



Volume 15

April 11, 2025

Number 15

SERVING AS ELDERS

John Cooper
Keith Hammonds
Tim Simpson
Jere Spurlin
Dan Whitson

SERVING AS DEACONS

Sam Allison, Allan Dillard, Richard
Dobbs, Jeff Etheredge, Andy Harrison,
Tom Inman, Jimmy Jeffreys, Mike Pirtle
and Randall Terry

SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

J.C. Enlow-Ukraine, Mexico,
West Africa
Wayne Barrier-Borneo
Rod Kyle-Solomon Islands
Chris Herd-New Zealand
Steve Worley-Nigeria

PULPIT MINISTER

Alan Watkins

YOUTH MINISTER

Keith Jett

OUTREACH MINISTER

Robert Guinn

SECRETARIES

Angie Newell Sandra Harrison

"THE BRIDGE" DIRECTOR

Becky Ellis

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"The Shepherds' Corner"

04/04/2025 (Page 1 of 2)

Lack of knowledge leads to a controversy with God

Marvin L Weir
Seek the Old Paths

The Bible is bold in stating, "... *No prophecy of this scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*" (2 Peter 1:20-21). God has revealed to mankind His word, and it is incumbent upon each individual to understand the unchanging will of Jehovah. It is not how "I see it" or how "you see it," but how **God sees it and said it!** The unchanging God (Mal 3:6) has given us in His word an absolute, objective, inerrant standard that must be believed and obeyed if one is going to save his soul (2 Tim 3:16-17). Bible belief coupled with Bible obedience is not an option for one desiring to go to heaven!

The word of God enables a person to know what he must do to please the heavenly Father. God's gracious Providence has provided man with the Bible: "*lamp unto [his] feet, and light unto [his] path*" (Psa 119:105). God's word is truth (John 17:17) and His truth is the only thing that will free one from his sins (John 8: 31- 32). Thus, Christians are commanded to "*grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen*" (2 Peter 3:18).

A rejection of God's knowledge is proof positive that one does not fear or respect Jehovah. Solomon was correct in saying, "*the fear of Jehovah is the beginning of knowledge; but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction*" (Pro 1:7). The prophet Hosea declared that his people were "*destroyed for lack of knowledge*" (Hosea 4:6). Paul warns those who are "*ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (2 Tim 3:7). How sad it is today that so many "*have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge*" (Romans 10:2). The Jews of Paul's day failed miserably because they had corrupted the pure word of God with human tradition. People today make the same mistake when they prefer their "traditions" and whatever supports their feelings over the Holy Scriptures!

Far too many folks today are content to listen to what someone else says about the Bible. They never searched the scriptures to see if what is said is true or not (cf. Acts 17:11). These same people readily read what some man has said about religion but refused to read what Christ has said about sacred matters! Isaiah once said of God's people, "*therefore my people are gone into captivity for lack of knowledge; And their honorable men are famished, and their multitude are parched with thirst*" (Isaiah 5:13). People who choose to do battle with God will always lose! Unless we are willing to respect and seek after divine knowledge, we will suffer the same fate as did Israel.

The prophet Hosea forthrightly identifies Israel's sins that led to her controversy with Jehovah. God's faithful spokesman says, "*hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord has a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out and blood touches blood*" (Hos 4:1-2). Hosea's rebuke would be right on target if preached in many congregations of the Lord's people today.

"The Shepherds' Corner"

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Let us note some of the things that are as great a problem today as they were when Hosea delivered his message.

First, one will note that it was Jehovah who had a controversy with the people. People today tend to become angry with the preacher or teacher that makes them aware of God's truth. They need to realize that their "controversy" is with God and not with man. One who faithfully proclaims the word of God is only God's mouthpiece.

Second, people fail to recognize and speak the truth. Isaiah wrote, "*[they] say to the seers, see not; And to the prophets, prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits*" (Isa 30:10). Is it not amazing that regarding religious matters most people would rather be told a lie than the truth? It is a sad day for society when truth cannot be found in people's speech or actions. Truth is in as short supply today as it was in Isaiah's day, and our country suffers greatly as a result of this sin (Rev 21:8). God says, "*buy the truth, and sell it not*" (Pro 23:23). What is truth? The word of God is truth (John 17:17).

Third, there was no goodness in the land. Jesus teaches that the second great commandment is to "*love thy neighbor as thyself*" (Matt 22:39). People today live in fear because evil instead of goodness reigns supreme. When the law of God and the law of man is cast aside and trampled underfoot, one can expect ungodliness and chaos to reign supreme.

