

# From The Ministers Desk

## A Promise of God

Let me begin by sharing an ancient Chinese story with you.

A farmer had one old horse that he used for tilling his fields. One day the horse escaped into the hills. When the farmer's neighbors heard about it, they sympathized with the old man over his bad luck. "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?" said the farmer.

A week later, the horse returned with a herd of wild horses from the hills. This time the neighbors congratulated the farmer on his good luck. "Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?" said the farmer. When the farmer's son attempted to tame one of the wild horses, he fell off and broke his leg. Everyone agreed that this was very bad luck, except the farmer. He replied, "Bad luck? Good luck? Who knows?"

A couple of weeks later, the army marched into the village and forced every able-bodied young man to go fight in a bloody war. When they saw that the farmer's son had a broken leg, they let him stay. Everyone was very happy at the farmer's good luck. "Good luck? Bad luck? Who knows?"

I have no idea whether the above story is true or not, but I do know that there is a good lesson in it for us. Sometimes it **seems** that things are going well, and at other times, things **seem** to be going poorly. However, the bottom line is that **we really don't know!** Things are not always as they appear to be, and the idea of good or bad luck is really nonsense biblically. We really don't know how things will work out in our lives – but God does! Circumstances that appear to be negative at first may turn out to be a great blessing for us. Circumstances that appear to be positive at first may turn out to be a curse for us. The problem for many is that they allow **their perception** of positive and negative circumstances to dictate their feelings and outlook on life. When things are going well, most folks are happy and think that God is with them. However, when things start going poorly, the temptation is to get discouraged and think that God has abandoned them.

It is unfortunate that many Christians allow themselves to be tossed about by their circumstances like this. We could all benefit from reflecting upon the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 4:11- "I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content." Paul knew how to rejoice in **any** circumstances (cf. 4:4). He could be content when things were rough (he was in jail at the time of the writing the epistle). He could be content when things were going smoothly also. One of the great things about being a member of God's family is that we do not need to worry, whatever our circumstances! In fact, we are commanded to **not** worry (Matt. 6:25)! No matter what happens in life, faithful disciples have the hope that God will take care of them. They will realize that things are not always as they appear in life, and that God is in control!

Donald

<b>Sermon Topics:</b>	Notes: _____
AM: "Anger's Unruly Offspring" Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8	_____
PM: "Trusting God to Change People" Ezekiel 36:26-27	_____
<u>Hispanic Studies:</u> JJ Espinoza	_____
Class: Salmos 23	_____
Sermon: "Cordero de Dios" Juan 1:29-34	_____

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# Poteau church of Christ

## Reaching Up, Reaching Out, Reaching In

Elder on Call for January 2018: Winfred Ashley 918-776-4034



## 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

### Contact Information:

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sued@poteaucoc.org

loretta@poteaucoc.org

Or go to [www.poteaucoc.org](http://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.

To receive messages from the church: text @poteau to 81010

### By The NUMBERS

Week of January 21, 2018

Worship Attendance-AM	241
Bible Class	156
Auditorium Class	68
Jr. High & High School	23
College age 18-25	6
Women's Class	14
Hispanic Class:	6
Prison Class:	30
NewLife Behavior Ministries	25
Wednesday 1-24-18	131

Week of January 21, 2018

Contribution	\$6,846.
Budget -Weekly:	\$7,385.
Contribution-YTD	\$25,450.
Budget -YTD:	\$22,155.
Over/(Under):	\$3,295.

### 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 MPB 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 Auditorium @6:30** - Leading small groups with purpose

**Wednesday Night@ 6:30 - Relationship Class in the gym.** (postponed until further notice)

**Wednesday @ 6:30 -Ladies class:** taught by Sue Dunlap, in the GAP classroom. (Postponed until further notice)

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

### Elders Prayer List

Note: First of the month: many will be removed from the list to keep it current. Submit new cards for requested prayers.

**Health:** Beulah Curry (possible heart issues); Chock Manley, health issues); Crystal Lum (illness); Darleen Seaman (Shingles/health issues); Debbie Little (recovery); Don Bentley (health); Elizabeth Ibison, Faylin's daughter (diabetes issues); Jerry, Larry Earl's uncle (not eating/health issues); Judy Crabtree (Sequoyah nursing home); Kaye Woodruff, Mary Scott's sister (stroke, recovery); Kevin and Linda (blood clots in his legs and lungs); LeeAnn Starts, Loretta's daughter (adj. medication for blood Platelets); Linda Noler (fainting); Lonnie Renick (recovery from knee surgery); Malita Tracy (asking for strongest treatments); Martha Bell (recovery from surgery); Mary Dorey, Lary Earl's friend (fell and broke her hip); Maxine Manlove (continued recovery); Mikki Gravely, Viola's g'dtr (upcoming surgery); Mila Delyn Nix family (new born/organ problems); Mildred McClain, Larry Earls's friend (inner ear/dizziness); Ouida Moore (illness); Robyn Caddy, Chells' sister (recovery following hip surgery); Savannah Hansard, Roy & Judy's g'daughter (scoliosis/kidney problems); Shirley Holan, Brenda/Loretta's sister (continued recovery/throat cancer); Sue Carty, Benny Bentley's sister (needs liver transplant); Tim Cauthen (recovery); Tina Drury, Cecil cousin (heart attack); Todd (recovery); Win-fred Ashley (back pain).

