

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church



Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 4, Issue 9
September, 2018

HAVE YOU BEEN ON AN ADVENTURE LATELY?

**2018 THEME:
GET OUT OF
THE BOAT!**

Last month, you may remember that I shared an interview I had with my son Wil who went on his first flight. It was a great experience and he had fun telling us about it. This month, I am sharing an interview I had with Michaela who went on her first camping trip without family. This was a great adventure that she was glad to talk about.

My goal for that addition to the newsletter is for us to share stories.

Sounds simple, and it is! We all have adventures, and I am sure we can all have fun sharing about those adventures we take! If you have something you would like to share, I can either interview you or you can write an article about your experience. Either way, I would love to hear about what you have done!

Along with Michaela's interview, we have lots of other interesting items in this newsletter. I am really enjoying the way all of this is coming together as our contributors are doing a great job with writing! What is your favorite part?

I LOVE our Church!
Earl Winfrey
Earl@fccgwd.org

I
JESUS
L
O
R
D

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD
Early Morning Snuggles

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29649

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

THE ELDER IS AN OVERSEER

When Jesus left the Apostles to build the church, there were several issues that needed to be handled. First and foremost, they had the problem of leading the people when they are not able to be everywhere at the same time. For this reason, they split up and covered different areas of the Mediterranean World.

When the church began to grow, they quickly realized that they were going to need local leaders to help them take care of the church or else the people will suffer from the lack of leadership. This is where the elders come in. While it is true that the leadership of the elders has been around since the days of Moses, the unique position of a New Testament Elder was much more than just a group of the oldest men from the tribes.

The elders are overseers which means that they are in charge of making sure the church does not stray from their purpose. As the leaders of the church, they are in charge of the day to day operations of ministry, and this includes supervising the staff and volunteers. For this reason, it is critical that the elders are a cut above the rest in character. That's why the Apostle Paul wrote that they are to be above reproach and then included qualifiers to help us understand what that looks like. Here is the list so we can see how well we match up.

2. The Elder is an overseer (Titus 1:7)

- a.) Above reproach as God's steward (Represents God)
- b.) Not arrogant (Knowledge puffs up, love builds up)
- c.) Not quick-tempered (People will push you to the edge)
- d.) Not a drunkard (Needs a sober mind and reputation)
- e.) Not violent (Does not "Crack a whip" to get people moving)
- f.) Not greedy for gain (Not trying to make a name for himself)

Unfortunately, many people use this list as a way to disqualify candidates who would make great elders. This list also intimidates many people because they feel inferior. Although this list is the ideal elder, I don't think Paul expected everyone to be perfect. We are all human, and none of us will represent this list perfectly every day of our lives. We just need to make it our goal to be like the list as much as humanly possible so we can lead with excellence.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

Wisdom of Larry the Cable Guy:

Inside every older person is a younger person wondering, "What happened?"

Jesus Loves This Hot Mess (Michael Winfrey)

The Urban Dictionary defines "hot mess" as someone whose thoughts or appearance are in a state of disarray but they maintain a certain attractiveness or beauty.

Have you ever had a word or phrase that seems to describe you rather perfectly? There are days, quite a few to be honest, that I feel I am the conductor of the Hot Mess Express. I walk around with my thoughts going all over the place. I also rock the messy bun like nobody's business. I live in my t-shirts and yoga pants. I haven't put on an ounce of make-up in almost 10 years.

I am absent-minded, which drives my husband crazy...but he's too polite to admit. I can remember lyrics to almost every song I hear and I can quote all three of the Lord of the Rings movies, but I can't remember to close the door to the cabinet after getting a cup. I misplace just about EVERYTHING! I can't tell you how many scissors I have lost in my lifetime. Forget trying to hold onto hair bands and bobby pins. My yarn stash is a mess and my cross stitch threads are all over the place...even though I have boxes for both! Yep, that is me.

