

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church Greenwood SC ...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR INTRODUCTION NEWSLETTER!

WHO ARE WE AND WHY DO WE EXIST?

We are excited that you are wanting to know more about our church! To help organize our introduction, we decided to put together this introduction newsletter so you can learn some basics about us. On the next page, you will find our statement of beliefs and then you will see a brief history of where we have been, another article on where we are today, and finally, a vision of where we hope to be if the Lord decides to bless our efforts. We hope you will take the time to read through this and please feel free to ask any questions along the way.

In His Love,
Earl Winfrey



I
JESUS
L
O
R
D

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD
Early Morning Snuggles

Address:

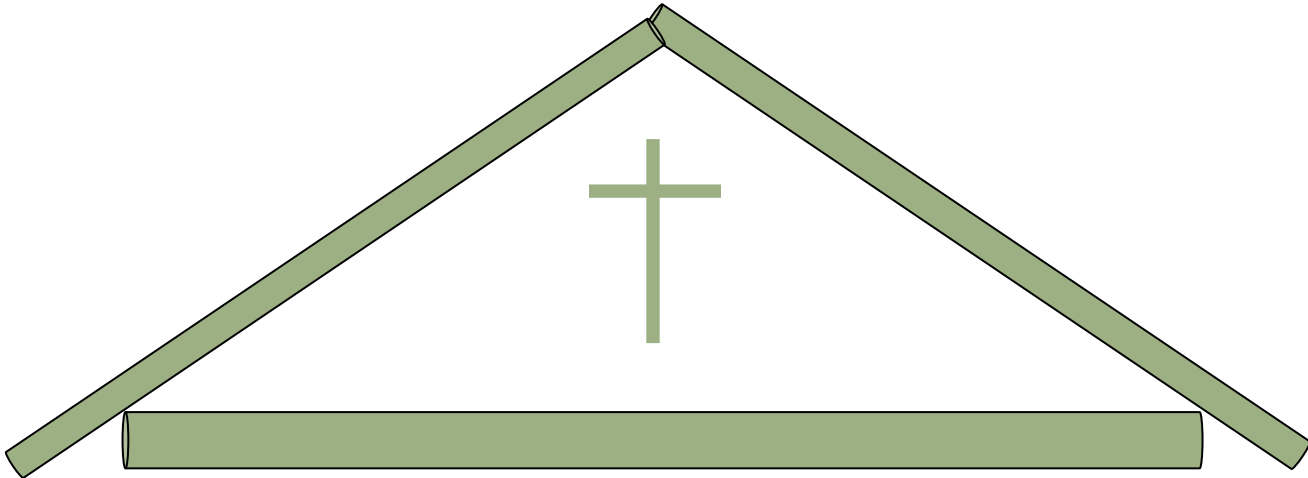
First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29646

Church Office:

864-223-2940
Earl@fccgwd.org

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

There have been two different efforts to establish a New Testament church in Greenwood. The following tells the story of the first effort: Greenwood Christian Church.

GREENWOOD

This "Gateway to the Piedmont" in western South Carolina is a focal point for a network of railroads and highways. By highway, it is 82 miles south of the North Carolina line, and 56 miles eastward to that of Georgia. Nine miles east of Greenwood is the old Ninety Six and Star Fort locale, historic sites of the American Revolution. There also in 1730 at the end of a long Indian trail was established a trading post, first penetration of white settlement into the Carolina "Up Country." A hundred years later Judge McGehee on his Greenwood forested estate of 600 acres built his log cabin, the land to be parceled out by a later owner into lots upon which the city of Greenwood in part now stands. Its first merchant began there in 1833; its post office established August 24, 1837, was named Woodville, but changed by the Department at Washington to Greenwood on July 6, 1850. Its postmaster in 1839 was Albert Waller; his annual "compensation," \$47.32. Population of the village in 1861 was 300.

