

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 XV

August 6, 2023

No. 32

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 6:30 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737

Deacons

Joel Hamm (256) 278-1977
Danny Holt (256) 206-2746
Larry Mitchell..... (256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris..... (256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

Visit Us On The Web
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

Teaching Them To Observe

David A. Cox

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

In this text, Jesus is giving the great commission. The great commission proclaims the great news of salvation to the world lost in sin. Indeed, we all ought to proclaim the story of Jesus to all men of all nations. We should do everything we can to teach them and convert them from a life of darkness and sin to a life of light and hope. However, even when we have instructed, converted, and seen people baptized, we have only seen the birth of a child of God. There is great joy in the new birth of a child of God, but there is still more that Jesus expects for those heeding His great commission. Jesus says we are to teach “them to observe all things that I have commanded you.” The growth of the Christian is something that Jesus is concerned about as He tells the disciples to teach those they baptize to observe all things.

Christianity Is Not A One-Time Decision

We must understand that Christianity is not just a one-time decision made, and then it is over. Being a Christian involves a lifetime of growth. The Christian is a child of God and a part of the family of God. The family analogy gives us the picture of brothers and sisters, children, and parents. God is the Father. As the Father, He provides for us as His children. We are children of God because we have voluntarily submitted ourselves to Him and have been baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27). By being baptized into Christ, we have been “born again” into the family of God or the church (John 3:3-5). The ones that have been “born again” are new converts or “babes in Christ.” Peter speaking of the new birth, says, “being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God” (1 Peter 1:23). Peter continues to speak of the laying aside of old dispositions, attitudes, and actions of sin. Peter says we should “as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow”

(1 Peter 2:1-2). The new convert's description is as a "babe," and growth is what God desires and expects.

The Growth of the Christian

The scriptures are clear that Christians are to grow.

- The newborn babe will die if they do not receive spiritual nurturing. Everyone understands the tragedy of a baby born in this physical life left alone, uncared for, and deserted. The scriptures teach pure and undefiled religion to God and will not allow a child to be uncared-for (James 1:27). Disciples, who follow the instruction of Jesus in the great commission, will not allow this to happen in those who are born in Christ.
- The teaching of God's word and the grounding of newborn babes/new converts is vital in the maturity and growth of the child of God. Speaking to Christians that had obeyed the gospel sometime earlier, the Hebrew writer says, "For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk, and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- Paul, writes to the Ephesians concerning the growth of Christians, saying, "...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head - Christ" (Ephesians 4:14-15).
- Peter admonishes the Christians as he closes his epistle, "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

It is evident in the scriptures that Jesus and the apostles taught that Christians should grow. Without growth and maturity, Christians will go aimlessly through life and fall prey to the devil's snares. The trials and temptations will come to man. Still, with faith in what life is all about, going to heaven when you die, a Christian will endure (2 Timothy 4:8). Jesus came and gave his life to save man, and spiritual growth and development are essential for Christians not to grow weary and fall away.

Indeed, we can understand why Jesus stressed the growth of new converts in his teaching during His mi-

nistry and reminded the disciples of this just before He ascended to the Father. Growing in faith is imperative if we are to endure to the end. Let us work to increase our faith and to teach others to grow and observe all things.



The World Does Not Love You

Aaron Beard

If you go chasing after this world, don't be surprised if you wake up one day broken, hurting, and alone. In Jesus' parable of the prodigal son we are introduced to a younger son who went to his father and demanded his inheritance now.

He went into a far country and squandered everything in wasteful and sinful living. For a while he was surrounded by "friends" and plenty of excitement, but when the money ran out, those friends ran away. We are told that no one would give him anything. You see, this young man loved the world, but the world did not love him back. The world did not care if he was lying dead in a ditch somewhere. All the while, his father was at home still loving him and wishing he would repent and return. As the story goes, he did repent and decided to go home and the father received him, rejoiced in him, and restored him.

This story is a powerful warning to God's people about the nature of the world. If you choose the world over God, you are choosing something that will not be there for you when you need it most. But God, and the family of God, will always be there for you.

"Who rises up for me against the wicked?
Who stands up for me against evildoers?
If the LORD had not been my help,
my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence.
When I thought, "My foot slips,"
your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.
When the cares of my heart are many,
your consolations cheer my soul."
(Psalm 94:16-19)

The world will leave you empty, broken, and alone. When it does that to you, don't forget who is waiting for you at home. The world does not care about you, but your Father absolutely loves you. Don't throw away your fellowship and family for some temporary excitement and relationships.

~via *Whole Counsel*; Belen, New Mexico.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Ida Nell Griffin	Mary Cecile Kennon
Frank Melton	Bonnie Sutton
Jeanette Weir	Steve Stringer
Pat Nixon	Dan Lovell
Helen Blankenship	Shirley Miller
Doris Lovell	Stephen Smith

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Priscilla Tucker	Sharon Nave
Harvey Nixon	Peggy Pepper
Vicki Stringer	Anita Wheeler
Nikki Ogles	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Charles Burns	Cindy Walker
Al Pollard	Matt Bassford
Wynell Romine	Anthony Sutton
Jerry Lawrence	Henry Fusch
Liz Fusch	Kimberly Pressnell
Tim McGuire	Wynell Romine
Monica Nelson	

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Brenda Wilson, rm. 77
Connie Brock, rm. 62	Auteen Campbell, rm. 96

Limestone Health Facility:

Ronnie Locke, rm.	Marie Nave, rm. 84a
Ann Bush, rm. 75	

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Goldton at Athens

Unaking Currier; Summerford Health, Falkville
 Irene Inman; at home
 Bobby Ogles; Story Point West, Knoxville, Tennessee
 Stan Stanford; Goldton at Athens
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Judy Brown; Crestwood Hospital-Huntsville, ICU
Larsen Plyler; University Methodist Hosp. – Memphis

Updates:

Paul Adcock had biopsies done on Tuesday and he will be taking radiation treatments. Paul will go back to the doctor on August 18th to finalize the details of his treatments ... *Judy Brown* was able to come off of the ventilator Friday. She is making steady progress in her recovery ... *Jeanette Weir* continues to heal from her cancer surgery ... *Barbara Ash* is making good progress in her recovery. She is to return to the doctor on Thursday... *Sharon Nave* continues to wait to hear from the doctor at UAB about her appointment time ... *Frank Melton* is to go to the lung doctor on Wednesday of this week ... *Taylor Gregory's aunt, Monica Nelson*, is battling stage 2 breast cancer... *Lousie Snell's grandson, Luke Davis*, had surgery on Thursday and all went well... *Rita Smith's son, Stephen Smith*, was in the hospital last week with diverticulitis. He is now out of the hospital but still suffering with pain ... *Larsen Plyler*, who is a preacher for the Quinn church near Spruce Pine, had surgery in Memphis to remove a brain tumor on Wednesday. They were able to get all of the tumor and he continues his recovery in Memphis ... Remember our expecting mother, *Lynsey Adams*, in your prayers.

PICTURES: Have you had your picture made? We continue to make and update photos of everyone for the Market Street directory. Please plan to get your picture made in the next few weeks.

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Doris Fisher and Brenda Haraway and all the family* in the passing of Doris' son and Brenda's brother, *Kenneth Fisher*. He passed away last Friday night in Indianapolis, Indiana after a long battle with Parkinson's. There are no plans for a memorial at this time. Keep *Doris, Brenda and all the family* in your prayers.... We want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Mareidith Parks and all the family* in the passing of Mareidith's uncle, *Bob Goodwin*. He passed away last Saturday night.... We also want to extend our deepest sympathy to *Wendy Hammonds and all the family* in the passing of Wendy's sister, *Rita Wright*. ... We want to extend our deepest sympathy to

Dan Lovell, Doris Lovell & Jeanette Weir in the passing of their brother, *John Lovell*. Johnny passed away early Wednesday morning and his funeral was yesterday in Rogersville... *Jackie Cox's niece and my cousin, Sadricia Wilson*, passed away last weekend and her funeral will be this afternoon.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Ladies' Bible class meets on Tuesday morning at 10:30. They are studying "Preparing To Teach My Neighbor."

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL: Remember the Children's Bible Drill this afternoon at 4:45 before our evening service. I hope all our children can come and participate in this time of instruction and learning.

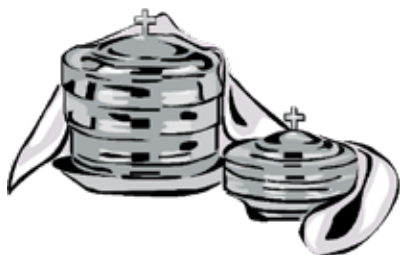
CARD WRITING: There is a card writing group that meets on a regular basis to write and mail cards to people for appreciation and encouragement. The group will meet again next Monday morning, *August 14th, at 10:30*. If you would like to participate in this join them next Monday morning.

50th WEDDING CELEBRATION: *Wayne & Judy Vaughn* are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary today. Their daughter, *Molly Wilson*, has set-up a time of celebration and has invited everyone from Market Street to come. It will be *this afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00* at the **Deer Trail Clubhouse**. We congratulate *Wayne & Judy* on this milestone. I hope many will be able to celebrate with them today.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Parks: Charles, Meredith, Aaron, Harper & Carson* are in Missouri this weekend due the passing of Meredith's uncle... *Brenda Haraway & Doris Fisher* have been in Gainesville, Florida visiting with Matthew and his family... *Sherry Davis* has been on vacation in Indiana and Michigan.

THE RECORD: Attendance the week of July 30th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	121
	Morning Worship	147
	Evening Worship	110
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	90



Communion Preparation for August

Communion Bread — Bob Broadus
Communion Cups — Marcus Morris

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Marty R. Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Larry Snell
Assisting	Harold Ash
Serving	Larry Tucker..... Luke Vaughn
.....	Matthew Vaughn..... Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Roger Hammonds

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Keith Hinkle
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Clayton Hamm
Preaching.....	Kasey Harbin
Lord's Supper	Larry Snell
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris
Other Assignments for the week of August 6th:	
Usher	Larry Mitchell/Hayden Pierce
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews

Wednesday, August 9th:

Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Bible Reading.....	Dan Reed
.....	(Acts 14:1-18)
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Invitation.....	Tommy Coblentz
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams

Sunday, August 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Stephen Lynn
Assisting	Terry Andrews
Serving	Sam Gregory..... Marvin Putman
.....	Harold Davis..... Matthew Uesery
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Tucker
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Stephen Lynn
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns
Other Assignments for the week of August 13th:	
Usher	Roger Hammonds/Tommy Coblentz
Work Sound System.....	Russ Wulfekuhl