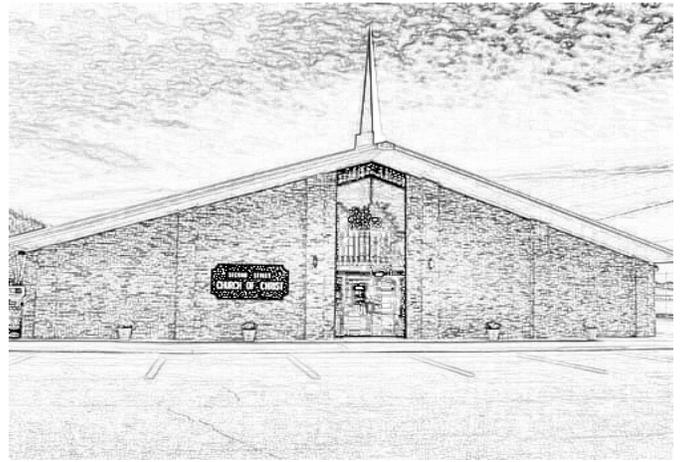


# Second Street Church of Christ



April 17, 2016

## Encouraging Words!

### MINISTER

Adam Cozort

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### Office

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### SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class....9:00am  
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am  
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm  
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:3*

A group of frogs were traveling through the woods, and two of them fell into a deep pit. All the other frogs gathered around the pit. When they saw how deep the pit was, they told the unfortunate frogs they would never get out. The two frogs ignored the comments and tried to jump up out of the pit. The other frogs kept telling them to stop, that they were as good as dead.

Finally, one of the frogs took heed to what the other frogs were saying and simply gave up. He fell down and died. The other frog continued to jump as hard as he could. Once again, the crowd of frogs yelled at him to stop the pain and suffering and just die. He jumped even harder and finally made it out.

When he got out, the other frogs asked him, "Why did you continue jumping? Didn't you hear us?" The frog explained to them that he was deaf. He thought they were encouraging him the entire time!

This story teaches us two very powerful lessons:

- 1) There is power of life and death in the tongue (Proverbs 18:21) – An encouraging word to someone who is down can lift them up and help them make it through the day.
- 2) A destructive word to someone who is down can be what it takes to kill them (Proverbs 12:6) – Let's be careful of what we say! Speak life to those who cross our path! The power of words ... it is sometimes hard to understand that an encouraging word can go such a long way. Anyone can speak words that tend to rob another of the spirit to continue in difficult times.

Special is the individual who will take the time to encourage another. We desperately need this kind of individual in the church of our Lord today. We need more Christians like Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement" – Acts 4:36) to help build up and encourage others in the work of the Lord's church.

Brethren, may we always be an encouragement to others! May our lips speak words of encouragement instead of disparaging words. My prayer is that you will send this story to someone you would like to encourage today!

*Mike Riley  
via Chapman church of Christ  
Ripley, MS*

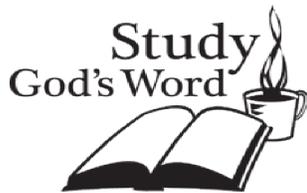
*Bulletin Digest*

# Announcements

**Welcome Visitors!!** You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

**The sign-up sheet** to host a singing and fellowship night is posted on the board in the foyer.

**Jim Bryant** is with us today. Adam is in a meeting in Okolona this week. Welcome Jim!



Trays for April

Shea Cozort

Trays for May

Michelle Holcomb



## Criticism without all the facts

An undeniable certainty is that humans will complain.

When we get angry we whine, gripe and rant to anyone who will listen. Our fingers run to social media to trumpet the injustice to the world. It's a disease as old as time (Genesis 3:9-13).

Victimhood is the easiest garment to wear because it feels so warm and comfortable. It molds to our shape and empowers us to boldness. It assails and flays anyone who wrongs us in any conceivable way.

Sadly, though, rationality and full disclosure aren't required. Usually, the loudest complaints are from the least informed.

Parents make decisions that upset their children. But the parents possess information and experience that their offspring don't have. Furthermore, employees likely don't have all the information that their employer has at their disposal.

Presidents make decisions stemming from classified information. We don't know all the deals, alliances and repercussions of national defense or security decisions. We just have to hope they're wisely made.

Leaders in a congregation will take a sound course of action based on a variety of factors and future plans that they're not yet ready to announce. So when the members start griping it's because they don't know the bigger picture.

Of course, we do the same with God. When we pray we want immediate action. Yet, God has countless factors to work through as he accomplishes his will. Providence is the most complex thing in the universe.

We need to have faith in the Lord (Hebrews 11:6). With humanity, we sometimes need to reserve judgment and try to see things from another person's perspective. Thankfully, not everyone is going to think like we do.

We need to be content with more things (Philippians 4:11) and realize that we can't force the entire world to conform to our preferences.

Humble wisdom is the only way we will learn to think properly so we can see the bigger picture. The world is more complex than many realize. Sadly, nothing is more self-confident than ignorance.

# Character

John said, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3 John 1:4). Holy conduct will bring genuine joy. John rejoiced that many of his converts were walking a holy life and his rejoicing gives us two good lessons.

First, the source of joy. Every parent who has sent a child to school knows what a delight it is to hear that his or her child is honest and well-behaved. In some ways, honesty, promptness, courtesy, and respect for authority are just as important as grades. Happiness comes from holiness (Matthew 5:8). Sin says happiness comes from sinning not saintliness. But as every sinner soon learns, that is a Devil’s lie.

Second, the stigma of truth. If you want to be happy you walk in the truth. None of us likes to be demoted and forsaken, but walking in the truth is not popular. Hardly anyone will help or encourage you. Sometimes even Christians are no help with walking in the truth because too many try to live a double life. Walking in the truth can be very dividing. If you want to be upright, many of your friends will part company with you (2 Timothy 4:10).

In short, holiness costs! It will cost you friends, positions, and possessions — but not real joy.

*Kyle Campbell*  
*via University church of Christ*  
*Auburn, AL*

*Bulletin Digest*

# Good News and Bad News

There is a lot of bad news out there, as mirrored on TV and the internet. The stock market is in trouble, thousands of American jobs are on the line, and threats of terrorism are shadows in the background. And then there are our own personal pain and problems to contend with. Financial, physical, medical, and relationship problems touch every one of us from time to time. The bad news is, bad news will always be here as long as this earth exists.

But the good news is, God’s good news lasts FOREVER! We are told to rejoice in the Lord always! (Phil. 4:4). The good news takes care of life’s biggest problem: sin and its terrible results. The good news gives us hope, the promise of eternal joy, a pure purpose, and a rewarding relationship with God our Savior. The good news of God’s grace enables us to overcome all the bad news that the world and the devil can throw at us. So be encouraged. God’s good news is victorious over bad news!

*via Shinnston church of Christ*  
*Shinnston, WV*

*Bulletin Digest*

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**      **9:00am**  
**Worship**          **10:00am**  
**Evening**          **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

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Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**Psalms 133:1**

The process for becoming a Christian  
is the same as it was over 2000 years  
ago! To become a Christian, one must:

*Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17*

*Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6*

*Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3*

*Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10*

*Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38*

*Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10*

None of these alone will make you a  
Christian. These commands are from  
God and must be obeyed from the  
heart to become a Christian.

### Prayer List



Paula Wanner	Matthew Horton
Joey Pierce	Cathy Harrison
Troy Yarbrough	Phillip Pharr
Pete Wooten	Brenda Leatherwood
Barbara Blackman	Stephanie Moore
Cathy Alexander	Jeanie Ivy
Gerald Nunley	Lauren Chase
John Tate	Lou Dodson
Mike Braden	Elton Bruton
Dana Clayton	Jo Vandagriff
Sammy Green	Allison Heitzman
Marie Azzinaro	



### April Birthdays

### April Anniversaries

*James & Bonnie 4/15*

*John & Betty 4/17*

### Sympathy