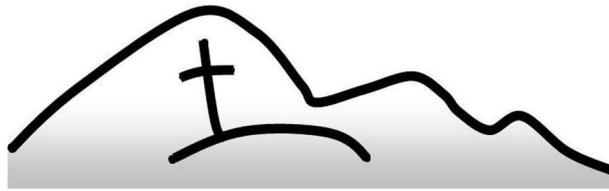


I JESUS L O R D

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 7
 July, 2014

Cong. Meeting July 6

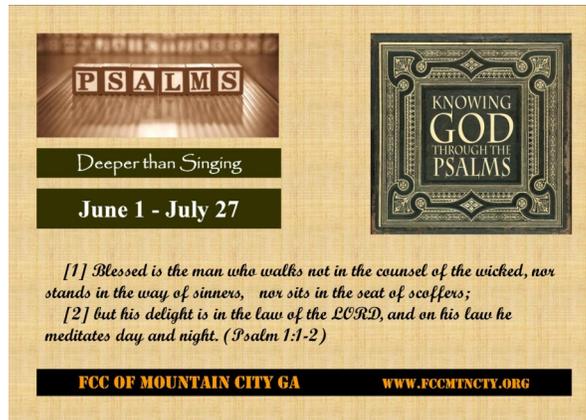
After a very busy and exciting month of June, we are now approaching our annual congregational meeting after our fellowship meal on Sunday, July 6. Just like the years before, we will be voting on a budget and confirming leaders for the next year. Please be in prayer as we wrap up the final details for the meeting and pray for the meeting that everything will run smooth and we will make decisions that will honor God.

Last Friday night (June 27), Kira Mason left for her mission trip to Ireland and the Albers will be leaving for China on July 2 to pick up their son they are adopting. They will both return on July 17 so please be in prayer for them as they travel. My family will be at the NACC in Indianapolis from July 7-11 so we request prayer for our trip as well.

We will also have a group traveling to Minnesota for Ben Lantzer's wedding that will be on July 18.

As you can see, there is much needed prayer for everyone as they travel and get involved with various activities during this month. Let's cover our church with prayer!

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



*[1] Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
 [2] but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)*

FCC OF MOUNTAIN CITY GA WWW.FCCMTCNTY.ORG

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 7/13:

Mon - Psalm 18:1-19
 Tues - Psalm 18:20-30
 Wed - Psalm 18:31-42
 Thur - Psalm 18:43-50
 Fri - Psalm 46
 Sat - Psalm 121

Week of 7/27:

Mon - Luke 6:37-49
 Tues - Romans 8:18-30
 Wed - Romans 12
 Thur - Ephesians 3:1-13
 Fri - Ephesians 3:14-21
 Sat - 1 Timothy 4

Week of 7/6:

Mon - Exodus 32
 Tues - Exodus 33-34:10
 Wed - Psalm 51:10-19
 Thur - Psalm 86:1-10
 Fri - 1 Cor 11:23-34
 Sat - Psalm 145

Week of 7/20:

Mon - Proverbs 3:1-25
 Tues - Ecc 5:10-20
 Wed - Deut 7:6-14
 Thur - Deut 28:1-14
 Fri - Luke 18:15-17
 Sat - Psalm 127

Memory Verse:

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."
 (Psalm 119:105 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.

Doers of the Word - James 1:21-25

(Kelsa Turner)

This morning, while reading this passage of scripture, I was deeply convicted. How often am I like the man who looks in the mirror and then forgets what he sees? I fear it is much too often.

Sometimes I will feel conviction or learn a new insight from the Word, and know I need to make a change. I'm fired up, ready to do it. But as I leave those special quiet moments with God something kind of insane happens. I just forget. Going about my day other things enter my mind and suddenly my beautiful intentions are like a penny fallen to the ground: so much potential to start something, so much promise, but seemingly insignificant and utterly ignored.

I see the phenomenon in many areas of my life. I believe what the Bible says about who I am in Christ and I agree with what the Bible says about putting nothing before God. But do I put those things into practice? Do I flesh them out in my life? Do I live them? Or is my faith dead because it is without action? (James 2:26)

The honest answer to all these questions: sometimes. Sometimes I get it right, I do what I desire to do, which is honor God in all I do. But sometimes I get it all utterly wrong. I read, I listen, I learn, and then I forget. I often feel like Paul pulled thoughts right out of my head for Romans 7: "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do." (Romans 7:15) I can definitely identify with that, and I must say it is quite frustrating.

