



LET'S VISIT

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THE FAMILY OF GOD

In Ephesians 3:14-15, Paul would write, *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."* God is the Father and Christ is the Son in this spiritual family. In the letter to the churches of Galatia, he would write, *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."* (Galatians 3:26)

One of the sad things about the church of the 21st century is that we seem to have lost this concept of being a family. We often treat the church like it is a service club such as the Lions Club or the Rotary Club. Or we think it is a country club where we have certain privileges but no responsibilities. Then again, we often treat the church like we do our politics.

This idea of "family" is one of the major themes of the Bible. All throughout the Bible, God has a group of people who are His people. His family. They are set apart and protected by God.

God is pictured to us as a loving father, a father who wants to bless and care for His children. God has grafted me into the family tree of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When I was baptized into Christ, I became a child of Abraham, an heir according to promise. Because I submitted myself to the kingship of Jesus, He gave me the right to become God's child and call God my Father.

In Christ, the family story of the Bible is my family story. I'm getting the opportunity to live out that family story with the church every day of my life. And I am overwhelmed with gratitude that God has allowed me to be part of His people, to have a seat at His banquet table, to be a citizen of His heavenly kingdom and to share in the inheritance He is giving to His people.

That is what it means to be part of the church and that is why I am thankful.



We need to be sure to realize that the church is a family and treat it as such. We are to love each other and we are to care for each other.

We need to remember the words of the song we sing at the beginning of our Worship each Lord's day, "The Family of God"...by Bill Gaither. As we sing that song to begin our period of worship, listen carefully to the words, take them to heart and rejoice that we are a part of God's Family.

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In Search of the Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSHV 45 -Shreveport - 7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 - 6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Jesus And The Skeptical

**For The Pantry. . .
April 6 – Macaroni & Cheese**

Offering – March 30, 2025 . . \$ 1,761.00

The Lord's plan of giving ... "as ye have prospered"

I WANT AND I CAN. . .

I WANT the congregation to radiate a wholesome influence in the community, therefore I can and I will set an example of a wholesome life.

I WANT the strangers who visit the service to feel welcome, therefore, I can and I will put forth a big effort to be friendly toward all.

I WANT the leaders of the church to have the support and appreciation of the congregation, therefore I can and I will assure them of my cooperation in all the works that are planned.

I WANT the congregation to grow, therefore I can and I will dedicate myself to the high task of winning souls.

I WANT the congregation to thrive in its love for Christ and others, therefore, I can and I will joyfully demonstrate my love for Christ and all my associates.

I WANT the congregation to meet all of its financial obligations promptly, therefore, I can and I will give my money regularly and generously.

I WANT the congregation to have better attendance in Bible Study and worship, therefore I can and I will make both periods a part of my program each Lord's Day.

Am I willing to do these things?

Things Work Out!

Because it rains when we wish it wouldn't,
Because men do what they often shouldn't.
Because crops fail, and plans go wrong,
Some of us grumble all day long.
But somehow, in spite of the care and doubt,
It seems at the last that things work out.

Because we lose where we hoped to gain,
Because we suffer a little pain,
Because we must work when we'd like to play
Some of us whimper along life's way,
But somehow, as day always follows the night,
Most of our troubles work out all right.

Because we cannot forever smile,
Because we must trudge in the dust awhile,
Because we think that the way is long,
Some of them whimper that life's all wrong,
But somehow we live and our sky grows bright,
And everything seems to work out all right.

So bend to your trouble and meet your care,
For the clouds must break, and the sky grow fair,
Let the rain come down, as it must and will,
But keep on working and hoping still.
For in spite of the grumblers who stand about,
Somehow, it seems, all things work out.

-Edgar A. Guest

On The Lighter Side. . .





Area-Wide Singing And Gospel Meeting

April 25th, 26th and 27th

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR – NOW!

Area-wide Singing-Friday, April 25th - 7:00 P.M.

Refreshments following the singing

Gospel Preaching –Saturday April 26th - 7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Luncheon following Sunday Morning Worship.

Phil Sanders, Guest Speaker

Norma Perkins, Sarah Fletcher, Jana O'Brien, Melonia Molloy and Marsha Bounds are in charge of the Hospitality for both the singing on Friday night and the Luncheon on Sunday.

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Communion Preparation for April Isaiah & Amanda Molloy



Wednesday FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Our next Wednesday Fellowship meal will be on Wednesday, April 30th. Make your plans to be here and meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 for our meal together followed by our monthly singing.

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GOSPEL MEETING – San Augustine Church of Christ, April 6th – 9th 2025. Services at 7:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. Dan Manuel from Palestine, Texas will be doing the preaching.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING – April 13, 2025 immediately following the morning worship in the church offices. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

OUR "CHURCH FAMILY"

Cissy Amos, LaJuan Baugh, Martha Jean Golden, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Tami Abernathy (friend of Isaiah & Amanda Molloy hospitalized) **Richard Barbee** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) **David Bissett** (Mike O'Brien's brother in law, cancer) **Dwayne Brister** (Cissy Amos' cousin) **Jane Adams Burkhalter** (Diedra Hughes' cousin) **Debra Clifton** (friend of LaResa Livingston) **Coleen Dickerson** (friend of Cissy Amos with leukemia) **Leta Dozier** (Ryan Perkins' grandmother) **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Joyce Fontenot** (Debra Pate's mother) **Emily Heflin** (Mike Bostick's niece recovering from surgery) **Suzi Hogan** (Mike Bostick's sister-in-law) **Wynell Lawson** (Diedra Hughes' aunt) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Norma Magby** (Melonie Bradshaw's mother) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle); **Heather Simmons Stewart** (Friend of Cissy Amos) cancer; **J. C. Tate** (Jana O'Brien's father)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE

Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Andrew Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw, Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER!

Make a note of the dates of these activities on the Calendar for 2025.

June 1, 2025 – Covered Dish Luncheon

September 7, 2025 – Friends & Family Day

December 7, 2025 – No Excuse Sunday

December 21, 2025 – Annual Christmas Party

PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!



Across The Preacher's Desk

Just for a moment, ponder the message of the following passages of scripture. Matthew 12:36-37, "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Ephesians 4:29-30, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."

By our words we express our ideas and thoughts. With words we can hurt, discourage, anger, stir up strife and crush the spirits of those around us. Conversely, we can cheer, enlighten, encourage, uplift and calm others by our words also.

We can speak a language that is pure and pleasing in the sight of God and unquestionable in the sight of men, or we can corrupt that language until it damns our soul. Stop and think!

Do my words justify or condemn me? Is my speech pure and clean or is it distasteful in the sight of God and man? Let us strive to speak in a manner that is becoming to Christians and uplifting to those we associate with daily.

it's something to think about.....tlp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
55 in '25!**