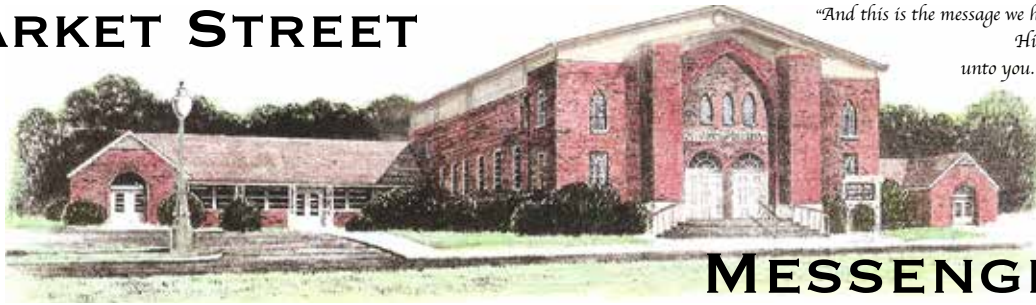


MARKET STREET



"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 XI

February 3, 2019

No. 5

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

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

Church Drama

Roger Shouse

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." (Proverbs 18:21; NKJV)

My wife and I both love books. I lean toward historical, biographical and religious books. For her, it's children's books. We have a mountain of grandchildren now and so we have been collecting all kinds of children's books. She gives children's books away as presents.

I used to read nearly every night to my kids when they were little. One series of books that I have been introduced to recently is the Lama, Lama books. The titles all rhyme and the story features lamas. The book this season was "Lama, Lama, holiday drama." The lama kids were caught up in all sorts of holiday drama.

I wish there was another version of that book. I'd like to see, "Lama, lama, church drama," because there certainly seems to be a lot of that going around these days. Hurt feelings. Misunderstandings. Mad at one another. Walking away from others without talking. Suspicion. Accusing. Blaming innocent people for things others have done.

It's the everyone getting along and fitting in and taken care of that can be some of the greatest challenges for a church. What you do for one isn't the right thing for the other. With some, you nearly have to bust a board over their head to get their attention. For others, slightly raising your voice and they go into orbit and are ready to quit. Lama, lama, all this church drama!

Our verse helps today. What we say matters. How we say things matter. Believing you can say anything, no matter how cruel or hurtful it may be, and then hide behind, "Well, I just told him the truth" isn't good.

No. You did more than that. You nearly killed him. The passage today says, "Death is in the power of the tongue." You can kill someone's hope, spirit and enthusiasm with the very choice of words you use. You killed them. Our verse also says, "Life is in the power of the tongue." Hope, optimism, life, chance, encouragement, love, forgiveness – those are all within reach with the proper words.

Here are a few things I've learned:

First, some people are just going to say anything. They are going to speak their minds. No filters. No consideration of the circumstances or the location. No thought as to how those words may be received. Out it comes and once they have spoken what they want, they are done. People can ask the most personal, none-of-your-business questions. They can rip you up one side and then down the other. They can be insensitive, indifferent and uncaring to you and your family. People say things that they shouldn't. That hasn't changed with time. That's not new to this generation and it didn't die with the last generation. Our verse reminds us that some speak the words of death. Why? Who knows. Should they? No. But they are going to do it anyway. Few understand that what comes out of our heart is something that we will be judged for. We can't destroy someone with our words and expect that God doesn't notice. How we treat one another is a reflection of how God will treat us. You can't be right with God and wrong with your fellow man, especially your brother or sister in Christ.

People are going to say things. They are going to tell you what they think you need to do. They are going to tell you where you ought to eat, vacation, buy a house, the kind of pet you need to have and all sorts of things. When you do something that wasn't on their list, you'll hear about it. They will tell you what a mistake you made. They will tell you horror stories about others who made dumb choices, as they believe you have. Some will drop verbal bombs that are just powerful enough to ruin your day. Mean things. Hateful things. Cruel things. Little comments, just loud enough for you to hear. They hurt. They create drama. How do I know these things? I've had missiles launched my direction for a long time. Stuff about my preaching, my family, where I live, how I dress, what I read, what I ought to be doing. The list is a mile long. It's enough to make you want to stay in bed, with the covers pulled over your head. It's all it takes for a first class drama.

