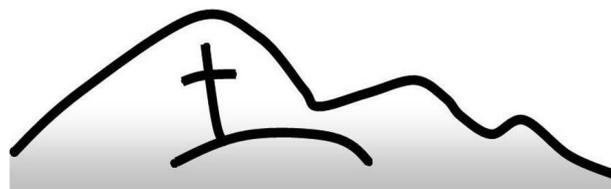


# I JESUS L O R D

# 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 5, Issue 1  
 January, 2015

### Happy New Year!!!

Baby Jesus had His birthday, we celebrated the New Year by staying up until midnight on December 31, and now it is time to hit the ground running because we have a fresh start!

As a church, this is our opportunity to do something great for the Lord in 2015! We can look back on the past year and see the good, the bad, and the ugly as we plan goals for this year.

The Christmas decorations are down and the church building is back to normal, but my prayer is that we do not get back to business as usual! I want us to do better than we have done in the past 4 years as a church!

In the next few months, we will be working on some new approaches to what we have already been doing, so please pray for us as we take a close look at what we can change for the better as we move forward.

Our current series is "For such a time as this" and it is a reminder that God has a purpose for us right here and right now. We have been placed here for such a time as this.

Serving Him alongside you,  
 -Earl Winfrey  
 Earl@mkdisciples.org

**FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

"Commit your work to the LORD,  
 and your plans will be established."  
 (Proverbs 16:3)

January 4 - Joseph  
 January 11 - Boaz Redeems Ruth  
 January 18 - David Anointed as King  
 January 25 - Esther

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#### Week of 12/28:

Mon - Genesis 37:1-11  
 Tues - Genesis 37:12-36  
 Wed - Genesis 39  
 Thur - Genesis 40  
 Fri - Genesis 41:1-36  
 Sat - Genesis 50:15-21

#### Week of 1/11:

Mon - 1 Samuel 8:1-9  
 Tues - 1 Samuel 8:10-18  
 Wed - 1 Samuel 8:19-22  
 Thur - 1 Samuel 9:1-2  
 Fri - 1 Samuel 10:17-27  
 Sat - 1 Samuel 16:1-13

#### Week of 1/25:

Mon - Job 28:1-19  
 Tues - Job 28:20-28  
 Wed - Psalm 111  
 Thur - Proverbs 1:1-7  
 Fri - Proverbs 1:8-19  
 Sat - Proverbs 1:20-33

#### Week of 1/4:

Mon - Leviticus 25:23-34  
 Tues - Isaiah 44:1-8  
 Wed - Ruth 1  
 Thur - Ruth 2  
 Fri - Ruth 3  
 Sat - Ruth 4

#### Week of 1/18:

Mon - Esther 1:1-9  
 Tues - Esther 1:10-22  
 Wed - Esther 2:1-18  
 Thur - Esther 2:19-23  
 Fri - Esther 3  
 Sat - Esther 4

#### Memory Verse:

Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.  
 (Proverbs 16:3 ESV)

#### Check us out online:

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

## *A Year in Review*

*(Kelsa Turner)*

*For all the bad things that can be said about Facebook, there is a lot of good too. There's a year in review feature right now that shows an overview of your year in pictures. It's interesting to look back over the year and see where you've been, how much you've changed in 365 days.*

*This last year has been full of lots of changes, and lots of new wonderful things for me. I'm thankful for all last year brought and looking forward to all that this year will hold.*

*The new year is a time for reflection, for looking back on the good and bad of the last year. We can learn from our mistakes, and see how God has worked everything out for our good. Hindsight is 20/20 and in looking back sometimes we see things we never did before.*

*The new year is also a time to look forward to the year ahead. A new year is full of new possibilities, endless possibilities really. The new year is a great time to set goals, and look at where we can grow in our relationships, our selves, and our faith. As we go into this new year let's look back but also ahead and let's commit this year to God.*

### **In The Beginning** (Sara Lantzer)

In the beginning,  
God walked with humans.

In the beginning,  
humans took care and took charge of the world  
God gave them, inside which He walked with  
them.

In the beginning,  
this world was a pleasant and peaceful place in  
which to live, and humans enjoyed walking with  
God.

The beginning of this year,  
this world is worlds away from that first beginning,  
but God still longs for us to live in a place that we  
can enjoy walking with Him.

