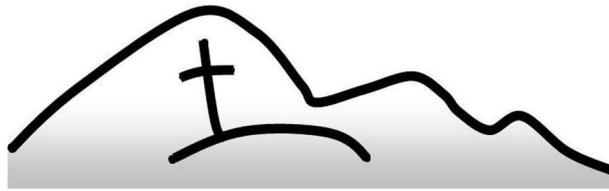


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THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER



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

Our Vision

To become a Biblically-functioning family of believers growing:

- Deeper through worship
- Larger through evangelism
- Stronger through discipleship
- Warmer through fellowship
- Broader through ministry

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 4, Issue 2  
 February, 2014

Check us out online:

[www.fccmtnctny.org](http://www.fccmtnctny.org)

In all things... love

We are in the middle of our first sermon series of 2014, and we are making progress with our evaluation of our church. We started talking about what we are doing and possible areas where we can improve. This month, we will be looking at how we relate to each other through the church.

God loved us enough to build a church so we can come together and build each other up. Somebody in our lives loved us enough to share the Gospel and lead us to the Baptistery so we can receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now it's our turn. Do we love the people around us enough to share the Gospel with them?

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and most of us will be celebrating with our significant other in a variety of ways. Let's not forget that there are some people within our reach who need love too.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:40 ESV)

Let's grow together!

-Earl Winfrey  
[Earl@mkdisciples.org](mailto:Earl@mkdisciples.org)

**GOD THE BUILDER**  
 10 PRINCIPLES GOD USES TO BUILD HIS CHURCH

<b>1/5 - TRUTH</b>	<b>2/9 - HARMONY</b>
<b>1/12 - WORSHIP</b>	<b>2/16 - PARTICIPATION</b>
<b>1/19 - LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>2/23 - FELLOWSHIP</b>
<b>1/26 - EXCELLENCE</b>	<b>3/2 - STEWARDSHIP</b>
<b>2/2 - FAITH</b>	<b>3/9 - EVANGELISM</b>

FCC OF MOUNTAIN CITY GA      [WWW.FCCMTCNTY.ORG](http://WWW.FCCMTCNTY.ORG)

Week of 2/2:  
 Mon – Acts 4:23-37  
 Tues – Acts 11:19-30  
 Wed – 2 Cor 1:1-11  
 Thur – 2 Cor 5  
 Fri – Romans 14  
 Sat – Psalm 133

Week of 2/16:  
 Mon – Ecclesiastes 4  
 Tues – Acts 2:42-47  
 Wed – 1 Cor 1:4-17  
 Thur – 1 Cor 3  
 Fri – 1 Cor 11:17-34  
 Sat – Hebrews 10:19-39

Week of 3/2:  
 Mon – Haggai 1  
 Tues – Haggai 2  
 Wed – Isaiah 55:6-11  
 Thur – Phil 3:12-21  
 Fri – Acts 1:1-11  
 Sat – Matthew 28:16-20

Week of 2/9:  
 Mon – Col 3:12-17  
 Tues – 1 Cor 9:17-19  
 Wed – 1 Peter 4:1-11  
 Thur – Acts 20:32-35  
 Fri – Col 3:23-24  
 Sat – 2 Cor 9:1-15

Week of 2/23:  
 Mon – Exodus 25:1-9  
 Tues – Matt 25:31-46  
 Wed – Acts 5:1-11  
 Thur – Phil 4:10-20  
 Fri – James 4:1-12  
 Sat – 2 Cor 9:6-15

Memory Verse:  
 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." (1 Thes 5:11 ESV)

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

Johnson University in Florida

Open Door Libraries

Rio Bravo Ministries

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

### Ten ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting (Proverbs 18)
2. Speak without accusing (James 1:19)
3. Give without Sparing (Proverbs 21:26)
4. Pray without ceasing (Colossians 1:9)
5. Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17:1)
6. Share without pretending (Ephesians 4:15)
7. Enjoy without complaint (Philippians 2:14)
8. Trust without wavering (1 Corinthians 13:7)
9. Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13)
10. Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12)

.....  
 "Do we grieve over our sin against God or only regret consequences? Our response reveals our level of devotion & maturity."  
 .....

- Craig Portwood

.....  
 "You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me... You knit me together in my mother's womb."  
 .....

