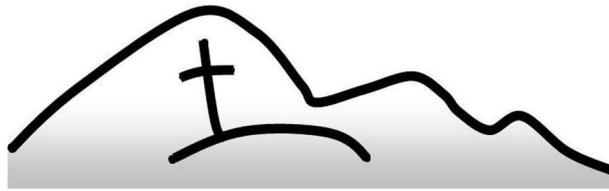


I JESUS L O R D

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 2
February, 2015

Check us out online:

www.fccmtnctny.org

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PO Box 402
Mtn Cty GA 30562

Church Office:

706-746-3168

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FCC Mountain City

Mkdisciples Study Group

Early Morning Snuggles

Missions we support

Johnson University in Florida

Open Door Libraries

Rio Bravo Ministries

What is Love...

Love is fundamental for faith. When asked about the greatest commandment, what was Jesus' response? Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. He also said to love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:40 says that all the Law and the prophets depend on those two commandments: love God and love others. Love is the driving force for obedience.

If we love God, we will do what He told us to do. If we love others, we will treat them like they hold value in our lives.

Love is fundamental for faith because the way we live is a direct reflection of the amount of love we have in our lives.

Our current series is "Fear God" and it is a reminder that we cannot know God until we have first developed a healthy fear of God. This is not a fear that causes us to run away. This is a fear that causes us to fall down on our knees in worship because of how great God is!

As we celebrate love this month, let us remember that God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

In His Love,
-Earl Winfrey
Earl@mkdisciples.org



February 1 - The Fear of the Lord
February 8 - The Value of Wisdom
February 15 - Trust in the Lord
February 22 - Blessed are Those Who Find Wisdom

"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil."
(Proverbs 3:7 ESV)



Week of 2/1:

Mon - Proverbs 4:1-9
Tues - Proverbs 4:10-19
Wed - Proverbs 4:20-27
Thur - Proverbs 2:1-5
Fri - Proverbs 2:6-15
Sat - Proverbs 2:16-22

Week of 2/15:

Mon - 1 Kings 3:3-14
Tues - Proverbs 1
Wed - Proverbs 2
Thur - Proverbs 4
Fri - James 3:13-18
Sat - Proverbs 3:13-18

Week of 3/1:

Mon - Psalm 23
Tues - Isaiah 40:1-8
Wed - Isaiah 40:9-17
Thur - Isaiah 40:18-24
Fri - Isaiah 40:25-31
Sat - John 10:1-21

Week of 2/8:

Mon - Deut 8:1-10
Tues - Deut 8:11-20
Wed - Deut 30:11-20
Thur - Psalm 37:1-11
Fri - Hebrews 12:1-11
Sat - Proverbs 3:1-12

Week of 2/22:

Mon - Matthew 4:12-25
Tues - Mark 1:14-20
Wed - Mark 2:13-17
Thur - Mark 3:13-21
Fri - John 1:35-42
Sat - John 1:43-51

Memory Verse:

"Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil."

(Proverbs 3:7 ESV)

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

His Ways (Kelsa Turner)

This week I was reminded of Isaiah 55:8: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord." I was reminded that sometimes I have ideas about the way things should go, how things would be "best" but the way I think things should go is often not how God has them planned out.

Luke and I were supposed to find out this week if we are having a little boy or a little girl. I had my heart set on finding out, and I was counting the hours until the ultrasound. So naturally, I was heartbroken when the baby was turned the wrong way. His ways are not my ways.

Now I'm not saying God made the baby turn the wrong way, or that He took pleasure in my pain. But He has a way of working things out for my best. I had my little pity party because things didn't go my way, but instead I should have just rested in the peace that comes from only God. I know that no matter how terrible things seem He's on my side and has my best interest at heart.

Love is like Pizza Cheese (Sara Lantzer)

Notice~ if you have not read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 recently, some of this information may not make sense. Go read it first, and then come back and read the article to your heart's content!

Jack is a Sunday school teacher who often uses everyday objects to teach about spiritual truths. Recently he took his class out to a pizzeria during a unit study on "What God Says About Love". While the children were thoroughly enjoying any kind of special-order pizza that their taste buds desired, he read them the following article.

Pizza Cheese is long-suffering, not getting bent out of shape, but just stretching.

Pizza Cheese is kind, making you say "mmm" when you eat it, not "yuck"!

It's not jealous, keeping it's own flavor, not wanting or taking away from the other toppings' flavors.

Pizza Cheese does not brag by singling itself out, but melts with the other pieces.

It's not arrogant by overpowering the others, but takes up only a share of the total flavor.

It does not act unbecomingly, but it does what you expect, whether heated or cool.

Pizza Cheese does not seek its own, but it joins with the other ingredients to create a complete pizza.

It is not provoked, but maintains a smooth texture.

