

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 2
February, 2017

Do you love me? Check "Yes" or "No"

The month of February is known as the "Love" month since Valentine's Day is the 14th. For many school children across the country, this is a time to trade cards and candies with those who are considered to be close friends. I remember getting excited when I got a card from some of the more beautiful girls at school. Any other time of the year, I would not even be on their radar, but for that one day in February every year, I would feel special because of the cards.

Unfortunately, that special feeling began to fade when I thought about the fact that the cards were being given to everybody, and that feeling of being loved and accepted ended the next day. Isn't it wonderful that God refuses to be our Valentine? He doesn't wait until that special day every year to give us a card or a box of chocolates. Instead, He reminds us everyday of His love for us as we can live another day. Even though we are sinful creatures and deserve to be wiped out, God gives us a gift every day known as the "Present" and it is up to us how to live in the here and now.

Do we live like life is a gift from God or do we act like God owed us another day? Do we treat God like a Valentine and acknowledge Him once per year or do we come into His presence on a daily basis to say "Thank You" for another day of life?

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 ESV)

I
JESUS
LORD

I love our church!
- Earl Winfrey

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

WHAT IS YOUR GRADE???? (Michael Winfrey)

This past week, at work, we had Parent/Teacher Conferences. For weeks beforehand, truthfully, since the beginning of school, the children have been evaluated to see where they are at educationally. We have a "Progress Report" of sorts that we can share with the parents. On the progress report is an evaluation code. If the objective has not been introduced, a 1 is given. If the objective is being introduced, a 2 is given. If the child is partially proficient in an objective, a 3 is given. If the child is proficient in an objective, a 4 is given. We use the progress report for each class so you might see a lot of 3's and 4's in the 4 year old room and many 1's or 2's in the 2 year old room. And in each class, the children aren't going to all receive the same scores. One child may be proficient in an area, like putting on their jacket, while another child still struggles. As a teacher, I don't measure what the youngest in my class can do by the accomplishments of the oldest in the class. Each child stands on their own.

I wonder, if God were to sit down with us, what would our progress report look like? Would we have lots of 3's and 4's or more 1's and 2's? If we do have some areas that are 1's or 2's, do we wonder why or do we just accept that evaluation? The good news is, we don't have to wait on God for a progress report. We can evaluate ourselves right now. If you are ready to improve yourself as a Christian, why don't you take some time to go through this checklist so you can see where you may need improvement.

- Readiness: How willing are you to make sure a visitor is made to feel welcome at our church
1 2 3 4
- Language Arts: How well do you know what the Bible says
1 2 3 4
- Social Studies: How well do you know your neighbor
1 2 3 4
- Math: How confident are you with adding to the numbers at church by inviting your friends
1 2 3 4
- Social/Emotional: How available are you to serve in your community
1 2 3 4

So, how did you do with the evaluation?

Don't be disheartened, we all have areas that we can improve. Let's make this the year of improvement.

If you have a problem talking to people that walk through the door, grab a friend and talk to the visitor together. If there is dust on your Bible, make a goal to open it more. Find out your neighbor's name! Be proud of the church you attend. After all, if it is a place that continues to draw you, chances are it can draw others. Find a place in your community where you can serve best and then make a commitment to serve. Let's all become proficient in 2017!

"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!

“Declaring War Against Biblical Illiteracy” - Earl Winfrey

I borrowed the following paragraph from Christianity Today’s website to begin this article:

“Christians claim to believe the Bible is God’s Word. We claim it’s God’s divinely inspired, inerrant message to us. Yet despite this, we aren’t reading it. A recent LifeWay Research study found only 45 percent of those who regularly attend church read the Bible more than once a week. Over 40 percent of the people attending read their Bible occasionally, maybe once or twice a month. Almost 1 in 5 churchgoers say they never read the Bible—essentially the same number who read it every day.” (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/>)

Those sad statistics reveal a problem in the church called Biblical illiteracy. Just like the word says, this problem means that there are people who are ignorant of what the Bible says even though they claim to use the Bible as their guide for everyday life. Unfortunately, the church has been experiencing this for years and there seems to be many battles taking place to see who is ultimately responsible.

