

From The Ministers Desk

The Battle for Souls

Without question, the church is in a battle, a Herculean struggle of global proportions. The greatest danger of human history faces it (Rom. 6:23). The greatest army fights it (Eph. 6:12). The greatest Commander leads it (Heb. 2:10). The greatest warriors have filled its ranks (2 Tim. 2:3). Jesus came “not to send peace, but a sword” (Matt. 10:34). This war isn’t for the weak in heart or faint in spirit. Spiritual cowards and deserters are held in highest divine disdain (2 Tim. 4:10).

Having said all that, there is a mentality we must fight with all our collective strength. Being in this spiritual battle gives no Christian the right or license to behave like a spiritual “attack dog,” to assault or insult with sharp words, or become obnoxious or rude in presenting the gospel (which, remember, means **good** news). The purpose of the battle is two-fold: defeat Satan and save the lost. Losing sight of our aim means jeopardizing our mission. We can repel the very souls we’re trying to save through foolish tactics.

The battle for souls is not a battle WITH souls.

Remember **who** the adversary is. He is Satan! We’re not out to slash or burn people (Eph. 6:12). We are trying to reach the lost – not mow them down. Jude 22, 23 exhorts – “And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.” Some require stronger persuasion than others, but no one should be made to feel contempt, haughtiness, or assaulted.

The battle for souls is not a battle about WHO is right.

This battle must never be reduced to “me verses them.” The only winner of that battle is Satan. Maintaining a spirit like Paul’s, each of us should say – “To me, who is less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given...” (Eph. 3:8). We **must** fight with humility and meekness. The battle is for truth, not against another person. Our aim is not to shoot down the other guy's position, to mortally wound his religion, or bomb his beliefs. The positive effect of truth, when believed, is the rejection of human creeds and religions. Let the truth work in that fashion (Heb. 4:12). It doesn’t need our help through vicious attacks on the lost person.

Donald

Sermon Topics:

AM: “Grace or Guilt at the Table”
1 Cor. 11:27-32

PM: “What Makes a Church Strong”
1 Cor. 16:13-14

Hispanic Studies: JJ Espinoza

Class: Los Hechos
Sermon: “Soberania de Dios”
Job: 26

Notes: _____

Volume 29, Issue 8

December 3, 2017

Poteau church of Christ

Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching IN

Elder on Call for December: Dick Moore 405-513-3844



Welcome to the Poteau church of Christ!

If this is your first time to worship with us, please know that we are thrilled to share in your journey of faith. We invite you to join in the singing of praises, praying, studying from God’s Word; to enjoy the warmth of just being together with fellow seekers. Our prayer is that you will feel the love & grace of God during your worship experience this morning. We are honored to have you as our guest today and look forward to meeting you after our worship service. May God bless you richly and deeply.

DEACONS:

Danny Baker –Worship
Ben Bentley –Missions
Russ Campbell –Fellowship
Joe Harbuck –Building
Don Johnston –Building/Vans
Philip Kirkes - Youth
Bob Marchant –Benevolence
Brad McMillin –Missions
Tim Olive –Youth & Budget

ELDERS:

Winfred Ashley
Randy Lum
Dick Moore
Rick Parker
Rendall Thompson

MINISTERS:

Donald Cherry –Pulpit
J.J. Espinoza –Hispanic
Paul Fletcher –Youth
Robert Martin –Prison

OFFICE:

Sue Taylor Dunn - Secretary
Loretta Sisco –Secretary

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Or go to www.poteaucoc.org for prayer requests, our audio & video sermons and classes as well as upcoming events. You will also find online study tools and other information to help you grow stronger in your faith. We’re also **‘Live-Streaming’** the 9:30 a.m. Bible Class, our 10:20 a.m. Worship Service and the 6:00 p.m. Evening Service.

By The NUMBERS

Week of November 24, 2017

Worship Attendance-AM 234
Bible Class
Auditorium Class
Jr. High & High School
College age 18-25
Women's Class
Hispanic Class:
Prison Class:
NewLife Behavior Ministries
Wednesday Attendance 11-24-17
Wed. Ladies class
Wed. College Age
Wed. Adult Relationship Class

Week of November 24, 2017

Contribution \$6,082.
Budget -Weekly: \$7,385.
Contribution-YTD \$319,481.
Budget -YTD: \$338,765.
Over/(Under): (\$19,284.)

Monthly Events

First Sunday - Cake & Ice Cream for birthdays & anniversaries after evening worship.

First Sunday - Elders, Deacons and Minister's meeting after evening worship service.

Every Sunday - Elder's Prayer Meeting after worship service.

Second Sunday - Shepherd group meetings after evening service.

Third Sunday - Deacon's Meeting after evening worship service.

Sunday Morning - Women's Outreach Class @ 9:30 am. taught by Marilyn Ashley in the MPB.

Sunday Evening - The ladies meet for prayer meeting in the auditorium after evening service.

Sunday Morning and Wednesday night - College age students - 18-25 - meeting in the MPB.

Wednesday Nights - Mid-Week Manna - 5:15 before Bible Study

Wednesday Nights @6:30 - Fishers of Men - Class in the Auditorium

Wednesday Night@ 6:30 - Relationship Class in the gym.

Wednesday @ 6:30 -Ladies' class: taught by Sue Dunlap, in the GAP classroom.

Second Thursday Game Night - @ 6:00 p.m. in the MPB.

Elders Prayer List

Note: First of the month, we have removed some from the list to keep it current. Submit new cards for continuing requested prayers.

Health: Bethany Whitaker (Ultra sound/Throid); Jennifer Perez's aunt, Carol, (stroke); Ron Grady (recovery); Dena Brickey, Pat Gardner's sister (waiting on results of tests); Judy Crabtree (colon surgery recovery); Nicki Sullard (recovery); Charlotte Rowe (recovery); Kaelin Blasdell, (brain tumor surgery/recovery); Gina Rogers' dad, Ralph LaRosa (health/blockages); Micki Graylee (waiting on test results); Waldo Rodrigues (brain tumor); Tim Caughen (at home/doing rehab); Carl Lockhart (heart and lung problems); Victoria Salcedo (brain tumors); Carlos Carson (back pain); Winnie Bowen, Ted and Mary's mother (Hospice care); LeeAnn Starts (health); Sue Carty, Benny's sister (needs liver transplant); Our loved one's in the nursing home, and Our Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Cancer: Jerita Minyard, Angela Watts (Hugo), Karen Taylor, Larry Didway, Nancy Frier, Cindy Wallace, Joe Wise, Ginger Muncy, Mia Miller, Sandra Lum, Pat Price, Shirley Holter, Malita Tracy, Michelle Glassburner, Don Bentley, Angela Collett (Mandy), Mike Baker, Jackie (Robin).

Thankful: Raul Becerra thankful his dad got work and needing prayers for his family.

Prisoners Prayer list: Gary Compton, Artwun Hicks, Curtis Tackett, Justin Moss, Henderson, Mr. Hill, Brandon Heath, Fred Washington, Mark Vossier, Apollo Johnson, Lee Minyard, Trey Minyard, Jeffrey McCarley, Joseph Williams, Christopher Barrera, Dwight Dross, Joshua Reed, Cecil Woodward, Brian Kirby, Brian Clinesmith.

Miscellaneous: Lisa Grady (life issues with Ron away).

Update List on Our Sick

- Regina Lewis will have eye surgery on December 13th, keep her in your prayers.
- Nancy Frier had surgery last Monday and is home recovering. Keep her and her family in your prayers.
- Malita Tracy's cancer has metastasized. PET scan in a couple of months. Pray her medication shrinks her tumors.
- Kass Fenton had surgery on his knee on Friday. Keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery.
- Eric Horn will have his tonsils removed. He is 52 years old. Keep him in your prayers.
- Lori Yarberry (Staley) has stage 4 cancer.
- Jennifer Powell, Philip Kirkes' sister, ruptured a disc in her neck. Pray for a speedy recovery.
- Mrs. Stone, Kylie's 3rd grade teacher, had foot surgery on Friday. Pray for a speedy recovery.
- Kevin Lashley's uncle Julian Lashley is having some health issues. He lives in Macon, Ga.
- Don Bentley, Benny's brother is in the hospital in Mesquite, Texas. He is unable to take solid food, has feeding tube and very weak. Hopefully the doctors have found the right treatment to stop nausea. Keep him and his family
- Kathleen Allgeyer has bronchitis. Keep her in your prayers.
- Helen Bethel is home and would love to have visitors or phone calls.
- Pray for Janice Fox during her time of bereavement during this holiday season.

Notice

- There will be a baby shower for Chassity Sawyer at Amy Johnston's home at 2pm today.
- We **will not** have a PM worship service on December 24th.
- There will be no Mid-week manna on Wednesday, December 27th due to the holidays.

Senior Saints Trip

Senior Saints will be taking a tour of the Christmas lights at Rheema Bible College in Broken Arrow on December 16th. More details to come. Please sign up on the bulletin board no later than December 13th.

New Class on Wednesday Night

Starting on Wednesday, January 3rd, all Classes will be meeting in the auditorium for class on "Leading with Purpose". This class is for the express purpose of developing our small group ministry. The class will only be for approx. 4-6 weeks long. All members are encouraged to attend this very important class.

Security team meeting today at 5 pm in the MPB. If you are on the security team or would be interested in joining the security team, please be sure and attend this meeting.

Christmas Mid-Week Manna Dinner

Wednesday December 13th is the date for our Christmas Mid-Week Manna dinner. Turkey and dressing will be served with all the trimmings. Be sure to sign up on the bulletin board so they will have a count of how many are planning to attend. Members are asked to bring deserts.

Christmas Musical/Play

"Today a Savior is Born" All Poteau Church of Christ members, friends & family are invited to attend an Acapella Christmas Musical and Play Sunday night December 17th at 6 PM here at the church building. Please come and enjoy a great night of singing, theatre & refreshments. Our younger children and also the

Weenie Roast and Christmas Light Drive Thru

December 10th the Shephard group meetings will have a progressive Christmas event. Starting here at the church with a short Devo, then out to the Weenie Roast in the Garden Pavilion, then on to Randy and Mia's for a Christmas drive thru with hot chocolate and cookies.

Brad and Darleen Seaman are collecting all kinds of toys, gently used and new thru their benevolent shop "Giving Grace General Store." They have been giving away free toys for the last 6 years. If you would like to donate, Brad would be happy to pick up donations here at the church building. Contact Phone number 918-473-8631 and 918-571-8779. Give away is December 16th, at 206 Grady, Poteau, 10am to 3pm. Thank you and God Bless. Brad

Upcoming Youth Events

December 9: "Southern Christian Home Christmas Youth Rally Weekend" Change of plans. We will now leave on this Saturday morning at 9:30am for Morrilton, AR. Meet at the church building at 9:15am. We will back by 4pm. We will have lunch and then give out the Christmas presents to the children and then return to Poteau. Bring a few dollars for snacks. **Deadline to turn in gifts is today!**

December 31st: "New Years Eve Hang-Out" We will go to Elevate Trampoline Park in Ft. Smith and then to Strike-A-Lot Lanes Bowling Alley in Poteau. You will need a ride or be picked up at the bowling alley no later than 12:30am January 1 because our event will be over at midnight. The cost is \$5 for entry. Give your \$5 to Phillip or Mandy Kirkes by Sunday morning Dec. 31st. Bring extra money for snacks and games. Come to church that night, Dec. 31st, at 6pm and we will leave for the Trampoline Park immediately after. If you are driving your own vehicle or meeting us there you will have to let Paul know and give direct approval from a parent.

January 12-14: "Winterfest" Arlington, TX. Cost is \$25 per person for fees, lodging & some meals. You need an additional \$40 for other meals and snacks. Leave at 10AM Friday morning, so you will have to get out of school that day. We will return that Sunday at 4pm. Give the \$25 to Phillip or Mandy Kirkes by 1/7/18.

Southern Christian Home Christmas Wish List:

The list for the SCH Children is up on the youth bulletin board. Print your name and phone number by the child you wish to sponsor. On the table is a paper with your child's name and wish list. **TAKE THE PAPER WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME WITH YOU!** Spending goal is \$50 per child. Deadline to have gifts here at the church building is Sunday December 3rd. Please have all gifts wrapped before you bring them to the church building. And please put the name of the child on each wrapped gift and who it is from...**please!** Anyone is welcome to go with us the weekend of December 8-9. You will be blessed. Sign up on the youth bulletin board if you'd like to go. **Anyone can go**, especially our young people and families need to attend this trip if at all possible! Please sign up and go! This is the true meaning of Christmas and the true work of the kingdom of God!