



TRUE LIGHT

July 7, 2024

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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"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**

IT'S ALL ABOUT PEOPLE!

First Words:

The life of Jesus revolved around people. He always made time for people, even when he was so tired that he desperately needed to get away to a quiet place for rest. When the human inclination was to send them away, *he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd* (Mark 6:30-44). He saw people at the center of every problem and opportunity. Sick people needed to be healed. Hungry people needed to be fed. Lost people needed to be found. People in distress needed to be comforted.

Maybe the issues of our time are so overwhelming because we have forgotten that people are at the center of every problem. What's more, people are at the center of every solution. We may never call a group of 56 people to meet and draft the founding documents of a new nation, or answer the deep life and death questions, even to our own satisfaction. But Good Samaritan opportunities are everywhere. No training required, no vetting necessary, no permission needed. People are in need, we help them, end of story.

Created Equal:

The hot and sultry Philadelphia summer was even more uncomfortable when windows were closed and drapes were drawn to keep the deliberations of the Second Continental Congress secret. King George might well consider a declaration of colonial independence a treasonous document; so it would be debated and drafted away from prying eyes.

The Revolutionary War had been going for a year when the Congress convened on May 10, 1775, with representatives from twelve of the thirteen colonies, and Georgia to send representation later. The most vigorous debate was about independence and how to achieve it. Thomas Jefferson's original draft was altered at least 86 times before an acceptable version could be approved on July 2, 1776, and signed on July 4, 248 years ago.

The second sentence of the *Declaration* is the one Americans know best:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Critics noted that there were almost 700,000 slaves living in the colonies, maybe created equal, but not treated as equals. And others were quick to point out that women, often considered chattel in those days, were hardly treated as equals. **Proclaiming equality was easier than practicing it.**

Saving All:

Go back 2,000 or so years to another declaration, this one in the form of a sermon. Urging repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins and the receiving of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter then declared, *The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off...* (Acts 2:39). Just eight chapters later, that same apostle resisted God's command to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. He preached that the gospel is for all, perhaps not realizing that **all** included Gentiles. **Preaching equality was easier than practicing it.**

Pausing in the Present:

With the benefit of hindsight, we wonder how congressional delegates and apostles could have been so unaware of the inconsistencies we see so clearly. Or, do we? We may not handle our issues any better than people in the past handled theirs. I often think that all the easy questions were resolved before I got here, for all the questions now are hard.

Life is complex, from beginning to end.

I believe that human life begins at conception, but that is [not always deemed] a scientific or medical conclusion. Even if we agree that human life begins at conception, we may still have to make painful choices about what to do with that life. Rather than labeling and categorizing people who have to make painful choices, maybe we should just love and accept them as PEOPLE.

End of life decisions are no less vexing. As a chaplain volunteer in hospital and hospice environments, I have spent a lot of time helping people think through the ethical and moral questions they have about allowing their loved ones to die. Technology enables doctors to keep people "alive" artificially long after meaningful life has ended. Letting go is an awful, yet merciful choice. Seventeen years ago, I had to make that choice when there was nothing else to be done for my father. He had made a Living Will, had DNR orders, end-of-life directives, and a Power of Attorney document giving me a responsibility I would have gladly relinquished. I'm still haunted by my mother's plaintive question, "Isn't there just one more thing the doctors can try?" The pain of losing my father was no greater than the pain of having to answer my mother as gently as I possibly could, "No, Mother, there's nothing more to be done."

Final Thoughts:

It's a long way from Pentecost, to Philadelphia, to beginning of life and end-of-life decisions, yet they are all alike in that they center on people - people who sought forgiveness, people who sought freedom from tyranny, people who would bring new people into our world, and people who help people leave this world peacefully. Don't turn away from people of a different color; they're people. People of a different nationality are people. People with different religious beliefs are still people. No matter how they may be labeled, people are people.