Has the church leadership gone soft on Biblical teaching? Do we require Sunday School teachers to learn the Bible so they can be properly equipped to teach? Are we using material that points us to the Bible or have we just recycled the same Bible stories every year? What about the preaching in the church? Way too often, I hear people complain about how they rarely use the Bible during sermons anymore while others say that all their preacher does is read the Bible. So one is not preaching right because he is not using enough scriptures and the other one is not preaching right because he is not commenting on what he just read.

Perhaps the Bible College can be blamed for the preacher’s lack of Bible knowledge which would cause the church to be ignorant as well. That’s a favorite subject to debate especially when a Bible College goes through a transition that is not popular among the conservative groups of churches in our movement. The Bible College may or may not be teaching the Bible to the preachers, but did the church teach the students first?

I have heard it said by more than one college professor from more than one college that most students coming in today have the equivalent of a 2nd grade education in the Bible. For this reason, the college ends up spending more time teaching the Bible to the future preachers instead of teaching the preachers how to preach the Bible. In other words, the students need to have a Biblical foundation first before they can start learning how to teach others.

The church could be blamed for the lack of Bible knowledge especially if the future preacher grew up in that church, but the responsibility ultimately lands on the individual. How much time did the student spend trying to learn the Bible before graduating high school? Of course, the other issue involves the quality of Bible knowledge which could be the difference between false teaching and correct doctrine, but I will save that discussion for another day.

(Continued on the next page...)

(...Continued from page 5)

4. Raise the Standard in Sunday School - Whatever you call it, Adult Bible Fellowship, Life Groups, Small Groups, Sunday School, or any other name that describes meeting together to learn the Bible, the point is that the Bible must be learned during these classes. If you are going through a standard curriculum, don't settle for what is written down.

Challenge the teacher to know more than what was printed in that week's lesson. If your teacher cannot rise up to the challenge, perhaps it is time to discuss preparation and study helps. Curriculum is a great invention for the church, but don't allow it to become a crutch for the lazy.

"Woe to the preacher who does not require the Bible to be read during his sermon!"

5. Raise the Standard in our Church - We are finally getting to the church part of this. If you raise the standard in your home, refuse to accept anything less from your preacher than a Biblical sermon, and raise the standard in whatever class you are in, there is a good chance that the church will benefit from it. However, the church still needs to be at war against Biblically illiteracy, and that begins with the leadership. Challenge the leadership to step up the Bible usage at church. If they rise up to the challenge, the church will become much stronger which will result in higher quality Bible knowledge for our children. If the leadership does not step up to the challenge, perhaps it will be time to discuss priorities and find out why we are afraid of God's Word.

Those are my points for how you can help with the war against Biblical illiteracy. Here is my strategy as we move forward to meet the challenge of bringing the Bible back to the people:

1. Provide Daily Scriptures that go along with the sermon each week
2. Print additional scriptures in the sermon notes so people can read what was preached
3. Have students read from their own Bibles during class (They have to bring them to class)
4. Make Bible Study a permanent priority in church planning every year
5. Open up the office so people can have access to my Bible Study materials
6. Hold leadership training specifically for securing a Biblical foundation
7. Offer "Face to Face" mentoring sessions focused on Biblical teaching
8. Challenge the people to challenge me so I can stay sharp
9. Keep my personal Bible Study a top priority (Not just for sermon prep, for personal growth)
10. Stay committed to preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God

That is my strategy. Who wants to help me fight this war against Biblical illiteracy?

"On my desk in the oval office, there sits a plaque that says, 'It can be done.' It's a belief that I deeply hold true." – Ronald Reagan

We don't change God's message, His message changes us.

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

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 *"...we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed..."*

How can these verses possibly be true? What is the element that enables a broken item to still function? Why is there hope? Only because of our one, true God. Way back in the very beginning, when humans first entered life, a deceiver afflicted, perplexed, persecuted and struck down this most precious creation of the Almighty. God was not content to allow these image-bearers to remain different from Himself, but He enacted a plan to adapt their lives to this sorry situation and to bring them life and blessing in spite of the deceiver's ... spite. [adapt: adjust to a different situation or condition] When Jesus came to earth in the flesh, God was modeling adaptability on an amazing scale. He is the hope that enables life to spring forth in the face of death and destruction.

