

First Christian Church
Mountain City, GA
Building God's Church One Home at a Time

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER


Volume 3, Issue 4
April, 2013

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Week of 3/31:
 Mon – Mark 1:1-13
 Tues – Luke 3:1-22
 Wed – John 1:29-51
 Thur – Acts 1:1-11
 Fri – Acts 2:1-13
 Sat – John 14:15-31

Week of 4/7:
 Mon – Psalm 104:1-23
 Tues – Psalm 104:24-35
 Wed – Psalm 139
 Thur – Isaiah 63
 Fri – Hebrews 9
 Sat – 1 Corinthians 2

The Holy Spirit



“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

4/7 - Presentation	5/5 - Purpose
4/14 - Person	5/12 - Protection
4/21 - Presence	5/19 - Prayer
4/28 - Power	5/26 - Partnership

Heaven Came Down

After Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave us a gift that would sustain us for the rest of our time here on earth. That gift is the Holy Spirit, and He has been active in our lives ever since.

Unfortunately, there are many mixed up teachings about the Holy Spirit that exists today, and this is probably the reason why some people are hesitant to learn about this great gift from God.

For the next 2 months, we will be learning about the Holy Spirit in our sermon series and my prayer is that after we are done, we will have a Biblical foundation for our belief in the Holy Spirit and how He helps us live our lives as “Spirit-filled” believers.

Let’s grow together!

-Earl Winfrey
 Earl@mkdisciples.org

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Week of 4/14:
 Mon – Isaiah 11
 Tues – Galatians 4
 Wed – Galatians 5
 Thur – Ephesians 4:1-16
 Fri – Ephesians 4:17-32
 Sat – Ephesians 5:1-21

Week of 4/21:
 Mon – Ephesians 2
 Tues – Ephesians 3
 Wed – 2 Corinthians 5
 Thur – 2 Timothy 1
 Fri – Matthew 12:22-37
 Sat – Romans 8

Week of 4/28:
 Mon – Joel 2
 Tues – Ezekiel 36:22-38
 Wed – Jeremiah 31:31-40
 Thur – 2 Timothy 3
 Fri – 2 Peter 1
 Sat – John 16

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 2:38 ESV)

Check us out online:

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 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

Beauty Upon Us

“Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us.” (Psalm 90:17)

There it is. The little “throw-away” word *us* sits so innocently at the end of the line. Funny how such a little word can trip us up, especially as we pray. Amazing, how easily and often it can become a stumbling block. *Us. Hmmm.*

Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us.

We are eager to pray this prayer for ourselves. But let's face it. It's easier to pray this prayer for some sisters in Christ than for others.

For instance, it's easy to pray it for the sister who puffs along beside us in spin class and tells us how great we look as we settle for jeans a size larger than the ones we bought last spring.

It's easy, too, to pray for the beautiful sisters in Christ who mourn with us at the loss of a loved one. Or for the sister who encourages us as we fight against an ugly addiction.

But then there are those other sisters...

- The ones who seem to have so many friends, but who betray our confidence...every time;
- The ones whose lives seem so perfect, but who say ugly things about us behind our back;
- The ones who take advantage of us, and then breeze past us at parties to spend time with the “more important” people there.

Pray for these sisters? That's a lot harder! Still, it's the call the words of Psalm 90:17 place on our lives. What makes it so hard to ask God to place His beauty upon them? Why do we hesitate? In a word—an ugly word—envy. Envy hisses, “She doesn't need your prayers. She already has it all. She isn't praying for you! She's only out to use you.”

Don't listen to this temptation! Instead, repent of it! Ask God to forgive you and to remind you of the beauty you have received from Him in the cross of His Son. Then, from a beautiful heart speak beautiful words of intercession for your sisters in Christ.

(taken from “Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord: 25 Devotions for Women”)

Ladies Night April 15!!!

Let's get together for some fun, fellowship, and food!!! We will be having a Ladies Night at the La Cabana in Dillard, GA on April 15th at 6:30 pm! There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, please sign up ASAP so that we can have a number of attending in order to make a reservation!

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

**“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:10 ESV)**

This well known verse was once used by Martin Luther. Here is what Barnes has to say about it:

“This psalm has been called Luther’s Psalm. It was that which he was accustomed to sing in trouble. When the times were dark; when the enemies of truth appeared to triumph; when disaster seemed to come over the cause in which he was engaged, and the friends of the Reformation were dispirited, disheartened, and sad, he was accustomed to say to his fellow-laborers, ‘Come, let us sing the 46th Psalm.’” (Barnes notes on the Bible volume 5)

Psalm 46 was written by the Sons of Korah as were many other Psalms. The story of Korah can be found in Numbers 16, where Korah lead a group of 250 men in a rebellion against Moses. The Lord stepped in and told Moses to gather his people and keep them separate because He was about to deal with Korah and his followers. After Moses separated his people from Korah, the earth opened up and swallowed Korah and his men. The sons of Korah were allowed to live, and they became authors of several Psalms that are preserved in the Bible.

After seeing their father die, the sons of Korah had reason to turn against God and follow another path, but they decided to remain faithful instead, and that is why they wrote that we should be still and know that God is God. Martin Luther understood that during times of trials, we should find a way to listen to God, and that will give us peace of mind.

