



# TRUE LIGHT

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

**December 3, 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

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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**

## WHEN ENDINGS ARE COMPLICATED, GOD IS STILL GRACIOUS

*When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God (Nehemiah 6:16 TNIV).*

Not all stories for faith work out like we would like. Giants of the faith don't have life experiences that always get wrapped up neatly, tied with a bow, and presented for everyone to celebrate. Faith, especially strong faith, is often born out of tragedies that at first glance seem hopeless. Faith shines the strongest in chaos.

On June 20, 1985, Jack Carter, his son Dave, and his grandsons Dustin and Caleb, set out for a much anticipated wilderness camping trip in Yellowstone National Park. On the journey across the lake to their favorite camping site, a freak storm came up and within seconds they were capsized and tossed into the rough and frigid 35 degree water. They were only 75 yards from the shore, but regardless of how hard they tried, the wind and water seemed to push them further and further from the shore.

Jack and little Dustin ended up together, clinging on a floating seat cushion; but Dave and Caleb were lost.

After a while, the waves calmed a bit and Jack and Dustin began to feel a surge of hope. "We're going to make it, Grandpa, we're going to make it," Dustin kept saying.

The water was just too cold. Soon Dustin's words were slurred and less frequent. Jack kept urging him to keep talking, but in the end, it was too much for Dustin.

"I tried," Jack said, "to keep Dustin's face out of the water. I thought I might be able to revive him once we reached the shore, but I couldn't grip him tightly enough. It was only a few yards from the shore when he slipped out of my frozen hands and into eternity."

After more than three hours of fighting to stay alive, a wave finally drove Jack against an old tree and he was able to gradually make his way out of the water. He found a make-do shelter between two fallen trees and rested until morning.

Early the next morning he found a ranger cabin and within hours he was transported to Yellowstone National. "I watched, almost indifferently, as the doctors worked to restore my circulation and body temperature," Jack remembered. "They seemed to care a whole lot more than I did. Occasionally one of them remarked about my strength and how it had saved me. I was too weak to tell them how wrong they were. I could only remember that moment when my fingers could no longer grip and I lost my hold on Dustin. I could still see Dustin's face sinking into the water as my strength failed."

They had been so eager to begin their wilderness adventure; now, only Jack remained.

Looking back, Jack responds, "God gave my son and grandsons the ultimate adventure; they got to go home to heaven. And, that same God gave me a tragedy to share that will give people hope. If God can help me through this, he can help you through anything."

The task this week is to look back. Search your past for forgotten moments, tragedies, those difficult times when God changed your heart, opened your eyes, gave you comfort, and put his fingerprints on your life. Some of these may have been resolved in ways that obviously show the hand of God. Others, however, may not have been resolved so cleanly, but took the grit and resolve of your spirit and the faithfulness of God's grace to see you through.

Find someone who will listen to your story ... Hope needs your story to be told and people need to know what tragedies you've overcome.

Ron Rose, [www.heartlight.com](http://www.heartlight.com)



## ***BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES***

December 5 - Curtis McClard  
December 8 - Stan & Sue Flowers (A)  
December 9- Sharlette Watson  
December 10 - Lana Shipman  
Ryleigh Foster



## **CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Hamburger Helper \* Paper Towels  
\* 13-Gallon Trash Bags \* Cream of  
Chicken Soup \* Shampoo or  
Conditioner \* Vanilla Wafers  
Pick up Date: February 19

## **WILLING TO SERVE**

**December 3, 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.....Rodney Williams  
Scripture.....Jeff Rodgers  
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023**

Song Leader.....Dylan Seabaugh  
Prayer.....Jacob Clayton  
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

**December 10, 2023**

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
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

## **ILLUSTRATING SCRIPTURE**

Decorative blue and white ceramic tiles commonly found in Dutch households were originally made in the city of Delft. They often depict familiar scenes of the Netherlands: beautiful landscapes, ubiquitous windmills, and people working and playing.

In the nineteenth century, Charles Dickens wrote in his book *A Christmas Carol* how these tiles were used to illustrate the Scriptures. He described an old fireplace built by a Dutchman paved with these quaint Delft tiles: "There were Cains and Abels, Pharaohs' daughters, Queens of Sheba, ... [and] Apostles putting off to sea." Many households used these tiles as a teaching tool as the family gathered around the warmth of a fire and shared the stories of the Bible. They learned about God's character - His justice, compassion, and mercy.

The truths of the Bible continue to be relevant today. Psalm 78 encourages us to teach the *hidden lessons from our past - stories we've heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us* (vv2-3 NLT). It goes on to instruct us to *tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done and they in turn [can] tell their children* (vv 4, 6).

With God's help, we can find creative and effective ways to illustrate the truths of Scripture to each generation as we strive to give God the full honor and praise He deserves.

Cindy Hess Kasper

**Attendance for November 26: 100**

**Contribution for November 26: \$3702**

## **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Roxanne Carson** had tests at MD Anderson last week for some new spots \* **Helen Robison** (Jeanie Robison's mother in law) recently hospitalized \* **Becky Johnson** (Janie Burleson's sister) is not doing well \* **Larry Summers** as he continues cancer treatments \* **Rodney Britt** as he continues treatments \* **Joe Vincent** (Amy Townsend Vincent's husband) had a PET scan Friday following his diagnosis for sinus cancer \* **Linda Jones** had a malignancy removed from her face \* **Sue Flowers** remains on hospice care and has not been feeling well \* **Maura Thomason** will be having an MRI on her back/hips January 22 \* **Ruth Dauck** is slowly improving and has moved to her new home.

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** David Burleson \* David Carson \* Travis Cooper \* Mike Duley \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Karen Forkum \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McKuin \* Gloria Moore \* 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 \* Mike Napier \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Bill Peck \* Nikki Reif \* Ashley Smith \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \* Alan Woodward

## **Other health issues (non-congregational):**

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

## **Our Shut Ins**

Travis Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Bettie Thurston \* Marty Watson

## **Looking Ahead**

TODAY: First Sunday Potluck/early evening service. Make plans to attend.

Our fellowship meal this week will be baked spaghetti, garden salad and garlic bread. Desserts will be needed.

December 7: Singles, widows/widowers Christmas party from 11-1 at the home of Trish Baldwin. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift. If you need a ride, please let Trish know.

December 11: Ladies Lunch Out at 12:30 at Hickory Log. Please note this is a Monday AND a later time than we normally go due to availability. If you want to go, you MUST sign up as we have to have a reservation for this month.

December 14: Ladies Holiday Brunch at 10 a.m. at the home of Amy Thomason. Please bring your favorite dish to share (ham will be provided), and an optional, wrapped gift valued at \$20 or less. Bring a donation of non perishable food items for the children's home to be entered into a drawing for a door prize.

December 16: Youth Christmas party in the fellowship room at 2 p.m.

December 17: Holiday meal following evening services honoring Stan and Millie for 35 years of service to our congregation. Ribs and the sides will be served. Please plan to attend.

December 18: Ladies ornament/sock exchange followed by reindeer games at 6 p.m. in the fellowship room. Bring a wrapped ornament or fun pair of socks and something yummy to eat.

December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.