A young lady was confronted with issues of extreme difficulty in health and a relationship – she changed her diet and her friendships to facilitate as much life as she can handle.

An old lady was born during one of the first decades of last century, but times have really changed since then – she has a cell phone and tablet and Facebook account, and loves keeping up with the lives of her many children and grandchildren.

A true story of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot is included in the movie "Beyond the Gates of Splendor", where five missionary wives become widows when their husbands try to make contact with an unreached tribe in the Amazon jungle – Elisabeth ends up taking the good news of Jesus to this tribe a few years later, including to the murderers.

But what if a situation is obviously unfair? What if the relationship started out with similarities but digressed into abuse? What if death and hopelessness are constant companions? Has God let the justice due me escape His notice? Has my way been hidden from Him?? Has He withheld good??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God's heart, and He cares about each and every one of them to the point of adapting Himself to time and space and a finite world in order to reconcile the differences between them.

We might not be able to choose whether situations are difficult or not, but we can decide whether we breathe blessings or curses with our responses. Breathe life!

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.

Origin of Phrases:

BARGE IN

Heavy freight was moved along the Mississippi in large barges pushed by steamboats. These were hard to control and would sometimes swing into piers or other boats. People would say they "barged in."



In February you might hear the word "love" used often. Valentines Day is in February and a lot of people use that day to tell others that they love them. If you hear the word "love" this month, remember that Jesus' love for us is the greatest love in the world. Jesus' love is the greatest kind of love. Jesus loves us so much! Try to copy that love. Love your brothers and sisters and parents and friends. Be kind. Give to others and share. Since Jesus loves us like he does, we ought to love like him!

4 Pillars of the Restoration Movement:

1. Lordship of Christ
2. Authority of the Bible
3. Unity of believers
4. Evangelism of the world

(John 17:20, 21)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

God so loVed the world

That he gAve

His onLy

So BegottEn

SoN

That whosoever

Believeth In Him

Should Not parish

But have Everlasting life

John 3:16

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)Answer to last month's question:**Philemon had a slave named Onesimus (Philemon 1:10-11)****Winners:** Freda Austin/Wil Winfrey/Michael Winfrey**Honorable Mention:** Was the question too hard?

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!

This month's question:
What did God create on the fifth day?

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!

**FAVORITE SOUP SUPPER AND CAKE WALK (Annual Fund Raiser)****When:** Saturday, February 18 @ 5pm**Where:** First Christian Church

474 Deadfall Road West

Greenwood, SC 29649

Cost: \$5 per person, \$15 per family, \$.25 (Cake Walk)

"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

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 - February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday: Prayer - 9:30am S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	"Pray for FCCC" reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	1 Psalm 5	2 Psalm 27	3 (Nehemiah 1) Kids' Pizza & Movie night 6:00pm	4 Nehemiah 2
5	6 Genesis 11:1-9	7 Pray for FCCC Psalm 127	8 Luke 14:25-35	9 Romans 15	10 1 Corinthians 3	11 Nehemiah 3
12 Circle of Joy 1:30pm	13 Psalm 31	14 Pray for FCCC (Proverbs 16) Valentine's Day	15 Isaiah 59:14-21	16 (Matt 5:38-48) Worship with Winfey's 3pm	17 Romans 12:9-21	18 (Nehemiah 4) Favorite Soup Supper & cake walk (5:00pm)
19	20 Ezra 4	21 Pray for FCCC Ezra 5	22 Ezra 6	23 (Ezra 7) Newsletter Submissions due	24 2 Thes 3	25 Nehemiah 5
26	27 2 Chronicles 20	28 Pray for FCCC Psalm 89		Worship with Winfey's at the Magnolia Manor nursing home	Please pray about what you can do for the Lord in 2017	Let's stir the waters of the baptistry in 2017!
Teen Sunday School Class will begin soon!	Elders' Meetings will resume ASAP		Wed Bible Study 6:00pm (All ages)		Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend	Stay tuned for special classes offered in 2017!