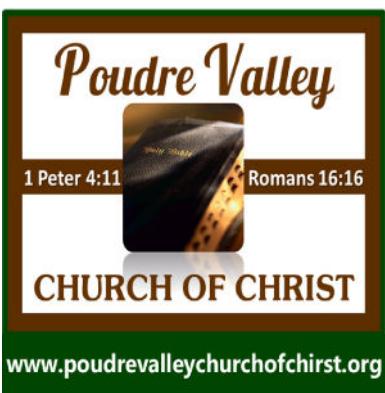




Richie Thetford
4511 Bishopsgate Drive
Windsor, CO 80550
(970) 682-8481
richiethetford@gmail.com
www.thetfordcountry.com

**Support Letter
FEBRUARY 2023**



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.

**Poudre Valley
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

February 28, 2023

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

Dear Brethren,

I hope and pray that you are doing well in your service and labor in God's kingdom. With every month that passes in my personal work in this community and striving to teach the lost, I am so very thankful for your financial support and fervent prayers. The work here is not easy. We are a small congregation of God's faithful children living righteously and being uplifted by the few Bible Christians that live here. There are very few sound churches of Christ in the West and therefore it is very important that we teach the gospel to as many as we can, even when most don't respond in a positive manner to the gospel of Christ. We are not as fortunate as many congregations located East of the Mississippi River that have many Christians who surround one another with love and encouragement. Dear brothers and sisters, all of us here at the Poudre Valley church of Christ, thank you for helping us to have one another and seeking others, with your generous love, support, and prayers. We thank God constantly for each of you. May God continue to bless you for your faithful service to Him daily in His kingdom!

With the time change that will be happening on March 12th, we are hoping that it will warm up so that more work can be done to meet more people in the various neighborhoods around our meeting facility. Every Tuesday night and Wednesday this month it has snowed here in Windsor and Fort Collins. We have had several days with a high temperature of only 10-20 degrees.

FAMILY NEWS

I am so very thankful for the family that I have been blessed with. **Malinda** is a very faithful and loving wife to me and our children and most of all in her service to God. She has always fully supported me in all I do in my teaching, preaching, and personal work. She struggles with back pain on a regular basis and there is not much that can be done. She goes to physical therapy for her back and shoulder every other week and has been doing this for a long time.

I am also thankful and blessed to have our three wonderful children, **Kristin, Caleb**, and **Kaleena**. All three are very faithful and doctrinally sound Christians who love the Lord and others. All three of them have prayed that they will one day meet that “special” someone that they can share the rest of their life with. They are determined to serve Christ first and will not even consider dating someone that is not a Christian. They long for a mate that will help them day by day to reach heaven and that they can also do the same for their mate. Each of them loves being together with family. They love our congregation of sound, faithful, loving brethren. We all would like for it to grow in number and continue to grow spiritually.



**Kaleena, Kristin, Caleb
Richie and Malinda**

Caleb is working very long hours right now with the accounting firm. His normal 40 hour week is now a minimum of 60 hours during the busy tax season of January 15th through April 17th. He handles it well working every Saturday but always off on Sunday. He began leading singing back in August of 2022 and is now doing an outstanding job with it. Ken Tope and Caleb now lead singing every other Sunday. **Kristin** got COVID for the first time on February 10th. She got it from a co-worker at her job. She was sick but not terribly sick. She missed two Sundays and 8 days of work. She now seems to be back to normal except that she has lost most of her taste so far. **Kaleena** got sick with a cold and was not feeling well for about 4 days. She is doing really well in her college classes this semester and also with her teaching observation that she does at a local school two days a week.

The family picture above was taken on December 25, 2022 in our living room.

POUDRE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Percy Wilson has been doing alright so far since the sudden passing of his wife of 61 years last month. His daughter would rather him not drive from Greeley to Fort Collins during these winter months and that is certainly understandable. In fact, it won't be long before he will no longer be driving. **Ken Tope** and I are taking turns picking him up on Sunday morning before Bible class and taking him home following the worship service. Greeley is in the opposite direction of where we live from the building so it takes each of us approximately one hour of driving time to make sure he is able to attend to worship God with us. He loves to participate by answering questions and making good comments in Bible class and he also likes to read scripture and lead prayer during the worship service. We are blessed to have him with us.

On February 6th Percy set up a Bible study with a lady (**Susan**) across the street from his house. He wanted me to conduct the study. I picked Percy up an hour before the afternoon study and took him to lunch so we could visit awhile. We went to Susan's house at 2:00 p.m. Percy told me that her husband had passed away about 6 months ago. We had no idea what was waiting for us when we knocked on her door. Susan (67), had invited her daughter to attend and a man that is a friend of hers. As soon as we walked in and I introduced myself, she said "great, now let's get started, I have the video pod cast all set up for us to watch." After a very short conversation, she told us it was a pod cast on how to convert one to having a belief in "the rapture" so that one can know the truth and go to heaven. Her husband had written two books that were very thick and with small print on all things about the rapture. I politely let her know that we believe that there is not going to be a rapture as she believes and therefore we would not be interested in watching the video (about 2 hours long). That video was just one of many! However, we would be glad to sit down with her and discuss what one does need to know concerning the second coming of Christ and salvation. She declined. She thought that we were coming over to sit down so that she could indoctrinate us on this false doctrine. I asked her before we left if she believed that baptism was necessary in order to go to heaven. She said she did not. That if we have belief in Jesus and accept Him in our heart we will be saved. In addition, she said she did not attend church anywhere and that it was not necessary to attend a church. We actually stayed for 35 minutes but she was not going to budge on anything and she did not want to just open the Bible then or at a future date to just investigate what the Bible teaches. I am really looking forward to contacting an individual who just wants to study the "Bible" to learn what we all need to do in order to be saved, etc. "In His Time" this will happen. In the meantime, I keep talking with people and praying for receptive hearts.

I still have two active **Bible correspondence courses** going on right now. No new courses were started this month. I am hoping to begin passing out literature about the church and salvation by mid-March in an effort to get some Bible studies.

We completed our first full month of our adult Bible class on "**The New Testament Epistles #1**. The class has been very well received and there are a lot of comments being made throughout the class. This month, the bulk of the questions centered on Romans, chapters 1-11.

Cherry Tope has put off her trip to the Philippines to visit with her brother because she has to be very careful not to get sick since she has to be completely well to be around her granddaughter, **Elliott**, who has leukemia and is doing chemo treatments a few times per week. Elliott is in our prayers constantly. This is so much for anyone to endure and especially for a 12 year old.

We had 9 visitors during the month. On February 19th I preached the first lesson in a series of six lessons dealing with "**the differences in churches of Christ**." Institutionalism has been a problem for many years and it continues to get worse. The second lesson on February 26th was on the importance of "**Bible Authority and Truth**." The lessons in March will be on "**Expediency**," "**Fellowship Halls and Entertainment**," "**Church Benevolence**," and "**Church Cooperation**." All these lessons are being recorded. Outlines, PPT charts, and the audio will be available on www.thetfordcountry.com following the completion of the series.

Our gospel meeting has just been scheduled for June 9-11, 2023 with **Jerry Blount** doing the preaching. Jerry currently preaches at the church of Christ in Las Vegas, NM. Jerry has been and continues to be a very good personal worker. He is going to preach 4 of the 6 lessons on different aspects of doing personal work. The Friday night lesson and the 3 lessons on Sunday will all deal with personal work. He will have two other lessons for the two services on Saturday. I am really looking forward to these lessons so that I can learn some more things about doing personal work and also to help encourage the congregation to be even more involved with "seeking and saving the lost."

This year, the Lord willing, I am going to be involved with two "**preacher workshops**." The first one will be hosted by the Northeast church of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO. The workshop will consist of preachers coming from various areas on May 1-2 to learn more information on various topics. I am not leading and delivering any of the lessons, just going to be there to learn and have some time being around other preachers of the gospel. The second workshop is going to be held in Tampa, FL on August 8-10. Nathan Morrison and I are co-hosting this workshop dealing with the subject of "Social Media."

We are going to be having lessons from various preachers on the dangers, the consequences (good and bad), and glorifying God through social media. This will be some valuable information that, we as preachers, can learn more about to be able to share with others. We hope to have at least 15 preachers presenting a lesson and other preachers who just want to come and attend for edification purposes. I'm looking forward to learning from many others during these workshops this year!

MY SCHEDULED PREACHING TRIPS

I am available to hold gospel meetings in 2024 and following. Please let me know if you want me to hold a meeting sometime in the future.

May 1-2, 2023: Preacher Workshop, Northside church of Christ, Colorado Springs, CO

August 8-10, 2023: Preacher Workshop, 58th Street church of Christ, Tampa, Florida

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

SERMONS

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

Bible Class	February 5	New Testament Epistles #1
Worship	February 5	Realized Eschatology
Bible Class	February 12	New Testament Epistles #1
Worship	February 12	Knowing Each Other in Heaven
Bible Class	February 19	New Testament Epistles #1
Worship	February 19	The Differences Between churches of Christ
Bible Class	February 26	New Testament Epistles #1
Worship	February 26	Bible Authority and Truth

SUPPORT REQUEST

I was informed this month by the Cedar Park church of Christ, Cedar Park, TX that they will be ending my financial support at the end of 2023. I have grown to love and appreciate these brethren over the last 13 years that they have been helping to support all my efforts in preaching and teaching the gospel of Christ with various amounts and by prayers. I will be losing **\$1,200.00** per month that they are currently supporting me with. I am very thankful that the Elders at Cedar Park have given me 10 months to work on replacing this amount. This is a lot of support that I need to work on replacing this year. From time to time I have needed to replace \$200.00 to \$400.00 but never this much at one time. I ask that if any of you who reads this, knows of a congregation that you can suggest that I may contact to help replace any portion of this projected loss beginning in January 2024, to please contact me at richiethetford@gmail.com. I am thankful for any help you can provide.

CLOSING

If you are here in Colorado this Spring and Summer, please plan on visiting with us. A friendly welcome awaits you! Please continue praying for me and my family as we strive to convert souls to Christ. May God continue to bless you and the local congregation as you strive to do all things that are pleasing to Him. Keep pressing on to the goal of heaven by being *“steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

In His Service,

Richie Thetford, Evangelist
Poudre Valley church of Christ
Enclosed: February 2023 Bulletins

Bible study sites

www.thetfordcountry.com
rthetford.blogspot.com

Poudre Valley church of Christ
www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org

My financial support for **FEBRUARY** was as follows:

Cedar Park church of Christ, Cedar Park, TX	\$1,200.00 <small>(Ends December 2023)</small>
Westview church of Christ, Hartselle, AL	\$1,200.00
North 32nd Street church of Christ, Paducah, KY	\$1,150.00
Poudre Valley church of Christ, Fort Collins, CO	\$700.00
Twin City church of Christ, College Station, TX	\$500.00
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	\$6,800.00