My husband tells me I am beautiful, but I don't always see it. I have a degree that tells me I'm "smart", but sometimes I feel rather dumb. I am always comparing myself to someone else, pointing out every "perfection" in them and every "flaw" in me. I am in awe of women around me who are more confident in themselves. As I tell my friends, "I try to CAN but I just CANNOT."

That is why I had a dear friend of my make me a t-shirt that says, "Jesus loves this hot mess." It is one of my favorite shirts (and I was saddened to see some holes in it as I slipped it on just the other day). I wear this shirt all the time.

I wear it as a reminder that there is someone who loves me UNCONDITIONALLY. He looks at me and sees beyond the girl with a messy bun and way too many fat rolls who is looking for her crochet hook, which was slid in the middle of her messy bun just minutes before she forgot where it was. He sees me and refuses to call me a HOT MESS. That is not His definition of me. Here is how He defines me.

"Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become CHILDREN OF GOD." John 1:12

"Now you are the BODY OF CHRIST, and each one of you is A PART OF IT." 1 Corinthians 12:27

"So God CREATED man in HIS OWN IMAGE, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Gen. 1:27

"Fear not, therefore; YOU ARE OF MORE VALUE than many sparrows." Matthew 10:31

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, HE IS A NEW CREATION. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5:17

AND MY FAVORITE

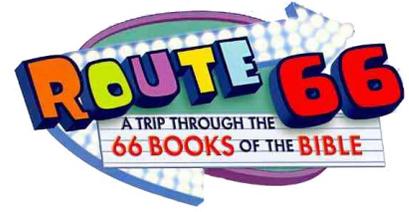
"I praise You, for I am FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well." Psalm 139:14

He sees me as valuable. He sees me as having worth. He sees me as precious. He sees me as His child.

I know that I am not the only one out there who feels like they are the captain of the S.S. Hot Mess and you just struck an iceberg. I am pretty sure I have some amazing company. I am in the presence of some fabulous ladies who see themselves, not through the 20/20 vision of Jesus, but through the smudged view of the world.

Lets stop looking through those glasses because the world has NOTHING to offer us. Begin to see yourself with the crystal clear vision of Jesus. After all, you may think you are a HOT MESS, but Jesus loves you!!!!

History of Israel: Ruth (Several sources used each month)



Getting Acquainted

Two books in the Bible bear the names of women: Ruth and Esther. Both of these heroines were great and good women. Here, however, the similarity ends. Ruth was a young Moabite girl who came to live with the Israelites. Esther was a Jewess who lived in faraway Persia. A marriage figures prominently in both books. Ruth married a wealthy Israelite farmer and became part of the royal line of David. Esther married a foreign king and became a queen. Ruth knew the discipline of field work. Esther was pampered with beauty treatments in the royal harem. The books named for these women are a contrast as well. They differ in size (Four chapters vs. ten) and the degree to which the heroine is involved in the story. The book of Ruth is the only instance in the Bible in which an entire book is devoted to a woman.

The Background of Ruth

The setting is *"In the days when the Judges ruled"* (1:1). Yet the contrast between this small book and the book of Judges is stark. After navigating through the turbulent rapids of Joshua and Judges the reader comes at last to the placid waters of the book of Ruth. Here there are no more sordid stories of crime and bloodshed, of lawlessness and savage revenge. The atmosphere of simple pervades the story. One senses throughout the overruling providence of God quietly moving forward with his program in those dark days of the Judges.

Circumstances of Writing

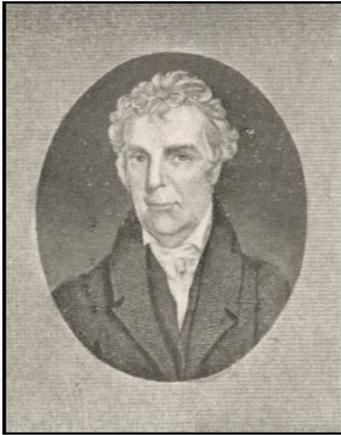
The book of Ruth was originally the concluding portion of the book of Judges. Ruth derives its ultimate significance from its original context as part of the larger book. This book was separated from Judges sometime after Josephus (AD 90). Apparently, this was done to help with this being read at the feast of Pentecost. This "Newly created book" was placed along with four other short Old Testament books in a collection called in Jewish tradition *Megilloth* ("Scrolls"). Rabbinic tradition required that each of these small books be read at major religious observances. Since Ruth was originally part of Judges, this book must have been penned by the author of that book. Samuel is the traditional author of Judges.

Chronology of Ruth

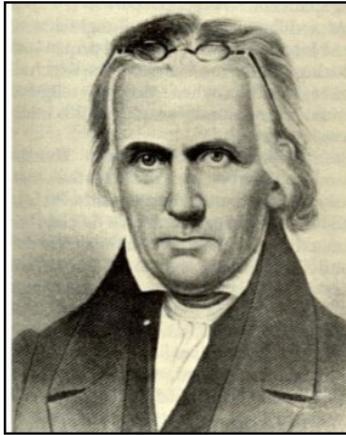
This is a sidestep book. Like the two appendices which follow the Samson saga in Judges (ch. 17-21), Ruth does not advance the history of God's people. The last five chapters of Judges and the four chapters of Ruth - Three distinct episodes - are like spotlights on social life during the period of the Judges. Though the events in Ruth clearly took place during the period of the Judges, exactly at what point in those three plus centuries is not easy to determine. Since Boaz was the great grandfather of David (Ruth 4:2), a date of about 1130 BC for these events would not be far off. For this reason several scholars date events in the book to the judgeship of Jair (1148-1126 BC).

Contents of Ruth

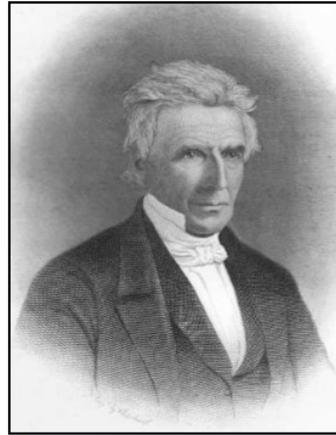
The purpose of Ruth must have been the same as the two episodes at the end of the book of Judges. They shed light on the everyday life in Israel during that time. In the first two episodes the author depicted the idolatry in the tribe of Dan and the immorality in the tribe of Benjamin. Ruth stresses the fidelity in the tribe of Judah. Boaz stands out as one stalwart oak in a forest of fallen timber. Ruth is also amazing since she chose God in the midst of all the trials from her suffering and deprivation along with Israel's prejudice against her being a Moabite.



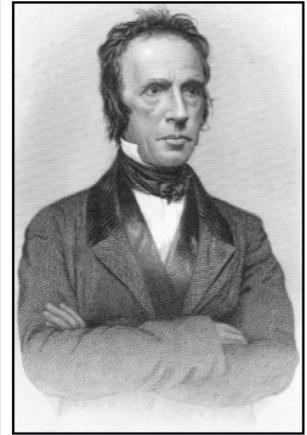
Barton Stone



Thomas Campbell



Alexander Campbell



Walter Scott

REFLECTIONS ON THE RESTORATION

Pulling People Out of Heaven Part 1 of 5 (Originally written as a blog post in 2015):

There are moments when I wonder if we have become so concerned with pulling people out of heaven that we forget that we are supposed to be putting people in heaven.

In Bible College, I was told to be careful when preaching sermons at a funeral. We should not put anybody in heaven unless we are close enough to the person or the person's family to know that the final destination is not being debated. We should also stay away from condemning people to hell with our sermons. If we don't know for sure that a person is saved, it is best to leave it alone and focus on the life that was lived.

Our role is not to be the judge. Our role is to simply present the Bible as it is. If the Holy Spirit convicts a person to follow the instructions contained in the Bible, we should respond enthusiastically because we are blessed to be able to have a front row seat for this salvation process! It is a beautiful sight to see a life transformed by God!

