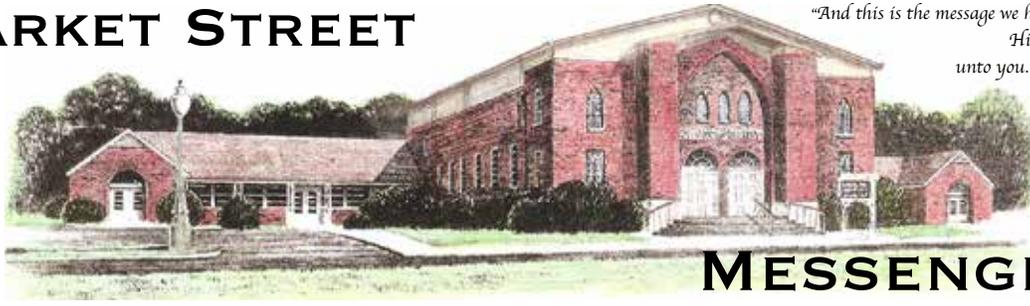


MARKET STREET



"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 XIV

February 13, 2022

No. 7

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..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblenz..... (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

"I'll Follow Jesus to the Top"

Tim Jennings

Many in our culture believe that following Jesus means going to large, lavish buildings, with lively crowds, pulsating worship, exciting events providing an endless array of ministries to fulfill our every desire. We expect that following Jesus means going to the top, associating with the elite, and leaving with a smile.

But the way of Jesus doesn't lead where we think it leads. One day a student shouted from the thronging crowd, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go" (Matthew 8:18-19; Luke 9:57). You can almost hear him singing, "Anywhere with Jesus I will gladly go, anywhere he leads me in this world below." How could Jesus hope for a better volunteer? However, Jesus hears more than our words, he sees our hearts.

This student thought following Jesus meant being a part of the attractively trendy. He is really thinking, "Jesus, I'll follow you to the beaches of Hawaii, the slopes of Aspen, and even to the resorts of the Bahamas!" His shallow loyalty promised, "As long as it is pretty, popular and fun, I'll be there!"

Jesus painted a different picture of discipleship and invites us to contemplate its meaning.

"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Luke 9:58)

Following Jesus meant sleeping rough. Even more than that, it meant death. Jesus spoke these words "as they journeyed on the road" to Jerusalem where he would "suffer, be rejected, and killed" (Luke 9:57; see 9:51; Luke 9:22, 44). That is where Jesus is going. Will this smiley student follow him there?

Like this student, we are tempted to judge the worthiness of our discipleship by the comfort of the road and the number of its travelers. This misses the point! Following Jesus is worthy, because he is worthy! Discipleship is not about crowds, but Christ. The places Jesus leads us

will sometimes be lonely and rough, but they are worthy because he is there.

The first student was willing to follow Jesus if it led to the “right place,” but a second disciple was waiting for the right time. Jesus invited him, “Follow Me,” (Luke 9:59). The man was willing, he just wanted to bury his father first. We don’t know if his father just died, was sick, or would live many more years. At any rate, Jesus’ words are jarring.

“Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”
(Luke 9:60)

Jesus’ reply seems to be rooted in God’s command to the prophets not to bury or mourn the dead as a sign of judgement (Ezekiel 24:15-24; Jeremiah 16:1-9; also Leviticus 10:6). Israel had enough weeping, now it is time to proclaim life in the kingdom of God. Jesus calls us to higher commitments than even the dearest worldly concerns. “Nothing is to block the pursuit of discipleship and nothing is to postpone its start” (Bock, Darrell (1996). Luke (Vol. 2, p. 981). Baker).

We are not against following Jesus, there are just some things we need to do first. We have social obligations and business requirements, but after we secure our career, plan for retirement, and take some trips we really plan to follow the Lord. However, discipleship is not a matter of “someday” but of “today.” It supersedes earthly responsibilities and proclaims the reality of the heavenly kingdom.

Excited by the Lord’s invitation a third person yelled, “I will follow you Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home” (Luke 9:61). The irony in this statement is laughable if it weren’t so sad, “Lord, let me first.” If “me” is first Jesus is not Lord—I am! Jesus sees a danger in the man’s request and points to the field.

“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)

The row Jesus plows is a hard one. We may find ourselves longing for the temporary pleasures that once ignited our senses. We see the time, money and fun others are having and want to cut and run. But remember, looking back when the row is rough is what Israel did after the exodus (Exodus 16:3), what Lot’s wife did at the destruction of Sodom (Genesis 19:26), and what many Christians did in the first century (2 Peter 3:20-22).

The distraction is not worth it! Luke follows these

invitations with some motivation. The next verse reads,

“After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others . . . And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” (Luke 10:1-2)

Crowds surrounded Jesus, but only few were laborers. Our family, friends, and world need us to be laborers. Following Jesus does not mean going to a religious penthouse with the comfortable elite. It means labor! But it is the path that leads to eternal life in the kingdom of God. So, “pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2) and follow him.

~via *Focus Magazine*; March 4, 2020



The Problem of Apathy

Steve Cawthon

Problems facing the body of Christ are many and varied. The devil opposes us with persecutions, false doctrines, and all kinds of fleshly temptations. But one of his most successful devices is apathy - an attitude of indifference which afflicts Christians and eats away their zeal like a cancer. It is highly contagious and, if unchecked, is fatal to the souls of men and women. In many areas, it has now reached epidemic proportions.

Indifference was the problem with the church in Laodicea. To that dead congregation, Jesus said, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold or hot; I would that thou wert cold or hot. So, because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:15-16). How many churches of Christ are in that same condition today?

Brethren, when we spend more time watching TV and playing ball than we do studying and teaching the word of God, are we not indifferent? When we find time to go to the movies and other places of entertainment, but not to visit the sick and erring, are we not indifferent? The time has come for us to wake up and get to work. Our indifference will send us to eternal hell!

~via *North Terrace church of Christ*; Chattanooga, Tennessee.



News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Shirley Miller	Mary Glenna Currier
Duane Thomas	Marci Bassett
Ruby Dean Ezell	James Adams
Betty Pepper	JoAnn Gilbert
Doris Lovell	Rhonda Holt
Diane Kilpatrick	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Tommy Burns	Priscilla Tucker
Peggy Pepper	Vicki Stringer
Freddie Mae Elmore	Nikki Ogles
Anita Wheeler	Lona Jackson
Judy Vaughn	Jeanette Weir
Doris Reid	Lloyd Adams
Phillip Harwell	Cornelia Pepper
Charles Burns	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Matt Bassford	Sadricia Wilson

Athens Health & Restore Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert, rm. 15	Elease Barksdale, rm. 31
Brenda Wilson, rm. 77	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Connie Brock, rm. 62

Limestone Health Facility:

Marci Bassett, rm.	Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 38
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Bobby Ogles, rm. 113	Alice Roberson, rm. 49
Ann Bush, rm. 75	Bobby McGuire, rm. 108

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Nell Barksdale; at home
 Deanie Britton; Limestone Lodge
 Gwen Bullock; at granddaughter's in Huntsville
 Barbara Carter; Traditions
 Unaking Currier; Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur
 Irene Inman; at home
 Stan Stanford; at home
 Jimmy Stroud; Valley View, Madison
 William Thomas; Madison Manor, Madison

Alan Thornton; Limestone Lodge
 Kathleen Wales; Limestone Manor

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Jay Baker; UAB Hospital. Birmingham
 Sadricia Wilson; Seattle, Washington

Updates:

Jay Baker had surgery on Monday night for a fusion due to the injuries sustained in the car accident early Sunday morning... **Shelia Holt** had injections in her back on Monday... **Ruby Dean Ezell** is scheduled to get her second in the series of injections in her back on Tuesday... **Mary Glenna Currier** is doing better after her case of the virus last week... **Keenon Currier** was sick with the virus last week... **Marci Bassett** has not been doing as well recently... **Shirley Miller** has been diagnosed with the virus this week... **Jewel Dean Kennemer's granddaughter, Leigh Ellen Elliott**, was diagnosed with cancer and is continuing treatments.

GAYLE BALL (1936-2022): We want to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Gayle Ball. Gayle passed away this past Monday evening at her home. Gayle has been a member of the Market Street church for many years. Gayle had always been involved in serving so many ways to encourage the work. Her first husband, Lee Woodward, served as an elder for several years in the 1990s. She married Benton Ball after Lee's passing, and they both were an encouragement to the work here. We were saddened in the recent months when Gayle was no longer able to come and worship with us. We have missed her but will long remember her for her love for the Lord, His people, and her family. Her funeral was Thursday and she was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery. May the Lord bless her family at this time.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to **Vicki Stringer** in the passing of her aunt **Christine Hudson**. She passed away last Friday and her graveside service was last Sunday afternoon at the Athens City

Cemetery. May the Lord bless Vicki and all the family at this time... We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Dan Lovell, Doris Lovell & Jeanette Weir* and *all the family* in the passing of their cousin, *Wayne Reeves*. Keep this family in your prayers.

NEW BABY: We rejoice with *Nathaniel and Laura Adams* on the birth of their baby boy, *Jack Harvell*, this past Wednesday afternoon. Jack weighed 7 lbs 13 ozs. and was 20 inches long. Jack is now at home with his parents, and his big brother, *Declan*. We look forward to getting to know Jack.

GOSPEL MEETING: The *Pepper Road church* will begin a gospel meeting on Saturday, February 19th. The meeting will continue through Wednesday, February 23rd. The speaker in this meeting will be *Larry Rouse* from *Charlottesville, Virginia*.

PICTURES MADE: Pictures are continuing to be made after services. If you need to get your picture made, go to room 22 in the east wing.

CARD WRITING: The card writing group will meet next Monday morning, February 21st, to write and mail out cards. If you would like to participate in this, please join them next Monday morning at 10:30.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES CLASS: The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible class meets each Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. The class is studying the "*The Christian in a Secular Age*."

THE RECORD: Attendance for week of February 13th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	95
	Morning Worship	120
	Evening Worship	98
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	71

Tenth Annual Singing

February 25, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Wiley Deason & Johnny Felker



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST
514 WEST MARKET STREET
ATHENS, ALABAMA

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harold Ash
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Charles Vaughn Matthew Userly
.....	Sam Gregory Luke Vaughn
Closing Prayer	Hayden Pierce

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Terry Andrews
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Harold Ash
Closing Prayer	Landon Adams
Other Assignments for the week of February 13 th :	
Ushers.....	Larry Mitchell/Heath Dollar
Work Sound System.....	Larry Holt

Wednesday, February 16th:

Song Leader	Griffin Holt
Bible Reading.....	Harold Davis
.....	(John 8:48-59)
Prayer.....	Terry Andrews
Invitation.....	David Cox
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Sunday, February 20th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Landon Adams
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Jerry Baker
Assisting	Hunter Cox
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl Heath Dollar
.....	Hayden Pierce Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Danny Holt

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Stephen Lynn
Prayer.....	Tony Thomas
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Jerry Baker
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell
Other Assignments for the week of February 20 th :	
Ushers.....	Keith Hinkle/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews