



JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST  
*Family Matters*

April 2, 2023

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George Clark  
Nate Crowden  
Greg Dowdy  
Charlie Kluesner  
Doug Lester  
Brian Mitchell  
Todd Newman  
Kenny Simmons  
Scott Spraggs

*Lessons for Today*

**AM: Brian Mitchell**  
"Understanding How the Church Grows—Encouragement"  
Romans 1:8-9

**PM: Brian Mitchell**  
"Stewards of the Mysteries of God"  
1 Corinthians 4:1-5

**Understanding How the Church Grows—Encouragement**

Have you ever been spiritually discouraged? If you have ever failed at something or seen the failures of others; it is likely that you would answer yes to this question. The fact is that we all get discouraged from time to time and for various reasons.

Sometimes we get discouraged by our own mistakes. There are times when we set out to do something good and our plans backfire. There are times in the church that we try to launch out and do something which we have never done before and then feel like we messed everything up and made ourselves feel like failures. The point is that when you try to do things, especially new things, you are going to mess up and make some mistakes. The problem with our own failures is that they sometimes cause us to become discouraged and discouragement sometimes causes us to give up and think why bother.

Other times we get discouraged by the mistakes of others. Sometimes we get discouraged because of the hypocrisy we see in the lives of other Christians. Sometimes we get discouraged because we see people make commitments to the Lord and then not follow through on them. Sometimes we get discouraged because people just don't seem to be getting involved as they should in the Lord's work. Thus, if it is not our own failures that discourage us spiritually, it is at times the failures and shortcomings of others that do the trick.

That is why we need to be careful about the example we set for others, because we can set the wrong example and actually be a source of discouragement for our brethren. The point of all this is simple though; spiritually speaking we can all become discouraged from time to time and how we collectively deal with that discouragement will greatly affect the health, and thus growth, of this congregation. How do you deal with discouragement, by developing a properly balanced congregation?

There is a place in every church for rebuking and disciplining. Paul had no toleration for false teachers or false teaching, worldliness or immorality. He warned people of hell and the judgment to come. He taught the fact that Christianity involved complete sacrifice and total surrender to the Lord. Paul, however, was not all hell fire and brimstone. He was a man of love and a man of compassion. And outside of our Lord Jesus Christ and Paul's companion Barnabas, there is no one in Scripture that did more to encourage people than did the Apostle Paul—Rom.1:8-9, 1 Cor.1:4, 1 Thess.4:18, 5:11.

How do we overcome discouragement? With encouragement (the act of giving hope, courage, and or inspiration to others). Thus, when people are discouraged and disheartened, a healthy church is quick to respond with a healthy dose of Vitamin E-encouragement. Why? Because no church composed of discouraged members is going to be a healthy church and no unhealthy churches are going to be growing. Thus, a local church that desires to grow must be filled with Paul's and Barnabas' that understand and fill the need of providing encouragement to others.

Brian Mitchell

*Worship Times*

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:00 am  
AM Worship: 10:00 am  
PM Worship: 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:00 pm

*For the Record*

Sunday Class: 72  
Sunday AM: 121  
Sunday PM: 80  
Wednesday PM: 64  
Contribution: \$6237  
Budget: \$4831

*Think on This...*

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.  
**Ephesians 6:18**

*Celebrating This Week...*

Birthdays  
Donny Holley: 04.04  
Wayne Fowlkes: 04.05

## *Serving This Week*

**Announcements:** Larry Dowdy

### SUNDAY

**Greeters:** Dan & Ruby Silvers  
**Ushers:** Cody Naramore/Leonard Fulbright  
**A/V:** Scott Spraggs  
**Nursery:** Jennifer/Sarah Singleton  
**Lead Singing:** Seth Spraggs  
**Head Lord's Table:** Kenny Simmons  
**Scripture:** Phil Swiney  
**Prayers:**  
**AM:** Gary Ridenour/Ron Fehr  
**PM:** Dan Silvers/Charlie Kluesner

### WEDNESDAY

**Lead Singing:** Ron Fehr  
**Devo:** Wally Eck  
**Prayer:** Gary Miller

**Elder Chair:** David Selvig

**Communion to Shut-Ins:** Randy Seabaugh

**Worship Organizer:** Mat Kee

## *Daily Bible Reading*

**April 2:** Judges 8-9  
**April 3:** Judges 10-12  
**April 4:** Judges 13-15  
**April 5:** Judges 16-18  
**April 6:** Judges 1-2  
**April 7:** Judges 3-5  
**April 8:** Judges 6-7

## *Continuing Prayer Needs*

**\*\*Contact the office with updates\*\***

Ron Anderson	Jalonda Harris
Ginger Avery	Allen & Juanita Hedge
Esther Beck	Betty Jones
Shannon Birk	Sid Naramore
Mark Blaylock	Carolyn Neese
Lee Brooks	Wanda Raper
Dalton Bryan	Susan Seabaugh
Reita Conley	Steve Simmons
Donna Cox	Lee Simpson
Bill Dillman	Don Tawney
Newt & Kay Gilliland	Chris Weaver

## *Remember in Prayer*

- **Sonny Huskey**, Jack's dad, has end-stage renal disease and is rapidly declining. He is not expected to live much longer.
- **Susan Seabaugh** was set to meet with an orthopedic surgeon on Friday to consider options to help with her continued pain.
- **Scott Lanpher**, Barbara Lanpher's son & Jennifer Huskey's brother, remains in St Francis Hospital with several health issues.
- Marcia Ridenour's dad, **Bill Dillman**, is in the hospital with some kind of infection, but is responding well to treatment.

## *News & Notes*

- **Paragould Children's Homes** truck will pick up on **Monday, April 3**. Please bring your grocery donations to the building by this Sunday. Items needed are: **Spaghetti Noodles, Chili Mixes, Large Freezer Bags, Microwave Popcorn, Kidney Beans, Ranch Style Beans.**
- **Thursday School Graduation** is this coming **Thursday, April 6** at 6pm. We would be honored to have you join us to celebrate the end of our year with the children. We are finishing our 35<sup>th</sup> full year of Thursday School and are so thankful for the opportunity we have had to serve children and families in our community for so long.
- A new **Fire/Burn-Out Ministry** has been set up to help in gathering items for future needs in our area. Thank you for your quick response to the initial request for items!
- All ladies are invited to a wedding shower luncheon honoring **Peyton Watson** on **Sunday, April 23** immediately following morning services in the fellowship room. Peyton and Will McQuade will be married in May and are registered at Target and Amazon.
- Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for a **Potluck Lunch** celebrating our graduating seniors on **Sunday, April 30**. Our high school seniors are **Katelyn Dowdy** (Cape), **Baden Hackworth** (Jackson), **Gage Kelleff** (Jackson), **Macayla Meyer** (Advance), **Hannah Mitchell** (Jackson), and **Emily Newman** (Jackson). Local college grads are **Tori Bryan** (State Tech), and **Luke Selvig** (SEMO). Gift bags will be available soon for cards. [Others we'd like to acknowledge as they will be graduating in May: *Chrissy Gilliland* (SEMO), *Sydney (Watson) Moore* (Faulkner), and *John Singleton* (SEMO)]

## *Take a Look...*

Make sure to look to your right when you arrive on Sunday to see the beautiful new quilt made and donated by Betty Carroll (hanging in the stairwell)! Thank you, Betty!

## *Upcoming Gospel Meetings*

- **April 2-5: Gideon** with **Brent Newton**; Theme: "Knowing God"
- **April 2-5: Sunnyview** (in Farmington) with **Kevin Rutherford**
- **April 2-4: Arnold** with **Cliff Goodwin**

## *Scholarship Opportunities*

- **Sarah's Gift Scholarship:** Applications are available in the office and must be postmarked by **April 15**.
- **Curtis James Memorial Scholarship:** Applications are available in the office and should be returned by **May 1** to the office.

