

# I JESUS L O R D

## THIS NEWSLETTER NEEDS A NAME



### WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 1, Issue 2  
September, 2015

### We need help with naming our newsletter!

Our newsletter is experiencing an identity crisis!

We are off to a great start with our second edition of the church newsletter, but we have not given it a name yet. What should we call this newsletter?

Send me an email with name suggestions and I will collect them so we can vote on a name in the next issue. Let's see how creative we can be!

For this month, we will continue our sermon series in Colossians as we focus on the second half

of the letter. Paul spent some time talking about the deity of Jesus during the first part, and now he will be focusing on the application for us. What does it mean that Jesus is full God as well as fully human? How does that affect us? As we will see, it means that we have freedom in Christ because we are no longer slaves to sin!

We are also starting our Wed night Bible Study on September 9 after taking the summer off. We will begin at 6pm, and Michael will be teaching the kids while I teach the adults. I will be using the book of Acts to launch us into discussion mode so we can answer the question, why are we here? I want to explore the New Testament church so we can see where we came from. I will also work on providing resources online for those who are not able to attend on Wednesday nights.

For our monthly activity, we will be having dinner and a movie on Saturday, September 19 beginning with a pasta bar at 6pm. See Michael for details.

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

-Earl Winfrey

Check us out online:

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

## Generosity ~ an Award Series by Sara Lantzer

*On my 35<sup>th</sup> birthday, I gave awards to my family members for helping me achieve certain qualities in my life. Aunt First received one titled Generosity.*

*(Please note that names have been changed to protect the identities of the superheroes around me!)*

Matthew 7:7-11 "Ask, and it will be given to you; ... For everyone who asks receives, ... Or what man is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him!"

Giving is something we do every day. Needs are *everywhere* you look! A friend gives a friend a present. A parent gives a child food and shelter and love and care. A boss gives an employee a paycheck. A church family gives a single person a community. The greater the sacrifice on the part of the giver, the greater the value of the gift.

A woman is on the lookout for bargains on everyday items – she finds great joy in noticing needs of people around her and then giving what she has in order to meet those needs.

A boy hears about a ministry that helps children whose families are broken – he is excited to be able to help, and he decides to give the gift card that he had just received on his birthday.

I cried today while watching a movie that puts the story of Joseph in a modern setting (*Seasons of Gray*) - A man, who suffers intense physical, emotional and financial wounds from his family, chooses not to take revenge but instead to give sacrificially to them when they are in need.

But what if a person sees a need and has absolutely nothing to help with? What if a gift is given and the recipient rejects it? What if something that you meant to be helpful turns out to be hurtful instead? Has God ignored earthly needs? Has He neglected us humans while He tends to worlds and angels?? Has He left us on our own to deal with the needs and wounds and setbacks that intrude on 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 working all things together (whether good or bad!) into a masterpiece of beauty that will totally make sense from heaven's perspective.

We might be able to choose what to give, but we can't choose the benefits or consequences that will affect the recipient. Give anyways!

*Sara Lantzer is a good friend of the Winfreys and a member at the First Christian Church in Mountain City GA.*

### A Recipe for a Happy Life

Take a large quantity of cheerfulness and let it simmer without stopping.

Put with it a brimming basin of kindness, then add a full measure of thought for other people.

Mix into these a heaping tablespoon of sympathy.

Flavor with essence of charity.

Stir well together and then carefully strain off any grains of selfishness.

Let the whole be served with love sauce and fruit of the Spirit.

"You cannot play symphonies until you have first mastered the notes." -Dr. Edward L. Kramer

## The War on Worship

By Dan B. Hodge

Much of the change in the church today centers on the worship service. These changes include (but are not limited to) music styles, drama, female leadership, the Lord's Supper, children's worship, and the invitation. A common objective of these change agents is to restructure the worship practices of the church so that non-Christians will feel more comfortable. I believe that the New Testament model for worship stands against that goal.

The New Testament begins and ends with worship. Before He began His earthly ministry, Jesus told Satan that worship belongs only to God (Matt 4:10), and Rev 22:9 an angel tells John to "worship God."

The New Testament refers to four kinds of worship: ignorant (Acts 17:23), vain (Matt 15:9), self-made (Col 2:23), and spiritual (John 4:24). The rightness or wrongness of these kinds of worship depends on God's will—what does God want us to do?

Jesus emphasized this John 4:23-24. In this teaching, Jesus says that correct worship must have these things:

Proper *audience*— God the Father (v. 23)

Proper *attitude*— in spirit (v. 24)

Proper *actions*— in truth (v. 24).

