



TRUE LIGHT

January 5, 2025

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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FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
Bernie church of Christ

*"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**

BEGINNING

I'm sure today's title is not a shock as it is only the second day of a new year when this is being [originally] published. It is a time of goal setting for some and reflection for others. I decided to explore the idea of beginnings in the Bible. I was surprised by the number of times the words "begin" or "beginning" were used in total. Of course, the most obvious was Genesis 1:1 where we read, *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* It was really this thought that got my brain going. It all begins with God, so how else is that represented throughout the Bible?

As I looked, I found many beginnings. There are beginnings of kingdoms as early as Genesis 10:10. Progressions are started with statements such as *beginning with the eldest* (Genesis 44:12) and *beginning with the older ones* (John 8:9). There are many references to God and Jesus as having been *from the beginning.*

It doesn't matter where you begin, it all comes back to and ends with Jesus.

There are two other "beginning" passages I want us to consider today where what I want us to see is actually the end. In Luke 24, the resurrected Christ is walking on the road to Emmaus with two disciples who, for whatever reason, were kept from recognizing Him. After discussing with them the events of His death and reports of His resurrection, Luke records, *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself* (verse 27).

The second passage I want to consider is found in Acts 8. Here we read of Philip overtaking the chariot where an Ethiopian eunuch was reading from Isaiah. In verse 35 we read, *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.*

The point I want to make with these two passages is simple. It doesn't matter where you begin, it all comes back to and ends with Jesus. That is why in Revelation, there is rejoicing and worship in heaven when the Lamb is able to open the scroll (Rev. 5:5) and why it's portrayed as victorious when He appears as the rider on the white horse (Rev. 19).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1). Yes, He was in the beginning ... but everything also leads back to Him in the end.

Amber Tatum, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

GENUINE HOPE

In the early 1960s, the US was filled with anticipation of a bright future. Youthful President John F. Kennedy had introduced the New Frontier, the Peace Corps, and the task of reaching the moon. A thriving economy caused many people to expect the future to simply "let the good times roll." Then the war in Vietnam escalated, national unrest unfolded, Kennedy was assassinated, and the accepted norms of that previously optimistic society were dismantled. Optimism simply wasn't enough, and in its wake, disillusionment prevailed.

Then, in 1967, theologian Jurgen Moltmann's *A Theology of Hope* pointed to a clearer vision. This path wasn't the way of optimism but the way of hope. The two aren't the same thing. Moltmann affirmed that optimism is based on the circumstances of the moment, but hope is rooted in God's faithfulness - regardless of our situation.

What's the source of this hope? Peter wrote, *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead* (1 Peter 1:3). Our faithful God has conquered death through His Son, Jesus! The reality of this greatest of all victories lifts us beyond mere optimism to a strong, robust hope - every day and in every circumstance.

Bill Crowder

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January 12 - Janie Burleson
Phyllis Howard
Jeff & Waynetta Rodgers (A)



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Muffin Mixes * Instant Rice * Dish-
washing Detergent * Pasta (Bow Tie,
Penne, Rotini) * HE Laundry Detergent
* Stick Deodorant
Pick up date April 28, 2025

WILLING TO SERVE

January 5, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

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

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Jerry McCoy
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

January 12, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Kyle Ward
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Ryan Young
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Britt Burcham
Prayer.....Wayne Reams
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

Attendance for December 29: 122

Contribution for December 29: \$7441

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Janie Burleson is continuing to improve * Cameron Traw has started therapy following a debilitating stroke * Judy Snyder recovering from a broken wrist * Janet Woods will have a stent procedure Thursday * Ida Roberts has been placed on palliative care * Cathy Provance struggling with knee and hip pain * Jerry Collier still having some issues with double vision and has begun therapy * Maura Thomason's MRI showed more bulging discs and some other issues. She will see pain management on the 16th

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Janie Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Ida Roberts * Waynetta Rodgers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Tammy Clark * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee 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

Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Ida Roberts * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead

TODAY: Friends and Family Day with guest speaker Kayson Lawrence. We will have a potluck meal following morning service and an early, 12:45 evening service. **Please note our Youth Emphasis night has been changed to next Sunday evening due to the possibility of inclement weather tonight.** There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you can help with snacks for next Sunday night. Make plans to be here and invite your friends and family! There are some flyers on the table in the foyer.

January 8: Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be fried chicken with the fixins'. Desserts will be needed.

January 11: Bridal shower for Jacob Clayton and Raysha Adams at 2 p.m. in the fellowship room. They are registered at Wal Mart, and found under "Kentucky" for the state. They would also appreciate gift cards for home improvement stores. For more information, please see Millie or Cindy Williams.

January 12: Friends and Family Youth Emphasis night (rescheduled from January 5).

January 14: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Huddle House in Dexter. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

January 26: Congregational Valentine's Banquet following evening worship. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

HIDING FROM GOD

I squeezed my eyes shut and started counting aloud. My fellow third-grade classmates tore out of the room to find a place to hide. After scouring every cabinet, trunk, and closet for what felt like hours, I still couldn't find one of my friends. I felt ridiculous when she finally jumped out from behind a lacey, potted fern hanging from the ceiling. Only her head had been eclipsed by the plant - the rest of her body had been in plain sight the entire time!

Since God is all-knowing, when Adam and Eve "hid from" Him (Genesis 3:8) in the garden of Eden, they were always in "plain sight." But they weren't playing any childhood games; they were experiencing the sudden awareness - and shame - of their wrongdoing, haven eaten from the tree God told them not to eat from.

Adam and Eve turned from God and His loving provision when they disobeyed His instructions. Instead of withdrawing from them in anger, however, He sought them out, asking, *Where are you?* (v. 9). It's not that He didn't know where they were, but He wanted them to know his compassionate concern for them.

I couldn't see my friend hiding, but God always sees us and knows us - to Him we're always in plain sight. Just as He pursued Adam and Eve, Jesus sought us out while we were *still sinners* - dying on the cross to demonstrate His love for us (Romans 5:8). We no longer need to hide.

Kirsten Holmberg

CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

If you would like to be included in our online church directory, there are some Church Directory Information forms on the table in the foyer. Please return completed forms to Stan or Amy Thomason. We currently use Instant Church Directory. Additionally, if you would like your directory photo updated, you can submit one through the directory app, to our church email address (berniechurchofchrist@gmail.com) or have Amy take one for you.

BIBLE TRIVIA:

What Bible character cooked his bread on cow dung? * Name the only book in the Bible that is addressed specifically to a woman * How many people were shipwrecked with the apostle Paul in the book of Acts? * Who was the famous father of Maher-Shalel-Hash-Baz?

Answers: Ezekiel (4:15) * 2 John (1) * 276 (Acts 27:37, 41) * Isaiah (8:3)