However, what should we do if a person rejects what we teach?

First of all, we should remember that they are not rejecting us; they are rejecting God because we are just teaching what He wrote. Of course, we have to make sure that we are in fact, teaching ONLY what God wrote and NOT our opinion of what He wrote.

Secondly, we should keep in mind that the Apostle Paul told us to speak the truth in love. If we fight and argue about what is written in the Bible, how is that speaking the truth in love? If we reject those who disagree with us and condemn them to hell because they refuse to listen, how are we showing God's love that can transform life? More often than not, we present a "One and done" kind of savior because we get offended when somebody shuts us down the first time we present the plan of salvation.

How many times did it take for you to be saved?

Chances are, none of us accepted the Biblical plan of salvation after hearing it for the first time. I'm sure that there are exceptions, but my point is that if we truly want people to make it heaven, we will be patient enough to allow people the time needed to accept what the Bible says.

I have much more to write about this, but I will close for now. To be continued...



This month's Church myth: "Musicians can't teach the Bible"

Growing up in a suburb of Atlanta, I was exposed to "City" churches that were larger than small town churches, and almost every church had a choir. My parents sang in the choir and I began singing at an early age. In these churches, we also had several choir members with Bible College degrees so the quality of our Bible Studies was noticeably better than churches where high school is the highest level of education for most of the members. Obviously, college is not for everyone and it is possible to teach without higher education, but my point is that in the "City" church, it is not uncommon to see a choir member teaching a class.

This is why I was surprised when I attended a church while going to Bible College, and the Minister told me that since I was playing the piano and leading the singing, I am not going to be good at teaching a Bible Study class. I should develop my musical talents and stick with the music ministry of the church. Well, this Minister was not saying this because he was concerned about my future, but he did bring to light a common myth in churches.

For many churches, those who are musically talented can be pushed to the side because they have a reputation thrust upon them that is completely unfair. While it may be true that some musicians can sing about standing on Jordan's stormy banks without knowing who Jordan is and why his banks are caught up in the middle of a storm, I know several musicians who are not only knowledgeable about the Scriptures, but they get busy digging in and throwing down Biblically when they teach a class!

This is probably one of the most frustrating myths I know because so many great teachers of the Word are written off simply because they are musically talented. Instead of assuming that musicians are bad teachers, here is an idea. Why don't we take the time to get to know the people in our church and then evaluate how well they would be able to teach?

We might find out that there are some musicians who are not teachers, but there could be many teachers who are also musicians! Let's not jump to conclusions based on generalizations because that is not fair to the people we are judging, the people who need a teacher, and the church that suffers from spiritual malnutrition if they don't have enough qualified teachers!

I would say that this myth is busted, but since there are musicians who can't teach, I have to say that it is "Plausible" but we should not judge them before getting to know them.

Daily Direction ~ from the Glimpses of God series ~ by Sara Lantzer

One practice I have built into my life is to seek the Lord's direction for daily decisions, regardless of whether they are big or small. Most often God's answers seem subtle, but every now and then He gives an obvious one.

In July, I traveled the twelve hours south to my parent's house. The occasion included tying up loose ends and finishing projects and packing up any belongings that remained after moving away in 2016. My original expectation was to be gone for five days. Here it is, though, almost the end of August and I haven't traveled back up north yet.

The last five weeks have included many examples of subtle answers. Actually, I wasn't sure I was listening closely enough, or hearing correctly, because each time I made a plan to return home it was derailed before it could be accomplished. Isn't it interesting that the most challenging decisions to make involve choosing between things that are good? The easy ones are choices between good and bad. I would seek the Lord's direction about which good thing to pursue, and then proceeded to make plans to the best of my ability. It was very disheartening to keep running up against dead ends one right after another.

