



TRUE LIGHT

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

March 5, 2023

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."*

Psalm 118:24

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

DEFINING A "SUCCESSFUL GOSPEL MEETING"

For me, this is Gospel Meeting season. As this article is being released, I am finishing up a meeting in Vinton, Virginia, and then Central will host our Gospel Meeting in a couple weeks.

For many years now, I have heard members, preachers, and elders talk about Gospel Meetings. Should we still have them? How do we get more people to come? Are they worth it?

This article won't give a full answer to all of those questions, but maybe it will give some clarity of thought to them. From the outset, though, let me state my bias. I am still one who believes in the Gospel Meeting, and not just because I have preached in some. It is because I have tried to clarify some things in my thinking about how much they have helped me and my family, as well as congregations where I have worked.

Knowing that, here are some things to keep in mind to help think through this:

- First, define "success" for your meeting. Is success only measured in huge numbers ("a packed house") or are there other things that could define a successful meeting? It would be amazing to have a full auditorium, but it might be just as successful to have a small crowd who is more enthused about their faith at the end of the week.
- Second, encourage those who are there. It is so tempting, if the numbers aren't great, to talk about those who are NOT present and ignore those who are. Don't do that! Thank those who came. Honor their effort and their desire to hear the Truth. It's fine to encourage them to invite a friend throughout the week, but make sure you thank those who have come.
- Third, if you wait to talk about a meeting until the week before, you are WEEKS too late. Folks just do not have it "top of mind" to think about a Gospel Meeting anymore. But if you talk and talk and talk about it, for at least a month, through every possible means of communication, they will start to get it. Have flyers (yes), but do not expect to lay those in the lobby and that be the extent of your reminders. Use spoken announcements, email reminders, the church bulletin, social media, and any other means your congregation uses - and use them all several times for several weeks.
- Finally, rethink the meeting. It can still be effective to have a preacher preach his "greatest hits" sermons for a few days. But it might also be effective for your congregation to have an entire series on the home, or on leadership, or on any number of other subjects that are needed.

Oh, and if I may add one more "finally" ... attend! What an opportunity to hear preaching and to be around Christians for several days! Where else would you want to be anyway?

Adam Faughn, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

The Most Needed Week of Your Life with Bryan McAlister

Sunday, March 5* - Wednesday, March 8, 2023

*9:30, 10:15, 5 p.m.

7 p.m. nightly

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March 8 - Joy Greer
March 11 - Jerry & Janie Burleson (A)



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Tape (Scotch/Masking) * Paper
Napkins * Paper Plates & Cups *
Spaghetti O's * Liquid Fabric
Softener * Ketchup
Pickup Date April 17, 2023

WILLING TO SERVE

March 5, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Jacob Clayton

March 12, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Cameron Traw
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Joe Watson
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....David Burleson
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

SAFE HANDS

Like the unraveling of a rope, the threads of sculptor Doug Merkey's life were breaking up one by one. "My mother had lost her prolonged battle with cancer; a long-term romantic relationship was failing; my finances were depleted; my vocation was foggy ... The emotional and spiritual darkness around me and within me was deep and debilitating and seemingly impenetrable," he wrote. These collective events, combined with living in a cramped attic, became the setting from which his sculpture *The Hiding Place* emerged. It depicts Christ's strong, nail-scarred hands openly cupped together as a place of safety.

Doug explained the design of his artwork this way: The "sculpture is Christ's invitation to hide in Him." In Psalm 32, David wrote as one who had found the ultimate safe place - God Himself. He offers us forgiveness from our sins (v 1-5) and encourages us to offer prayer in the midst of tumult (v 6). In verse 7, the psalmist declares his trust in God: *You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.*

When trouble shows up, where do you turn? How good it is to know that when the fragile cords of our earthly existence begin to unravel, we can run to the God who has provided eternal safety through the forgiving work of Jesus.

Arthur Jackson

In March, winter is holding back and spring is pulling forward. Something holds and something pulls inside us, too.

Jean Hersey

Attendance for February 26: 88 *** Contribution for February 19: \$3325

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sonja Mays is not doing well at all * **Marty Howard** recovering from back surgery * **Louella Akers'** cancer has spread and she is on hospice care * **Pat Ingle** is back home; no visitors at this time please * **Janet Wood** is home recovering from knee replacement surgery * **Fern Botsch** on hospice care * **Kathy Caudle** has been very sick, and weak * **Gloria Moore** has been having a lot of health issues * **Karen Forkum** struggling with many health issues * **Don Jackson** still struggling with infection and swelling in his knee

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * David Burleson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * Jane Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Chris Daley * Bill Fitzpatrick * Ronnie Goins * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * Paula Mason * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jodi Claeys * Ruth Dauck * Jerry Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Eva Latham * Nikki Lawrence * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Mary Provance * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Louella Akers * Fern Botsch * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Sonja Mays * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson *

Looking Ahead

Our Spring Gospel Meeting with Bryan McAlister begins TODAY and runs through Wednesday. We will have a potluck meal following morning worship, and our usual evening service at 5. There are some flyers on the table in the foyer; be praying now for a successful meeting, and plan to attend every night.

Wednesday night fellowship meal will be catfish, chicken strips, and the fixins'. Deserts will be needed.

Inspiration 2023 March 10 & 11 at Dexter with guest speaker Lonnie Jones. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

Ladies Lunch Out will be Tuesday, March 14, at 11:30 at Samurai X Hibachi and Sushi in Dexter. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

There will be a baby shower for Ashley (Williams) Johnson March 18 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship room. Ashley and Cole are expecting a boy (Waylon Cole) and are registered at www.babylist.com/ashley-colejohnson. It will come up "private address" with due date July 8.

In Sympathy: Sympathy is extended to our sister Cindy Williams in the loss of her nephew, Chris Daley, who passed away March 2.