

**\*\*\*PREPARE COMMUNION\*\*\***

July - David and Cindy Burleson  
August - Sam and Nicole Garner

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

**TODAY** - Cindy Williams \* August 4 - Bonnie Jones

**CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS**

Spaghetti Noodles \* Cookie Mixes \* Cooking Oil \* Cream  
of Mushroom Soup \* Butterscotch Chips \* Oatmeal  
Pick-up date: September 9

**OUR RECORD FOR LAST WEEK**

Attendance - 121  
Contribution - 3473

**FOOD PANTRY**

**JULY ITEMS: CANNED SPAGHETTI SAUCE**  
*Rice, canned fruit (no applesauce). Cash donations also  
gratefully accepted*



**Happy Birthday:**

July 31 - Brenda Mason  
August 2 - Matt Mayberry

**Happy Anniversary:**

August 4 - Ronnie and Gloria Moore



**Bible Trivia:**

What man in the Bible had hair like eagle feathers and nails like bird claws?

**Last Week's Answer:**

Moses, Aaron and his sons were the men who had a bathtub made for them to wash in (Exodus 38:8; 40:30,31)

**New Address:** Mary Burke has a new address. You can send her a card or word of encouragement at: Sunterra Springs, 4935 S. National Ave, Springfield MO 65810

**SERVING TODAY**

**July 28, 2019**

**Song Leader**.....Tim Woods  
**Opening Prayer**.....Zack Tanner

**LORD'S TABLE**

David Carson.....Justin Allen  
Tim Flowers.....Jeff McGowan  
Jeff Rodgers.....Johnny McGowan  
**Scripture**.....Jonathan Simmons  
**Prayer**.....Jon Neely  
**Announcements**.....Ron Garner  
**Dismissal**.....Darrin Shipman

**Sunday Evening**

**Song Leader**.....Wayne Reams  
**Prayer**.....Rodney Williams  
**Scripture**.....David Burleson  
Matthew 25: 22-23

**Dismissal**.....Jerry McCoy  
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**Wednesday, July 31, 2019**

**Song Leader**.....Morris Karnes  
**Prayer**.....Ron Garner  
**Dismissal**.....Jacob Clayton  
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**August 4, 2019**

**Song Leader**.....Joe Watson  
**Opening Prayer**.....David Carson

**LORD'S TABLE**

Darrin Shipman.....David Burleson  
Sam Garner.....Alex Garner  
Mike Duley.....Jon Neely  
**Scripture**.....Jeff Rodgers  
**Prayer**.....Jerry Burleson  
**Announcements**.....Wayne Reams  
**Dismissal**.....Bud McKuin

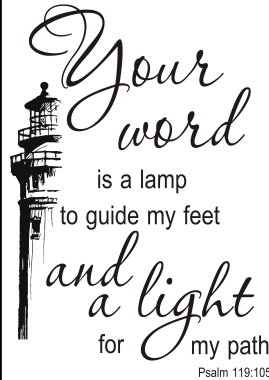
**Sunday Evening**

**Song Leader**.....Morris Karnes  
**Prayer**.....Justin Allen  
**Scripture**.....Jacob Clayton  
Matthew 25: 24-25

**Dismissal**.....Rodney Williams  
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**COUNT JULY CONTRIBUTION**

Jerry McCoy.....David Howard  
Johnny McGowan.....Wayne Reams



**SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**

Bible Study.....9:30AM  
Worship.....10:15AM  
Worship.....6:00PM

**WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study.....7:00PM

**MINISTER**

Stan Dauck  
573-293-5620

**ELDERS**

David Burleson  
573-820-0329  
David Carson  
573-276-5567  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

**DEACONS**

Wayne Reams  
Joe Watson  
Rodney Williams  
Tim Woods

**OFFICE: 573-293-5620**  
**Bernie Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 366**  
**Bernie, MO 63822**

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bemiechurchof-christ@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**  
www.bemiechurchofchrist.com

# TRUE LIGHT

July 28, 2019

**Three Fires**

In a little over 50 days, the apostle Peter experienced the presence of Jesus around three fires. These three fires refined and redefined the outspoken and often-flawed fisherman Jesus chose to lead his band of ragamuffin world-changers. If we allow Jesus to join us around our version of these three fires, he will refine and redefine us, as well.

