

# FOOTPRINTS



Volume 7, Issue 9  
September, 2021

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

### NEW SEASON PRESENTS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

September is here and that means fall is knocking on our door and with that knock, we have many chances to create something new, exciting, and profitable for the Lord. New seasons bring new challenges and new opportunities for everybody. What will be our opportunity for the church? How will we improve what we have in place already?

Although we have not been known for making big changes and taking risks, there is still room for us to do something different. We can create something that we can call our own and use it for the Lord. So what will it be? Let's work on trying out something that we have never done before and see what happens. Who knows? The Lord may bless it and we could end up building something great! All we need to do is make sure the Lord is leading the way as we work on improving what we do.

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JESUS  
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LISTEN

2021

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

Check us out online:

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

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD

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 BIBLE BUFFET

Like most people I know, I love a buffet! Just walking into the room where there is food from wall to wall is what I consider to be a little slice of heaven. Taking my plate and filling it with different types of food is fun because I get to create a party in my mouth. Physical food is good to eat and the buffet is the best way to offer as much food for a variety of people as they can handle. I decided to take this concept and use it for the spiritual food that keeps us healthy and active for the Lord. Here are several options for you to choose so you can pick one and stick with it for the year or change it up and use different ones as you go. You could go hardcore and try all of them at once but be careful and don't get a tummy ache if you do! Have fun and let me know if you would like to see anything else offered here.

Chronological

(Traditional reading plan for the year)

211. Isaiah 54-58	227. Jeremiah 30-31
212. Isaiah 59-63	228. Jeremiah 32-34
213. Isaiah 64-66	229. Jeremiah 35-37
214. 2 Kings 20-21	230. Jeremiah 38-40;
215. 2 Chronicles 32-33	Psalms 74, 79
216. Nahum	231. 2 Kings 24-25;
217. 2 Kings 22-23;	2 Chronicles 36
2 Chronicles 34-35	232. Habakkuk
218. Zephaniah	233. Jeremiah 41-45
219. Jeremiah 1-3	234. Jeremiah 46-48
220. Jeremiah 4-6	235. Jeremiah 49-50
221. Jeremiah 7-9	236. Jeremiah 51-52
222. Jeremiah 10-13	237. Lamentations 1-2
223. Jeremiah 14-17	238. Lamentations 3-5
224. Jeremiah 18-22	239. Ezekiel 1-4
225. Jeremiah 23-25	240. Ezekiel 5-8
226. Jeremiah 26-29	241. Ezekiel 9-12

Gospel Harmony

(From R.C. Foster's Life of Christ class)

216. Mark 10:46-52	232. Mark 11:19-25
217. Luke 18:35-43	233. Luke 21:37, 38
218. Luke 19:1-10	234. Matt 21:23-27
219. Luke 19:11-28	235. Mark 11:27-33
220. John 11:55-12:1, 9-11	236. Luke 20:1-8
221. Matt 26:6-13	237. Matt 21:28-32
222. Mark 14:3-9	238. Matt 21:33-46
223. John 12:2-8	239. Mark 12:1-12
224. Matt 21:1-11	240. Luke 20:9-19
225. Mark 11:1-11	241. Matt 22:1-14
226. Luke 19:29-44	242. Matt 22:15-22
227. John 12:12-19	243. Mark 12:13-17
228. Matt 21:12-19	244. Luke 20:20-26
229. Mark 11:12-18	245. Matt 22:23-33
230. Luke 19:45-48	246. Mark 12:18-27
231. Matt 21:20-22	247. Luke 20:27-40
	248. Matt 22:34-40

Genres reading plan listed by the week

W	Gospels	Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Epistles
29	Luke 21-22	Lev 16-18	2 Kings 11-15	Psalms 84-86	Prov 11-12	Ezekiel 31-36	Col 3-4
30	Luke 23-24	Lev 19-21	2 Kings 16-20	Psalms 87-89	Prov 13	Ezekiel 37-42	1 Thes 1-3
31	John 1-2	Lev 22-24	2 Kings 21-25	Psalms 90-92	Prov 14-15	Ezekiel 43-48	1 Thes 4-5
32	John 3-4	Lev 25-27	1 Chron 1-4	Psalms 93-95	Prov 16	Daniel 1-6	2 Thes

The Bible in 180 days reading plan

(For those who are up to the challenge. 6 days each week, taking Sunday off)

