

**May 21, 2017  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

**Announcements**

Palmer Jones

**Song Leader**

Keith Newby

**Scripture Reading**

Brock Lindley

**Opening Prayer**

Brad McAlister (A.M.) Wayne Vandygriff (P.M.)

**Closing Prayer**

Jarvene Shackelford (A.M.) Tom Wade (P.M.)

**Lord's Table**

Britt Lindley (Presiding),

Jeff Staggs, Michiel Criswell, Bobby Bridges

**Count and Usher**

David Smith and Andy Reese

**Prepare Communion**

Candace Hopper & Sandy Newby

**Wednesday Night Song Leader**

Chris Moore (05/24/2017)

**OUR RECORD**

May 14, 2017

Sunday Bible Study: 119

Sunday Morning Worship: 139

Sunday Evening Worship: 100

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 118

Budget: \$3,500

Contribution this week: \$3,974

**BULLETIN BY E-MAIL:**

Receive bulletin by e-mail notify us:

[chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net)

Also can view on our website:

[chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

1. **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17).
2. **Believe** the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16).
3. **Repent** of Sins (Acts 3:19).
4. **Confess** Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37).
5. **Be Baptized** for Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38).
6. **Be Faithful** (Revelation 2:10).



# THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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(662) 837-7012  
[chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

**ELDERS:** Barrett Chapman, Terry Chapman, Joel Moore,  
Jarvene Shackelford, Tommy Wade  
**DEACONS:** Bryan Davis, Rickey Loveless,  
Brad McAlister, Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood  
**PREACHER:** Mark Lindley

## RELIGIOUS UNITY Mark Lindley

It is apparent that there is widespread religious division in our day. Driving through large cities or small towns, one will see numerous houses of worship. Each place of worship has been established by a church (denomination) that has its own denominational name, doctrines, and practices. The doctrines and practices of one church often contradict the doctrines and practices of other churches. With such rampant religious division, is it possible for there to be unity among all who profess to follow Christ?

In response to that question, consider what Jesus prayed: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 17:20-21). Notice that Jesus prayed that all His followers would be "one," just as He and the heavenly Father are one. However, the religious world of our day is divided, not united.

In addition to what Jesus prayed, consider what Paul wrote about unity: "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). It was Paul's desire that the church at Corinth have "no divisions." How would Paul feel about all the "divisions" within the religious world today? Without a doubt, he would oppose such divisions.

But is unity possible? In a day when there are so many churches, doctrines, and practices is unity possible? Yes! All believers can be "one." It is a possibility for there to be "no divisions" today.

The solution to religious division is set forth in the words of Philippians 3:16: "Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing." The remedy for division is to "walk by the same rule." The rule by which followers of Christ are to walk is the word of God (cf. Acts 17:11; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Timothy 3:16-17).

Religious division is the result of deviating from the Bible. Division is caused by "adding" to, or "taking away" from the teachings of the Bible. Every denominational name, doctrine, and practice would cease to exist if all would abandon religious traditions and honor the authority of God's Word, the Bible. May we resolve that whatever we do in word or deed, we will do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:17).

## The Oak Tree

Steve Higginbotham

Today, “the tree” came down. I was guessing this massive oak tree must have been about 75 years old. While I am no arborist, I was able to count about 71 rings (give or take a few).

It was a strong, beautiful oak tree in the courtyard of the church property. But we are needing to expand our facilities and prepare ourselves and future generations for growth and service.

At first, I thought, “What’s the big deal about cutting down a tree. After all, it’s just a tree.” But like most of my “knee-jerk” reactions to things, I was wrong. And here’s how I came to the conclusion I was wrong.

It has only been two years since I said a final goodbye to 205 Virginia Avenue, Chester, WV. That address has been home to my parents and me for the past 51 years. Following my dad’s death, I remember vividly emptying all of our belongings out of that house. And while the family went to the car, I did one final walk through alone. And I cried like a little boy. No one could ever convince me that it was just bricks and mortar. It was so much more than that. It was home. It’s where I was loved, raised, praised, and disciplined. It’s where I was taught how to live.

It was in this house where my mom would read me Bible stories, and even teach the neighborhood children. It was in this house that I would “holler” to my dad from my bedroom late at night to ask him Bible questions. And instead of telling me it was bed time, he would take the time to “holler” back answers and explanations until I was satisfied.

It was in this house that my sister and I would fold church bulletins on TV trays every Saturday night, and fuss about who had to fold the most.

It was in the shadow of this house that I played hide-n-seek, “army,” baseball, basketball, football, and street hockey. It was on the sidewalks of this house that my dad taught me how to ride a bike. It was here where I learned to mow a yard, and trim/edge a sidewalk (without a weed-eater). And it was here that my dad taught me how to meticulously care for a car.

And then it dawned on me that for similar reasons to the ones I listed above, “the tree” was so much more than “just a tree.” It was a part of history, our history. It was there when people raised their children. It was there and provided shade while many enjoyed some of the best times of their lives. It “photo-bombed” many family photos. It’s beauty was appreciated every time people came to worship God at the Karns church building. And now it is gone.

Change. Seldom do we want it, and even rarer do we embrace it. But the key to processing change is to remember that life is a never ending succession of changes.

Many years ago, a tree was cut down for it’s lumber. That lumber was then hewn into two posts. Those posts were later arranged together in the form of a cross; the cross upon which Jesus purchased our redemption. The felling of that tree meant life for us. In a similar vein, it is my hope that the felling of “our tree” will make a way to more effectively, and expediently reach the lost, train preachers, and edify the saints.

**“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” – Ecclesiastes 3:1**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thursday, May, 18<sup>th</sup> – 6:30PM**  
**CHAPMAN LADIES BIBLE CLASS**  
Lesson: Robin Chapman

### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Born: May 12, 2017

*Benjamin “Shane” Schaefer*  
8 pounds, 3 ounces, 21 inches  
(Great-Grandson of Juan Stroupe)

May 21, 2017

### SENIOR NIGHT

After evening services in fellowship hall.  
Congratulations to our 2017 graduating  
high school seniors:

*Brock Lindley & Montana Brown*

Please make plans to join us in wishing  
them well in their future endeavors.

*Ladies please bring finger foods, desserts or 2 liter  
drinks.*

### Congratulations to our College Graduates:

Olivia Chapman

Winston Smith

Evan Yancey

### PROGRAMS OF WORK

Website: [chapmanchurch.com](http://chapmanchurch.com)

Articles • Sermons (Audio) • Chapman Challengers

**The Bible Broadcast**

Sunday Mornings at 8 AM

• WKZU radio 104.9 FM

**Southern Sentinel Article**

Every other Wednesday

**Correspondence Course**

Study the Bible in your home, at your convenience, by enrolling  
in a free Bible correspondence course.

To enroll: call (837-7012), write (250 CR 550, Ripley, MS  
38663 ) or e-mail ([chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net](mailto:chapmansecretary@ripleycable.net))

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

•**SICK SUNDAY:** Mildred Shackelford, Brock Lindley, Tracie Gross, Mary Brady

•**TEST:** Mary Brady, Tracie Gross

•**SURGERY RECOVERY:** Rhonda Newby (Knee), Juanita Michael

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Sandra Hopper, George Doss (Kelly Brewer’s Father), Ed James Pannell, Connie Mauney, Genice Collette (Mildred Shackelford’s Sister), Brandon King, Jane Bates, Lylah McGauhy, Sandra & Niles Jones, Thad Berryman.

•**CANCER:** Dwight Ward, Betty Faye Ledbury, Chester Smith, Lana Waldon, Cutah Newby, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita Trotter, Lyle Bullock, Carolyn Medlin, Lanny Yancey, Niani Colom-Omotesa, Kenneth Rainey, Marilyn Harrell, Janice Willingham, Lester Wommack, Doug Pannell, Sam Camp, Sam Warrington (cystic fibrosis & leukemia), Sue Mauney, Wade Hodges, Katherine Finley, Kane Pannell, Danny Edmonds, Dean McNutt, John Reno, Ruth Greer.

•**SHUT-INS:** Resthaven: **Oleta Phillips** (Mailing: Resthaven Care Center, 103 Cunningham Drive, Ripley, MS 38663), **Tippah County Hospital Nursing Home:** **Bonnie Chapman, Lorene Daily, Christine Chapman** (Mailing: Tippah County Nursing Home, 1005 City Avenue North, Ripley, MS 38663). **Johnnie Carpenter** (Mailing: Tishomingo Living Center, 1410 West Quitman Street, Iuka, MS 38852)