It does not take into account a wrong suffered, since you can cut it as many times as you want and it won't cut you back!

It does not rejoice in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth, by not getting it's flavor from mold, but from freshness.

Pizza Cheese always protects, by taking the burn so those under it don't have to.

It always believes, letting the dough be dough, the sauce be sauce, and all the other toppings be their own delicious selves.

It always hopes, doing the unseen work of providing nutrition to the belly.

It always endures, never un-sticking from whatever sticks to.

Love never fails, which can't be said of Pizza Cheese, since sometimes it slides off the pan to the bottom of the oven, or burns to such a crisp that it crumbles and tries to break your teeth when you bite it, or other such misfortunes.

"You can't hit a target you cannot see and
you cannot see a target you do not have." - Zig Ziglar

The Tyranny of the Paradigm (Part of an article from Jack Cottrell)

Donald Petry wrote a book (actually, God wrote it through him, he says) called *I Have Found an Elephant in the Bible* (author, 1974). Once he started looking for the elephant, he found it everywhere. "Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox" (Job 40:15). Behemoth is an elephant. Some of Petry's conclusions are as follows:

Job 40:19 describes Behemoth—the elephant—as "the chief of the ways of God" (KJV). Now, "If Behemoth is the CHIEF OF THE WAYS OF GOD, then he certainly has to be symbolic of Jesus Christ."

Seeing Jesus as an elephant helps explain many things, e.g., Zion, Mount Hermon, the Dead Sea, Lake Galilee, the unicorn, Solomon's temple, Israel as it camped about the tabernacle, the Ark of the Covenant, the Jonah-and-the-Whale story, and much more. That God's throne is white (Rev. 20:11) means it is made of ivory. "Israel represented a female elephant who went to Egypt to be bred but wound up in bondage. . . . Then God sent an elephant boy, Moses, to deliver Israel." "The outside of the Temple was designed so as to represent an elephant's head." "The four Patriarchal kingdoms of Asia which took form after the Tower of Babel incident" have the shape of an elephant's head: "Babylonia would have been the left ear. The Hittites would have been the right ear. Assyria would have been the head. The Canaanites would have been the trunk".

The top of Mt. Sinai, as seen in a picture in *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, has the shape of an elephant. "God led me to turn to that picture of Mount Sinai and then showed me what I am trying to show you."

Another important lesson from the elephant: "Man in his earthliness is compared to grass when Jesus Christ would take on his elephant symbolism. Jesus Christ is feeding on men who are some kind of grass or bigger vegetation if they have exalted themselves. Whatever man proves fit food is incorporated into Christ's Body, but those who do not become living substance that is passed off as dung, and are not a part of Christ."

Obviously, for Mr. Petry the elephant has become a monster in more ways than one. It has become the sole interpretative principle by which everything in the Bible is understood. This illustrates the tyranny of the paradigm. (End of the portion of the article, for the complete article, contact Earl)

As I reflect on what Dr. Cottrell wrote, I am reminded of the many pet doctrines that have been used throughout the years to divide the church. Unfortunately, when we make up our minds that we know what the Bible says about a certain subject, we interpret every passage in a way that makes us right no matter what the passage really means. This is why it is critical that we "Cleanse our spiritual palate" before entering into a serious Bible Study concerning any teaching that could be potentially divisive. Through much love and prayer, we can get to the heart of the issue without causing division as long as both sides commit to resisting the tyranny of the paradigm and focus on the meaning of the text.

Ladies Night

This month's Ladies' Night will be February 16 at 6:30pm (Location TBD)

Don't forget to fill out your Secret Sister surveys!!!

Someone is Listening

*"[The righteous] are always generous and lend freely;
their children will be blessed." Psalm 37:26*

Be careful what you say in the presence of your babies. That's the advice of a researcher at Johns Hopkins University, who tells us that children only eight months of age are capable of hearing and remembering words, good and bad. In a study by Dr. Peter Jusczyk, babies were exposed to three recorded stories for a period of about ten days. When they were tested in the lab two weeks later, they clearly recognized the words in the stories but failed to respond to those they hadn't heard. According to Robin Chapman, a University of Wisconsin language specialist, the study demonstrates that very young children attend to the sounds of language and are able to pick out those that are familiar. Chapman concludes that "a lot of language learning is happening in the first year of life."

Whether we like it or not, almost everything we say and do is observed and recorded by the patrolman with the radar gun, by the convenience store video camera, and even by our young children. If our marriage models a spirit of generosity worth imitating, it will lead to blessings for everyone.

Devotion taken from Dr. Dobson's Married Couples Devotional

Causes Of All Fatal Accidents

Do NOT ride in automobiles: they cause 20% of all fatal accidents.