So what to do? Just give up? Just quit trying because it is too difficult, because I often don't follow through? No! I have to learn to keep my eyes on God. It will take time, maybe my whole life, and practice, but I have to train myself to keep Him at the forefront of my thoughts. I have to hide His word in my heart, and put it into action.

I'll never get it all right all the time. But the odd thing is, the thing in me (my flesh, my sinful nature) that causes me to do the things I don't want to do is the very same thing that causes me to need God so desperately. Needing God, clinging to Him, having to keep my eyes on Him are all good things.

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be July 21st at 6:30pm (Location TBD)

Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

If You Want to Know God, Immerse Yourself in the Psalms - Barry McCarty

Like most Christians, I have always loved the book of Psalms. It was the first hymnbook of the early Christians and the hymnbook and prayer book of the Jews. Jesus died with the words of the Psalms on his lips. After his resurrection, he told his disciples: "Everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, *and the psalms* must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44, New Revised Standard Version, author's emphasis). No other book of the Old Testament is so often quoted in the New. It is a storehouse of messianic prophecies that the first Christian preachers expounded and applied.

Like many people who grew up in church, as a boy I memorized Psalm 23, the Great Shepherd's Psalm, along with Psalm 100. At VBS, in those familiar words from Psalm 119, I pledged allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Its words will I hide in my heart, that I might not sin against God." Later, as a graduate student, I discovered The Book of Common Prayer, and for years the daily offices of morning and evening prayer, which always include several psalms, have provided structure to my own devotional life.

Then several years ago, I picked up Joan Chittister's *The Rule of Benedict: Insights for the Ages*, a brief and very readable commentary on Western Christianity's leading guide for monastic living for the past 1,500 years. Benedict called for monastic communities to structure their day around work and prayer—which is not a bad idea for those of us who are not monks. His tradition of *Ora et Labora*, "pray and work," calls for seven daily "offices" or times when the monks cease their work and pray.

Most Evangelical Christians, when introduced to the daily Benedictine offices, are surprised to discover how biblical their prayers and worship are. For the most part, they come directly from Scripture. Benedict apportioned the Psalms across the seven daily hours of prayer so that the entire Psalter is prayed or sung through each week.

This introduction to Benedictine spirituality—especially the practice of praying through the Psalms each week—was intriguing to me, so I decided to try it for myself. For 40 days I observed the seven hours of prayer each day: Vigils (night prayers), Lauds (sunrise), Terce (9 a.m.), Sext (noon), None (3 p.m.), Vespers (sunset), and Compline (evening prayers that "complete" the day just before retiring). I followed Benedict's arrangement for the Psalms and prayed completely through all 150 each week for six weeks. It was a life-changing experience.

Through this constant exposure to the Psalms throughout the day, I came to know God in a deeper way than ever before. Over the years I have been blessed by many approaches to daily devotions, but nothing compares to this simple immersion in the Psalms based on a Christian tradition dating back to the sixth century.

(Continued on Page 5)

Are You Fake?

"And why do you call me, "Lord, Lord," and not do what I say?" Luke 6:46

Some people are excellent "fakes". Publicly, they may do an abundance of "Christian deeds" and use the right Christian clichés. But privately, their lives are charades. They aren't listening to God. Their lives are mockeries.

A young man who had just graduated from law school set up an office proudly displaying his shingle out front. On his first day at work, as he sat at his desk with his door open, he was wondering how he would get his first client. Then he heard footsteps coming down the long corridor toward his office.

Not wanting this potential client to think that he would be the first, the young lawyer quickly picked up the telephone and began to talk loudly to a make-believe caller. "Oh, yes sir!" he exclaimed into the phone. "I'm very experienced in corporate law...Courtroom experience? Why, yes, I've had several cases."

The sounds of footsteps drew closer to his open door.

"I have broad experience in almost every category of legal work," he continued, loud enough for his impending visitor to hear.

Finally, with the steps right at his door, he replied, "Expensive? Oh, no sir, I'm very reasonable. I'm told my rates are among the lowest in town."

