

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 3
March, 2017

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORDS THAT ARE COMING OUT OF MY MOUTH?

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)

That quote is from the movie "Rush Hour" when the American cop was trying to communicate with the Chinese detective on the first day they worked together. I have to admit that there are times when I feel like that American cop especially when people ask me about our church. You may have been there before.

What kind of church is it? It's a Christian Church. Yes, but what kind of church is it? What they really want to know is what denomination we belong to, and that is why it is

hard to explain our church. The Restoration Movement is all about getting back to the Biblical form of church, and that is contrary to major denominations. We do not claim that the churches in those denominations are evil, but we do claim that we belong to the Bible only.

The box with the "4 pillars" in it might be able to help explain our type of church since that is the focus for our ministry. In the coming months, I will talk about each pillar so we can gain a better understanding of who we are.

I love our church!
- Earl Winfrey

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JESUS
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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

IT IS WELL (Michael Winfrey)

“Grander earth has quaked before/Moved by the sound of His voice/Seas that are shaken and stirred/Can be calmed and broken for my regard/Through it all, through it all/My eyes are on You/Through it all, through it all/It is well/Through it all, through it all/My eyes are on You/It is well with me/Far be it from me to not believe/Even when my eyes can’t see/And this mountain that’s in front of me/Will be thrown into the midst of the sea/So let go my soul and trust in Him/The waves and wind still know His name/It is well with my soul”

Last Saturday night, I had to go to Hobby Lobby on an errand. I had about 30 minutes until the store closed so I was in a bit of a hurry. As I was pulling into the parking lot, “It Is Well” by Kristene DiMarco & Bethel Music came on the radio. I pulled into my parking spot and I had a decision to make. Do I get out and go about my business? Do I stay in my vehicle until the song is over? I chose the latter. There are a few songs out there that I deem “stay in the vehicle” worthy and this is one of them. I sat in my car, singing at the top of my lungs (which isn’t too loud since I have been sick). My voice was cracking, notes were not being hit correctly, but it didn’t matter. Tears were rolling down my cheeks as I sat there having a worship service in my Trailblazer. I was reminded that faith allows me to face the “mountains” in my life and throw them into the sea. My faith grows with every mountain I encounter, although there are times when I wish God didn’t see me as such a good “mountain thrower”. As long as I keep my eyes on God rather than the mountain I am facing, with confidence I can say that it is well. I was also reminded that God is so much more powerful than the problems I face. The same God who CREATED the heavens and the earth, the same God who KNOWS the name of EVERY star, has not forgotten me! Greenwood, SC is not so far removed from the throne of heaven that I can’t be seen.

GOD’S FAMILY IS ABOUT LIVING LIFE TOGETHER (Earl Winfrey)

It happens every year. Football season is a distant memory which means that I can “Hibernate” until the end of July when the Hall of Fame starts preparing for the induction ceremony. It was an interesting year for my Green Bay Packers with Jordy Nelson being back from his season ending injury he had last year. It was good to see him, Randall Cobb, and Aaron Rodgers working together again. That trio is great on the field, but they have also developed friendships off the field too.

I just read in an article that Randall Cobb is getting married, and he asked Jordy and Aaron to be part of the wedding as groomsmen. That doesn’t happen unless you have a good friendship. When I see how well they play together on the field, I get this feeling that their friendships off the field has much to do with their success on the field.

In the same way, the church works much better as a unit when the people live life together. Instead of just showing up for events and services, we should be working towards getting to know each other away from the building. When Jesus walked the earth, He lived with His Disciples as they traveled around for ministry. The Apostle Paul had his traveling companions too, and they had great success in ministry. We should follow their examples and live life together as God’s family instead of just attending church.

“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!



"IS DOCTRINE REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?" - Earl Winfrey

"I've listened to far too many sermons from far too many trained professionals who used their message to deal with biblical facts or doctrines rather than Christian living. Those certainly have their place, but I'd rather face the judgment having lived out Christian love in service to the Lord while totally misunderstanding doctrine and biblical facts than to face the judgment with a perfect understanding of doctrine and biblical facts but without having lived out the life of Christian love." (A preacher from the Restoration Movement)

The above quote was surprising to me, but I actually read that in a Facebook Group during a discussion we were having as preachers concerning the sermons we preach. And yes, there is a church that is unfortunately paying this preacher to serve with that kind of attitude towards doctrine. Of course, I understand what he is trying to say, but he is not saying it very well.

Before getting into the Christian love part of the quote, I would like to talk about the doctrine and Biblical facts section. Our job as preachers is to preach the word. That is why we are called heralds. We are presenting the Word of God to the people who need to hear it, so if we are not preaching doctrine and Biblical facts, we are not fulfilling our calling as preachers. Why is it so hard for people to understand this? I blame the preachers like the one I quoted because their attitude is all wrong.

