



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

July 11, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
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Stan Dauck
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DEACONS

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Bernie church of Christ

*"This is the day the Lord
has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

FOUR REASONS VBS IS MISSION-CRITICAL TO THE ENTIRE CHURCH

The Church is in a time of crisis.

More specifically, the Church has an evangelism crisis. We live in a free country and are allowed to talk about Jesus openly in most contexts. Nothing is stopping us from inviting others to church. We don't live in a place where we risk our livelihood to lives to share the Gospel.

Yet, researchers tell us we aren't doing it. Recent studies found 80 percent of protestant churchgoers say they have a personal responsibility to share their faith. However, 61 percent say they haven't shared how to become a Christian with anyone in the past six months. And 48 percent say they haven't invited anyone to church in the past six months.

Does this surprise you? Perhaps it does, since many of us are in ministry and feel like we're sharing the Gospel regularly. How are you doing outside the walls of your church? Are you sharing the Gospel regularly with friends, neighbors and others in your life? And do the statistics above describe the people in your congregation? These questions should make us uncomfortable. Sharing Jesus with those who don't know Him is what we're called to do as Christians.

At the same time, we have to consider the fact that tens of thousands of children have come to learn about Christ through Vacation Bible School (VBS) each year for many decades. But what's concerning is that fewer churches are doing VBS each year. A study by Barna Research states 81 percent of US churches offered VBS in 1997. However, by 2012 that number had dropped to 68 percent.

Here are four reasons VBS is critical to the mission of the Church - making disciples and reaching your neighbors with the Gospel.

1. VBS IS ABOUT JESUS. Among Americans who say they attended VBS as a child, 89 percent agree that positively influenced their spiritual growth. But it doesn't stop there. Among Americans who say they have a child who has attended VBS, 95 percent agree that participating in VBS positively influenced their child's spiritual growth. Perhaps most amazingly, 71 percent agree that participating in VBS would have directly impacted their child's spiritual growth in positive ways. VBS provides the dual purpose of introducing participants to Jesus and providing valuable spiritual growth of more kids than ever. The driving message of VBS is the same whether you have five kids or 5,000, whether you're in a megachurch or on a mission trip. Whether you have hi-tech production resources or simply your Bible and a teaching picture - it's the message of Jesus Christ.

2. VBS ATTRACTS. VBS is synonymous with "summer" in many church settings. Why? Perhaps because it has been around in one form or another for more than a century. In kids' ministry, which is sometimes marked by trendy, short-lived fads, VBS is one of the few ministries with real staying power. VBS's longevity proves it's a dependable ministry and successful strategy. More than two-thirds of American parents say they would encourage their child to attend VBS at a church they didn't attend if their child was personally invited by a friend. Let that sink in for a moment - that's 69 percent of all American parents. Not just Christian or unchurched parents - that includes Muslim parents, Buddhist parents, agnostic parents, and parents from all socioeconomic statuses. Why would we walk away from this kind of brand awareness? VBS has been carefully stewarded for over a century as an effective tool for sharing the Gospel. The reason VBS remains attractive and so important is because it gives churches the opportunity to impact lives for eternity as kids, teens, and adults come to know the saving power of Jesus Christ.

3. VBS ENERGIZES. We know VBS attracts people from the community, but what is it about VBS that gets an army of church members out of their seats and hot-gluing googly eyes or leading wacky games? What is it that propels churches all over the country and across the globe to use VBS, bringing new life to their ministries? VBS energizes the local church for Gospel ministry. When that energy is contagious it begins to spill out of the church doors and into the community. A church plant in a small Pennsylvania town was experiencing difficulty establishing a solid membership base. The church, started by six people, seemed to be on the brink of fizzling out. One member decided she was going to help host a VBS for the neighborhood children. Soon families were bringing their kids and learning more about the Church - which grew to serve 55 of those families. VBS creates energy in the local church because at the center of all the fun and craziness is the truth of God's Word.

