

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

THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER


Volume 3, Issue 5
 May, 2013

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Week of 5/5:
 Mon – Ephesians 1
 Tues – Romans 12
 Wed – 1 Cor 12
 Thur – John 7:1-24
 Fri – John 7:25-39
 Sat – Acts 8

Week of 5/12:
 Mon – Acts 4:1-22
 Tues – Acts 4:23-37
 Wed – 1 Cor 14:1-25
 Thur – Colossians 1:1-14
 Fri – Psalm 51
 Sat – Ephesians 6:10-20

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

Happy Mother's Day!

On May 12, we get to celebrate Mom. In a society where motherhood seems to be a fading concept, I am proud to say that we are a church full of moms who still believe in being moms.

Whether they are homeschooling their kids, working to help support the family, driving their kids back and forth to school and other activities like dance or cub scouts, or some combination of the above, we have moms who are faithfully raising our kids in a way that pleases the Lord, and for that, we thank you moms!

We also have VBS starting at the end of the month so make sure you get with Michael or Virginia to see where you can help!

Let's grow together!
 -Earl Winfrey
 Earl@mkdisciples.org

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Week of 5/19:
 Mon – Heb 10:19-39
 Tues – 1 John 3
 Wed – Acts 16:1-15
 Thur – Acts 16:16-40
 Fri – 1 Timothy 4
 Sat – Acts 13

Week of 5/26:
 Mon – Leviticus 19:1-17
 Tues – James 5:7-20
 Wed – Prov 10:1-16
 Thur – Prov 10:17-32
 Fri – Deuteronomy 6
 Sat – Matthew 5:33-37

VBS in June:
 Every Wed during June
 5/29 – David
 6/5 – Daniel
 6/12 – Temptation of Jesus
 6/19 – Ruth
 6/26 – Jesus

“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:
www.fccmntcty.org

Mailing Address:
 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

Wondering What to Wear?

"I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness." Isaiah 61:10

Think back to a time you debated what to wear for an important event—a first date, for example, or the interview for a job you really wanted.

At seventeen, we want to pull together just the right nonchalant look. A few years later, we may hope to look like the professional we are becoming. From time to time throughout life, we stand in front of the mirror, holding up item after item. What should we wear?

Even on more ordinary days, we want to look good when we leave home. We want other people to see us at our best.

Just as we dress carefully on the outside, we also want to dress with care on the inside. In Colossians 3, the apostle Paul describes the contents of "the total Christian woman's" internal closet. The clothing that hangs inside is always perfect for every occasion:

- Compassion
- Humility
- Patience
- Kindness
- Gentleness

Love, the perfect accessory, matches each of these outfits perfectly. Where did we get such a remarkable wardrobe?

Our "spiritual closets" were once filled from floor to ceiling with the rags of self-justification and pride. We had absolutely nothing appropriate to wear as we stood before a holy God!

In love, God Himself flung open the door and sorted through our mess. He threw away each inappropriate outfit and in their place hung all the beautiful items mentioned above.

Because of Jesus and His cross, we now have a brand new wardrobe to wear and clothes to share on every occasion! These clothes bless us and the lives of those around us.

That's why we can delight greatly in the Lord. It's why our souls can rejoice in God.

(Devotion taken from Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord)

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be at Thai Paradise in Franklin, NC. See Michael for details.

“Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.” - C. S. Lewis

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ ‘Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.’” (Rev 4:9-11)

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference in Nashville, and I was challenged to think about how we go about ministry in the local church. This conference is not your typical event where you have singing and fellowship. This conference is geared towards Bible Scholars and Bible College Professors, and as a result, your brain will most likely turn to mush by the end of the day. It will probably take me a few months to process all of the great information, papers, notes, and resources I gained from this 2 day conference, but I did want to share something with you that hit home for me.

One of the workshops was led by my former professor from FCC, Les Hardin. His passion for worship and his position as a New Testament professor teaching Revelation motivated him to study the passages in Revelation that involve the worship of God. In Revelation, Les found 14 hymns that were 1) sung by the agents of God (Either redeemed persons or angels) and 2) addressed to God and/or the Lamb (Not solely proclamations about God). Linguistically, the hymns are marked by a group of people “Saying.” (I have the list of verses if anyone is interested)

In those hymns that Les found, there were 4 characteristics that they had in common: 1) They were directed toward the Throne, 2) They were Biblical (Referenced other Scriptures), 3) They tell the story of Yahweh and His Messiah, and 4) They were inclusive (“We” language). The hymns were never sung individually, and there is the absence of “I” in corporate worship. Since the popular catch phrase for modern worship is that we are “Rehearsing for our worship in heaven,” we should model our worship after what we find in Revelation. (Quick note: I’m using the word worship to refer to singing, but I know that worship is more than singing)

When evaluating our worship songs for Sunday morning, I can see that we have 3 out of the 4 characteristics, which isn’t bad. However, that 4th characteristic challenged me. There are many songs we sing that contain “I” language, and some of those songs come straight out of Psalms, so they can’t be all bad. So what do you do with the songs that have “I” language?

First of all, let me stress the point that we cannot go strictly by the Revelation hymns for our songs because that would not be practical, but the hymns do present an opportunity for us to look closer at the songs we sing. If we ignore Psalms because of the “I” language, then we will miss out on many great songs for worship. So the question that should be asked is can inclusive worship contain “I” language? I would say yes as long as it is directed toward God. However, the more songs we can use that contain “We” language, the better off we will be for corporate worship, so we should focus on how the song brings us together before God’s throne.

One more point should be considered here. Since there are so many great praise songs with “I” language, there is a concept that we should consider, and that is personal worship before the Lord. We gather on Sundays for corporate worship, but we should also have a time or times for individual worship during the week. And that is where the songs with “I” language could fit. “My Jesus, I Love Thee” would be an example of that type of song.

"Fear & Trust are inversely related. As trust increases, fear diminishes. As fear goes up trust goes down. True in marriage, work, & with God." - Ben Cachiaras

Communication or Isolation?

"Since I have had for many years a longing to come to you whenever I go to Spain- for I hope to see you in passing." Romans 15:23, 24

Captain Red McDaniel rapped in his cell walls in the "Hanoi Hilton"-tap-tap...tap-tap-tap- practicing the special camp code prisoners used to communicate with each other. He was risking his life since one of the strictest rules in the celebrated Vietnamese POW camp was: No communication with other prisoners.

His communist captors wanted to keep all "guests" isolated and vulnerable. And McDaniel had already been through that, now he was in solitary confinement. As the long hours and days passed, he met the real enemy- isolation. Without human contact or conversation, he knew only the dulling, silent darkness of loneliness.

The highlight of each day was being taken to the washrooms, where he managed to whisper briefly with two other Americans. They taught him the camp code, which involved a certain number of taps or other signals that spelled out letters of the alphabet.

*McDaniel, who tells of his long years of imprisonment in his book *Scars and Stripes*, saw nearly 50 of America's finest trained men go into isolation, never to be heard from again. For himself, it was either communicate or die. New prisoners who did not learn the code within 30 days would gradually start to draw inward and deteriorate. They would stop eating and slowly lose the will to live. Eventually, isolation would suck the very lives from them.*

Isolation and the failure to communicate also drain life from relationships. Like the apostle Paul, most people long for intimacy and fellowship, but without communication, these essentials are impossible.

Communicate- your marriage depends on it!!!!

(Devotion take 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 is Here!!!

The last Wed in May is coming quickly, and that means VBS is going to begin! I am excited about this year's VBS because the sermon series is going to be parallel with the VBS lessons. On Sunday mornings, we are going to be encouraged as faithful families for the Lord and on Wednesdays, we will be learning about the wonderful gifts God has given us through Jesus who is our Ultimate Gift!

Our neighborhood cookouts will begin for this year on Saturday, May 18 at 12pm. We have flyers to pass out, an event on Facebook has been created, and our banner will be out soon on the church property. However, our cookout will not be a success unless we bring our neighbors, and that is our responsibility. How many neighbors will you invite? Can we double our numbers from last year? If every person brings at least 1 neighbor, then I would say yes we can!

My longtime friend Jimmy Sledge wrote an article for his church newsletter, and I thought it fit well with our month, so he gave me permission to print it below. He is one of the Minister/Elders at Coastline Christian Church in New Smyrna Beach, FL. Here is their website:

<http://www.coastlinensb.com/>

One of my favorite songs as of late has been Casting Crowns' "Jesus, Friend of Sinners." In great Casting Crowns fashion, they don't wait to get into the song before nailing us with great lyrics!

This is how the song starts...

*Jesus, friend of sinners, we have strayed so far away
We cut down people in your name but the sword was never ours to swing
Jesus, friend of sinners, the truth's become so hard to see
The world is on their way to You but they're tripping over me
Always looking around but never looking up
I'm so double minded
A plank eyed saint with dirty hands and a heart divided*

Wow! How does that not punch you in the face when you hear or read it? How often do we sit on our high seats and judge others around us, for what? To make ourselves feel better about our own sin? The Bible tells us to take the plank out of our own eye first so that we can see clearly to remove the speck from our brother's eye. I've always loved this verse as it reminds us that there is still a need for correction if done in love.

This is where a church family is so important. It is within this setting that we encourage one another, we strengthen one another, we train one another, we correct one another, we love one another, we pray with one another and on and on we go.

The Book of Hebrews tells us to not forsake meeting together. One of the great things about continuing on in our Christian journey together is that of discipleship. As we continue to grow closer to God and allow Him to disciple us, we can turn around and pray the chorus of this song...

*Oh Jesus, friend of sinners
Open our eyes to the world at the end of our pointing fingers
Let our hearts be led by mercy
Help us reach with open hearts and open doors
Oh Jesus, friend of sinners,
break our hearts for what breaks yours*

Looking forward to many years of reaching out with open hearts and doors to our community and beyond with the hands and feet of Christ!

In Christ's Service,

Jimmy

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY

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 Craft Day - 9am	4
5 Fellowship Meal after Church Elders Meeting VBS Meeting	6	7 Men's Night 6:30pm	8 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5pm	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Food Pantry 5pm	16	17 Game Night - 6pm	18 Neighborhood cook-out 12pm
19	20 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	21 Men's Bible Study 7pm	22	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28 June Newsletter deadline	29 VBS Begins! Every Wed Night ending June 26	30	31	

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

Servers for June:
 Morning Prayer - Lee Lantzer
 Offering Prayer - Shawn Albers
 Server - Chris Duke
 Communion Meditation - Josh Berg
 Communion Preparation - Volunteer Needed