Instead of downplaying doctrine and Biblical facts in order to emphasize Christian love, we should use doctrine and Biblical facts to explain what Christian love is and how we can display it in our lives. For example, how is it that we know love? We know love because God first loved us. Hmm, seems like I have read that somewhere before, could it be... 1 John 4:19? A Biblical fact about the doctrine of love is that we are able to know what love is because God first loved us. He is the example of love because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, God so loved the world that He gave His only son, and greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. I do believe we have found several Biblical facts that explain the doctrine of Christian love!

What is doctrine? Doctrine simply means teaching so anything that is being taught is doctrine. The question is, what kind of doctrine is it? We have the official doctrines of the church which hopefully are based on the Bible, and that is what we usually refer to when we mention this in the context of preaching and teaching. Denver Sizemore did a great job of tracking down 25 major doctrines in his 2 books "13 Lessons in Christian Doctrine" and "12 More Lessons in Christian Doctrine" which have been taught all over the world.

Doctrine is important because we must teach our people about the Bible if we expect them to learn anything about the Bible. If they do not learn about the Bible, how will they know how to live a Biblically grounded life for the Lord? If you want to display Christian love in your life, you must first learn about Christian love in the Bible so you will know that Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to do unto others what we would have them do unto us.

The Fellowship of Believers (Earl Winfrey)

“Just sit back, put your feet forward, and allow Jesus to wash your feet.”

The above quote was from a friend of mine who was trying to plant a church in an area that was already well established with churches on every block. He wanted to create a church for the people who did not “belong” in church, so he decided to avoid anything that resembled a church for his gatherings. He told everyone that he was going to focus on love instead of making the people follow the rules of an established church. You can imagine that this did not sit well with the many ministers in the area who were trying to reach the people. In fact, I had another friend from the area who has been successfully reaching the lost for over 5 years, and he was confused about why his church was being insulted.

Some people don't realize that when you try to build your own church up, there is a danger in creating enemies with the other churches. Of course, I think the issues went deeper than that because the beginning quote was contradicting the whole purpose of church. Jesus washed the Disciples' feet to set an example for what we are supposed to do. He did not wash their feet because He wanted them to feel comfortable while being in His presence. My friend who wanted to plant the church quit after 6 months while my other friend is still growing his church because he is remaining faithful to the task of making disciples.

So what is the purpose of our worship services? The most popular answer is to focus on God and praise Him. But I wonder if that answer may be incomplete. While it is true that we are performing for an “Audience of One” which means we should direct everything we do towards God, there does seem to be another dimension to our worship service that comes from the Bible. Let's take a look at Hebrews 10:24-25.

“[24] And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

This passage as well as the references in Acts concerning the church gatherings indicate that there is a part of the service that involves encouraging each other. In fact, we should stir up each other to love and good works. That means our worship service should motivate us to action rather than lulling us to sleep. Our primary focus is God, but once we engage in worship focused on the Almighty, we have a secondary purpose of encouraging each other. This is the result of drawing near to God.

God is passionate about His people, so if you come close to God, you will see how much God cares and that should create a fire in your heart for His people too. It is possible to have a worship service focused totally on God while at the same time encouraging each other to action. It happened in the book of Acts, and it can happen today as well. So this Sunday, let us stir up one another to love and good works as we focus our worship on God!

The downfall of democracy: we are responsible for what our government does.

Suffering from truth decay? Brush up on your Bible.

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

John 17:17 *“Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.”*

It's no wonder our culture thinks truth is relative – they think truth stems from reality, and reality as they know it is subject to their experience. Do you know anyone whose experience is the same as yours?! So, then, their reality could be different, and that in turn would mean that their truth could be different. Arg! This picture is a misrepresentation. Even though from all appearances your truth and my truth might not match, neither of us actually has a complete experience, an untainted reality, an absolute truth: only a God has that. When humans get represented as little gods (by themselves or others!), their truth can bring confusion and cause rifts and schisms; God's truth can only bring peace, accuracy and wholeness.

A lady placed great value and priority on God's Word – the words she speaks reflect what she has hidden in her heart, and she is not afraid to accurately say a truth that may be contrary to another's experience.

A friend placed great value and priority on her experience – her friends don't stick around because her reality and truth were, well, her own, and quite confusing at that.

In the movie “North and South”, John Thornton accepts as true a false appearance about Margaret Hale, and a schism occurs – good thing he is finally acquainted with the true action before the end, and the schism can be healed and peace restored betwixt the two!