**Fire 1: The Fire of Failure**

Peter had adamantly protested Jesus' warning that he would betray his Lord (John 13:36-38; Luke 22: 31-34). Peter was wrong. Around a charcoal fire (John 18:15-18 NLT) while Jesus was being stripped, beaten and illegally tried, Peter denied his Lord three times (Luke 22: 54-62), the last time with cursing (Mark 14: 69-72). As Peter's denials hung in the air with the smoke of the fire that warmed his bones, his eyes locked on Jesus' eyes (Luke 22: 59-61) as the chill of what he'd done wracked his soul (Luke 22:62).

Simon Peter had failed. He had been unable to be faithful. He had not lived up to his name - Peter, the rock. He had broken his promises to Jesus. He had let down his fellow apostles. He had disappointed his brother Andrew. He had broken his own heart. He had failed Jesus, his Lord.

At his crucifixion, Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). His words weren't just for those who crucified him. They were also for his apostles who had abandoned him and run for their lives (Mark 12:50) and for Peter who had failed so miserably. While Peter may have abandoned Jesus at the fire of failure, Jesus had not forsaken him. If we take the Lord's words seriously, Jesus suggests Peter's faith hadn't failed; just his nerve (Luke 22: 31-32). He believed Peter would turn around and be the one to strengthen his fellow apostles! Which makes the second fire so important!

**Fire 2: The Fire of Forgiveness**

Later, Jesus made sure his eyes met Peter's around a second charcoal fire (John 21:9 NLT), one where the Lord cooked some of his apostles a nice fish dinner on the beach (John 21: 1-19). The moment was uncomfortable for Simon Peter. Jesus challenged him about claiming to love his Lord more than the other disciples did (John 21:15). Jesus confronted Peter about his failure three times (John 21: 17), just as Peter had denied him three times.

Peter was broken, but the Lord didn't abandon Peter in his brokenness at this second charcoal fire. Instead, just as Peter had denied his Lord three times, Jesus now affirmed his call to Peter to be a shepherd, three times (John 21: 15-17). The Lord would use this second fire, the fire of forgiveness, to draw near and reclaim Peter for useful service to a broken world. Peter responded with repentance; he turned to follow Jesus passionately and faithfully the rest of his life. (Continued on Inside)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**July 29:** Summer Youth Series at Shady Acres in Sikeston at 7 p.m. The theme is, "Today I am Grateful for the Love of Christ"

**July 29:** parking lot scheduled to be paved

**July 31:** Jeremy Pierce will be our Summer Series speaker

**August 1-3:** VBS at Cape Girardeau. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery

***Looking Ahead***

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*Summer Youth Series at Green Forest at 7 p.m. August 5. The theme is "Today I am Grateful for the Church"*

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*Summer Youth Series at Bernie at 7 p.m. August 12. The theme is "Today I am Grateful for the Grace of God." We will need help providing and serving refreshments*

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*Ladies Lunch Out August 13 at 11:30 at Susie's in downtown Sikeston*

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*Mary and Martha at the home of Amy Thomason August 19 at 6:30. Supper will be served. The lesson will be "What's Your Word?" More information to be posted soon*

**Continued from front:**

Fire 3: The Fire of a New Future

On the day of Pentecost, the fire that John the Baptizer had promised Jesus would bring (Luke 3: 15-18), finally came (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4). Jesus poured out the fire of the Holy Spirit both figuratively - "like tongues of fire" - and in power. When Peter stood up to speak the message of God's great news in Jesus, he didn't speak alone. He was empowered, like his fellow apostles, by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 14-21, 32-33).

Far from abandoning Peter on this day of a new future, the Lord poured his Spirit to enable Peter and his brothers to begin a new future. The weak suddenly became strong. The timid now grew courageous. The defeated were unstoppable.

Jesus poured out this new fire of the Spirit. It was a fire that could not be stopped or contained. This fire would spread Jesus' new future to everyone who would believe that the crucified Jesus had triumphed over death and was now both the Lord and Christ. Everyone could have their sins removed by this fire. Jesus would send this same Spirit as their gift of new life because of their faith and baptism based on his authoritative name (Acts 2: 38-41).

The Lord began a flame that still burns through that tiny group of men and women and that faltering egotistical fisherman named Peter. This fire of the future is why you and I need to realize the importance of the three fires of Simon Peter. Those three fires are our fires, too.

Jesus doesn't abandon us in our fire failure. No matter what we've done, how we've disappointed ourselves and others, or how badly we have failed, he doesn't abandon us. He sees and knows and cares about our failure. He comes to us in those failures and redeems us from them (Romans 5: 6-11).

