

# MARKET STREET



*"And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you..." (1 John 1:5)*

# MESSENGER

**Market Street  
church of Christ**  
514 West Market Street  
P.O. Box 388  
Athens, Alabama 35612  
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume VIII

February 7, 2016

No. 6

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Bible Classes ..... 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship ..... 4:00 p.m.

### Wednesday

Bible Classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

## Elders

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 777-6737  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

## Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147  
Tommy Coblentz .....(256) 232-3312  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 278-1977  
Larry Mitchell .....(256) 230-0185  
Russ Wulfekuhl .....(256) 683-9396

## Evangelists

David A. Cox .....(256) 233-8910  
Cell: (256) 614-3757  
Jordan Lovell.....(256) 777-8998

**Visit Us On The Web**  
[MarketStreet-church.com](http://MarketStreet-church.com)

## MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament  
Christianity and to enhance the work of the  
Market Street church.*

*David A. Cox, Editor*

## *Trudging Up Those Hills*

**Gary Ogden**

Calvin and Hobbs, I love'm. Some of you won't know whom I'm talking about, but comic's aficionados will recognize them as a boy and his tiger companion. Calvin's a pistol and Hobbes can be quite philosophical at times. Comic strips can and often are a reflection of our lives and times.

In one strip, the duo is out sledding in the snow. Calvin complains, "I hate trudging up those hills. I didn't come out here to work! I came out here to ride and have fun!"

Hobbes replies, "Well, you can't ride the sled if you don't climb the hills."

Calvin counters, "I could if you pulled me up." The next strip shows Calvin alone with a grumpy look on his face. His friend has "abandoned" him and he says, "He's so lazy and selfish."

Calvin has his counterparts in our real world. They came here for a fast ride and to have fun and they intend to have fun come what may. If sin should happen to be in the formula, that's no obstacle. Fun is fun no matter its source.

These fun-lovers love pleasure more than anything else in the world, or for that matter, in heaven. The Bible calls them "lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" (2 Timothy 2:4). They search for fun in every aspect of their lives, and while fun and pleasure are not wrong, in and of themselves, they can consume us.

These folks hate, like Calvin, "trudging up these hills." If they aren't having fun, they're impossible to live with. They get thoroughly disgusted at the drudgery, tedium, and trials of life; and reality dictates that life will have its times of difficulty. It can't always be a downhill slide, no matter what our preferences.

It would be nice for our work to be something we enjoy and I think that for the most part, such is possible. But work cannot be all fun and games. It would be called something besides work. I'm thankful for those

who take their work seriously and who find a way to work through the times of boredom and drudgery to do a good job anyway.

Our spiritual labors for Christ can be depicted as an uphill climb, perpetually. Anybody who has in mind that Christianity is a piece of cake needs to look for desert elsewhere. Try climbing the hill of persecution and ridicule and see how much fun is in it. It's a though go.

Sometimes, some get weary of the uphill climb to heaven. The Letter to the Hebrews in the New Testament was written to recover those who became "weary in well-doing." It was written to saints in the first century, when the pressure to remain faithful to Christ was very great. It is a good book to read again and again when we find ourselves beginning to hate "trudging up these hills."

Hobbes jerks Calvin back to reality when he reminds him, "You can't ride the sled if you don't climb the hills." Quite an astute statement for a stuffed tiger!

Have you ever sledged down a snow-covered hill? It is one of the true joys of life. The steeper the hill, the greater the thrill! The exhilaration during the run at the bottom of the hill is indescribable. When you've completed the run, you're ready to go at it again and again.

The tiger's telling us that reward comes from diligent effort. Some people want a paycheck without having to work for it. They'd like a year-end bonus but want to go above and beyond in order to receive it. They'd like the commission without having to sell.

