



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

# THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER

Volume 3, Issue 9  
 September, 2013

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

**Week of 9/1:**  
 Mon – Deuteronomy 7  
 Tues – Micah 2  
 Wed – Romans 7:7-25  
 Thur – Phil 4:10-20  
 Fri – James 4  
 Sat – Exodus 20:17

**Week of 9/8:**  
 Mon – Acts 18:18-28  
 Tues – Acts 19:1-20  
 Wed – Acts 19:21-41  
 Thur – Acts 20:17-38  
 Fri – Ephesians 1  
 Sat – Revelation 2:1-7

**Time does not stand still!**

It is hard to believe that we are already in September! Seems like yesterday when I was starting the No Regrets series at the beginning of this year! Our summer went great as we started it with a church wide camping trip and VBS in June. We then ended it with a "Dive-in" movie for the kids last Wed night!

For our sermons, we had the pleasure of hearing Josh Berg, Luke Turner, and Lee Lantzer preach during our series on the 10 Commandments. I enjoyed working with them as we team preached the series. This month, we will finish the series and begin a new series on the 7 churches of Revelation. This will be a great way to check our church so we can make sure we are doing what we can to fulfill God's purpose for us here in Mountain City!

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

**7 Churches**

"John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood." (Revelation 1:4-5)

- 9/15 - Ephesus
- 9/22 - Smyrna
- 9/29 - Pergamum
- 10/6 - Thyatira
- 10/13 - Sardis
- 10/20 - Philadelphia
- 10/27 - Laodicea

**Week of 9/15:**  
 Mon – James 2:1-13  
 Tues – 1 Tim 6:11-21  
 Wed – Heb 11:23-28  
 Thur – Luke 12:13-34  
 Fri – Matthew 10:16-33  
 Sat – Revelation 2:8-11

**Week of 9/22:**  
 Mon – Acts 22:1-21  
 Tues – 1 Timothy 4  
 Wed – 1 Tim 6:1-10  
 Thur – 2 Timothy 4  
 Fri – 2 Peter 2  
 Sat – Rev 2:12-17

**Week of 9/29:**  
 Mon – Acts 16:11-15  
 Tues – 1 Kings 16:29-34  
 Wed – 1 Kings 18:1-19  
 Thur – Luke 13:22-35  
 Fri – Galatians 6:1-10  
 Sat – Revelation 2:18-29

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"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good."  
 (Romans 12:9)

Check us out online:  
[www.fccmntcty.org](http://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

## *Come Clean*

*“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:8-9*

*Any good skin-care regimen begins with a clean face, one free of make-up, dirt, and excess oil. While some of us are content to reach for a bar of soap, others prefer to use a specially formulated facial cleanser or even more elaborate preparations. Given all the many products on the market, we can choose what best suits us and our lifestyle.*

*It's easy to think that spiritual cleansing might work the same way, that there are multiple methods available to wash away guilt and restore peace of mind.*

*Some people try to shake off their sins by offering excuses or blaming others. Or they choose to ignore sin altogether, acting as if they needed no cleansing at all. Or perhaps they confess a few sins, but dismiss other loveless acts as permissible shortcomings. (That's about as effective as washing only half your face!)*

*Other people try spiritual self-cleansers. They hope to find a formula that will bring true, lasting peace. They take pride in their volunteer work or perhaps in all the money they donate to church or charities. They help every neighbor and even the strangers around them. Wonderful as all this is, none of it can ease a troubled conscience or calm an anxious heart.*

*We can't formulate our own cleanser for the stains of our sins. But our Lord Jesus makes us clean. He doesn't offer self-help remedies, giving us instructions on how to do it. Instead, he died on our behalf. Our Savior's sacrifice has become the final, perfect cleanser for our sins, the only one we need.*

*When you splash your face each morning, think of the one who chose the way of the cross for your spiritual cleansing. Let the meaning of his sacrifice wash over you every day. Come clean in confession, and allow your Lord to lavish on you the beauty of the holiness he has won for you.*

*(Devotion taken from "Reflecting the Beauty of the Lord; 25 Devotions for Women)*

### **Ladies Night**

This month's Ladies' Night will be September 16 @ 6:30pm at Gondolas in Franklin

## Revelation: God spoke, John wrote, We win!

### 7 Churches

Now that we have been looking at our lives individually through the 10 Commandments, it is time to focus on our lives with fellow Christians. In the letter of Revelation, we see John writing to 7 different churches in Asia Minor. Each church was unique with its own set of problems, but they all had something in common: Jesus was ready to evaluate their progress and pass judgment according to what they have or have not done. If our church was evaluated by Jesus today, what would be His judgment for us?

**Ephesus (Revelation 2:1-7):** The church at Ephesus is commended for its steadfastness, especially against false apostles. But while standing for the truth, they had lost their first love. Exhorted to repent and be restored by doing the "first works", they are warned that their "lampstand" would be removed if they did not repent.

**Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-11):** The church at Smyrna is commended for being "rich" despite their tribulation and poverty. Unlike most churches, there are no words of condemnation directed toward it. While they would experience a little persecution, they are exhorted to remain faithful to death.

