

# 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

### 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

Jerry McGlocklin.....(256) 232-7620  
Kenneth Smith.....(256) 233-2050  
Bonnie Sutton.....(256) 232-2081

### Deacons

Marty R. Adams.....(256) 233-5147  
Rusty Brand.....(256) 233-7343  
Joel Hamm.....(256) 230-6223  
Stuart Wilson.....(256) 233-6291

### Evangelists

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910  
E-mail: david.a.cox@att.net  
Warren Glass.....(256) 497-3138

**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*

Volume III

April 10, 2011

No. 15

## *Keeping Church Members Interested*

**Mark W. White**

Quite often, the complaint is made that new members are not given enough work to do to keep them interested in the church. Is this really accurate? Is that what the church is to do -- assign jobs and keep interest at a peak?

I have baptized people who were young and some who were aged. Among them, there have been all kinds of people. Some I have baptized were not completely dry from their baptism when they started talking to a close friend or relative about their own need of salvation. These new members of the church are spiritual "self-starters". They require no detailed job assignment from the Elders or the preacher. They simply do what truly converted people do: They lead someone else to Jesus.

Here is to be found the secret to real spiritual growth. The love of Christ should constrain us to speak for Him. This is what must interest us. If we are not interested in leading someone else to Christ, then being a Christian will not "hold our interest" no matter how many jobs and assignments we are given. Far too often, church members are more interested in "church work" than the simple work of making disciples.

Too many of us have a wrong-headed view of "church work" anyway. We are too narrow and limited in our view. For many Christians, "church work" is waiting on the Lord's table; ushering; counting the contribution; leading singing; leading prayer, or reading Scripture. (All of which are public assembly, male activities!) Once we have done these things we think we have done our work for the Lord! So, if a member seems to become disinterested, our solution has been to assign him to the Table more often or to be sure he leads prayer more frequently! We have even been known to reward the disinterested Christian with a Bible class to teach! Can we not see the absurdity of this?

If you have been one to lose interest and complain that, "No one gave me a job to do," please be reminded that Jesus has already assigned work for His disciples. "Go home to thy friends, and tell them what

great things the Lord hath done for thee..." (Mark 5:19). That's some job assignment! And it's guaranteed to give you plenty to do until the Lord calls us home. Our problem is that most of us do not want the job we've been given. We would rather do anything except what we are supposed to do.

Take a long, hard look at yourself. Are you losing interest? It is impossible to lose interest in the church if you are interested in Jesus. Your lack of interest in the church of Christ may bespeak your lack of interest in the Christ of the church!

-via *College View Columns*; Florence, Alabama



## *A Cross Moving On Wheels*

**Bobby L. Graham**

A few days ago as my wife and I were traveling to a nearby town, we noticed a man rather easily and briskly moving a wooden cross, which was attached to wheels. From his dress I judged him to be a modern imitation of Jesus, just as I took his cross to be an imitation of the cross on which our Savior died. As he wheeled it along rather quickly, without any visible sign of groaning or sigh from his burden, I also concluded that he had no real conception of what Jesus had done in his act of bearing his own cross.

How similar that cross was to the attempts of people today to "serve the Lord." People frequently carve out their own way and style of serving God, thinking their efforts will enjoy divine favor. It is truly amazing how humans somehow rationalize that if their efforts please them, they also please God. Why do we have such difficulty with pleasing God first in what we do and adjusting our attitude so that it then pleases us? Think of some important observations from this incident:

**Man tends to project his own will on God in an unending display of will worship/self-made religion** (Colossians 2:18-23). Both the worship of angels and neglecting of the physical body (asceticism) illustrate such attempts on man's part in the Colossians passage. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is

the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Subjective feelings are too often used as the measure of what is right, but God never elevated them to that level, did He? How could such sincere efforts be rejected by God? It might be wise to consult Nadab and Abihu, Cain, or David and Uzzah about that matter (Leviticus 10; Genesis 4; 2 Samuel 6). God has clearly demonstrated his displeasure with such human efforts.

**Man sometimes makes his demands on himself much easier than those of God are.** The cross of Jesus was an instrument of physical torture and death, not a convenience easily handled. When He demanded our taking up the cross daily, He referred to our spiritual crucifixion of self to serve Him (Luke 9:23), not to some physical imitation made comfortable by the addition of modern machinery, such as wheels. There is no way to lessen the impact of that demand or ease its burden and yet please God; there is no short-cut to dying to sin and self!

**Human substitutes are utter failures in divine service.** They show nothing of devotion to the will of the Master, but much to our own spirit of contrivance or innovation. How is that spirit able to serve the Lord? In the Bible the Lord had made known how He desires all to serve Him. Why can we not content ourselves with offering to God that which He has asked or mandated? Those willing to offer the God-appointed service please God; those who contrive their own "service/worship" serve themselves (Romans 16:18; Philippians 3:19).

-via *Stanley Avenue Church Bulletin*; Andalusia, Alabama.

## *Gospel Meeting*

May 15-19, 2011

(Sunday through Thursday)

### Schedule of Services

Sunday 9:30 a.m.; 10:45 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday- 7:00 p.m.

Jeff May, Speaking

**Market Street church of Christ**  
514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

## *Stars Still Shine*

**L. R. Hester**

Someone wrote: "Two men were walking along a country road one evening. One was bewailing world conditions. Everything was wrong -- civilization was being swept away, religion was defeated, there was no future but darkness. When the speaker paused for breath, his friend pointed to the sky and commented, 'The stars still shine'."

