

For The Record	
Bible Study.....	54
Sunday AM.....	79
Sunday P.M.....	45
Wednesday.....	39
Contribution.....	\$1386
Budget.....	\$1700

Sermons

A.M. Obedience
P.M. What To Do If You Miss Heaven

Mark Your Calendar

April 24 Singing @ Dedmons 7:00 p.m.
April 25 Girls' Tea
April 25 Golf Outing
April 26 ME P Team 3 will meet
May 2 Graduates' Cookout

Those To Serve (April)

Announcements.....Adam Holloway
Communion.....Bill Nolen
Wednesday Singing...Jerome Thompson
Clean Building
Sandra Harrington...Tiffany Holloway

Good News Today Monday - Friday
Direct TV Channel 225 @ 9:00 a.m. ET
Dish Network Channel 9407 and 9396 @ Noon ET

Plan of Salvation

Hear - (Rom. 10:14) "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"

Believe - (John 8:24) "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

Repent - (Luke 13:3) "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess - (Rom. 10:9) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Be Baptized - (Acts 2:38) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Be Faithful - (Rev. 2:10) "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY
Bible Study 10:00
Worship 11:00 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

SHEPHERDS
Bill Dedmon
James Harrington
Greg Holloway
Donnie Truett

DEACONS
Bud Benefield
Phil Harrington
Gerald Scales

MINISTER
Bill Dedmon
Office: (770) 258-7974
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bowdoncc@bellsouth.net

OUTREACH
Ken Lovvorn

YOUTH DIRECTOR
Jerome Thompson

MISSIONS
Roger Leonard
Corinto, Nicaragua
Gospel Broadcasting Network



The Gospel Light

"To give light to them that sit in darkness..." Luke 1:79

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So Samuel said:

"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams."

I Samuel 15:22

The Church Is Not An "Oligarchy"

By Neal Pollard

Our word "oligarchy" (not that we use it too often, do we?) comes from the Greek *olgos*, and is found 43 times in the New Testament. The English translation of *oligos* is most frequently "few" (cf. Matt. 7:14; 1 Pet. 3:20), with the idea of "brevity" or "little" being included in its meaning. In the strictest sense, oligarchy means "a government in which power belongs to a few persons, a state so governed, the ruling persons" (Webster's 431). At the opposite end, the church is not a democracy--though some believe so. If the majority want something, some believe that of itself determines congregational direction and decisions. Further, the church *is* governed by a few in the sense of scriptural organization consisting of a few men from among the flock selected to oversee and superintend her autonomous actions (cf. Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4). Those who have endured business meetings can vouch for the superiority of God's plan for church organization.

The church is not an oligarchy in the sense that only a few people are given some sort of veto power or inordinate influence at the expense of Christ's divine leadership or of the entirety of the eldership. Usually, in such a situation, the "power" rests in the hands of either those not in the eldership or in one elder above other elders (i.e., "head elder"). More often than not, a preacher or preachers might be among these "power brokers" whose word becomes preeminent law. Diotrophes tried to work such an arrangement where he was (Ephesus?). Such an arrangement is not divinely ordained and usually works to kill the good works of the church or at least stifles them. When this results, the only things allowed to get done are what this oligarchy sanctions.

Instead, Christ has been given as head over all the church (including each local body, Col. 1:18). Unscriptural binding and loosing normally occurs in a congregation through the influence of a small, but vocal, minority who have a stranglehold over the membership. Elders are circumvented. So is the will of the members, most of whom wish to serve and obey Christ. The eldership, together, is to be the church's decision makers in its many areas of judgment and discretion. Other arrangements are substitutes, and substitute plans that overrule Christ's will are doomed to ultimately fail. Let us recognize God's supreme leadership and honor the local leadership of the elders. Within such, great good can be done.

Love,
Neal

Neal preaches for the Bear Valley church of Christ in Denver, CO



Welcome to our visitors. You are our special guests. We trust the worship service today will be uplifting and in harmony with God's word.

Sunday Morning Devotional

April 19

Song - Jesse Bracknell

Scripture and Prayer - Leviell Waits

April 26

Song - Ben Teel

Scripture and Prayer - Eric Ballard

Wednesday Night Devotional

April 22

Song - Jerome Thompson

Devotional - Kiley Fordham

Announcements - Kiley Fordham



M.E.P. Team number three will meet Sunday night, April 26, following the evening services. See Linda Harrington for more information.



The Annual Girls' Tea will be held on Saturday, April 25. See April Fordham for more information. There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board.



We will honor our graduates with a cookout on Saturday, May 2, at the church building. Bill needs pictures and information from everyone who will be graduating from high school, college, or technical school.



The latest edition of House to House and Heart to Heart is on the table in the foyer.



Mattie Barnhill, April Fordham's grandmother; **Irene Harrington; Gerald Scales; Steve Born**, a co-worker of Bud Benefield; **Melinda Fendley**, sister of Sandra Harrington, had surgery Tuesday; **LouEllen Fendley**, mother of Sandra Harrington; **Reba Parson**, Kathy Skinner's mother; **Geraldine Styles**, Barry Bracknell's aunt; **Billie Nolen; Corey Whitley and girls and Ansley and Maddie Carter** as they go through difficult times; **Joyce Whitley; Ken and Cathy Lovvorn; Kiley, April, and Emma Fordham; Melinda Harlin; Wayne and Sandra Harlin; Jeff Denny; Ida Mae Holloway; Ansley Suddeth; unfaithful members; young people.**

Serving in our military:

Jason Benefield, Paul Wheeler, Toby Hill.



We are working on an updated church directory. Two copies of the directory are on the table in the foyer. Each family is asked to examine their page and make necessary corrections. We do not want to spend hundreds of dollars and then be told of errors. Thanks for your help.



Mark your calendar for Friday night, April 24, and be at the Dedmons' for a great period of singing and fellowship. We will be singing songs and eating snacks—it just doesn't get much better than that. Bring light snacks and enjoy the evening.