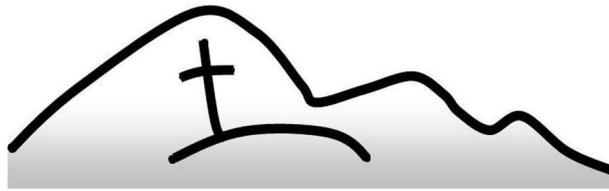


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THE MOUNTAIN CITY MESSENGER



**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 8  
 August, 2014

Check us out online:

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

Where did summer go?

As I am writing this, I am looking out the office window watching the rain fall down on this final day of a week that has given us Fall temperatures. I guess it is only fitting that the weather was cooler this week as football training camp started and school will be starting soon for everybody.

It hardly seems fair that our summer went by so quickly, but everybody has been busy with traveling and major events happening. July was a blur for all of us as we saw the Winfreys going to the NACC and a couple of families heading to Minnesota for Ben Lantzer's wedding.

Now that everybody is home, we can get back to our core group as a church every Sunday and Wednesday. Our Wednesday night meals are resuming and we are ordaining Luke Turner as a Deacon on August 3.

Along with getting back to our normal parts of church, we are also entering a month of prayer and fasting for our church. Be sure to contact me for a guide if you would like to participate in this vital spiritual discipline.

Let's grow together!  
 -Earl Winfrey  
[Earl@mkdisciples.org](mailto:Earl@mkdisciples.org)



Week of 8/3:

Mon – Psalm 54  
 Tues – Psalm 55:1-15  
 Wed – Psalm 55:16-23  
 Thur – Daniel 6:1-15  
 Fri – Daniel 6:16-28  
 Sat – Colossians 4:1-6

Week of 8/17:

Mon – Matthew 4:1-11  
 Tues – Daniel 1:1-7  
 Wed – Daniel 1:8-21  
 Thur – Acts 9:1-19  
 Fri – Acts 13:1-3  
 Sat – Matthew 6:16-18

Week of 8/31:

Mon – Ezra 7:1-10  
 Tues – 1 Timothy 6:1-10  
 Wed – 1 Tim 6:11-21  
 Thur – 2 Timothy 2:1-13  
 Fri – 2 Timothy 2:14-26  
 Sat – Hebrews 5:11-14

Week of 8/10:

Mon – Psalm 19  
 Tues – Romans 8:1-17  
 Wed – Romans 12:1-8  
 Thur – Romans 12:9-21  
 Fri – Colossians 3:1-17  
 Sat – Philippians 4:1-9

Week of 8/24:

Mon – Acts 2:42-47  
 Tues – Acts 4:32-37  
 Wed – Acts 11:19-30  
 Thur – 1 Cor 1:1-17  
 Fri – 1 Corinthians 3  
 Sat – Hebrews 3

Memory Verse:

“but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,”

(1 Peter 1:15 ESV)

## *Eyes off the prize*

*(Kelsa Turner)*

*It's amazing what we can learn from kids when they are just living life, being themselves. The way they live is profound and wise and they don't even try.*

*I got to learn one of those lessons this past Wednesday night while we were at the Fun Factory with the kids. I was watching Garrison play a game where he was driving a little car into flags for tickets. He was doing really well and was getting a lot of tickets! I was excited for him, but as I watched him I noticed something...he never looked down to see how many tickets he was getting. Instead he kept his eyes on the game, never lost his focus.*

*If it were me, I probably would have done a quick count of my tickets. Then I would have looked down every now and then, checking out how many more tickets I had. But Garrison kept his eyes off the prize, and he most likely ended up with more tickets because he didn't lose focus.*

*I think there's a lot we can learn from this simple moment, from Garrison who had no idea he was teaching me a lesson right then.*

*It's good to have a goal in mind. Maybe it's a thing we want, maybe it's a career advancement, maybe it's a vacation, maybe it's bringing someone to the Lord, maybe it's tickets to get a prize. Whatever our goal is, it gives us an endpoint, something to work towards. But it's easy to focus so much on what we're working towards that we forget about what's right in front of us. I think that can actually hinder us in getting to our goal.*

*Maybe we should be more like Garrison and get so involved in what's right in front of us that we forget about the prize, even if it's just for a moment. Maybe we should forget about the end result of bringing someone to the Lord, just for a moment, and focus on being there for them during a trying time. Focus on loving them. By showing them the love of Christ we are more likely to reach the end result of bringing them to know Christ.*

*We should set goals and know where we're headed, but we need to focus on the tasks that make us who we are. That is how we will get there. Thanks, Garrison, for teaching me such a profound lesson.*

### Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be August 18 at 6:30pm (Hana Bistro in Clayton)

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

## Spiritual Crossroads

As I was walking to the registration area for this year's NACC, I noticed that it was located in a lobby called Crossroads. It was Tuesday morning, 2 days after our congregational meeting, and the name of the lobby caused me to reflect on the somewhat depressing tone at the end of our meeting. We had to take a realistic look at what we are doing because wearing rose colored glasses will not help us get this church moving in the direction we should go.

We are at a crossroads as a church, and there are 4 directions we can choose.

### 1. Stay where we are

I think that we can all agree on the fact that doing what we have always done is not going to help us. The popular definition of insanity is "Doing the same thing and expecting different results." If we don't like the position we are in right now, we need to work on changing what we do. So what should we change? This is why we are at a crossroads.

### 2. Move straight ahead

Sometimes, the change that needs to happen is not about moving in a new direction. We can make progress by simply putting into action what we have already established. There are many different connections we have already made with the community and we have a solid core group. Maybe we should just stay on the same path and work harder at being the church using the ministries we already established.

