

# FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 6  
June, 2017

## WE'RE NOT THE ONLY CHRISTIANS, BUT WE ARE CHRISTIANS ONLY

### 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)

This is probably one of the most popular phrases we like to use because it drives home the point that we are not tied to any denomination. We are independent, and nobody can make us do anything we have not planned on doing because we govern ourselves.

Unfortunately, this can become an excuse for being hard-headed and arrogant because we tend to forget the first part of that phrase. We love to parade around with our banner raised high "We are Christians only" but what

about the part that says we are not the only Christians? This is where I need to take a moment to be transparent. I will also use this as an opportunity to "Lovingly" throw ourselves under the bus. In an effort to become a Biblically based church, many of us who belong to the Restoration Movement have rejected any church that does not agree with our doctrine.

We seem to have changed our phrase to "We are the only Christians," and that is a shame because there are many wonderful friendships lost as a result.

Continued on page 4...

I  
JESUS  
L  
O  
R  
D

### Check us out online:

[www.fccgwd.org](http://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](mailto: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

## Good Father!! (Michael Winfrey)

*"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.  
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth.  
Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!" (Psalm 127:3-5)*

There are mornings when I head to work and I stop at the Chick-fil-a for my chicken biscuit and large Cherry Coke. On several occasions, as I go through the drive-thru, I have seen the big table filled with men with their Bibles and their breakfast. These men are different ages and races, but they have one thing in common. They have made a commitment to be at Chick-fil-a at 6:30 am in order to have breakfast with each other and study the Bible. I love those mornings that I see them!

I don't know for sure, but I assume some of them are fathers. Some of them have raised children or are in the midst of raising children. It gives me pause to look back on my life and remember the men in my life that have helped me become who I am today. There are several that come to mind! First, and most important, my dad. I am proud of the fact that I have been and will always be a daddy's girl. He worked so hard to make sure our family had what we needed...and he still strives for that. I also remember my "dads" at church growing up. I always knew that I couldn't get away with much if Andy Portwood and Paul Ward were around! While all these men are different, they have one thing in common, doing their best to raise godly children and grandchildren. I love these men!

Then I think of all the men that I have in my circle of influence today. Men like Marvin Bradley, Frank Jackson, Daniel Miller, and Tim Hinton. These men have raised and are raising children to become godly men and women. They serve as a role model not just for their children, but also for mine. Wil and Michaela see these men on a weekly basis. As they observe these men serving in various capacities, Wil gets a picture of what it means to be a man of God while Michaela sees what kind of qualities she should look for. These men are different, but they have one thing in common, doing their best to raise godly children and grandchildren. I am proud to know these men.

Lastly, I think about the man I walk with through this crazy think called life. I sit back some days and just watch him being a dad to the Wee Ones. He has always jumped right in and helped! He has his little inside jokes and things that are just for him and his kids...like mac-n-cheese and chocolate milk for dinner while momma has Ladies Lunch. Every once in a while they let me infringe on their shenanigans...but not often! What happens between daddy and children stays between daddy and children...and I wouldn't have it any other way. He is building memories that will stay with the Wee Ones long after we are gone. He is also giving them glimpses into the life of a minister. Since we homeschool, they tag along with daddy to church while I am at work. They help him with some of the things he has to do. They are in charge of the letters for the sign out front. It is their job to restock the breakfast items on Sunday mornings and to check the mailbox during the week. These are just a few of the "jobs" they have as they help their daddy do his job. They see that ministry is so much more than preparing and preaching a sermon. All these things he does, not because he has to, but because he desires to pour into their lives. He is different from other fathers, but he has one thing in common, doing his best to raise the Wee Ones to become godly adults. I love this man and am so proud to be his wife, partner in crime, the jelly to his peanut butter, the sugar to his tea, the cheese to his macaroni, and the syrup to his pancake!

### "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!

...Continued from the cover page

I know that I am being harsh with my assessment, and I will not win many "RM" friends from this article, but we need to be honest about what we have become. I believe the Apostle Paul said it best in 1 Corinthians 8:1(b) when he wrote that knowledge puffs up. The smarter we get with the Bible, the temptation to become arrogant gets stronger, and there are many churches that have fallen to that temptation.

To be fair, there are plenty of great loving churches out there who are not arrogant, and they are the model churches for the Restoration Movement. I may be biased, but I believe that I am preaching for one of those churches! However, we must be aware of what is happening with our movement if we expect to remain healthy. We need to understand why so many churches from outside the movement look down on us when we try to reach out to them.

In many ways, we are paying the price for the actions of the few arrogant churches who have closed their minds to anything having to do with the denominational world.