Last Saturday night, though, things began to come together differently. My most recent plan was to get on the road as early as possible in the morning, so I was working towards the goal of getting my car completely loaded up and putting things back in order inside the house after having completed a number of projects. As I was nearing the end of my list, however, I received a text that my parent's vehicle had konked out on them as they were traveling home from my sister's house, and they were stopped for the night at a motel about an hour away. A new battery would solve the problem, and they asked if I could bring one over. Since it was after 10pm, we decided that it would be fine to wait until morning to do anything.

It became clear to me that I did not have enough energy left to both find them a battery and finish my list of things to do before driving north in the morning. As I was considering what good thing to choose, the verse that came to mind is actually one of my life verses – Proverbs 16:9. My paraphrase goes something like this: "Man makes the plans, but God directs the steps". I didn't realize how this was a very obvious answer until a few days later, but I can give you a quick story of how this came about.

I chose to stop working on my plan to travel north, go straight to bed instead and see what the morrow would bring. Because I choose to sleep, I was able to wake by 6:30 and made it by about 8 to where my parents were stranded. Because my dad was able to install the battery with the tools he had with him, we didn't have to wait until an auto parts store opened and we were able to drive back to their house in time to change for church. Because we were able to make it to church, I was able to chat with our friend the mechanic (you know who you are!!), and he asked if he could investigate a sound he noticed in my car. Because I wasn't quite all packed up and had resigned myself to creating a new plan for traveling, I agreed that it would be a good idea.

Continued on page 14...

FEAR (Karena Mason)

“Fear is a Liar” by Zach Williams is one of those songs that sticks with immediately. This song offers a significant source of encouragement for those in the midst of struggles, and any other type of challenging situation. Lately, it has held a great deal of relevancy in my personal life. I recently transferred to Western Carolina University as a junior, which has been a big change for me. Change tends to cause me to feel stressed and afraid, and I begin to think of all the things that could possibly go wrong. My second day of the school year was particularly stressful, until I began to pray and ask others to pray for me as well. In addition to prayer, I also listened the song “Fear is a Liar”, and I let the words truly sink in.

The song says: *Fear, he is a liar. He will take your breath, stop you in your steps. Fear he is a liar. He will rob your rest, steal your happiness. Cast your fear in the fire, 'cause fear he is a liar.*

In that very moment, God used this song, along with prayer, to cast out my fears in His name! I pray that if you are feeling afraid, you will call out to our Lord for help, and that you will claim the victory that Christ has over evil. Because fear is a liar!

Karena Mason is a 21 year old who was born and raised in Franklin, NC. She attends First Christian Church of Mountain City, GA with her family. She has a passion for mission work, and loves helping people in need. Her hobbies include studying the Bible, spending time with family, listening to music, and traveling.



While taking trash to the road yesterday I snapped this photo. My 7-year-old grandson Jackson was with me and made this observation...“ Neanie that looks like the way God was leading His people you know then there was fire at night!” Our children are like sponges. Give them good things to absorb...

Alyce Jean Lazarus Littiken

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month’s question:

Amittai was the father of Jonah (Jonah 1:1)

Winners: Michaela Winfrey/Wil Winfrey/Lee Horan



Honorable Mention:

Freda Austin, 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 relation was John Mark to Barnabas?

WHAT DOES MY NEIGHBOR NEED FROM ME?

As I write this article, my family is safe and secure, sleeping in their beds. I know that if I walk into my room, I will see my wife. If I walk into the rooms where the Wee Ones sleep, they will be there. Tomorrow, when they wake up, I will be able to talk to them and continue to live life with them. Even my oldest son Eli is not too far that I can't reach him. Physically, he is way up near the Canada border in New York, but if I ever want to talk to him, he is only a Facebook message away. My parents live in another state, but if I want to talk to them, I can contact them too. My family is reachable, and I know where they are if I need them.



Unfortunately, my neighbor does not have this luxury for her son. He was in a car wreck about a month ago, and recently died after a few weeks of fighting in the hospital. If she wants to talk to him, she will have to wait until she sees him in heaven. If his 3 kids want their daddy, they will have to wait because he has left this world. In the midst of this heartbreaking loss, my neighbor needs me. What does she need from me? I had no idea until I made myself available.