The first resident Disciple there of record was D. J. Raborn formerly of Hodges, nearby village, where evangelist J. L. Burns in the 1870's had received him into the Disciple group. Raborn removed to Greenwood in 1885, where for the first three years there was not another of his faith. M. B. Ingle and other itinerant ministers of the Disciples visited there. A. T. Fitts came in January, 1898, and enlisted George S. Andrews. Fitts also in June, 1903, held a two-weeks' meeting there in the opera house. He had so ingratiated himself with the small group that Andrews said: "It was with reluctance that we parted with dear brother Fitts and his little wife." On June 25, 1904, Fitts reported that in "the great fire that recently swept away half of the business portion of Greenwood, D. J. Raborn has lost his store and all his material possessions." He added: "No man in the State has made greater sacrifices for the Master's cause than has Bro. Raborn."

In the summer of 1907 when the nucleus had grown to five, George Primrose Taubman held their revival in the courthouse. In January 1908 with nine persons in their fellowship representing five families, James T. Moore located there as first resident Disciple pastor. He was supported mainly by Dr. J. F. Davis of Baldwin, Ga. The 9 persons pyramided to 80 in 1909 and to 130 in 1910, by a succession of revivals in 18 months. These were led by C. E. Elmore, reportedly adding 76, and by E. R. Clarkson augmenting accessions by 46. Assistants in music were: Professor W. H. Likins, for Elmore; Owen M. Walker for Clarkson. At the close of the first Elmore meeting December 21, 1908, the "Church was constituted, enrolling over 40 names and officers were chosen and plans made for a successful work."



Much enlarged in number they were ready to build. An excellent corner lot, diagonally opposite the courthouse was acquired, "on which," as was said by J. W. Helms a year later, "a beautiful brick plant will be erected." This dream was realized and their first structure was dedicated April 24, 1910; John H. Wood, of Georgia, guest speaker. He called for \$2500 with which to cover all obligations, and received more than \$3400 in pledges made by 52 men and women. However, their loan of \$2000 from their Board of Church Extension was not liquidated until 1923 almost 13 years later.

2013 - The cornerstone of the Sunday School building of this structure is located at the entrance of our present sanctuary.

Pastor Moore asked Cora Brunson of Russellville to come and organize the Greenwood C. W. B. M. Auxiliary. This she did in April, 1910; the membership 8; subscribers to Missionary Tidings, 3. Its officers: president, Mrs. R. C. Strange; vice president, Mrs. C. W. Baker; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. S. E. Pitts. A Greenwood Disciple girl, and former student at Atlantic Christian College, Ruby Eunice Boggerio, later Mrs. L. E. Gatlin, of Newberry, S. C. was in 1954, declared the "South Carolina Mother of the Year." It was by the American Mothers Committee of the Golden Rule Foundation. The honor: She was the mother of 12 children, of whom 11 were then living and "highly successful in their chosen professions."

In the spring of 1913, the Organ-Howe Evangelistic Company held the Greenwood revival closing, May 14. There were 19 accessions. Shortly thereafter Mrs. George S. Andrews was another accession to become a blessed strength among them for a quarter-century. She gave \$12,000 to Atlantic Christian College. Her husband was the spiritual mainstay since 1898 of the congregation that suffered so many eroding vicissitudes. He, a hunchback, of brilliant mind, was ever a vigorous, dependable Christian, a profound joy to his pastor.

The church was without a pastor from 1915 to 1922. Then E. K. Latimer whose "father in the gospel" was John W. Tyn dall, Sr., came to serve a year. He reported 67 additions there for that year, of which 32 were by "primary obedience." With severe lapses in ministerial leadership, they reported but 15 members in 1936, which is the last record for them in their national year book. After due notice a congregational business meeting was held in the home of Mrs. George S. Andrews on the afternoon of September 28, 1938. It was to formulate action for conventional disposal of their church property. Mrs. Andrews and J. P. Cothran were the only surviving trustees. To them were added two others, namely, George S. McCarthy and Claude D. Welch. The decision was unanimous that a reorganization be not attempted, but "that the trustees be authorized to close the sale of the Greenwood Christian Church property and that the proceeds from such sale be held in trust."*

Roll of Ministers at Greenwood (First Attempt)

1898...Walter Hall

1905-1907...D. J. Raborn

1908-1911...J. T. Moore

1911-1915...C. C. Ware

1922, 1923...E. K. Latimer

1924-1926...F. L. Fox

From South Carolina Disciples: A History by Charles Crossfield Ware
(Christian Churches of South Carolina, Charleston, 1967), pp. 168-171.