How do we fulfill these requirements? What should our worship services look like? The New Testament says that worship must be done properly and in an orderly fashion (1 Cor 14:40). The current assault on worship includes an attempt to dodge the clear meaning of the expression "in truth." Some say that "in truth" is simply a Hebrew term meaning to be sincere in what we do.

That view ignores the fact that God has always required two aspects of response to His will: the right *attitude* ("in spirit" with the right *action* ("in truth"). Emphasizing one of these over the other distorts God's requirements of worship. God still requires our loving obedience to the truth as contained in his written word. Worshiping God "in truth" is the same as "doing truth," or acting on what God counsels us to do.

Many churches today are operating from unbiblical objectives in worship. Many of the "worship committees" or "praise teams" apparently have no clue of their responsibility as leaders in worship. Leaders must plan and structure worship so that the focus is on God — not the worshipers or the leaders.

In keeping with the mood of our entertainment-crazed culture, some church members feel worship ought to be entertaining. However, entertaining ourselves, satisfying our own needs, and reviving our own interests to escape our boredom are simply unbiblical, cheap, and inferior substitutes for simple, meaningful, spiritual worship!

(Continued on the next page...)

### Bible Trivia Questions (Send answers to Earl)

Answers to last month's questions: Paul, Shepherd, Daniel (Congratulations Ann Humphreys!)

This month's question: **Who was Jacob's first wife?**

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

## PAINTING THE CHURCH

There was a Scottish painter named Smokey Macgregor who was very interested in making a penny where he could, so he often thinned down his paint to make it go a wee bit further.

As it happened, he got away with this for some time, but eventually the Baptist Church decided to do a big restoration job on the outside of one of their biggest buildings. Smokey put in a bid, and, because his price was so low, he got the job. So he set about erecting the scaffolding and setting up the planks, and buying the paint and, yes, I am sorry to say, thinning it down with turpentine.

Smokey was up on the scaffolding, painting away, the job nearly completed, when suddenly there was a horrendous clap of thunder, the sky opened, and the rain poured down washing the thinned paint from all over the church and knocking Smokey clear off the scaffold to land on the lawn among the gravestones, surrounded by telltale puddles of the thinned and useless paint.

Smokey was no fool. He knew this was a judgment from the Almighty, so he got down on his knees and cried: "Oh, God, Oh God, forgive me; what should I do?" And from the thunder, a mighty voice spoke. "Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!"



### Who is Jesus?

In chemistry, He turned water to wine.

In biology, He was born without the normal conception.

In physics, He disapproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven.

In economics, He disapproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes & 5 loaves of bread.

In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

In history, He is the beginning and the end.

In government, He said that he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace.

In religion, He said no one comes to the Father except through him.

Who is He?

## He is Jesus!

(...Continued from page 3)

Instead of attempting to modernize worship for our own benefit, what we need to do is cultivate our appetites for pure, New Testament worship. We need to follow the simple worship behaviors dictated in Scripture. We need to learn to like them because they are good for us. If we resist the Scriptures to look for new and exciting ways to worship, we are demonstrating rebellion! This is the self-made worship we referred to earlier (Col 2:23).

If worship has become boring and lacks meaning so that we feel the need to change churches or liven up the worship service, we have a spiritual problem. We must remember that our purpose is to glorify God, not satisfy our own desires.

Repetitiveness and sameness are not inherently bad. God commands repetition in many areas of our lives. He expects us to do things His way, not ours. We don't respect the man who divorces his wife because she is getting old. She's the same woman he married 20 or 30 years ago. If he is faithful, he will find ways to express his love within the bounds of his marriage.

Shame on the Christian who puts away the simple worship of the New Testament because it is the same old thing. If we are faithful, we will find ways to express our love and reverence for God within the bounds of New Testament worship.

Repetitive and predictable actions need not be boring. The excitement in worship depends on our attitude. Mechanical, musical, and electronic aids to worship cannot revive a genuine, heartfelt attitude of worship.

Biblical worship is under attack. We must not fall prey to those voices who wish to resist or soften the instructions of God as found in the pages of the New Testament.