Second, you have to let things go. That's the secret. In a perfect world, folks wouldn't say things that they shouldn't. But this world isn't perfect. Things will be said. Now, once they are out there, then it becomes my choice as to what I do with it. Do I build drama and make a big mess of these things? Do I fire more hurtful words back? Do I tell my little circle of friends how I am being mistreated? Do I throw logs upon the fires of drama? Or, like Jesus when things were said to Him, I don't reply.

I know the truth. God knows the truth. I can feel

compelled to tell others and defend myself, or I can just let it go. That's hard. Our blood boils when someone says mean things about us. We feel that we have to get even, get back or at least do something. It's at that point that the curtain rises and the drama begins. We can sing the Disney Frozen song, "Let it go," but we certainly have a hard time actually doing that. We store those words in our hearts. We remember. We distance ourselves from "those people." And, the drama builds. We watch them with a critical eye. One wrong step and we have them. Our radar gun is always pointed at them. If there are get togethers, we find out in advance if our drama queens are going to be there. If so, we won't. And the drama continues.

How do you kill church drama? Don't be a part of it. People will say things they shouldn't. Let it go. Don't hold it against them. Don't be so critical and stop expecting everyone else to be perfect, you are not. Kill the drama. Realize drama may sell books, make great plots for TV shows, but it's no way for Christians to act. Love all. Forgive all. Include all. Help all.

And, finally, we must watch what we say. You don't have to express your opinion about everything you see. You do not have to attend every argument that you are invited to. Someone walks in Sunday morning with pink hair. Keep a lid on your thoughts. Here comes someone late, again. Be careful. Here comes someone that the fashion police would arrest. Don't say it!

Solomon says there is a time to speak and a time to be silent. This doesn't mean turning a blind eye to sinful and wrong things. But even there, help, don't destroy. Encourage. But so much of the drama comes from commenting on who is dating who and who is sitting where and who is wearing what.

Somehow all the lamas work out their problems by the end of the book. They do, every time. Sure wish we could work out all of our drama by the end of services. Maybe we could, if we really worked at it.

~via *The Sower*; Harvest, Alabama.



February Ladies' Bible Study At Ida Nell Griffin's house

Monday, February 4th at 6:00 p.m.

True Giving

Drew Edwards

In Mark 12:41-44, we read the familiar account of the widow casting her two mites into the treasury, as observed by the Lord. We get the idea that as Jesus sat down to observe the multitude in their giving, He did so discreetly. This is reinforced by verse 43, where He calls His disciples over to Him for this private teaching session on true values.

Before we comment on this actual event, let's set the stage. It is Tuesday during "Passion Week" (what Bible students have come to call the last week of the Lord's life on earth). Jesus had just finished His public discourse about the scribes and their religious pretense, their proud posturing at banquets, and their unscrupulous devouring of widows' livelihoods (vv.38-40). These were but a few of the many warnings Jesus issued about the Jewish leadership during that week. However, what occurred at the treasury afforded Jesus an opportunity to teach on what is true giving.

Many have always interpreted the widow's gift as "more" because she gave a larger percentage than did the rich. I doubt that is the point the Lord was making in His observation to His disciples. Rather, it seems best to say He was discussing one's attitude in giving to God. Since He is God, He knew the hearts of all men (John 2:25). How else would He have known the amounts of what was being given? He says the others "put in out of their surplus" (v. 44). What this means is they were giving to God out of what they didn't need; it was excess, savings. The poor widow, by contrast, gave out of "her poverty...out of all she had to live on" (v. 44). She gave what was needed for her to live. This was true sacrifice!