*According to an investigation made by Charles Moore, the funds were dispersed about 1963. The amount was approximately \$2700 and was donated in equal portions to two Methodist and one Baptist children's homes.

The article on the next page was found in the church records.
While it does not state the author, we believe it was written by
Charles D. Moore, founding minister of the present First Christian Church.

A HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GREENWOOD, SOUTH CAROLINA

The first service for the congregation to be known as the First Christian Church of Greenwood was held at 3:00 p.m., on September 19, 1965, at the American Legion building on Calhoun Avenue (pictured below). With friends from Columbia, Greenville, and Barnwell present, the attendance was 38.

At that first service:

Mrs. Thomas M. Swift, III, Mrs. R. B. Goree, Charles Moore and Joyce Moore placed membership.

The Moores had moved to Greenwood for the purpose of organizing a congregation of the Christian Church. Mrs. Swift had been the first to suggest the need for a church here. Charles Moore and Johnnie Marion, with Mrs. Swift, investigated the prospects for starting a church here and visited several prospective members. At the time, Brother Marion was minister at the Jefferson Park Christian Church in East Point, Georgia**, and Brother Moore was minister at Southeast Christian Church in Atlanta, GA.



During the first year in Greenwood, Mr. Moore taught at Northside Junior High School to supplement his income. He was a graduate of the University of Florida, graduate of Atlanta Christian College, and had a master's degree in guidance and counseling from East Carolina University. At the second service on September 26, Mrs. James A. Hitt and Mr. & Mrs. Donald Boyer moved membership. Beginning October 10, morning services were held at Woodlawn Grange. During that winter, attendance ranged from a low of 8 to a high of 19. On November 21, 1965, two young boys, Robert and Roger Dale Lewis were baptized. Also during the '65-66 winter, Mr. R. B. Goree, Mrs. Harold Parker, and Miss Judy Parker placed membership.

WHO IS EARL WINFREY?

Earl comes to us from the First Christian Church of Mountain City GA where he spent a little over 4 years as their Minister. He began full-time ministry in 2009 at Calvary Christian Church in Paris KY and before that, he served part-time with the Christian Church in DeLeon Springs FL where he had his internship.

Earl was born and raised in College Park GA which is a suburb of Atlanta. He received his Associate and Bachelor's degrees from Florida Christian College which is now Johnson University Florida and he has a Masters of Divinity from Cincinnati Christian University.

He and his wife, Michael, have been married since 2007 and have three children. Earl is a die-hard Green Bay Packer Backer but he also cheers for any team that plays against the New England Patriots.



The congregation moved from Woodlawn Grange to a house at 402 Ellison Avenue in March, 1966. Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Shaughnessy rented the former residence to the church. After four months, the rent was returned to us by the Shaughnesseys and the congregation met there for a year, rent-free. The charter was signed there on Easter Sunday, 1966.

The house on Ellison Avenue was torn down when the T. E. Jones & Sons furniture store was built at the corner of Montague and Ellison. The building stood where the rear parking lot of the store is. [2013 – The Alcoves is located at this site.]

In the spring of 1967, First Christian Church purchased the former residence at 310 Lindsey Avenue (Pictured below) to use for a place of worship. It was bought from Mr. E. W. Milford for \$7,000.00 with \$500.00 paid down. The first service at this location was Easter Sunday, March 26, with 49 present. A record attendance of 59 had been set on Ellison Avenue.

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Greenway of Elberton, Georgia, along with Mr. Harold Rowe and Mrs. Louis Ellis were baptized on January 15, 1967. A few weeks later the Greenways became the nucleus for the formation of the Elberton Christian Church. Melvin went to Atlanta Christian College to prepare for the ministry and then became minister of the First Christian Church in Forest Park, Georgia.



Thomas M. Swift, III, and his son, Tom, were baptized following our first revival, held in February of 1970, with Richard Marshall of Sanford, Florida, as evangelist. Over half of the members received by the church have been by baptism.



