

**For The Record**

Bible Study. ....	.48
Sunday AM. ....	.70
Sunday PM. ....	.42
Wednesday. ....	.41
Contribution. ....	.\$1241
Budget. ....	\$

**Sermons**

A.M. Jesus - The Sermon on the Mount  
P. M. Jesus - The Sermon on the Mount (2)

*Bowdon*  
Church of Christ  
816 E. College Street  
Bowdon, GA 30108

Visit us on the web - [www.bowdonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.bowdonchurchofchrist.com)

**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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**OUTREACH**

Ken Lovvorn

**YOUTH DIRECTOR**

Jerome Thompson

**MISSIONS**

Roger Leonard  
Corinto, Nicaragua

# The Gospel Light

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

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**RAISING FUNDS FOR THE LORD’S WORK**

"Do you do any fundraisers with your youth group?" That is the exact question that a young woman recently asked me over the telephone. She had called the church building in an effort to promote a product, or products, that her group was selling. We frequently receive such phone calls, as well as advertisements in the mail, that indicate that there are lots of companies or organizations out there that are trying to be "helpful". They want to assist "churches" in raising money for their projects. Everything from selling T-shirts, pizza, and Bibles is promoted as a way for religious groups to raise money.

It is an undeniable fact that the work of the Lord Jesus requires money. Money is needed to pay for Bibles, buy grape juice for the Lord’s Supper, support the preaching of the gospel, and a multitude of other matters. We would be silly to think that the church can get by just fine without any incoming funds. God knows that the church needs money in order to carry out its activities. That is why He included first day of the week contributions as a part of the worship of His saints (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Sometimes it is necessary to make a special effort to raise funds for a special cause. We often call it "fund-raising." For instance, those Christians that go overseas to teach the gospel usually have to raise support for their work. Some members of the church are able to finance their own evangelistic activities, but this is the exception and not the rule. The Bible teaches that those who *"preach the gospel should live of the gospel"* (1 Corinthians 9:14). That simply means that faithful gospel preachers are worthy of support.

(Continued from page 1)

If they ask congregations to assist them in their work, that does not make them "beggars." In 1982, in an effort to raise funds for our projected work in Taiwan, Republic of China, I visited or spoke at 53 congregations in less than six months. One thing never entered our mind when it came to raising funds for our work: not once did we consider asking a congregation to put on a bake sale, car wash, donkey basketball game, or any other such project in order to raise funds to help support us.

In the New Testament we read about the first-century church raising funds for its work. How did it do so? Once the prophets of God predicted that there was going to be a famine. How did the church in Antioch of Syria respond? *"Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea"* (Acts 11:29).

We also read that Paul later went among the Gentile churches in order to collect *"a certain contribution for the poor among the saints"* that were in Jerusalem (Romans 15:26, ASV). How did he raise those funds? Hear the Bible's answer: *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come"* (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). The work of the first-century church was funded by contributions from its members. There is no N.T. example of churches having special fund-raisers like bake sales, etc. There is no N.T. command to do such, there is no implication that such was/may be done, and there is no direct statement about such fund-raising projects. That simply means that there is no authority in the Bible for the Lord's church to use such means to raise funds for His work.

I grew up in a denomination. The country group of which I was a member had different types of annual fund-raisers. The "adult class" had an annual "chicken supper." The public was invited to come and eat. Those that ate had to pay for their meal, and the collected funds were used for the activities of the denomination. It was, indeed, a money-making project. And, our youth group (called "MYF" for "Methodist Youth Fellowship") had its annual combination chili supper, bake sale, and auction. All of these means brought in healthy amounts of money.

There was a time when there was a visible distinction between churches of Christ and denominational bodies. One of the clear-cut differences was that while denoms often employed bake sales, car washes, and other types of special activities to raise funds, the churches of Christ refused to use such man-imagined methods, pointing out that such activities are without scriptural authority. Sadly, things are different now. Yes, the denoms still have their fund-raising sales, etc.. What has changed? Some that identify themselves as churches of Christ are now following the course of the denoms and have their own car washes and fund-raising meals to help finance the work of the church.

When I left the denominational world nearly three decades ago, I never thought I would see the day when its man-made teaching and practices would infiltrate the Lord's church. To me, it is a great tragedy that the influence of denoms is being seen more and more in the church of our Lord. The Lord has a prescribed way of raising funds for His work. It is via the free-will contributions that His children are commanded to make on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1,2). That is the Bible way. Let us stick with it and stay away from all unauthorized fund-raising activities.

-Roger Campbell  
Union Grove Church of Christ, Cleveland, TN



Welcome to the Bowdon church of Christ. We are happy you have come to worship with us today. It is our prayer that the worship service will be fulfilling and uplifting. Please fill out an attendance card.

### ***Sunday Morning Devotional***

**January 8**

Song- Zach Benefield

Scripture and Prayer - Bill Dedmon

**January 15**

Song - Ben Teel

Scripture and Prayer - Larry Robinson

### ***Wednesday Night Devotional***

**January 11**

Song - Ken Lovvorn

Devotional - Bud Benefield

Announcements - Bill Dedmon



Skylar Wilson, granddaughter of Ronald and Anice Wilson, was born on December 30th and weighed 7lb. And 12 oz.. She measured 21 1/2 inches. There may be a picture if you are able to persuade the proud grandparents to show it to you.



Our monthly fellowship meal will be Sunday, January 15, following the morning service. Soup and so-forth is the menu.



Our yearly budget will be presented to the congregation before the worship hour today. Remember we must meet the budget each week in order to carry out the planned work.



**Susan Buchanan. Mildred Scales. Irene Harrington. Elsie Benefield. Clay and Ida Mae Holloway. Bill Johnson. Claude Harris,** Eva Johnson's father. **Eueline Warren, LouEllen Fendley,** Sandra's mother. **George Holder,** Charlotte's husband. **Melissa Adamson,** friend of Stephanie Ballard. **Lilly Croft,** a co-worker of Julie Wilson.



**MEP Team Number 1** will meet Tuesday night, January 10. This team consists of: Ken and Cathy Lovvorn, Greg and Alesa Holloway, Gerald and Sherry Scales, Donnie and Linda Truett, Philip and Sandra Harrington, and Kiley and April Fordham. The group will meet at Ken and Cathy Lovvorn's house at 7:00p.m.



Men's Bible Study will resume on Tuesday night, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. Jerome Thompson will be leading the session. If you have not been attending this class, make it a New Year's resolution to attend.



The fall of 2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Bowdon church. We are planning to celebrate this milestone on November 13. A meeting is planned for Sunday night, January 15, to begin making plans. We would like for everyone to stay for the meeting.