

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 3, Issue 9
September, 2017

GOD'S NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT THROUGH REPROOF

All Scripture is God-Breathed:

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

Have you ever seen a child who was raised without any kind of negative reinforcement? It is not a pretty picture. The same works for God's children too. If there is no negative reinforcement, there is no growth. This is why Paul used the word reproof in 2 Timothy 3:16. If we are not called out for the things that are wrong in our lives, how will we know what to change? We need the Bible to show us our faults because we choose not to look at them. The Bible is just like a mirror, it will never lie to us.

Have you ever noticed how a mirror shows you exactly what you look like? There are days when you probably don't want to look because you might be afraid of what you will see. In the same way, the Bible will reveal exactly what your spiritual life looks like. It may be scary to look at, but you cannot correct something if you don't know it needs correcting. We need negative reinforcement from the Bible.

I
JESUS
L
O
R
D

Continued on page 4...

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

BEAUTIFUL CREATIONS BY GOD (Michael Winfrey)

"In His hands are the depths of the earth, the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hand formed the dry land." (Psalm 95:4-5)

On the 16th of this month I will be 41 years old. In those 41 years I have been an "outdoors" person precisely ZERO of them. That's right...me and the outdoors are not BFF's. My first choice (or forty first choice for that matter) would NEVER be going for a hike. My idea of camping is a camper with full hook up and the site being right next to the bath house!

Despite my lack of love for all things outdoors, I will be the first to marvel at the glorious views that God has created. Last year on our trip to California, we saw so many beautiful sights. We drove up and down the Pacific Coast Highway, seeing the oceans crash against the rocks. We drove through Texas where everything was...well...flat! We saw the "grand" part of the Grand Canyon, we have yet to see the "canyon" part. This summer we took another trip and the views were just as fantastic.

You see, I was born and raised in Georgia. I have seen my fair share of mountains. Aside from Stone Mountain, all the mountains that I have ever seen were covered in trees. Looking out at the mountains is beautiful, but there was always something missing. They may have been mountains, but they weren't MOUNTAINS! You know...the ones with the snow on top. The ones that are so big that trees can't survive at the peak. THOSE MOUNTAINS! I have always wanted to see those kinds of mountains. I don't remember where we were exactly...the days kind of blended together. However, I do remember rounding a curve in the highway and as I looked up, my heart leapt. I remember asking Earl if he could see what was in the distance. I was like Michaela seeing Belle for the first time at Disneyland last year. Off in the distance, too faint to see distinctively...those mountains. With every mile we drew closer. With every mile the picture became clearer. Finally we got to a point where Earl just decided to pull over so that I wouldn't lose my camera out the window.



I stood there just gazing at this sight and I started crying. Why? It hit me that at 41 years of age, there is still so much I haven't done and seen. I looked at my two children in the back seat and knew that it didn't take them until their 40's to see some purple mountain's majesty. I cried tears, not of sadness, but of joy, because I get to see these beautiful sights with three people I love completely.



I cried more tears as we reached the top of Bear Tooth Pass and stopped so that the Wee Ones could get out and play in the snow. That's right...SNOW...in July!!! I Watched my children see Mount Rushmore for the first time and completely understood their fascination because it was my first time seeing it too. I also cherish the time we sat on the deck wondering if Old Faithful was really going to erupt and "wowing" and "ahhning" when it did.



Experiencing all these things for the first time with my husband and children makes me so thankful that even though I may not be outdoorsy...God sure is! He has created some of the most beautiful scenes that no amount of paint and canvas can recreate. Thank you, Lord for your beautiful creation.

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

In Deuteronomy 8:11-18, Moses spoke to the Israelites a short time before his death: **“Beware** that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; **otherwise**, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then **your heart will become proud** and you will forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **He led** you through the great and terrible wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water; **He brought** water for you out of the rock of flint. In the wilderness **He fed** you manna which your fathers did not know, **that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.** Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.”

An American youth was good with money, and searched the Scriptures to discover God’s way of navigating the intricacies of the tool of wealth – now as a man he has passed the test and is enjoying God’s good blessings for himself and others.

The Israelite wanderers showed forgetfulness in the presence of riches, remembering only their own strength and ability as the source of their prosperity – now as a nation they failed the test and are exempt from the good God planned for them.

Oliver! is a musical movie from 1968 that shows how God’s statutes about wealth apply even if you don’t know they exist – Fagin fraudulently seeks large amounts successfully, but ends up in the river with everything; Bill Sikes, a grown-up version of Fagin’s pickpocket lads, seeks out-of-reach riches, but ends up in a noose with nothing; Oliver is schooled as a Fagin pickpocket lad, yet discovers value in humility and family and loyalty and purity of heart, and exchanges the counterfeit riches for genuine goodness in a life of blessings.

But what if you lose all your money? What if your just earnings are unjustly withheld? What if your ministry is lacking funds? Has God ceased providing for today? Has His arm been shortened so He can’t reach out to vindicate you?? Has He become distracted by someone else’s need??? Certainly NOT! Humans are very close to God’s heart, and He cares about each and every one of them even more than He cares for the lilies of the field or the birds of the air, because we are of *much* more value than they.

We might be able to choose our way to wealth, but we can’t choose the benefits or consequences that wealth brings. Remember God’s way!

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.

FOOTBALL IS HERE (Earl Winfrey)

Football is here! For many of my friends, they could care less but for those of us who have played the game, this is a blessed time of year because we have the opportunity to travel down memory lane and relive our greatest and not so great moments when we strapped on the shoulder pads. In fact, I am thinking about going to my closet and pulling out my gear after I am finished with this article.

The world of football contains a variety of teams, coaches, plays, and players who specialize in certain areas of the game. Some players lean more towards defense while others would rather run down the field and catch the ball in the end zone. Coaches are the same way too. Some of them prefer to control the ball on offense while others would rather intercept the ball and take over the game in the last few minutes to win. No matter what part of the game appeals to each person, we all have the same love for football and the desire to succeed.

We all want to succeed but only a few win the game.

When I was in the 8th grade, we had a new coach for our team. He had a great offensive mind and challenged us to learn several formations that contained 10-12 plays each. Our playbook was almost as thick as a Strong's concordance! Along with the formations and plays, we had a complicated audible system that we had to memorize just in case the quarterback decided to change the play. On Friday nights, we were so worried about getting the play right that we forgot that we had to actually play the game. The season ended with a final game that resulted in an overtime loss which was the closest we came to winning a game all season.

We all wanted to succeed but none of us won the game.

You could probably guess that our coach got fired. During the following summer, I ended up switching to another school that was starting their first year of existence. I had some friends who went with me because we knew that the football coach there had the reputation for winning championships. We wanted a chance to be part of a winning team so we were willing to do everything we could to make it happen.

We all wanted to succeed but could we actually win the game?

We were placed on the Junior Varsity team and won more games than we lost. The following year, we were on the Varsity team and we made it to the playoffs. The year after that, we ended up in the state championship game where we lost to the only team that was able to beat us during the season.

We all wanted to succeed and we ended up being the 2nd best team in the state!

Continued on Page 7...

...Continued from page 6

What was the difference between our winning coach and the coach we had in 8th grade? Other than the obvious win/loss record, there was a difference in the way they approached the game. Our 8th grade coach felt like we could learn a sophisticated system and confuse the opposing team so we could have an advantage in the game. The problem was that we ended up confusing ourselves instead. The winning coach gave us 2 formations with 8 plays each so we could run or pass the ball when needed. It was a simple system that was fun because we did not have to complicate the game. We spent less time memorizing plays and that freed us up to play the game. As a result, we became much better as a team and that is how we were able to make it to the playoffs.

The coach simplified the game and we became a better team.

When trying to be the church God created us to be, there may be times when we need to simplify our ministry so we can become better at making disciples. Planning church events, developing Bible studies, working on outreach, evangelism, worship services, and improving the church as a whole are great, but we should never allow our desire to be successful to override the basics that help us succeed. We need to be careful because there is a temptation to become so busy doing church work that we forget to be the church.

If we simplify the ministry, we can become a better church.

THE NEIGHBORING CHURCH

At the NACC, Michael and I attended a workshop led by Rick Rusaw, Lead Pastor of LifeBridge Christian Church (Longmont, CO) and author of the "Externally Focused Church." That book is a favorite because it calls the church to look beyond the 4 walls and focus on the community. In this workshop, Rick introduced us to his latest project, "The Neighboring Church" which goes deeper into ministry by focusing on individuals rather than having everyone come together for the sake of the church. Being a good neighbor is the first step to reaching lost souls because there is no pressure to show up for an event or become part of a church you have just visited.

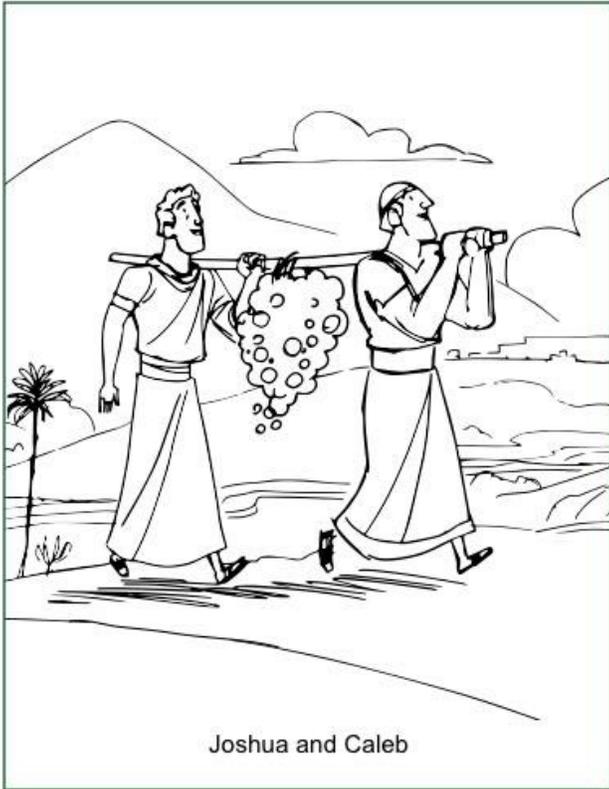


What if we got better at the two things Jesus said mattered most? Love God and Love Others. That is the driving question for our church, and we will explore this concept in future issues of this newsletter. If we can take the Titus 2 concept of mentoring and combine it with being a good neighbor, we will be able to see what the church is supposed to look like.

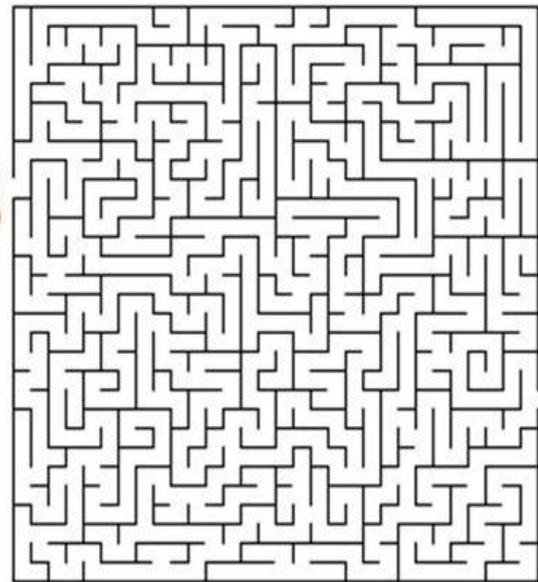
Be ye fishers of men, you catch them, and He will clean them.

The Fiery Furnace

Help Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego get through the fiery furnace



Joshua and Caleb



SUPERHEROES OF THE BIBLE

BibleWise

Joshua Obey's God at Jericho
—Joshua 5

Seven Times Around

God told Joshua to march his army around the city of Jericho once each day for six days. On the seventh day, they were to march around the city seven times. The seventh time around, the priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted. To find out what happened then, circle every other letter beginning at start. Copy the letters onto the spaces below. The first circled letter is done for you.

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

START (A)

A _____

Used by permission: Bible Puzzles for Kids Ages 6-8. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing Group, © 2006

GOD knows His plan for each of us.

Jeremiah 29:11

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)Answer to last month's question:**Jesse Was King David's father (Ruth 4:22; 1 Samuel 16:19, 17:12; Matthew 1:6)**Winners: Freda Austin/Wil Winfrey/Bethany SilverHonorable Mention:

Michael Winfrey, Phillis Jackson, Michaela Winfrey

This month's question: **What are the names of Lazarus' sisters?**

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!

Soup Kitchen Donations are Appreciated

We support our local soup kitchen once per month by supplying some of the food they need. If you would like to participate, be sure to check out the list of items needed on the communication station in the Fellowship Hall. Every can counts!

**CALLING ALL MEN!!!!**

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

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

- Earl Winfrey

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Don't forget to pray for those churches around us and near our hearts!

Bethany Christian Church (Bumpass, VA)
Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL
East Win Christian Church (Memphis, TN)
First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA
First Christian Church of Hampton, SC
First Christian Church of Kissimmee, FL
First Christian Church of Mountain City GA
First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood SC

Hartford Christian Church (Hartford, KY)
Lilburn Christian Church, GA
Port Orange Christian Church, FL
Rabun County Church of Christ (Tiger, GA)
Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
Toccoa Christian Church (Toccoa, GA)
Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
Tucker Christian Church, GA

If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.

First Christian Church of Greenwood SC (864) 223-2940 www.fccgwd.org

+ Calendar of Events - September 2017

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday: Prayer - 9:30am S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am | Circle of Joy is open for all women to attend | “Pray for FCC” reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday | Wed Bible Study for all ages (6:00pm) | Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home | Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon | Mission of the Month: Magnolia Manor |
| Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin | Ladies’ Lunch will be discussed at the C.O.J. meeting | | Coming Soon: Men’s Night! | | 1 Num 14:26-38 | 2 Joshua 14:6-12 |
| 3 | 4 Joshua 14 | 5 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Joshua 20 | 6 Joshua 21 | 7 Joshua 22 | 8 (Joshua 23) Craft Night at the Church 6:30pm | 9 Joshua 24 |
| 10 Circle of Joy 1:30pm | 11 1 John 2:1-17 | 12 <u>Pray for FCC</u> 1 Peter 4:12-19 | 13 2 Timothy 1 | 14 Daniel 1 | 15 Daniel 2 | 16 Daniel 3 |
| 17 | 18 Acts 9:1-31 | 19 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Acts 11:19-30 | 20 Acts 13:1-12 | 21 (Acts 14) Worship with Winfreys 3pm | 22 Acts 15:1-35 | 23 Youth Bowling (10:30am) |
| 24 Fellowship Meal After Worship Cong. Meeting Follows the Meal | 25 Jeremiah 1 | 26 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Jeremiah 7:1-29 | 27 Jeremiah 11 | 28 (Jeremiah 12) Newsletter Submissions due | 29 Jeremiah 18 | 30 Jer 20:7-18 |