W	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	2 Cor 3-13	Gal 1 - Eph 1	Eph 2 - Phil 4	Col 1 - 1 Thes 5	2 Thes 1 - 2 Tim 4	Titus 1 - Heb 7
30	Hebrews 8 - 13	James 1 - 1 Pet 5	2 Peter 1 - 1 John 5	2 John 1 - Revelation 6	Rev 7-15	Rev 16-22

## Mentoring Notes ("The Mentor Leader" - Tony Dungy)

### 6. The Model of the Mentor Leader (Living the Message)

"Preach the gospel at all times; when necessary, use words." - Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

#### A. You will be known by what you model for others:

1. Known by your words and actions
2. Known by your faith and heart

#### B. Known by your words and actions:

1. The world will remember what they see you do
  - a) Tough times: do they see the real you?
  - b) Does the real you match your words?
2. Lead through your words and actions
3. We should be held to teacher standards
  - a) Consistency is key for those we lead
  - b) As Christians, we need higher standards
4. Teachers talk when they teach, not during the test
  - a) Work with the people during "Practice"
  - b) Let them "sink or swim" during the "Game"
5. Commitment may require sacrifice
  - a) We must do what we are called to do
  - b) Sometimes, we must set aside personal desires
  - c) Follow through when you make a commitment

#### C. Known by your faith:

1. The essence and energy that empowers and encourages
  - a) Helps us continue when we are not sure we can
  - b) Drives us to look for potential in the lives of others
  - c) Compels us to build into those lives
2. During crisis, it is too late to convince people to follow
3. Faith is the foundation and strength of the mentor leader

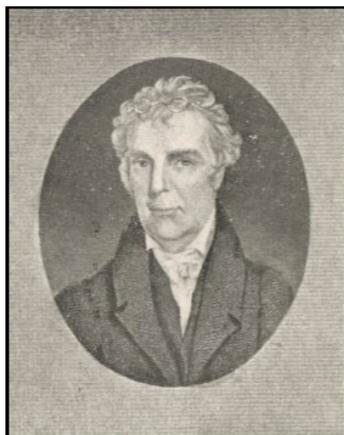
#### D. Known by your legacy:

1. Mentor leaders will be evaluated according to their legacy
  - a) Composite of daily steps that are made
  - b) Relationships, impact, and involvement
  - c) Character, faith, actions
  - d) Mind-set of the leader becomes obvious through time
2. How you end is much more important than how you began
  - a) Coach Pete Carroll
    - 1.) Forgettable first NFL run of 33-31
    - 2.) Had success in college coaching for USC
    - 3.) Won Super Bowl when returned to Seattle
  - b) Coach Bill Belichick
    - 1.) Coached the Cleveland Browns and failed
    - 2.) Created dynasty with New England Patriots

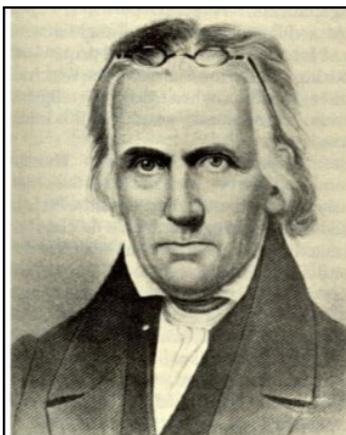
## Who will be our Next Man Up?



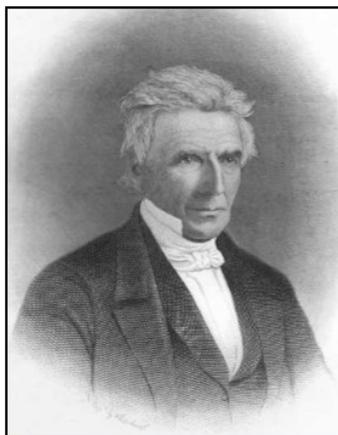
Mentoring today for  
a better tomorrow



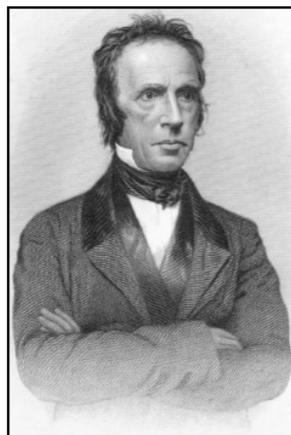
Barton Stone



Thomas Campbell



Alexander Campbell



Walter Scott

### REFLECTIONS ON THE RESTORATION

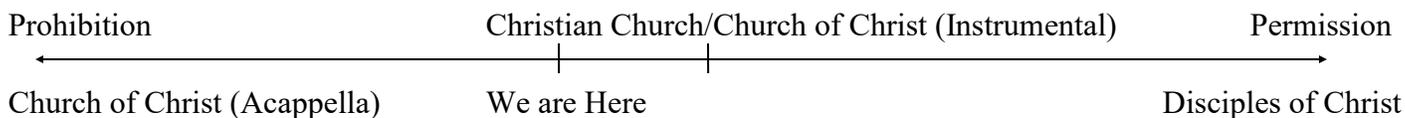
*"Growing Pains for the Movement"*

(Taken from Earl's Restoration History class for the local church)

**The Bad, the Ugly, and the OOGLY!!**

**How far is too far?**

1. "Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent..."
  - A. Prohibition (No "Thus saith the Lord")
  - B. Permission (It doesn't say NOT to do it)
  - C. Answer: Possibility, but needs to be examined



**Disclaimers:**

1. Nobody has the monopoly on exactly what the Scriptures do or do not say
2. The purpose of this study is NOT to isolate but to deepen our understanding of our heritage
3. There are some Disciples of Christ churches who are trying to return to conservative theology
4. Some people do not see the difference between us and a denomination, and that's ok.

**Points of tension:**

1. Higher criticism (Discrediting certain Biblical accounts with an anti-supernatural bias)
  - A. RM colleges did not have specialized courses developed for ministers
  - B. R. C. Cave (1889) at Central Christian Church in St. Louis preached from the pulpit that the OT patriarchs, including Abraham and Moses, were grossly ignorant of God's true character. He also denied the Virgin Birth and the physical resurrection of Jesus.
  - C. H. L. Willett classified the miracles of Jesus as: Natural events thought of as supernatural, figures of speech, healings were in their heads, and common mythology
2. Open Membership
3. Ecumenicity (Desire to become a mainline denomination)

## The Neuroscience of Breaking Out of Negative Thinking (Nate Klemp)

Imagine you just got off the phone with one of your most important clients. The game changing deal you were trying to close is off. They're not interested. You've just pitched 10 potential investors. They all say they're "interested" but it's been two weeks. You refresh your inbox hourly, and yet still no word. How do you react in these situations?

If you're like most people, your mind floods with negativity. "Maybe our product is no good," "Why can't I just get a break?" or "Maybe there's something wrong with me."

Neuroscientists have a name for this automatic habit of the brain: "negativity bias." It's an adaptive trait of human psychology that served us well when we were hunting with spears on the savanna 120,000 years ago. In modern times, however, this habit of the brain leaves us reacting to a harsh email or difficult conversation as if our life were in danger. It activates a cascade of stress hormones and leaves us fixated on potential threats, unable to see the bigger picture.

Neuroscientist Rick Hanson has a great analogy for this strange quality of the mind. "Your brain," he writes in his book *Buddha's Brain*, "is like Velcro for negative experiences and Teflon for positive ones." When you lose a client, when the investors don't come calling, or when you face the hundreds of other daily disappointments of life, you're wired to forget all the good things and to instead obsess over the negative.

### How can we reverse this hard-wired habit of the mind?

Three words: Notice-Shift-Rewire. This simple strategy puts into practice the core insight coming out of the neuroscience revolution of the past 30 years—the insight that, in the words of early neuroscientist Donald Hebb, "neurons that fire together, wire together." It's the insight that reminds us the brain isn't fixed. Its habits aren't like plaster. They're more like plastic, strong enough to resist the occasional push but pliable enough to change in response to repeated effort. That's the magic of Notice-Shift-Rewire. By taking a moment each day to bring our attention to this practice, we build the habit of shifting out of negativity bias to more useful mind states: remembering our past wins, celebrating our strengths, and seeing life as a series of opportunities rather than a relentless slog through setbacks and heartbreak.

How do you integrate the practice of Notice-Shift-Rewire into the midst of everyday life?

