

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 5
May, 2017

THE BIBLE IS OUR ONLY RULE FOR FAITH AND PRACTICE

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)

There are times when I wonder if certain phrases need to be explained, especially this one about the Bible. And then I turn on the TV. Unfortunately, there are many so-called preachers and modern-day prophets trying to make a quick dollar who will say anything to tickle the itching ears of the masses. They abuse the Bible and twists the texts until there is nothing left that resembles the original message.

This is why our church and the Restoration Movement are so persistent about keeping the Bible as the top priority in everything we do. We have been known as a "People of the Word" and our church wants to make sure we keep it that way. We have many ways of providing a solid foundation in the Word so if you are interested, we are ready to teach!

We don't claim to be the only Biblical scholars, but we are scholarly when it comes to studying the Bible. The Bible is truly our only rule for faith and practice.

I love our church!
- Earl Winfrey

I
JESUS
LORD

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

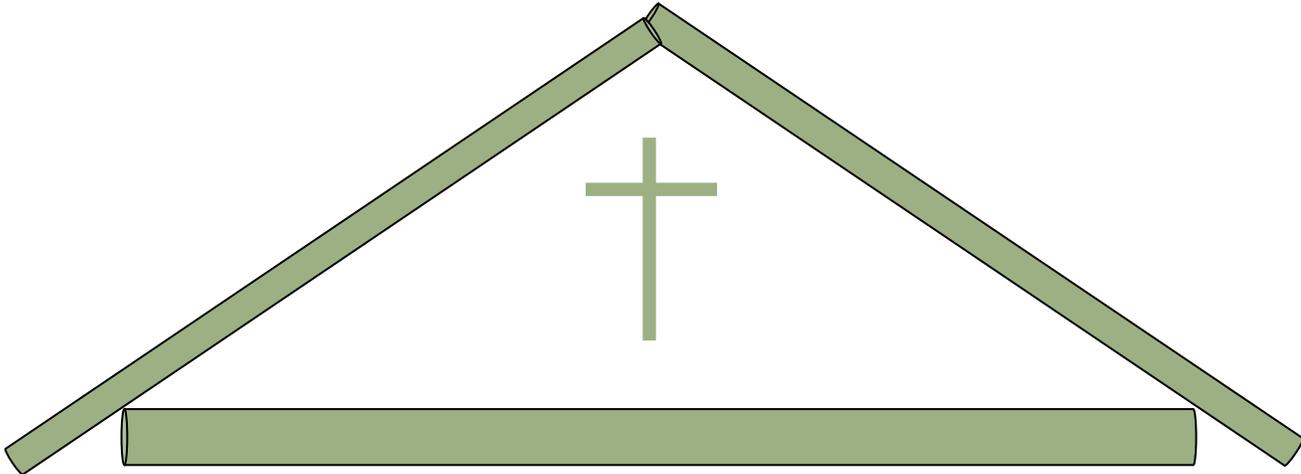
Church Office:

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

A MOTHER'S LOVE (Michael Winfrey)

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:1-4

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in West Virginia in 1912. Mothers were to be recognized as an important part of our culture and lives. The heart of a mother is like a rare jewel. They love their children during the worst and best times.

Yet all mothers are not the same. Author and speaker Patsy Clairmont says, "Normal is just a setting on your clothes dryer." We are all different. She shared that as women we may "struggle, fail, start over, and celebrate." But we are mothers who can love unlike any other person.

A familiar Mother's Day poem written in the early 1900's is:

M is for the many things she gave me,
 O means only that she's growing old.
 T is for the tears she shed to save me,
 H is for her heart of purest gold.
 E is for her eyes with love light shining,
 R means right and right she'll always be.
 Put them all together, they spell MOTHER
 A word that means the world to me.

God created families and gave mothers a unique place in that unit. We can love, give of ourselves, cook, clean, wash clothes, put Band-Aids on scrapes...be the first one up in the morning or the last one down at night. We juggle a lot of things including raising children, working at jobs, managing a home, and sometimes finding time for ourselves.

Each day is a new beginning of what lies before us. We have destiny, purpose, and the power to do and be all that we are called to be. Nothing can stop us except ourselves. As mothers, we need to find the strength to face each day knowing that God loves us.

Our children need that unselfish love of a mother. We as mothers need to love our mothers too. Long life is promised to all who show honor to them.

Mothers make up a crucial part of our lives. So whether it is a Hallmark card, dinner out, a hug, or a kiss on the cheek, we should show we care. It is so important to give our love to these dedicated women in our lives and don't take them for granted.

Devotion taken from www.cbn.com

"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!

THE RIVER OF LIFE - Earl Winfrey (Sermon preached May 11, 2014)

(Romans 8:38-39) “[38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Replace the phrase “God in Christ Jesus our Lord” with “A mother” and you get: “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of a mother.”

I know this is not scripture when you replace that phrase, but this does sound like a good description of a mother’s love! Mother’s Day is a special day that is full of emotions. We have smiles on our faces when we think about how our moms loved us through the years. Looking around the room, I can see how special our church is because of all the faithful mothers we have. I can also see the future mothers and I have confidence that they will be great too when the time comes.

On Mother’s Day, there is cause for celebration, but unfortunately, there is also heartache. Thinking about the moms who are no longer with us can break our hearts. We cherish the good times and celebrate their lives, but we still miss them, and this can cause today to be very painful. This pain can only be healed when we have the hope of heaven. The joy of knowing that we will see these moms again when we make it to heaven can help us smile. That joy is what keeps us going when our hearts feel heavy.

The hope of heaven is real for those of us who are saved. And we know about heaven by reading God’s Word. In the Bible, we get a glimpse of what heaven is like because God wanted to give us something to look forward to. And the most popular place to find a description of heaven is in the book of Revelation. The Apostle John shares with us a vision of heaven. When reading Revelation, we have to keep in mind that John was writing apocalyptic literature which means that he used many symbols and codes in order to disguise the content so he could make sure that the intended audience received this letter. However, there are parts of Revelation that are easier to understand.

In today’s text, we see a description of the river of life that is located in heaven. John is seeing this in a vision, and he is using earthly words to describe it. That’s the challenge in reading what John wrote in Revelation. John is overwhelmed because he is seeing all of this spiritual stuff going on in a vision and he is trying to understand what it means. He cannot put into words what he is looking at, but Jesus tells him to write it down so we can read it. Can you see the difficulty in this assignment? He does not understand what he is looking at and yet he has to write about it for us. John is using the best words he can find to describe what is ultimately indescribable, but since the Holy Spirit inspired the letter, we can trust the description that John gave us. (Read Revelation 22:1-5)

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Back in the 1500s

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous..

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As we continue our series called "Let's Go Fishing," we need to remember that we have the responsibility to fish for lost souls. And if we are fishing for lost souls, it helps us to know where we are going to end up. People need to know where they are going before they can change their path in order to get there. So what is heaven like? C.S. Lewis thinks that heaven is what the Garden of Eden was meant to be. It was meant to be a paradise where God and man could dwell together in perfect communion for eternity. The Apostle John describes the river of life in today's text, and the passage takes us back to Genesis 1 and 2 where God created the Garden of Eden.

The Garden of Eden represented the ideal relationship that God had in mind when He created man. In heaven, we will be reconciled to God so we can get back to the Garden of Eden type of relationship we were designed for. Will heaven be an actual garden? It's possible. It is also possible for the river of life to flow through the garden too just like it did in the Garden of Eden.

I. Life from the Water

A. The first description of the water we see is that it is bright as crystal - When water is pure, it is completely transparent. In the same way, a crystal is a rock that is completely transparent, so it is free from any impurities. So the water that flows is completely clean. If you have paid attention to the water coming out of our faucets here, you know what impure water looks like especially after a hard rain. So the tap water at our church is not pure. The water flowing in today's text is completely pure. In the same way, our lives before Jesus are impure just like the tap water in our church. However, after we get to know Jesus and are baptized into Christ, we are cleansed and we are bright as crystal just like the water in today's text. So how does water stay that pure? It depends on where it came from. We have to trace the water back to its source to determine how pure it is.

B. The water is flowing from Throne of God - That word "flowing" means that it is in constant motion, and this helps keep the water pure. It begins with God and flows out through the city so everyone can benefit from the river of life. Since it began with God and God is pure, everything coming from God is pure and that means the water flowing from God is pure. And since the water is flowing, that means the supply will never run out. God continues to provide the river of life forever, so we will be able to benefit from that river of life forever.

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God is the source of life for us in heaven, but He is also the source of life for us on earth too. We have access to the water from the river of life so we can accomplish God's purpose. (Isaiah 55:10-11) "[10] For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, [11] so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." By keeping a steady diet of God's Word, we will accomplish God's purpose for us. God sent His word through the Apostles and Prophets, and now we have the complete revelation which is the Bible. The Bible is our source of life because it flows directly from the throne of God.

C. The river of life also flows from the Lamb - The word used for lamb means a young lamb, an innocent lamb, a lamb that is pure. This is a lamb that has not been corrupted by the world. In the Old Testament, this type of lamb was used for sacrifices. The word was unblemished lamb because he could not have any defects; it had to be the absolute best lamb for the sacrifice to be accepted. In the New Testament, we know that Jesus was our unblemished lamb that was accepted as the sacrifice for our sins. And since Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, the word lamb here in today's text is a reference to Jesus. In fact, every reference to the lamb in Revelation is a reference to Jesus.

The water flows from the lamb and the water is the living water. (Isaiah 55:1) "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." (John 7:37-38) "[37] On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. [38] Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" When we drink from the living water, we will never thirst again. That means once you have tasted the pure water that flows from the throne of God and the Lamb of God which is Jesus, nothing else will satisfy your thirst.

II. There is life from the water, and there are leaves for Healing (Revelation 22:1-3)

A. The leaves come from the tree of life - (Genesis 2:8-9) "[8] And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. [9] And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Notice that the tree of life John mentions in today's text is also the tree of life mentioned in the Garden of Eden. And I also need to point out that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is not mentioned in today's text. What does that mean? It means that the tree of life is what is important. The river of life flows under the tree of life. The image we get here is that the tree of life is big enough to cover both sides of the river. This could be a tree with roots on either side or a tree planted on one side and the branches reach to the other side. Either way, the water goes under the tree and supplies life to the tree so it bears fruit.

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This could be a reference to Ezekiel 47:12: “[12] And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”

Ezekiel 47 talks about the water flowing from the temple, and the farther away from the temple the water flows, the deeper it gets. This is a picture of the church. The church began with Jesus, He trained His disciples to build the church, and then the church grew until it reached the ends of the earth. In Acts 1:8, Jesus told the Apostles to start in Jerusalem where the temple is located, then Judea, Samaria, and then the ends of the earth. And in Revelation, the Apostle John sees the end result.

B. The leaves from the tree of life are for the healing of the nations - The word nations here is from *ethnos* which is where we get the word ethnic. These are people groups which could be anywhere instead of nations which are restricted to a geographic location. So the healing is for the people groups of the world. And since the word is plural, that means more than one people group. The Jews make up the primary people group used by God to save the world, so who is the other people group? Remember that during the first century, there were only 2 classifications of people groups as far as the Jews were concerned, those were the Jews and the Gentiles. So the people groups referred to in today's text are the Jews and the Gentiles. The leaves are for the healing of the Jews and the Gentiles, and that means both the Jews and Gentiles make it to heaven to enjoy the River of Life for eternity with God. That's excellent news for those of us who are not Jews!

C. The leaves are for healing, and the river of life flows down the middle of the street - If I had to come up with a mental picture of this using today's world, I would use the city of Chicago Illinois. If you are familiar with Chicago, there is a river that runs through the city. This river connects to the Illinois and Michigan Canal with runs from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. As the city grew, the buildings were built on either side of the river so the river became a permanent fixture in the middle of the city. In the same way, the river of life is a permanent fixture in heaven. And that means we will always have life that flows from the throne of God.

III. We will also have light from God (Revelation 21:3-5)

A. Unrestricted access to God - In Revelation 21:9-27, the Apostle John sees a vision of the New Jerusalem which is another picture of heaven. In this passage, he notices that there is no temple in the new city because there was no need for a temple. On earth, a temple was needed so God could communicate to His people through the priests. In heaven, there is no need for the temple because God is now dwelling among His people for eternity. This was the original plan in the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world and when we make it to heaven; we will finally get to see how it was supposed to be from the beginning.