Surely we can see the glaring contrast. It wasn't about the money – all she gave was 1/64 of a day's wage. It was about giving one's self to God, wholly and completely. This was the same attitude possessed by the saints in Macedonia. In their poverty they contributed to the poor saints in Jerusalem. How? Because "they first gave themselves to God" (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

As the old saying goes, God doesn't want the leftovers. He doesn't even need our money. What He wants is you to give yourself to Him, to submit your will to His will. That is the essence of true giving.

~via *The Proclaimer*; Phil Campbell, Alabama.



News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Pat Nixon
Phillip Vaughn
Jared Dorne'
Scottie Reed
JoAnn Gilbert
Bobbie Adcock
Dawn Gentry

Mike Ogles
Arvid McGuire
Wayne Vaughn
Loretta Warner
Doris Lovell
Ann Bush

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Lona Jackson
Janice Cagle
Patsy Thomas
Marvin Putman
Al Pollard
Cindy Glass
Susan Cox
Cindy Walker
Wayne Wooldridge
Matt Poff

Paul Hasting
Jeanette Weir
Ella Melvin
Cornelia Pepper
Charles Burns
Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter
Phillip Harwell
Kenneth Fisher

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

Mildred Lambert; Athens-Limestone Hosp., rm. 220
Paul Hasting; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 1658
Dean Holt; Huntsville Hospital
Norman Hamm; Millenium Rehab - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Mattie Murray, rm. 2
Evelyn Hogan, 36
Joyce Martin, 63

Christine Hudson, 77
Dorothy Draper, 73
Valeria Dalton, 7

Limestone Health Facility:

Betty Harrison, rm. 94

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at City Center, 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
Betty Harrison, Traditions Assisted Living
Irene Inman, at home
Virginia Meyer, Traditions Assisted Living
Stan Stanford, at home
William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison
Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Carl Hargrave fell last week and has not been able to bounce back. His health is declining and Hospice is attending to him... **Paul Hasting** was transferred Thursday night to Huntsville Hospital due to pneumonia... **Phillip Vaughn** had cataract surgery done this past Tuesday... **Beverly Sutton** had MRI's done this past week... **Patsy Thomas** continues to suffer with the shingles... **Betty Harrison** moved to the Limestone Health Facility for rehabilitation following surgery for her broken hip.

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.

OUT OF TOWN: **Shelia Holt** has been in Chicago, Illinois this past week with her work... **Steve Bradley** continues to be in Texas for several more days... **Joe Hinkle** has gone to Port St. Lucie, Florida to visit with family.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Jan. 27th

Sunday: Bible Classes 139
Morning Worship 175
Evening Worship 135
Wednesday: Bible Classes 87

Eighth Annual Singing

February 22, 2019 – 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 3rd:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Albert Haraway
Assisting Keith Hinkle
Serving Matthew Usery..... Kenneth Adams
..... Heath Dollar Christian Usery
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Terry Andrews
Song Leader Bob Broadus
Prayer..... Larry Holt
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper Albert Haraway
Closing Prayer Steve Usery

Other Assignments for the week of February 3rd:

Ushers..... Dwaine Allfrey/Danny Holt
Work Sound System..... Landon Adams

Wednesday, February 6th:

Song Leader Tony Thomas
Bible Reading Danny Johnson
..... Mark 12:38-44
Prayer..... Larry Tucker
Invitation Russell Melvin
Closing Prayer Harvey Nixon

Sunday, February 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tommy Burns
Prayer..... Tommy Coblenz
Preaching..... David Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding..... Marty Adams
Assisting Mike Ogles
Serving Danny Holt Marvin Putman
..... Russ Wulfekuhl Clayton Hamm
Closing Prayer Arvid McGuire

Evening Worship

Announcements..... Joel Hamm
Song Leader Tony Thomas
Prayer..... Kenneth Adams
Preaching David Cox
Lord's Supper Mike Ogles
Closing Prayer Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for the week of February 10th:

Ushers..... Steve Usery/Keith Hinkle
Work Sound System..... Terry Andrews