**Pergamum (Revelation 2:12-17):** The church at Pergamos is also praised for its steadfastness, but faulted for allowing false teachers in their midst. The Lord threatens to come and fight with the sword of His mouth if there is no repentance.

**Thyatira (Revelation 2:18-29):** The church at Thyatira is also commended, for their last works are more than their first. But they too have a false teacher and followers which jeopardize the condition of the church. Despite giving this "Jezebel" time to repent, she has not and so the Lord intends to make her and her followers an example before the other churches.

**Sardis (Revelation 3:1-6):** The church in Sardis is rebuked for having a name that they are alive, when in reality they are dead. With their works not perfected before God, they are exhorted to be watchful and to strengthen the things which remain. They are also told to remember how they had received and heard in the past, to hold fast and repent. Otherwise, the Lord will come upon them as a thief in the night. Notice is taken, however, of a few in Sardis who had not defiled their garments and are still worthy, who are promised to walk with the Lord in white.

**Philadelphia (Revelation 3:7-13):** The church in Philadelphia is promised an open door that none can shut because they had kept the Lord's word and not denied His name. Their enemies, those who claim to be Jews but are not, will be made to worship before them, and the church will be kept from the trial that was about to test those on the earth. With an announcement of His quick coming, they are exhorted to hold fast what they have that none take their crown.

**Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-22):** The church of Laodicea is then described as lukewarm, for which the Lord threatens to spew them out of His mouth. While claiming to be rich, they are blind to their true condition. Therefore the Lord counsels them to buy from Him those things they truly need. His strong words are indicative of His love for them, and the fact that He stands ready to reenter their hearts if they will open to Him.

Depression comes from living in the wrong past. Anxiety comes from living in the wrong future.

### *To Mirror God's Image*

*"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Gen. 1:27*

*Hangin' in my mother's bedroom is a photograph of the Grand Teton Mountains. I gave her that 8x10-inch enlargement after photographing the Tetons from the edge of Jenny Lake.*

*The morning I took that picture, Jenny Lake was like a mirror. If you take the photo and turn it upside down you can't tell which mountains are real and which are a reflection.*

*When I look at that picture, I think of God's first purpose for marriage: to mirror His image. To "mirror" God means to reflect Him; to magnify, exalt and glorify Him. A successful marriage between two committed Christians provides a tangible model of God's love to a world that desperately needs to see who He is.*

*Because we're created in the image of God, people who wouldn't otherwise know what God is like should be able to look at us and get a glimpse of Him. People are never more like God than when they love one another and remain committed to each other despite their flaws.*

*But what happens if you toss a stone into that perfect reflection? My good friend and colleague Dave Sunde told me he once visited Jenny Lake on that same kind of clear, still day. He watched a boy skip a small stone across the placid water and immediately the perfect reflection of the mountains was distorted. God's image, His reflection, is distorted when a husband or wife allows sin to enter his or her life or relationship. Your marriage represents God; protect it from the "stone" -the sin- that will distort His image.*

#### 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?

"Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another:  
"What! You too? I thought I was the only one." — C.S. Lewis

1st Annual Car and Bike Show  
First Christian Church of Mountain City GA  
October 12

As most of you know we are trying to reach out into the surrounding community in order to get in touch with local people! We have decided that a car show is a great way to accomplish this. This is an outreach that won't require professors of the bible or really outgoing evangelist.... this is an event that will require everybody from the church to come out and just be a friend to the community! We need to show the local people that first we can be friends and the other stuff will follow.

I want to thank Ernie Smith for planting this seed with the leaders of the church! I really think we can accomplish some good things this way! Also there will be a chance to give back to the local charity Richard Kids. This will be the first time we have ever tried a car show so I do ask for your prayers that we, as a church, can pull this off and have a fun, safe time! As well as prayer for good interaction with the community! Below is a list of jobs that we could use your help with. I think this is a good way to use everybody's skills including the kids!

Volunteers needed:

- Food prep
- Parking assignments (helping with directing cars)
- Sign preparation
- Registration hand outs
- Sound equipment setup
- Tents and table setup
- Raffle prize hand out (this would be a good one for the kids)
- Cleanup after the event

Let Josh, Earl or Ernie know where your talents can be put to use!

We do not know what kind of turnout to expect, but with prayer and careful planning this can be a great event for years to come!

Thanks,

Josh Berg

"You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." - Dale Carnegie

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fellowship Meal after Church Elders' Meeting after meal	2	3 Men's Night at 6:30pm (Church)	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	11	12	13	14
15	16 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	17 Men's Bible Study 7pm (Luke's House)	18 Food Pantry 5pm	19	20 Game Night 6:30pm	21
22	23	24 Oct. Newsletter deadline	25	26	27	28
29	30	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group				S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am  Wed Night meal and Bible Study 6:00pm

**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
- Tucker Christian Church, GA
- 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 September:  
 Morning Prayer - Kevin Berg  
 Offering Prayer - Luke Turner  
 Server - Chris Duke  
 Communion Meditation - Lee Lantzer  
 Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey

Servers for October:  
 Morning Prayer - Lee Lantzer  
 Offering Prayer - Tom Labbie  
 Server - Kaden Berg  
 Communion Meditation - Mark Mason  
 Communion Preparation - Amanda Duke