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B. The night will be no more - In Revelation 22:5, John says the God will be our light. There will be no more night which means everything will be seen. In darkness, people can hide their sins but when the light comes, all sins are revealed and everybody is seen the way they truly are. You know, this could be a scary thought that everything will be revealed in the light. This is another reason why it is best to stick with living the way Jesus wants you to live.

Just like the dawning of a new day, heaven will be the place where we have a brand new life forever. Listen to these beautiful words written in Revelation 21:3-7 - "[3] And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. [4] He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." [5] And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." [6] And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. [7] The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son."

C. (Read Revelation 22:4) Name on foreheads - The most conspicuous part of the body is the forehead. Every other part of the body is covered at some point but the forehead is usually left open since it is right above the eyes and you need your eyes so you can see where you are going. If you wanted somebody to see a message that is attached to you, the best place to put the message would be on your forehead. God's name will be on our foreheads so everyone can see that we belong to God. And since we belong to God, we can rely on His protection while we are still in this life.

Psalm 46:1 says "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Isaiah 40:31 says "but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." And 1 John 5:4 says "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." Finally, Romans 8:38-39 says "[38] For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When we belong to God, we don't have to worry about what will happen in this life because we have heaven waiting for us in the next life. The river of life will flow from the throne of God and we will reign with God forever and ever. This is a promise for those who are saved and God always keeps His promises. Since we have such a wonderful promise from God, and He wants us to bring as many people with us as we can, then why wouldn't we want to share this good news with those who are lost? Let's go fishing for lost souls so they can enjoy the river of life that is waiting for us.

LOOK FOR A NEW ARTICLE NEXT MONTH ~ by Sara Lantzer

Moving can be difficult especially when you have a full plate of activity to go with it. I will be back next month with a new article. See you next month!

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.

Since Mother's Day is this month, I decided to share a poem with you that was written by my 6th cousin once removed George Washington Winfrey. He wrote this poem for the Christian Standard in the early 1900's while he was preaching at the First Christian Church of Alexandria Indiana:

The Ladies Aid

Well of all the institutions I know anything about
 There's one that's always on the job week in and week out
 Quiltin', servin', sewin', meetin' every week
 Keepin' things agoin is their business so to speak
 Let the men dig down and pay – let the women rest
 Well the trouble men ain't built that way
 When it comes down to the test
 There are churches everywhere would be dead and in the shade
 If it hadn't been for the loving care of the ladies Aid

Sometimes in the Winter Church is out of coal
 Wood – there just ain't a splinter and we're in the hole
 Preacher frets and fumes and fuses
 Reckon we can't make the grade
 But like a thousand other messes – taken care of by the Aid
 Men lay plans and give big suppers
 Make Big Speeches – Molkin rings
 But when they're thru and on their uppers
 The Ladies Aid takes hold of things

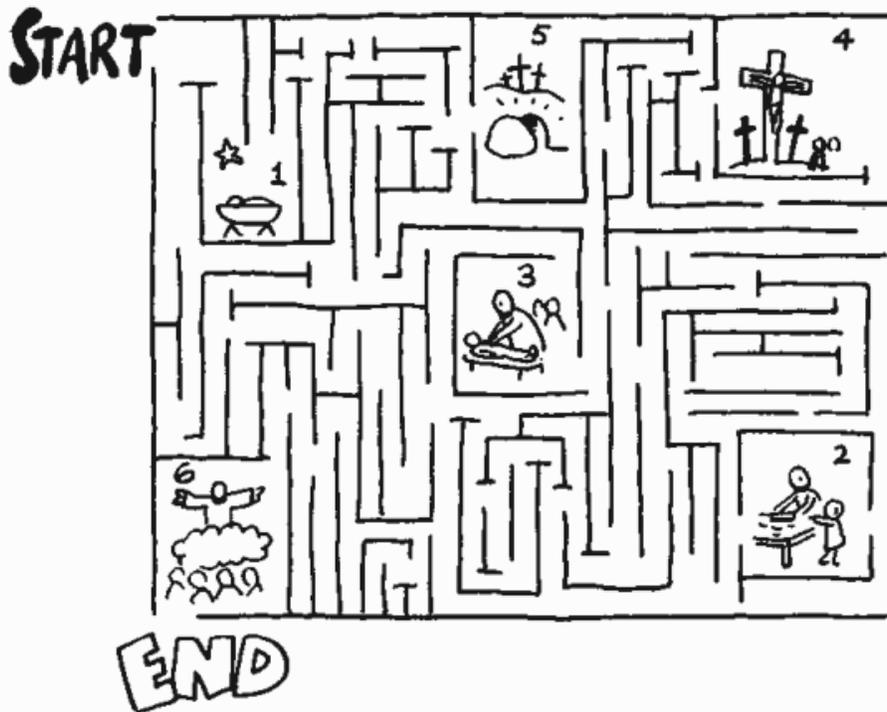
I have had some wholesome lessons
 I've seen Churches on the rocks
 Had men come and preach Big Sermons
 Heard the Choir for City Blocks
 But of all the Institutions
 That have answered when I prayed
 There are none that's more efficient
 Than the GOOD OLD LADIES AID.