But what if telling the truth is painful? What if all appearances point to a different truth? What if the only one who knew the truth took it to their grave? Has God run out of balm in Gilead when things are difficult? Has He given up defending what was and is and is to come?? Has He held some truths to be inconsequential??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God's heart, and He cares about each and every one of them to the point of preserving His words for millennium, and promising to bring us to heaven one day where we will hear them spoken from His very mouth instead of just from off a page.

We might be able to choose the true word or action or attitude that matches our experiences, but we can't choose how it appears to others. Just be true to ... Truth!

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:

BARRELS OF OIL

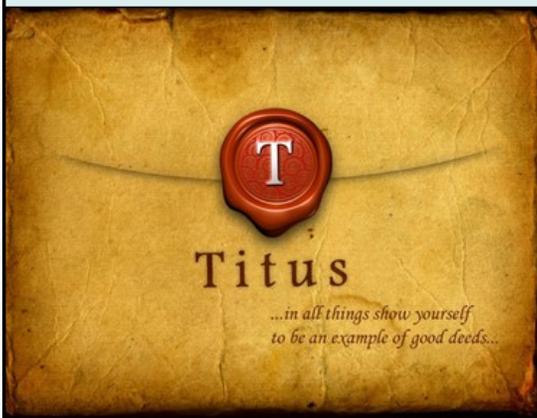
When the first oil wells were drilled they had made no provision for storing the liquid so they used water barrels. That is why, to this day, we speak of barrels of oil rather than gallons.

SUNDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Begins March 5 @ 6:00pm

For Adults

For the Youth



This month is a very exciting month for me because I have the privilege of teaching the youth for Sunday School beginning March 5. It has been a while since I have taught Sunday School since I have so much happening on Sunday mornings, but since we have teenagers who need a teacher, I am ready to step up to be their teacher! We will begin with Denver Sizemore's 13 Lessons in Christian Doctrine and then the class will decide where to go from there.

Along with the new Sunday School class, we are also creating a Sunday Night Bible Study that will not be like what we have done in the past. We are adding a youth class so we can separate the adults and the youth and we will have a short song service before we break up into our studies. Be sure to show up early so we can start at 6:00pm!

The adults will go with me to the Fellowship Hall after the song service so we can study the book of Titus. The youth will stay in the sanctuary with Michael so they can have their study. Their study is a 6 week video series called "Not a Fan" by Kyle Idleman. He is the Teaching Pastor for Southeast Christian Church in Louisville KY and his dad is a well known preacher too. You can find more information about Kyle's church here: <https://www.southeastchristian.org>

I really hope you will join us and invite your friends too because this will only be as successful as we make it! Without your help, we won't be able to accomplish much but if we work together, we can build a great church for the Lord! It can be done!

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

God created the underwater creatures and birds on the fifth day. (Gen 1:20-23)

Winners: Michaela Winfrey/Wil Winfrey/Phillis Jackson



Honorable Mention: Freda Austin

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:

Noah was a "preacher/herald" of what? (Hint: The answer is in the New Testament)

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!



Michael and Earl are singing with the Greenwood Chorale on Sunday, March 19, 2017 4:00 pm First Presbyterian Church
"Requiem for the Living" by Dan Forrest
(in collaboration with Greenwood High School Eagle Singers)

Be sure to check out our calendar so you can stay up to date with all of the events that are happening. We want you to be here with us!

"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 - March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday: Prayer - 9:30am S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am P.M.B.S. - 6pm	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	"Pray for FCCC" reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	1 Eph 6:10-20	2 2 Peter 2	3 2 Timothy 3	4 Neh 6:1-14
5 Youth Sunday School begins (6-12 Grade)	6 Psalm 20	7 Pray for FCCC Psalm 27	8 Zechariah 9	9 Zechariah 12	10 Isaiah 40	11 (Neh 6:15-7:3) DST - Set clocks forward 1 hour
12 (DST Begins) Circle of Joy 1:30pm	13 Exodus 14	14 Pray for FCCC Exodus 15	15 (Joshua 3) Ladies' Lunch @ Fuji Express (1:45pm)	16 (Joshua 4) Worship with Winfreys 3pm	17 Nehemiah 8	18 Nehemiah 9
19 No PM Bible Study, Chorale Concert 4pm @ 1st Presbyterian	20 1st day of Spring Genesis 9:1-17	21 Pray for FCCC Exodus 24	22 Psalm 25	23 (Psalm 132) Newsletter Submissions due	24 Acts 3	25 Nehemiah 10
26 Elders' Meeting after the Fellowship Meal	27 Lev 23:1-22	28 Pray for FCCC Lev 23:23-44	29 Jeremiah 30	30 Luke 15	31 Psalm 7	
Let's stir the waters of the baptistry in 2017!		Please pray about what you can do for the Lord in 2017	Wed Bible Study 6:00pm (All ages)	Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor	Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend	Stay tuned for special classes offered in 2017!