The beginning of this year,  
humans can take care and take charge of their  
own world, their own life, inside which God longs  
to walk with them.

The beginning of this year,  
God can walk with you, maybe not physically next  
to you in a Garden of Eden, but maybe through  
the decisions you make, through the friends you  
hang out with, through the books you read,  
through the times you set aside for prayer, through  
the love you show to your enemies, and many  
other daily experiences.

The beginning of this year,  
today is the day you can enjoy walking with God.

### **Ladies Night**

This month's Ladies' Night will be January 19 at 6:30pm (Location TBD)  
**Don't forget to fill out your Secret Sister surveys!!!**

We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give

### The Most Valuable Player (Earl Winfrey)

With the New Year comes a new season for the NFL known as the playoffs. It is an exciting time of year for me especially when my team is playing so well. The Green Bay Packers are in a good position for the playoffs this year, and the most valuable player (MVP) is a major reason for this.

I know that in this age of the superstar Quarterback, Aaron Rodgers is the most likely candidate for the subject of this article, but I want to talk about an unsung hero who is my MVP for the team. No, he is not Eddie Lacy although the running back is a major difference maker for our offense. And although I am a defensive guy at heart, I am not writing about Clay Matthews either. So who is my MVP for this article? I am writing about the Fullback, John Kuhn.

When you watch a game, there will be an occasional run play that causes the crowd to react with a sound that some people may interpret as booing, but what they are really saying is "Kuuuuuhhhnnn." And the reason for the sound is because John Kuhn gets to run the ball just to change up the pace and keep the defense on its toes. So what does he do when he does not run the ball? He is doing what he does best, and that is either blocking for Eddie Lacy or protecting Aaron Rodgers from the pass rush. He is hardly ever noticed while he is playing, but you can definitely tell when John Kuhn is not on the field.

In the Bible, Barnabas is the unsung hero for the Apostles. His name means "Son of encouragement" and he was a mentor for the Apostle Paul. After being confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus, the Apostle Paul had a new purpose in life, and that was to build God's church. However, since he was the main persecutor of the church, he had a hard time convincing the Apostles that he was not trying to gain access in order to destroy the church. Barnabas stepped in and helped Paul become part of the group and they were ministry partners for several years before Paul took the lead in the missionary journeys. Barnabas is hardly recognized when looking at the big picture, but if Barnabas did not exist, we would be missing a major part of the New Testament because Paul would not have been accepted by the Apostles.

Today, unsung heroes are responsible for the success of the ministry in churches all around the world. The man standing behind the pulpit is not the most valuable player. The men up front serving during the church service are an important part of the church, but they are not the most valuable players either. The most valuable players are the ones who serve every week without getting noticed. But when they are out for whatever reason, the church suffers. The most valuable players are the people behind the scenes who get the work done during the week so those who are serving on Sunday mornings can be successful. Without the "John Kuhns" of the church, we would not be able to function as well as we do on a weekly basis.

As 2015 begins, we should take a moment to thank God for the unsung heroes of our church. Was the church clean when you showed up? Did you find a bulletin? Were the communion emblems available during the service? Did the slides on the screen advance so you could keep up with the outline for the sermon? Was the website available so you could find information at home?

There are so many tasks that go unnoticed until they are not done. Thank God for those unsung heroes who don't get caught up in the "What's in it for me" attitude that society flaunts everyday!

## *Your Mate's Mirror*

*"Perfect love casts out fear." 1 John 4:18*

*When your mate looks into your face, what does he see? Does he see acceptance or rejection?*

*Whether you realize it or not, you are a mirror to your mate. The amount of confidence he has as he deals with people and life is in many ways influenced by whether you accept or reject him.*

*Self-image, self-esteem, self-concept, these three terms are used to describe not only how your mate mentally sees himself, but how he feels about himself and what value and sense of worth he has internally.*

*Your mate's self-image is central to all he is and everything he does. It will either hinder or enhance his ability to learn, make decisions, take risks and resolve conflicts with you and others. Your spouse's self-image will either restrain him or refuel him.*

*When a person has a low self-esteem, he or she often views life through the eyes of fear. The fear of rejection is one of the most powerful forces motivating and controlling people today.*

*If you want to see your mate's self-image strengthened, then begin to recognize that the fear of rejection is your enemy. Fear will begin to dissolve in your mate under a steady stream of authentic love.*