Origin of Phrases:

COBWEB

The Old English word for "spider" was "cob"

CAN YOU FIND YOUR WAY?



You must travel right through each event in Jesus' life in the right order!

1. Jesus is born at Bethlehem.
2. Joseph teaches Jesus to work as a carpenter.
3. Jesus heals a little girl.
4. Jesus is crucified.
5. Jesus is alive again.
6. Jesus ascends to heaven.

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) first suggested the national observance of an annual day honoring all mothers because she had loved her own mother so dearly. At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Miss Jarvis gave a carnation (her mother's favorite flower) to each person who attended. Within the next few years, the idea of a day to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was observed in a number of large cities in the U.S. On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress,

President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then it had become customary to wear white carnations to honor departed mothers and red to honor the living, a custom that continues to this day.

Mother's Day version of Psalm 23

My mom is my shepherd; I shall not want. She makes me lie down under cool, downy comforts. She watches me play beside still waters. She restores my soul. She leads me in paths of respect, responsibility, and goodness, for I am her namesake! Yea, even though I walk past monsters in the dark, I will not be ascaerd, because my mom is always near me. Her hands and her voice, they comfort me. Mama sets the table and cheerfully calls me to dinner even in front of big, mean bullies. She anoints my skinned knees and broken heart with kisses. She smiles and throws me a towel when my cup runneth over. Surely God's peace, power, and mercy shall uphold me all the days of my life, for my Mother taught me to dwell in the house of God forever.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Jesus was raised on the first day of the week (John 20:1 / pg. 2068 in Earl's Bible)

Winners: Wil Winfrey/Michaela Winfrey/Freda Austin



Honorable Mention: Michael Winfrey

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:
In which Jewish month is the Passover?

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!

**SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY HAS BEEN GOING GREAT!**

We had been working through a couple of great studies on Sunday nights over the past few weeks. We begin the study with a combined Praise session using some Youth Group songs from the past, and then we break up into youth and adults for our studies. Once we are finished with our current studies, we will have a Vespers Service for a few weeks. That will most likely begin the Sunday after Mother's Day, May 21. If you are able to join us, we would love to have you here on Sunday nights!

"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 - May 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	Wed Bible Study 6:00pm (All ages)	Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home	Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend	
1	John 1:9-18	2 Pray for FCCC John 9	3 John 11:1-44	4 John 14:1-14	5 John 16:16-24	6 John 20:24-31
7	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Pray for FCCC Luke 1:39-56	10 Matt 1:18-25	11 (Lk 2:22-38) Crafts for Magnolia Manor (1:00pm)	12 Luke 2:39-52	13 (Jn 19:25-27) Mother’s Day Meal 6:00pm (Cracker Barrel)
14	15 Mother’s Day	16 Pray for FCCC Mark 1:16-39	17(Matt 14:22-33) Ladies’ Lunch @ Cookout (1:45pm)	18 (Matthew 16) Crafts 6:30pm (Fellowship Hall)	19 Luke 22:31-62	20 John 21
21	22 Circle of Joy 1:30pm	23 Pray for FCCC Luke 24:13-22	24 John 21:1-23	25 (Phil 2:5-11) Worship with Winfreys 3pm	26 (1 Cor 15:1-11) Newsletter Submissions due	27 (Acts 1) Youth Outing Bowling 10:30am
28	29 Fellowship Meal After Worship	30 Pray for FCCC John 14:15-31	31 John 15:1-17	Elders meet when needed. For any questions, see Earl	Mission of the Month: Johnson U. (Florida)	