



# FAMILY NEWS

## April 26, 2026

### Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott  
Teens: Arpoika Daniels  
4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner  
1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes  
Nursery: Miranda Hays

### Sermons

AM: Arpoika Daniels  
PM: No Evening Bible Study



IN **SEARCH**  
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

### Next Sunday on Search: May 3-Not Ashamed

Do you believe in Jesus Christ but are ashamed to be called a Christian? Many people believe and admire Jesus but do not share a positive view of Christianity. They have met people who claim to be Christians but live ungodly lives.

# POTLUCK

Sunday, April 26th,  
after morning service

**Brothers Keeper  
Group 3 is in charge**

A brief devotional will follow our meal and  
there will be no 5:00 Bible study.

### Daily Bible Reading

#### Sunday

Judges 16-18 & Matthew 17

#### Monday

Judges 19-21 & Matthew 18:1-20

#### Tuesday

Ruth 1-2 & Matthew 18:21-35

#### Wednesday

Ruth 3-4 & Matthew 19

#### Thursday

1 Samuel 1-3 & Matthew 20:1-16

#### Friday

1 Samuel 4-6 & Matthew 20:17-34

#### Saturday

1 Samuel 7-9 & Matthew 21:1-22

The devil lies well because he knows the truth well...  
You better know the truth well so you can discern the lie.



*"...He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 (NIV)*

# In Our Hearts:

*Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22 (NIV)*

Auttis Johnson had a lung biopsy recently and was diagnosed with a bacterial infection in her lungs. She will be seeing a pulmonologist soon.

Toni Dugan's mother, Robbie, is suffering with blood clots in her lungs.

Sara Shelton, daughter of Andy Scott, Clancy Phillis, Beverly Ramsey, Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, LaRohnda Jones, niece of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell

**Let's remember our shut-ins:** *Peggy Malone*

**Ladies Class:** The Wednesday evening Ladies Bible Class will be starting a new study soon! The study on *Women of Faith and Strength* is coming to an end and the new study from the book Women Opening The Word, Living Stones by Casandra Martin will begin. All the ladies of the congregation are encouraged to be a part of this new study!

**Vacation Bible School:** There will be a work day this Sunday after our potluck luncheon for those wishing to help out with Vacation Bible School preparations.

<p>What kind of man was Boaz before he got married?</p> <p>Ruthless.</p>	<p>A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22</p>	<p>Where did Noah keep the old bees?</p> <p>In the Ark Hives.</p>
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## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

John 1:1; 8:56-59; 10:30-33

The Jews understood the claim that Jesus made when He stated He was Equal with God and the Jewish leaders were very upset by it!

In Exodus 3:14 In declaring His Name, God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM**"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"

Jesus claimed to be the same Deity, the "**I AM**," when he said in **John 8:56-59**, "*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.*"<sup>57</sup> So the Jews said to Him, "*You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?*"<sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.*"<sup>59</sup> Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple. The reason they wanted to stone Him to death is made clear in **John 10:30-33** when Jesus said, "*I and the Father are one.*"<sup>31</sup> The Jews picked up stones again to stone Him. ...<sup>33</sup> The Jews answered Him, "*For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, **make Yourself out to be God.***" Jesus did many "good things." The miracles were done by the power the Father supplied to Jesus to show the people that Jesus Himself was in fact Deity (i.e. the Son of God) sent by God for a purpose and with a message of salvation for all mankind (Acts 2:22). This is truly AN ENCOURAGING WORD.

For the Master's Cause,  
Andy Scott

# The Church Organized

To be organized generally means that we have a decent, orderly, and functional way to work. Things are arranged to facilitate function for the best and most efficient outcome. We think of businesses being organized or even individuals being organized (or often disorganized). Some even dislike organized situations because they may inhibit the ability to be more free-spirited and impetuous. While people will differ on the styles and extent of organization in the home or business, we recognize that maintaining order for some level of efficiency is important.

When it comes to the Lord's church, He determines how it is organized since it belongs to Him. We are to operate by God's authority, within the boundaries He reveals. We do not have the right to do whatever we feel like doing and then think that God should rubber stamp our wishes. While God does provide freedom of choice within limits, our concern should be not our will but His will. Think of Jesus' prayer in the garden: "Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done" (Luke 22:42).

