

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class on hold  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757  
479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



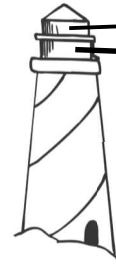
Slums may breed  
crime, but the suburbs  
can breed apathy.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Today  
All Classes  
On Hold

Next Sunday  
All Classes  
On Hold

This info is provided  
to help everyone stay  
in synch during our  
three-year study thru  
the Bible (Sunday AM).



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ROGERS, ARKANSAS

March 7, 2021

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* Mary Lou Lewis, Kathy Fletcher, Marsha Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis,  
and Etta Frazelle

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Erton Usrey,

Shirley Cole, & Billie Pennington

*Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins

**SUMMER DATES –** Our **VBS** is set for July 18-22 with Chris Reeves and  
our **Youth Lectures** are set for July 30-31 with Paul Sheehan. Plan ahead!

**CONGRATULATIONS –** to Jacob Haskins and Carlie Sobol who were  
married yesterday (March 6)! Let's encourage all our young married couples.

## Together Again!

Together again! It's more than the title of a cool Ray Charles song. It's what is happening today! For the first time in almost a year, the entire congregation is able to meet at one time – under one roof! And that's a big deal!

For the first time in a year, we can join our voices together as we teach and admonish one another in song (Col 3:16)!

For the first time in a year, we can lift our voices in “one accord” (Ac 4:24) as we offer prayers of thanksgiving, prayers for wisdom to face our trials, and prayers for those who are struggling with their faith.

For the first time in a year, we can gather as one around the Lord's table (1 Co 11:20) to be reminded (again) of what is truly important in our lives.

And for the first time in a year, we can assemble as one to hear the preaching of God's Word — as Cornelius told Peter, “we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God” (Ac 10:33).

Ray Charles went on to sing, “And nothing else matters, 'cause we're together again.” I wouldn't go that far; but ‘together again’ really is a big deal! Welcome back! - *WKing*

## Another Perspective

It is sometime in the future. It could be as much as fifty years from now, or it could be less than ten. You are huddled with a small group in a ramshackle building, and it is very cold. There are no stoves in the building, so everyone is wearing heavy coats. You are present at a worship service of the future.

Earlier, you had all sung a few hymns very softly so that no one outside could hear. Several prayers had been uttered and you had partaken of communion consisting of homemade bread served out of a kitchen dish and sour grape juice in a coffee cup. You had gathered one by one so that no one would suspect that a worship service was beginning and inform the authorities because, you see, religion is against the law. You can remember a time when there were church buildings with lights and air-conditioning and heat – when people assembled unafraid; but not anymore.

How did it happen? Well, it happened a long time ago when the country was still free. People took their freedom for granted. Morals declined, and nobody protested. People lost interest in spiritual matters, and for the souls of the others. They soon lost concern for their own souls. The nation seemed to go crazy. People did exactly what they wanted to, no matter how evil or sinful. There were riots. A mob even burned the church building.

Then one day it happened. No bombs fell, and no shots were fired. Early one morning, soldiers in uniforms simply marched into your town. The church had been swept along with the tide of the times. Christians had failed to take a stand. Religion had become a joke — and then it was gone.

- Author Unknown (from a church bulletin, 1983 – edited for space)

## An Article from 1983

## Faith in Context

When you look at a home construction site, have you ever seen bleachers full of people facing it? Have you ever seen swaths of people cheering on the construction workers? Have you ever said to them, “That swing of your hammer was magnificent! The nail guns are music to my ears! That framing is pure art!”? That would be a bit odd, right?

I dare say, that’s exactly what preaching and teaching the gospel is like. With every swing of the hammer (Bible study), and every nail fastened (sermon), comes accolades and praise! But doesn’t the appraisal of a home come **after** it is built?

Preachers and teachers of the word of God are building a house for God (Eph 2<sup>20-22</sup>), but they’re not done when just a single nail is driven into the wood!

I mention this for two reasons:

1<sup>st</sup>, It takes time for our spiritual house to be built. The whole counsel of God cannot be taught in 30 minutes, else God wouldn’t have asked us to live a lifetime in His word. Our elders, preachers, and teachers do the best they can to make sure the work is done **well**, rather than done fast.

2<sup>nd</sup>, Many have a tendency to think the only work worth doing is what the teachers do, and so all is thrust upon them while none is assumed for self.

But we can’t forget that we are **all** a spiritual house being built up by the Word of God (1 Pet 2<sup>4-5</sup>). The workers work with the supplies given to them (wood, nails, tools — **you!**). The house cannot be built without everyone’s involvement (Ecc 4<sup>9-10</sup>; Eph 4<sup>15-16</sup>).

Let us build God’s house as best we all can — together! - *WHSmith*

