Oaks-West church of Christ

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. • Bible Study: Following 1st Service
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.
Services are live-streamed to our website: oakswestchurchofchrist.com

AUGUST 16, 2026

Spiritual Redwoods

by Rickie Jenkins

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" — Psalm 133:1

We've all heard stories (too many stories) of organizations, companies, and churches that disintegrated into bitter conflict. Quite often, the conflict began with someone shifting blame for a failure, petty gossip that caused hurt, envy that someone else was treated better, or fierce competition that produced genuine bitterness. Whatever the cause, people took their eyes off the common goal and started protecting themselves. That's no way to build a team!

But unity isn't the goal. Rather, unity is a result, one of a shared vision and cooperative efforts. In families, companies, churches, or any other organization, leaders can build unity by living for and pointing people toward a purpose that transcends everyone. With that goal in mind, they can identify and affirm each person's abilities and contributions, overlook petty issues, and communicate with clarity and compassion. When each person feels valued and included, incredible things can happen! People develop their talents, grow more committed to the cause, and encourage one another. In this environment, they grow as tall and strong as redwoods!

The culture climate in our families and local churches reveals far more than we realize. A warm, unified atmosphere signals shared purpose and mutual respect. A cold, fractured environment signals self-protection and competing agendas. Honest assessment is the first step toward change.

To clarify purpose and enlist cooperation, we must

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends. We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Next Gospel Meeting with Terry Slack is scheduled for November 1-4

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

begin by listening. We ask what matters most to those around us and seek common ground. Then we articulate a vision that transcends individual interests, one worthy of collective effort. We affirm each person's unique contributions, overlook minor offenses, and communicate with both clarity and compassion. As we do, unity emerges—not as a forced outcome, but as the natural fruit of a shared mission.

As J. Oswald Sanders observed, "Leadership is the ability to organize the spiritual gifts and limitations of others." True leaders don't demand unity; they cultivate it by pointing people toward something greater than themselves. When that happens, people grow strong and tall—like spiritual redwoods, rooted together, standing firm.

Bible Reading for this week:

Monday: 1 Sam 1:1–2:11, Luke 16:1–13

Tuesday: 1 Sam 2:12–3:21, Luke 16:14–31

Wednesday: 1 Sam 4–5, Luke 17:1–19

Thursday: 1 Sam 6–8, Luke 17:20–37

Friday: 1 Sam 9–10, Luke 18:1–14

Prayer Requests

Jimmy Stinnett

Doug Adair is having some more heart issues.

Autumn Felps is under treatment for bladder cancer.

Jim Trammel is finishing rehab but is not improving.

Gordon (Geneva's Father, Steven's grandfather) passed away last Thursday,

Shut-ins: Don and Alene Simmons, Dorthy Steadman, Dinah Williams, Terry Berhns.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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