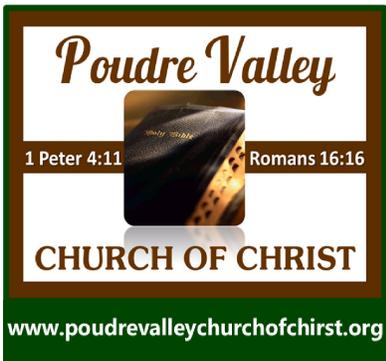




**Richie Thetford**

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**Support Letter  
APRIL 2022**

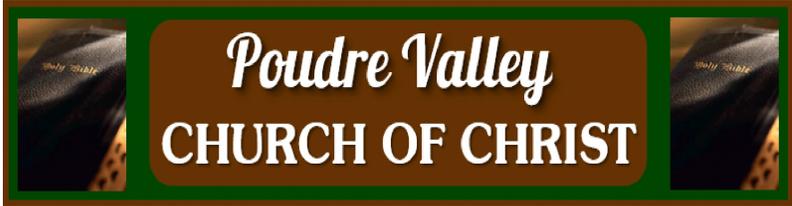


126 West Harvard St., Suite 6  
Fort Collins, CO 80525  
(970) 215-5797

**Assembly Times**

Sunday

Bible Class.....9:30 A.M.  
Worship Assembly.....10:30 A.M.



April 30, 2022

**Oaks West church of Christ  
c/o The Elders  
P. O. Box 675  
Burnet, TX 78611**

Dear Brethren,

I hope that you are enjoying the transition from winter into spring and the warmth that it brings. This is the time of year that many families are getting ready for high school and college graduations and beginning to make plans for summer vacations. Many precious memories with those we dearly love and enjoy being with are being made on a daily basis. May God continue to bless us as we develop a deeper and more devoted appreciation for God and all that He has done for us. It is so refreshing to me to know that there are so many Christians striving to live their lives in a way that shines their light before others and glorifies our Father in heaven.

Thank you so very much for continuing to support me in the teaching and preaching of the gospel of Christ here in Northern Colorado. Your financial and prayerful support for me and my family is appreciated and it allows me to concentrate my full-time efforts on striving to bring others to Christ and to build up the local work that continues to abound here in Fort Collins, CO. May God richly bless each one of you for all you do for us and the cause of Christ.

## FAMILY NEWS

Our family is healthy and doing well. Our youngest daughter, **Kaleena**, had her MRI on her shoulder on April 14<sup>th</sup> and we received a good report that there was no damage at all in her shoulder. She has been struggling with a lot of pain in her right shoulder for a few months. The physical therapist is working on her shoulder and will continue to do so for the next few months. **Caleb** finished his first tax season in the accounting firm that he works for and is now looking forward to normal hours once again. He was working 60 hour weeks (no Sunday's), and the firm gave all the employees a day off on April 19<sup>th</sup>, the day after the tax filing deadline. He has caught up on his sleep and is feeling much better. **Kristin's** job with the Poudre School District continues to go well. My wife, **Malinda**, is feeling so much better after battling some back and hip issues. She is now able to exercise daily, walking 2-3 miles each morning once again.

I returned home from my 13 day trip on April 13<sup>th</sup> and then on Saturday I began to experience a sore throat, very runny nose, and a congested head. By Monday afternoon I was feeling awful with a lot of drainage and going through more than a box of tissues. I called our doctor's office first thing Tuesday morning (April 19) and was seen a few hours later. My family had been isolating themselves from me, and me from them, in case I had COVID. I had a COVID and flu test at the doctor's office and it was negative (I do not recommend the COVID test as it is not a pleasant experience). I know it is something we must do when there is a chance we may have it. The doctor said he was pretty sure that I developed a severe case of allergies which has several of the same symptoms as COVID. I never did run any fever. By Saturday (April 23) I was feeling back to normal. It is very rare that I ever get sick and I am thankful for that.

## POUDRE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST



On April 1<sup>st</sup> I left on a 13 day trip, driving a total of 3,380 miles to hold two gospel meetings. I am thankful for my son **Caleb** who prepared two sermons and studied diligently the adult Bible class material. He taught the adult Bible class and preached the sermons during the two Sunday's I was away. It is a blessing to know that he is ready and able to do an outstanding job anytime that he is needed. I heard that all went well while I was away. This was the first time in over two years that I've been able to travel due to COVID. All of my scheduled meetings for 2020 and 2021 were canceled.

We had several visitors during the month of April. On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Mark Huber** and his family, along with another family visited. Mark is one of the elders at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street church of Christ in Paducah, KY. I was so sorry to hear that I missed seeing him and his family. We also had a couple visit on April 10<sup>th</sup>, and a woman with her two daughters with us on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Several of our members are still recovering from recent illnesses or surgeries. **Curt Schulz** is doing very well from his recent knee replacement surgery. **Skeeter Schulz** (Curt's brother), is just about completely healed from his recent hand surgery. **Cherryl Tope** had two back cauterizing procedures done and she said she now feels like a new person. **Vicky Reid** does continue to suffer from her back and hip issues. **Ken Tope** will be having cataract surgery done on his eyes over the next two months. I ask that you pray for these brethren.

I did not receive any new Bible correspondence course requests in April. There are still three individuals enrolled at this time. I am hopeful that one or possibly two will complete their course in May.

We are continuing in our adult Bible class book entitled "**Christians in a Secular Age.**" The class discussion continues to go very well. We will finish lesson 9 and begin work on lesson 10 in May. It is encouraging to me as a teacher to have our brethren come to class prepared and ready to discuss the various topics in this study.

### **MY PREACHING TRIP - APRIL 1-13**

On **April 1<sup>st</sup>** I drove to Dalhart, TX where I began preaching a three day gospel meeting for these wonderful brethren. The meeting was held on April 1-3. I preached on Friday night, Saturday night, and then taught one Bible class and preached 3 sermons on Sunday. This was the third time since 2010 that I have held a gospel meeting in Dalhart. The congregation is very small with only 8 members but they have diligently fought the good fight of faith and devotion for many, many years. I have known five of these brethren for 29 years. We had visitors from Amarillo and Waka, TX attend these meetings. The brethren had me in their homes and we enjoyed good food and spiritual nourishment together. Some of these dear brethren are now in their mid 80's and when we said our goodbyes on Sunday night, we hugged and shed a few tears together, knowing that this may be the last time we see each other on this side of eternity.

On **April 4<sup>th</sup>**, I traveled to Odessa, TX to spend the remainder of the day with my 90 year old mother. My dad passed away on April 23, 2019 at the age of 87 and my mom is now in a nursing home with mid level dementia. My sister, Linda, is a nurse and she and her husband live in Odessa and have been able to make sure mom's needs are met. When I arrived to see her, she did not recognize me at first. But after hearing me talk for about 5-10 minutes she said "your voice sounds really familiar." A short time later she did understand who I was and we talked and visited for over 3 hours that afternoon. I was just glad to be there for her and to hug her. Although she continually repeated herself and did not remember hardly anything, just being in her presence and seeing her was a great blessing to me that I am so thankful that I had – at least this one more time. When I left her, I gazed at her face, went to my vehicle and took some time to compose myself.

On **April 5<sup>th</sup>**, I traveled first to Crane, TX where I met a dear brother and gospel preacher, **Ed Jenkins** for breakfast. We visited for over an hour and then I continued my journey to Harper, TX (just a few miles north of Kerrville, TX) to visit with my niece, her husband, their children, and her mom. My other niece who lives in Langtry, TX and attends the Lord's church in Del Rio, TX drove to Harper, TX along with her husband and their children to be able to see me. We all met together in Harper at about 1:00 P.M. and had a great rest of the day visiting with one another. It was so good to see them once again!

On **April 6<sup>th</sup>**, I traveled to Little Rock, AR for my night's layover. On the way I was able to stop for lunch at the home of **Robert** and **Martha Berry** in Lindale, TX. Robert and Martha used to travel to Montrose, CO when I was preaching there and helped me knock on doors for 5 weeks on two separate occasions. They have been dear friends of our family for more than 20 years.

On **April 7<sup>th</sup>**, I traveled to my next destination in Fayetteville, TN. Along the way, I stopped and had lunch with **Dickey** and **Pat Howard** in Florence, AL. I was able to stay and visit with them for about 1 ½ hours. Dickey is one of the elders at the Singing River church of Christ who began supporting me in January of this year. They are such an uplifting and encouraging couple. A person would want to go out of their way to be able to receive such great encouragement and love! It is so wonderful to have so many Christian brothers and sisters in Christ all over these United States! After leaving their house I had just enough time to spend an hour at the CEI bookstore in Athens, AL. I was able to take a few pictures and have a good visit with the outstanding employees that work there. Upon arriving in Fayetteville, TN, I met **Eric Reynolds** and his family along with a few of the local church members for dinner at his house. It was a wonderful meal and we spent time to get to know one another better. This is the third time I have preached at the South Fayetteville congregation. The previous times were 2008 and 2010. Eric had just began preaching there when I was there in 2008.