God loved the people of his creation so much that *He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16).
Phillip Morrison, www.heartlight.com

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

July 7 - Jason & Casey Karnes (A)
 July 9 - Chloe Collier
 July 12 - Josh Young
 July 13 - Jerry Collier



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Spaghetti Sauce * Pasta Noodles * Stick
 Deodorant * Sugar * Canned Drinks *
 Kitchen Tash Bags (13 Gallon)
 Pick up date: August 26



WILLING TO SERVE

July 7, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
 Scripture.....Jason Karnes
 Prayer.....Sam Garner
 Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
 Prayer.....Derek Mays
 Scripture.....Ron Garner
 Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Song Leader.....David Carson
 Prayer.....Rodney Williams
 Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

July 14, 2024

Morning Worship:

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

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Derek Mays
 Prayer.....Wayne Reams
 Scripture.....Sam Garner
 Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

YOU CAN DO IT!

Encouragement is like oxygen - we can't live without it. This was true for nine-year-old James Savage. The boy swam more than two miles from the San Francisco shoreline to Alcatraz Island and back, breaking the record for the youngest person to accomplish the feat. But thirty minutes into the swim, the choppy, frigid waters made James want to quit. However, a fleet of paddlers called out, "You can do it!" The words gave him the boost he needed to finish his goal.

When the choppy, frigid waters of tribulation made believers in Jesus want to give up, Paul and Barnabas encouraged them to continue their journey. After the apostles preached the gospel in the city of Derbe, they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith (Acts 14:21-22). They helped the believers to remain firm in their faith in Jesus. Troubles had weakened them, but words of encouragement strengthened their resolve to live for Christ. In God's strength, they realized they could keep pressing on. Finally, Paul and Barnabas helped them understand that they would go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God (V 22).

Living for Jesus can be difficult, and we're sometimes tempted to give up. Fortunately, Jesus and fellow believers in Him can provide the encouragement we need to press on. With Him, we can do it!
 Marvin Williams

"The summer looks out from her brazen tower, through the flashing bars of July."
 Frances Thompson

Attendance for June 30: 107 REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Contribution for June 30 : \$4011

Marty Howard struggling with back and other health issues * **David Burleson** didn't get much information from his test results * **June Mothersbaugh** doing much better * **Beverly Pruitt** at home and struggling with a lot of pain * **Janie Burleson** continuing to improve * **Pat Cooper** improving and hoping to be released from Cypress Point * **Maura Thomason** will have a steroid epidural in her SI joint Thursday *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * David Carson * 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 Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * 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 * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joe Vincent * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Sue Flowers * Ida Roberts * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY: First Sunday potluck and early evening service. We will have a meal immediately following morning worship followed by a 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to stay for both the potluck and afternoon service.

TODAY: Session 2 of Bootheel Youth Camp begins. Kitchen help is needed!

July 10: Our Summer Speaker this week is Brian Mitchell, minister at the church of Christ in Jackson. There is a list of speakers on the table in the foyer.

July 10: Eight pies and 5 cobblers are needed for camp. If you can help fill this need, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer. Pies should be brought into the fellowship room by 9 a.m.

July 16: Ladies Lunch Out at Mongolian Grill in Sikeston. Note this is a week later than usual due to camp. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

July 21-24: Vacation Bible School at Bernie. Our theme this year is "God's Team: Stories of God's Power." We will need lots of help and lots of cookies! A sign up sheet will be available shortly.

July 29: Summer Youth Series hosted by the Bernie congregation. Don't put away your cookie recipes from VBS yet!

August 20: Ladies' "T" party at the home of Amy Thomason. Details to follow.

Recently a large seminar was held for ministers in training. Among the guests were many well-known motivational speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!" The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" The crowd burst into laughter and he gave his speech, which went over well. About a week later one of the assistant ministers who had attended the seminar decided to use that joke in what was his first sermon to the congregation. As he shyly approached the pulpit, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. He was notably very nervous and getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that wasn't my wife!" His congregation sat shocked. After standing there for almost 10 seconds the preacher finally blurted out, "... and I can't remember who she was!"

A merry heart does good, like medicine... (Proverbs 17:22)