



TRUE LIGHT

September 1 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."*

Psalm 118:24

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

SHARING IN THE JOY!

Jesus is not in Israel - not Judah or Judea or even Galilee. He is in Samaria, that often forbidden area where nothing and no one properly lived - at least from the perspective of a Good Jewish person of Jesus' day. Jesus has just concluded a public conversation with a woman - ooh, that's questionable! She was a Samaritan outcast of dubious sexual practices! Ouch, that was forbidden. Yet, Jesus has answered her searching and seeking questions and then led her to faith. She has gone to tell her own people - those who had cast her to the outer margins of their village life. But Jesus knows her, knows her faith is real, and that her testimony is about to change village life around her forever.

Now, as so often happened, the LORD had to deal with the often "slow to get it" apostles. "Why are you talking to a woman, and why are you not hungry?" they asked Him. Then Jesus explained: *My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work. You know the saying, "Four months between planting and harvest." But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, "One plants and another harvests." And it's true. I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and now you will get to gather the harvest (John 4:34-38 NLT).*

It is hard work getting to know the soil and cultivating relationships so you can sow in a cultural climate hostile to the seed you sow.

I imagine this scene as Jesus talks to His apostles and points to the villagers coming their way. Their white headpieces bobble along as they walk toward them, and Jesus says: *I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe [-the heads of grain are white-] ready for harvest.*

There are different kinds of seasons in the life of a follower of Jesus who takes seriously the LORD's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8-10). We often find ourselves in the harder seasons. Some are in the planting seeds season, where we keep sowing and can't see any harvestable results. Some of you have been trying to find good soil. Others have been planting seeds for what seems like a long time with few noticeable results. Others are in the watering and tending phase to see if there is any harvest in sight. Some of you are weary and not sure you can keep on looking for soil, planting seeds, bringing water, tending to the weeds, and waiting on any hint of the harvest. It is hard work getting to know the soil and cultivating relationships so you can sow in a cultural climate hostile to the seed you sow. It is discouraging not to see quick results from all of your labor, sweat, and prayers. This can be a season that leads many of us to doubt ourselves, our calling, and our mission:

Did I mishear God's call? * Was I wrong in coming here? * Is this what I'm supposed to be doing at this time in my life, and especially in my family's life? * What am I doing wrong? * Is there any fruit in sight? * O God, please, will you let me see a little harvest...Please!

I've asked these questions, had those doubts in my patch of ministry dirt that Jesus sent me to prepare for harvest, and felt inept when others around me were harvesting. So, what word is there for the "no-or-slow" harvest seasons of our lives and ministries?

Jesus reminds us of an essential truth: *What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know that saying, "One plants and another harvests."* And I believe the LORD's promise is true!

Jesus promises us that we will share in the joy of the harvest. It may not be now, or soon, or even on the horizon. However, the Chief Sower of seeds promises us we will share in the joy of His bountiful harvest. And if we are blessed with a surprise from God's gracious love, we may experience a foretaste of this harvest when we least expect it.

I am an old dude. My hands-on sowing is less frequent and more restricted. While I do get to hear about our house church planters' successes and challenges, I don't get to be there to get wet hugging the newly baptized or lifting my hands with them when they sing their first praises to Jesus. Oh, how I've missed that and longed for those experiences!

So, imagine my surprise when we visited Rwanda Children Christian School, and I was asked to preside at the baptism of 188 people delivered from animism and incestuous living who were brought into the Kingdom of the Son of God's love. It was from a neighboring village that time had forgotten. The efforts of loving disciples took over a year of lessons on how to grow crops, training in hygiene, explanations of birth abnormalities because of incestuous inbreeding, health care that provided basic services, education for the children, and lots of love.

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

September 1 - Ron & Julie Garner (A)
September 3 - Jeannie Robinson



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Vienna Sausages * Cheddar Cheese
Soup * Canned Chicken * Brownie Mix
* Brown Sugar * Shortening
Pick up date: December 16



WILLING TO SERVE

September 1, 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

September 8, 2024

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Titus Dauck
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

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

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God's people did that consistently, beautifully, sacrificially, and hopefully. They planted the seed, watered it, removed the weeds, and then shared the Good News. These practices of gracious sowing, tending, and weeding had guided God's people in their love for people in desperate need of grace.

I was blessed to stand and welcome ninety-eight of those new family members into the fellowship of the saints as they rose from their new birth into God's family. I got delightfully wet from high-fives, handshakes, and hugs. I rejoiced over them and cried with them. I saw old men and women with tears streaming down their cheeks for joy, many wearing their best clothes to be baptized. I saw pre-teens who were excited but unsure of the road ahead; they simply believed in Jesus.

On that day of the LORD's great harvest, we will all see many saved people praising Jesus and knowing that they are in the LORD's presence because we took the time, effort, prayer, and love to sow Good News into their lives.

We must not give up sowing because the harvest is long and slow in coming from your efforts. We must not quit sowing because the culture around us feels hostile to the Good News and the life of Jesus. Let's trust that Jesus' promise is true.

May we not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time, we pray we will reap a harvest because we haven't given up. And until that day dawns, may the Holy Spirit surprise us with everlasting fruit that gives us great joy and blesses us with a reminder of the great harvest yet to come. We know our labor matters, our frustrations are not in vain, and our sowing will bring a harvest - and we are praying that our hands get to touch that harvest before the coming of Jesus.

Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for August 25: 104

Contribution for August 25: \$4138

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Marty Watson recovering from a bowel obstruction and surgery to remove part of his colon * **Trish Baldwin** at home and on doctor's order to "stay put" in order to heal a sore on her foot * **Geraldine Sturges** was hospitalized for a few days with congestive heart failure but is doing better, and will be moving into assisted living at Winchester Place * **Mindy Pruitt and Faye Dockins** recovering from COVID * **David Burleson** did not get good news from his last appointments * **Rick Beard** recovering from a mild heart attack * **Cathy Provance** has been having a lot of trouble with her knees and hip and will be having steroid shots for pain relief * **Marty Howard** continuing issues with his back/knees and Parkinson's * **Pat Cooper** has begun dialysis and is in room 35 at Cypress Point * **Jane Terrill** * **Tammy Clark** (Casey Karnes' mother) has begun treatment for stage 4 small cell lung cancer *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: David Burleson * Janie Burleson * David Carson * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McQuin * 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 * Tammy Clark * 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 * 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 potluck meal after morning worship followed by an early, 1 p.m. evening service. Everyone is encouraged to attend both the potluck and evening service.

September 8: Bridal Shower/Potluck Meal following morning worship in honor of Titus Dauck and Massiel Garcia. The website for the registry is www.theknot.com/massielandtitus. If you have any questions, or would like to be part of a group gift, please see Loretta Carson, Cindy Burleson or Ginger Beard.

September 10: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Main Street Café in Bernie. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

September 11: Our Wednesday fellowship meals are scheduled to resume.

September 14: Drop in Baby Shower for Keri and Gabe Waters from 12-2 at the old train depot in Dexter. They are expecting a baby girl, and are registered at Amazon.com under Keri Waters.

September 15-18: Gospel Meeting at Highland Drive church of Christ with guest speaker Craig Simon. The theme is "Righteousness Exalts a Nation." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

September 11-25: Gospel Meeting at Green Forest church of Christ with guest speaker Joe Wells. The theme is "Awaken." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

September 27-28: Ladies Fall Retreat at BYC. Hosted by West End church of Christ, the theme is "Bible Answers to Modern Questions." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

September 28: Children's Homes Homecoming and Open House.

October 27-30: Our Gospel Meeting with Spencer Furby. Be praying for a successful meeting.