



TRUE LIGHT

ON CHURCH BUILDINGS

December 14, 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
573-281-6686
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**

I love church buildings. I hate worship buildings. Let me explain.

I've recently been studying the first seven chapters of the Book of Acts in detail and have been blown away by how much can be learned from the church in its infancy. The beauty of the early church is best captured in the simplicity of Acts 2:42 - *And they devoted themselves to the apostles; teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.* The church and its works are straightforward and easy to understand, which we are often good at forgetting as we seek to overcomplicate our faith along with the rest of our lives. The early church evangelized together, studied together, ate together, prayed together, gave together, lived together. It's really that simple.

It's also why I'd much rather have a church building than a worship building.

Two additional things are true about the early church that fit into the simple model displayed in this verse but are not always talked about as much. The first is that there were no "church buildings" as we typically think about them. The church of the first century primarily met in the homes of its members, as shown in this passage (Acts 2:46) and demonstrated as truth throughout the New Testament (Acts 5:42, Romans 16 3-5, Colossians 4:15, etc).

The second is that the church distributed its goods evenly throughout its membership. This is noted here and elsewhere in the discussion of the infant church (Acts 2:45, 4:32-35) and is even the source of one of the church's first true deliberations, resulting in the appointment of the first deacons (Acts 6:1ff). The example of the church in its first days is an example of constant fellowship and constant provision. There was no concept of weekly meetings, and there was no concept of wealth disparity in spiritual or physical terms. In every way that they could be, the first Christians were invested in one another's success and in the success of the Gospel.

I am very glad that we are able to meet for worship in a communal space. It is proof of the fact that we do not face nearly the same threats of physical insecurities that the early church often faced (though there are some brethren around the world who do face these threats and continue to meet communally - these have my attention in prayer and my undying respect and admiration). A shared building is convenient, and it also gives members of the community a physical location to come to in order to worship and receive help.

At the same time, the presence of a communal building presents a potential challenge when we consider living up to the example of the first century church. For one thing, buildings are expensive, and a lot of the money that the early church would probably have been funneling towards its members in need and other benevolent works is likely caught in this large overhead expense. For another thing, it is a convenient place to worship - and convenience can easily lend itself to complacency. For a third thing, the existence of the church building as our dedicated worship space has made it very easy to attend our three "weekly meetings" and forget the example of continuous fellowship which is presented by the early church.

When a building becomes merely a place to attend these weekly meetings, and is no longer a hub for benevolence and fellowship, it is merely a worship building, and I'd much rather have a church building.

Consider the opportunities made available to us by our current culture. Homelessness and addiction are both at all-time highs in the United States; a church building could include a regular soup kitchen and/or a meeting space for groups like Alcoholics Anonymous or SMART recovery. The "success" of the digital age has caused a decrease in proficiency when it comes to skilled labor; a church building could include weekday classes where Christians and community members are taught skills that are useful to them and useful for serving others. By the same token, a world dominated by the internet has left some in the older generations to fend for themselves; a church building could include web training classes taught by some of our millennial and Gen Z crowd (who are desperately looking for places to fit into the church's plan and pattern). There's a reliable space for remedial tutoring for kids in school; there's a reliable space for free yard sales, backpack giveaways and the like for those in the community with genuine need; there's a reliable space for church breakfasts and sewing circles and book clubs and scout meetings where all are welcome; there are resources sitting in Bible classes that are usually used twice a week but could make for a great daycare program on a more regular basis.

If we're going to call it a church building, it needs to be exactly that: a building in which the church is being the church. That means more than meeting for worship three times a week; it includes that, but it means more than just that. It means justifying the financial resources it takes to maintain the church building by using it intentionally and constantly for the purpose of benevolence. It means preventing a lack of fellowship by actually using our resources to promote fellowship that goes beyond weekly check-ins. It means doing those things in order to create a relationship between the church and the community, by which evangelism will occur naturally rather than being a forced and awkward dance between strangers. If it doesn't mean those things, we don't have church buildings - we have worship buildings.

I'd much rather have a church building.

(P.S. - I'm writing this in December on purpose. It's cold outside; it's warm inside. Do with that what you will, but do something.)