**Miscellaneous:** Mary and Floyd Howard (faith and strength during this time); Nancy Frier (find a job); Artemio (find and keep a job he likes); Work in India with Joe Evins; Beau Olive (working away from home); Dario (success of the play he wrote).

**Bereavement:** Jacob and Stacia Biernecki, Kay Golihare's dtr (passing of newborn); Carlos Carson's family (great aunt in rapidly failing health).

**Cancer:** Jackie (Robin); Nancy Frier, Malita Tracy, LeeAnn Starts, Michelle Glassburner, Don Bentley, Sandra Lum, Joe Wise.

**Prisoners:** Dwayne Ford, Tommy Jay, Shane Calico, Mack Hulse, Justin Moss, Raymundo Madrid, Daniel Jordan, Davis Marcus Tanelle Turner, Brian Clinesmith.

### Update List on Our Sick

- Ken Cremeans had test ran on Friday in Tulsa for colon problems. Please keep him in your prayers for favorable results.
- Chire Archie, a neighbor of Ray Buchanan, passed away Sunday. Pray for her family during their time of bereavement.
- Norma Adams, Nadine Chestnut's sister is sick. She lives in Conroe, TX. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Junior Relford has the flu, very dizzy. Keep him in your prayers for a speedy recovery.
- Milissa Killgo's aunt, Kathy, had cancer surgery on Wednesday. Doctors were not able to remove all of it. Keep her in your prayers.
- Linda Snowber, Jerry Lewis' aunt, is having heart related problems. She lives in California. Please keep her in your prayers.



### Notice

- The Southern Christian Home will be here on February 13th to pick-up their donations. There is a new list on the bulletin board.
- Food Pantry is in need of spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, instant potatoes, pancake mix and syrup. Thank you for your donations. There will be another give away on February 21st.
- To receive TEXT messages from the church,** do the following: text @Poteau to 81010.

### "Leading Small Groups With Purpose"

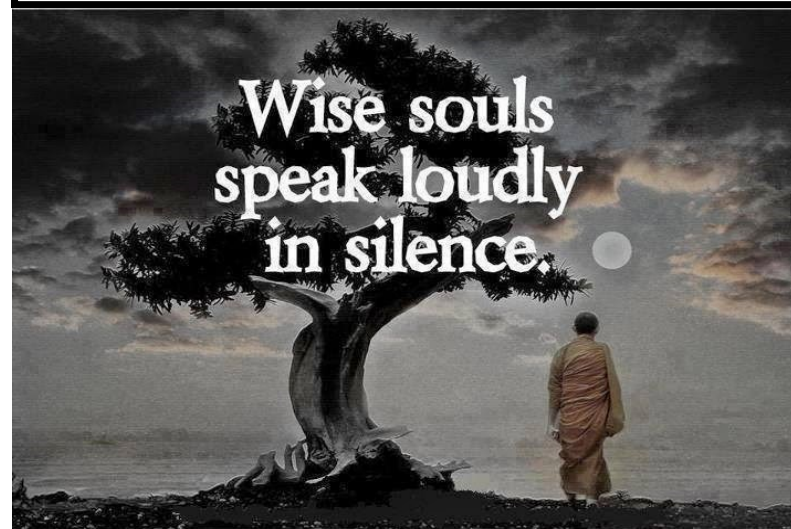
#### Wednesday Night Class

Encouraging all members to be in attendance. If you are absent, you can view last Wednesday's lesson on the church website.

#### Spaghetti Fund Raiser

There will be a spaghetti dinner and dessert auction this Sunday, January 28th at the Bob Lee Kidd Civic Center in Poteau. Dinner from 11 to 2. Desert Auction begins at 12:45. Proceeds will go to the family of Joe Wise to help with medical bills, associated with a long battle with cancer.

Joe's brother and sister-in-law is Don & Connie Wise, they attend church here. Please support this family with your presence and your prayers.



### Youth Announcements

- February 9th at 6PM: "A Night to Shine"**  
"A Night to Shine" is a prom for special needs students. We will go to the Westark Church of Christ in Ft. Smith to help serve at the prom for the special needs students. You can actually be a date (otherwise known as a "buddy") for one of the students, but there are many other ways to serve. It will be Saturday February 9th at 6pm. You have to register online as a volunteer at [nts@westark.org](mailto:nts@westark.org)
- February 23-25: "Christ-teens"** weekend youth rally in Russellville, AR. Cost is \$25.00. Plus you will need some extra spending money for travel. You will need to bring bedding items for this trip. We will be staying at Southern Christian Home.
- March/April: Spring Retreats...** This is a new thing! We will do a weekend "Family Retreat" sometime in the spring. More information will be available soon. But this is for the purpose of "Reaching In" spending more time together and strengthening the families of our youth. All youth group students are invited! We will also have volunteer mentors working with the students who may not have family members who attend PCC.
- June 3-9: Camp Wyldewood:** (Summer Church Camp). We will be attending first session again this year, June 3-9. Chad Hudelson, assistant director for Camp Wyldewood, will be coming on Wednesday March 7th from 6:30-7:10pm in the Youth Room. All Parents and children 3rd-12th grade are asked to attend this very informative meeting to prepare the students, parents and volunteers for a week of the greatest summer church camp ever!