Do NOT stay home: 17% of all accidents do occur in the home.

Do NOT walk on the streets or sidewalks: 14% of all accidents happen to pedestrians.

Do NOT travel by air, rail, or water: 16% of all accidents happen on these.

Only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are related to previous physical disorders.

Hence, the safest place for you to be at any time is church.
[Bible study is safe, too. The percentage there is even less.]

Go to church! IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

2015 Conference Opportunities

Barnabas Retreat - February 9-12 (Pigeon Forge, TN)

Stone-Campbell Journal Conference - April 10-11 (Indianapolis, IN)

www.stone-campbelljournal.com/conferences-events/2015-stone-campbell-journal-conference/

Rich Dad, Poor Dad: An Introduction Part 2 (Part 1 was in the January Newsletter)

(An excerpt from "*Rich Dad, Poor Dad*" by Robert T. Kiyosaki)

Being a product of two strong dads allowed me the luxury of observing the effects different thoughts have on one's life. I noticed that people really do shape their lives through their thoughts. For example, my poor dad always said, "I'll never be rich." And that prophecy became reality. My rich dad, on the other hand, always referred to himself as rich. He would say things like, "I'm a rich man, and rich people don't do this." Even when he was flat broke after a major financial setback, he continued to refer to himself as a rich man. He would cover himself by saying, "There is a difference between being poor and being broke. Broke is temporary. Poor is eternal."

My poor dad would say, "I'm not interested in money," or "Money doesn't matter." My rich dad always said, "Money is power." The power of our thoughts may never be measured or appreciated, but it became obvious to me as a young boy that it was important to be aware of my thoughts and how I expressed myself. I noticed that my poor dad was poor, not because of the amount of money he earned, which was significant, but because of his thoughts and actions. As a young boy having two fathers, I became acutely aware of being careful about which thoughts I chose to adopt as my own. Should I listen to my rich dad or to my poor dad?

Although both men had tremendous respect for education and learning, they disagreed about what they thought was important to learn. One wanted me to study hard, earn a degree, and get a good job to earn money. He wanted me to study to become a professional, an attorney or an accountant, and to go to business school for my MBA. The other encouraged me to study to be rich, to understand how money works, and to learn how to have it work for me. "I don't work for money!" were words he would repeat over and over. "Money works for me!"

Which Dad lines up with the Bible? (Earl Winfrey)

After reading about the rich dad and the poor dad, what can we learn from this? Which dad represents the attitude we should have towards money? On the surface, it would appear that the poor dad would have a better attitude towards money since he believed that "the love of money was a root of all evil." Later on, we also learn that he believed that money did not matter and ultimately, he was not interested in money. He was highly educated and worked to provide for his family, but he was never able to get ahead of his bills and that was the cause of his leaving bills to be paid when he passed away. Although he did not "love" money, he did not see money as a useful resource either. When looking at Matthew 6:19-24, the poor dad seems to line up with the Bible since he did not "lay up treasures" on earth and money was certainly not his master. However, what about the rich dad? How did he line up with the Bible?

The rich man did not view money as his master either as we see that his view was that money works for him. He saw money as a resource that could help him achieve his goals for his family, and he left his family well off financially. This could be viewed as storing up treasures on earth if we take an extreme view of money, but being a good steward of money can also result in having a nest egg after years of hard work. Is it a sin to save money if your family does not suffer as a result? From what was revealed about the rich dad, he was just as much a family man as the poor dad was so it is safe to assume that money was nothing more than a way to provide for his family.

When I think about the faithful men in the Old Testament, there are plenty of examples of rich men like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the list goes on. God used rich men and even blessed faithful men with worldly possessions so they could be better equipped to accomplish His purpose. That being the case, our attitudes towards money can be healthy even if we set financial goals to provide a better quality of life for the family. The key is to make sure we do not allow money to become our master. The love of money is a root for all kinds of evil, but the right attitude towards money can help you become financially healthy.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Fellowship Meal after Church	2	3 Elders Meeting 6:30pm	4 Elders/Deacons Meeting 5:30pm	5	6	7
8	9	10 City Council Meeting 6pm (Mountain City)	11	12 Men's Night 6:30pm	13 Craft Day at the Church	14
15	16 Ladies' Night 6:30pm	17	18 Food Pantry 5pm	19	20	21
22	23	24 Deadline for the March Newsletter	25	26	27	28
S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am Wed Meal - 6pm Study - 6:45pm		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
- Rabun County Church of Christ (Tiger, GA)
- Toccoa Christian Church (Toccoa, GA)
- 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 February:

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

Servers for March:

- Morning Prayer - Josh Berg
- Offering Prayer - Lee Lantzer
- Server - TBD
- Communion Meditation - Kevin Berg
- Communion Preparation - Tiffany Berg