



TRUE LIGHT

ALL THOSE TERRIBLE STORIES?

September 13, 2026

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
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ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-281-6686
Stan Dauck
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DEACONS

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Rodney Williams

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*"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**

Someone asked me a while back about "all those terrible stories" in the Bible. I admit that I was taken a bit aback by the question. So I asked him to explain by naming some of the stories he had in mind.

He started with some of the familiar ones that are left half-told in Sunday School. For example, the story of Noah and the Ark is hardly a sweet tale about animal husbandry. It is actually a story of judgment in which everybody in the world gets drowned - except for Noah and seven members of his family.

Then he named some of the lesser-known stories of the Bible that rarely ever get mentioned at church. Abraham's abuse of Hagar, the horrible rape of Diana, bears turning on some kids who were taunting a prophet, Jephthah's murder of his own daughter - and there were more. I'll give the fellow credit for reading the Bible more closely than some. He knows what is there.

The answer I gave him seemed to make sense to him. He even said it helped a bit. But, I thought I'd ask you to ponder it too. In a nutshell, I spluttered something about the Bible being a collection of true-to-life stories that speak of life in terms of its gritty realities. It isn't a "pretty" book. It is a truthful book. It tells the human story without glossing over the dark and ugly scenes. And some of those scenes involve things like heroes behaving badly and innocent people getting ground up in power plays.

The Bible tells the stories without glossing the character flaws of Abraham or Moses, David or Peter. Yet, Scripture also tells of the noble behaviors of a prostitute named Rahab and a soldier in the execution squad of Jesus who dared to marvel at his dignity, composure, and faith.

The more I have thought about the answer that I gave the man, the more convinced I am that it was at least in the right direction. The Bible isn't what some of us were led to think. It isn't bedtime stories. It isn't burdensome rules. It isn't a handbook for glib answers to complex problems. It is a family album for the human race. It isn't so much filled with stories as with people. And the exploits of people are messy, unpredictable, and downright weird.

As you read your Bible, see your own life as an extension of its narrative. Don't despair of the unflattering or even the immoral; celebrate God's kindness and eagerness to forgive. Don't live in denial of sleights suffered or abuse endured; name them and bring them into the light for the sake of healing. Accept the success and enjoy the applause; just remember who made them possible.

The theme of Holy Scripture is the redemption of sinful humanity by the love and mercy of God, and the story is still being written in all of our lives.

Rubel Shelly, www.heartlight.com

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PERSEVERING INTO JOY

Nestled in a corner of the brick steps leading up to our front door is a hardy little scarlet begonia. We didn't plant it - it must have grown there from a seed that fell out of a hanging basket. But we've let it remain. Year after year it's a cheerful reminder to my wife and me that perseverance is a beautiful thing.

James offers even more beautiful encouragement to persevere, especially to those facing opposition for their faith in Jesus: *Consider it pure joy ... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance* (James 1:2-3).

Pure joy? We balk at those words, but the apostle is looking forward to the truth that God is over everything and is able to bring good out of even difficult circumstances. James completes the thought: *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because... that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him* (v 12). The word blessed is the same word Jesus uses in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), and it carries the meaning - among other things - of "happy."

Whatever we face, including spiritual battles and life's hard challenges, God will sustain us in His love and will one day mercifully reward us with the beauty of his joy.

James Banks

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

September 14 - Gaye Miller
Mindy Pruitt
Jason & Melissa Shelton (A)
September 16 - Steve & Terri Ward (A)
September 19 - Pat Cooper
Rodney Williams

*belated birthday wishes to Ryan Carter, who celebrated September 9.



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Bottled Orange Juice * Saltine Crackers
* Kool-Aid Mixes * Toilet Paper *
Bathroom Cleaners * Laundry Detergent
Pick up date: November 30



Attendance September 6: 119

Contribution September 6: \$4788

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Woody Woods doing well following hip replacement surgery Friday * **Waynetta Rodgers** doing well following hip replacement surgery Wednesday * **Cindy Williams** continuing with chemotherapy treatment * **Linda LeCroy** is home following surgery last week * **Tim Flowers** as he continues treatments for MDS, a blood cancer. * **David Burleson** as he continues with treatments * **Bill Pruitt** has had some issues with falling

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Faye Dockins * Mike and Judy Duley * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McQuin * June Mothersbaugh * Bill and Beverly Pruitt * David and Jane Terrill * Woody and Janet Wood

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

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beaird * Terry Bean family * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Scott Burleson * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Joseph Dauck * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Gallo-way * 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 * Cindy Miller * Betty Nicholson * 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:

- Our Wednesday fellowship meal will be breakfast for supper. Desserts will be needed. If you can help prepare a fellowship meal this year, please see Stan.
- September 20-23: Gospel Meeting at Green Forest in Poplar Bluff with guest speaker Spencer Furby. The theme is "Following Jesus" and times are at 6 p.m. nightly.
- September 26: Children's Homes Homecoming and Fish Fry. There are some Change for Children cans on the table in the foyer.
- September 27: Austin Ketchum will be our guest speaker for both services.
- Be praying for our upcoming Gospel Meeting with Charles Abernathy October 4-7. The theme will be "Still Surprised: Old Truths I See with New Eyes." Flyers are available on the table in the foyer. Also, we will need some help with desserts and snacks for Youth Night October 4. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you can help fill that need.

TW L Q M Y B X D Q L J
P T T T R A L W E K M R
R D B M H W E G R V W Z
N E M W Y A N M K J I Z
D K V Y K F N D A D L G
T H Y E T X I K V N O D
J B E R R H Y R S T R G
V L U A C O U Z O O Y F
W T Z A R P F N L L E D
H A E R J T Y B I A G Z
N T L Q Z Y D Z R T L G
D Y T K D V J G P D E L

Psalm 86:11-12

Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever.

WORD BANK

TEACH * WAY * LORD * WALK * TRUTH * UNITE *
HEART * FEAR * NAME * GIVE * THANKS * GOD *
GLORIFY * FOREVER

WILLING TO SERVE

September 13, 2026

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Matt Ward

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Justin Allen
Scripture.....Sam Garner
Dismissal.....David Burleson

September 16, 2026

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

September 20, 2026

Morning Worship:

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

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

DIVINE COMFORT

The sound of the cascading water confirmed that I'd arrived at the 9/11 Memorial Pools in New York City, a place I'd avoided visiting for fear of being overwhelmed by sadness and grief from what took place there that tragic day in 2001. I walked around two large reflection pools located where the Twin Towers once stood. It was deeply moving to see all the names of those who died etched on the walls - some with roses placed on them by loved ones.

I was in Manhattan on the morning of 9/11 but thankfully not near the World Trade Center. Still, as a native New Yorker, the tragedy hit too close to home. I was finally at Ground Zero, yet I wasn't overcome by sorrow or fear. I felt peace as I stood there and recalled God's sustaining grace. That peace was a gift from the God who knows how to comfort us.

As we read the Psalms, we see that David experienced sorry, fear, and grief as well as divine comfort. In Psalm 30, he writes, *I called to you for help, and you healed me* (v 2). *Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning* (v 5). God turned David's wailing into dancing and removed [his] sackcloth and clothed [him] with joy (v 11).

When we're feeling overwhelmed with sorrow, loss, or pain, let's turn to the God of all comfort, who is close to the brokenhearted, and give thanks to Him as David did: *Lord my God, I will praise you forever* (v 12). Nancy Gavilanes