



# TRUE LIGHT

SPRINGTIME IN THE SPIRIT


*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. (Acts 3:19-20)*

The soft warm breezes sweep in and comfort us. The days are warmer and the sun's light extends deeper into the day. Shoots of new growth break their way free from the moist soil and suddenly appear almost overnight on the long dead fingers of our trees. Blossoms burst into color. Birds sing. Rain falls. Life is renewed across the land. Ah! The gift of spring.

Now if only spring could come to the cold world of the spiritually struggling - the weary world of broken hearts, the dried souls of the burned out, and the languishing love of the lukewarm.

Is springtime of the Spirit possible? I mean REALLY possible, not just some church-hype thing to get people all juiced up? Something we can genuinely expect to happen in our world? Can God burst through the deadened fingers of despair and hard-packed soil of closed hearts?



Jesus said, *If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!* (Luke 11:13)

So why don't we ask?      


Jesus' brother James reminds us, *You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.* (James 4:2-3)

So why don't we ask?      

When the early church was facing a stern test with the threat of vicious persecution, they asked for boldness and received an outpouring of the Spirit to minister with courage and power. (Acts 4:30-31)

So why don't we ask?      

When Paul was worried about the spiritual vitality of the Christians in Asia Minor he prayed: *For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being...* (Ephesians 3:14-16)

So this Spring, let's ask!      

Every time the blessing of spring pierces through the distractions of our lives and blesses us, let's ask! Every time we have concern for Christians, the church, or even ourselves, let's ask! Let's ask for a springtime of the Spirit.

Let's ask with unwavering hearts. Let's ask without doubting. Let's ask fully expecting God to send a time or renewal to parched hearts, drooping wills, languishing spirits, and troubled souls. And when we do, let's expect God to do greater things by His Spirit within us than we can imagine!

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.* (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Phil Ware, [www.heartlight.com](http://www.heartlight.com)

March 23, 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

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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**

## BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

March 23 - Mark & Rita Clayton (A)  
March 24 - Ashley Johnson



Attendance for March 16: 93

## 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

Contribution for March 16: \$4107

## WILLING TO SERVE

### March 23, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Aiden Owens  
Opening Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Ryan Young  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....Wayne Reams  
Scripture.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

### Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton  
Prayer.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

### March 30, 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

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Jeff McGowan got good results from his cancer checkup, and has been advised to see his cardiologist \* **Geraldine Sturgess** is in room 202 at Winchester Place for some rehab \* **Jerry Burleson** taking radiation treatments \* **Jerry Mickey** has been diagnosed with fibromyalgia and is seeking treatment options \* **Darlene McGowan** remains in Winchester Place for rehab but may get to go home this week \* **Scott Burleson** is at home following an extended stay in the hospital \* **Linda LeCroy's** surgery has been postponed \* **Janie Burleson** is doing some better \* **Ida Roberts** has been doing a little better but is struggling with breathing issues \* **Cathy Provance** will be having hip replacement surgery in the next six to eight weeks

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Cody Boyt \* Janie Burleson \* David Burleson \* David Carson \* Pat Cooper \* Sue Flowers \* Karen Forkum \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McKuin \* Gloria Moore \* Ida Roberts \* 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 \* Renee Goodman \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jerald \* Holly Johnson \* Kristin Meadows \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Nikki Reif \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \* Joe Vincent \* Alan Woodward

## Looking Ahead

March 26: Wednesday fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed.

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April 6-9: Our Gospel Meeting with Bryan McAlister. The theme will be "Won with Christ in a Romans One World." There are flyers available on the table. Be praying for a successful meeting.

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April 6: We will have a potluck meal following morning worship, and a light meal following our 5 pm evening worship. If you can help provide snacks for the evening meal, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer.

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April 15: Ladies Lunch Out. Note this is one week later due to our Gospel meeting. We are planning a "day trip" to Jackson for lunch at Old Hickory Steak House and some shopping. This is currently tentative and subject to change, but if you would like to go be planning to keep the day free.

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April 20: Easter dinner will be served potluck style in the fellowship room following morning worship.

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May 1: Ladies Retreat planning meeting in the fellowship room.

## Our Shut Ins

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

## SPRING!

It's happening again! Spring is calling my mind to the resurrection! I do not want to start a discussion with those who might prefer a different climate, but I love four seasons. There are few things which excite me more than the first daffodils breaking the soil and bursting forth with their lovely blooms. They signal the end of the depression of winter.

Oh, I don't mean depression in the psychological sense; although for some, the darkness and somberness of winter can produce depression. What I am thinking of is the depression of the symbols of life that winter suppresses. It is the loss of flowers, leaves and green grass that I miss so much. But spring - now there is not only the return of all these beauties, there is, at least for me, the reminder of that great Springtime of God, the resurrection to eternal life. A time when the heat of summer and the dread of winter vanish into the joy of everlasting life!

This reminder is what really fuels my joy this season of the year. The life of a minister is sometimes overwhelmed with death and the accompanying sorrow that follows. For many years, I have made it a habit to always stop by the nursery in the hospitals just to remind myself that there are two sides to the events of each day. If one is constantly faced with death, he really needs to be confronted with life to keep things in balance. It is not that death is a fearful thing. It is just that, with the sadness of separation, we tend to lose focus on the life which bursts forth each day.

East Texas is in full resurrection today. The pattern continues. First the daffodils, then the tulip trees with their gorgeous blooms, along with the beginnings of the "white bloom" trees and the redbuds. Now along with everything else, the azaleas are bursting out with radiant bloom. Yet, with beauty at every turn, there is nothing here to compare to what lies before the child of God on that Great Day.

Although the beauty of spring never fails to excite me, there is deep within me, and you, as well, I suspect, a desire that far exceeds the longing for springtime. King David said it best: *One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord ...* (Psalm 27:4 NRS)

Bill Sherrill, www.heartlight.com