Fourth, there was no knowledge of God in the land. God's word was not "*a lamp unto [their] feet, and light unto [their] path*" (Psa 119:105). Neither is God's word a guide for most folks today! We live in a land where many now demand that the name of God not be heard and His word not be seen. Respect for deity and sacred matters is at an all-time low in the USA. It is easy to see how very terrible a Godless, Communist/Marxist society is like, and yet we have so-called leaders among us who eagerly want to become such a society. A lack of knowledge of God has never made a country successful and strong!

Fifth, swearing, breaking faith, killing, stealing and committing adultery were in vogue in Israel. People's rights today are no longer respected, promises mean nothing, the sanctity of marriage is spurned and God's moral standards are mocked. How terrible it will be to stand before God and be guilty of ignoring and breaking his laws!

All will one day give an account for not knowing God's will (Acts 17:30). May God not have a controversy with us because of lack of knowledge of His word!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

COME AND JOIN US!

WEEK OF 04/13/2025 THROUGH 04/16/2025

04/13/2025 SUNDAY BIBLE CLASSES 9AM

Class: "Earthly Stories with Spiritual Meaning"

Teacher: Jere Spurlin

Where: Auditorium

Class: "Studies in Christian Living"

Teacher: Alan Watkins

Where: Fellowship Hall

Class: "The Resurrection of Christ"

Teachers: Elders

Where: Classroom 2

Teenage Bible Class (6 - 12 Grade)

Teacher: Keith Jett

Where: Teen Room

The Bridge - Nursery Thru 5TH Grade

SUNDAY WORSHIP

04/13/2025 10AM Worship Service - In the Auditorium

5:00PM Worship Service

OR WATCH LIVE STREAM ON:

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/DecaturCoC/>

YOUTUBE: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmt9ZXk_fXzu6pGI4H5UpQA

04/16/2025 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES 6:30 PM

Class: "The Peace of Philippians"

Where: Auditorium

Teacher - Steve Gober

Class: "Heart Diseases and Their Cure"

Where: Fellowship Hall

Teacher - Alan Watkins

Class: "Conduct in the Church" - (Studies from 1 Timothy)

Where: Classroom 2

Teacher: Tim Simpson

Ladies Bible Class

Where: Room 5/6

Teacher - Donna Lamp

Teenage Bible Class (6th - 12 Grade)

Where: Teen Room

Teacher - Keith Jett

The Bridge - NURSERY THRU 5TH GRADE

EVERYONE WELCOME!

APRIL PRIVILEGE TO SERVE LIST

April 2025 Sunday 10 AM Service Order

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Song Leader	Jere Spurlin	John Cooper	Robert Guinn	Jere Spurlin
Opening Prayer	Philip Miller	Roger Kalonick	Joel Bishop	Jeff Etheredge
Shepherds Prayer	Tim Simpson	Dan Whitson	John Cooper	Keith Hammonds
Lord's Supper	Robert Guinn	Andy Harrison	Steve Gober	Dennis Powers
Scripture Reading	Mike Pirtle	Andy Nash	Steve Wilson	Bill Hardwick
Lesson	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Closing Prayer	Dennis Powers	Joey Gray	Jimmy Jeffreys	Daniel Underwood

April 2025 Sunday 5 PM Service Order

	April 6	April 13	April 20	April 27
Song Leader	Witt Ellis	Steve Wilson	Mark Henderson	Stanley Nelson
Opening Prayer	Will Ellis	Sam Allison	Allan Dillard	Steve Gober
Scripture Reading	Terry Strong	Cory Wells	Philip Miller	Mike Pirtle
Lesson	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins	Alan Watkins
Closing Prayer	Tom Inman	Keith Hammonds	Steve Underwood	Chris Pirtle

April 2025 Wednesday Night Service Order

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Song Leader	Robert Guinn	Jeff Ellis	Witt Ellis	Mark Henderson	Alan Watkins
Invitation	Keith Jett	Alan Watkins	Jere Spurlin	Keith Hammonds	Robert Guinn
Announce	Keith Hammonds	Jere Spurlin	Tim Simpson	Dan Whitson	Keith Jett
Closing Prayer	Keith Hammonds	Jere Spurlin	Tim Simpson	Dan Whitson	Keith Jett

Monthly Greeters

Sunday AM	Watkins & Garrett
Sunday PM	Hammonds & Gibson
Wednesday	R. Terry & Hardwick