The young lawyer then excused himself from his "conversation" and covered the phone in order to respond to the prospective client who was now standing in the doorway. With his most confident voice, he said, "Yes, sir, may I help you?"

"Well, yes you can," the man said with a smirk. "I'm the telephone repairman, and I've come to hook up your phone!"

We sometimes fake the Christian life in the same way. We say we honor God, but we don't obey Him day to day. Preoccupied with self and wanting our own ways, we ignore God and pretend to be spiritual. Instead of having Christ's character imprinted on our lives, we go our own ways, and our Christianity becomes a forgery.

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

Leadership lessons from Chuck Swindoll

Chuck Swindoll was given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Catalyst '09 Conference. During his presentation, he described "10 Things I Have Learned During Nearly 50 Years in Leadership."

- 1) It's lonely to lead. Leadership involves tough decisions. The tougher the decision, the lonelier it is.
- 2) It's dangerous to succeed. I'm most concerned for those who aren't even 30 and are successful. Sometimes God uses someone right out of youth, but usually He uses leaders who have been crushed.
- 3) It's hardest at home. No one ever told me this in seminary.
- 4) It's essential to be real. If there's one realm where phoniness is common, it's among leaders. Stay real.
- 5) It's painful to obey. The Lord will direct you to do some things that won't be your choice. Invariably you will give up what you want to do for the cross.
- 6) Brokenness and failure are necessary.
- 7) Attitude is more important than actions. Your family may not have told you: Some of you are hard to be around. A bad attitude overshadows good actions.
- 8) Integrity eclipses image. Today we highlight image, but it's what you're doing behind the scenes.
- 9) God's way is better than my way.
- 10) Christ-likeness begins and ends with humility.

God is super beyond all comprehension brilliant!

(Continued from Page 3)

Following that first 40 days of praying through the Psalms each week, I returned to my usual practice of morning and evening prayer using the Psalms and other Scripture readings from the lectionary in The Book of Common Prayer. But from time to time, I return to the seven daily hours for special seasons of prayer and devotion.

In recent years, God has also blessed me with the friendship of one of the monks at the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia, just outside Atlanta. From time to time I visit my friend Brother Cassian, usually arriving in time to join the community in the choir stalls to sing the Vespers service. With a little help from Cassian, I have learned how to sing the Psalms set to the Gregorian chants, which is done antiphonally from choir stalls facing each other across the nave of the monastery church. My Benedictine friends also introduced me to what has become my favorite and most used prayer. Their daily offices begin with the words from Psalm 70:1, "O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me" (Douay-Rheims Bible). Keep that prayer on your lips, and it will change your life!

While worship at a Benedictine monastery is a markedly different experience from our services in the Christian church, to me it is a thing of great beauty and deep spirituality. I hear the Word of God clearly in the plainsong of the monks and see him in all his majesty through the Psalms, just as the Jews saw him in the temple, the early Christians in the catacombs, and countless believers across the ages have seen him in the only inspired, infallible hymnbook and prayer book we have.

The great lesson here is that if you want to know God well, immerse yourself in the Psalms. Read them. Study them. Sing them. Pray them. O how it will bless you, and change you forever.

Barry McCarty is senior minister with Peachtree Christian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and a past president of Cincinnati (Ohio) Christian University.

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?

This quote from C.S. Lewis is very applicable to today in America:

"We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man."

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed Night: Meal - 6pm B.S. - 6:45pm	Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group	1 Elders' Meeting 6:30pm	2 (No services) Albers leave for China	3	4	5
6 Fellowship Meal after Church Cong. Meeting After Meal	7 Winfreys at the NACC (7-11)	8 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	9	10	11 Craft Day at the Church	12
13	14	15	16 Food Pantry 5pm	17 Albers return from China Kira returns from Ireland	18 Family Swim Night at the Rec Pool in Franklin 6:30-8:30pm	19
20	21 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Deadline for Aug Newsletter	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)
- 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 July:

- Morning Prayer - Shawn Albers
- Offering Prayer - TBD
- Server - Tom Labbie
- Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg
- Communion Preparation - Michael Winfrey

Servers for August:

- Morning Prayer - Mark Mason
- Offering Prayer - Kim King
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Meditation - Josh Berg
- Communion Preparation - Tiffany Berg