1. Notice your negativity bias. The first step is to bring awareness to this ordinary habit of the mind. Catch yourself when you slip into self-doubt, rumination, anxiety, and fear. Notice when your mind starts spinning out worst-case scenarios about how it's going to come crashing apart.

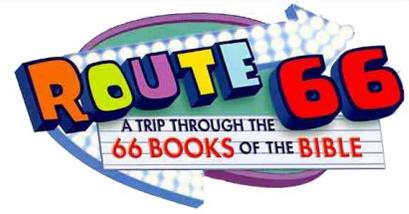
2. Shift to a moment of gratitude. Noticing opens the space for carving new neural pathways. Shifting allows you to flood this space with a more productive focus of attention. A few seconds of gratitude is the most efficient way to do this. Think of one thing you're grateful for right now. Your home. Your job. Your health. Your family. Your talents and strengths. Your drive.

3. Rewire your brain. Here's where the real work of begins. Hanson calls this the simple act of savoring. It's taking 15 seconds to stay with this new mindset – to encode it deep into the fabric of your mind. This last step is where we *transform our ordinary habit of overlooking the positive*. It's where we shift the brain's response to all the good in life from Teflon to Velcro. We're flipping our evolved wiring on its head – taking just a few seconds to build stronger memories around all the good things happening in life.

## The Gospels: Acts

(Several sources used each month, see Earl for details)

### Who wrote the book?



The title of the book of Acts comes from the Greek word *praxis*, a word often used in early Christian literature to describe the great deeds of the apostles or other significant believers. This title accurately reflects the contents of the book, which is a series of vignettes chronicling the lives of key apostles (especially Peter and Paul) in the decades immediately following Christ's ascension into heaven.

Luke's identification as the author of this work was unquestioned throughout ancient times. It shows a clear progression from the gospel according to Luke, picking up just where that book left off. An ancient prologue to Luke's gospel indicates that Luke was first a follower of the apostles and then became close with Paul. This is exactly how the book of Acts unfolds, beginning with Peter and ending with Paul. Luke even began to speak in the first person plural in the latter portion of Acts, as he traveled the Roman Empire alongside Paul (Acts 16:10).

Acts ends abruptly with Paul imprisoned in Rome, waiting to bring his appeal before Caesar. It is worth noting that in this history of the early Christian church, Luke mentioned neither Paul's death (AD 64–68) nor the persecution of Christians that broke out under Nero (AD 64). More than likely, Luke completed the book before either of these events occurred, sometime between AD 60 and AD 62, while Paul sat in prison, awaiting the resolution of his appeal.

### Why is Acts so important?

Acts is the only biblical book that chronicles the history of the church immediately after Jesus's ascension. As such, it provides us with a valuable account of how the church was able to grow and spread out from Jerusalem into the rest of the Roman Empire. In only three decades, a small group of frightened believers in Jerusalem transformed into an empire-wide movement of people who had committed their lives to Jesus Christ, ending on a high note with Paul on the verge of taking the gospel to the highest government official in the land—the Emperor of Rome.

Acts can be neatly divided into two sections, the first dealing primarily with the ministry of Peter in Jerusalem and Samaria (Acts 1–12) and the second following Paul on his missionary journeys throughout the Roman Empire (Acts 13–28). Acts is significant for chronicling the spread of the gospel, not only geographically but also culturally. It records the transition from taking the gospel to an exclusively Jewish audience—with Peter preaching to a small group in the Upper Room—to the gospel going out among the Gentiles, primarily under the ministry of the apostle Paul. The transition is best illustrated by Peter's vision in which he heard a voice telling him, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy" (10:15). This led Peter to then share the gospel with many Gentiles.

What opportunities for sharing the gospel can you take advantage of in the days to come? This question should ring through your mind as you page through the book of Acts. In virtually every chapter, apostles such as Peter and Paul powerfully present the gospel to individuals and groups of people. The apostles portrayed in Acts shine with evangelistic zeal, showing a striking transition from the often misguided disciples of the Gospels. Clearly the apostles' faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus produced a noticeable change in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.



**This month's Church myth: "Increased income will eliminate financial struggles"**

This month's myth could be applied to our personal lives as well as the church budget, but since this is a church myth, we will look at this from the church perspective. We have all seen it happen and some of us have seen it more than once. The church approves a budget based on last year's offerings and expense. They set some goals and plan for a great year, but the offerings do not cover the weekly need. If there is savings built up, the church dips into it so they can stay in the black but even if that happens, they have some tough choices to make.

The following year, they take the budget and trim it so they can lower the weekly need and give time for the offerings to recover. They evaluate every line item and for a while, this seems to work. But what happens when you have already reduced the budget and trimmed the fat? What if you are spending wisely and still cannot meet the budget? The church works with the paid staff for cuts to salary and even with that, the offerings do not cover the weekly need. Should we start fund raising or asking for outside support?

While it makes sense to bring in more money to cover the weekly need, it is only a temporary fix that can be just as effective as placing a band aid on a broken leg. The church could focus on making money to meet the budget, but when will enough be enough? I was a member of a church that held an annual fund raiser so they could have enough money to pay the preacher. The problem was the preacher was one of the highest paid in the area and made just as much money as the church with 500 members, while they only had 60 members on a good day. The budget needed to be reduced but the preacher could also help them out by bringing his salary down until they were able to afford it. That would help, but the root cause needs to be addressed.

More often than not, the church suffers financially because people have left and they took their wallets with them. If they are still in the building, they quit giving so financially, they already left. The answer is not to find creative ways to meet the budget. The answer is to bring people in so the numbers can work it out. If the budget is missing 30% of the offerings needed, 3 families can help if they join the church and provide 10% of their income for a tithe. When the church tries to bring in more money, they may meet the budget for a year or two, but if we want a sustainable model, we need to work on adding people instead of money.

If the church would focus on adding to the pews, the financial struggles will begin to disappear. So instead of asking what can be done to increase the offerings, we should be asking what can we do to reach people for Christ and then add them to the church.

**SUPER SPECTACULAR SCRIPTURE SCAVENGER HUNT**

Super Spectacular Scripture



Every month, there are a few items with points assigned and we will keep track of the progress as we go. This will be going for the whole year so there is plenty of time to catch up if you fall behind. (Helpful Hint) Although I will be asking for a few items each month, there is no expiration date so feel free to look through past issues of the newsletter to get the items you have missed. This game is from January 2021 until November 2021 so the winner will be announced in the December newsletter.

**Leaderboard:**

1. Michaela (41 points)
2. Wil (40 points)
3. Michael (10 points)
4. ???? (Will it be you?)

I hope you are able to join in the fun!

Here are this month's items:

1. A verse where Jesus is being called a teacher (1 point per verse for a total of 10 points)
2. A teacher who is not named Jesus (5 points)

(Please provide the scripture reference when you give Earl the answers.)

**This Month in Jewish History (Elul - August/September)**

In Jewish tradition, the month of Elul is a time of repentance in preparation for the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The word "Elul" is similar to the root of the verb "search" in Aramaic. Jewish sources from the 14th century and on write that the Hebrew word "Elul" can be understood to be an acronym for the phrase "Ani L'dodi V'dodi Li" – "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine". Elul is seen as a time to search one's heart and draw close to God in preparation for the coming Day of Judgement, Rosh Hashanah, and Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur.

**Life Lessons** (Written by Andy Rooney)

I've learned....

That the less time I have to work with,  
the more things I get done.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

**Zacchaeus climbed a Sycamore tree to see Jesus (Luke 19:4)**

**Winners:** Michael Winfrey/Frank Jackson/Phillis Jackson



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!

**Honorable Mention:** Michaela Winfrey, Wil Winfrey

This month's question:  
**How many Psalms are there in the Bible?**

### A Marriage Needs Refreshed Inhabitants

*"A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."* Proverbs 17:17

Ed and Carol Nevenschwander (a pastor and his wife) write:

Although the shell of a union may endure, the spirit of the marriage may disintegrate in time unless mates take periodic and shared reprieves from the pressures they live under.

The pressure we must often escape are not those we create for ourselves, but those brought into our lives from the outside. Nonetheless, they can wear our relationship thin.

The key to keeping a cherished friendship alive may be found in breaking away long enough and frequently enough to keep ourselves fresh and our love growing. And usually that involves childless weekends. Without such moments of focused attention, it's difficult to keep the kind of updated knowledge of one another that keeps two hearts in close proximity alive and growing together. A growing marriage needs refreshed inhabitants.

We live in a very hectic world that cries out for stillness, quietness, and aloneness.

