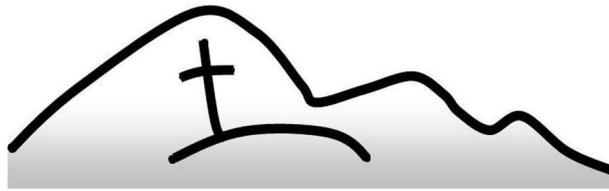


I JESUS L O R D

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 6
 June, 2014

VBS is Here!!!!

We made it to the 6th month of the year and this is going to be a busy one! We are moving right along with our VBS program for our kids on Wednesdays, we have a church camping trip on June 12-14, and we are getting closer to our annual meeting for the congregation coming up on July 13.

Along with the events, we also have Ben Lantzer visiting us to preach on June 8, and we will have a chance to see his fiancé too as they are moving closer to their wedding date in July.

The Albers will be leaving soon to bring their son home from China as the adoption process is almost complete. There is much prayer needed as they travel to the other side of the world and then back home after a couple of weeks.

Speaking of travelling, we also have Kira Mason travelling to Ireland for a short term mission trip. She is very excited that June 28 is just around the corner and she is also thankful that her financial goal has been met thanks to all of her supporters!

As you can see, this is a busy month for all of us so let's make it a good month for God!

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

Week of 6/1:

Mon - Psalm 90
 Tues - Isaiah 39
 Wed - Isaiah 40:18-31
 Thur - James 1:17-27
 Fri - 1 Peter 1:22-25
 Sat - Isaiah 40:6-8

Week of 6/15:

Mon - Psalm 80
 Tues - Psalm 84
 Wed - Psalm 118:1-13
 Thur - Psalm 118:14-29
 Fri - Isaiah 12
 Sat - Psalm 27

Week of 6/29:

Mon - Psalm 119:1-32
 Tues - Psalm 119:33-64
 Wed - Psalm 119:65-96
 Thur - Psalm 119:97-128
 Fri - Psalm 119:129-160
 Sat - Psalm 119:161-176

Week of 6/8:

Mon - Isaiah 40:1-5
 Tues - Jeremiah 31:1-14
 Wed - Proverbs 3:1-12
 Thur - Proverbs 23:15-25
 Fri - John 10:1-21
 Sat - Psalm 23

Week of 6/22:

Mon - Psalm 78:1-16
 Tues - Psalm 78:17-31
 Wed - Psalm 78:32-55
 Thur - Psalm 78:56-66
 Fri - Psalm 78:67-72
 Sat - Psalm 30

Memory Verse:

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
 (Proverbs 22:6 ESV)

Check us out online:

www.fccmtncty.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

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.

Wisdom from Heaven

(Kelsa Turner)

I've never given wisdom much thought before. We learn about Solomon's wisdom in church and Sunday school, and usually attribute wisdom (in every instance other than Solomon's) to age and experience. Wisdom has always seemed like something not for me, not for a long time anyway. That is, until recently when I was struck by James 3:13-18. Rather than taking up space here, go read it!

This passage is speaking of two kinds of wisdom: wisdom that is earthly, and wisdom that is from Heaven. Wisdom that is earthly has an attitude of "me first" or possibly even "me only" which leads to a chaotic life. I see it as using your gifts, talents, knowledge, and experience for your gain first and foremost, not caring how your actions affect anyone else. On the flip-side, wisdom that is from Heaven is selfless wisdom. It is wisdom that puts God first, and considers others before oneself, leading to a peaceful life. I see this wisdom as using your God given gifts, talents, knowledge, and experience for God's glory, and showing love to others through your actions.

So why did this passage strike me so? Because it gave me a whole new perspective on wisdom. While God certainly uses life experience and maturity, that is not the source of wisdom from Heaven. God is the source of wisdom from Heaven. It is something He gives to us, and we can get it only through Him. This excites me because it means I don't have to rack up years of experience before using my gifts for God. And since God is the giver of wisdom, He may choose to give it now or when I'm old and gray, but I can ask for it, and when it does come I know it's from Him.

Thank You!!!!

On Friday, May 16, I went to CCU's graduation so I could get my MDIV in Practical Ministries!
The following Sunday, I got a card and a gift from our church!
Thanks for the support! - Earl

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

VBS
Every Wed
May 28 - June 25
6pm-8pm



FCC OF MOUNTAIN CITY GA

WWW.FCCMTCITY.ORG

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be June 16th at 6:30pm (Location TBD)
Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

Which Route Should We Take?

Last February, my family and I went to the Barnabas retreat in Pigeon Forge. If you remember back then, there was snow everywhere along with the promise of more snow to come. In fact, we saw the forecast and decided to cut our trip short because we did not want to get caught driving over the mountains in the middle of more snow falling.

We left Tuesday morning to head home so I could have plenty of time with the sun in the sky while driving. I also decided to take an alternate route just in case the roads were already filled with snow. I chose I-75 from Knoxville to Cleveland so I could pick up a couple of US highways to get us back to Clayton. My choice was apparently a good one because we had clear roads and sunshine until we got to Georgia on US highway 76 entering Rabun County. At that point, it was almost like a switch was flipped. There was snow everywhere! We made it the rest of the way and got everything into the house before the snow started falling again.

The reason why there was no snow on I-75 was because the mountain range served as a wall to keep the snow on the Eastern side. Once I got to the other side of the mountain range, I could see all of the snow that fell. So for the majority of the trip, we were enjoying our drive, listening to our Hillsong CD while we were blissfully unaware of the snowstorm on the other side of the mountain range. The drive also gave me some time to think about the church and how we are often missing the mark when it comes to evangelism.

It seems to me that we church folk have created a separate culture that runs parallel to our world. We have our own music, our own books, our own schools and now, our own movies. While none of those items are bad, there is a danger involved with isolating ourselves from the world around us. We have been called to be in the world but not of the world. That means we still have to build relationships with those who need Jesus instead of cutting ourselves off completely from society. If we want our community to hear us, we have to be close enough to speak, and we also have to speak the language that they can understand.

When was the last time you attended a community event without the church making it an official outreach opportunity? Have you attended a city council meeting so you can find out what is going on with the local government? Do you read the local paper so you can find out how the high school did with the sporting event that took place last weekend? How about the Library? When was the last time you visited the library so you could get a feel for how many books and types of books are being read by the people who live near you? And here's one that you may not have thought about before. Have you attended court lately? By sitting in a courtroom watching the different cases being called, you can gain some perspective about how bad our community needs people who can be a positive influence on our youth.

We need to make an effort to get involved with the people around us so we can build relationships that will lead to a fuller life. Who knows? The friends you make could be there for you at the time you need a friend the most. So instead of taking an alternate route so we can enjoy our Hillsong CD without interruption, let's make an effort to drive straight through the middle of the area we are trying to avoid so we can make a Kingdom impact on our city.

The Macho Man

"let the wife see to it that she respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33

One day Dennis gave me a list of what he considered to be the needs most men have:

- Self-confidence in his manhood;
- To be listened to;
- Companionship;
- To be needed sexually by his wife;
- To be accepted and respected.

Counselors and pastors would give you similar lists, based on their experiences. And you know what this tells me? The "macho man"- self-contained, independent and invulnerable- is a myth. To bolster Dennis's confidence, I try to encourage him by being his best friend. Every husband wants his wife to be on his time, to coach him when necessary, but most of all to be his cheerleader. A husband needs a wife who is behind him, believing in him, appreciating him and cheering him on as he goes out into the world every day. The word "appreciate" means to "raise in value". When I give Dennis words of praise and encouragement, I raise his value, not only in his eyes but in mine as well, and that builds his confidence as a man. The psychologist William James said, "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated." And Charles Swindoll adds this: "We live by encouragement and die without it. Slowly, sadly, and angrily." When is the last time you told your husband you appreciate him?
(Devotion taken from "Moments Together for Couples" by Dennis and Barbara Rainey)

A Prayer for All Seasons

"Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Colossians 1:9

Time has a way of defining true friends. I have discovered that passing years and growing distance are ineffective obstacles to the mutual love between my friends and me. Perhaps it is because of our common walk with the Lord that we can just pick up where we left off whenever we are together. And these are the dear ones I will spend eternity loving. Of course, prayer is an important part of continuing that bond. Colossians 1:3-14 is an eloquent description of a Christian's prayer for her friends. Even though Paul has not even visited the Christians at Colossae (Colossians 1:7), his love for them through Christ was strong and ardent. As we spend time with God, we open ourselves to His work in our hearts and in our lives. Then, as we see Him working, we will want to know Him even more. We will want our prayer life to be all that it can be. What does that mean? How should we be praying?

In the Scripture, we find many models of prayer, and probably foremost is the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). This wonderful example of a prayer includes important elements of prayer. We find words of adoration, of submission to God's will, of petition, and in closing, of praise. We can learn much from the model our Lord gave when His disciples said, "Teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1)

As meaningful as the Lord's Prayer is to me, I have also found Colossians 1:9-12 to be a powerful guide in my prayer life. If you aren't in the habit of praying or if you want to renew your time with God, I challenge you to read this passage of Scripture every day for 30 days. Look at it in small pieces, dwell on its message each day, take action upon what it says, and you'll become a new person. (Devotion taken from "15 Minutes Alone With God" by Emilie Barnes)

"Risk: Don't be afraid to go out on a limb...that's where the fruit is." - Author Unknown

9 Reasons why People don't invite their friends to Church

(Taken from Churchleaders.com - Michael Harvey)

1. "We have no non-church going friends."

Now either this is true or it is not true. Let's for one moment say that this is true, that would lead the pastor to conclude that we are a church that has ghettoised itself. Let's say it is not true, then of course we are lying to ourselves! It is either one or the other.

2. "It's the pastor's job!"

I have heard some congregational members go on to say, "In fact, what on earth are we paying them for if they are not into mission?" I have heard of church management meetings where fingers are pointed very firmly in the direction of the pastor. We must remember, however, that when we start pointing the finger, three fingers are pointed back straight at us. Jesus invited us all into mission. Now mission is a large concept, into which many books have been written. However, at the center of most mission is invitation. We can all invite, and therefore it is not just the pastor's job.

3. "My friend said no to me last year."

Why do we give up so easily? And God could not have done something in their lives in the past period of time? I have heard countless stories from Christians who had to be asked several times before they accepted an invitation. We need to learn from the persistence seen in the story of the lost coin or the lost sheep.

4. "What if it damages my friendship?"

A fear of spoiling a good relationship is another reason. We don't ask because we fear the damage it would cause, that would be irreparable. But of course, we are only talking about our relationship with our human friend rather than God!

5. "Our services and people are unpredictable."

A need to know who is preaching, whether the right hymns or worship songs will be sung, and whether everyone will behave. We are not going to invite unless everything is perfect that day. I am not sure how perfectionism got into the church.

6. "I fear what the congregation will think of my friend; they are not our type of people."

What if it damages my relationship with those of my friends in church when they see the type of person with whom I associate? I seem to remember that Jesus spent time with tax collectors and those seen as the outcasts of society.

7. "I don't want to be seen as strange."

I don't want to be seen as a Bible-basher or, worse, one of those fundamentalists. We want to be thought of as a sane person. At times in the Christian life, we will be rejected and seen as odd!

8. "I wouldn't know what to say and they might ask something about my faith."

How do you go about asking someone to church, and what if they ask me a question that I am unable to answer like, "Explain the Trinity." We start to imagine all the difficult questions that would follow our stumbling performance in inviting someone to church, and then conclude that it is not worth the effort. Of course, they might not ask a difficult question. They might say yes, but we imagine the worst outcome.

9. Below the surface of these answers lies the fear of rejection.

I have come to the conclusion that this is causing the majority of the issues in Christianity today and God anticipated the problem by saying: "Don't be afraid for I am with you." Yet fear is lurking amongst us all, hiding away and causing us to reject God's prompting to invite and to extend the Kingdom of God. I believe God will use invitation to disciple a whole congregation through it. God enables fear to be brought to the surface so we can attack it with faith that Immanuel our God is with us.

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?

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fellowship Meal after Church	2	3 Elders' Meeting 6:30pm	4 VBS Night #2 6pm-8pm	5 Men's Night at 6:30pm	6 Craft Day at the Church	7
8	9	10 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	11 VBS Night #3 6pm-8pm	12 Church Camping Trip	13 See Josh Berg for Details	14
15 Father's Day	16 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	17	18 Food Pantry 5pm VBS Night #4 6pm-8pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Deadline for July Newsletter	25 VBS Night #5 6pm-8pm	26	27	28 Kira Mason leaving for her mission trip to Ireland
29 VBS Closing Ceremony During Worship	30				Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group	S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed Night VBS 6pm-8pm

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)
- 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 June:

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

Servers for July:

- Morning Prayer - Shawn Albers
- Offering Prayer - TBD
- Server - Tom Labbie
- Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg
- Communion Preparation - Kelsa Turner