In January of 2012, I started a habit of driving to Black Rock Lake near our church at some point during the week in order to get away from any distractions and listen to God. I had to resist the temptation to take my fishing rod along with me because this was time for God to speak to me. The lake has a walking trail that is .85 miles around the lake, so it takes a while to walk it. As I walk around the lake, I quiet my mind and just enjoy being in the presence of God while walking in His creation. Some weeks are busier than others, but I try my best to get out to the lake as often as I can because I need that time so I can hear what God has to say.

During these walks, I may remember a passage of scripture I read or a preacher I listened to, and sometimes, I recall a memory of some event in the past. There are also times when there is nothing happening, but there is still a peace that comes over my soul as I “unplug” from my crazy week. I know that God provides that peace because I take the time to receive it. If I stayed busy with everything going on and allowed my schedule to become an excuse to skip the trip to the lake, then I notice that my week doesn’t go as smooth as it should. This is why it is important to take some time as often as I can to be still so God can talk to me.

This sermon series on the Holy Spirit is an excellent time for reflecting on the “Spiritual” side of being a Christian. Many people misunderstand what it means to live by the Spirit, and that is one of the reasons why I decided to work on this series. When we learn what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, we will see a whole new dimension of our faith open up, and we will be stronger as a result. The Holy Spirit is our guide, and when we sit still long enough to listen to our guide, we will be able to find our way through the hectic world we live in.

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." Albert Einstein

Amazing

"And they were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

(Mark 1:22)

Have you seen Jesus? I mean really seen Him? Not some kind of 900-foot-tall object, but rather the Jesus Christ who lives in the Bible?

When I look through the book of Mark, I see a Christ who is amazing. And He obviously struck others the same when He lived on earth.

For one thing, His teachings were amazing. The people were shaken to their cores by the authority Christ had when He taught.

Second, He performed miracles that were amazing. He healed the blind, the sick, the lepers. Mark 4:35-41 gives us another little outline or a story, a brief glimpse of a miracle that Jesus performed. This is no mystical myth. This was a real event that occurred. This passage describes Jesus with His disciples and how He rebuked the wind of the storm.

On a windy day you or I could go outside and say to the wind, "Hold it." but it would just keep on blowing. A wall could be built, but that really would not stop it. The wind would flow right over it. Yet Jesus turned an angry sea into a calm surface by speaking and causing the wind to stop.

Christ healed the sick, fed the 5,000, and not only walked on water but also made it possible for Peter to do the same. I sometimes wonder what it was like to be Peter as he stepped out of that boat. He had his eyes on Christ and he stepped out and it was solid. The he saw the wind and began to sink.

I've heard Peter criticized in sermons for seeing the wind and sinking-for his doubt and unbelief. But he still stepped out-he had the faith to get out of the boat and "onto" the water! And he's the only person in history to walk on water, other than Jesus.

What's my point? Have you ever been amazed by His teachings? Have you ever really stepped out and taken Him at His word?

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

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?

VBS Meeting April 7

Attention all VBS volunteers, we will be having a VBS meeting on April 7th, after the Fellowship Meal. This year's VBS is JESUS: The Ultimate Gift, and will have a Christmas theme! There are still some spots left open for volunteers! Don't forget to see Michael, if you would like to help!

“[6] So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” [7] He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” [9] And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. [10] And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, [11] and said, ‘Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’” (Acts 1:6-11 ESV)

The Ascension means that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us, and this truth is conveyed in the popular song by Rich Mullins “That Where I Am, There You May Also Be”:

In my Father’s house there are many, many rooms
 And I’m going up there now to prepare a place for you
 That where I am, there you may also be
 If I go prepare a place for you,
 I will come back again
 And you know I am the Way, the Truth, the Life, to light all men
 That where I am, there you may also be

That where I am, there you may also be
 Up where the truth, the truth will set you free
 In the world you will have trouble, but I leave you my peace
 That where I am, there you may also be

That where I am, there you may also be
 Oh, I’ve come down from the Father; it’s time for me to go back up
 One command I leave you: Love as I have loved
 That where I am, there you may also be

That where I am, there you may also be
 Up where the truth, the truth will set you free
 In the world you will have trouble, but I leave you my peace
 That where I am, there you may also be

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed meal - 6pm Wed B.S. 6:45	1	2 Men's Night at Church 6:30pm	3	4	5 Craft Day - 9am	6
7 Fellowship Meal after Church Elders Meeting VBS Meeting	8	9	10 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5pm	11	12	13
14	15	16 Men's Bible Study 7pm	17 Food Pantry 5pm	18	19 Game Night - Banana Split Night 6pm	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 May Newsletter deadline	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group			

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

- First Christian Church 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)
- First Christian Church (Kissimmee, FL)

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

Servers for April:
 Morning Prayer - Josh Berg
 Offering Prayer - Luke Turner
 Server - Kaden Berg
 Communion Meditation - Mark Mason
 Communion Preparation - Sara Berg

Servers for May:
 Morning Prayer - Luke Turner
 Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie
 Server - Ernie Smith
 Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg
 Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey