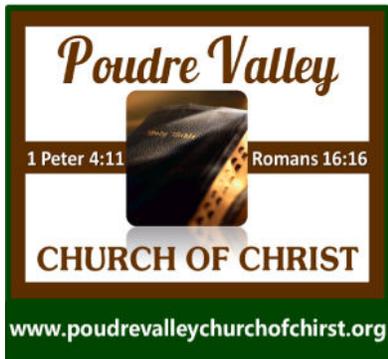




Richie Thetford

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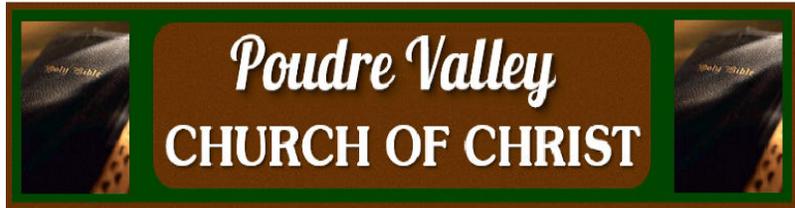
Support Letter
DECEMBER 2022



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.



December 30, 2022

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

Dear Brethren,

It is so hard to believe that we have come to the end of yet another year. We had a good Christmas day spending it with our immediate family. We hope that you had a good time spending the holiday with your family and other loved ones. We are especially grateful to be able to be back to normal, for the most part, in our daily lives and in our community. It is always a joy to see people's smiling faces!

Dear brothers and sisters – I am so grateful for your continued love and support for me and my family as we keep pressing on to build up the local church here in Fort Collins, Colorado. You are a tremendous blessing to us and in a time where it is so difficult to raise financial support to preach and teach the gospel of Christ to a lost world, it is refreshing to know that I have faithful brethren in Christ doing what you can to make sure that I have what I need on a daily basis. Words cannot begin to express the sincere love and appreciation I have for each of you. You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers!

I believe that most of us experienced an awfully cold spell just before Christmas. At our house we endured the coldest wind chills in the last 30 years in our area. When we got up on the morning of the 22nd, it was a 13 degrees below, with a wind chill of -35, and it had snowed about 3 inches on top of that. This past week brought us temperatures in the mid 40's! Glad for that.

FAMILY NEWS

As we all can appreciate, it is so good to have our family together to enjoy the love and companionship with each other. This Christmas, our daughter **Kristin** locked up her apartment, came over, and stayed with us for 13 days. It was so good to all be together! Cookies, apple turnovers, and many other things were prepared for us all during this period of time. In the evenings we played various games and we enjoyed watching a few of our favorite Christmas movies together.

Malinda continues to struggle with some back and hip issues but tries hard to not let the pain keep her from doing the things that she enjoys. There's not much that can be done about her particular situation. Overall she is able to do most everything she wants to, but from time to time she has some flare ups and has to take it easy for a few days. She'll probably need to take a break a few days after things get back to normal after New Years. She just loves the holiday season and being involved in all the festivities.

Kristin took off two weeks from her job and **Caleb** took off one week from his job so we could all be together for the week before and a few days following Christmas. The busy tax season kicks off around the 17th of January for Caleb and then we won't see him until around 8:00 pm nightly until mid-April. He also has his next CPA exam scheduled for the 12th of January. **Kaleena** finished her first semester at the four year college for her teaching degree with all A's. She begins the next semester around the 17th of January and another 8 weeks of "observations and teaching" at a local elementary school a week following that.

We all have enjoyed a great Christmas together and we hope that you too, have enjoyed being with your family and other dear loved ones. We are all so richly blessed by God to have our family and so many brothers and sisters in Christ that help us stay focused on what is most important — gaining an eternal home in heaven!

