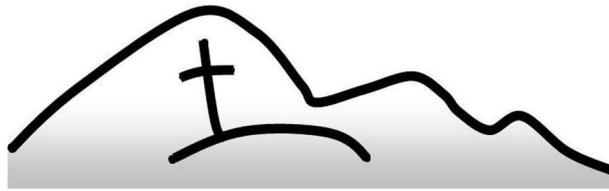


I JESUS L O R D

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 11
November, 2014

Check us out online:

www.fccmtnctny.org

Attitude of Gratitude

Gracias, merci, danke, toda, grazie, arigato, hank-tay ou-yay, thank you!

There are many different ways to say thank you depending on what language you speak, but the intention is the same throughout. The idea is to show gratitude for something in your life. Although we have grown up learning how to say thank you, there are times when we forget to be thankful for the blessings in life.

Towards the end of this month, we will have a Thanksgiving Meal where we have the chance to pause long enough to reflect on the many blessings we have received. To help with this, we have a Thanksgiving Tree where we are posting our Thank You leaves so we can read them at the meal.

As we move through the month, we will be finishing our 1 Peter sermon series so we can get ready for the Christmas season. We will be busy getting ready for the Christmas events, but we will not allow Thanksgiving to pass us by in the process. Let's try our best to maintain an attitude of gratitude throughout this month.

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

September 14 - Name Calling
 September 21 - Staying on Top of Your Game
 September 28 - Dr. David Eubanks Speaking
 October 5 - Christianity is an Action Word
 October 12 - Rock of Ages
 October 19 - A Career in Modeling
 October 26 - Follow Me
 November 2 - Guest Speaker
 November 9 - Survival Guide
 November 16 - This is for Real
 November 23 - Christianity Hurts
 November 30 - Finish Strong

For Pete's Sake
 1 Peter

How to thrive when the world around you keeps collapsing

FCC OF MOUNTAIN CITY GA WWW.FCCMTCNTY.ORG

Week of 11/2:

Mon – Proverbs 16:1-7
 Tues – Matthew 5:1-16
 Wed – Colossians 4:1-6
 Thur – 2 Timothy 2:1-13
 Fri – 2 Timothy 2:14-26
 Sat – 1 Peter 3:10-22

Week of 11/16:

Mon – Philippians 3:1-11
 Tues – Phil 3:12-21
 Wed – Acts 5:12-26
 Thur – Acts 5:27-42
 Fri – 2 Timothy 3
 Sat – 1 Peter 4:12-19

Week of 11/30:

Mon – Psalm 148
 Tues – Isaiah 9:1-7
 Wed – 2 Corinthians 3
 Thur – 2 Corinthians 4
 Fri – 2 Corinthians 5
 Sat – Luke 2:8-20

Week of 11/9:

Mon – Psalm 86
 Tues – Jeremiah 31:1-14
 Wed – John 1:1-18
 Thur – Acts 4:32-37
 Fri – Acts 11:19-30
 Sat – 1 Peter 4:1-11

Week of 11/23:

Mon – Acts 20:17-38
 Tues – Titus 1
 Wed – Titus 2
 Thur – Hebrews 13:1-17
 Fri – John 21:15-25
 Sat – 1 Peter 5

Memory Verse:

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”
 (1 John 5:4 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.

"God has disclosed himself in descriptive terms that give us enough information to be able to know who he is, and he has hidden enough of himself for us to learn the balance between faith and reason." - Ravi Zacharias

"Most people give up just when they're about to achieve success. They quit on the one yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game, one foot from a winning touchdown."
- H. Ross Perot

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

"FEAR has two meanings: Forget Everything And Run, or Face Everything And Rise. Which one will you choose?" - Zig Ziglar

Tomorrow Can Take Care of Itself (Kelsa Turner)

*"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
(Matthew 6:31-34)*

This is probably one of the most read passages in my Bible. It is something I have to remind myself of often. See, I am a worrier by nature. I worry mostly about money. "Is there enough?" "How will there be enough?" "How are we going to pay that bill?" This scripture is a concrete reminder to me that God will provide.

My worrying about money is a struggle between my heart and my mind. I know God always provides, I have seen it over and over in my life. But still, my eyes see the numbers and they just don't add up in my mind. I always find myself coming back to this scripture and being reminded to seek God first, that He does provide.

It'd be nice if I could just "get it" once and for all. Stop worrying about money and fully trust God. But Satan knows my weak spots and he loves to exploit them. Sadly, there are times I do worry and he wins. But then I hear God whisper to my heart to trust Him, He is in control and He will provide (even if it isn't the way I think he should) and suddenly Satan has lost all hope of winning this war. My heart is turned, softened, changed, and I am filled with the peace that passes all understanding. Finally, tomorrow can take care of itself.

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be November 17 at 6:30pm (Location TBD)
Don't forget to send a special note or gift to your secret sister!!!

The heart of the matter with matters of the heart

"Remember the Titans" is one of my favorite movies for reasons that many of you can guess. It is about a high school football team in Virginia during the forced integration years. The football team was dealing with the issues that came from the white and black players having to work with each other at training camp. During a pivotal scene, Coach Yoast (Defensive Coordinator) was talking to Coach Boone (Head Coach) about creating some trick plays for the offense. Coach Yoast said that the offense won't put any points on the scoreboard unless they start to have fun with the plays. Up to this point, the entire team was at a stalemate because of the racial tension. Coach Yoast had a good point, but that was not the cause for the lack of interest with the offensive players. Coach Boone had a different idea.

During lunch, Coach Boone had one of the white players stand up and say something about his black roommate that the rest of the team would not know. The player answered, but none of the other players wanted to stand up and share. This was the heart of the issue. None of the players took time to get to know each other, so they were not functioning as a team. They were a collection of football players who happened to be at the same training camp, but they were not acting like a team. Although the trick plays idea may have worked, that would not have solved the real problem which was a refusal to work together in harmony.

When discussing church, people have many opinions especially when the church being talked about is struggling. Everybody knows how to solve the problems of somebody else's church. When trying to solve your own church's problems, everybody else will usually offer "expert" advice whether you asked for it or not. More often than not, the majority of the advice given has to do with gimmicks to fill the pews when the solution usually has something to do with the heart of the church. Just like the trick plays Coach Yoast wanted to create, the gimmicks are fun and can bring excitement to the church, but they usually do not help the issues of the church on a long term basis. The heart of the matter usually involves the matters of the heart.

What makes a church successful is not the amount of gimmicks produced in a calendar year, it is the level of commitment from the people who belong to the church. If the people are sold on the church, they will do what they can to help the church succeed in whatever is going on. But if the people do not feel like they are part of the church, their hearts will belong to other places. Sometimes those places can be other churches, but the other places can also be community organizations, clubs, or worthwhile charity work in the community. People generally want to serve, and they will usually serve where they feel a connection. The hard part is finding out how to establish and maintain the connection.

A connection involves two parts coming together at a certain point. If a solid connection is to be established in the church, it will take an effort from both the people and the leadership to make it happen. If one side or the other does not hold up their part of the connection, the church will not be able to make it to the next level. This is why it is so critical that we look beyond the gimmicks and focus on what it will take for us to establish connections so we can get everybody committed to the ministry of the church. Along with that, we need to make sure we maintain a connection with God who is the driving force to keep our church healthy.

The Need for Involvement (Part One)

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

It was 11:00 p.m., and I was “history”. It had been a particularly stress-filled day. I could hear the sheets on my bed calling me, and all I wanted to do was to lie down and let them grab me.

The only problem was that our 16-year old son, Benjamin, was sprawled across the foot of our bed. He wanted to talk.

I’m not a perfect father, but I do try to learn from my previous errors. And I have learned that when a teenager wants to talk, you’d better seize the moment—even when you’re semi comatose!

I leaned forward on my side, looked Benjamin in the eye, and said, “What’s up?”

Benjamin proceeded to give me an unbelievable description of a seminar he’d attended on how to counsel his peers about preventing AIDS. He had been selected by his school counselors to be one of six students to represent his high school for the seminar, sponsored by a well-known organization. This conservative organization’s official position is that “abstinence” is the best prevention for AIDS. So Barbara and I had signed the parental release form.

At the seminar, five boring minutes were given to abstinence. These adult “educators” all but told the kids, “Hey, we know you don’t have any character. We know you can’t control yourselves. So here’s how you can do it creatively and ‘safely.’”

Now, they didn’t use these exact words, but they might as well have. What followed was 60 scintillating, titillating and descriptive minutes devoted to creative “safe sex”. It was the most graphic public description and explanation of heterosexual and homosexual sex that I have ever heard.

By the time my son had finished sharing and showing me all the material he had been given, I was fully awake. And angry.

I also was faced with a choice. There were a lot of things going on in my life at the time—a lot of responsibilities and a lot of problems to solve. This was the last thing I wanted to worry about.

But this was my child. Was I going to let it pass, or was I going to get involved? I’ll tell you tomorrow....

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.

Important Dates for November and December!

For November and December, 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

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 began accepting donations on October 26 and will end on 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.

Deck the Halls - On Nov 23, we will be decorating the church for Christmas after Morning Worship.

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. The parade will be Dec 6.

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. This year, the tree lighting will happen on Dec 4.

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 - NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed Meal - 6pm Study - 6:45pm		Every Tuesday at Chick-Fil-A 7am: Men Discipleship Group				1 Don't forget to turn clocks back 1 hour
2 Fellowship Meal after Church	3	4	5	6 Men's Night 6:30pm	7	8 Fall Festival at the Lantzers 2pm - ???
9	10 Elders Meeting 6:30pm	11 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	12 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5:30pm	13	14	15
16	17 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	18	19 Food Pantry 5pm Thanksgiving Dinner 6pm	20	21	22
23 Deck the Halls after Worship	24	25 Deadline for Dec Newsletter	26 No Wed Night Services	27 Thanksgiving Day	28	29
30 Advent Begins						

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 November:

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

Servers for December:

- Morning Prayer - Lee Lantzer
- Offering Prayer - TBD
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Meditation - Kim King/Shawn Albers
- Communion Preparation - Amanda Duke