One day, I was outside getting ready to fire up the grill when my neighbor approached me about needing some space for cars because they were having the wake at their house. This was simple for me because all I had to do was give them permission to use the yard.

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ON THE HORIZON

September 16 - Congregational meeting after Worship

This is our annual meeting where we vote on the budget, celebrate the year we just had, and cast a vision for the next year. 2018 has been a good year for us, and we look forward to having a great 2019 too!

September 30 - 5th Sunday Singing - Every 5th Sunday, we try to do something special that Sunday night. Just like July, we want to have another singing!

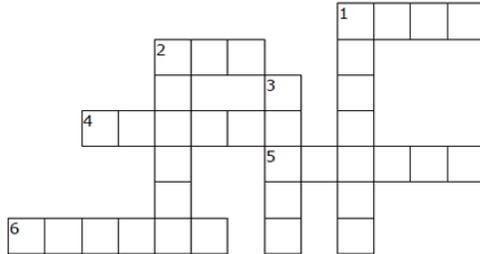
Soup Kitchen Donations are Appreciated

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!

The Pharisee & the Tax Collector

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14b (NIV)

Based on Luke 18:9-14



ACROSS

- 1. To speak to God
- 2. Money paid to support the government
- 4. Modest, not proud
- 5. Someone who steals from someone
- 6. A person who breaks God's law

DOWN

- 1. A story told by Jesus to teach his followers
- 2. A place of worship
- 3. Showing great kindness and forgiveness

TEMPLE	ROBBER	MERCY	SINNER
HUMBLE	PARABLE	TAX	PRAY



Jesus picked 12 men to be His disciples.



INTERVIEW WITH MICHAELA ABOUT CAMP (Earl Winfrey)

1. What adventure did you take this summer?

I went to an American Heritage Girls camp for a week. This was my first time being away from home for that long without being with a relative. The neat part about this was that I went to the same park my Memoe camped at when she was a teenager.

We had to sleep in old cabins that had no air conditioning, and our fans did ok, but it was still hot. I had 3 friends with me, one of them was from North Carolina. The other 2 were from my troop.

2. Can you describe what you did to prepare for the camp?

My mom would set a timer for me to take a shower because they had a time limit at the camp. There were so many girls, we only had 3-5 minutes each so mom wanted to make sure I was ready. I also went shopping with Mrs. Katie for camp clothes and we bought some dresses and other clothes that were not for camp too. Thanks Mrs. Katie!

When it was time to leave for camp, we woke up early because we had to finish packing. My mom did not cry when we were packing so I am proud of her for that. The camp was 2 hours away so we had enough time to eat lunch before leaving since we didn't have to be there until 3:00pm.

3. How was the camp?

When we arrived, I remember thinking that it was a huge place and I was excited to see my friends from the troop. It was fun and hot all week. We had to walk everywhere so my legs were glad when it was bedtime. I was part of a group called OWCA (Owls Without a Cool Acronym) which was made up of 28 girls in 7 cabins with only 1 bath house we had to share. The groups were created before I got there so I don't know how I was selected.

There was another group called FBI that helped us create the escape room which was where we diffused a bomb in order to save the world. The theme for the camp was "Mission I'm Possible" and each camper was called a "Spy" which stands for Seekers Prayerfully Yielded (to God). I thought it was a fun theme because I got to be a spy and get spy gear I could play with.

4. Can you take us through a typical day at camp?

In the morning, I had to wake up at 7:15am and breakfast was at 7:45am. After breakfast was "Capers" where we completed various tasks in order to keep the camp clean. We rotated chores daily so we could get a chance to do everything during the week. When "Capers" was finished, we had our opening for the day which was where we learned songs, posted the flags, and had devotion and prayer.

After the opening, we separated so we could work on the different badges. We all had 3 badges to work on every day that we chose before camp. My choices were homecare, dance, and archery. I finished all 3 by the end of the week.

