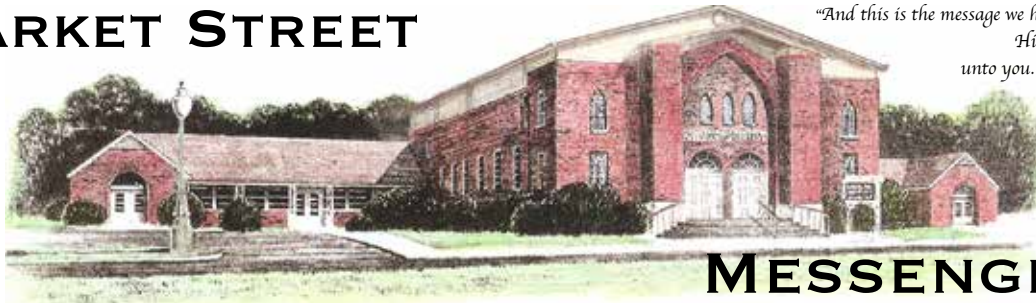


MARKET STREET



“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

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‘We Walk Toward the Messes’

Terry Francis

Andy Stanley’s book “Deep & Wide” focuses on the idea of reaching out to the unchurched people of our culture. In his book, Stanley shares a quote from one of the other staff members of the church where he labors named John Hambrick: “We walk toward the messes.”

The context of the quote is in a discussion of grace and truth. Some churches are extremists committed to truth and overlook grace. Others are extremists who are so committed to grace they abandon the truth. A church committed to trying to balance both grace and truth enter into what Stanley describes as a “third sea of complexity” which he describes as “gloriously messy.” And that’s when Stanley shares Hambrick’s quote: *‘We Walk Toward The Messes’*.

I grew up in a church that didn’t walk toward the messes. And I have worked with churches that didn’t walk toward the messes. They didn’t want to. Early in my work in a discussion on evangelism, one member loudly proclaimed in class, “Those people don’t want to learn the truth!” In another discussion years later at a different work, one church leader asked, “Where are *these* people coming from?” in a very derogatory way. It was quite clear that “*these* people” weren’t welcome.

What I found interesting is that both of these mindsets were contrary to what Jesus did. He ate and spent time with *these* people. In fact, that was one of the greatest complaints that the religious elite had about Jesus. He spent too much time with the dregs of their society (Luke 15:1-2; Matthew 9:9-13). Jesus walked toward the messes.

Why did He do that? Perhaps it’s because He “came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10).

And guess what? The lost are messy. Sometimes they are real messy. But here is the best part of this – Jesus can take that mess and turn them into a saint who reflects His glory. And we play a tremendous part in that as His disciples. We walk toward the messes. Not so we can justify their mess. Not so they can stay messy. But because we know the secret that

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 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..... a(256) 230-0185
Marcus Morris.....(256) 232-8871
Russ Wulfekuhl.....(256) 683-9396

Evangelist

David A. Cox.....(256) 233-8910
Cell: (256) 614-3757

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MarketStreet-church.com

MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

can take the mess away. We know the Gospel.

Walk toward the messes. That's what Jesus did. We should, too.

~via *Tidewater Bulletin*; Chesapeake, Virginia.



Vision

Ken Weliever

A preacher was trying out for a church. They spent a weekend together and on Sunday night had a business meeting for people to ask questions. Someone asked, "If we hire you, what is the #1 thing you will do to help us grow?"

"I promise if you hire me I will do everything within my power to bring this church into the 20th century," the preacher replied.

Sheepishly, after a thoughtful pause, one member raised their hand and said, "Preacher, you mean the 21st century, don't you?"

"Let's just take one century at a time," the preacher responded.

Too many churches and Christians are living in the past. They fail to see the possibilities and what they can achieve for the Lord. They lose sight of who they are, what they're about, and where they're headed.

Have you ever wondered why some people get so bogged down the problems of the present, that they lose sight of the future? That they can't seem to see a brighter day? Or why Christians who ought to know better will sell their soul for something cheap, trivial and even tawdry?

And yet others have the capacity to remain strong. Stay focused. Keep their eyes on the spiritual goal. And see a brighter day.

Why?

