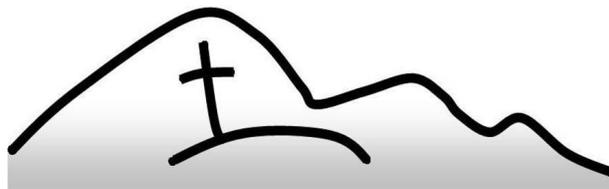


I JESUS L O R D

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 5
 May, 2014

Check us out online:

www.fccmtnctny.org

Honoring Mama

My family has a long line of strong women on both sides. They were preacher's wives, mothers, career women, gardeners, Sunday School teachers, nursery workers, and even a farmer's wife. All of them were strong in the Lord as well as strong supporters of their husbands. They served as Godly examples of what a "Proverbs 31" woman should be.

As I look at the women in our church, I see plenty of Godly examples too. Whether they are raising young kids or they are transitioning into the next phase of life, our women are strong in the Lord and strong in life! This month, we will have a special day when we honor our mothers for all that they do. Let's make an effort to let them know how much we appreciate everything they do for us and for the Lord!

At the end of the month, we are starting our VBS program that will run on Wed nights through the month of June. Be sure to stay connected so we can all be on the same page as we work on this important outreach for the community!

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

Week of 4/27:

Mon – Matt 12:40-41
 Tues – 2 kings 14:24-26
 Wed – Jonah 1
 Thur– Jonah 2
 Fri – Jonah 3
 Sat – Jonah 4

Week of 5/11:

Mon – Matthew 4:12-17
 Tues – Matthew 4:18-25
 Wed – Matthew 13:1-17
 Thur – Matt 13:18-30
 Fri – Matthew 13:31-46
 Sat – Matthew 13:47-50

Week of 5/25:

Mon – Proverbs 4:1-9
 Tues – Proverbs 4:10-19
 Wed – Proverbs 4:20-27
 Thur – Jeremiah 17:1-8
 Fri – Isaiah 3:8-15
 Sat – Psalm 1

Week of 5/4:

Mon – Genesis 2:5-14
 Tues – Psalm 46
 Wed – Ezekiel 47:1-12
 Thur – Isaiah 55
 Fri – Revelation 21:1-8
 Sat – Revelation 22:1-5

Week of 5/18:

Mon – Mark 16:12-20
 Tues – Luke 24:13-31
 Wed – 1 Cor 15:1-11
 Thur– John 21:1-14
 Fri – John 21:15-19
 Sat – John 21:20-25

Memory Verse:

[17] And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

(Mark 1:17 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.

Don't Compare

(Kelsa Turner)

Have you ever tried to compare an apple to an orange? They're both fruit, they're both round, and they are comprised of some of the same nutrients. Beyond that, though, the similarities stop. They both have their unique qualities, and are just...different.

If you were to compare the two you would likely focus on the qualities that make each unique and really do more contrasting than comparing. Why? Because they are different, they aren't meant to be the same.

So if we all understand that apples and oranges can't really be compared, why do we try to compare ourselves with others? God made us each unique, so why do we try to fit ourselves into another persons mould?

I know I'm guilty of this at times. I see another person's success or qualities I admire and soon I'm comparing myself to them. But this isn't right, here's why...

God created me unique, it's true, with a special purpose. If I'm SO focused on trying to be like someone else, or fulfill the purpose I think I should have, I could very easily miss out on the special purpose God has for me. Just like every part of the our bodies play a significant and important role, so does every part of the Body of Christ.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

God is the one who created us each unique, He is the one that bestowed us with the gifts and abilities we have. So rather than comparing ourselves to others, thinking their gifts are better than ours (or our gifts are better than theirs) we need to remember that God is the giver of all gifts, and God does not play favorites. He gives us the gifts He does for a reason, and even though our gifts (or us!) may seem insignificant to the world, He has a reason for everything He does. We may never see the reason why, or the fruit of our gifts. But our job is to just sow, use our gifts to bring glory to God.

"Judge your success not on the harvest you see, but the seed that you sow. God is the one who is keeping track of the investments you are making in people."

~ Steven Furtick, Senior Minister of Elevation Church

Whatever stage we are at in life, business, or maturity, there will always be someone else farther along. All we see is where they've landed, not all the blood, sweat, and tears that got them there. We need to stop comparing ourselves. We need to live in the here and now, our here and now, and let God take care of the rest.

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be May 19th at 6:30pm Hana Bistro in Clayton
Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

Total Reliability

1. The Bible can be trusted to be totally reliable
 - a. Because it is a product of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
 - 1) The Holy Spirit's involvement in the production of the Bible leads us to expect an accurate presentation of God's Word
 - 2) By nature the Holy Spirit only speaks the truth
 - 3) This implies that any statement written under his supervision will likewise be truthful (John 15:26-27; 16:13)
 - b. Because it is presented to us as God's Word
2. The Bible describes itself as being totally accurate in everything it says
 - a. Every inspired presentation of God's Word (whether oral or written) is said to be always true (Psa. 119:151; Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17)
 - b. No statement in the Bible can be "broken" or proven to be untrue (John 10:35)
 - c. Even the historical statements of the Old Testament that some today consider to be myths are consistently treated by Jesus in the Gospels as true
 - 1) Mankind originating from Adam and Eve (Matt. 19:4-5)
 - 2) Noah and the universal flood (Luke 17:26-27)
 - 3) The destruction of Sodom and Lot's wife turning into a pillar of salt (Luke 17:28-32)
 - 4) Jonah surviving 3 days in the belly of the great fish (Matt. 12:39-40)
3. This concept of truthfulness can be expressed by several theological terms
 - a. "Infallibility" means that the Bible is incapable of failing
 - b. "Inerrancy" means that the Bible contains no errors
 - c. "Plenary inspiration" means that every part of the Bible is inspired (including human statements not revealed by God)
 - d. "Verbal inspiration" means that every word in the Bible is inspired (including human words not revealed by God)
4. The concept of truthfulness can be applied to the biblical text we study today
 - a. It is focused specifically upon the "autographs" (the original manuscripts handwritten or dictated by the inspired author)
 - b. But is applicable in principle to our reconstruction of the original documents
 - 1) Bruce Metzger: textual criticism has reproduced 99.9% of the original text
 - 2) English translations will vary in wording, but generally convey the same ideas

Infallibility is the stronger concept

Some moderate evangelicals prefer to not use the word "inerrancy" because it is not used in the Bible, and seems to them to claim more than the Bible itself claims. The fact is, most of our theological terms are not used in the Bible, but were devised later in church history to capture a biblical idea in a single word or phrase. Unless you are prepared to give up all theological terms, there is no need to object to this term on that basis.

As for the argument that the term inerrancy says more than the Bible actually claims, some of this objection may come from a misunderstanding of what we actually mean by the term. When the biblical data for the inspiration and total reliability of Scripture is clearly laid out, it seems to be a reasonable conclusion that there are no errors in what the Bible says.

The irony in these evangelical objections is that many who contend that inerrancy is overstated say they prefer to use the term infallibility. The irony: infallibility is actually a stronger term than inerrancy. Inerrancy says we have not found any errors in Scripture (at least not so far). Infallibility says there cannot (and will not) be any errors.

Inerrancy does not necessarily imply infallibility. But infallibility requires inerrancy.

A Mother's love has the ability to FORGIVE even the most difficult child. - Author Unknown

Honoring Your Wife

"And grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life."

1 Peter 3:7

After watching as the marriages of numerous Christian leaders disintegrate, I have come to some conclusions. One is that there is no such thing as a marriage blowout-only slow, small leaks. Like a tire that gradually loses air without the driver noticing, these marriages were allowed to slowly go flat. If someone checked the air pressure in the marriages he or she certainly didn't do anything to return them to acceptable, safe levels.

Every marriage is susceptible to leaks, and ours is no exception. The world lures my wife with glittery, false promises of fulfillment and true significance. If I fail to honor her and esteem her as a woman of distinction, it's just a matter of time before she will begin to wear down and look elsewhere for worth.

Following are a few techniques to honor your wife:

Learn the art of putting her on a pedestal. Capture your wife's heart by treating her with respect, tenderness, and the highest esteem.

Recognize her accomplishments. Frequently I look into Barbara's eyes and verbally express my wonder at all she does. She wears many hats and is an amazingly hard worker. At other times, I stand back in awe of the woman of character she has become. Her steady walk with God is a constant stream of ministry to me.

Speak to her with respect. Without careful attention, your tongue can become caustic, searing, and accusing. I work hard to honor Barbara. I'm not always as successful as I'd like to be, but I know that honor begins with an attitude. Also, if any of the children ever talk back to Barbara or show disrespect, they know they have to deal with me when I get home. Our children are great, but they will mug her if I let them. She's outnumbered! So I encourage our children to respect her too.

Honor your wife by extending common courtesies.

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?

You may think that these little amenities were worthwhile only during courtship, but actually they are great ways to demonstrate respect and distinction over the long haul. Common courtesy is at the heart of servanthood; it says, "my life is yours." It bows before another to show esteem and dignity.

Why not increase the "air pressure" in your marriage today by honoring your wife?

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

**"Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD GOD is an
everlasting rock."
(Isaiah 26:4)**

VBS
Every Wed
May 28 - June 25



FCC OF MOUNTAIN CITY GA
WWW.FCCMTCNTY.ORG

Inerrancy and the Autographs

The concept of inerrancy applies to the original text, and not to all the later copies and translations. Scribes have often made mistakes in copying (and printing) the Bible. And Bible translators are not infallible when they try to express a Greek sentence in English. So when we speak of the Bible being inerrant, we are referring back to the original biblical text written by a prophet or apostle under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Some critics of the traditional idea of inerrancy contend that it is an irrelevant concept because we don't possess the original text today. But that's not exactly true.

The science of textual criticism has studied thousands of old manuscripts of the Bible from the earliest centuries and reconstructed what the original text would have said. Bruce Metzger, a leading expert in textual criticism, says that their work has reconstructed 99.9% of the original text—virtually the whole Bible. The remaining one-tenth of a percent: inconsequential things like the spelling of names or a verb tense.

It is true that we don't possess the "autographs," that is, the original manuscripts penned by the biblical writers. But that doesn't mean we don't have the "original texts." And thus the concept of inerrancy still has relevance to the Scripture we read today.

Absolute Authority

1. The Bible speaks with absolute authority
 - a. The Holy Spirit's involvement in the production of the Bible leads us to expect a message backed by divine authority
 - b. The Holy Spirit's work of revelation and inspiration implies that he intends for the Bible to speak as if God himself were speaking
 - c. Every inspired presentation of God's Word (whether oral or written) should be received as "the Word of God" and not simply the "words of men" (1 Thess. 2:13)
2. Thus the Bible often emphasizes the great authority that resides in "God's Word"
 - a. The Word of God is our divine Guide (Psa. 119)
 - b. The Word of God is our divine Judge (Heb. 4:12)
 - c. There is no greater voice of authority among men than the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
 - 1) For our doctrine
 - 2) For our ethics
 - 3) For our life and service

The four key qualities of Scripture: 1. Revelation; 2. Inspiration; 3. Infallibility; 4. Authority

Why do I encourage other men to preach?

The running joke for the times when I have other men preach is that I am trying to get out of earning my paycheck. However, there are 4 good reasons for encouraging other men to preach.

First of all, if there is a situation where I am unable to fill the pulpit, we need men who can step up and take over until I can return.

Secondly, we need to be good stewards of the resources we have. We have plenty of Godly men who are capable of preaching and teaching. If we

are not encouraging those men to use their gifts, we are not being good stewards of God's resources.

Thirdly, a plurality of leaders is always good for a church to remain healthy. By sharing the pulpit, we are encouraging a plurality of leaders so we don't fall into the temptation of lifting up 1 man above the others.

Finally, my goal as the preacher is to make sure every member of our church family grows and achieves their very best for the Lord. And for some of our men, that means putting them in the pulpit.

"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 Night meal and Bible Study 6:00pm	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group			1 Men's Night at 6:30pm	2 Craft Day at the Church	3
4 Fellowship Meal after Church	5	6 Elders' Meeting 6:30pm	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	14	15 Men's Bible Study 7pm (Luke's House)	16 Earl graduation from Seminary (Cincinnati Christian Univ)	17
18	19 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	20	21 Food Pantry 5pm	22	23	24 VBS decorating day at the church
25	26 Memorial Day	27 Deadline for June Newsletter	28 First night of VBS (6pm-8pm)	29	30	31

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)
- East Win Christian Church (Memphis, TN)
- 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)
- Port Orange Christian Church, 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 - Kaden Berg
- Offering Prayer - Offering Prayer
- Server - Luke Turner
- Communion Meditation - Shawn Albers/Kim King
- Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey

Servers for June:

- Morning Prayer - Lee Lantzer
- Offering Prayer - Kevin Berg
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Meditation - Luke Turner
- Communion Preparation - Amanda Duke