*Psalm 139:5, 13*

Do you remember your first gardening experience? I remember. Even now, the memory is so vivid that I can almost smell the early spring lilacs in bloom. I was just a child as I followed my mother into her freshly tilled garden. Mom was planting seeds- lettuce, radishes, beans- the first planting of our early spring vegetables. My job was to follow Mom along the newly formed garden rows to pat, pat, pat a bit of soil over the seeds she gently placed into the straight, shallow line formed by the garden hoe. Pat, pat, pat. I followed along, gently and carefully covering up the seeds to protect them from harm. I took my job very seriously, and I enjoyed it immensely.

God takes joy in His gardening, too. When He first decided to "plant" you- create you- He began His task with joy. Read today's text once more. Can you picture God at work? Can you see His gentle, loving hand protecting and cradling you? Pat, pat, pat. God covered you with His hand while you grew inside your mother's womb. The Lord of life gave you life. And all the while, He delighted in you- His wonderful creation.

Read Psalm 139 in its entirety, and you'll note how important you are to your Creator, how significant and loved you've always been- from before you breathed your first breath until now, and on into forever. See, too, how your holy Father God stooped down to protect, lead, and forgive you in Jesus.

Plant this image in your heart today: God, the Gardener of all that has lived and is living. He loved you before your beginning and loves you still

(Devotion taken from "Woman of God: Growing in Grace Daily Devotions")

### Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be February 17th at 6:30pm (Location TBD)  
 Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

## The Doctrine of Judging (Matthew 7:1-6)

### Additional Scriptures:

Luke 6:37-42; John 12:44-50; Romans 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5-6

When the word doctrine is mentioned, the basic doctrines of the church are usually what come to mind. However, since the word doctrine means "Teaching," any teaching from the Bible can be considered a doctrine. For this article, I would like to write about the doctrine of judging.

The most common verse that is expressed when it comes to judging is Matthew 7:1, "*Judge not, that you be not judged.*" For this reason, we will take a close look at this passage to see what Jesus really meant.

The concept of judging in the New Testament gives a picture of a judge in a courtroom deciding what is right and what is wrong. In many ways, God has already taken care of this role as we can see what is right and what is wrong when we read the Bible. This being the case, if we live our lives the way the Bible tells us to, there is no need for a judgment to take place. But what happens if somebody is not living according to the Bible? Whose job is it to correct the person and get him back on the straight and narrow?

In Matthew 7:1-6, Jesus does not condemn judging. If He did, then there would be no need for verses 2-6. If you read through this passage carefully, you can see that Jesus is encouraging us to clean up our own lives first, and then we can pass judgment. Notice that Jesus told us to remove the speck out of our brother's eye after we have dealt with the log in our own eye. Judging must take place, but only after the one passing judgment has dealt with his own life first.

Referring to Luke 6:37-42, John 12:44-50, and Romans 2:1-11, we can see that the warning is that we better be careful with our own lives because God is the ultimate judge. If we are going to expect somebody else to live right, we better be trying to live right too. Again, this does not eliminate the act of judging, but it does stress the fact that we better clean up our own lives first. Let us consider a case study contained in 1 Corinthians 5-6.

In both chapters, there are 2 major issues. The first issue involved a member of the church who was caught in the sin of incest, and the church ignored the issue. The Apostle Paul stresses the fact that part of the job of the leaders is to remove the sinful act from the church, and in this case, that meant removing the person involved in the act so that person can deal with the issue. We find out in 2 Corinthians that the person did repent and came back into the church. This reconciliation could not have happened if a judgment did not take place.

The next major issue involved Christians taking each other to court over trivial issues. Even though they were allowing the incest to continue, they were holding each other to high standards in other areas of life, and when a dispute could not get settled, they would go to the secular courts. This was an embarrassment for the church because the Corinthian government saw that the Christians could not handle trivial disputes with each other. As Christians, we should be able to live together without having to drag each other into court.

In both cases, the dirty laundry of the church was on display in front of everyone in Corinth. On one extreme, nobody was willing to pass judgment and have the man committing incest leave the church so he could deal with his issues. On the other extreme, everyone was passing judgment on each other to the point where they had to get a secular court involved. The end result was a public relations nightmare because the reputation of the church was tarnished and that gave people an opportunity to reject God based on the fact that His children were living by a double standard.