And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved (Acts 2:45-47).
Luke Tatum, via A Legacy of Faith blog post

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

December 14 - Raysha Clayton
December 17 - Matt Ward
Zack & Beckie Tanner (A)
December 20 - Keri Waters



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Bottled fruit juice * Fruit cups * Pud-
ding/gelatine cups * Snack cakes *
Baked beans * Flour * Miracle whip *
Alfredo sauce * Ramen noodles * Cereal
* Pop tarts * Canned frosting * Vinegar
Pick-up Date December 15, 2025

WILLING TO SERVE

December 14, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
Scripture.....Jordan Ross
Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Prayer.....Rodney Williams
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

December 17, 2025

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

December 21, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

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

Attendance for December 7: 105
Contribution for December 7: \$3339

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Mike Duley improving following a hospital stay for infection in his intestines * **Stan Dauck** had a stent put in Thursday and is doing well * **Carol Young** waiting for results from a PET scan * **Robbie Buck's** test results came back good * **Cathy Provance** continuing to recover from hip surgery at her sister's house * **Steve Jones** is being referred to St Louis for some of his medical treatment * **Faye Dockins** is at home and having some in-home physical therapy. She would welcome visitors *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Woody and Janet Wood

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

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Jeanie Buck * Scott Burleson * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Lisa Clark * Tammy Clark * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Misty (Owens) Franklin * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee Goodman * Christy Heskett * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Kristin Meadows * Jerry Mickey * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Joe Richardson * Anthony Tate * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joyce Walker * Christina Whitaker * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins: Pat Cooper * Faye Dockins * David Terrill

Looking Ahead:

TOMORROW: Children's Homes grocery run. Let's get the cart filled up.

December 17: Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be bbq, baked potatoes, baked beans and coleslaw. Desserts will be needed. There will not be a fellowship meal the following week due to the Christmas holiday.

December 18: Annual Ladies Holiday Brunch at the home of Amy Thomason. We will have an optional, \$20 gift exchange. Ham and rolls will be provided - bring your favorite dish to share. If you would like to be eligible for a door prize, bring an item or items to support a local animal shelter. Most needed items include: Bleach, dog treats, puppy pads, dust pan, disinfecting wipes, throws.

December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

December 31: New Year's Eve get together in the fellowship room following Bible Study. Bring games and finger foods and help us ring in 2026!

January 4: Friends and Family Day with guest speaker Kason Lawrence. We will have a youth emphasis night for evening worship. Flyers will be available soon.

January 11: Congregational Potluck/Baby Shower following morning worship for Matt & Shyann Ward. This will be a diapers and wipes shower; or if you'd like to contribute to a money tree for baby Ward, please see Millie.

BIBLE TRIVIA:

What Bible character drove his chariot furiously? * What is the name of the left-handed Benjamite who killed King Eglon? * King Eglon was killed with a dagger that was _____ inches long and the dagger could not be pulled out because _____ * What two books of the Bible were written to Theophilus? * What Bible character had his lips touched with a live coal? * Who was the person who dreamed about a tree which reached to heaven?

A: Jehu (2 Kings 9:20) * Ehu (Judges 3:15-25) * About 18 inches long (one cubit), because Eglon was so fat that the fat closed upon the blade so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly (Judges 3:22) * Luke and Acts (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1) * Isaiah (Daniel 4:4,5,10,11) * Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:4,5,10,11)

There is a baby laundry basket in the foyer for diapers and wipes for baby boy Thompson who is due next month. Items should be brought in by December 21.

It's a BOY!



LIGHTEN THE LOAD

When the women in our newly formed Bible study faced a series of tragedies, we suddenly found ourselves sharing deeply personal experiences. Facing the loss of a father, the pain of a wedding anniversary after divorce, the birth of a child who was completely deaf, the experience of racing to bring a child to the emergency room - it was too much for anyone to carry alone. Each person's vulnerability led to more transparency. We cried and prayed together and what started as a group of strangers became a group of close friends in a matter of weeks.

As part of the church body, believers in Jesus are able to come alongside people in their suffering in a deep and personal way. The relational ties that bind together brothers and sisters in Christ aren't dependent on the length of time we've known each other or the things we have in common. Instead, we do what Paul calls [carrying] *each other's burdens* (Galatians 6:2). Relying on God's strength, we listen, we empathize, we help where we can, and we pray. We can look for ways to *do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers* (v 10). Paul says that when we do so, we fulfill the law of Christ (v 2): to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. The burdens of life can be heavy, but He's given us our church family to lighten the load.
Karen Pimpo

Of all the months of the year there is not a month one half so welcome to the young, or so full of happy associations, as the last month of the year.

Charles Dickens

