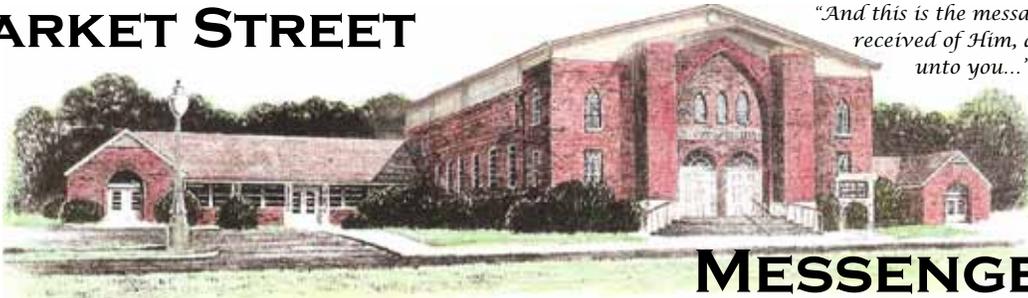


MARKET STREET

"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 X

February 11, 2018

No. 6

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship.....4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 p.m.

Elders

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 503-8843
Tommy Coblentz..... (256) 232-3312
Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton (256) 232-2081

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

Evangelists

Buc Chumbley (256) 777-1065
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

No More Walls

Buc Chumbley

“And as He passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him” (Mark 2:14).

Christ call of Levi to be one of His apostles was a bold and daring move. Levi, whom we know better as Matthew, was a tax collector. This fact alone made him loathsome to most of his countrymen. To a Jew, Levi was a traitor, a collaborator, a facilitator. He would have been viewed as someone who made peace with the enemy. But what made the call of Levi even more extraordinary was that he was picked to join a group that included a zealot by the name of Simon (Luke 6:15). It was the sworn duty of zealots to kill traitors like Levi. So why would our Lord do such a thing? Why would He bring together two men like Levi and Simon who were obviously on opposite ends of the political spectrum? I believe, to demonstrate to one and all that the kingdom of God was a dominion without walls.

Men are constantly erecting barriers between themselves and others. These walls are constructed along racial, ethnic, cultural, political, and economic lines. Whatever they may be, men are continuing building walls to separate themselves. But under the rule of Christ there are no more walls of separation. All barriers that divide men are destroyed.

In Isaiah 11:6-9, the prophet spoke about a time when natural enemies, wolves and lambs, snakes and children, would all live together in peace. The glue that would bind these former enemies together is the love that comes from Jesus Christ.

Christ takes even the most disparate groups and brings them together into one body. There is no better illustration of that great truth than what He did with Levi and Simon. If they couldn't live and work together in peace, what hope would there be for others to unite? Praise God they did!

“Where Are The Headquarters of the Church?”

Collin R. Stringer

Brooklyn, New York. Salt Lake City, Utah. Rome, Italy. These are answers that some give when asked about the location of the headquarters of the church. How would God answer?

An organizations headquarters are the center of its operations from which orders are issued. So, where is the center of operations for the Lord’s church? From where does the church receive its orders? If we answer these questions correctly, we have found the headquarters of the church.

As we go to the Bible for answers, we must understand how the word church is used. It may refer to the universal church which is the body of saved people in fellowship with Christ (Hebrews 12:23; Ephesians 5:23). It is composed of individuals, not churches, from all over who are known only to the Lord (2 Timothy 2:19). A local church, on the other hand, is a group of believers in a location who are in submission to and in fellowship with one another (Ephesians 1:1; 5:21).

When some refer to the church, they are thinking of neither the universal church nor a local church, but rather a group of local churches which is distinguished from other groups by their common name and shared beliefs. Such a church is a denomination, something foreign to God’s word. We can easily identify the headquarters of denominations. In the cities mentioned above, you can locate the center of operations for certain denominations. In these organizations leaders will legislate and pass on decisions they expect to be accepted and followed in their churches.

When we speak of the headquarters of the church in scriptural terms, though, it is the universal church that is in view. The Bible tells us how this church is organized. Read carefully: “He raised Him (Christ) from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, ... And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church ...” (Ephesians 1:20–23).

Christ alone is head of His church. He rules His people from His throne. While earthborn men wield their power and authority from denominational centers,

Christ reigns far above their ignoble dominion. Isn’t it clear that the center of operations for the Lord’s church is His throne? Since Christ has issued orders from there, the headquarters of the church cannot be on earth—it is in heaven.

Since “all things” are under Christ’s rule, men on their own have no authority. The Lord, though, has authorized elders to rule over local churches (1 Timothy 5:17). Their oversight is limited to the local church which they shepherd (1 Peter 5:2). They do not legislate for the church; they lead them as they themselves are led by Christ’s word. In His word we find no organizational hierarchy between Christ our head and the local congregation. Each local church, apart from any human institutions, is authorized to do things such as appointing their servants, ordering their worship, and controlling their finances (Acts 6:3; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Acts 11:27–30).

Not only do earthly church headquarters violate the law of Christ, but by regulating congregations they also impinge upon the privilege of the individual Christian to walk by his own faith. Paul writes, “We live for the Lord ... we are the Lord’s” and, “The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God” (Romans 14:8, 22). Each one who is the Lord’s should be living by his own faith, not by the dictates of a denominational head. The church belonging to Christ is indeed a “priesthood of believers” who get direction directly from their head through His word.

The headquarters of one denomination makes this bold claim about itself: “It is God’s sole collective channel for the flow of Biblical truth to men on earth” (The Watchtower, July 15, 1960, p. 439). Can we trust the purity of such a flow? When we debate over divisive religious issues, we may be torn and troubled as we seek to know the truth. We should find assurance in knowing that we must not wait upon the ruling of a synod or conference of an earthly headquarters to determine truth for us. We can open our own Bibles, draw our own conclusions, and then walk by our own faith—a faith arising from, and grounded in, the word that flows from our head who reigns in the heavenly headquarters of His church.