April 2025 Nursery Attendants

Sunday AM	4/6/2025	4/13/2025	4/20/2025	4/27/2025
Attendant	Kelley Wells	Jeanne Simpson	Heather Loyd	Derri Hardwick
Attendant	Kathleen Burress	Carol Etheredge	Harper Loyd	Stephanie Bishop
Sunday PM				
Attendant	DeAndra Allison	Joan Pirtle	Cindy Terry	Debbie Wiggins
Attendant	Londyn Battle	Elizabeth Guinn	Tracy Powell	Janice Watkins

May 2025 Nursery Attendants

Sunday AM	5/4/2025	5/11/2025	5/18/2025	5/25/2025	
Attendant	Mary Dobbs	Shell Allison	Heather Loyd	Joan Pirtle	
Attendant	Haley Pirtle	Londyn Battle	Harper Loyd	Elizabeth Guinn	
Sunday PM					
Attendant	Suzanne Garrett	Kelley Wells	Debbie Wiggins	Jeanne Simpson	
Attendant	Sherrie Inman	Kathleen Burress	Janice Watkins	Carol Etheredge	

June 2025 Nursery Attendants

Sunday AM	6/1/2025	6/8/2025	6/15/2025	6/22/2025	6/29/2025
Attendant	Cindy Terry	Suzanne Garrett	Heather Loyd	Kelley Wells	Jeanne Simpson
Attendant	Tracy Powell	Sherrie Inman	Harper Loyd	Kathleen Burress	Carol Etheredge
Sunday PM					
Attendant	Derri Hardwick	Mary Dobbs	Debbie Wiggins	Shell Allison	Joan Pirtle
Attendant	Stephanie Bishop	Haley Pirtle	Janice Watkins	Londyn Battle	Elizabeth Guinn

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

LESSON OUTLINE

(04/13/2025)

CHEAP CROSSES

Luke 14:27

INTRO:

1. A visitor in Manila during a religious holiday saw a Hand-lettered sign that read: "Cheap Crosses For Sale."
2. It seems that many today are looking for cheap crosses. -
3. We want a religion that doesn't require much time, energy, or money.
4. What did Christ say? **Luke 14:27**

I. CHEAP CROSS IN MORALITY.

- A. Some are not willing to bear the Cross of Christian standards.
Titus 2:12
- B. Practices that once were condemned are now considered acceptable by the cheap cross advocates.

II. CHEAP CROSS IN SERVICE.

- A. Jesus taught that service is the essence of Christianity. **Luke 22:27**
- B. We need to have the "mind of Christ" concerning service.
Matt. 20:28
- C. Some of us are good at excuse making.

III. CHEAP CROSS IN GIVING.

- A. Jesus gave his all. **2 Cor. 8:9**
- B. We should ask "How much can I give?" not "How much do I have to give?" **2 Cor. 8:7**

CONC:

1. You get what you pay for. -
2. Illus.: King, 12 wise men, "no Free lunch."
3. A cheap cross will eventually cost more than any of us can afford.
4. The authentic cross of Calvary does not come cheap.
5. It is the only one on which the Son of God died, and only it has the power to save.
6. It alone can buy a crown of life.

Remember In Our Daily Prayers

OUR SICK

Jill Branium, the sister of Jan Kalonick, had a heart attack. Send cards to _ 1799 Southeast Fairfield Street, Saint Lucie, FL 34983. Please keep her in your prayers.

Willow Dobbins (Update 04/10), 5-year-old little girl that has been attending the occupational therapy clinic where Carol Etheredge works, was involved in a lawn mower accident last Friday. She was sent to Children's Hospital in Birmingham where they had to amputate her right arm from the elbow down. She will have additional surgery. Please keep Willo and her family in your prayers.

Eva Hanic, 11 year old daughter of Janice Watkins former boss, had tests run last week. They think she may have a problem with her liver. Send cards to – 783 Town Creek Rd., Cleveland, GA 30528. Please keep her in your prayers.

Tommy Loyd (Update 04/08), the father of Robbie Loyd, his first test showed no cancer, the second test did not go so well. Send cards to – 2402 Surrey Lane S.E., Decatur, AL 35601. Please keep him in your prayers.

Margaret Mardis has pneumonia. Send cards to – 2551 Iron Man Road, Danville, AL 35619. Please keep her in your prayers.

Molly Richardson (Update 04/10), the daughter of Libby Fox, had surgery on Wednesday to remove a benign tumor and everything went well. Send cards to - 7881 Deer Trail Lane, Memphis, TN 38133. Please keep her in your prayers.

