



TRUE LIGHT

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

September 10, 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
Rodney Williams

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

EMAIL:
berniechurchofchrist
@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
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***

GARDENS ALL ALONG THE WAY

I grew up a city kid, always a short commute from a major trauma center where my dad could quickly get to the operating room if his beeper went off. That telltale beeping always filled me with conflicting emotions - dread that he was leaving again and thrill at imagining the repairs his fingers would perform.

But even in our small urban backyard, he relaxed by tucking tomato and marigold plants into the flowerbeds. Perhaps he was happiest getting dirt under his fingernails, too.

My most vibrant gardening memories, though, were in the plot right beside my grandfather's red barn. The garden was his humble playground, his big hands dwarfing the tiny plants as he'd carefully tuck them into the brown-hilled rows. He'd uncoil the hose and turn the water on, the water that was pumped up from the brown lazy creek that laced below the mesquite trees. I'd crouch in the blistering heat and watch the curling stream of water push and swirl its way down the dry channels between the rows. I'll never forget the sound of the parched ground sizzling and almost gasping when the water hit its thirsty surface.

Grandfather didn't really have to garden; he could just as easily grabbed tomatoes at the grocery store where he bought his Dr. Pepper and Mrs. Baird's white bread. But he couldn't help himself. It was good to work, good to do things with your hands. And what would a farm be without a garden, anyways?

I married into a family that gardens on another level. Whatever garden plot my mother-in-law touches, it turns into Eden. My father-in-law brings loads of manure, and my mother-in-law plants, hoes, tends, and harvests with uncomplaining dedication.

I've gardened in dry Texas heat and in northern Indiana, where I shoveled and hoed a little corner of the lawn into a well-loved little garden patch. I gardened in North Carolina - our first little home after Daniel and I married, in the tiny orchard surrounded by fields of black angus cattle. And now, I garden in our clay patch, where I've struggled and conquered, learned about compost and mulch, and grown far more flowers than I ever imagined. I've gathered countless bouquets to give away, delighting not only in the beauty they hold, but in the lessons I learned as I grew them.

I trimmed back flowers hard last week and pulled up tired green bean plants ... Trees are suddenly hinting of fall, and even though I'm not quite done with summer, the changing seasons are luring, calling me to run and catch that first curling and turning of the leaves.

I'm not just talking about gardening. You knew that already.

Gardens are only the pictures that sprawl brilliantly across the summer pages of our lives. We learn through hands-on lessons - through real-deal mistakes and hard-earned successes. We each leave a legacy. We pursue character and growth, we reach for new skills, and we fail often. We struggle with limited resources, with hard clay soil, with relentless crabgrass.

But we grow by not giving up.

Struggle develops deep brawn in our souls. We learn to chase joy most clearly when sweat blurs our vision. And someday, by a million miracles, we find our hands full and overflowing with fresh glistening fruit, still warm from the sun's kiss.

My garden is holy ground, for I've met God there. Gardens have been part of my life, at first resented, then tolerated, and now embraced.

Watching nature is a mysterious, addicting dance. Tasting the fruits of our labor is deeply rewarding. Discovering that our lives are an open book, where Jesus scrawls lavishly the green of a tomato vine, the blush of a newly opened zinnia, and the gold of sunset on a hot summer evening - these are the moments where our hearts reflect the language of heaven.

Each year as I garden, I know a little bit more. I remember what worked last year, which flowers were my favorites to tuck into gifted bouquets. I learn about growing, both in the soil and in my soul. I have a feeling there are gardens in heaven: long, wide rows of nodding lavender and climbing star jasmine, filling the air with richness. (But maybe heaven is without the blistering heat. Or mosquitoes. And certainly no crabgrass.)

Maybe things will just grow unaided there, no tending or pruning. But then, somehow, I can't imagine that God, who created first the perfect garden of Eden, won't Himself be tending and delighting over budding fruit and bursting flowers. Surely in heaven, we won't be able to help ourselves, gathering and harvesting as we did on earth, right alongside Him.

Just maybe that's part of the mystery; we were made to grow in the garden alongside the fruit and flowers that vex and thrill our souls. We find that thistles and thorns teach us about sin and our dire need for pruning. Fruitful growth is a lavish demonstration of having uncurled our roots and thrust them deep into real living water.

It is the glory of God to unveil His mysterious ways to us, one day, one garden at a time.

Melissa Troyer, www.heartlight.com

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Sept. 10 - Steve Jones
Sept. 12 - Jack Simmons
Sept. 14 - Gaye Miller
Mindy Pruitt



Jason & Melissa Shelton (A)

Belated birthday wishes to Alex Garner, who celebrated September 9.

CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Brown Sugar * Brownie Mix * Butter Flavored Shortening * Canned Chicken * Cheddar Cheese Soup * Vienna Sausage
Pick Up Date November 6

WILLING TO SERVE

September 10, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers
Dismissal.....Rodney Williams

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....David Carson

September 17, 2023

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jason Karnes
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Ron Garner
Prayer.....David Burleson
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

RECKLESS DECISIONS

As a teen, I was driving way too fast trying to follow my friend to his home after a high school basketball practice. It was raining hard, and I was having a hard time keeping up with his car. Suddenly, my wipers cleared the watery windshield only to reveal my friend's sedan stopped in front of me. I slammed on the brakes, slid off the street, and struck a large tree. My car was destroyed. Later I awoke in the comatose ward of a local hospital. While by God's grace I survived, my reckless ways had proved to be very costly.

Moses made a reckless decision that cost him greatly. His poor choice, however, involved a lack of water - not too much of it (as in my case). The Israelites were without water in the Desert of Zin, and *the people gathered in opposition to Moses* (Numbers 20:2). God told the frazzled leader to speak to a rock and it would *pour out its water* (v 8). Instead, he *struck the rock twice* (v 11). God said, *Because you did not trust in me ..., you will not [enter the promised land]* (v 12).

When we make reckless decisions, we pay the consequences. *Desire without knowledge is not good - how much more will hasty feet miss the way!* (Proverbs 19:2). May we prayerfully, carefully seek God's wisdom and guidance in the choices and decisions we make today.

Tom Felten

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to the family of our brother Jerel Jester, who passed away August 27. A celebration of life service was held in Bernie September 2.

Attendance for September 3: 119

Contribution for September 3: \$4345

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Gene Dauck has been placed on hospice care * **David Terrill** is home following a hospital stay for heart related issues * **Sue Flowers** is on hospice care but is feeling some better * **David Burleson** as he takes cancer treatments * **Louella Akers** is growing weaker * **Karen Forkum and Gloria Moore** struggling with many health issues * **Travis Cooper** is not doing well * **Journey Rose** (Donna McKuinn's great granddaughter) is in St. Louis Children's Hospital with liver issues * **Brynlee Douglas** (Mike and Judy Duley's great granddaughter) will be seeing a pediatric specialist for a soft tissue mass in her knee * **Ruth Dauck** doing well following shoulder replacement surgery *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Carson * Mike Duley * Scott and Judy Flannery * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuinn * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Patricia Greninger * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Linda Morgan * Mike Napier * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Bill Peck * Nikki Reif * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton

Other health issues (non-congregational):

Dixie Billingsley * DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Shirley Grimes * Katie Hicks * Grant Howard * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Eva Latham * Nikki Lawrence * Louella Layton * Tim Lecroy * Shug Lee * Jerry Don McGowan * Brenda Robinson * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Heather Whitehead *

Our Shut Ins

Louella Akers * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

September 12 - Ladies' Lunch Out at Mongolian Grill in Sikeston. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

September 16 - BYC Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction. If you would like to put together a basket to be auctioned off, please let Stan know.

September 17-20 - Spiritual Growth Seminar with guest speaker Keith Parker at Green Forest church of Christ. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

September 17-20 - Gospel Meeting with guest speaker Spencer Furby at Highland Drive church of Christ.

September 19 - Ladies' supper and devotional at 6 p.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. You will need your Bible and something to write with. If you would like to ride the van, please be at the church building by 5:30.

September 30 - Children's Homes Homecoming and Open house from 11-3. There is a poster on the bulletin board with more information. There are several empty cans on the table in the foyer if you need one. Let's get our Change for Children cans filled up.

October 1 - First Sunday potluck and early evening service.

October 22-25: Our Gospel meeting with Spencer Furby. Be praying now for a successful meeting and that many lives will be changed.