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CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

July 12 - Josh Young
 July 13 - Jerry Collier
 July 14 - Meg Simmons
 July 15 - Jason McGowan
 July 17 - Kevin Mays



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July 15 - Rick and Ginger Beard

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Velveeta Cheese * Disinfectant Spray
 (i.e. Lysol) * Light Bulbs * Nuts * Toilet
 Tissue * Spaghetti Sauce

PICK UP DATE AUGUST 16

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Currently operating on an "as needed" basis.
 Prepackaged food and monetary
 contributions are always appreciated

Attendance for July 4: 112
Contribution for July 4: \$5290

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: Mike Duley will have the pins removed from his foot tomorrow * Donna McQuin had a stent inserted last week and is recovering at home * Judy Snyder has been very sick but is feeling some better * Marvin Garner, Ron Garner's uncle, has been diagnosed with COVID and is pretty sick * LaRhonda Billingsley recovering from hip replacement surgery * Pam Claeys is in room 10 at Sikeston Convalescent Center *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Pam Claeys * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * Sonja Mays * Curtis McClard * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jodi Claeys * Jerry Grimes * TJ Hester * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Norma Pyle * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Pauline Allen * Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Sonja Mays * Elwood Rush * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Looking Ahead

Our Summer Series Speaker this week will be Johnny Hester. There is a list of our upcoming speakers on the table in the foyer

We still need some pies Wednesday, July 14, for session 3 of camp. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you can help. Please have your pies at the building no later than 9 a.m. Also, if you would like to help cover the cost of the t-shirts campers can earn for memorizing Bible verses, please see Stan or one of the elders

A bridal shower for Kalee Howard will be held July 18 at 1:30 in the fellowship room. Kalee and Owen are registered at Amazon and Target. Wal-Mart gift cards also appreciated!

Vacation Bible School begins next Sunday, July 18-22. We will need lots of help (and cookies!) There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer for cookies and supplies. Please make plans to be a part of VBS this year.

There will be a Children's Homes fish fry July 19 at 6 p.m. at the Dexter church of Christ. If possible, please RSVP by tomorrow to let them know you are coming.

The Central church of Christ in Caruthersville will hold a Gospel meeting July 25-27. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Summer Youth Series at Green Forest church of Christ August 2.

July 11, 2021

Morning Worship:

Song LeaderWes Howard
 Opening Prayer.....Wayne Reams
 Scripture.....Justin Allen
 Prayer.....Sam Garner
 Closing Prayer.....Rodney Williams

Evening Worship:

Song LeaderDonnie Ray Brown
 Prayer.....Darrin Shipman
 Scripture.....Jacob Clayton
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Wednesday, July 14

Song LeaderJacob Clayton
 Prayer.....David Carson
 Dismissal.....Darrin Shipman

July 18, 2021

Morning Worship:

Song LeaderJoe Watson
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
 Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
 Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons
 Closing Prayer.....Jerry Burleson

Evening Worship:

Song LeaderWayne Reams
 Prayer.....Justin Allen
 Scripture.....Rodney Williams
 Dismissal.....Ron Garner

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4. VBS mobilizes. Not only does VBS energize a congregation, it mobilizes a local reach to its community with the Gospel.

Teenagers, college students, single adults, newlyweds, married adults with or without kids, empty nesters, and senior adults all come together with one singular goal - to help create a life-transforming, Gospel-centered VBS experience for every single boy and girl.

To see this diverse group of people roll up their sleeves and work together to share Christ with kids is to see the body of Christ in action - regardless of their particular giftings or weaknesses. In order for VBS to be a true mobilize, we must accept the responsibility that VBS is a total church endeavor.

VBS works.

As churches debate whether VBS is worth their time and investment, it's time to ask, *what else could replace this valuable vehicle for the Gospel in children's lives?*

If churches stop doing VBS, how will millions hear the Gospel and tens of thousands make new commitments to Jesus Christ?

These reasons are why VBS is critical to your church's mission.