



TRUE LIGHT

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

December 26, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :

9:30 a.m.

Worship:

10:15 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

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

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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**

CHRISTMAS THIEF

Like the "Whos" in "Whoville," we think everything's safe. We think everything's secure. We make our lists and check them twice.

- Packages are wrapped. *Check*
- Bows are tied. *Check*
- Stockings are hung. *Check*
- Tree decorated. *Check*
- Feast is prepared. *Check*

Then the thief comes. Like the Grinch, he takes away our Christmas and leaves us stripped of our things.

Lisa Kilbride understands. A few years ago, Lisa thought she'd get her Christmas shopping out of the way early. Lisa is the mother of four boys who at the time were 2, 4, 7, and 12. The family was moving to a new house, so she bought early and stashed the gifts at the old house to keep the kids from peeking. She wrapped some of the toys Friday afternoon and left them overnight to finish Saturday.

When she came back, she found that the presents had been torn open and some of the toys stolen. "The minute I walked into my family room, my heart just sank," she said. "I immediately saw wrapping paper and everything open and I thought, 'Did Doug (her husband) come over here with the kids?'"

She quickly surmised it wasn't her kids - but it probably was someone else's. The thieves took what they wanted and escaped.

Thievery at Christmastime?! We are appalled by the idea. And yet Jesus tells us his coming is like that of a thief. Paul writes to the Thessalonians not to let God surprise them *like a thief in the night* (1 Thess 5:2). In fact, five times in the New Testament the coming of God is compared to the intrusion of a thief. Twice in Revelation, *I will come like a thief* (Rev. 3:3; 16:15).

In all your Christmas preparations are you prepared for the thief? Let me give you two pieces of advice.

First, take note of when thieves come. Thieves come when we think we're safe. Thieves come when we think we're secure. The thief knows that we'll let down our guard if we don't think he's coming. We'll get busy. We'll quit thinking about him. We'll quit watching for him. Then, before we know it, he's there! Interrupting our safe, secure lives and jolting us with his presence.

Like the thief, God comes when we least expect it. In the night. In a manger. In the form of a child. In our busyness. In our loneliness. In our friendships. Maybe even in the Christmas season. Are you watching?

Second, don't become too attached to this world or the things of this world.

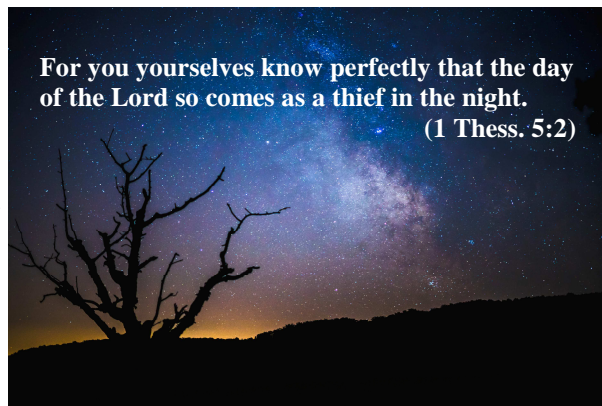
My family spent the Thanksgiving holidays in an area of the country that has a high cost of living. For example, a townhouse in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, built in the mid-1700s, will cost more than \$1 million. People in the area are working hard for money to accumulate a certain living status.

In the middle of all this wealth sits Christ Church, an old Episcopal Church building dating back to 1767. George Washington and Robert E Lee worshiped there. It is a church surrounded by great history and great wealth. It's also surrounded by a graveyard.

With each passing by of the church, Alexandrians are reminded that someday all these things will not matter too much. Great accomplishments may be remembered in history books but they don't keep you alive. Great wealth may add some pleasures to your life, but it can't postpone the inevitable. Thieves come to steal those things from us. And when they're gone, we're left feeling vulnerable. Open. Maybe even dead.

