Christian Convention. That particular year was special because it marked the 100th anniversary of the US census that showed the split in our movement. There were ministers who believed that the Bible condemned the use of instruments during the Sunday Worship Service, and they refused to associate with those who did not agree with their belief. That painful moment of realization during the 1906 US Census solidified the splits that were taking place because the ministers would not allow their churches to be classified as part of the Christian Churches who used instruments in their worship services. The 2006 NACC made it their purpose to reach out to those churches for the purpose of healing and restoring what once was a solid unified movement.

The convention was successful in many ways because the branches came together and learned from each other. It was a joy to see how the strengths from both sides of the movement enhanced the worship time as there was a great feeling of unity in both the acappella songs and the ones accompanied by instruments. That convention marked the beginning of many years of reaching out across the borders to share resources, prayers, and discuss important doctrines. For the most part, the churches have learned how to work side by side while discussing their differences in a respectful manner.

6 years later, the 2012 NACC is showing that the efforts of the 2006 convention were not in vain. There are several people from the Acappella side of the movement working with the convention, and we have some of their speakers presenting during the convention. The convention is turning into a family reunion that goes beyond a single branch of our movement, and this is what I believe to be the original purpose of the convention. This is a time for our churches to come together and share our resources, building each other up so we can make a bigger impact for God's Kingdom no matter what part of the world we live in.

Would the cross of Jesus be considered worth the pain if it happened in today's church?

When considering the cross of Jesus, I wonder if we should look closer at what we define as success. Today's church has a tendency to consider programs successful if they attract people without a lot of work involved. If the program was difficult to create or if there were not as many people showing up as expected, then it would probably not happen again. If God measured success this way, then He would have never gone through with the pain of the cross.

The good news is that God determines success by the fruit that is produced! Looking at the cross, the fruit of the cross outweighed the agony that Jesus suffered!

I think that it may be best to look at it like a pregnancy. The mother goes through the pains of childbirth to experience the blessing of the child, who is the fruit of her labor. When we work hard at something in the church, we should remember that the fruit being produced is worth the pain of the process.

"If you are a Christian, let me put this another way, if you are really following Jesus, then you are swimming upstream in a downstream world." - Rick Atchley

Watching the young children grow up is fun and interesting. It is nice to know that we have parents that care about the direction the kids take. Using biblical guidance to help with the little ones we can find how to discipline, how to love, and how to show kindness.

But, is there any instruction for when they grow into young adults? A few weeks ago we were studying in Luke 2 about Jesus leaving His parents and going to the temple on His own. We looked at how the parents reacted, how Jesus reacted and found He was much like a teenager. The parents were typical parents.

But, there was one verse that I thought was interesting - Luke 2:52. In this verse it says "He kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man." Here is a good pattern for young people to strive for - keep increasing. We know that young people keep increasing in size - that part is easy. But in the same way, they must keep increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. This sounds to me like young people must stay busy doing these three things: 1. Wisdom = learning, 2. Stature = work, 3. Favor = behavior.

In today's world it seems that young people are being led to believe that pleasure is the way that leads to wisdom, stature, and favor. As I watch these young children grow up, in a few short years they will be faced with the temptations of pleasure. We must, as parents and a church family, encourage and pray for these great little children that they will grow in true wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and man. - Kevin

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

Have you ever wondered why Christian bookstores have paintings that are really expensive? It seems counter-productive to have an abundance of high priced art on the walls when you could be stocking the shelves with cheaper items that could sell quickly. Well, there is a logical explanation for this. I used to work at a Christian bookstore in Florida, and I sold 3 of those paintings over the course of a year, so it is not a fast moving product. However, the paintings do boost profits in the store in another way.

When you have pictures hanging on the wall, the customer slows down to look at them, and this keeps them in the store longer. The longer the customers are in the store, the more likely they are to buy something. This is a retail technique that has been proven effective many times throughout the years.

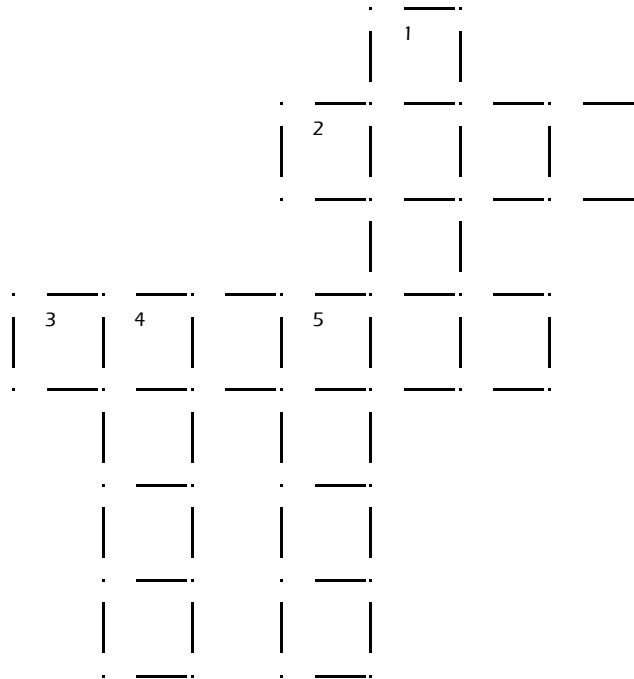
This principle also applies to temptation. The longer you allow temptation to hang around, the more likely you are to sin so it is best to get rid of it as soon as possible!

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. 'Here's a copy of the service,' he said impatiently. 'But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances.'

During the service, the minister paused and said, 'Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.' At that moment, the substitute organist played 'The Star Spangled Banner.' And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

“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)

God's Promises



ACROSS

- 2 I will ____ you
- 3 I will _____ you

DOWN

- 1 I ____ about you
- 4 I give you what you ____
- 5 I am ____ you

Answers: 1. care 2. save 3. answer 4. need 5. with

“²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”
(Hebrews 10:23)

Summer can be a time full of good things: family, friendships, food and fun. God gives us all these things like a good father giving to his children. Every time you have fun in a good way it is God’s gift. Do you thank Him for what He has given? Will you thank him for all that He gives?

Hey kids, July is here! Did you realize that July is the first full Summer month this year? You’ll probably do a lot of fun things this Summer. Maybe you’ll play a sport. Maybe you’ll go swimming. Maybe you’ll have a cookout with your family and friends.

God is so good: will you trust His promises? He promises to live with us and take care of us. He is always near to help when we call to Him. He sent his Son Jesus to save us from sin and give us life with Him. Will you trust in God and His promises?

"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
 July 6 - Craft Day
 July 8 - Fellowship Meal after Worship
 Congregational Meeting after meal
 July 9-23 - Winfreys at NACC and vacation
 July 18 - Neighborhood cookout 6pm
 July 20 - Game Night
 July 24 - Deadline for August Newsletter
 July 24 - Men's Night 6:30pm
 August 5 - Fellowship Meal after Worship
 Elders Meeting after Meal

Servers for July:
 Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg
 Offering Prayer - Pat Conrad
 Server - Chris Duke
 Communion Meditation - Josh Berg
 Communion Preparation - Sara Berg



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)
 - First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
 - 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.

Our annual Men's Retreat will be August 17-18 at Tellico Christian Camp in Franklin NC.

Our guest speaker for the retreat will be Paul Carrier who has over 55 years of ministry experience.

Paul is now retired although he still cares for the shut-ins at Christian City. He will also be preaching the following Sunday, August 19 for our morning worship service! Be sure to mark your calendar!

When life gives me lemons.....i just wanna squeeze them in satan's face and say " you cant get to me na na na na boo boo!!" - Kira Mason