

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 3, Issue 1
January, 2013

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Week of 12/30:

Mon – Proverbs 9
Tues – Isaiah 40
Wed – Psalm 40
Thur – John 10:1-21
Fri – 2 Timothy 4
Sat – Psalm 90

Week of 1/6:

Mon – Matthew 23
Tues – Luke 21
Wed – 2 Corinthians 8
Thur – Philippians 4
Fri – Mark 14:3-9
Sat – Mark 12:38-44

LIVING A LIFE WITH NO REGRETS

1/6 - No Regrets
1/13 - Live Passionately
1/20 - Love Completely
1/27 - Learn Humbly
2/3 - Leave Boldly



Happy New Year!

2013 has arrived!

With the new year come new opportunities to serve the Lord!

This month, we are kicking off the year with a full plate for our church. We are planning some great events to get us moving so we can build momentum to have the best year in our church so far!

Be sure to check out our calendar of events and pray about your involvement this year as we are working towards having every member of our church active in some part of our many wonderful ministries.

No matter what your passion is, we can use you in a big way as we are reaching out to the community around us!

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey
Earl@mkdisciples.org

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Week of 1/13:

Mon – Romans 6
Tues – Galatians 5
Wed – Ephesians 5:1-21
Thur – Colossians 3:1-17
Fri – 1 Corinthians 13
Sat – 1 Peter 4

Week of 1/20:

Mon – Hebrews 2
Tues – Leviticus 16
Wed – 2 Peter 3
Thur – 1 Corinthians 3
Fri – 1 Peter 2
Sat – Hebrews 5

Week of 1/27:

Mon – Acts 23
Tues – Acts 24
Wed – Acts 25
Thur – Acts 26
Fri – Acts 28
Sat – 2 Timothy 4

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight."

(Proverbs 9:10 ESV)

Check us out online:

www.fccmntcty.org

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PO Box 402
Mtn Cty GA 30562

Church Office:

706-746-3168

Facebook:

FCC Mountain City

Mkdisciples Study Group

Early Morning Snuggles

Missions we support

Florida Christian College

Open Door Libraries

Rio Bravo Ministries

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

Life so far in North Carolina has been a bit of a whirlwind. Beginning with our wedding being changed 3 days before the date and all the events to follow, life has been interesting. But since day one, you good hearted people at FCCMC have welcomed me and my wife and also my family. Sometimes it's hard to adjust to a new situation and for me it has been a new state, house, car, wife, job and not the least of these Church.

Starting over in a new Church can be hard. I myself like to participate in things such as prayer and communion, teaching and serving. I've even enjoyed preaching on Sunday's through the years. I don't mean to boast but I'm pretty darn good. Anyway since there aren't a lot of options in the area as far as independent Christian Churches go, we settled in at FCCMC. Just kidding.

So far what I have seen coming from this Church is a willingness to stretch. To be pulled in new directions and let God lead. I've seen and felt friendship and compassion. For all of that I am grateful and relieved. I hope to be in this Church for years to come, help it grow, help lead and serve. My first step in that direction was being asked to lead the men's ministry.

As you may know we have a social gathering of grumpy old mountain men the first Tuesday of every month. Seldom has there been any blood shed and only once food poison. The third Tuesday of the month is our men's Bible study. Yours truly teaches that so you can assume rightly that it is by far the most entertaining and educational Bible class this side of the Atlantic. Much more is planned for the upcoming year and no I won't tell you what it is....Ok you twisted my arm. We will be participating in local service projects, attending conferences and rallies, get-a-ways and get togethers, and perhaps even a little bit of "church in the world".

All my plans can be washed away if God has other idea's. So this is all very tentative. But you can count on me working towards building a firm foundation for Christ's Church. Us. I won't give up on you if you don't give up on me. Let's turn the control over to Christ and see where he wants to lead our Church. Well that's it for this radio broadcast. I promise to write something down for next time so I don't ramble as much. Until then... - Luke

P.S. What did the grape say after the Elephant sat on him?

Truth Demands a Response

"Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth." Psalm 86:11

One foggy night, the captain of a large ship saw what appeared to be another ship's lights approaching in the distance. This other ship was on a course that would mean a head-on collision. Quickly, the captain signaled to the approaching ship: "Please change your course 10 degrees west."

The reply came blinking back through the thick fog: "You change your course 10 degrees east."

Indignantly, the captain pulled rank and shot a message back to the other ship: "I am a sea captain with 35 years of experience. Change your course 10 degrees west!" Without hesitation, the signal flashed back: "I am a seaman, fourth class. You change your course 10 degrees east!"

Enraged, the captain realized they were approaching each other quickly and would crash within minutes. So he blazed his final warning: "I am a 50,000-ton freighter. Change your course 10 degrees west!"

A simple message winked back: "I am a lighthouse. You change your course!"

Like the sea captain, we may need to change course when confronted with the truth. That's what happens when we make it a priority to spend time reading and applying God's Word. It is eternal truth. It doesn't change, so we need to adjust our lives to walk in that truth.

*So many of us spend our lives avoiding the truth of God's Word because we don't want to walk in it. Christ said in John 8:32 that "the truth shall make you free," but as Herbert Agar wrote in *A Time for Greatness*, "The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear."*

What is the Bible to you? A collection of nice stories? The foundation of a conservative worldview? Or is it God's Word, "living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword?" (Heb. 4:12). Does anything keep you from obeying God's Word in every area of your life-your business, your marriage, your family? Do you need to adjust the course on which you are heading today?

Devotion taken from "Moments Together for Couples" by Dennis and Barbara Rainey

"If you're bored with life - you don't get up every morning with a burning desire to do things - you don't have enough goals." - Lou Holtz

"So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)

Another translation of the above verse goes like this: "Teach us to count our days so we can make our days count." As we enter a new year, we are beginning a new sermon series called "No Regrets." During this series, we will be taking an honest look at how our lives are lived for the Lord. Let's face it, we all fall short in living the way we should, so this is a series that we can all benefit from.

To help us get the most out of this sermon series, I decided to create a supplement and present it in this article. I'm sure most of you have heard of a bucket list before. This is a list of things you want to do before you "Kick the Bucket" and it usually contains a list of goals and dreams that you have always wanted to accomplish.

For this sermon series, I want each of us to work on a "Spiritual Bucket List" so we can focus on what we want to do for the Lord. This is a list that will be personal, but I want us to find somebody to share the list with so we can pray for each other and check up on the list. When working on the items for the list, the first item on your list should be to get baptized if you have not been baptized yet. This is the single most important decision you will ever make in your life because you will become a child of God.

The rest of the items on your "Spiritual Bucket List" should contain tasks that will push you to become a deeper, more committed follower of Christ. There are some typical items that will most likely end up on most lists: Read the entire Bible, start a prayer journal, show random acts of kindness, memorize whole chapters of a Bible book, talk to your neighbor about Jesus, etc. All of those items should be on your list, but here are some items you may not think about:

1. Forgive somebody who has hurt you deeply - We have all been hurt by somebody, and the scars are deep. Ask God to help you forgive that person so you can move on with your life.
2. Research a theological topic - This item may sound scary to most people, but it can really help you strengthen your Biblical foundation if you take the time to work through a tough doctrine of the church. The resource room has plenty of books to help, and of course, I'm available too.
3. Clean up the temple of the Lord - The Apostle Paul says that your body is the temple of the Lord, so make some goals to clean it up. This is an area of weakness for me, so this is on my list.
4. Invest in the community: Visit a nursing home or volunteer in a school or homeschool co-op. If possible, attend a city council meeting so you can get to know the council members.
5. Visit the Holy Land: This item on my "Spiritual Bucket List" will take a few years to accomplish. There is something about walking where Jesus walked that is special, and I would love to be able to take that trip within the next few years. Cincinnati Christian University sponsors trips on a regular basis, so they would be the best choice for information regarding a trip. Perhaps we can go as a church group. One of my professors, Mark Ziese, leads most of the tours, and since he is a Green Bay Packer Backer, he would be my choice of guides for the Holy Land!

Nothing else ruins the truth like stretching it.

Mirror Image

"He has made everything beautiful in its time." Ecclesiastes 3:11

Looked in the mirror yet this morning? And did you like what you saw?

Most of us see double chins, tiny wrinkles, ugly blemishes, spreading crow's-feet, dark circles under our eyes-the list goes on and on. Truth is, we seldom look in a mirror unless we're looking for a problem.

"Does my hair look okay? Do I need more lipstick? Is my slip showing? (and the classic) Does this dress make me look fat?"

What if this morning you saw a woman who is uniquely created by God in His image? A woman who isn't "better than" or "worse than" or in need of an overhaul. And one who is definitely happy! Because trust me, that's what I see.

When I look at you, dear one, sitting out there in the third row at one of my presentations, when I see your upturned face, full of life, ready to laugh, I do not see wrinkles, blemishes, or double chins. I do not see figure flaws or flabby thighs. I see a beautiful woman. One who is radiantly alive, willing to learn, ready to grow, expectant, joy-filled, eager to embrace all that life has to offer.

You are something else!

That's not me, you may say. I'm not in your third row. I'm here at home, and I'm miserable, and I hate my lumpy body, and radiant is not what I feel.

Understood.

What I'm talking about transcends feelings and moves into the realm of faith in order to become fact. That radiant, alive woman is in you, even if you can't see her yet. She was hiding in me for decades before I realized it, and she is in you now. And she wants out!

The Lord created and defined beauty in our world. Surely He didn't make lovely butterflies, exquisite flowers, and gorgeous sunsets and leave out womankind, the crown of His creation? Not likely!

When we stop listening to what Madison Avenue and Hollywood tell us is beautiful and start listening to our hearts and God's Word, they will not steer us wrong. Even though we may never look like the ultra thin models or movie stars, those famous women (poor things) will never get to look like us.

What do you think?

How do you like the way the newsletter looks?

What would you like to see added to the newsletter? Taken away?

Do you read this newsletter online or in printed form?

(Please send your responses to Earl)

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?

By God's design, women come in all shapes and sizes-large and small, short and tall. In every home, in every workplace, in every social setting, in every church, there are as many different sizes, shapes, colors, and characteristics as there are women.

Luci Swindoll says, "When you love yourself and accept yourself for who you are, you have nothing left to prove." so right. Each one of us is different, beloved. And those differences are good.

Devotion taken from "Rise and Shine" by Liz Curtis Higgs

"It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education." - Albert Einstein

The Hilarious Tale of Judas Asparagus

Apparently, a child was asked to write a book report on the entire Bible. Here is what he wrote:

In the beginning, which occurred near the start, there was nothing but God, darkness, and some gas. The Bible says, 'The Lord thy God is one', but I think He must be a lot older than that. Anyway, God said, 'Give me a light!' and someone did. Then God made the world. He split the Adam and made Eve. Adam and Eve were naked, but they weren't embarrassed because mirrors hadn't been invented yet. Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating one bad apple, so they were driven from the Garden of Eden. Not sure what they were driven in though, because they didn't have cars. Adam and Eve had a son, Cain, who hated his brother as long as he was Abel.

Pretty soon all of the early people died off, except for Methuselah, who lived to be like a million or something. One of the next important people was Noah, who was a good guy, but one of his kids was kind of a Ham. Noah built a large boat and put his family and some animals on it. He asked some other people to join him, but they said they would have to take a rain check. After Noah came Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob was more famous than his brother, Esau, because Esau sold Jacob his birthmark in exchange for some pot roast. Jacob had a son named Joseph who wore a really loud sports coat.

Another important Bible guy is Moses, whose real name was Charlton Heston. Moses led the Israel Lights out of Egypt and away from the evil Pharaoh after God sent ten plagues on Pharaoh's people. These plagues included frogs, mice, lice, bowels, and no cable. God fed the Israel Lights every day with manicotti. Then he gave them His Top Ten Commandments. These include: don't lie, cheat, smoke, dance, or covet your neighbor's stuff. Oh, yeah, I just thought of one more: Humor thy father and thy mother.

One of Moses' best helpers was Joshua who was the first Bible guy to use spies. Joshua fought the battle of Geritol and the fence fell over on the town. After Joshua came David. He got to be king by killing a giant with a slingshot. He had a son named Solomon who had about 300 wives and 500 porcupines. My teacher says he was wise, but that doesn't sound very wise to me. After Solomon there were a bunch of major league prophets. One of these was Jonah, who was swallowed by a big whale and then barfed up on the shore. There were also some minor league prophets, but I guess we don't have to worry about them.

After the Old Testament came the New Testament. Jesus is the star of The New. He was born in Bethlehem in a barn. [I wish I had been born in a barn too, because my mom is always saying to me, 'Close the door! Were you born in a barn?' It would be nice to say, 'As a matter of fact, I was.'] During His life, Jesus had many arguments with sinners like the Pharisees and the Democrats. Jesus also had twelve opossums. The worst one was Judas Asparagus. Judas was so evil that they named a terrible vegetable after him.

Jesus was a great man. He healed many leopards and even preached to some Germans on the Mount. But the Democrats and all those guys put Jesus on trial before Pontius the Pilot. Pilot didn't stick up for Jesus. He just washed his hands instead. Anyways, Jesus died for our sins, then came back to life again. He went up to Heaven but will be back at the end of the Aluminum. His return is foretold in the book of Revolution.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed meal - 6pm Wed B.S. 6:45	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group	1	2	3	4 Craft Day - 9am	5
6 Fellowship Meal after Church Elders Meeting after meal	7 Earl at Seminary until Friday	8 Men's Night at Church 6:30pm	9 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5pm	10	11 Women's Bible Study 6:30	12
13	14	15	16 Food Pantry 5pm	17	18 Beach Party at Church 6pm	19
20	21	22 Men's Bible Study 7pm	23	24	25 Women's Bible Study 6:30	26
27	28	29 "Welcome to our Church" class - 7pm Feb. Newsletter deadline	30 Earl at Seminary until Friday	31	February 1	

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
 - Lilburn Christian Church, 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.

Servers for January:
 Morning Prayer - Tom Labbie
 Offering Prayer - Ernie Smith
 Server - Kaden Berg
 Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg
 Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey

Albers' Presentation Rescheduled
 The Albers' presentation has been rescheduled for Wed, January 9 following the Wed night meal. They will be sharing their experience they had when they went to China to adopt their beautiful daughter Lydia!