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Have the denominational churches rejected us or did we reject them based on the doctrinal differences we have? My guess is that both sides have embarrassing moments that they would rather erase from memory. In my research a few years back for Restoration History, I found an official statement from the Presbyterian Church labeling Alexander and Thomas Campbell as heretics who created their own churches that should be avoided. As a result, many relationships were damaged and they lost friends along the way. However, when faced with people from the Presbyterian Church, they never once insulted them or rejected them. The Campbells had every right to seek revenge and call for all of the churches under their influence to have nothing to do with the Presbyterians.

If they would have taken that road, there are many churches from our movement today who would applaud them and join in their protests.

Instead of seeking revenge, the Campbells said "Come let us reason together" so they could teach the Bible and prove what they believe so that those who understand can have the opportunity to change their beliefs based on what they studied. As a result, the strained relationships between the Campbells and the Presbyterian Church did not hinder the growth of the Restoration Movement, and there were many churches built with a variety of Christians worshipping. The denominational churches were never considered to be the enemy.

The sectarian spirit of denominationalism is what Thomas Campbell described as a horrid evil because it divided the Christians and caused us to fight against each other. He then wrote 13 propositions to organize the ideals of the movement and give us something we can use to begin discussions with those who are not from our movement. From those discussions, we have seen many cross-denominational ministries thrive around the world.

Continued on Page 5...

Back in the 1500s

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

...Continued from page 4

And then, the train fell off the tracks. The more the movement grew, the more arrogant many churches became. Of course, there were plenty of churches that became more loving and the reputation of the movement as a whole was a great one with the words warm and loving being frequently used to describe our congregations. There were several great churches we could point to as role models for the rest of us, but as time moved on, the reputation became tainted, and we suffered because of the actions of the vocal minority who insisted that churches follow their lead and remove instruments, isolating themselves from the rest of Christianity. The piano was an abomination to the Lord.

When the instruments were removed, the musicians were insulted because they were being told that they could not worship God using their God-given ability to play instruments. And then some people wondered why music suffered in those churches.

I could go on and on about the skeletons in our closets, but I believe the instrument issue is enough to get my point across. We are not the only Christians, but we are Christians only. This is a phrase that must be removed until we finally understand what it means to allow the freedom to disagree without cutting each other off from fellowship.

I love the Restoration Movement. I love our churches, our Ministers, and our Heritage. However, I believe that we are the creators of our own isolation and struggles because of the canonical chip we have placed on our shoulders. If we want to be considered part of the church community, we need to be willing to accept those who do not believe the same way we believe. It does not mean that we need to compromise our own beliefs. We must stand firm with what we know to be true, but we also need to remember that we are not the experts of the Bible. The One who wrote the Bible is the only expert who can make that claim. The rest of us need to do the best we can and stay as consistent as possible with our doctrine.

We do not have to use our Bibles like baseball bats ready to bash the Baptists when they brush up against our beliefs. Instead, we can use our Bibles the way God intended and that is to reason with each other and debate the scriptures so we can improve our understanding of this great mystery called the Gospel. I realize that it "Takes 2 to tango" and we are not the only ones responsible for this mess, but I am not part of the other side, so I can only speak for and to the Restoration Movement and ask for everyone, no matter who you are or where you live to look closely at how you handle those who disagree with your beliefs. If we are going to say that we are not the only Christians, we need to back that up with our actions. Come, let us reason together so we can learn more about the Bible! (I still love our church! - Earl Winfrey)

### **Extreme Makeover: Church Edition (Earl Winfrey)**

Everybody loves a good makeover. I remember a few years back being introduced to the show "Extreme Makeover, Home Edition." It aired on Sunday nights and easily became a favorite for my family. Every week, there was a different family being helped as they had homes that were in such bad shape, the only answer was to tear it completely down and start over with a new house. This new house was custom made so the family could have everything they need to live a life of happiness. After a couple of years, we lost interest in the show partly because the novelty wore off, but we don't have to look far to see a good makeover.

There is a trend in the world of the Evangelical Church which also includes those churches in the Restoration Movement, and that is the concept of a re-launch. A church re-launch could also be known as an extreme makeover "Church Edition." Some churches may need this, but I can't help but wonder if this is really the best answer for others.

The decision to re-launch a church involves accepting the fact that the church in its present form is beyond repair. The church has to be spiritually demolished and then rebuilt so it can become effective in fulfilling God's purpose for that church. Part of the spiritual demolition can involve the physical makeover of the church facilities and can also include a name change if the church stays in its present location. In some cases, this re-launching of the church has proved to be effective as it rekindled a passion for the lost in the people of the church. But what about those churches that fail even though they did a "proper" re-launch?

Just like the show on TV, some churches build according to what they need in order to be happy at church. This is a risky move because part of the reason why a re-launch is needed is because some people have become too comfortable with the church the way it is. And by rebuilding the church according to what the people think they need to be happy at church, what is actually happening is a comfortable congregation becoming even more comfortable with what they have already built.

Instead of rebuilding according to what the people need to be happy, the church should rebuild according to what will help them reach the community around them. Do people need a place where they can bring their friends so they don't have to hang out at the local bar? Do the kids need a place to study after school is out? Does the community need a place to have organized sports that is safer than playing in the streets?

If a church wants to be more effective for the Lord, then they should move beyond having a nice place to gather on Sunday. They should create a place that can become part of the life of the community so the Lord can have unlimited access to the people He is trying to reach. A state of the art facility with a fancy name that can be easily marketed may be what the church wants in order to be happy, but what about the Lord? What kind of church makes Him happy?

**When praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty.**

## Pursuit ~ 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. Brother-in-law First received one titled Pursuit. (Please note that names have been changed to protect the identities of the superheroes around me!)*

Psalm 34:14 "Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

She was born in America. She succeeded in school. Her family was loving. She had a deep, abiding faith in Christ. I first encountered this exceptional lady while watching a promo dvd of a mission named Pioneers. She spoke of her efforts at humanitarian aid in Afghanistan not as seeking to reap a harvest for Christ, or even to plant seeds, but simply to chuck rocks out of the soil. I was impressed that she had chosen a pursuit that was dangerous, required massive amounts of energy, and promised very slow/non-existent success. How like Jesus! His pursuit of humanity included His betrayal and death. We are not promised success in our pursuits, even if we are doing good or seeking peace.

A bachelor pursued a single lass, even though she didn't think twice about him at first – through much time and effort, he won her heart and secured her hand for a lifetime.

The first president of America, alongside a whole army of patriots, pursued freedom from a detrimental government, – through much time and effort, many lives were sacrificed, wages were unpaid, rations were scanty, the new government was problematic, his reputation was slandered and misinterpreted, but freedom was eventually won.

In the movie Tangled, Eugene (aka Flynn Rider) and Rapunzel (aka Blondie) pursue dreams, a crown, floating lights, parents, safety from danger, you name it – through much time and effort, they realize that pursuit is empty unless it is selfless.

But what if peace is elusive? What if doing good is rewarded with tragedy? What if you are the only one pursuing righteousness? Has Jesus ceased to reign as Prince of Peace? Has God forgotten to protect those who are acting out His will?? Has He left us to fend for ourselves in the midst of this evil generation??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God's heart, and He cares about each and every one of them to the point of making all, and I do mean ALL, things right.

We might be able to choose which pursuits to follow, but we can't choose the benefits or consequences that come to our lives as a result. Pursue regardless!

*<The next time I encountered her, Cheryl Beckett, age 32, had been martyred (along with nine others as they were returning to their International Assistance Mission home base after a three week trip to remote mountain areas in Afghanistan) by the Taliban on Aug 5, 2010. Her rock-chucking efforts are being made right by the Father she can now see face to face.>*

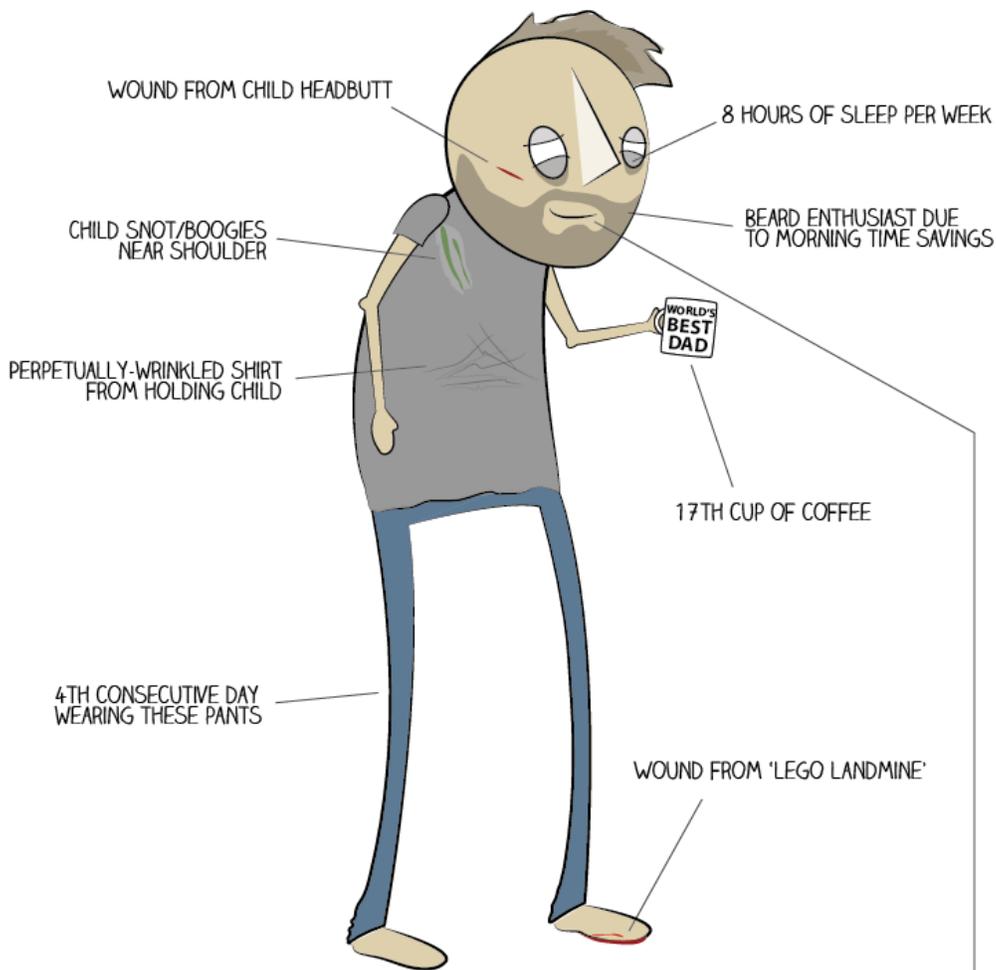
Sara Lantzer is a friend of the Winfreys who currently lives and works and writes in a small town in Michigan. She enjoys storytelling, creativity, uniqueness and spontaneity.

Origin of Phrases:

**HOT OFF THE PRESS**

As the paper goes through the rotary printing press friction causes it to heat up. Therefore, if you grab the paper right off the press, it's hot. The expression means to get immediate information.

**HOW TO SPOT A FATHER OF YOUNG CHILDREN**



SMILE ON FACE BECAUSE BEING A DAD IS THE MOST AWESOME THING EVER.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

The Passover was in the Jewish month of Abib (Deuteronomy 16:1) or Nisan (Nehemiah 2:1)

**Winners:** Freda Austin/Wil Winfrey/Michaela Winfrey



**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:

What was the name of the centurion who looked after Paul on the journey to Rome?

### 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!



### WINFREYS HEADING TO THE NACC AND VACATION

Last year was great because we were able to add extra weeks to our NACC trip so we could drive across the country and build memories as a family. Thanks to the generosity of this church, I was able to take time off for that trip. This year is a similar situation as the NACC will be in Kansas City, MO. We will be adding a couple of weeks to the end of the NACC so we can travel, so we will be gone for the first 2 Sundays in July.

For July 2, we will have Kevin Huston from The Shack (USC Campus Ministry) and on July 9, Christopher Crawford will preach for us. Christopher was the Associate Minister for Christ Church 4Given, and now he leads a chapel service at Magnolia Manor.

*"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](http://www.fccgwd.org)

## Calendar of Events - June 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 FCC" reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Wed Bible Study 6:00pm (All ages)	1 John 15:18-27	2 John 16	3 Acts 2:1-41
4	5 Acts 4:32-37	6 Pray for FCC Acts 6:1-7	7 Hebrews 10:1-18	8 Heb 10:19-25	9 1 John 1	10 (Acts 2:42-47) Boy Scouts clearing woods
11	12 Acts 10:1-16	13 Pray for FCC Acts 10:17-33	14 Acts 10:34-48	15 (Acts 11:1-18) Worship with Winifreys 3pm	16(Acts 15:1-21) Ladies' Lunch @ Bojangles (12:30pm)	17 (Acts 15:22-35) Father's Day Dinner (6pm)
18 Father's Day	19 1 John 2:1-17	20 Pray for FCC 1 John 2:18-29	21 1 John 3	22 (1 John 4) Newsletter Submissions due	23 1 John 5	24 John 17
25 Fellowship Meal After Worship	26 Romans 1:1-17	27 Pray for FCC Romans 1:18-32	28 Romans 2:1-11	29 Romans 2:12-29	30 Romans 3:1-20	
Elders meet when needed. For any questions, see Earl		Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend (Returns in Aug)		Worship with Winifreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home		Mission of the Month: Cedar Lake Camp Mission