

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 10
October, 2017

CHURCH COMMITMENT HELPS WITH CORRECTING CHRISTIANS

All Scripture is God-Breathed:

1. Teaching
2. Reproof
3. **Correcting**
4. Training in Righteousness
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Have you ever noticed how part of the main focus of the church in Acts was having correct doctrine? The other part was making sure nobody had a need. This was the "Double barrel shotgun" of the church. The Apostles would teach while the members took care of each other.

Since they took care of each other, they had unity. When they were busy taking care of each other, there was no room for arguments and fights. As they grew together corporately, they also grew individually

as God's people. There was no need to make a distinction between going to church and being the church because they were both sides of the same coin. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case for many Christians in America. For some reason, we have created a popular way of thinking that makes it possible to separate the church from the Christian, a way of thinking that is not in the Bible. Some people want to be part of the church without the commitment to show up every week, and that is why they attend, but never truly commit.

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Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD
Early Morning Snuggles
Mkdisciples Study Group

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29646

Church Office:

864-223-2940
Earl@fccgwd.org

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

What Kind of Church is First Christian Church?

First Christian Church is a non-denominational Elders-led Church located in Greenwood, SC. We are part of the movement to restore the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He lived a sinless life, offered His life for ours on the Cross, and rose on the third day to live forever. We believe that salvation comes through simple obedience to the plan of salvation that is laid out in the pages of the New Testament.



Core Beliefs

A common misconception is that all churches believe and preach the same thing. Unfortunately that isn't the case. In a world that is greatly divided spiritually it is very important to know just exactly what a church believes and practices. We welcome the opportunity to sit with you and discuss these core beliefs in depth.

We believe...

1. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who died for our sins and arose from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
2. That the Bible is the inspired Word of God - "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
3. That every person has worth as a creation of God but "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" **Romans 3:23**
4. That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust and obey Christ as Savior and Lord. **John 3:16**
5. That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. That the Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved.
Ephesians 4:1-16
7. That Jesus Christ will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **1 Thes 4:13-18**
8. That those accepting Christ must repent of sin, confess their faith and be baptized into Him.
Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

For more information about baptism, see our Baptism FAQ located on our website

Biblical Foundation

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Before moving any further into this article, I need to offer a disclaimer. There is a big difference between not attending because of work and not attending because you choose not to show up. For those who are committed to the church but work keeps them away, I feel for your situation. In our society today, the church is no longer a priority, and this means we have to work on days that were normally reserved for the Lord. This is where we need to remember that commitment to the church is much deeper than simply showing up for worship. Even though we don't see them on Sunday morning, we can see their commitment in their family showing up. We can also see them helping out during the week and being part of events that happen when work is not going on. They are not able to show up on a regular basis, but they are still connected to the church.

Being connected to the church is part of the unity focus, but what about the spiritual growth from the Apostles' teachings? This is where we need to get creative. If a person is unable to show up for Bible Study when the church meets, there is the option of personal Bible Study with a teacher who can take the time for one-on-one discipleship. This is not the same as a group setting, but the "Iron sharpens iron" concept can still be used.

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for **correction**, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV)

The word correction means to straighten up, and this is the only place in the Bible where that word is used. This indicates that the word is directly involved with Scripture. The Bible is useful for straightening up the Christian. This is a correction to the way the Christian lives. And the only way to get this kind of correction is to study the Bible. During those times when the understanding of Scripture gets twisted, a commitment to studying with somebody more knowledgeable will help you straighten out your thoughts so you can see clearly what it means. And if you can see the Bible clearly, you will be able to live a better life as a Christian.

Behavior is often affected by beliefs, and this is why it is important to make sure you have correct doctrine. Once you establish correct doctrine in your system of beliefs, you will be able to see that a commitment to the church will help correct your life as a Christian.

I love our church!
Earl Winfrey

"Pray for FCC"

For 2017, 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!

PRUNING ~ 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 Second received one titled Pruning. (Please note that names have been changed to protect the identities of the superheroes around me!)