The Lord never abandons us at the fire of failure. He longs for us to turn back to him. He may confront us to reclaim us. He may hem us in to call us back to his service. He may let us suffer the consequences of some of our rebellious mistakes. But, he will not abandon us in our failure. Jesus is waiting for us to make that turn at the fire of his forgiveness.

And, the Lord won't abandon us in the future! Because if we have heard his call and turned to follow him, he won't leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13: 5-6). Jesus' love will break through any barrier that the evil one establishes, and our shame erects to separate us from his love (Romans 8: 32-39). The fire of the future, the power of the Holy Spirit, is at work always to shape us, remake us, and redefine us to be more like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18). Jesus' grace promises us a new future built around the fire of the Holy Spirit he has poured out for us to empower us beyond anything that we can imagine (Ephesians 3: 14-21). Jesus is Lord of our three fires, and because of that, everything has changed!

As Jesus is Lord of our three fires, we choose which of the three fires we will use to warm our lives. We don't need to dwell around the fire of our failure. We don't even need to linger at the fire of forgiveness because Jesus has built us a third fire - a fire of hope and salvation. It's a fire that burns to warm every man and woman, each one of us, young and old, whether we are in bondage or feel free. That fire burns for each person across every human barrier that separates us. The Lord wants to meet us around this third fire and empower us into his glorious future for us and the world. Let's choose to warm ourselves around that third fire!  
Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

*Lifting up in Prayer...*

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

Max Snyder will have a body scan and blood work August 14. He is very weak and Judy has requested no visitors at this time \* Trish Baldwin's test results showed no brain bleed and she will be going to see a neurologist for her headaches \* Valerie McGowan, daughter-in-law of Jack and Helen, recently suffered a heart attack and had stents. She is doing well \* Johnny Grimes, Ginger Beard's step-father, had hip surgery Thursday \* Helen McGowan had a port installed for dialysis Thursday \*

**CONTINUING PRAYERS**

**(congregational)**

Louella Akers \* John David Barnett \* Mary Burke \* David Burleson \* Jerry Burleson \* Pam Claeys \* Billie Cooper \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Grant Howard \* Curtis McClard \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McKuIn \* Ida Roberts \* Gayle Rodgers \* Elwood Rush \* Jane Smith \* Max Snyder \* David Terrill \* Max Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Joy Watson \* Marty Watson \* Woody Wood \* Darrell Zimmerman \* Pansy Zimmerman \*

*...Pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..... James 5:16.  
Prayer is a special blessing. Help us keep our prayer list up to date by letting Amy know of any prayer requests or updates you would like to have in the bulletin*



**CONTINUING PRAYERS (non congregational)**

**Cancer**

Roxanne Carson  
Sherry Chambers  
Jackie Cooper  
Debbie Chrisman  
Bill Fitzpatrick  
LeAnn Jacques  
Tommy Jacques  
Andy Kelley  
Connie Lemmons  
Annette Lumsden  
Phil McKuIn  
Betty Nicholson  
Donnie Rawlings  
Gerald Robertson  
Deanna Rogers  
Norman Swafford

**Other Health Issues**

Megan Brenna (brain tumor/pregnancy)  
Amy Green (poor health)  
John Back (stroke)  
DeeDee Burch (auto accident)  
Mary Burke (poor health)  
Azlynn Dicus (seizures)  
Renee Goodman (serious health issues)  
Clyde Jacques  
Beckie King (MS)  
Nikki Lawrence (migraines)  
Sonja Mays (poor health)  
Alvin Miller (poor health)  
Tom Provance  
Gene Rowland  
Traci Suiter (poor health)  
Paige Tanner (congestive heart failure)  
Geraldine Tomah (poor health)  
Kay Wright (declining health)

**OUR SHUT INS**

<b>Central Garden:</b>	Lois McKuIn #117	<b>Ridgeview Living:</b>	Shirley Johnson #225
<b>Cypress Point:</b>	Joy Watson #8		Bertha Skidgell #218
<b>Winchester Place:</b>	Travis Cooper, #7		Max Terrill #207
	Elwood Rush, #6		Isaac Wheeler #201
<b>Winchester Nursing Home:</b>	Sue Flowers #208		
	Fern Botsch		

**AT HOME:** Pam Claeys, Scott & Judy Flannery, Gayle Rodgers