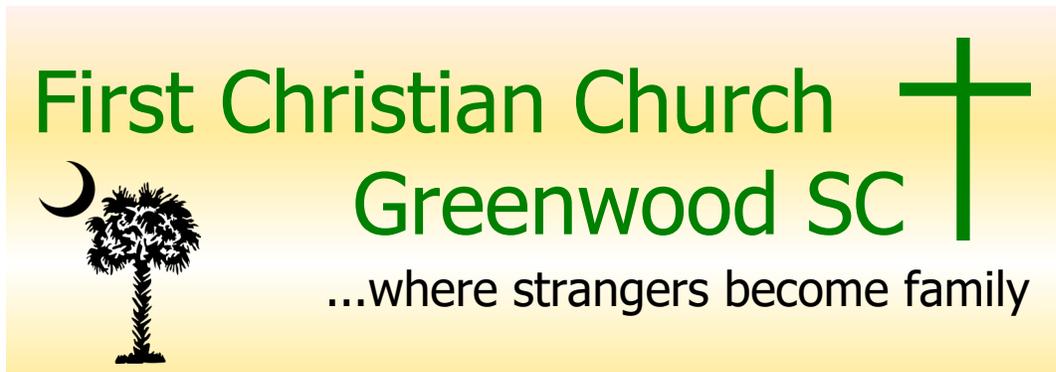


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WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Happy New Year!

Volume 2, Issue 10
October, 2016

No, I am not confused about the month we are in. I know that the new year does not begin until January, but our official church year begins Oct 1. With the new church year come new opportunities for us to improve as a family of believers while stepping out on faith with new adventures that are on the horizon!

We will have our Fall Festival at the end of this month so we will spend most our time preparing for this great community event!

Can we build it? Yes we can!
-Earl Winfrey

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

First Christian Church
Greenwood SC

Mkdisciples Study Group

Early Morning Snuggles

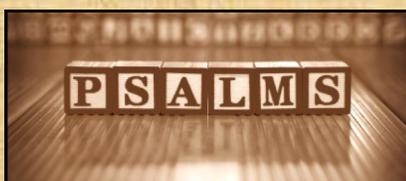
Address:

First Christian Church
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.



Deeper than Singing

October 2 - Lead Me in Your Righteousness (Psalm 5)

October 9 - The Lord Accepts My Prayer (Psalm 6)

October 16 - God is a Righteous Judge (Psalm 7)

October 23 - How Majestic is Your Name (Psalm 8)

October 30 - I Will Recount Your Wonderful Deeds (Psalm 9)

*"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds." (Psalm 9:1 ESV)*

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org

My Favorite Type of Bible (Michael Winfrey)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

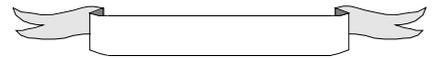
If you ever wonder what you could get me for a birthday or Christmas or Arbor Day, you could get me markers, colored pencils, and colorful pens! To say that I am a collector of these things is a gross understatement! Now I don't consider myself an amazing artist but I can draw a decent straight line and a fairly round circle.

About a year ago I was scrolling through Facebook, as one usually does, and I came across something that made me jump for joy. I saw a Journaling Bible! It isn't just a regular Bible, but a Bible for creating! I immediately googled different Journaling Bibles and settled in on the one I wanted. I then proceeded to Pinterest and began pinning all sorts of ideas for journaling in my new Bible. I pinned easy ones all the way to the brave ones that used paint. Paint! On a Bible! Then I waited, patiently, for my new Journaling Bible to come in.

Some may see the word "paint" and be COMPLETELY horrified. How in the world could anyone do this to the word of God? There MUST be a verse somewhere in the scriptures about not putting paint all the page. Before you judge me too harshly and condemn me, let me tell you WHY I wanted one of these Bibles so badly.



"It isn't just a regular Bible, but a Bible for creating!"



I have been a Christian for most of my life. I grew up in a Christian home. I grew up in the Christian Church. I am old enough and smart enough to know that I don't get into God's word as often as I should. Who am I kidding? If you asked me how often I read the Bible, I would be ashamed to tell you. I wanted this Bible because I am hoping that it will get me excited about reading His Word again. I am hoping that by creating art on the pages of this holy book, the words, HIS Words will come alive again in my heart. By drawing, coloring, and yes, even PAINTING in my Bible, I am praying that I will not become ashamed of the answer to the question of "How often do you read the Bible?"

Back in the 1500s

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way.

Hence: a thresh hold.

Origin of Phrases:

CURFEW

The word "curfew" comes from the French phrase "couvre-feu", which means "cover the fire". It was used to describe the time of blowing out all lamps and candles. It was later adopted into Middle English as "curfeu", which later became the modern "curfew". In the early American colonies homes had no real fireplaces so a fire was built in the center of the room. In order to make sure a fire did not get out of control during the night it was required that, by an agreed upon time, all fires would be covered with a clay pot called-a "curfew".

Have you ever tried to grow an avocado tree? In Canada, it would be mostly used for decoration inside your home not as an actual tree. Once you finish your avocado you take the seed, score it and plant it in a pot with about a quarter of the large seed showing, water it and then you wait. And wait, and wait. Months go by and no action. Then one day a small crack appears in the top of the seed. A little later a small green shoot emerges out of the crack in the seed.

Christians can be like avocado seeds. Some of them can go months with no action looking like they will never grow the way they should, but if you wait long enough, you will start to see them sprout and grow into the mature believers God wants them to be!

1963 (Earl Winfrey)

When I was in Mountain City, GA, I helped an elderly couple move out of their house as they were moving into a retirement home near their daughter. As a reward for helping, I was able to pick what I wanted from the stuff they left behind before everything was sent to the local thrift store. When I looked through their stuff, a book caught my eye that was called "Visual History of the Twentieth Century" and just like the title suggests, there are pictures, timelines, and articles of each year during the 1900s. I am a little over halfway through the book as I read it occasionally, and the year 1963 was interesting to me.

In 1963, a Buddhist monk, Thich Quang Duc, lit himself on fire and died out of protest because of the persecution of the Buddhists in South Vietnam. Others followed his example and the scene convinced the US to stop supporting their government. After reading this, I wondered if this could have contributed to the beginning of the Vietnam War.

That same year, Martin Luther King marched into Washington DC and delivered his "I have a dream" speech. Although there were thousands of supporters present on that day, there were protestors who did not agree with Dr. King's approach to Civil Rights. They believed that he was not strong enough to lead them so they turned to more militant actions in order to get noticed by the government. The peaceful protests of MLK were heard and the Civil Rights Movement went a long way towards the ideal as the races were tearing down barriers and friendships were starting to form.

The peaceful protests brought a peaceful end to the injustice they were suffering. The violent protest of the monk led to a way where more lives were lost. The message of the monk was clear. He would rather burn to death than live under the rule of a tyrant. The message of MLK was equally clear. No matter what you do, I will take the high road and maintain my identity instead of lowering myself to your actions.

Which one lines up with the Bible? Perhaps the Apostle Paul can help us answer that question:

"[14] Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. [17] Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [18] If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." [20] To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:14-21 ESV)

Wouldn't it be great if we could all accept the fact that God has forgiven us?

Strength ~ 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. Brother First received one titled Strength. (Please note that names have been changed to protect the identities of the superheroes around me!)

1 Chronicles 16:11 "Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually."

One of the names for God is "El". It is also used of a generic mighty one. God is the inventor of strength, and anything else that is strong is just a copy of His invention. Isn't it fantastic that as little images of God, we get to practice being mighty?! Many times it is a hard row to hoe, because there are circumstances that require meekness and gentleness and patience alongside strength. Our God always has the balance correct and He never leans too hard. As humans, the way to have true strength is to take our gaze away from ourselves and put it onto the LORD as early and as often as possible.

A man gave his life to Christ at a young age, and has learned to be strong physically, emotionally, spiritually and mentally – which enables his family to safely depend on him.

The devil was once an angel that saw God's face, but apparently didn't seek for it – he looked to himself for strength and ruined his life and the lives of a gazillion others.

"Left side! Strong side!" is a phrase from the movie Remember the Titans - this team learns that true strength does not beat others down, but rather builds them up.

But what if a strong person gets sick? What if there isn't enough strength to complete a climb? What if might is trying to make right? Has God ceased healing His children? Has He forgotten a section of our path that He Himself has laid out for us?? Has He left us on our own to battle the bullies and mere mighty men of the earth??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God's heart, and He cares about each and every one of them to the point of contacting us with His grace especially when we get unbalanced by weakness.

We might be able to choose where to show our strengths, but we can't choose the benefits or consequences that invade the lives of those we contact. Balance strength!

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

"Pray for FCC"

For 2016, we want to cover our church in prayer on a weekly basis. Along with the many prayers that go up on our behalf, I am declaring every Tuesday to be a day for us to offer up special prayers specifically for our church. Please join us by praying at some point every Tuesday!

If You Want to Know God, Immerse Yourself in the Psalms - Barry McCarty

Like most Christians, I have always loved the book of Psalms. It was the first hymnbook of the early Christians and the hymnbook and prayer book of the Jews. Jesus died with the words of the Psalms on his lips. After his resurrection, he told his disciples: "Everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, *and the psalms* must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44, New Revised Standard Version, author's emphasis). No other book of the Old Testament is so often quoted in the New. It is a storehouse of messianic prophecies that the first Christian preachers expounded and applied.

Like many people who grew up in church, as a boy I memorized Psalm 23, the Great Shepherd's Psalm, along with Psalm 100. At VBS, in those familiar words from Psalm 119, I pledged allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, "a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Its words will I hide in my heart, that I might not sin against God." Later, as a graduate student, I discovered *The Book of Common Prayer*, and for years the daily offices of morning and evening prayer, which always include several psalms, have provided structure to my own devotional life.

Then several years ago, I picked up Joan Chittister's *The Rule of Benedict: Insights for the Ages*, a brief and very readable commentary on Western Christianity's leading guide for monastic living for the past 1,500 years. Benedict called for monastic communities to structure their day around work and prayer—which is not a bad idea for those of us who are not monks. His tradition of *Ora et Labora*, "pray and work," calls for seven daily "offices" or times when the monks cease their work and pray.

Most Evangelical Christians, when introduced to the daily Benedictine offices, are surprised to discover how biblical their prayers and worship are. For the most part, they come directly from Scripture. Benedict apportioned the Psalms across the seven daily hours of prayer so that the entire Psalter is prayed or sung through each week.

This introduction to Benedictine spirituality—especially the practice of praying through the Psalms each week—was intriguing to me, so I decided to try it for myself. For 40 days I observed the seven hours of prayer each day: Vigils (night prayers), Lauds (sunrise), Terce (9 a.m.), Sext (noon), None (3 p.m.), Vespers (sunset), and Compline (evening prayers that "complete" the day just before retiring). I followed Benedict's arrangement for the Psalms and prayed completely through all 150 each week for six weeks. It was a life-changing experience.

Through this constant exposure to the Psalms throughout the day, I came to know God in a deeper way than ever before. Over the years I have been blessed by many approaches to daily devotions, but nothing compares to this simple immersion in the Psalms based on a Christian tradition dating back to the sixth century.

(Continued on the next page...)

This quote from C.S. Lewis is very applicable to today in America:

"We all want progress. But progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be. And if you have taken a wrong turning, then to go forward does not get you any nearer. If you are on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road; and in that case the man who turns back soonest is the most progressive man."

(...Continued from page 5)

Following that first 40 days of praying through the Psalms each week, I returned to my usual practice of morning and evening prayer using the Psalms and other Scripture readings from the lectionary in The Book of Common Prayer. But from time to time, I return to the seven daily hours for special seasons of prayer and devotion.

In recent years, God has also blessed me with the friendship of one of the monks at the Benedictine Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers, Georgia, just outside Atlanta. From time to time I visit my friend Brother Cassian, usually arriving in time to join the community in the choir stalls to sing the Vespers service. With a little help from Cassian, I have learned how to sing the Psalms set to the Gregorian chants, which is done antiphonally from choir stalls facing each other across the nave of the monastery church. My Benedictine friends also introduced me to what has become my favorite and most used prayer. Their daily offices begin with the words from Psalm 70:1, "O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me" (Douay-Rheims Bible). Keep that prayer on your lips, and it will change your life!

While worship at a Benedictine monastery is a markedly different experience from our services in the Christian church, to me it is a thing of great beauty and deep spirituality. I hear the Word of God clearly in the plainsong of the monks and see him in all his majesty through the Psalms, just as the Jews saw him in the temple, the early Christians in the catacombs, and countless believers across the ages have seen him in the only inspired, infallible hymnbook and prayer book we have.

The great lesson here is that if you want to know God well, immerse yourself in the Psalms. Read them. Study them. Sing them. Pray them. O how it will bless you, and change you forever.

Barry McCarty is a Preaching Professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a past president of CCU.

In the game of Football, in order to stay on offense which gives you a better chance to score points, you have to advance the ball 10 yards every 4 plays. But when you get to the 4th play and it looks like the 10 yards will not be gained, you have an option that is called the punt play.

The punt play was designed to give the team a chance to turn the ball over without sacrificing field position. By punting the ball, the offense gives up the chance to score points, but they gain time to regroup and make changes so they can try again. There have been many games won because the offense punted the ball, made changes, got back on the field and scored a touchdown. All it took was a few minutes spent making changes in order to create a better result.

In the church, there are good weeks and not so good weeks. During those not so good weeks, we need to remember that although we may have to "Punt" the ball, we should never give up because if we take the time to make the necessary changes, we could end up with better results!

Most people want to serve God, but only in an advisory position.

How Important is Your Neighbor's Salvation to You?

"Your future is whatever you want to make of it so make it a good one." - Dr. Emmett Brown

The above quote by Dr. Emmett Brown came from a movie called "Back to the Future" which was created during the 1980s. In this movie, Dr. Brown built a time machine and his teenage friend ends up getting sent into the past by mistake. The rest of the movie is about him coming back to the present.

This is actually a trilogy with both Dr. Brown and his friend going back and forth from present to past to future to past and back to the present. It's not as confusing as it sounds but you have to pay attention and watch the movies from the beginning to keep from getting lost.

During all of the trips, the time machine was constantly being modified and the final design was nothing like the first time machine that was created. The modifications came from necessity and they never gave up until they finally got it right. This is the way it should be with reaching our neighbors for Christ. We must never give up no matter how hard our journey becomes. Instead, we should keep modifying our approach until we finally get it right.

Leadership lessons from Chuck Swindoll

Chuck Swindoll was given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Catalyst '09 Conference. His presentation was called "10 Things I Have Learned During Nearly 50 Years in Leadership."

- 1) It's lonely to lead. Leadership involves tough decisions. The tougher the decision, the lonelier it is.
- 2) It's dangerous to succeed. I'm most concerned for those who aren't even 30 and are successful. Sometimes God uses someone right out of youth, but usually He uses leaders who have been crushed.
- 3) It's hardest at home. No one ever told me this in seminary.
- 4) It's essential to be real. If there's one realm where phoniness is common, it's among leaders. Stay real.
- 5) It's painful to obey. The Lord will direct you to do some things that won't be your choice. Invariably you will give up what you want to do for the cross.
- 6) Brokenness and failure are necessary.
- 7) Attitude is more important than actions. Your family may not have told you: Some of you are hard to be around. A bad attitude overshadows good actions.
- 8) Integrity eclipses image. Today we highlight image, but it's what you're doing behind the scenes.
- 9) God's way is better than my way.
- 10) Christ-likeness begins and ends with humility.

When people talk about boundaries, we usually refer to the limits of what we can't do. In other words, here is the line, do not cross it. However, there is another side to the line, and this is the side we live in. Instead of focusing on the boundaries in reference to what we can't do, maybe we need to focus on the area in which we can do. This is like having a fenced in backyard. You could stand at the fence and stare out at the world you are not allowed to play in, or you can step back from the fence and see the yard that you have.



The Lighted Path

“My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”
 (Psalm 121:2)



Fill in the missing blanks to complete Isaiah 40:8!

Grass _____ and flowers
 _____, but the _____
 of our _____
 lasts _____.

Word list:

God, word, dies, forever, fall

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)Answer to last month's question:

John was given the vision of Revelation when he was on the Island of Patmos (Rev 1:9)

Winners: Michael Winfrey/Freda Austin/Michaela Winfrey Honorable Mention: Wil WinfreyThis month's question:

What did Daniel and his three friends eat instead of the king's meat and drink?

Be one of the first 3 people to answer correctly and you will be a winner!

Be one of #4-10 to answer and you will receive an honorable mention!

FALL FESTIVAL

Fall Festival on Saturday, October 29:
Come join the fun as we celebrate the fall weather with hay rides, games, hot dogs and more! (Time will be announced)

Ladies Lunch at Migs (Monday, October 3 @ 1:30pm)

Circle of Joy Meeting (Sunday, October 9 @ 1:30pm)

Worship with Winfreys at Magnolia Manor (Thursday, October 20 @3:00pm)

Soup Kitchen Donations are Appreciated

We support our local soup kitchen once per month by supplying some of the food they need. If you would like to participate, be sure to check out the list of items needed on the communication station in the Fellowship Hall. Every can counts!



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

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 Hampton, SC

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.

First Christian Church of Greenwood SC (864) 223-2940 www.fccgwd.org

Calendar of Events - October 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday: S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am	Sunday Night: RM History Class - 6pm	"Pray for FCC" reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Wed Bible Study 6:00pm (All ages)	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon		1 (Psalm 5) Church Cleanup 10:00am
2	3 (Psalm 38) Ladies' Lunch at Migs (1:30pm)	4 Pray for FCC Psalm 90	5 2 Corinthians 4	6 2 Cor 12:1-10	7 Hebrews 12:3-11	8 Psalm 6
9 Circle of Joy at the church 1:30pm	10 Psalm 11	11 Pray for FCC Psalm 31	12 Psalm 50	13 Hebrews 13:1-11	14 James 1	15 Psalm 7
16	17 Psalm 148	18 Pray for FCC Psalm 149	19 Psalm 150	20 (Isaiah 12) Worship with Winfreys 3pm	21 Matt 11:25-30	22 Psalm 8
23	24 Psalm 26	25 Pray for FCC Psalm 40	26 Psalm 96	27 (Ps 105:1-22) Deadline for the Nov Newsletter	28 Ps 105:23-45	29 (Psalm 9) Fall Festival at the Church
30	31 Matt 4:18-25	Circle of Joy is for the women of the church		Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home		