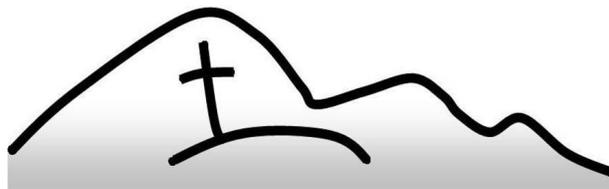


I JESUS L O R D

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 10
 October, 2014

October is July part 2!

July was a really busy month for us as we began with some people out of the country, had our congregational meeting, and Ben Lantzer had his wedding which caused many people from our church to travel to Minnesota in the middle of the month. Along with that, my family went to the NACC in Indianapolis.

October is looking similar to July since we have a wedding (Kaden Berg) that will cause several of our people to travel, I will be preaching at the homecoming service in Fairburn, GA, and we have a mission trip to Rio Bravo at the end of the month.

For this reason, we will need those who are not traveling to help out with some of the volunteer work that will suffer because of missing people. If we all work together, we can make this month a great one even with the many people traveling throughout the weeks!

For our sermon series, we are continuing the sermons from 1 Peter as we learn how to thrive even when the world around us keeps collapsing! Our sermons are always available online for those who miss them.

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

Week of 9/28:

Mon – Matthew 18:1-6
 Tues – Matthew 18:7-14
 Wed – James 1:12-18
 Thur – James 1:19-27
 Fri – Psalm 34
 Sat – 1 Peter 1:24-2:3

Week of 10/12:

Mon – Romans 13:1-7
 Tues – Romans 13:8-14
 Wed – Titus 3:1-11
 Thur – 1 Timothy 2:1-7
 Fri – Hebrews 6:1-12
 Sat – 1 Peter 2:11-25

Week of 10/26:

Mon – Acts 6:1-7
 Tues – Acts 6:8-15
 Wed – Acts 7:1-22
 Thur – Acts 7:23-34
 Fri – Acts 7:35-43
 Sat – Acts 7:44-60

Week of 10/5:

Mon – Isaiah 8:11-15
 Tues – Isaiah 28:14-22
 Wed – Psalm 118:22-29
 Thur – Romans 9:22-29
 Fri – Titus 2:11-14
 Sat – 1 Peter 2:4-10

Week of 10/19:

Mon – Genesis 3:16-19
 Tues – Ephesians 5:1-14
 Wed – Eph 5:15-21
 Thur – Eph 5:22-33
 Fri – Colossians 3:18-25
 Sat – 1 Peter 3:1-9

Memory Verse:

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”
 (Romans 12:12 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.

The Beauty Underneath

(Kelsa Turner)

I love fall deeply. I think it is safe to say it is my favorite of the seasons. The changing leaves always take my breath away. Right now I'm sitting on my front porch with a cup of coffee. The air is cool and quiet, the sunlight is filtering through the trees, and the leaves are just starting to change colors. I can't imagine a better morning.

As I'm sitting here soaking in all the beauty I'm reminded of something interesting my sister Karena said yesterday. We were talking about leaves changing colors and she said: "As the chlorophyll goes out of the leaves you are able to see what they really look like."

I was very familiar with this process, but I'd never thought of it in quite that way. I'd never thought about the chlorophyll actually masking the color of the leaves. It actually gives me sort of a new appreciation for fall, because when you look at it this way it's as if fall is like pulling back a curtain of chlorophyll to reveal the true beauty that lies beneath.

I think we're a lot like leaves. We try so hard to "fit in" even as adults, we compare ourselves to others, we worry what other people think about us. If we're offered the human equivalent of chlorophyll we take it! But just like with leaves, there is beauty in death. I'm not talking physical death (though what could be more beautiful than Heaven????) but a spiritual death. Beauty is revealed when we put our flesh to death and surrender to God. Beauty is revealed when we stop trying to be like everybody else and just be who God made us to be. Beauty is revealed when we stop worrying what others will think of us and turn our eyes toward Heaven. When that death happens it's as if the chlorophyll finally leaves us (pun intended) and our true self, our true beauty is revealed.

Maybe it's just me, but I think a mountain covered in trees is much prettier when the leaves are not all green. They are beautiful that way, but they're all the same. That sameness is somewhat tiresome. But when they start changing colors, it's as if that same mountain is on fire. It's absolutely breathtaking.

What if Christians did the same thing: died to self and started truly being who God made us to be? I think The Church would be as much on fire as that mountain.

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be October 20 at 6:30pm (Location TBD)
Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

Replacing a Water Pump

The combustion engine is a great invention. We can travel so much farther than those who had to travel by foot a century ago because cars are equipped with engines that are powerful enough to carry our families anywhere we want to go. The combustion engine is great, but it is also flawed because it was created by humans. Maintenance is required in order to keep it running, and I was reminded of this when I had to replace the water pump in our minivan.

Over the many years of experience with cars that break down, I have had my share of water pumps to replace, and I can testify to the fact that no two water pumps are the same. I have worked on old and "new to us" cars, front wheel drive and rear wheel drive cars, basically any vehicle that we have owned has been worked on, and most of them had water pumps replaced. Since no two water pumps are the same, I would be wasting my time if I treated the repairs the same way. If I tried to access the water pump from the top of the engine in our present minivan, I would not succeed because the engineers designed our particular model to be accessed from underneath the engine. However, if I tried to change the water pump in our truck from underneath the engine, I would be out of luck because that water pump should be accessed from the top.

