



TRUE LIGHT

April 13, 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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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***

SIGHING FOR HOME

Oh... water... well... gate... Bethlehem.

Now go back and say those five words with deep longing several times. You see, David longed for more than just a sip of water when he used those five words to say, *Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!* (2 Samuel 23:15).

Most of us have been there - emotionally and physically spent. Things aren't going like we thought they would. Then we hear a sound, pick up an aroma, hear a song, or are reminded of something comforting we have experienced in the past. Suddenly, we can't get it out of our head. We think about it incessantly.

David has gone through a long struggle and tried to handle it honorably. Yet the bottom line remains the same, he is a hunted man and finds himself living in the most rugged places trying to avoid capture and death (2 Samuel 23:13-15). During the obvious struggles that he faces each day just to survive, there are deeper emotional ones.

- Will he continue to trust that God will keep his promises?
- Is he ever going to be universally recognized as King?
- Will he have to hide, living like a wild animal, all the days of his life?
- Will he ever get to go home again?
- Can life return to the simply, idyllic, God-worshipping days he once had as a shepherd boy?

No wonder he longs for a simpler time when life's plans were not so murky and God's presence felt so much closer.

So David's mind drifts back as he remembers a place from earlier years. A wall, it's by the gate. It's located in the city of Bethlehem, his own place of birth. Ah, and the water... yes the water... it's so cool and crisp and clean and comforting. If only I could be a boy again and not pursued by crazy King Saul. Oh my, that water was so good and I miss that time of largely untested faith!

And possibly before he even realized it, with a sigh he said something like, *O for some water from the well near the gate in the city of Bethlehem.* It wasn't really a request that someone risk breaking through the Philistine army garrisoned there. He wasn't really asking one of his mighty men to risk his life to go behind enemy lines to get David a simple drink of water from the old well of his childhood. It was merely a sigh that betrayed a yearning stirring deep inside him for something simple, familiar, refreshing, comforting, and that reminded him of home.

David's mighty men were so dedicated to him that they risked life and limb to get the water for their leader who had such deep yearning for something so simple and yet so lost to him. So David did something that seems, at best strange, and at worst, down right cruel. He poured out the water onto the ground saying he was not worthy of the risk and potential sacrifice of troops so important to Israel's future, only God was worthy of such a sacrifice (2 Samuel 23:16-17).

In the old hymn "Home of the Soul,"* there's a line that goes something like this:

Off in the storm, lonely are we,
Sighing for home, longing for Thee,

Yes, there is a restlessness in our soul that sighs and yearns for God's presence to be real and close, and as experienced as a cup of cool water from the old familiar well of our childhood. Whether you want to call it a "God-shaped hole," the restless "itch" of addiction, or simply "going home to a place we've never been before," the yearning and sighing ultimately can be comforted only by a recognizable experience of God's nearness - the holy, tangible, and real presence of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.

So let's not dumb down our discipleship to a mere need for religious experience: we need Immanuel, God with us. And Scripture promises us that we can experience God and his nearness in a variety of ways.

Continued on back

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

April 13 - Casey Karnes
April 17 - Jon Neely
April 20 - Nicole Garner



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

April 13, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Ryan Young
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

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

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Dismissal.....Mike Duley

April 20, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

Continued from front:

We've [seen] different ways Matthew reminds us that are ways God has given us to experience his presence:

1. Through the story of Jesus (Matthew 1:23).
2. Through living as family in accountability, forgiveness, and concern for our lost ones (Matthew 18:20).
3. Through serving the vulnerable around us who are in need (Matthew 25:40).
4. Through living out the Great Commission across the lost world (Matthew 28:18-20).

Mark talks about following the powerful Jesus in living a life sacrifice to serve those who are lost (Mark 10:45).

Luke would point us to living as Jesus' disciples, witnesses to the lost world of Jesus' powerful presence, by the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:36-47; 4:12).

John reminds us of Jesus' promise to not leave us alone as abandoned orphans, but that he would come to us and show himself to us as the Comforter, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit to live in us and lead us into all truth (John 14:14-31; 15:26-27; 16:12-15).

So what's the point?

Don't deny the longing, the sighing, the groaning, and the yearning for more of God's presence. We were designed and made for a real relationship with the present, experienceable, and real presence of God. So open back up your Bible, spend some time in the four gospels and the book of Acts, and begin to ask God to show the real Jesus, who longs to make God's presence real to you.

Don't settle for less, because your hearts yearns for more!
Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com
*music by Samuel W. Beazley and lyrics by James Rowe

Attendance for April 6: 138

Contribution for April 6: \$4410

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Judy Duley had an MRI Thursday which came back clear. She will be having a sleep study to help determine the cause of her headaches * **Janie Burleson** remains in Cypress Point room 16 for rehab * **Judy Flannery** is back home and continues to improve * **Linda Jones** is home and doing well following surgery * **Jeff McGowan** waiting on test results from his cardiologist * **Darlene McGowan** has been moved to Winchester assisted living * **Cathy Provance** still waiting for hip replacement surgery

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 McKuini * Gloria Moore * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer/other illness (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Scott Burleson * 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 * Jerry Mickey * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joe Vincent * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson

Looking Ahead:

TUESDAY: Ladies Lunch Out. We will go on a "day trip" to Jackson for lunch at Hickory House Restaurant in Jackson and some shopping. We will take the van, and leave the building at 9:30. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer. If you would like to go, plan to keep the day free as we don't have an estimated return time.

April 16: Wednesday fellowship meal will be taco salad. Desserts will be needed.

April 20: Easter dinner will be served potluck style in the fellowship room following morning worship for anyone who would like to eat with us. There's a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

April 26 & 27: Hope Seminar at Highland Drive in Poplar Bluff. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

April 27-30: Southwest Institute of Biblical Studies 50th Annual Lectureship at the Karns church of Christ. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

April 28: Children's Home Grocery Run. Let's get the cart filled up.

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

June 8: Baby shower with the Gideon congregation for Kayli and Kason Lawrence at 2:30 in the fellowship room. They are expecting a baby girl and are registered at my.babylist.com.

June 22: Potluck style bridal shower following morning worship for Luke Tanner and Caris Foriester. They are registered at theknot.com.

June 29: Seniors Rally at Valley view in Jonesboro with guest speaker John W. Smith. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

In Sympathy:

Sympathy is extended to the family of our sister Geraldine Sturges, who passed from this life Thursday morning. Geraldine's funeral was held yesterday in Bernie.

Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints (Psalm 116:15)