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First Christian Church
Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Small Changes, Big Results!

Volume 2, Issue 5
May, 2016

Have you ever noticed how excited we get when a baby takes one step? The first step is usually not the moment when the baby starts walking, but we act like the baby just won the Super Bowl when it happens.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 ESV)

THE HOLY SPIRIT

- 5/15 - Presentation (John 14:15-31)
- 5/22 - Person (1 Corinthians 2)
- 5/29 - Presence (Ephesians 5:1-21)
- 6/5 - Power (Romans 8)
- 6/12 - Purpose (John 16)
- 6/19 - Protection (Acts 8)
- 6/26 - Partnership (Acts 13 / 1 Timothy 4)

"For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7 ESV)

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38 ESV)

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org

Why do we get so excited when small stuff happens? The reason for this is because we know what lies ahead. We know that with each step that is taken, the baby is that much closer to walking and in Wil's case, running all day long! After they learn how to walk, the years start flowing and the next thing you know, driving lessons.

The church is very much like a family in many ways. When we see our kids pray or read scripture for first time, the moment may not appear that big on the larger scale, but we know what lies ahead. Those prayers and scripture readings can turn into so much more in the future!

Small changes can often produce big results if those changes are allowed the time to develop. As we continue building God's church, let's remember to celebrate those moments along the way.

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

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

First Christian Church
Greenwood

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.

Music and Life (Michael Winfrey)

I don't remember a time when I didn't love music. I have no one specific genre of music that I like the most, I listen to just about anything! You take a look at my iPod and it is quite the eclectic collection. I mean I have artists from Elvis to Demon Hunter and lots in between. I love singing along to my favorite songs and some of my greatest performances have been in the driver's seat of my vehicle. I have no audience in my car; my audience is the drivers and passengers to the left and right of me! It doesn't really bother me if I do not hit the exact notes every time because I am putting on a GREAT show!!

About a month ago, Earl and I joined the Greenwood Chorale. We perform once during Christmas and then once in the spring. I was a little hesitant to join because first, I don't think my voice is "chorale" worthy and second, I haven't been in a choir setting in about 10 years. Even though I was leery, I got my music and took my place in the alto section. I have been an alto since high school...singing in the rafters is no place for me!

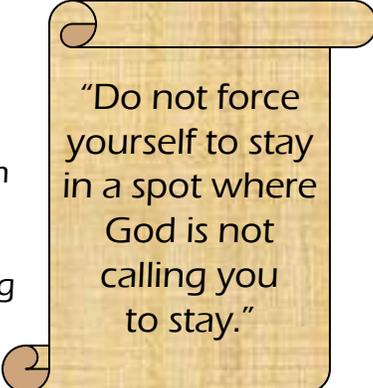
I was looking through the music and trying my best for the first few weeks to stay in tune with the Altos...the SECOND Altos! It wasn't happening! Someone lowered the rafters on me in the past 10 years!! After practice one night, I quickly got the attention of the director and asked if I could switch parts. He was VERY thrilled when I informed him that I wanted to try my hand at Tenor.

Side note: Singing Tenor is pretty neat now because it's one more thing that makes me like my mamma! I could always spot her in the choir!

Last week was my first official night as a Tenor. We divided into sections and I felt like the rose among the thorns...even though my darling hubby accused me of being a spy! I also felt like a fish out of water! All these years my eyes, ears, voice, and brain have been training to sing and read the Alto lines. It was very difficult to retrain myself to sing Tenor. I can promise you that I haven't hit all the right notes, but it has become easier. My voice has dropped and I am okay with that!

Have you ever found yourself in a situation where things had to change? What you are doing and have been doing for years is just not working! Things are uncomfortable and not in a good way. What once seemed so easy to do is now painful, physically or spiritually.

Do not force yourself to stay in a spot where God is not calling you to stay. You are hurting yourself when you stay and God is calling you to go! No matter what it is...trust God and GO!!! Is it a new relationship, a new position, a new job, a new PLACE? Go for it! I promise you that it will not be easy at the beginning, you will mess up! However, it will become easier as time goes by! The blessings of going FAR outweigh the desire to stay! So sing those wrong notes...hit the wrong key from time to time....BUT SING ANYWAY!