### 3. Turn one way to take a different road

I chose not to say "right" or "left" because either turn could be the "right" turn. If we feel like we are not making the progress we should with our present situation, perhaps we should evaluate how effective we are as a church. This means that we should reorganize our church in order to make a better impact on those around us. This is more than just making a few adjustments as we go. If we choose this direction, we would need to perform a major overhaul so we can make sure we cover all areas that need to be changed.

### 4. Turn the other way and take a different road

As I mentioned at the meeting, I am praying about what my role is at this point. Am I part of the solution or is it time to step aside? We have been here for 3 and 1/2 years, and there have been good times and bad times as a church. My prayer is to seek God's guidance as I work with the Elders to see if we need to change the guy behind the pulpit. Sometimes, ministry grows stale and the right answer is to "till up the ground" and replant the seeds.

No matter what direction we ultimately choose as a church, we will need God's help to make it happen. This is why we are in a month long period of prayer and fasting for August.

## Three Little Big Words

*“But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly...I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.” (Phil 2:19,20)*

*I used to think the most difficult words to utter were “I love you.” I remember the first time I told my mom and dad “I love you.” I was a typical unexpressive, ungrateful teenager, but on the day I left home for college I looked my parents in the eyes and said those three little words with excruciating pain.*

*Then there was the first time I told my wife, Barbara, I loved her. My heart jumped wildly, and my adrenaline was the only thing flowing faster than the beads of sweat on my forehead. I remember wondering how young couples in love could survive the experience!*

*Telling another person “I love you” represents risk and vulnerability. Yet however difficult these words of love may be, three other words are even more arduous to express: I need you.*

*Consider the number of people you have expressed your love to: your mate, children, parents, extended family and possibly a few select friends.*

*Now think of those to whom you have said “I need you” -a much smaller number, most likely. Most of us have difficulty admitting need. But why?*

*Because admitting need means we are dependent upon another. It means we are less than complete by ourselves. When the apostle Paul admitted that he had no one but Timothy who could meet a particular need in Paul's life, he was making himself vulnerable, admitting his dependence on one beloved person.*

*It's interesting that in Genesis 2:18 Adam had to be told he had a need. God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone.” And even after that divine, authoritative statement, Adam probably had to name several thousand creatures to finally get the point: he needed someone!*

*Today is no different-God often has to show us how we need our mates and our children. And when He does, let's not be afraid to admit it.*

*Devotion taken from “Moments Together for Couples” by Dennis and Barbara Rainey*

Love others completely because God loves us completely:  
Speak it, act it, and pray it

## Holiness is not the way to Christ. Christ is the way to holiness

### Raising Children who Love the Lord

On the last Wednesday night of July, we had the privilege of hearing Josh McDowell speak in Franklin, NC. He is a nationally known speaker who has authored many books that are in use as textbooks for many of our Bible Colleges. I still have a few of his books on my shelf.

His message was a challenge for us as parents and church leaders to step up our ministry to the children. He gave us some overwhelming statistics about the internet and reminded us that all children age 12 and younger have not known a world without an online presence. This creates an even wider gap between parents and children to go along with the fact that all children born after 2001 have not known a world without war.

Children are different today than they were when we were growing up, and this has caused new struggles with raising children who love the Lord. Josh McDowell encouraged us to make sure we are using the methods to reach the children in a way that they will understand. We live in an age of misinformation as the internet opened up the opportunity for people to run wild without supervision. There are more and more items that are false online today than anything we have ever experienced before. And this has caused many children to get confused about what truth really is. For this reason, they need us to teach them truth and to show them truth in the way we live.

Part of Josh McDowell's concluding remarks challenged the church as he wanted to make sure that we understood that our children need the church to work on them and train them up in the Lord.

I agree that the church needs to step up and do a better job of reaching our children, but we also have to keep in mind that although the church can be a great help with teaching children about the Lord, the primary responsibility still falls on the parents. Just looking at the numbers alone can bring this fact to light. Most faithful families attend church at least 40 weeks out of the year, and I think our church is better than that so let's say 45 weeks out of the year to be generous. If 2 hours on Sunday and 1 hour on Wednesday are used, that would be a total of 135 hours for the year the church has to spend with the children, and out of that 135 hours, there are plenty of times the teachers have to spend more time getting the children to settle down and listen rather than jumping into the lesson right away.

The year has a total of 8,760 hours so if 135 hours of the year is spent in church, that would mean that a little over 1.5% of the time in a child's life during the year is spent at church. So to review, the way a typical church is set up, the teachers have to introduce the children to the Lord using 1.5% of their time during the year. This is not looking good if the church is the only place where the children are being trained in the Lord. This is why the parents are in a better position to train up their children. The church can help with providing resources and support for the parents, but the parents are responsible for the children.

We are blessed at our church because we have families that are focused on the Lord as a result of the parents taking their responsibility seriously. However, we live in a community where this is not always the case. For this reason, we should work on ways to reach the parents in our community so they can learn how to raise up children who love the Lord. To those who have been given much, much will be expected. We have been blessed with Godly families. How are we being a blessing for struggling families around 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 - AUGUST

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	2
3 Fellowship Meal after Church	4	5 Elders' Meeting 6:30pm	6	7 Men's Night 6:30pm	8 Craft Day at the Church	9
10	11	12 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	13	14	15 Family Swim Night at the Rec Pool in Franklin 6:30-8:30pm	16
17	18 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	19	20 Food Pantry 5pm	21	22	23
24	25	26 Deadline for Sept Newsletter	27	28	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)
- 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 August:

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

Servers for September:

- Morning Prayer - Tom Labbie
- Offering Prayer - Luke Turner
- Server - Shawn Albers
- Communion Meditation - Mark Mason
- Communion Preparation - Kelsa Turner