*Love is the most powerful agent for change in the universe because love casts out fear! Perfect love, God's love, is more powerful than the fear of rejection. Perfect love that accepts and embraces another, even in his or her weaknesses, will win the power struggle against fear every time.*

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

### 2015 Conference Opportunities

**Florida Bible Conference** - January 27-29 ([thecra@thecra.org](mailto:thecra@thecra.org))

**Barnabas Retreat** - February 9-12 (Registration deadline is January 20 - See Luke for more details)

### Rich Dad, Poor Dad: An Introduction

(An excerpt from *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* by Robert T. Kiyosaki)  
*Having two dads offered me the choice of contrasting points of view:  
One of a rich man and one of a poor man.*

I had two fathers, a rich one and a poor one. One was highly educated and intelligent. He had a Ph.D. and completed four years of undergraduate work in less than two years. He then went on to Stanford University, the University of Chicago, and Northwestern University to do his advanced studies, all on full financial scholarships. The other father never finished the eighth grade. Both men were successful in their careers, working hard all their lives. Both earned substantial incomes. Yet one always struggled financially. The other would become one of the richest men in Hawaii. One died leaving tens of millions of dollars to his family, charities, and his church. The other left bills to be paid. Both men were strong, charismatic, and influential. Both men offered me advice, but they did not advise the same things. Both men believed strongly in education but did not recommend the same course of study.

If I had had only one dad, I would have had to accept or reject his advice. Having two dads offered me the choice of contrasting points of view: one of a rich man and one of a poor man. Instead of simply accepting or rejecting one or the other, I found myself thinking more, comparing, and then choosing for myself. The problem was that the rich man was not rich yet, and the poor man was not yet poor. Both were just starting out on their careers, and both were struggling with money and families. But they had very different points of view about money. For example, one dad would say, "The love of money is the root of all evil." The other said, "The lack of money is the root of all evil."

As a young boy, having two strong fathers both influencing me was difficult. I wanted to be a good son and listen, but the two fathers did not say the same things. The contrast in their points of view, particularly about money, was so extreme that I grew curious and intrigued. I began to start thinking for long periods of time about what each was saying.

Much of my private time was spent reflecting, asking myself questions such as, "Why does he say that?" and then asking the same question of the other dad's statement. It would have been much easier to simply say, "Yeah, he's right. I agree with that." Or to simply reject the point of view by saying, "The old man doesn't know what he's talking about." Instead, having two dads whom I loved forced me to think and ultimately choose a way of thinking for myself. As a process, choosing for myself turned out to be much more valuable in the long run than simply accepting or rejecting a single point of view.

Because I had two influential fathers, I learned from both of them. I had to think about each dad's advice, and in doing so, I gained valuable insight into the power and effect of one's thoughts on one's life. For example, one dad had a habit of saying, "I can't afford it." The other dad forbade those words to be used. He insisted I ask, "How can I afford it?" One is a statement, and the other is a question. One lets you off the hook, and the other forces you to think. My soon-to-be-rich dad would explain that by automatically saying the words "I can't afford it," your brain stops working. By asking the question "How can I afford it?" your brain is put to work.

He did not mean that you should buy everything you want. He was fanatical about exercising your mind, the most powerful computer in the world. He'd say, "My brain gets stronger every day because I exercise it. The stronger it gets, the more money I can make." He believed that automatically saying "I can't afford it" was a sign of mental laziness. Although both dads worked hard, I noticed that one dad had a habit of putting his brain to sleep when it came to finances, and the other had a habit of exercising his brain. The long-term result was that one dad grew stronger financially, and the other grew weaker. It is not much different from a person who goes to the gym to exercise on a regular basis versus someone who sits on the couch watching television. Proper physical exercise increases your chances for health, and proper mental exercise increases your chances for wealth. (To be Continued next month...)

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY

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	2	3
4 Fellowship Meal after Church	5	6 Elders Meeting 6:30pm	7 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5:30pm	8 Men's Night 6:30pm	9	10
11	12	13 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	14	15	16 Beach Theme Game Night 6:30pm	17
18	19 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	20	21 Food Pantry 5pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 Deadline for Feb Newsletter	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 January:

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

Servers for February:

- Morning Prayer - Luke Turner
- Offering Prayer - Shawn Albers
- Server - Chris Duke
- Communion Meditation - Mark Mason
- Communion Preparation - Albers