Continued on back

**For you yourselves know perfectly that the day
of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.**
(1 Thess. 5:2)



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

December 28 - Kylie Allen
December 31 - David Howard
Sonny & Pat Ingle (A)
January 2 - David Carson



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Chocolate Chips * Instant Potatoes *
Mushrooms * Powdered Sugar * Snack
Crackers * Rotel
Pick-up date: March 14, 2022

FOOD PANTRY

Currently operating on an "as needed/
as available" basis. Monetary donations
are always appreciated.

Attendance for December 19: 110
Contribution for December 19: \$3733

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

** this bulletin was printed in advance due to the holidays.*

*Please listen to announcements for updates to our prayer list **

Remember: **Marty Watson** recently fell and fractured his back. He remains at Southeast Hospital * Faye Dockins' son, **Ricky**, diagnosed with skin cancer on his neck * **David Burleson's** recent PSA scan was good * **Sharlette Watson** had a 3 month check-up last week * **David Carson** will see a specialist January 10 for his continuing sinus/congestion issues * **Woody Wood** has some upcoming tests * **Vernon Allen** (Justin's dad) was recently hospitalized with dizziness * **Dana Jo Jackson** recently had to have her heart shocked three times to bring her back * **Shirley Grimes** (Ginger Beard's mom) is having some health issues * **Linda Morgan** at home recovering from major surgery and doing well *

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

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers-Noe (not doing well) * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * Patricia Greninger * Neal Halford * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * Paula Mason * Jenny Mullins * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Mark Beard * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jodi Claey's * Jerry Grimes * Katie Hicks * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Baby Owen * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Beth Schwendemann and family * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Fern Botsch * Pam Claey's * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Sonja Mays * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Looking Ahead

New Years Eve get-together at 7 p.m. in the fellowship room. Bring snack foods and games and help us ring in 2022.

Friends and Family Day with Brent Newton is next Sunday. The theme is, "God Looks at the Heart." We will have a potluck meal following morning services, and a special youth emphasis night Sunday evening with a light meal to follow. We will need help providing snacks and drinks for the evening meal. Please make plans to attend and start 2022 off right!

Wednesday Fellowship Meals will resume January 5, 2022.

" Ignite" Youth Rally at Jackson January 15-16 with keynote speaker Spencer Furby. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Welcome, January! If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold, all things have become new (2 Corinthians 5:17).

WILLING TO SERVE

December 26, 2021

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Cameron Traw
Scripture.....David Howard
Prayer.....Jonathan Simmons
Closing Prayer.....Jeff Rodgers

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Wayne Reams
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....David Carson
Dismissal.....Jacob Clayton

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

January 2, 2022

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Wes Howard
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Prayer.....Darrin Shipman
Closing Prayer.....Rodney Williams

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....n/a
Prayer.....n/a
Scripture.....n/a
Dismissal.....n/a

Continued from front:

Maybe that's why God is described as a thief. He comes in and shows us what a thief shows us. That we are much too concerned about things that don't last. That we avoid him by busying ourselves with much to do. That we pile up present after present ... so high that we lose sight of him.

He steals things from us so that we are left feeling vulnerable. Violated. Disturbed. Disturbed just enough to focus our attention back on him. When all else is removed we can see him more clearly.

Like Linda's thief, this one comes as a child. Unlike hers, this one was caught. Matthew's gospel shows us a Messiah that died on a cross. Between two thieves. Why? Because he is a thief. He came to steal away whatever it is in your heart that has too much of your attention so that he can have you.

When he does, maybe you'll find what the Whos found in Whoville. With all their hoarded gifts gone, they found room for the spirit of Christmas. They learned that Christmas is more than the presents and food.

And with those out of the way, watch out. All that's left to be stolen is your heart. And that's exactly what this thief would die to have.

Rick Brown, www.heartlight.com

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to Phyllis Howard in the passing of her brother-in-law Gerald Robertson, Rogers, AR. Gerald's Funeral was held December 18 in Springfield, MO.