~via *Christianity Magazine*; Vol. 14 No 8; August 1999.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Fear Not! Take Courage!

Antoine N. Holloway

In Matthew 14:27, the Bible reads, "But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.'"

A storm rose quickly on the Sea of Galilee, and the disciples were afraid. Although they had seen Jesus perform many miracles, the disciples feared for their lives, so they turned to their Savior, and He calmed the waters and the wind.

Sometimes, like the disciples, we feel threatened by the inevitable storms of life. However, when we are afraid, we too can turn to Christ for courage and for comfort. Down through the centuries, in times of trouble and trial, God has brought courage to the hearts of those who love Him. The Bible is filled with assurances of God's help and comfort in every kind of trouble.

Courage is the ability to be strong in trust, in conviction, in obedience. To be courageous is to step out in faith – to trust and obey, no matter what.

Yes, there will be times when we will face disappointments and challenges that leave us worried and afraid. Nevertheless, the next time we find ourselves afraid, remember that the One who calmed the wind and the waves is also our Savior and our God. Let us seek strength from Christ. Let us remain mindful who our God is. Let us share in the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Remember that the ultimate battle has already been won at the cross of Jesus. As Christians, we can live courageously in the promises of our Lord and we should.

~via *Northside Exhorter*, Tucson, Arizona..



News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Lona Jackson

Gayle Ball

Jo Dunnavant

Paul Hasting

Elease Barksdale

Mildred Lambert

Bobbie Adcock

Doris Lovell

Ann Bush

Linda Jones

Adrian Maynard

Wanda Nave

JoAnn Gilbert

Cornelia Pepper

Jennifer Threet

Marvella Adams

Nikki Ogles

Marion Mitchell

Chuck Stiles

Cindy Glass

Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Joe Leopard

Irene Inman

Patsy Thomas

Ella Melvin

Matt Poff

Elizabeth Howard

Linda Ordonez

Cindy Walker

Gene Carpenter

Betty Christopher

Al Pollard

Phillip Harwell

Jeanette Weir

Janice Cagle

Priscilla Tucker

Bobby McLemore

Susan Cox

Everette "Bud" Dollar

Wayne Wooldridge

Brittany Bates Carter

Charles Burns

Una King Currier

Ava Brooke Campbell

Will Weir

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Larry Adcock; Crestwood Hospital - Huntsville

Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Helen Trousdale, rm. 43 Nelva Reed, rm. 61

Matty Murray, rm. 2 Dorothy Draper, rm. 73

Flossie Smith, rm. 102 Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36

Joyce Martin, rm. 73 Mable Crafts, rm. 39

Valeria Dalton, rm. 7 Christine Hudson, rm. 77

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Riverside Sr. Living, Decatur

Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor

Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville

Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison

Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle

Irene Inman, at home

William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Mildred Lambert continues to recover from her fall...
...*Tracy Hodges, Paul & Dale Adcock's daughter*, took her last treatment this week.

OUT OF TOWN: *The Bradleys: Steve & Marilyn* are in Houston, Texas.... *Jim Whitt* has been in Boston, Massachusetts this week with his work.

ELVIN STOFFREGEN (1920–2018): It is with sadness that we note the passing of *brother Elvin Stoffregen* this past Monday evening. Brother Stoffregen was a longtime member of the Market Street church. He began attending Market Street in about 1940 when he moved here to work in the CCC camp in Athens. After moving here, Elvin married *Katherine Clanton* and they were great encouragers in the work. For several years Elvin served as a deacon of the church here. He was a humble servant and loved the Market Street church. We have missed him since he moved to Tennessee a couple of months ago. May the Lord bless all the family of brother Stoffregen.

SYMPATHY: We want to express our deepest sympathy to *Barbara Carter, Angie Hinkle* and *Ruby Dean Ezell* in the passing of Barbara and Angie's aunt, Ruby Dean's cousin, *Winnie Tennison*. Winnie was a member of the O'Neal church, but had attended here in the last several years when she was able. Her funeral was Thursday morning at Spry Funeral Home and she was laid to rest in the Athens City Cemetery.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group One will be meeting after our evening service. If you are in group one, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: *Attendance for the week of Jan. 28th*

Sunday:	Bible Classes	132
	Morning Worship.....	165
	Evening Worship.....	113
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	87

Seventh Annual Singing

February 23, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Song Leaders: Jim Deason, Johnny Felker & Jeff Warnke



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

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 11th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Ashton Gatlin
Prayer.....	A. J. Price
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Terry Andrews
Assisting	Mike Ogles
Serving	Russ Wulfekuhl
	David Terry
	Keenon Currier.....
	Christian Usery
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Tommy Coblentz
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Larry Holt
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 11th:

Ushers.....	Steve Usery/Marvin Putman
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, February 14th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading	2 Timothy 1:8-18
	Marty Adams
Prayer.....	Nathaniel Adams
Invitation.....	Buc Chumbley
Closing Prayer	Keith Hinkle

Sunday, February 18th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Tyler Cox
Prayer.....	Marty Adams
Preaching.....	Buc Chumbley
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	A.J. Price
Assisting	Steve Usery
Serving	Marvin Putman
	Matthew Usery
	Roger Hammonds
	Tommy Burns
Closing Prayer	Marcus Morris

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Larry Holt
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	A. J. Price
Closing Prayer	Kenneth Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, February 18th:

Ushers.....	Christian Usery/Steve Bradley
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews