

December 14, 2025

## Melbourne Church of Christ

*"A family of believers seeking to grow spiritually  
while sharing Jesus and serving others."*

### Jesus Taught With Parables

by Paul Shero

**"With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything" (Mk. 4:33-34).**

**Mark tells us Jesus taught with many parables and never taught without a parable. Why? God created us, and He knows how our mind works. He knows the special role stories play in our learning. Learning becomes easier when the problem is presented in a story. For some, a math problem described in X's and Y's might as well be in Chinese. But if you tell about a man with a pile of bricks and a big hole, it's believable. The abstract becomes real. The invisible becomes visible. The problem is still hard, but it becomes clearer when illustrated.**

**So when an invisible truth is laid beside a visible truth that's similar, we make a connection. When we see a hen put her chicks under her for protection, we can understand a little bit about the way God loves us. It might still be a reach, but it becomes possible. Children learn life lessons from Aesop's Fables. The point is not that a fox can talk, but that greed is foolish. So in His parables, Jesus taught us we can get more out of a mustard seed than mustard or more out of yeast than bread. By pointing out the similarities between the familiar and the unknown, we learn about the unknown. Even if the characters did not actually exist, the story teaches you a truth. So there are lessons to be learned from a hen and her chicks or ants building a mound.**

**The Bible is full of parables, and Jesus never taught without using parables. Why is that? The point is not just presenting facts to man. The point of teaching is getting the hearer to learn, believe, and obey from the heart. God is not willing that anyone perish. Many will, but not without doing everything possible to save us. He continues to call us and uses everything from Jupiter to Calvary to get our attention. So Jesus used parables. He never spoke without them.**

**The Encouragement Group meets  
on Thursday's at 9 a.m. in the  
fellowship hall. Come serve with us  
as we reach into our community!**

**Sunday Classes 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:10 a.m.  
Wed. Services 6:00 p.m.**

**Visitors, please take a card from the back of the pew, fill it out, and  
put it in the offering tray. We are glad you're here and want you to  
know that you're welcome in the family of Christ that meets here!**

**Listen to sermons at [Melbournechurchofchrist.com](http://Melbournechurchofchrist.com)**

#### Elders

Danny Brightwell 291-3439  
Shelby Qualls 291-7424  
David Brightwell 307-5714  
Alan Love 870-243-4608

#### Deacons

Joe Cooper 291-4653  
Dalton Grigg 421-6240  
Rusty Treat 373-1884

#### Minister

Ryan Lloyd  
217-1109  
Melbourne CoC  
Box 267  
Melbourne, AR

### Family News

- Ladies Christmas Party is tonight @ 5pm in the Fellowship Building. Bring a "Dirty Santa" gift and a finger food.
- Tim Vest is scheduled for back surgery tomorrow.
- Katrina Spence is back in the hospital at WRMC. Pneumonia has spread throughout her lungs.

Opening Prayer.....Chipper Lamb  
 Communion Reading.....David Brightwell  
 Closing Prayer.....Dalton Grigg



**DECEMBER**

**Joe Cooper  
Britan Treat**

**Rusty Treat  
Zach Harber**

**JANUARY**

**Kelley Don Webb  
Danny Brightwell**

**Randy Haney  
Brad Sipe**

**Sunday Morning Bible Classes at 9:15 am**

<b>2-4 Yr Old</b>	<b>Sandra in Toddler Classroom #1</b>
<b>K-3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Jasmine in Classroom #5 &amp; #6</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Sally in Classroom #3</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup>-College</b>	<b>Ryan in Classroom #7</b>
<b>Adults</b>	<b>David in the Auditorium</b>

**Children's Bible Class During the Sermon for 2026**

<b>Month</b>	<b>2-5 Yr Old Rm #2</b>	<b>6-8 Yr Old Rm #5&amp;6</b>
<b>January</b>	<b>Lexi &amp; Shayann</b>	<b>Betty</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Diana</b>	<b>Tamra</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Rory &amp; Zori</b>	<b>Jamie</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Zori &amp; Harris</b>	<b>Natalie</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Brittany</b>	
<b>June</b>	<b>Brittany</b>	<b>Christie</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Brittany</b>	
<b>August</b>	<b>Anita</b>	<b>Trena</b>
<b>September</b>		
<b>October</b>		
<b>November</b>		
<b>December</b>	<b>Zori &amp; Harris</b>	<b>Diana</b>

**Psalm 78:1-3, "Listen, O my people, to my instruction;  
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my  
 mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we  
 have heard and known, and our fathers have told us."**

**Prayer List**

**Military:** Derek & Allison Love **Officers:** Steve & Sherry Davidson, Jamie Irvin, Tyler Webb, Caeden Wolfe, Blake Johnson

**Nursing Home:** Al Gillihan, Debbie Hoskinds, Imodean Webb, Sue Campbell, Barbara Watson, Bill Wiseman, Shirley Hill, Imogene James

Boyde Martin Wilma Cooper Phyllis Gilbreath Dorothy Teague  
 Ruby Patillo Joe Guiltner Cornelia Summers Tim Smith  
 Joanna Smith Wayne Crosby Brooke Partin Joe Anne Hendrix  
 Sanyia Austin Charlotte Cooper John Young Regenia Gillihan Regina Master

**December Birthdays**

Danny Brightwell 3<sup>rd</sup> Danny Runion 6<sup>th</sup> Callen Cooper 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Roger Humphrey 10<sup>th</sup> Earlene Martz 11<sup>th</sup> Brad Teague 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Kylea Morgan 14<sup>th</sup> Minnie Dutton 14<sup>th</sup> Shelby Qualls 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Paulette Jubela 14<sup>th</sup> Kaden Williams 16<sup>th</sup> Tamra Brightwell 20<sup>th</sup>  
 Shirley Guiltner 22<sup>nd</sup> Wanda Dill 23<sup>rd</sup> Rose Irvin 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Darla Weaver 24<sup>th</sup> Deedra Watts 28<sup>th</sup> Abby Everett 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Lavonia Roland 28<sup>th</sup> Brandy Kelly 29<sup>th</sup>

**December Anniversaries**

Rhett & Kiley Carter 16<sup>th</sup>

**Dates to Remember**

Ladies Bible Study will resume in the spring.  
 Men meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month for breakfast @ 8 a.m.  
 Potluck every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after services, please bring a dish.

**Manna House Items Needed Year Round**

Canned Tuna and Canned Chicken  
 Items can be placed in the foyer in the green and blue plastic tubs.

For online giving go to <https://get.tithe.ly/>



Click on "Sign up for free" and create an account

Scan the QR code with your phone camera for quick access