Amanda Johnson, a former Grant Street member, is having some problems and has requested our prayers. Send cards of encouragement to - Amanda Johnson, 2231 Woodland Rd. Apt. 116, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404
(Amanda moved last week and this is her new correct address). Please keep her in your prayers.

Our Sympathy to Linda Taylor in the passing of her husband, David Taylor. He was also the father of Kathleen Burress. The funeral was Sunday in Somerville. Send cards to - Linda Taylor, 4612 Hwy. 67 South, Somerville, AL 35670 and Kathleen Burress, 400 Still Meadows Road, Somerville, AL 35670. Please keep them in your prayers during this time of loss.

FRIENDS OR RELATIVES OF OUR MEMBERS

Diane Russ

NURSING HOME ADDRESSES

1. **Brookdale Cedar Springs**
2505 Spring Ave. S.W.
Decatur, AL 35601
(256) 552-3800
2. **Country Cottage**
(256) 301-1800
2515 Old Moulton Road
Decatur, AL 35603
3. **Decatur Health & Rehab USA**
2326 Morgan Avenue
Decatur, AL 35601
(256) 340-5765
4. **Falkville Nursing Home**
10 West 3rd Street
Falkville, AL 35622
(256) 784-5291
5. **NHC Healthcare**
(256) 974-1146
300 Hospital Street
Moulton, AL 35650
6. **River City Care & Rehab**
(256) 355-6911
1350 14th Ave. S.E.
Decatur, AL 35601



This is the current listing of our Shut-In Members along with their address and phone number. Please check on them by calling or dropping a card in the mail to let them know they are missed and being thought about.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE NO.</u>
Polly Baker	2867 Vaughn Bridge Rd., Hartselle, AL 35640	
Marion Bradford	2005 13th St. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-4674
Betty Bunch	1307 Pennylane S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-350-3045
Patsy Cagle	1714 Westmeade St. S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-3525
Troy & Faye Demastus	C/O NHC Healthcare, room 121, Moulton, AL 35650	256-221-0277
Harold Fagan	423 Briarwood Drive S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-466-3810
Beverly Fite	2110 Birch St. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	
Mary Harris	1009 Line Street, Apt. 123, Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-2110 / Cell – 256-306-1103
Jane Hartselle	1121 9 th Ave. S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-7832
Austin Inman	2306 Duncansby Dr. S.W., Decatur, AL 35603	256-318-6154
Earl & Olga Morris	140 Jackson Way, Decatur, AL 35603	256-277-4749 (Earl) / 256-345-4740 (Olga)
Nancy Patterson	148 Jackson Way, Decatur, AL 35603	
Anne Slate	2311 Fairway Circle S.E., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-6609
Shirley Smith	C/O Legacy Village of Jacksonville, Room 314, 1116 James Hopkin Rd. Jacksonville, AL 36265	256-345-2986
Wanda Smith	1420 Danville Rd. S.W., Decatur, AL 35601	256-353-6693
Jamie Sparkman	3219 Lower River Road, Decatur, AL 35603	256-822-8105
Thelma Strock	1511 15th Ave. S.E., Decatur, AL 35603	256-340-1354
Ron Templeton	2505 Spring Ave. S.W., Apt. I 19, Decatur, AL 35601	
Doug Weatherspoon	2718 King Arthur Court S.W., Decatur, AL 35603	256-580-0217
Reba Webb	Country Cottage #3, 4200 Chris Drive SW, Huntsville, AL 35802	

Current Events

LADIES' BISCUIT BREAKFAST WITH THE ELDERS

All ladies of the congregation are invited to a "Biscuit Breakfast" with the Elders **tomorrow at 8:00 AM in the Annex.**

BROOKDALE CEDAR SPRINGS DEVO

Sunday, April 13 at 1:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP GROUP 2 LUNCH & EASTER EGG HUNT

Group 2 members will share a Potluck meal and Easter Egg Hunt after the AM Worship Service on Sunday, April 13 in the Annex. If anyone in another group would like to be a part of the Easter Egg Hunt, please join us for both! If you have any questions, contact John or Melissa Cooper.

LADS TO LEADERS CONVENTION

April 17 – April 20
Nashville, Tennessee

LADIES TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be
April 22

MEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study will be
April 22

GAME NIGHT

Our next game night is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 at 5:30 PM in the Annex.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP

We rejoice to announce that Robert and Bama Kranick placed membership on Sunday. Their address is 221 East Main Street, Falkville, AL 35622 and phone number is 256-945-3057. Please meet and welcome them into our Decatur church family.

NEW 2ND QUARTER SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES AS OF 04/06/25

Following is a list of the 2nd Quarter Sunday Morning Bible Classes and Teachers that began on April 6:

- "Earthly Stories with Spiritual Meaning" – Teacher: Jere Spurlin (Auditorium)
- "The Resurrection of Christ" - Teachers: Elders (Room 2)
- "Studies in Christian Living" - Teacher: Alan Watkins (Fellowship Hall)
- Teenage Bible Class (6 - 12 grade) - Teacher: Keith Jett (Teen Room)
- The Bridge: (Nursery - 5th Gr.)

NEW 2nd QUARTER WEDNES- DAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES

AS OF 04/09/25

Following is a list of the 2nd Quarter Wednesday Night Bible Classes and Teachers that began on April 9:

- "The Peace of Philipians" - Teacher: Steve Gober (Auditorium)
- "Conduct in the Church" (Studies from 1 Timothy) - Teacher: Tim Simpson (Room 2)
- "Heart Diseases and Their Cure" - Teacher: Alan Watkins (Fellowship Hall)
- Ladies Bible Class - Teacher: Donna Lamp (Room 5/6)
- Teenage Bible Class (6 - 12 grade) - Teacher: Keith Jett (Teen Room)
- The Bridge: (Nursery - 5th Gr.)



Upcoming Events:

Decatur Church Family (03/21),

The kindness and thoughtfulness you showed during this time of our mother's death has been a great comfort. The texts, cards, visits and calls, along with a delicious meal and garden dish have shown what a caring congregation you are. We appreciate the outpouring of love and support that was shown to us.

Sincerely,
Debbie Wiggins and the Jane Knouff Family

Decatur Church of Christ (04/03),

I left Decatur on pins and needles on December 17th or 18th of 2023. I was scared to death. Thankfully I made it through a year straight of sobriety. I am going on my 2nd year and the drugs and alcohol took a major toll on my life. Thankfully I have a new apartment, a bed, clothes and food. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. I will visit when I get spiritually well.

God Bless,
Amanda Johnson

Gospel Singing

Morrison Church of Christ
201 S. Main
Morrison, TN 37357
Friday, April 25
7:00 PM

Refreshments to follow singing

Ladies Dau

Crestview Church of Christ
2001 UD HWY 431
Boaz, AL 35957

Date:

Saturday, April 26

Time:

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(Lunch to follow the program)

Theme:

"Everything Beautiful In Its Time"

Speakers:

Rachel Hastings & Molly Lauderdale

Truth in Love Lectureship

"Conversations With Christ"

East Hill Church of Christ
509 East Madison Street
Pulaski, TN 38478

Dates:

Wednesday, April 30 - Sunday, May 4

Speakers:

Various (see flyer on bulletin board)

Girls Day

Union Church of Christ
4626AL-36

Somerville, AL 35670

Date:

May 31, 2025

Time:

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

(Lunch to follow)

Speakers:

Bree Neighbors & Anna Maxwell

Theme:

"For Such a Time as This"

Ester 4:14

RSVP:

uniongirlsday@gmail.com or
(256) 345-8441

Ladies of all ages are welcome! We will begin at 9:30 and end at 12, followed by lunch. We'd love to see you there!

Maggie Suttles,
Union CoC



APRIL 2025

5th – Sam Allison

8th - April Castaneda

14th – Bill Hardwick

16th - Elizabeth Guinn

19th - Sonia Nash

21st - Cory Wells

Jessi Watts

22nd - Draven Vandiver

23rd - Harper Loyd

24th - Jane Hartselle

Bobby Malone

28th - Becky Ellis

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!



APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Fellowship Meal 5:00 PM Singing Night 6:30 PM	3	4	5 Walk for Water Veterans Park Priceville, AL Registration - 8:30 AM Walk Begins - 9:00 AM
6 Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM Fellowship Group 1 Cider & Cookies After PM Service In the Fellowship Hall	7	8 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Room 12	9	10	11	12 Ladies Breakfast with the Elders 8:00 AM Annex Annex reserved by the Kranicks for birthday party 2 - 4 PM
13 Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM Fellowship Group 2 Lunch & Easter Egg Hunt after AM Service In the Annex	14	15	16	17	18 GOOD FRIDAY Lads to Leaders Convention in Nashville, TN	19 Lads to Leaders Convention in Nashville, TN
20 EASTER Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM	21	22 Ladies Bible Class 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall Ladies Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Room 12	23	24	25	26 Game Night 5:30 PM in the Annex
27 Devo at Brookdale Cedar Springs 1:30 PM	28	29	30			