"Everyone says forgiveness is easy until they have something to forgive." - C.S. Lewis

**Mikey Says:** "How's your outreach? As Christians we have a huge responsibility to reach out to other folks that may not know the Lord. Our job is to share our faith by telling other about Christ and by behaving as His followers should. Our responsibility doesn't end with the outreach though, for we must continue to help build each other up in faith while continuing to grow deep roots for the Lord. This is our "Commission" as Christians and one we should be taking very seriously! Our outreach should be evident in every single aspect of our lives. The example we set in our daily walk often goes farther than we realize. We represent our families, our church and our faith in all that we do. We need to be equipped and ready to tell and show people why we all need the Lord.

**1 Peter 3:15b** - If someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.

So then, let me ask you . . . what are you doing about it??? Are you ready to "explain it" and reach folks for the Lord? It's time for us to step up and be ready to make Disciples. Do you have someone in your life right now that needs the Lord? Unless you live a very sheltered life the answer to that was, Yes. But wait as the old saying goes 'don't put all your eggs in one basket' because don't you know more than one person that needs to know the Lord. In fact don't we all know many, many people that don't attend church, don't know the Lord and desperately need Him? Right now I want you to pause from reading this and say a prayer that the person(s) you thought of will come to know Jesus, and that if it's the Lord's will that you will be used to reach them for Him. – (Please Pray) – Now, I want you to say that same type of prayer for that same specific group of people at least once a day for at least the next 2 weeks. If you do this I truly believe doors will open for you. It's certainly worth the shot. But even if you don't see the results that you want . . . Cast the net again and again and again! Remember that God works In His Time! - Until next time True Believer's - Rejoice!"

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

## Wanted: Ministry ideas using the resources we have!

One of the best ways for a church to become a well-rounded mission center is to have the people step up and create ministries that will show the best use of the resources God has given us.

This is why I am looking for any ideas to help our church become better stewards of

the resources we already have. We need some people to step up and get to work.

If there is something you want to do, and there is a way to get it done, let's sit down and discuss it so we can see if this is something God can run with.

The door is wide open and there are no "wrong" answers during the planning stage so let's think outside the box and see what we can create!

You can begin by asking two simple questions:

What is your part?

What are you called to do?

"You'll never get ahead of anyone as long as you try to get even with him." - Lou Holtz

"To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." - 1 Cor. 9:22-23

**"When you pass away, of course people are going to miss you.  
The question is, why are you going to be missed?" - Earl Winfrey**

We all know of the Great Commission, but do we really know how to proclaim the Gospel to those around us? Here are a few suggestions for how we can go about being the light of the world:

The Times have changed, and so have the people: The hardest part of evangelism is when we have to admit that the old methods don't work as good as they used to. People have become busier than ever, mothers are having to help support the family financially, kids have become bombarded with extracurricular activities, and the list goes on and on. If we continue to try doing the same stuff we have always done, we may not be able to reach those who do not have the time to visit with us face to face.

Technology is not the enemy: The church has always had a reputation for being decades behind society when it comes to technology. The internet has been in existence for many years, and churches are still working on creating websites and podcasts. This is an obvious handicap as there are many people out there who use the internet every day, sometimes more than they watch TV, and yet they very seldom see a positive message about how they need Jesus. Our church website is a resource that can help us gain ground on a society that has gone almost completely paperless. The weekly podcast for the sermons can be a way for people to hear the message before coming to church so they can know what to expect when they get here.

On a personal level, building a website may not be an option, however, you have the next best thing in that Facebook has replaced the telephone in many ways for today's younger generations. If you have friends on Facebook, you have a network you can reach by simply posting a comment about your church. Let them know what's going on at church, and why you are excited about it. You can also write notes for people to read that will show them what you believe, and why you believe it. If you have the administration skills, you could even build a group to help promote the Gospel. People build fan clubs for their favorite singer or actor, why not build a group for the most important person in your life, Jesus?

Everyone has a Story to tell: No matter what your view is on the best way to reach the lost, there is one thing that everyone has in common; everyone has their own personal story of salvation. If you have been baptized into Christ, you are fully equipped to share the Gospel with somebody else. Just simply tell your friends the story of how you came to know Jesus. If your friends can see the difference that Jesus makes in your life, they will be more open to hear what you have to say. Remember that as a Christian, you have an identity that is different from the world, and it is up to you to show that difference in a positive light.

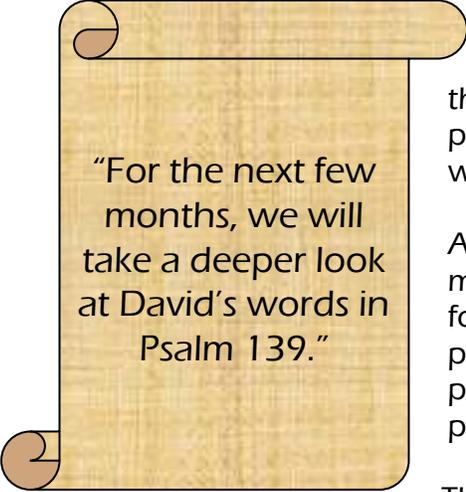
Be creative, be proactive, be passionate about evangelism, but make sure that you never lose your identity as a Christian. There are many ways to share the Gospel without compromising your personal integrity or God's message. Overall, don't waste your time guessing about how to reach your neighbor. Build relationships with those around you, and it will be easier to find out how best to reach them.

## My Love Letter from God (Part 1) - Michael Winfrey

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:14*

We all have things that we LOVE! For some, it could be cooking. Others it could be scrapbooking. Or maybe exercise. How about blogging? We all have that one thing that we could spend all day doing if given the chance. For me, that one thing is cross stitching. I am so thankful that my mom taught me many years ago. I get so excited at the thought of starting a new project. I become a giddy little school girl when I get all my thread together, when I get my canvas prepped and I'm ready to start. I love the feeling of accomplishment when I open my highlighter and I begin to mark up my pattern sheet. I can't count the number of projects I have made over the years, all of them being for other people.

I made a picture for my mom for Mother's Day in 1997. I still have the pattern book that I used to make this picture! Unfortunately I can't use it at all! I have since learned to use a highlighter rather than a pen to mark out what I have finished!



"For the next few months, we will take a deeper look at David's words in Psalm 139."

I stitched a picture of my nephew, Ryan, on his first day of Kindergarten. My love for cross stitching has grown, thanks to technology! I downloaded his picture into a program and out popped the pattern! I even had a list of what colors to use!

As a present for my sister and brother-in-law, I made little magnet people. My brother-in-law LOVES Star Wars! So I found these little figures online, then I created my own pattern. The end result was 16 little characters that they could put on their fridge! I think I had just as much fun creating the pattern as I did actually making the magnets.

There is one project that I am working on that is taking me a while to finish. I am making a picture for my husband. Since he is reading this, I won't tell you what the picture is! However, I will tell you that this is the BIGGEST cross stitching project that I have ever tried to complete. The pattern is a total of 12 pages! I did some calculations and once I am finished, I will have made 58,864 little x's! That's A LOT of love! As much as I love cross stitching, I love the people I make these projects for that much more! I want them to feel special, I want them to feel loved!

We all want to feel that way! Are you special? Sometimes our natural response is to say, "No, I'm just ordinary, nothing really special about me." We have been trained to think that we shouldn't feel special. We don't want to come across as having a "princess complex". We think we are being humble, but I wonder if that is really the attitude that we should take? For the next few months, we will take a deeper look at David's words in Psalm 139. As we see this chapter with fresh eyes, we won't see him saying that he is nothing special. He says, "I am wonderful!" Did David suddenly become arrogant and full of himself? Was he announcing that he is wonderful because of who he is or what he has done? I don't think so. He's saying these things because he knows WHOSE he is! He is wonderful because God creates some really beautiful things!

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship - 11am  Wed Bible Study - 6:00pm	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon the following Sunday	1 Romans 14	2 (Isaiah 29)  Bible Study at Magnolia Manor 2:00pm (Earl)	3 Ezekiel 13	4 Revelation 2	5 Col 2:16-23
6	7 (Labor Day)  1 Cor 10:1-22	8 1 Cor 10:23-33	9 Leviticus 19:1-18  Bible Study returns at 6:00pm	10 Leviticus 19:19-37	11 Psalm 40	12 Colossians 3:1-17
13	14 Matthew 5:1-16	15 Matthew 16	16 Mark 9:33-50	17 (James 3) Singing with Dan at Magnolia Manor - 10:00am	18 Mark 4:1-25	19 (Col 3:18-4:6)  Dinner and a Movie with Pasta Bar 6:00pm
20	21 Hosea 4	22 Hosea 5	23 Hosea 8	24 (Hosea 9)  Deadline for the Oct Newsletter	25 Hosea 10	26 Hosea 14
27 Family meal after Morning Worship	28 John 3:1-21	29 1 Cor 9:19-27	30 Jonah 1	Magnolia Manor is a nursing home in Greenwood		
	Circle of Joy meeting will be announced as details are available					

**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.