How many want to go to heaven but aren't interested in doing what it takes to go there? While you can't "earn" your way to heaven, don't think that you can get there by being spiritually lazy. Peter reminds us of the diligent effort that will be rewarded with an "abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom" (2 Peter 1:5-11). He is telling us, "If you want to go to heaven, you have to be willing to climb the hills." The Lord promises "rest from their labors" for those who die while faithfully serving him (Revelations 14:13).

Calvin wanted to be pulled up the hill so that he could enjoy the ride up as well as the ride down. He wanted his cake and eat it, too. Some in the work place want the profit sharing but they aren't happy sharing the responsibilities to make a profit. In the spiritual realm, some are hoping to go to heaven on the coattails of a family member, or the whole congregation. Their

philosophy is, "could have a wonderful life here and in eternity if you would just pull me along."

While we do need to be an encouragement to one another, no one can pull my load. The Bible says "For each man shall bear his own burden" (Galatians 6:5). If you depend totally on other people to fulfill your responsibility or make you happy, you are following a damaging "Calvinistic" philosophy.

When Calvin is left alone with the sled, he points the finger of blame the other way. He thinks Hobbes is lazy and selfish because he refuses to pull him up the hill. One of our great faults in today's world is the refusal to accept personal responsibility for our own actions and attitudes. So many want to point the finger of blame at society by saying, "You people haven't done enough for me, so I will turn to a life of crime." Folks at work can't figure out that productivity is down because they are being unproductive. Some Christians love to point the finger of blame at other Christians for their own personal failure to be faithful.

Too often, we are too lazy and too selfish to carry on in a mature and responsible way. "Go to the ant, lazy one," and to the comics, but most of all to the Bible and learn, "You can't ride the sled if you don't climb the hills."

-via *Pepper Road Bulletin*; Athens, Alabama.

∞

## *Understanding God's Will*

**Kenny Moorer**

One important thing that I believe people should know about the Bible is that it (the Bible) can be understood. The apostle Paul commands us: "Be not foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). Many people excuse themselves from a sincere effort to know what God wants them to do by saying that "I just can't know what God wants from me" or "Why are there so many different people saying

different things about what scripture means?" "Doesn't that show me that there is just no way to really know?" What that really shows is that most people are unwilling to do what it takes to reach the conclusions that God wants all men to reach.

It should be clear that God wants each person to think for themselves. My responsibility as a preacher here is not to tell you what to believe; my responsibility is to share with you what I believe the Bible teaches. It is entirely up to you to reach your own conclusions. But the Bible tells us that we can all understand His will for us. You and I are expected and **can** know the will of God according to Ephesians 3:3-4. "How that by revelation He has made known to me the mystery as I have written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ."

When I teach classes, especially in one on one settings, I make sure the person I'm studying with knows that we are learning together and that both of us have responsibility to reach our own conclusions. In my experience, that seems to be an important point to make right up front, helping the person I'm studying with become more engaged in the study. Personal responsibility is fast becoming a "lost art" in our society among many folks. Many refuse to accept the fact that **they** have failed and that **they** are unwilling to think for **themselves** and be responsible for **themselves**. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body..." (2 Corinthians 5:10). That includes the way I have gone about understanding God's will.

-via *Family Report*; Florence, Alabama.

## Bible Study



### Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

*Come Join Us As We Study Together*

## News & Notes

### THE SICK:

Charles Vaughn  
JoAnn Gilbert  
Bonnie Sutton  
Doris Lovell  
Irene Inman  
Shelby Kirkland  
Ann Bush  
Shaun Carruth

Lucille Craig  
Beverly Sutton  
Dana & Lucian Baker  
Reba Byram  
Gilbert Hardy  
Jeanette Weir  
Cody Usery

### *Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:*

Mot Dollar  
Ella Melvin  
Eli Williams  
Gene Carpenter  
Linda Ordonez  
Annalynn Tegg  
Matt Poff  
Elizabeth Howard  
Phillip Harwell  
Shayna Tollison

Gayle Ball  
Janice Cagle  
Donald Cole  
Betty Hamm  
Charles Burns  
Al Pollard  
Ava Brooke Campbell  
Ben Hinkle  
Una King Carrier  
Daniel Ogles

### *In The Hospital:*

*Ray Kennedy*; UAB Hospital, Birmingham  
*Linda Jones*; Druid City Hospital, Tuscaloosa

### *Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:*

Nelva Reed, rm. 111	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Dorothy Draper, rm. 97
Judith Groce, rm. 45	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Terry Camp, rm. 91	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Faye Allen, rm. 75	

### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Mildred Landers, rm. 103  
Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

### *Limestone Lodge:*

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 20W

### *Limestone Manor:*

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

### *Shut-In or Away From Home:*

Robert & Mot Beasley, at home  
Hazel Brooks, at home  
Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville  
Wynell Casteel, at home  
Marjorie Dunnivant, in Huntsville in assisted living  
Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle

Essie Hardison, at home  
Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

**ANNUAL SINGING:** Our *Fifth Annual Singing* is rapidly coming. I know that the singing will be truly edifying and uplifting evening. I hope that everyone will mark *February 26th* on your calendars. Remember to tell others to come and join us. If you are on Facebook, please share the event and send invitations to you friends to join us.

**GOSPEL MEETINGS:** The *Westview church* is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Lowell Sallee* speaking... The *Parkway church* in Lawrence county is beginning a meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday with *Tim Sutton* speaking.

**OUT OF TOWN:** *The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn* are in Texas... *The Ogles: Mike and Nikki* are in Auburn this weekend... *Harvey Nixon* is back home after being away for several weeks with work.

**NURSING HOME SINGING:** Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar for this year:  
April 17-21 Gospel Meeting with Buc Chumbley  
June 13-16 Vacation Bible School  
Sept. 11-15 Gospel Meeting with Andrew Roberts

**WORK GROUPS:** Work Group two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group.

**THE RECORD:** Attendance for the week of Jan. 31st  
*Sunday:* Bible Classes..... 140  
Morning Worship ..... 180  
Evening Worship..... 140  
*Wednesday:* Bible Classes..... 122

## *Fifth Annual Singing*

February 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Steve Klein



**MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
514 WEST MARKET STREET  
ATHENS, GA 30606

## Men Privileged To Serve:

### *Sunday, February 7th:*

#### *Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Steve Usery  
Song Leader ..... Tommy Burns  
Prayer ..... Marcus Morris  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Norman Brown  
Assisting ..... Marty Adams  
Serving ..... Landon Adams ..... Marvin Putman  
..... Danny Johnson ..... Heath Dollar  
Closing Prayer ..... Joy Warner

#### *Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Steve Usery  
Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge  
Prayer ..... Kenneth Smith  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Norman Brown  
Closing Prayer ..... Joel Hamm

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 7th:  
Usher ..... Keith Hinkle  
Work Sound System ..... Terry Andrews

### *Wednesday, February 10:*

Song Leader ..... Hunter Cox  
Bible Reading..... (2 Corinthians 2:12-17)  
..... Keenon Currier  
Prayer ..... Steve Usery  
Invitation ..... David Cox  
Closing Prayer ..... Tony Thomas

---

### *Sunday, February 14th:*

#### *Morning Worship*

Announcements ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader ..... Stefan Fudge  
Prayer ..... Norman Brown  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper  
Presiding ..... Terry Andrews  
Assisting ..... Steve Usery  
Serving ..... Jason Conn. .... Nathaniel Adams  
..... Matthew Vaughn ..... Marcus Morris  
Closing Prayer ..... Keith Hinkle

#### *Evening Worship*

Announcements ..... Jerry McGlocklin  
Song Leader ..... Joel Hamm  
Prayer ..... Hunter Cox  
Preaching ..... David Cox  
Lord's Supper ..... Terry Andrews  
Closing Prayer ..... Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 7th:  
Usher ..... Larry Mitchell  
Work Sound System ..... Landon Adams