In John 15:1-8 ~Jesus says~ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you ... I am the vine, you are the branches ... My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

Picture this: two grapevines are growing in neighboring yards. “Concord” is tended by a gardener, and “Scuppernong” is tended by a natural wilderness. Scuppernong is long and straggly, with broken or diseased branches alongside many dozens of ordinary sized fruit clusters hidden in hard to access locations. Its fruit is not at all tasty, no matter how prolific it may grow. This vine’s appearance is somewhat chaotic and dirty, possibly indistinguishable from the rest of the wilderness growing around it. Now gaze over this way at Concord, beautiful and cultivated and instantly recognized for what it is. The branches are short and neat, cleaned (or, as the passage translates it, pruned) from anything that would hinder its fruit-bearing capacity. Even though, like its cousin Scuppernong, nature blessed it originally with many dozens of ordinary sized fruit clusters, the gardener knows that extraordinary taste and size in the fruit can only be brought about by carefully choosing a few clusters to remain, and ruthlessly removing the others. Each succulent, accessible, perfect bunch of grapes is ready and waiting for the gardener to pluck and enjoy. If fruit is the main thing each vine is going for, then Concord wins, hands down!

A sibling learned that there was freedom in saying ‘No’, and in throwing stuff out – now she in turn helps her sister value people and relationships as a main thing above projects or possessions.

A ruler valued his wealth and possessions very highly – now he in turn helps millions of people to realize that holding onto riches can forfeit the ability to inherit eternal life, which means he lost out on the main thing even though he was in the midst of many things.

In the third movie of the Lord Of The Rings Trilogy (Return of the King), Sam tells Frodo: “We’re going that way, straight as we can: there’s no point in carrying anything we’re not sure to need” – and at this point they chuck their armor and packs into a ravine, both of which helped them reach this step in the journey to Mount Doom, but would actually hinder them hereafter from achieving their main thing.

We might be able to choose which items or circumstance to hold onto, but we can’t choose the benefits or consequences a grip instigates. Release extraordinary!

Sara Lantzer is a friend of the Winfreys who currently lives and works and writes in a small town in Michigan. She enjoys storytelling, creativity, uniqueness and spontaneity.

A lot of kneeling will keep you in good standing.

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO COMMIT TO OUR CHURCH? (Earl Winfrey)

Local church membership has been debated several times in the scholarly world, and for some Christians, it is an unnecessary step since they have already become part of the Family of God. Once they become Christians, they decide that there is no need to pursue membership so they are free to worship without the added pressure that comes with being a member. Meanwhile, the church membership roll becomes smaller which makes it difficult to find future leaders.

The early church did not have local membership, so why should this matter today?

The above statement is not necessarily true. Although there was no recorded membership roll or procedure for becoming a member like modern denominational churches have, we do see people being described as coming from certain churches when traveling through other areas. For example, in Romans 16, Paul talks about Phoebe belonging to the church in Cenchreae, and he mentions several others who are involved with different churches. This shows me that they had a way of knowing which people worshipped with the churches in the area. They may not have been as organized as the American church membership roll, but there is evidence of the churches having their own identities even though they remained part of the body of Christ.

If the early church was made up of several churches, how did they know which one to attend?

An important fact to remember is that the early church was not organized the same way it is today. The early church was divided according to geography, and this is why Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, the church in Rome, the church in Corinth, etc. There was one church made up of churches all over the Mediterranean World tied together by the Holy Spirit. For this reason, you would attend the church that was closest to your house. Today, we drive past several churches before getting to the one we attend. The early church did not have that many options.

The early church was organized geographically. Today's church is organized culturally.

By that statement, I am saying that we have placed expectations on the church that did not exist during the first couple of centuries after Jesus ascended into heaven. We want the church to agree with our beliefs, worship the way we feel is appropriate, and offer us something of value for our families. And the church that succeeds at providing what we desire will be rewarded by gaining our commitment as members. This may not be a bad thing as long as the decisions that are made do not come from a self-centered place. For example, if you want your children to grow up in the Lord, you would search for a church that would offer the best resources to help you make it happen. However, if you are searching for the church that gives you everything your heart desires and does not ask for anything in return, you may be searching for a while.

The church culture that matches your personal culture will be the best fit for you and your family. This is the main reason why there are so many choices available today.

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This is also the reason why it is important for us to establish local church membership. We need to know who is going to commit to our church so we can plan for the future. We also need to know if there are people who are worshipping with us, but are not quite ready to become part of us. How can we tell the difference if we don't ask for commitment through membership?