For the sake of our marriage and for our own personal sanities, we must seek solitude.

For the last 12 years my Bob and I have made it a point to get away from all the noises of life and just be by ourselves. We sleep in and disregard clocks. We have no schedules and only limited interruptions. We eat when and if we want. Our favorite time has been from December 27 to January 3. For you this might not be a good time, so choose your own calendar. Get away from everything. Rethink life. Write down some individual and family goals. Be in agreement that these things are a high priority for you and your mate. Under each goal write down what you are going to do to accomplish that desire along with a date when you expect to have it accomplished.

When was the last time you had marital solitude? You've got to make it happen; it just doesn't happen. You must plan to have these special times with your mate. But you say, "We don't have the money!" Don't let excuses sidetrack this desire. Bob and I found that people do what they want to do. You can find extra money somewhere. If not, start using coupons with your grocery shopping. Put your savings in a special account just for that special time you will have with that special friend, your mate.

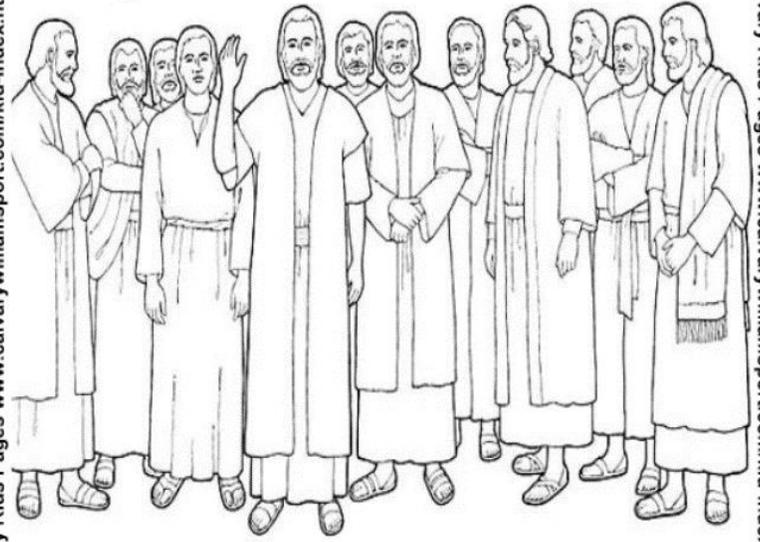
Devotion taken from "15 Minutes Alone With God" by Emilie Barnes

### "Pray for FCC"

For 2021, 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 Twelve Disciples

## Matthew 10:2-4



**ANDREW - BARTHOLOMEW - JAMES -  
JAMES son of ALPHEUS - JOHN -  
JUDAS - MATTHEW - PETER - PHILIP -  
SIMON - THADDAEUS - THOMAS**

Calvary Kids Pages [www.calvarywilliamsport.com/kid-index.html](http://www.calvarywilliamsport.com/kid-index.html)

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**The church is not a cruise ship where a handful of people serve everyone else who is relaxing.**



Photo by Matthew Barra from Pexels

**No, the church is a battleship where it's "all hands on deck" and everyone serves the mission.**



Image by roamincjun from Pixabay

# First Christian Church of Greenwood SC

(864) 223-2940 [www.fccgwd.org](http://www.fccgwd.org)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2021



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	<b>Pray for FCC</b> reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday		Mission of the Month:  <b>Magnolia Manor</b>	Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	<b>All events subject to change if needed</b>
	<b>Weekly bulletin will have the most current information</b>		1  Luke 9:57-62	2  Luke 10:1-12	3  Luke 10:13-24	4  Matt 10:1-15
5	6  Mark 13:1-13	7 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Luke 8:16-21	8  Luke 8:22-25	9  Luke 12:1-12	10  John 17	11  Matt 10:16-33
12	13  Micah 7:1-7	14 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Micah 7:8-17	15  Micah 7:18-20	16  Luke 12:49-53	17  Luke 14:25-33	18  Matt 10:34-42
19  Annual Congregation Meeting after Worship	20  Lev 23:33-44	21 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Num 29:12-40	22  Deut 16:13-17	23  (Ezra 3) Newsletter Submissions Due	24  Neh 8:13-18	25  John 7:1-24
26	27  Isaiah 11:1-5	28 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Isaiah 40:1-8	29  John 1:1-18	30  Col 4:2-6		