Every type of vehicle is unique but they all have one common problem, they are designed and built by humans. For this reason, regular maintenance is required to keep them running and since the vehicles are different from each other, there is no one way to repair them all. In many ways, the process is similar for every vehicle, but they are all different in some way from each other.

In the same way, every church is unique, but they all have one common problem, they are full of humans. For this reason, regular maintenance is required to keep the church healthy, and since no two churches are the same, there is no one way to repair them all. In many ways, the process is similar for every church because we have the one "repair manual" that has been given to all of us by God called the Bible. However, the methods used to keep the church healthy will be different because of many factors that make up the culture of the church.

For example, what works in a larger urban church may not work in a smaller rural church. What is implemented in an older, more traditional church may not be accepted in a younger, more contemporary church. This is why some churches have a hard time turning the corner and regaining health after several years of struggling. Every church is different, so the leaders must adapt methods to the church in order to make sure they are effective. The problem is that more often than not, the church is forced to change so the methods will work instead of taking the time to make sure the methods are worth the effort to implement, and this causes tension that can result in damage to the core group.

Not all change is bad, but not all change is good either. This is why we need leaders who will seek God's help when trying to keep the church healthy. This is why we need people in the church who will hold the leaders accountable so the church can remain healthy. And this is why the church will never be healthy if we approach it with a "one size fits all" mentality.

The Riches of a Good Name

"A good name is to be more desired than great rubies." Proverbs 22:1

Are you trusted by your mate, by your friends and by your children? Are you reliable? Do you fulfill your promises to your children?

My dad, "Hook" Rainey, was a man whose quiet, soft-spoken faith and rock-solid integrity won him a good name in our rural community nestled in the Ozark Mountains of southern Missouri. I learned about that reputation forcefully one year during high school when I began selling magazine subscriptions to raise money for our senior project.

Without delay I made several sales to my numerous aunts and uncles. However, my pace slowed considerably when I began soliciting subscriptions door-to-door. I was discouraged and about to head for home when I tried one more home. I was hurriedly rattling off my canned sales pitch when the old man interrupted me:

"Son, what did you say your name was?"

"Dennis Rainey, sir."

"Are you Hook Rainey's son?" he asked with a slight grin.

The old man's etched face immediately brightened when I answered, "Why, yes-he's my dad."

"Well, come on in!" he beamed as he unhooked the screen door and swung it open. He proceeded to buy two magazine subscriptions.

I was no fool, so from then on I always let people know at the outset that I was Hook Rainey's son, I eventually set a record for sales.

For many years afterwards I thought Dennis Rainey had won that magazine sales contest. It wasn't until Dad's death that I realized what had really happened. It was Hook Rainey's character that had given me the victory. Without knowing it, my dad had followed Charles Spurgeon's wise counsel: "Carve your name on the hearts, and not on marble."

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

If it is important to you, you will find a way. If it's not, you'll find an excuse.

Looking forward to the final chapter of 2014!

As October begins the 4th and final quarter of 2014, our church will be busy with many events and opportunities for service. This is also a time of year to focus our thoughts and prayers on those who are less fortunate. Here is a breakdown of the different events we have to look forward to.

Mission Trip to Rio Bravo (Oct 27-31) - We have a group traveling to Mexico to help with various projects so we need to be sure to pray for them as they travel to and from Rio Bravo and while they work.

Donations for Richard's Kids - Every year, we try to support a special mission and/or family for Christmas, and we chose Richard's Kids again this year for a local mission to support. We will be accepting donations beginning October 26 and ending December 7 so we can send a check to Richard's Kids on December 8.

Fall Festival at the Lantzers - On November 8 at 2pm, we will be gathering at the Lantzer's home for some fun, food, and fellowship! More details will be given as we get closer to the date.

Thanksgiving Dinner - This year, we will have a "Thanksgiving Tree" beginning in mid-October that will be a place for us to post "Thank you notes" that will be read at the dinner on Wed, November 19. This will be a special opportunity for us to thank God and others for all they have done throughout the year. We will be focusing on God's blessings which can be both material and spiritual. We will also acknowledge that God has blessed us with special people in our lives who help us along the way.

Christmas Parade - Every year, we participate in the Rabun County Christmas parade that is put on by the Chamber of Commerce. We have had a great time each year with the floats and this year will be great as well! For this year, we want to add some activities to the parade so we can take advantage of the "stage" the church has during this time of year. Stay tuned for more details.

Mountain City Christmas Tree Lighting - Along with the Christmas parade, we help out with the Mountain City Christmas Tree Lighting and they are very grateful for our support. Every year, there are at least 100 people showing up from the community so this is our best opportunity to get to know the people who live around our church.

Christmas Dinner and Program - On Wed, December 17, we will have our annual Christmas Dinner with a program led by Kelsa Turner that involves our kids. If you have a desire to help out with this program, be sure to contact Kelsa and let her know ASAP as we are starting to work on it.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Every year, we gather on Christmas Eve for a short service to celebrate the birth of Christ. We also have communion to remind us of why Jesus came to earth.

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 - OCTOBER

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|----------------------------|---|---|
| S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed Meal - 6pm Study - 6:45pm | | | 1 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5:30pm | 2 Men's Night 6:30pm | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Fellowship Meal after Church | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Craft Day at the church | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City) | 15 Food Pantry 5pm | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Ladies' Night 6:30pm | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 Rio Bravo Mission Trip Begins | 28 Deadline for Nov Newsletter | 29 | 30 | 31 Rio Bravo Mission Trip Ends | Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group |

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 October:

- Morning Prayer - Kim King
- Offering Prayer - Kevin Berg
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Meditation - Luke Turner
- Communion Preparation - Amanda Duke

Servers for November:

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