

## NEWS

**Zach Willeford** had successful surgery this past Thursday to repair his arm. He is doing well and is expected to have full use of his arm again after it heals—**Naomi Copeland** is having surgery on Tuesday to have a mass removed from her neck. The doctors do not think that it is malignant—**Relda Marshall** is scheduled to have surgery on April 5th to have the tumor removed from her pancreas. She and Pat plan to leave Mt. Pleasant on April 1st after services to go to MD Anderson in Houston—**Lenelle Latimer** will be going to the doctor on Monday in order to determine why she has been having the problems she (cont. on p. 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 572-1219  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

### DEACONS:

**Ron Burns** 577-9978  
**Ricky Davis** 572-9428  
**Ken Ferguson** 572-4135  
**Pat Marshall** 572-9347

### SERVICES:

#### Sunday

**Bible Study** 9:45 AM  
**Worship** 10:30 AM  
**Worship** 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

**Ladies class** 10:00 AM  
**Bible Study** 7:00 PM

### PREACHERS:

**Ronald Stringer** 717-8603  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**April 1, 2012**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: **Robby Gipson**  
**Phil Brown** **Ron Burns**  
**Kevin Kanaley** **Dalva Allen**

##### Sunday Evening

**Phil Brown** **Ron Burns**  
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### PRAYERS

**Sun. AM—Paul Chapman (Opening)**  
—**Charles Davis (Closing)**  
**PM—Thomas Hockaday (Opening)**  
—**Kenneth Amerson (Closing)**  
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A.M.—Ken Ferguson**  
**P.M.—Ken Johnson**

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

**Southside  
Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 242  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456**

**Think It Over**—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

# Southside Church of Christ

## Bulletin

**815 S. Jefferson St. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455**  
**(903) 572-2148**

**Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)**

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**Number 13**

## 5 Smooth Stones of Parenting

*By Sewell Hall*

In Goliath, David faced what seemed an indomitable foe. David's goal was not so much to kill the giant as to protect the children and honor of God. He took five smooth stones from the brook to achieve his purpose.

In the pervasive humanism of our society, parents face what appears to be an equally unconquerable giant who is determined to destroy their children. They have five stones with which to protect them.

(1) Purpose

“A child left to himself brings shame to his mother” (Proverbs 29:15). Consequently, Wisdom says, “Train up a child in the way he should go...” (Proverbs 22:6). This requires first determining “the way he should go,” then pointing the child in that direction. For Christians one direction supersedes all others: eternal life in heaven via Christlikeness on earth. Scores of agencies with different goals challenge us for control of our children. My father used to say, “I will not let the schools take my children away from me.”

Today there are many additional threats: TV, internet, video games, ipods, scouts, sports, neighbors, etc. These must be constantly monitored and controlled. A mother of two fine children, one a teenager, said, “Every day of the lives of our children, their spiritual welfare has been in the forefront of their father's mind.”

Parents of good children are often told, “You are just lucky.” No, good children are not the product of luck, but of purpose—relentlessly, sacrificially and proactively pursued.

### (2) Training

“Bring them up in the training...of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Training a plant requires knowing where you want it to go and then patiently bending it, pruning it, and perhaps even tying it. Training an animal involves knowing what you want it to do, using force at first, then patiently guiding, correcting, and finally rewarding and punishing. In both instances, training means establishing authority and maintaining control. Training children begins with example and sometime physical force, then guidance, correction, and eventually reward and punishment when the child understands what is expected. Above all, it means establishing the parents’ authority and letting the child know who is in control. This must begin very early. Once willful rebellion is tolerated, a wrong direction is established and the necessary “bending, pruning, and tying” become all the more difficult. The mother of John and Charles Wesley described good discipline as “shaping the will without breaking the spirit.” This agrees with the Spirit’s counsel: “Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up...” (Ephesians 6:4).

### (3) Instruction

“Bring them up in the admonition (instruction – NASB) of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Unlike plants and animals children can be admonished and instructed. This, also, parents must do. The very intellect that enables children to be instructed also enables them to exercise their free will as they grow older. Parental control constantly diminishes, and unless God’s control is established, their lives will be out of control. God’s control is established by teaching them the scriptures. Long after Timothy was beyond the control of mother and grandmother, their faith dwelt in him (II Timothy 1:5). How was this accomplished? Paul reminded Timothy, “From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus” (II Timothy 3:15). Faith in older children is the result of early instruction in righteousness. Parents should take advantage of the classes offered by the church, but this is not enough—they must teach their children personally. A mother once told me of overhearing her husband saying to their young infant in the crib, “Let me tell you about Jesus.” Not surprisingly, that young infant is now a godly young teenager.

### (4) Affection

Training and instruction must be administered with love—a love that “suffers long and is kind,” that “does not behave rudely,” and above all, “does not seek its own” (I Corinthians 13:4-5). Chil-

dren will forgive many mistakes if they can always be sure of their parents’ love. “Love will cover a multitude of sins” (I Peter 4:8). Affection without firmness is disastrous, but equally disastrous is firmness without affection.

### (5) Prayer

David did not attribute his defeat of Goliath to the stone, to his sling or to his skill. “The battle,” he said, “is the Lord’s” (I Samuel 17:47). So it is with the training of our children. God is concerned with the outcome and we are servants whom He has entrusted with our little ones. We must pray daily for the wisdom that He has promised to supply (James 1:5) and for His providence to overrule our inevitable mistakes. And when our children have become what we hoped for, we have no ground for boasting, only for the humble exclamation, “to God be the glory!”

David succeeded, using only one stone; parents will need all five.

-via Embury Hills bulletin

### Ladies Class

There will be a ladies Bible class at Mary Burns’ house tomorrow, March 26th, at 6:00 PM. All ladies are invited to attend.

### Gospel Meetings

\*The Lindale church of Christ in Lindale, TX will be having a gospel meeting March 25th-30th. Jimmy Stevens will be

holding that meeting for them. They will have services at 7:30 each evening.

\*The Campbell Rd. church of Christ in Garland will begin a gospel meeting on April 1st and will end April 6th. Wilson Adams from Murfreesboro, TN will be preaching. They will meet at 7:00 PM.

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**NEWS (cont. from back page)** has. The doctor suspects that she is having congestive heart failure, but that diagnosis has not been given at this time—**Yvonne White** has been suffering with back pain. She has been able to be at services, but has been hurting—**Catherine Moss** has pneumonia and has not been able to attend our services—**Ricky Davis** has a high white blood cell count and will begin treatment soon—**Ruby Bell** has been moved to the Villas on Greenhill Rd. in room 306. She is doing better than she was and still under hospice care while in the Villas—**Howard Marshall**, Sally Bilbo’s brother, passed away last Monday night. His funeral was in Odessa last Friday—**Dustin Adair**, Peggy Bellamy’s grandson, has a tumor on his pituitary gland and is possibly facing a third surgery—**R.J. Stevens** was put back into ICU and back on a ventilator last Wednesday. Since then, he has woken up and they are trying to wean him off the ventilator—Let’s remember **Pat Brown, Deborah Brown** and **Tammy Willeford** as they have ongoing health issues — **Remember our Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson, Joan Tosh, & Ruby Bell.*