One difference is in vision. People of vision are people of faith. Hope. And action. Spiritually speaking, visionary Christians can see beyond the troubles, trials

and temptations of this life and see a better home. A better body. And a better life.

In 2 Corinthians 12 the apostle Paul who had experienced a miraculous vision on the Damascus road and literally had a "Jesus moment," is now allowed to get a glimpse into the heavenly land. Unlike John who later is allowed to symbolically write about the glory, grandeur, and greatness of heaven, Paul doesn't reveal what he saw. But you get the feeling it was spectacular.

Interestingly, he immediately begins to relate the issue of his "thorn in the flesh." A physical infirmity for which he prayed three times for its removal. The Lord's answer? "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."

Paul's response was not one of whining, complaining or self-pity. But rather of confidence in God's assurance. Thus, he proclaimed, "Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

Too often we rationalize our lack of spiritual progress to some perceived limitation, affliction, or circumstance. But, maybe God is saying, "My grace is sufficient."

When Churches and Christians find themselves mired in apathy, indifference, indecisiveness or frivolous pursuits, they need to restore their focus. With vision toward our heavenly home, we can overcome any challenge, conquer any foe, and defeat the devil with his devious devices.

Vision needs to be focused in the right direction. The late Jewish writer Stephen Samuel Wise expressed it this way: "Vision looks inward and becomes a duty. Vision looks outward and becomes an aspiration. Vision looks upward and becomes faith."

When our spiritual vision is blurred, our faith is dimmed, our hope is diminished, and our work for the Lord declines. When we lose sight of our mission and ministry, in our myopic condition we become dismayed, discouraged and depressed.

Helen Keller was right, when she responded to the question, "What would be worse than being born blind?" Quickly she replied, "To have sight, but no vision."

Open your eyes to God. His will. His Word. Get a

good look at the heavenly home prepared for the faithful. And with renewed vigor and restored vision reclaim your spiritual purpose.

~via *Preacher*, Homosassa, Florida.

News & Notes...

THE SICK:

Lenna Ruth Bates	Angela Vaughn
Beverly Sutton	Loretta Warner
Alvis McLemore	Bobbie Adcock
Doris Lovell	Yvonne Strickland
Sue Taylor	Ann Bush
Lloyd Adams	

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Donna Wright	Freddie Mae Elmore
Nikki Ogles	Anita Wheeler
Lona Jackson	Janice Cagle
Judy Vaughn	Ella Melvin
Jeanette Weir	Cornelia Pepper
Wayne Wooldridge	Cindy Walker
Kenneth Fisher	Al Pollard
Charles Burns	David Collier
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Matt Poff	Gene Carpenter
Brittany Bates Carter	Denny Smith
Carrie Warner	

In The Hospital/Rehabilitation:

JoAnn Gilbert; Athens-Limestone Hospital, rm. 319

Dwaine Alfrey; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 496

Norman Hamm; Millenium - Huntsville

Athens Health & Rehabilitation:

Alvis McLemore, rm. 107	Flossie Smith, rm. 120
Mattie Murray, rm. 2	Valeria Dalton, rm. 7
Dorothy Draper, rm. 73	Brenda Wilson, rm. 73
Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36	Christine Hudson, rm. 77
Ann Bush, no visitors	

Limestone Health Facility:

Robert Beasley, rm. 110 Mot Beasley, rm. 110

Alice Roberson, rm. 49

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Deanie Britton, Limestone Lodge

Frances Bowers, Limestone Manor

Gwen Bullock, at granddaughter's in Huntsville
Mary Ruth Gardner, at Merrill Gardens, Madison
Bettye Harrison, Traditions

Irene Inman, at home

Virginia Meyer, Shepherd Living, Madison

Stan Stanford, at home

William Thomas, Madison Manor, Madison

Kathleen Wales, Limestone Manor

Updates:

Lenna Ruth Bates is at home and hospice is working with her. She is very low... *JoAnn Gilbert* had gall bladder surgery on Saturday at Athens-Limestone Hospital. She hopes to go home today... *Larry Mitchell* has three blockages that will require surgery. He scheduled to have a MRI done on Tuesday... *Angela Vaughn* suffered two fractures in wrist and is wearing a brace and will return to the doctor in a couple of weeks... *Alvis McLemore* was able to return home from rehab this week... *Donna Wright* is to began her immuni-therapy on Tuesday and will have another treatment next week... *Kim Rogers neice, Carrie Warner*, will begin treatments for cervical cancer this week. She will have 30 radiation treatments and 12 chemo-therapy treatment.