In this age of scientific discovery, nuclear fission, etc., accompanied by man's craze for recognition and power, human society seems to be balanced on a powder keg. Scientific minds admit the possibility of a war that would wipe out most of the populace and set the rest back many decades. In addition to this, the economic situation is highly unstable. With the world becoming more wicked daily, potential dangers of various kinds are mounting. In view of it all, the human mind is highly disturbed. Fear, perplexity, anxiety and distrust are mounting on every hand. Even in the church there is unrest. Faithfulness to the Lord's standard is made more trying by the lowering of the moral standards of world society and a pulpit policy that fails to properly indoctrinate the immersed in the fundamentals of New Testament Christianity.

Yet, "the stars still shine," and the Lord is still with His own. His message to the Christian says: *"Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for He Himself hath said, I will in no wise fail thee, neither will I in any wise forsake thee. So that with good courage we say: The Lord is my helper; I will not fear: What shall man do unto me?"* (Hebrews 13:5).

Even in this present life, our blessings far exceed our understanding; and it behooves us to "be ye thankful" (Colossians 3:15) instead of dwelling upon the unpleasant potentialities of tomorrow. Much of man's sorrow stems from his trust in material and temporal things. We can never find true and lasting security until we look to the right source; and when we do this, the things over which men worry so much will become less important to us. To the Christian - the baptized believer whose trust is in God and His Son and message - the important thing is not what he has done upon the earth, but what his state will be when

the elements have melted with fervent heat. For, as Paul wrote: "...we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). As the stars in the heaven continue to shine though the world is troubled, neither our earthly sorrows nor the removal of earth and the stars can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, while we remain faithful to the New Testament.

-via *Eastside Enlightner*; Athens, Alabama

## *Vacation Bible School*

June 13 – 16, 2011

**Market Street church of Christ**

514 West Market Street  
Athens, Alabama

# *News & Notes*

### **THE SICK:**

#### *In The Hospital:*

#### *At Home:*

Mary Will Johnston	Lona Killen
Dan Lovell	Margaret Carter
Hazel Toone	Kathleen Wales
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Bertha Johnson	Martha Rice
Jeff Waddell	Jesse Carter
Robbie Shoulders	Matt Poff
Don Bowling	Phillip Harwell
Jim Currier	Una King Currier
Randy Graviett	

#### *Athens Convalescent Center:*

Betty Bates, rm. 17

#### *Limestone Health Facility:*

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65	Rachel Grubbs, rm. 97
Gladys Sandlin, rm. 101	J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E
Rosella Pugh, rm. 74	Mary Smith, rm. 85

*Limestone Manor:*

Albert Norton, rm. 96

*Shut-In:*

Reba Adams, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74

**MILITARY SERVICE:** Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Joel Smith; Iraq

Andrew Deen; Japan

Whitney Deen; Japan

Matthew Cox; Iraq

**KATHERINE STOFFREGEN (1922 – 2011):** It is with sadness to note the passing of sister Katherine Stoffregen. She passed away early Saturday morning. Sister Stoffregen was a longtime member of the Market Street church. She grew up attending Market Street with her family. She loved the people at Market Street and was loved by all the members. Her dedication to the Lord and His church and her love for the truth is an example for all to see. May the Lord richly bless her husband, Elvin, and all the family in this time of sorrow. Her vistration will be this evening from 6:00 to 8:00. Her funeral will be Monday at 11:00a.m. at the Limestone Chapel Funeral Home.

**NURSERIES AVAILABLE:** There are two nurseries available for those who will need them. One is in the west wing and the other is in the east wing.

**WORK GROUPS:** Tonight will be the night for work group two to meet. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group this evening.

**NURSING HOME SINGING:** Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

**THE RECORD:** *For the Week of April 3rd*

<b>Sunday:</b>	Bible Classes.....	131
	Morning Worship .....	166
	Evening Worship .....	102

*Remember Our Study Periods*

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

*Come and Join Us As We Study Together*

**Men Privileged To Serve:**

**Sunday, April 10th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	Marty Adams
Song Leader .....	Tommy Burns
Prayer .....	Kenneth Smith
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Joel Hamm
Assisting .....	Wayne Vaughn
Serving .....	Marion Pepper .....
	Paul Hasting
	Bonnie Sutton.....
	Landon Adams
Closing Prayer .....	Nathaniel Adams

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	Marty Adams
Song Leader .....	Tommy Burns
Prayer .....	Hunter Cox
Preaching .....	Warren Glass
Lord's Supper .....	Wayne Vaughn
Closing Prayer .....	Jonathan Keenon

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 10th:

Usher .....	David Terry
Work Sound System .....	Danny Johnsons

**Wednesday, April 13th:**

Song Leader .....	Marion Mitchell
Bible Reading.....	(Isaiah 19:11-17)
	Will Chumbley
Prayer .....	Larry Mitchell
Invitation .....	David Cox
Closing Prayer .....	Kenneth Smith

**Sunday, April 17th:**

*Morning Worship*

Announcements .....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer .....	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching .....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding .....	Tyler Cox
Assisting .....	Kenneth Smith
Serving .....	Nathaniel Adams.....
	Mark Rogers
	Jonathan Keenon ..
	Keenon Currier
Closing Prayer .....	Marion Mitchell

*Evening Worship*

Announcements .....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader .....	Hunter Cox
Prayer .....	Larry Mitchell
Preaching .....	Marty Adams
Lord's Supper .....	Tyler Cox
Closing Prayer .....	Benton Ball

Other Assignments for Sunday, April 10th:

Usher .....	Paul Hastings
Work Sound System .....	Stuart Wilson