What are the conditions for membership in the local church?

Once we establish that membership is needed for a church to function properly, we need to find out the process involved for adding people to the church. Again, this will be different in other churches because of the culture of each church. Some churches will require many steps along the way while other churches are not as formal. Here at First Christian Church, we want to use the same requirements as those we find in the Bible.

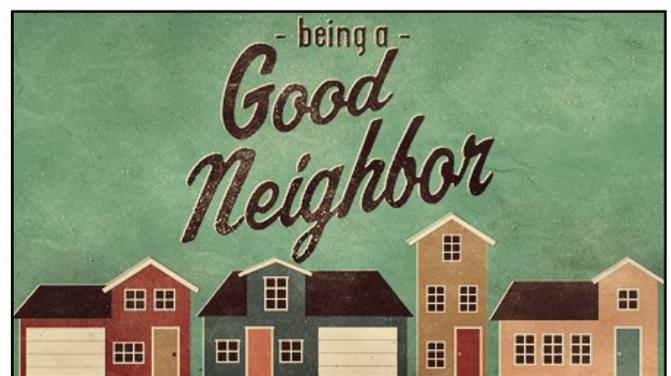
First and foremost, we need our members to be Christians so they will need to follow the plan of salvation that we find in the Bible and is written in our statement of beliefs. This was how the early church added to their fellowship, so we will do the same for us. Once we establish that you are a Christian, we simply ask that you make a public declaration of your desire to join the church. That public declaration is traditionally a response to the invitation song during the morning worship service although other arrangements can be made if necessary. The main point is that we need to know if you can commit to our church as a member so we can count on you to help us reach our community for Christ. We certainly hope you will consider this if you are not already a member because we would love for you to join us!

(If you have any questions about church membership, please talk to me as soon as possible)

THE NEIGHBORING CHURCH

Here are four habits that we should develop in order to become a better neighbor for the Lord:

1. **Stay:** Let's be a people who love our neighbors by getting to know them.
2. **Pray:** Let's be a people who love our neighbors by praying for them.
3. **Play:** Let's be a people who love our neighbors by practicing hospitality.
4. **Say:** Let's be a people who love our neighbors by sharing Christ with them.

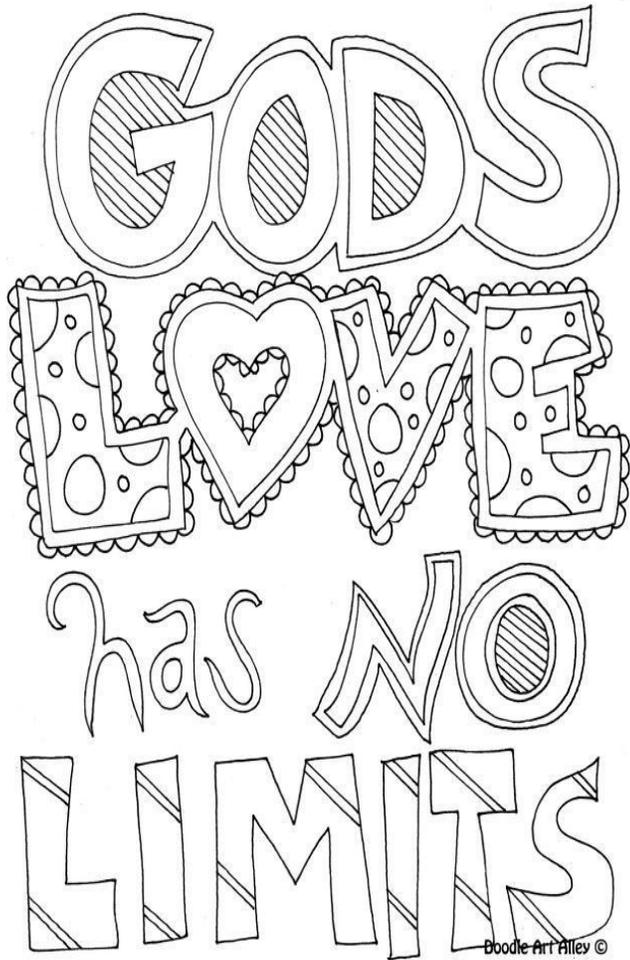


And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."
(Isaiah 6:8)

REMINDER:

We are having a cook-out at the Winfrey's on October 14th! Bring your appetite!

We will be having our Fall Festival on October 28th! Come ready to jump, run, eat and have fun!



BibleWise

WORD SEARCH

The Temple of God

Search for the words in the puzzle below. Make sure to keep your eyes open for them as you learn about the Temple of God and the Kings that were involved.

O	B	D	K	S	F	C	Y	Q	W	C	L	F	P	J
A	L	T	A	R	L	K	H	X	Z	H	V	X	D	K
W	J	E	X	Z	B	I	P	Z	Q	E	W	W	E	C
J	Z	M	C	B	F	N	M	N	B	S	D	V	P	B
O	I	P	P	T	V	G	I	W	Z	T	H	C	J	O
Q	L	L	W	A	T	P	H	E	L	Q	N	V	O	O
J	C	E	W	B	A	A	L	U	A	B	N	Q	S	K
X	I	O	X	N	O	S	F	N	M	D	K	P	I	O
P	V	F	J	E	M	S	H	K	B	G	F	O	A	F
J	E	G	U	L	Y	O	B	D	J	O	A	S	H	M
K	M	O	D	V	Z	V	U	C	S	T	L	H	T	O
J	R	D	A	V	R	E	L	E	V	I	T	E	S	S
B	P	D	H	G	H	R	L	D	L	O	I	G	U	E
J	X	B	P	B	V	K	S	O	L	O	M	O	N	S
G	G	O	L	D	K	A	I	N	O	N	U	A	P	H

ALTAR	BAAL	BOOK OF MOSES
BULLS	CHEST	GOLD
JOASH	JOSIAH	JUDAH
KING	LAMB	LEVITES
PASSOVER	SOLOMON	TEMPLE OF GOD

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Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)Answer to last month's question:**Mary and Martha were Lazarus' sisters (John 11:1-3)****Winners:** Steve "Crazy Man" Skinner/Nickie Murphy/Phillis Jackson

Be one of the first 3 people to answer correctly and you will be a winner!
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Be one of #4-10 to answer and you will receive an honorable mention!
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Honorable Mention:

Marvin Bradley, Wil Winfrey, Michaela Winfrey

This month's question: **Who suggested that Jonah be thrown overboard?****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!

**CALLING ALL MEN!!!!**

We are starting a monthly get together for the men of our church as soon as we can work out a time and a place for us to meet. When this happens, I want us to commit to this meeting and keep it is a high priority so we can encourage each other to be the men of God we have been called to be. I want us to show our families what Godly men look like!

In addition to a monthly men's night, I will be working on leadership training for those who are interested in finding out what the Bible says about church leadership. Whether you are thinking about stepping up or just curious, I want you to be part of our group!

- Earl Winfrey

"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

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

First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood SC

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 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday: Prayer - 9:30am S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am	Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend	“Pray for FCC” reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Wed Bible Study for all ages (6:00pm)	Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	Mission of the Month: Serenity Steps
1 First Sunday Fellowship (6:00pm)	2 Psalm 94	3 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Isaiah 3:1-15	4 Isaiah 3:16-26	5 Acts 20:17-38	6 Psalm 9	7 (Psalm 10) Fall Cleaning (7:30am)
8 Circle of Joy 1:30pm	9 1 Sam 23:1-14	10 <u>Pray for FCC</u> 1 Sam 23:15-29	11 1 Samuel 24	12 Psalm 18:1-30	13 (Psalm 18:31-50) Craft Night at the Church 6:30pm	14 (Psalm 11) Cook out at the Preacher’s Place (5:30pm)
15	16 Isaiah 57:1-13	17 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Isaiah 57:14-21	18 Micah 7	19 (Rom 16:17-27) Worship with Winfreys 3pm	20 Rev 13:1-10	21 Psalm 12
22 Fellowship Meal After Worship	23 Psalm 79	24 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Psalm 80	25 Psalm 81	26 Psalm 82	27 Psalm 83	28 (Psalm 13) Fall Festival (4:00pm)
29 Cong. Meeting After Worship 5th Sunday Service (6:00pm)	30 Matthew 5:1-26	31 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 5:27-48	Ladies’ Lunch will be discussed at the C.O.J. meeting	Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	Coming Soon: Men’s Night!	