## Winter Worship Retreat (Barnabas Ministries) - Feb 10-13 in Pigeon Forge, TN

### *Laying Bricks or Building Cathedrals*

*"Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." Psalm 127:4,5*

*Parents today need God's perspective on children. I think many of us can relate to the story of a man who went door to door asking for donations for a new children's home. At one house he met a tired, beleaguered mother who responded,*

*"I'll tell you what I'll do. I will give you two children"*

*That is how many people feel about children some days. On one hand we say, "We sure love kids." And then we turn around and complain, "They sure cost a lot, and man, you have to deny yourself to raise kids." It's as if we don't really believe that we are "blessed" when our quivers are full of children.*

*Children are divinely placed gifts, not accidents. They are a privilege. Barbara and I may sometimes feel that children get in the way of life, but in reality, they are part of the life that God is bringing to us every day.*

*They are on loan with a divine purpose.*

*A man saw three men working with mortar and bricks. He went to the first man and said, "What are you doing?" The man replied, "I am laying bricks." He went to the second man and asked him the same question and the worker said, "I am building a wall." But the final bricklayer had a different answer, "I am building a cathedral."*

*In the process of raising kids, it is very easy to feel like you are just laying bricks. In reality you are building a cathedral, a child whom God has given you to train up to carry on in the next generation. There is no greater privilege in life.*

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

*You can't have roses without dealing with the thorns. You can't grow flowers without enduring the storms. You can't succeed in life without facing trials along the way.*

*Don't get discouraged when you feel like you're not making progress because success could be just around the corner!*

### 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?

"If you haven't made a bad leadership decision you either haven't been leading long enough or you're oblivious." - Craig Portwood

### How important is strong leadership? (Luke Turner)

When you think about leadership maybe you think of a certain person, a group of people or system. Who knows. What I think about is myself, not trying to be boastful here but I think about being a strong leader. That's what I want, not what I currently am. I desire to lead my family, my friends and be a leader within my Church. I have watched from a far for years now, watched and tried to learn what it is to be a good, strong leader. I think I have learned a lot and yet I know there is still much to learn.

Something I am learning now is to be a strong leader you need to have your house in order. Meaning you treat your wife with respect and raise your children in the Lord, show them love and teach them about life, hard work, setting goals, interacting with others and compassion. For an uber-male such as myself, some of those things may be difficult for me to teach. That's one of the reason's I am involved in the men's ministry at FCCMC.

Another reason for me to be involved in the men's ministry is to simply fellowship. But fellowship isn't all that simple. When I assemble with men of the Church I am looking for strengthening, being sharpened, challenged. I am looking for brotherhood. I believe that element is sometimes missing in Church today. We all have our own lives and families that we can sometimes neglect our Church family and yes it is supposed to be a family. I should be able to go to any man of the Church as a brother and they me. No secrets, no holding back. Do I feel that openness at FCCMC?

Yes but maybe you don't. It could be because I'm not a person that has boundaries. LOL. I speak my mind, I interfere and I am not afraid to ask questions or advice. My pride may limit me sometimes but I do seek out the wisdom of others. I might be better with something than you, and vice versa. So what better way to share our knowledge and understanding than by getting together and talking it out. We meet twice a month, a Bible study and a meal. This isnt a social club or an excuse to get away from the wife and kids. This is Biblical, this is what Christ wants. The leaders of the Church coming together and strengthening each other. While not all of us are in "leadership" positions, we are all still leaders in need of training.

So if you are already attending or sometimes do or haven't yet then I challenge you to get with the program, step things up a little. I double dog dare you!

### 3 Questions to ask yourself about your career

1. *What are my career goals?*
2. *What can I do today, and in the coming months, to make sure I am on the right track?*
3. *Do I challenge myself to learn new things and improve my performance?*

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY

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

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

- First Christian Church of Franklin, NC
- Bethany Christian Church (Bumpass, VA)
- 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)
- Salty Church (New Smyrna Beach, FL)

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

Servers for February:  
 Morning Prayer - Luke Turner  
 Offering Prayer - Shawn Albers  
 Server - Chris Duke  
 Communion Meditation - Mark Mason  
 Communion Preparation - Albers

Servers for March:  
 Morning Prayer - Josh Berg  
 Offering Prayer - Lee Lantzer  
 Server - Kaden Berg  
 Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg  
 Communion Preparation - Kelsa Turner