"Do not force yourself to stay in a spot where God is not calling you to stay."

For more information about the Greenwood Chorale, please check out their website: www.greenwoodfestivalchorale.org

"A mother is the truest friend we have, when trials heavy and sudden, fall upon us; when adversity takes the place of prosperity; when friends who rejoice with us in our sunshine desert us; when trouble thickens around us, still will she cling to us, and endeavor by her kind precepts and counsels to dissipate the clouds of darkness, and cause peace to return to our hearts."

~Washington Irving

Rose Petals

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice. The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem:

It is only a tiny rosebud, a flower of God's design; but I cannot unfold the petals with these clumsy hands of mine. The secret of unfolding flowers is not known to such as I. GOD opens this flower so easily, but in my hands they die. If I cannot unfold a rosebud, this flower of God's design, then how can I have the wisdom to unfold this life of mine? So I'll trust in God for leading each moment of my day. I will look to God for guidance in each step of the way. The path that lies before me, only my Lord knows. I'll trust God to unfold the moments, just as He unfolds the rose.

"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!

Origin of Phrases:

BUYING THE FARM

This is synonymous with dying. During WW1 soldiers were given life insurance policies worth \$5,000.

This was about the price of an average farm so if you died you "bought the farm" for your survivors.

"If what you did yesterday seems big, you haven't done anything today." - Lou Holtz

"No language can express the power, and beauty, and heroism, and majesty of a mother's love. It shrinks not where man cowers, and grows stronger where man faints, and over wastes of worldly fortunes sends the radiance of its quenchless fidelity like a star." ~Edwin Hubbell Chapin

Glimpses of God ~ Sara Lantzer

Once upon a time, God was in the process of creating humans. He had already finished a great, big world for them to inhabit and take care of. All He had left to do was to make them according to the beautiful, proven pattern of Himself.

They would show to all creation, and especially among themselves, little glimpses of what He, the Unseen God, was like. What a privilege He was giving them!

So, as God continued this process of making humans, He set aside a special gift just for the girls. This select group of humans would be able to display very clearly God's nature of giving.

The word Mother is a precious name to wear. Just as God gives life, and then loves and cares for that life, so too does a mom. Mothers help us glimpse what God is like through thick and thin, through the daily grind, ...oftentimes without appreciation for their heroic amounts of effort.

Consider the word Lady with me for a moment, as well. It is also a precious name to wear, though not every woman or girl can be called one. Just as God gives His love to humans unconditionally, so too does a lady.

Especially if she is single, a Lady gives to others, whether they can return anything to her for her efforts.

She doesn't have the assurance of a hug from loved ones in the evening.

She doesn't have a counterpart going with her through every step of life.

She doesn't have stability that naturally comes with being a leader of a family.

She has no one to call her own, her direct descendent, her soul mate, ...in short, she doesn't have anyone specific to pour out love onto, or to even give her life for.

So, in an unconscious effort to display a glimpse of God's nature of giving, a Lady spreads out her love to as many people as she can. A single lady takes what she does have and gives to those around her, enriching their lives and loving them simply because she cares for them. She has a mother's heart, though not a mother's opportunity.

Thank You, Lord, for Mothers, for Ladies, and most of all, for Yourself.

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

"Can You Hear Me?" (Earl Winfrey)

Joining the Greenwood Festival Chorale was not planned, but I am glad that it happened. It has been several years since I have been part of a choir, and this one brings back some pleasant memories for me. Unfortunately, choirs are becoming part of the past for our churches since we have been moving towards the screen and praise bands rather than using the hymnals with piano playing, but I digress.

I love music. I love praise bands and I love the piano/organ/hymnal style too. Music is in my blood because I come from a family that loves to sing. I remember sitting in the pews listening to my parents as they had choir practice. I remember my mom creating a children's choir for us while I was in the 3rd grade, and I was able to sing my first solo. I remember being the only boy in the Jr. High Chorus and I remember going on choir tour with the youth group while I was in high school. After I graduated from high school and started to work, I sang in the church choir because I love to sing.