The Swifts now make their home in Camden, S.C., and worship with the Dutch Fork congregation. Membership and attendance had ups and downs during the 7 years that the congregation met on Lindsey Avenue. Some of the families moved away and others came to take their place. While serving the Greenwood Church, the Moores were instrumental in starting churches in Anderson, S.C.; Elberton, Georgia; Rock Hill, S.C.; and Newberry, S.C. The work in Newberry was begun with the help of Johnnie Marion, Minister, and other men from Columbia Christian Church.

During the summer of 1966, Mr. Moore raised missionary support and worked with the church on a fulltime basis during the remainder of 1966 and part of 1967. After this, he took a part time job on the copy desk of the newspaper in Greenwood, The Index-Journal. He later became a reporter full time and was promoted to news editor. After a year as salesman for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company during 1972, he returned to The Index-Journal as a reporter.

On the fourth anniversary of the church, William Hjalmer, Frank Harrison and Harold Rowe were ordained as the first deacons of the church. Dave Carnine was guest speaker for the special service. Robert Niedernhofer was ordained as a deacon on the fifth anniversary.

The original Steering Committee of the church was composed of Mrs. Swift, Mrs. R. B. Goree, and the minister. Mrs. Swift served as treasurer for four years. The original trustees were C. B. Pitts, Sr., Harold Rowe, and Mrs. Swift.

The church sends a missionary contribution to Atlanta Christian College and the South Carolina Evangelizing Association. The young people of the church attend youth camp at Camp Edisto in Branchville. Vacation Bible School has been held each summer.

An annual event is the church Christmas tree decorated with sox for the children at Christian City Home for Children in Atlanta.

Missionaries who have spoken to the congregation are: Harvey Beasley of Chile, Dean Davis of Zambia, and Kent Taylor of Ghana.

During the summer of 1970, Mr. A. M. Tuck of Verdery gave the congregation 4 & 1/2 acres on Deadfall Road on which to build a house of worship. The congregation since its beginning had raised approximately \$8,000.00 in a building fund. This money, coupled with a \$34,000.00 bond program, provided the funds to build the new house of worship. The building committee was composed of William Hjalmer, Bill Donnelly, and Frank Harrison. Ground was broken on March 11, 1973.

Harold Caldwell and his company, County Builders, were the contractors. Dreams came true when our first service was held there on January 13, 1974.



NEW CHURCH — Pictured above is the new First Christian Church of Greenwood, S. C., which several former Carter Countians have been instrumental in organizing. Charles D. Moore, whose wife is the former Joyce Osborne, a Milligan graduate, is minister of the new church which has 52 resident members.

On Thursday night, January 17, we were hosts to a Revival Fires rally with Evangelist Cecil Todd as guest speaker and music by the Gospel Couriers.

On Easter Sunday, April 14, a new attendance record was set with 64 in Bible School and 68 in the Morning Worship Service.

Dedication Service was held at 3:00 p.m. on May 5, with Melvin Greenway as speaker. Chairs had to be set up as attendance exceeded seating capacity.

In November of 1972, the Naomi Ladies Circle was organized by Carrie Jane Donnelly, who served as its president for four years, followed by Betty Cook in 1977 and Denise Lee in 1978. Their purpose is to unite all the women of the

church in Christian work through missions, to develop Spiritual life, and to take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local body of believers.

In late 1976, Charles Moore relocated to become the minister of the Newberry Christian Church. Brother Bob Huber was called as weekend minister until his graduation from Johnson Bible College in May of 1976. He then came on the field on a part time basis while supplementing his income at the A. R. Wood Company. In September of 1976, Bob assumed duties as full-time minister, and he and his wife, Kathi, continued to minister unto the congregation until January, 1978, when the Hubers moved to Pennsylvania to manage a retirement home.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE WORDS THAT ARE COMING OUT OF MY MOUTH?

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)

That quote is from the movie "Rush Hour" when the American cop was trying to communicate with the Chinese detective on the first day they worked together. I have to admit that there are times when I feel like that American cop especially when people ask me about our church. You may have been there before.

What kind of church is it? It's a Christian Church. Yes, but what kind of church is it? What they really want to know is what denomination we belong to, and that is why it is

hard to explain our church. The Restoration Movement is all about getting back to the Biblical form of church, and that is contrary to major denominations. We do not claim that the churches in those denominations are evil, but we do claim that we belong to the Bible only.

WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHAT ARE WE DOING FOR THE LORD?

Any church that has been around as long as we have will have a history of high points and not so high points as the roller coaster of life moves on. As we look back, we can see the many chapters that make up the story of First Christian Church. Now we are a few years into a new chapter in the life of this church, and we are excited about what is going on.

We have a great mix of the old and new as we continue to minister to people of all ages. We have great facilities and our financial status is healthy. The Lord has blessed us with great leaders, teachers, and volunteers who are not afraid to get their hands dirty when needed.

Our Worship service is a healthy blend of the traditional hymns and contemporary praise songs with a family atmosphere. We have children actively participating in the service and our families sit together so they can grow closer to each other as they grow closer to the Lord.

"We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant, than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours."

- John of Salisbury

Although we may not be recognized nationally for ground breaking innovations, we are making a difference in the lives of the people here in Greenwood SC. Our goal is not to build a better church. Our goal is to help people live better for the Lord which will result in a better church as they reach their potential. Using this approach, we are able to be flexible enough to move as the Spirit moves among the people which means that when an idea is expressed, we are ready to listen and try something new as long as it does not contradict the Bible.

We have a simple focus of reaching people for the Lord and then growing them in the Lord. We also have a goal of helping each person become the best at what they do for the Lord. No matter what part of church you are interested in, we will work hard at trying to help you serve with excellence so you can glorify God by what you do.

We are a family-focused church that ministers to all generations, and we are also a praying church that loves lifting people up before God. We believe in the power of prayer and we encourage prayer requests no matter how big or small they may appear to the person giving it. We have a page on our website for those who wish to be prayed for privately and we have an active prayer list in the bulletin that we use for daily prayer. If you have anything that needs prayer, we are eager to jump in with our hearts to help you bring it before the Lord!

Overall, we are a church that loves God and loves people. You will see that as you get to know more about us. You will also see sincerity in our approach, transparency in our leadership, and authenticity in our worship. First Christian Church is in a good place and we are planning to continue in that good place for many years beyond this present generation!

WHERE ARE WE GOING AND WHAT WILL WE LOOK LIKE WHEN WE GET THERE?

"Your future is whatever you want to make of it so make it a good one." - Dr. Emmett Brown

The above quote by Dr. Emmett Brown came from a movie called "Back to the Future" which was created during the 1980s. In this movie, Dr. Brown built a time machine and his teenage friend ends up getting sent into the past by mistake. The rest of the movie is about him coming back to the present.

This is actually a trilogy with both Dr. Brown and his friend going back and forth from present to past to future to past and back to the present. It's not as confusing as it sounds but you have to pay attention and watch the movies from the beginning to keep from getting lost.

During all of the trips, the time machine was constantly being modified and the final design was nothing like the first time machine that was created.

The modifications came from necessity and they never gave up until they finally got it right. This is the way it should be with our approach to ministry. We must never give up no matter how hard our journey becomes. Instead, we should keep modifying our approach until we finally get it

"The best part about the future is that we have no clue about what the future holds. We have no clue about what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future, and that is what makes it the best part." - Earl Winfrey

right. This is why it is hard to talk about where we want to be in the future. We don't have a clue about what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future. This is why I am excited about our future. God is in charge, and where He leads us, we will follow. Anything other than that becomes an exercise in futility because we would be fools to limit God with our own thinking.

For this reason, our goal for the future is to add one more to our church. We want to add one more and let God take care of the rest. We want to add one more soul that needs saving, one more saint that needs reviving, one more leader to help us move forward, one more volunteer to serve alongside us,

one more child that needs to be raised in the Lord, and one more family that needs encouraging in a world that has rejected the Lord. If can add one more to the church, the church will grow. And if the church grows, it will become stronger for the future.

Above all else, our future will be determined by how much God blesses us combined with how hard we work along the way. When we find that sweet spot between faith in God and actions that match our faith in God, the church will accomplish great things that will last beyond our generation. And that is the legacy we seek to leave when it is time for the Lord to call us home.

I hope you enjoyed getting to know more about our church and our way of thinking. If you have any questions about anything in this introduction newsletter or anything else about the church or life in general, feel free to contact us. We hope you plan to visit us soon!