POUDRE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

At the end of November, two of our members, **Ken** and **Cherryl Tope** went on a two week vacation trip to Hawaii with some of their Christian friends that they have known for about 35 years. On December 12th they received a phone call that caused them to cut their vacation short by a few days and fly back home. One of their granddaughters, named **Elliott Tope** (age 12), was admitted to Children's Hospital in Denver, CO with leukemia. They did receive some good news that this was caught early and that the doctors told them that she would have an 80-90 percent cure rate. Unfortunately, this little girl is going to have to endure the chemo treatments and experience the loss of her hair, etc. It is reported that Elliott has a really good attitude and is in very good spirits. I ask that you take a few moments, and pray for Elliott to be cured.

One of our other members, **Skeeter Schulz**, is engaged to a woman from the Philippines and has been diligently studying with her for the past seven months. About two weeks ago she was baptized into Christ for the remission of her sins. Her name is **Judy** and we are all rejoicing with her and Skeeter in that she is now a child of God! Skeeter and Judy are still in the Philippines and are hoping to be back here together sometime within the next 6 months. We have missed Skeeter since he has been gone. He is a very good song leader and is a great encouragement to our congregation. We are all looking forward to the Sunday that they will be back together with us all. I have sent Skeeter several different types of study material that will bring her to Christ and also that will help her spiritual growth in the Lord since her baptism. Skeeter is the brother of our sister in Christ, **Cherryl Tope**. She is hoping to be able to go to the Philippines sometime in January to visit with him and take him more Bible material for him to have to help in his foundation studies with Judy.

On December 21st, **Joel** and **Vicky Reid** flew to Phoenix, Arizona to be with their son and his family for the Christmas holiday. They are due to be back with us this coming Sunday, January 1st. We only had a few of the Tope's grandchildren visiting with us this month. I have mentioned before that it is normal for us not to have hardly any visitors during the months of November through February. We are not located near a ski area. However, we are located very near Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park which attracts many visitors during the months of April through September each year. We also are on the way to Yellowstone National Park for those coming from the South traveling Interstate 25 toward Wyoming.

I am looking forward to the Spring and Summer months as I prepare to go through various neighborhoods handing out some new flyers and talking to as many people as I can. With most of the COVID situation being in the rear view mirror, I am hopeful that more people will be more receptive to receiving the literature and engaging in a Bible study. There are so many lost souls and I want to get Bible based literature in as many hands as possible, hoping that these contacts will lead to them being interested in having a Bible study or at least completing a Bible correspondence course. I have learned that most people who have a "no soliciting" sign at their front door really do not appreciate anyone, especially religious people, knocking on their door. Therefore, I am watchful for those signs as I walk the neighborhoods.

We are only about 3 weeks away from completing our adult Bible book on "**Christians in a Secular Age.**" We will begin our final lesson (16) this coming Sunday. This has been a really good study and the class participation has been excellent. I have really enjoyed teaching through this material. Our next study beginning at the end of January will be on "**The New Testament Epistles #1.**"

I still currently have two active **Bible correspondence courses** going on right now. I am expecting that one will complete their course in January.

MY SCHEDULED PREACHING TRIPS

I do not have any meetings scheduled for 2023 through 2024. Please let me know if you want me to hold a meeting anytime in the future.

August 3-8, 2025: Singing River church of Christ, Florence, Alabama
Evangelists: Frank Richey and Colby Junkin

SERMONS

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

Bible Class	December 4	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	December 4	Let Us Draw Near to God
Bible Class	December 11	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	December 11	Where Millions Miss "the Way"
Bible Class	December 18	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	December 18	The Devil Knows...
Bible Class	December 25	Christians in a Secular Age
Worship	December 25	Not the Manger, But the Cross

CLOSING

If you are going to be vacationing in our area this winter, please come and worship with us at the Poudre (Pooh-der) Valley church of Christ. We would love to see you. Have a good New Years and a very prosperous 2023! May you be blessed in all that you do for the Lord this coming year. Once again, thank you for your faithfulness, dedication, and love in supporting me in the work of spreading the gospel of Christ in Fort Collins and the surrounding area of Northern Colorado. *"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all"* (1 Thes 3:16).

In His Service,

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

Bible study sites

www.thetfordcountry.com
rthetford.blogspot.com

Poudre Valley church of Christ
www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org

My financial support for **DECEMBER** 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
Total Support	\$6,700.00