BENEVOLENCE TO THE BAHAMAS: Last Sunday, the church here collected \$8373 to send to the church in Nassau, Bahamas. This money will help to relieve the brethren there in the financial burdens due to the devastation of hurricane Dorian. It speaks well of the church here as they demonstrate once again their compassion in caring for others in times of distress. May the Lord bless our brethren.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesday evening at 5:30 at the Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care.

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS: The *Men's Bible Class* next meeting will be *October 14th* at 7:00 in the East Auditorium. We will be studying "*Eternity and Today*."

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* will meet tomorrow evening, *October 7th* at *Ida Nell Griffin's* house. They will be studying lesson 8 in "*Lord, Teach Us To Pray*."

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS: The *Ladies Bible Class* that meets on Tuesday morning will began meeting again this past Tuesday morning in the West Auditorium. They will be studying "*Angels*". On the second Tuesday morning of the month the class meets at the Limestone Manor.

GOSPELMEETINGS: The *Oneal church* is scheduled

to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Mitchell Dalrymple*...The **Somerville Road church** in Decatur is scheduled to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Lowell Sallee*...The **Hillsboro Heights church** in Moulton is scheduled to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Friday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Leon Mauldin*...The **Highway 157 church** in Cullman is scheduled to begin a gospel meeting today and it will continue through Wednesday. The speaker in this meeting will be *Alan Yeater*.

AWAY AT SCHOOL: Remember our young people who are continuing their education in college:
Keenon Currier, Auburn University
Clayton Hamm, University of North Alabama
Griffin Holt, University of Alabama
Elizabeth Usery, Mississippi State University
Matthew Usery, University of North Alabama

OUT OF TOWN: *James Adams* was in Florida last weekend...*Bonita Dollar* has been at the Gulf on vacation...*The Adams: Nathaniel, Laura & Declan* were in Tuscaloosa last weekend...*The Gregorys: Sam, Taylor, Cara Blake & Weston* are in Georgia this weekend...*The Hinkles: Keith & Angie* are out of town this weekend...*The Adams: Landon & Lynsey* are back home after their honeymoon...*The Adcocks: Paul & Dale* have been out of town on vacation...*Joe Hinkle* is in Florida visiting with family...*The Coxes: David & Kerry* are in Franklin county where David is beginning a meeting at the *Posey church*.

WORKGROUPS: Work Group Two will be meeting after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of Sept. 29th:

Sunday:	Bible Classes	133
	Morning Worship	174
	Evening Worship	121
Wednesday:	Bible Classes	106



Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, October 6th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer.....	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching.....	Albert Haraway
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Harvey Nixon
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Heath Dollar Roger Hammonds
.....	Sam Gregory Harold Davis
Closing Prayer	Tommy Burns

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tony Thomas
Prayer.....	Kenneth Adams
Preaching.....	Joel Hamm
Lord's Supper	Harvey Nixon
Closing Prayer	Larry Holt

Other Assignments for the week of October 6th:

Ushers.....	Keith Hinkle/Steve Bradley
Work Sound System.....	Landon Adams

Wednesday, October 9th:

Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Bible Reading	Clayton Hamm
.....	Hebrews 1:1-14
Prayer.....	Keith Hinkle
Invitation	Bob Broadus
Closing Prayer	Larry Holt

Sunday, October 13th:

Morning Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Albert Haraway
Prayer.....	Larry Tucker
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding.....	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Larry Holt
Serving	Will Chumbley..... Tim Griswold
.....	Roger Hammonds .. Danny Johnson
Closing Prayer	Steve Usery

Evening Worship

Announcements.....	Joel Hamm
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer.....	Jerry McGlocklin
Preaching.....	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Keith Hinkle
Closing Prayer	Bob Broadus

Other Assignments for the week of October 13th:

Ushers.....	Marvin Putman/Russ Wulfekuhl
Work Sound System.....	Terry Andrews