When I was attending Snellville Christian Church for a couple of years while I lived in the area, I became part of the choir. They had a great choir, but I was the only Bass. Since it was me against the rest of the choir, I began to doubt my impact on the music and that caused me to make a comment during one of our rehearsals. I asked if they could hear me, and the choir director assured me that the notes were fine. At first, I was wondering if he was just being nice, but after hearing one of our songs played, I could tell that my voice was there. I was heard because my notes were different. My part in the choir was unique, and the song was fuller because of the 4th part. If my voice was not part of the choir, the foundation of the song would be missing, and that was the lesson I needed to learn.

No matter how small my voice felt, the choir would not be the same without me.

We each have a part in the church. Some people may appear to be more important than others, but in the eyes of God, preparing the communion is just as important as preaching the sermon. We cannot serve communion if the emblems are not there. Our kids cannot learn in Sunday School if nobody is there to teach them. Without the grass being cut or the building being cleaned, we cannot put our best foot forward as people come to visit us. The church is one body with many parts and every part is needed.

Would the cross of Jesus be considered worth the pain if it happened in today's church?

When considering the cross of Jesus, I wonder if we should look closer at what we define as success. Today's church has a tendency to consider programs successful if they attract people without a lot of work involved. If the program was difficult to create or if there were not as many people showing up as expected, then it would probably not happen again. If God measured success this way, then He would have never gone through with the pain of the cross.

The good news is that God determines success by the fruit that is produced! Looking at the cross, the fruit of the cross outweighed the agony that Jesus suffered!

I think that it may be best to look at it like a pregnancy. The mother goes through the pains of childbirth to experience the blessing of the child, who is the fruit of her labor. When we work hard at something in the church, we should remember that the fruit being produced is worth the pain of the process.

"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity." - Albert Einstein

"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Corinthians 10:13 ESV)

Have you ever wondered why Christian bookstores have paintings that are really expensive? It seems counter-productive to have an abundance of high priced art on the walls when you could be stocking the shelves with cheaper items that could sell quickly. Well, there is a logical explanation for this. I used to work at a Christian bookstore in Florida, and I sold 3 of those paintings over the course of a year, so it is not a fast moving product. However, the paintings do boost profits in the store in another way.

When you have pictures hanging on the wall, the customer slows down to look at them, and this keeps them in the store longer. The longer the customers are in the store, the more likely they are to buy something. This is a retail technique that has been proven effective many times throughout the years.

This principle also applies to temptation. The longer you allow temptation to hang around, the more likely you are to sin so it is best to get rid of it as soon as possible!

Do you want to grow a flower garden or an orange grove?

When trying to grow a church, frustration can set in because the results may not appear as quickly as we would like them to. This is why we need to keep in mind that anything worthwhile takes time to grow. We have to make up our minds to grow an orange grove instead of a flower garden.

Flower gardens can be exciting because they usually show up about a month after planting them. You can plant seeds, care for them with minimal effort and reap the benefits in the same season. You can also buy plants that are already growing and plant them for an even quicker result. Flower gardens can grow fast, but they can fade away just as quick.

An orange grove takes time to grow, but the benefits can make the waiting worthwhile. When you plant an orange grove, it may take 4-6 years before you can eat the fruit that is produced. It is hard work and requires patience because you will spend time looking at a fruitless field while you wait. However, if you take care of the orange grove, the trees can last for 100 years!

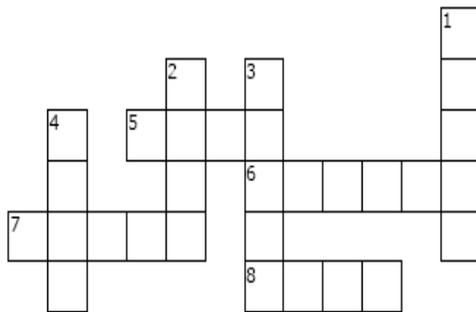
While we are building God's church, we need to work towards the future instead of trying so hard to be an overnight success. The benefits can make the waiting worthwhile!

“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 19:14 ESV)

If you love me...

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching." John 14:23a (NIV)

This puzzle is based on John 14:23-29 (NIV)



Put the Mother's Day words in alphabetical order:

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| MOTHER | FLOWER |
| MAY | SPRING |
| THANKS | SUNDAY |
| GIFT | LOVE |
| VISIT | SPECIAL |
| TRIBUTE | NURTURE |
| PROTECT | CELEBRATE |

ACROSS

- 5. A place where someone lives; a residence.
- 6. Have a feeling of fear
- 7. A time when people live and work together happily without violence
- 8. To receive a sound using your ears

DOWN

- 1. Parts of a language which can be spoken or written
- 2. To have a deep feeling of affection toward a person
- 3. To give instruction to others
- 4. To carry out or fulfill a command, order, or instructions

love	teach	words	peace
obey	home	hear	afraid

“Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.” (Psalm 127:3 ESV)

Hey Kids! Do you know what that verse says about you? You are God’s reward for your parents. That means the day you were born, your parents were blessed because of you!

Now think about this. The way you live can be a blessing for your parents or it can cause them stress. Be the blessing! 😊

"You may disagree with others about a lot, but how you disagree has the ability to draw you together or drive you apart. Make sure you always aim for the 'higher bar' in your interactions with others." - Tony Dungy

What would it be like if we talked to people the way we talk to God?



Adam4d.com

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. 'Here's a copy of the service,' he said impatiently. 'But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances.'

During the service, the minister paused and said, 'Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.' At that moment, the substitute organist played 'The Star Spangled Banner.' And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

Bible Trivia Questions (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Paul asked Philemon to receive his slave back as a brother in Christ (Philemon 1:17)

Winners: Freda Austin/Frank Jackson/Phillis Jackson

This month's question:

Who closed the door of Noah's ark?



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

Coming Soon



check us out at
www.graceharmony.org

Grace
Harmony
Christian Music Ministry
"Journey for Jesus" 2016

Sunday, May 8th, 11am
First Christian Church
Greenwood, SC

Mother's Day Dinner
Saturday, May 7 @ 6pm

Grace Harmony Concert
Sunday, May 8
During Morning Worship

From the Heart...



Songs of Love

GREENWOOD FESTIVAL CHORALE

Tickets are now on sale. (See Michael or Earl)
\$15 to hear "From the Heart - Songs of Love"
on Tuesday, June 7, at 7:30 pm,
Josephine B. Abney Cultural Center at Lander U.

"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 Forgiveness (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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Psalm 113	3 (Pray for FCC) Psalm 139	4 (Psalm 142) Bible Study - 6:00pm (All Ages) Elders Meeting after Bible Study	5 Psalm 144	6 Proverbs 31:1-9	7 Proverbs 31:10-31 Mother's Day Dinner 6pm
8 Grace Harmony Concert during Morning Worship	9 Mark 1:1-13	10 (Pray for FCC) Luke 3:1-22	11 John 1:29-51	12 Acts 1:1-11	13 Acts 2:1-13	14 John 14:15-31
15	16 Psalm 104:1-23	17 (Pray for FCC) Psalm 104:24-35	18 Psalm 139	19 (Isaiah 63) Worship with Winifreys at Magnolia Manor - 10:00am	20 Hebrews 9	21 1 Corinthians 2
22 Circle of Joy at the church 1:30pm	23 Isaiah 11	24 (Pray for FCC) Galatians 4 Deadline for the June Newsletter	25 Galatians 5	26 Ephesians 4:1-16	27 Ephesians 4:17-32	28 Ephesians 5:1-21
29	30 Ephesians 2	31 (Pray for FCC) Ephesians 3	Sunday: S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am PM Church History Class - 6pm	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon the following Sunday	"Pray for FCC" is a reminder for us to pray for our church every Tuesday	Magnolia Manor is a nursing home in Greenwood

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...where strangers become family