Continued on the next page...

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After lunch, we had cabin time, swim time, and canteen time. We worked on 2 badges before lunch and the third badge was after canteen time. After dinner, we had free time and an evening devotion with a snack to end the day.

5. What was your favorite part of camp?

It is hard to pick out one favorite because I loved so many parts, but if I had to choose, I would say that swimming is at the top of my list. We got to choose a buddy to swim with and I just loved being in the water especially since it was so hot during the day.

6. What was your "Not so" favorite part of camp?

We had to be in the sun all day long. It was SOOOOOO HOT!!!

7. Overall, are you glad you did this?

Yes! I want to go to camp every year and when I am older, I hope to be part of the staff. I am glad that I did not chicken out and stay home since this was my first time. For girls who have not gone to camp yet, I want to say there is nothing to be afraid of so please don't let your fears keep you from showing up.

*** Do you have an experience you would like to share? Earl would love to interview you! ***

... Continued from page 10

I told my neighbor that as long as I can use my driveway, they are welcome to use as much yard as they need. I also mentioned that I am praying for them as they go through the process of saying goodbye to their son.

The next couple of days contained mixed emotions as there were times of laughter and times of tears while the neighborhood and family mourned the loss of the 29 year old. The wake rolled on into the night because nobody wanted to go home. I did not complain because I knew that this was probably the only time the family got a chance to come together as a whole. Lots of good conversations can come from a gathering even if it is for a wake.

One night, as I was sitting in the living room working on my Bible Study lesson, I heard gun shots near my window. That was completely unexpected and lots of screaming came through the walls. I looked out the window and several cars were gone. I later found out that there were 5 victims shot and were being taken to the hospital. One of the victims was a 1 year old child that was grazed by a bullet. Thankfully, everybody lived and only 2 minor surgeries were needed. Now what did the neighbor need from me?

The next day, the news people were knocking on my door but I refused to talk. My neighbor needed me to be silent because anything I said would have made the situation worse than it already was. They had no idea who the shooter was or where he came from.

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After the news people left, I went outside and spent some more time with my neighbors. They apologized for the shooting and I told them that it was not their fault so there is no need for that. They were confused and upset at the idea that somebody would come into a wake and start shooting especially when kids were playing. They had enough to worry about with the wake and funeral. They did not need a lecture from me about the danger of being outside at night. They did not need me to remind them of the reputation our neighborhood has or the danger of not knowing everybody who shows up.

They certainly did not need me to preach a sermon about how Jesus can solve everything!

What did my neighbor need? My neighbor needed me to be a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, and a warm body to hug. My neighbor needed understanding and prayer, not lectures and preaching. Could Jesus help the situation? Jesus was already invited to the Wake because these are faithful Christians mourning the loss of their son who will see them in heaven. They are not gangsters. They are not hoodlums. They are not up to no good and it would be a shame if I wrote them off simply because their skin color is different from mine.

What did my neighbor need from me? I went to the funeral, and when it was over, I found my neighbor and gave her a big hug. She was so thankful for everything I did even though I never did anything special. She was surprised that I was at the funeral, but I told her that there was no other place I wanted to be. I got to know my neighbor on a personal level because of the tragic loss of her son. I pray that this friendship will continue to grow.

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And here, this is the clincher: because I took my car to his house and told him I wasn't in any rush, to go ahead and do whatever he determined needed to be done, he was able to pinpoint the origin of the sound ... and to also discover excessive wear and tear to the rear wheels and brakes.

Wow. My decision to meet a need resulted in a need of my own being met as well. I didn't even know that need existed! In the midst of all the prayers and seeking and listening, how precious to have the Lord work on my behalf in that way. It is so cool to catch a glimpse of Him as Jehovah Jireh, my Provider; as Abba Father, who watches over His children in order to give them good gifts; as Theos, the God who works all things together for good.

What is the end of this story? I don't know that yet. Was the Lord trying to protect me from a tragic accident on the twelve hour drive north? Was He trying to keep me from a mishap on snowy roads this winter? I will probably never know. But perhaps that was not the point of all the subtle answers to my daily prayers for direction all those five weeks. Perhaps His direction was indeed obvious, to go ahead and make my plans (after all, that is what the human element of that Proverb was about), but to keep a loose hold on those plans since God was the One directing the steps (which is the divine element).

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.



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

General Prayer List (Church-wide weekly prayer list is in the bulletin)

Leadership / Ministry / Volunteers:

Earl Winfrey - Preacher / Music
Frank Jackson - Elder / Teacher
Marvin Bradley - Elder
Daniel Miller - Treasurer / Grounds
Michael Winfrey - Teacher / Music
Teresa Hinton - Teacher
Freda Austin - Circle of Joy
Christopher Crawford - Supply Preacher

Circle of Joy
Cleaning Volunteers
Landscape Volunteers
Worship Service Volunteers

Programs and Groups:

Sunday School Classes
Bible Study Classes
Next Man Up Mentoring
Youth Group Events
Church-Wide Events
Fall Festival
Easter Egg Hunt
5th Sunday Services
Worship with Winfreys

Church Camps:

Camp Edisto (Branchville, SC)
Cedar Lake Camp Mission (Livingston, TN)
Woodland Christian Camp (Temple, GA)

Para Church Organizations:

NACC/Spire Conference
Christian Standard / Lookout Magazines

Churches 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 Mountain City GA
First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood SC
Glouster Church of Christ (Glouster, OH)
Hartford Christian Church (Hartford, KY)
Lilburn Christian Church, GA
Port Orange Christian Church, FL
Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)
Surfside Christian Church (Surfside Beach, SC)
Toccoa Christian Church (Toccoa, GA)
Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)
Tucker Christian Church, GA
Woodlands Church of Christ, Sylva, NC

Missions:

Connie Maxwell Children's Home
Crossroads Pregnancy Center
Faith Home
Greater GWD United Ministry
GWD Soup Kitchen Ministry
Magnolia Manor
Serenity's Steps

Campus Ministries:

Catamounts for Christ (Western Carolina)
The Shack (USC student ministry)

Christian Colleges:

Cincinnati Christian University
Johnson University (Florida)

Future Projects:

Playground, Walking Trail, VBS

* For additions to the general prayer list, please contact Earl through email: Earl@fccgwd.org

"Pray for FCC"

For 2018, 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!

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



Calendar of Events - September



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Prayer - 9:30am Coffee - 9:45am S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	"Pray for FCC" reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Midweek Bible Study for all ages (6:00pm)	Church Cleaning: Teresa	Mission of the Month: Magnolia Manor	Luke 19:1-10
2	3	4 <u>Pray for FCC</u>	5	6	7	8
	Luke 14:1-24	Luke 14:25-35	John 7:1-24	John 7:25-52	John 19:38-42	John 3
9	10	11 <u>Pray for FCC</u>	12	13	14 (John 4:1-26) 24 Prayer Vigil at the YMCA (Begins at 8pm)	15 (John 4:27-42) 24 Prayer Vigil ends at 8am
Circle of Joy (1:30pm)	Deut 27	Joshua 8:30-38	2 Kings 17:24-41	Luke 10:25-37		
16 Annual Congregational Meeting After Worship	17	18 <u>Pray for FCC</u>	19	20 (John 5:18-29) Worship with Winfreys 3pm	21	22
	John 4:27-38	John 4:43-54	John 5:1-17		John 5:30-47	John 6:1-15
23	24	25 <u>Pray for FCC</u>	26	27 (Deut 22:13-21) Newsletter Submissions Due	28	29
Fellowship Meal after Worship	Lev 20:10-21	Lev 20:22-27	Deut 17:1-7		Deut 22:22-30	John 8:1-11
30		Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home		2018 Theme: Get Out of the Boat!
5th Sunday Singing (6pm)						