The gospel meeting in Fayetteville, TN was held on Friday night, April 8<sup>th</sup>, Saturday morning, April 9<sup>th</sup>, and on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. I preached a total of four sermons and instead of teaching the Bible class, they wanted me to give a presentation of the work that is being done here at the Poudre Valley church of Christ in Fort Collins, CO. Some of these brethren I knew from my time with them previously, but most of them were new to me. By the end of the three days, I knew many more brethren in Christ and they all were so kind and encouraging to me. I ate in various homes and at a few restaurants with different brethren over the three days. This congregation began supporting me in January 2021. I am so very thankful for them and they are dedicated Christians! I would love to mention many of them who fed me, drove me around, and various other things but I think you know not only those who did these things, but others would also have done the same if they had more time and opportunity. When I left on Monday morning, my spiritual tank was on FULL! God has truly blessed me!

On **April 11<sup>th</sup>**, I drove to Warrenton, MO and stopped on the way at Metropolis, IL to meet with **Don** and **Lonnie Cruse** for lunch. I have known these two precious saints for many years and they have hosted me in their home on a few occasions. Don has dementia but did remember who I was and we had a good conversation together. Lonnie does so much for him and is the precious wife that he desperately needs during this time in his life. I am thankful that I have had the honor and privilege of knowing both of these fine Christians.

I spent the night on April 12<sup>th</sup> in Hays, KS and returned home on Wednesday afternoon, April 13<sup>th</sup>. I will say, the trip from Kansas City, MO all the way home was extremely windy. Winds were gusting on my Tuesday drive over 60 MPH. It could be with that strong wind that it helped caused my allergies to flare up. Who knows, it could have been anything. I really do enjoy driving. To me, it is so very relaxing and allows me to just think about things and enjoy God's creation along the way. This was an inspiring trip



for me and it was so good to finally be with other brethren. When I preached on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, I was "re-energized." It was good to be with our small, but extremely faithful, dedicated saints who make up the Poudre Valley church of Christ. April 17<sup>th</sup> was also Easter Sunday and as our family always strives to do, we get our family picture taken with our matching colors. **The picture here is the one taken on the 17<sup>th</sup>.**

## MY SCHEDULED PREACHING TRIPS

I am looking forward to being with the brethren at the **Cedar Park church of Christ** in Cedar Park, TX on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. They have invited me to come and preach for them on that Sunday. I was originally supposed to preach there in March 2020 but that was canceled due to COVID. I was then scheduled to hold a meeting there in 2021 and that too was canceled due to COVID concerns. I am excited to be with these precious souls who have supported me in the teaching and preaching of the gospel of Christ for several years, first in Montrose, CO and now in Fort Collins, CO.

**June 12, 2022:** Cedar Park church of Christ, Cedar Park, TX  
Evangelist: Paul White

**August 3-8, 2025:** Singing River church of Christ, Florence, Alabama  
Evangelist: Frank Richey

**SERMONS**

During the month of **APRIL** the following sermons were preached:

Bible Class	April 3	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	April 3	Caleb Thetford preaching (Gospel Meeting - Dalhart, TX)
Bible Class	April 10	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	April 10	Caleb Thetford preaching (Gospel Meeting - Fayetteville, TN)
Bible Class	April 17	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	April 17	<b>The "Seed" is Good</b>
Bible Class	April 24	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	April 24	<b>Reflecting on a Life Lived</b>

**CLOSING**

Our family is so thankful for each of you! On several occasions the apostle Paul spoke of brethren who had been refreshing to him (Acts 27:3; Romans 15:32; 1 Corinthians 16:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:16; Philippians 1:7). I want you to know that your love and support for me and my family is just as refreshing! We love you all. Have a great month of May!

In His Service,

Richie Thetford, Evangelist  
Poudre Valley church of Christ  
**Enclosed:** April 2022 Bulletins

<p><b>Bible study sites</b>  <a href="http://www.thetfordcountry.com">www.thetfordcountry.com</a>  <a href="http://rthetford.blogspot.com">rthetford.blogspot.com</a></p> <p>Poudre Valley church of Christ  <a href="http://www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org">www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org</a></p>
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My financial support for **APRIL** was as follows:

Cedar Park church of Christ, Cedar Park, TX	\$1,200.00
North 32nd Street church of Christ, Paducah, KY	\$1,150.00
Westview church of Christ, Hartselle, AL	\$800.00
Poudre Valley church of Christ, Fort Collins, CO	\$600.00
Twin City church of Christ, College Station, TX	\$500.00
Adoue Street church of Christ, Alvin, TX	\$400.00
Green Meadow church of Christ, San Angelo, TX	\$400.00
College View church of Christ, Florence, AL	\$300.00
Oaks West church of Christ, Burnet, TX	\$300.00
West Mason church of Christ, Mason, OH	\$300.00
South Fayetteville church of Christ, Fayetteville, TN	\$300.00
Singing River church of Christ, Florence, AL	\$300.00
Olsen Park church of Christ, Amarillo, TX	\$150.00
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>\$6,700.00</b>