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THIS NEWSLETTER NEEDS A NAME



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 1, Issue 1
August, 2015

Our First Edition

We have arrived!!!!

Those words are reserved for the moments when we have completed a journey that we have traveled.

Once we are finished with the journey, we have a sense of joy because we have successfully overcome any obstacles that may have stood in our way.

For our journey to Greenwood, we had many obstacles that were removed thanks to the good people here. But now that we have settled in, there will

most likely be other obstacles that will block our path from time to time. The key is to keep moving forward to the destination that has been determined by God. Where does God want us to go? That is the question we will pray about for years to come!

This is our first of many newsletters that will be produced here, and I am excited to see where this will take us. For this newsletter, I decided to open up the door for guest writers to submit articles so we can get encouragement and support from outside our community. These writers who we will see from time to time are friends of mine who have produced quality material before, and I look forward to seeing their articles as they submit them!

Having said that, I still look forward to receiving "In-house" material too as our members are encouraged to submit articles and anything else that might help us improve our newsletter. This is our newsletter, and it will be as great as we decide to make it!

Don't forget to check out the calendar on the back page for events and daily scriptures!

-Earl Winfrey

8/2 - Holy and Faithful
8/9 - Who is Jesus?
8/16 - The Great Mystery
8/23 - Sweater of Unity
8/30 - Growing in Christ
9/6 - Freedom in Christ
9/13 - Clothed with Christ
9/20 - Living for Christ

Just Preach Jesus

teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and by using spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

the letter of Paul to the **COLOSSIANS**

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15 ESV)

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

First Christian Church Greenwood

Mkdisciples Study Group

Early Morning Snuggles

Address:

474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29646

Church Office:

864-223-2940

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

Sowing and Reaping (an Award Series by Sara Lantzer)

On my 35th birthday, I gave awards to my family members for helping me achieve certain qualities in my life. Sister-in-law Second received one titled Sowing and Reaping. (Please note that names have been changed to protect the identities of the superheroes around me!)

Galatians 6:7-9 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary."

Does the farmer sow his seed on Monday, and reap his harvest on Tuesday? No, he lets it grow until it is time to reap a harvest. Does a gardener plant her tulip bulbs on Wednesday and cut tulip flowers for a vase on the kitchen table on Thursday? No, she lets them grow until it is time to cut the flowers. Does a volleyball team form on Friday, and win the National Championship on Saturday? No, they grow together in teamwork and skill before they can win a championship.

A woman who had habits of reading her Bible and praying often and of seeking God's face was noticed by a man who was doing the same - now they are happily married, reaping the benefits of like-mindedness.

A man lived the hippy lifestyle in his younger years - now he is increasingly suffering in body and mind, reaping the consequences of filling the emptiness in his soul with things other than God.

I thoroughly enjoyed volunteering with a Christian film company - now it is thrilling to spread the news about the finished movie (*Beyond The Mask*), reaping the benefits of participating in creativity from a Christian perspective.

But what if a child reaps the harvest that a parent sowed? What if a driver reaps the harvest that another driver sowed? What if a country reaps the harvest that an enemy sowed? Has God turned His back? Has He forgotten about us humans while He tends to worlds and angels?? Has He left us on our own to take care of evil that intrudes in our lives??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God's heart, and He cares about each and every one of them to the point of giving Life so that they could be His companions in Heaven when this life and this world have expired.

We might be able to choose what to sow, but we can't choose the benefits or consequences that will eventually be reaped. Choose wisely!

Editor's Note - Sara Lantzer is a good friend of the Winfreys and a member at the First Christian Church in Mountain City GA. We look forward to her articles as she will be one of our guest writers.

Truth Demands a Response

“Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth.” Psalm 86:11

One foggy night, the captain of a large ship saw what appeared to be another ship’s lights approaching in the distance. This other ship was on a course that would mean a head-on collision. Quickly, the captain signaled to the approaching ship: “Please change your course 10 degrees west.”

The reply came blinking back through the thick fog:

“You change your course 10 degrees east.”

Indignantly, the captain pulled rank and shot a message back to the other ship: “I am a sea captain with 35 years of experience. Change your course 10 degrees west!”

Without hesitation, the signal flashed back: “I am a seaman, fourth class. You change your course 10 degrees east!”

Enraged, the captain realized they were approaching each other quickly and would crash within minutes. So he blazed his final warning: “I am a 50,000-ton freighter. Change your course 10 degrees west.”

