

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Jeff Hopkins (*Sandy Hopkins*) – *Jeff is scheduled for back surgery in early March.*

Ongoing Health Concerns — *Chad Mansfield; Bill Himes; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Scarlett Siner; Jan McKesson; Bill Harrell; Joe Shattuck; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.*

Door for the Word — *Ongoing Bible studies & effective means for spreading the gospel in and around Durango this year.*

Additions: _____

*This article is an adaptation using AI (Chat GPT) of a private email from Jordan. This version is published with the author's permission.

Announcements

Spring Forward Next Saturday night, March 7th, be sure and set your clocks forward one hour for Daylight Savings Time.

Health Screening Event Life Line Screening is offering a low cost service in our area soon. They will provide screening for stroke and cardiovascular issues March 4th and 5th. See the flier in the foyer for details.

The church of Christ in Durango

2100 West 3rd / P.O. Box 633, Durango, CO 81302
www.churchofchristdurango.org | (970) 247-0865

Service Times

Bible Study
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 7p.m.

Worship
Sunday 10:20 a.m.

Stream flowing in winter



The Durango Disciple

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Some Thoughts for the American Church

By Jordan R. Wheeler*

As a younger member of the body of Christ, I offer this reflection with gratitude and affection for the saints who have labored faithfully for decades. This is not a rebuke, but an appeal—born out of love for congregations like the Durango Church of Christ and many others in similar seasons of life.

Many of our churches are aging. Leadership is weary. Membership is shrinking. Financial resources, in some cases, remain substantial—but the personnel and energy required for congregational revitalization are increasingly scarce. In such circumstances, we must ask hard, prayerful questions about stewardship. What if faithfulness in this season does not mean preserving institutions at all costs? What if it means pouring ourselves out?

Christ gave everything to redeem the world, fully aware that many would reject Him. He did not condition His sacrifice on perfect outcomes. Perhaps we, too, should

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Some Thoughts for the American Church

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worry less about whether generosity will be exploited and more about whether our own hearts are aligned with His. Yes, some may take advantage. That risk has always accompanied obedience.

Imagine the witness if an established congregation determined to exhaust its remaining strength and resources on feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, caring for widows, and supporting vulnerable children in its own community. Imagine selling valuable real estate while it can still be sold and redirecting those funds into direct, visible, sacrificial ministry. Such a legacy would preach louder than any sermon.

In the parable recorded in Gospel of Matthew 25:14–30, the Master does not commend the servant who preserved what he was given. He commends those who multiplied it. The true “talents” entrusted to us are not buildings or bank accounts, but the fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Our Lord teaches, “Whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” Churches, like individuals, face this paradox. Preservation may lead to quiet decline. Sacrificial outpouring may lead to unexpected renewal—or at least to a glorious testimony of obedience.

If your years are advanced, rejoice: you are uniquely positioned to spend what remains for Christ without fear of the future. There is no retirement from the kingdom. There are only treasures yet to be laid up in heaven. Let us finish boldly, generously, and without regret.

Sermon Notes

Turn to the Right
Luke 3:3-14

1. We're Not Saved Yet

2. Get in the Right Lane

3. Re-Turn to the Right Lane
 - a. Love _____ .
 - b. Do _____ .
 - c. Walk in _____ .

4. Enjoy the Journey

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

| | | |
|-------|------|-----------------|
| Mar 2 | Mon | Numbers 28 – 31 |
| Mar 3 | Tue | Numbers 32 – 35 |
| Mar 4 | Wed | Num 36 – Deut 3 |
| Mar 5 | Thur | Deut 4 – 7 |
| Mar 6 | Fri | Deut 8 – 11 |