To see how church organization works in Scripture, let's review how the term "church" is used in Scripture, understanding up front that basic meaning refers to a group or assembly of people. Conflating the various uses can result not only in bad theology but in practices that are unauthorized and self-willed.

**1. Universally, the church is the entire body of Christ, all of God's people everywhere without respect to time or place.** We read, for example, of the "assembly (church) of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven" (Heb 12:23). When we become Christians, we are added by the Lord to this body of people. We belong to the same church to which the apostles belonged. Universally, the church is comprised of individual Christians, not a web of interconnected churches.

**2. Locally, a church is a group of believers in a specific place who work together to accomplish the work God intends for such a group.** We read, for example, of the churches at Corinth, Sardis, Ephesus, Philippi, and so on. When Christians in the same area agree to band together to do God's work as outlined in Scripture, they form a local church.

**3. The local church assembles "as a church" to edify and worship God.** For example, the church at Corinth came together "as a church" (1 Cor 11:18; 14:18-23). This implies a specific time and place where that local group physically assembles. The local church remains the church even as they disperse to their homes, but their gatherings are part of why they exist (cf. Heb 10:23-25).

**4. God's people in a given region are the church.** This would refer simply to disciples in that ar-

ea. For instance, Acts 9:31 says, "the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up." (While the KJV and NKJV use the plural "churches" here, the evidence weighs in favor of the singular. However, the point remains the same. Churches are comprised of individual disciples, as is the universal body.)

What does this have to do with organization? First, there is no earthly, organized headquarters of the universal body of Christ. Christ is the Head (Col 1:18), of course, and the apostles are part of its foundation (Eph 2:20), but there is no scriptural way for us to organize the universal body apart from Christ and the apostles. The body of Christ works as individual Christians work, wherever and whenever they are. There are no overseers appointed universally.

Locally, there is organization, but it is not complicated. This is expressed in Paul's opening statement in his epistle to the Philippians church: "To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons" (Phil 1:1). A local church is to have elders (overseers, shepherds), and they have responsibility only for that local group (see Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:2). Paul wrote to both Titus and Timothy, charging them to appoint elders, but these were not elders over the entire universal body. They were charged with care for the local groups with which they associated.

This all implies that local churches are independent of some larger organization to which they must submit. As a local church, we are not governed by any human institutions (colleges, societies, etc.). We recognize Christians and churches elsewhere, but as a local group we acknowledge no higher authority over us than the Lord Himself. We see this idea in Revelation 2-3 where Christ walked among the churches as the Head, and each church was responsible to the Lord for their actions. This runs contrary to much of what we see in organized religion today wherein churches are banded together universally under a hierarchy of other churches and leaders. Absent Christ and the apostles, such is not found in Scripture.

Why does this matter? It matters because it's what we find in Scripture, and we are deeply concerned about following God's will as revealed. Yet this does call us to be careful about the influences among us. Godly shepherds are here to help us stay true to Scripture, both in teaching and worship. We strive to be organized only according to God's revealed will.

- Doy Moyer

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**Deacons:**

Ken Crane  
Jim Grimes  
Steve Johnson  
Jerry Renner  
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study  
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

**Worship Workers**

**April 26**

**In Charge:** Steve Johnson (405-380-5013)

**Welcome AM:** Syd Morgan

**Song Leader:** Steve Johnson

**Opening Prayer:** Arpoika Daniels

**Closing Prayer:** Jack Mattingly

**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Bob Swearingen

**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** No Service

**Scripture Reading:** Gil Turpin

**Heritage House**

**Thursday, April 30**

Betty Smith &  
Beverly Ramsey

**April Nursery Attendants**

April 5 - Debbie Crane

April 12 - Ginger Posey

April 19 - Ashley Noey

April 26 - Kay Lashley

**April Worship & Bible Class Greeters**

**North Doors:** Paul & Sue Alexander

**South Doors:** Bob Griggs & Alan Morgan