A simply message winked back: “I am a lighthouse. You change your course!”

Like the sea captain, we may need to change course with confronted with the truth. That’s what happens when we make it a priority to spend time reading and applying God’s Word. It is eternal truth. It doesn’t change, so we need to adjust our lives to walk in that truth.

So many of us spend our lives avoiding the truth of God’s Word because we don’t want to walk in it. Christ said in John 8:32 that “The truth that makes men free is for the most part the truth which men prefer not to hear.”

What is the Bible to you? A collection of nice stories? The foundation of a conservative worldview? Or is it God’s Word, “living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword?” (Heb. 4:12). Does anything keep you from obeying God’s Word in every area of your life-your business, your marriage, your family? Do you need to adjust the course on which you are heading today?

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

Bible Trivia Questions (Send answers to Earl)

1. Who wrote the majority of the New Testament letters?
2. What was David’s occupation before he became king?
3. Whose prayer resulted in his being thrown into a den of lions?

Be the first to answer all 3 questions correctly and you will be the winner!

Make Disciples (Earl Winfrey)

Most everybody is familiar with the purpose of the church known as the Great Commission. However, there seems to be confusion among many Christians about who is responsible for making a Disciple. Some view the responsibility of making a Disciple as a job for the paid staff or clergy if you are part of certain denominations. Others view the job of making a Disciple as the responsibility of everyone at the expense of the paid staff. People who subscribe to that extreme tend to question the value of having a paid staff at the local church available to equip the saints.

Just like many other issues in the church, the answer lies somewhere in between the two extremes. The paid staff can bring the resources that are not readily available to those who have not spent time in a Bible College or Seminary to train for full-time work in God's church. They can help the people of the church grow in knowledge which in turn can give them more confidence when trying to reach their neighbors. The paid staff can also serve as a support for the people as they continue to live out the Great Commission in their lives.

Although the paid staff can bring many benefits to the congregation, the people of the church have the advantage when it comes to reaching the lost in the community. The people have grown up in the area, so there is already a familiarity and trust that would take a paid Minister years to develop. Along with that, the Minister is limited by the constraints of time because he has the responsibility of equipping the whole church and even with a small church; this is a "God-sized" task! This being the case, the paid staff and the people of the church need to form a partnership so that the community can be reached.

I attended a workshop where I heard this quote: "You can count the number of apples on the tree but you can't count the trees in an apple." Every apple has seeds that can produce trees that can produce more apples and the cycle continues. That is a good example of Discipleship. Our goal as a church should be to make Disciples so they can make more Disciples. Once we can get to the point where this goal is part of our core, the fruit that God produces will exceed anything we could ever imagine! So as we continue to be the church, let us remember our main purpose: Make Disciples!

Mikey Says:

Since our childhood we have been taught the importance of sharing. Regardless of how old you currently are this should be a true statement. Share your toys with your sibling, take turns when playing games, and give your friend a piece of that candy are all good things that we all heard at times. Hopefully, we have taken that childhood lesson and applied it to our adult lives, especially as Christians. So let me ask you . . . Are You Sharing? As followers of Christ we should be sharing our fruits every single day with everyone we may run into. Now I'm sure you know I'm not talking about apples and peaches, or some of our home grown vegetables here. Although those things are fun to share too (By the way anybody need some tomatoes just holler) I am talking about our Fruits of the Spirit! (Galatians 5:22-23) Are you sharing your Love - Joy - Peace - Patience - Kindness - Goodness - Faithfulness - Gentleness - Self-Control every day in every aspect of your life? If not you should be! How will the world recognize you as a Christian if you aren't? (Matthew 7:15-20) Now I realize that in today's world it's hard sometimes to be able to exhibit these fruits all the time, but if you just said to yourself "I can't do that!" then just know that the Lord says "Yes You CAN!!!"

Now think back to your youth again. Remember when you may've gotten a new toy, ball, game, doll, whatever? Remember how you couldn't wait to show, tell or share with a friend about it? As Christians there is absolutely nothing more exciting than having Jesus as our Lord and the hope and confident faith that knowing Him as our Savior brings. So I'll ask again . . . Are you sharing the good news of Jesus? If you're sharing your "fruits" you probably get asked often why you're so happy all the time? As a Christian you should have that answer armed and ready! I'm happy 'cuz I know Jesus! So live your faith by applying those fruits and doors will open for you to give the credit to the Lord! Yes You Can!!!- Until next time True Believer's - Rejoice!

Editor's Note - Mikey Sweeney is Earl's friend who is the Minister at Hartford Christian Church in KY.

Are You a Reflection of God's Glory?

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Ps 19:1

My friends Gwen, Lisa, and Bill joined Steve and I for a shrimp boil at my home. We spread out the steamed shrimp and then made a glorious mess as we shucked and ate one tasty morsel after another.

After dinner Gwen and I challenged Bill and Lisa to a paddleboat race across the lake. "Oh, we'll cream you guys," Bill boasted as he and his paddling partner accepted the challenge. He puffed up, knowing that victory was eminent. He was pumped. I pointed Bill to one of our two vessels. "Here, you take this one." "Fine with me," he said, self-assured.

My husband, with a knowing smile, signaled for the race to begin. Off we went. Bill and Lisa paddled furiously and pulled out ahead. While Bill had his eye on the finish line across the lake, I turned around in my seat and lowered our secret weapon. Unbeknownst to Bill, our boat had a silent, hidden, battery-powered bass motor. I dropped the motor, flipped the switch, and in no time we passed our competitors and left them in our tiny wake. While Bill and Lisa paddled frantically like milkmaids churning butter, Gwen and I sliced through the water like a hot knife through cream.

Bill was confused. We were tickled.

Of course, Gwen and I won the race. We made it to the opposite shore in half the time of our confused completion. As we turned the boat around and headed back toward a befuddled Bill, I called out. "Oh, I forgot to mention that our boat has a battery powered motor!" He headed right toward us and splashed us good fashion.

Gwen and I paddled back to home base, but Bill and Lisa stayed in the middle of the lake as the sun began to sink and streak the evening sky with the handiwork of God. Orange, magenta and red filled the heavenly expanse. Geese conversed. Crickets chirped. Cicadas sang. Deep-throated frogs gave bass notes to nature's melody. The moon rose and reflected its face in the water as the mass of summer musicians celebrated season. And right smack dab in the middle of the lake sat two of God's children awe struck. Captivated. And you know what? I was captivated by watching their response to God's glory.

Isn't that the way of glory? As we see others living and moving and having their being in Jesus, we want it too. As we sense their sacred in-loveness, we long for the same passionate intimacy with God in our own lives.

Don't be surprised if your moments and sudden glory cause others to tug on your shirt-sleeves with hungry eyes and want to know more. Tell them! Tell them of the moments of sudden glory that brim in a woman's heart that lives and moves and has her being in Christ. Tell them of glory moments strewn about by God's willing hand for eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to embrace.

"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
Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon the following Sunday	Magnolia Manor is a nursing home in Greenwood	We will have a 5th Sunday Singspiration at 6:30pm			1 Colossians 1:1-14
2	3 Psalm 89:1-18	4 Psalm 89:19-37	5 (Psalm 89:38-52) Bible Study at Magnolia Manor 2:00pm (Earl)	6 Romans 8:1-17	7 Romans 8:18-30	8 Col 1:15-23
9 Circle of Joy 1:30pm	10 2 Corinthians 7	11 2 Cor 12:1-10	12 Ephesians 3	13 Philippians 3	14 1 Timothy 1	15 (Col 1:24-29) Cookout at Freda's Eating at 6:00pm
16	17 Rev 3:14-22	18 John 13:1-20	19 John 13:21-38	20 (John 15:1-17) Singing with Dan at Magnolia Manor - 10:00am	21 Heb 10:19-39	22 Colossians 2:1-5
23	24 Romans 12	25 Psalm 119:97-104	26 Ps 119:105-112	27 Hebrews 12 Deadline for the Sept Newsletter	28 Romans 6	29 Colossians 2:6-15
30 Family meal after Morning Worship Singspiration 6:30pm	31 1 Corinthians 9		Wed Bible Study Resumes Sept 9			

Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!

- Bethany Christian Church (Bumpass, VA)
- Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL
- Christ Church Forgiven (Greenwood, SC)
- East Win Christian Church (Memphis, TN)
- First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
- First Christian Church of Franklin, NC
- First Christian Church of Kissimmee, FL
- First Christian Church of Mountain City GA

- Hartford Christian Church (Hartford, KY)
- Lilburn Christian Church, GA
- Port Orange Christian Church, FL
- Rabun County Church of Christ (Tiger, GA)
- Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
- Toccoa Christian Church (Toccoa, GA)
- Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
- Tucker Christian Church, GA

If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.