

NEWS

Kenneth Amerson will have his ablation procedure at ETMC in Tyler tomorrow in order to correct his heart rhythm problem—**Karen Ferguson** had her thyroid surgery last Monday and is recovering at home—**Aiden Waldrep** fell last Sunday here in the building, cut his knee and had to have 11 stitches, but is doing alright—**Lelda Thompson** has been moved back to her room at Pleasant Springs Nursing Home after spending a few days at the local hospital—**Joyce Williams** was having problems with arthritis Wednesday night (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 572-9306

DEACONS:

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:

Jared Rogers 717-3788
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

February 14, 2016

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Randy Blackmon

Jerry Wildman Duane McGough
Jeron McGough Chris Hill

Sunday Evening

Jerry Wildman Duane McGough

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Luke Arnold** (Opening)

—**Colton Fulmer** (Closing)

PM—**Alec Capel** (Opening)

—**Tom Davis** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Paul Chapman**

P.M.—**Pat Marshall**

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

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
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Volume XXIII

February 7, 2016

Number 6

Is Worship About Me?

By Paul Earnhart

It is rather amazing that the evangelical protestant world should presently be locked in controversy about the proper focus of worship. Actually this conflict is but a narrower expression of a broader conflict over the proper focus of religion. Is religion about the will of God or the desires of man? Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Seminary, recently quoted with approval these words of A.W. Toser: "It is scarcely possible in most places to get anyone to attend the meeting where the only attraction is God. One can only conclude that God's professed children are bored with Him for they must be wooed to meeting with a stick of striped candy in the form of religious movies, games and refreshments."

To this Mohler added: "This has influenced the whole pattern of church life and even brought into being a new type of church architecture designed to house the golden calf... The striped candy technique has so fully integrated into our present religious thinking that it is simply taken for granted. Its victims never dream that it is not a part of the teachings of Christ and His apostles."

The question simply put is: Is worship about God or about me? This would seem to be a question with an answer so evident as to be beyond controversy. Who should be at the center of religion, the Creator or the creature? Whose will should be honored most, the One who knows all things in perfection or the one who knows little and that imperfectly? Who should be exalted in awe-struck reverence, the One who gives life to all or the one who is absolutely dependent on the Life-giver? Who should be praised and loved, the

One who has in incredible grace redeemed a wicked and rebellious race or those who have been mercifully forgiven?

Yet all this notwithstanding the history of humankind has been beset with efforts of the creature to usurp the position of the Creator. It began in the Garden of Eden where our forefathers were seduced by the thought that they could be as wise as God (Gen. 3:5, 6), and it hasn't stopped since. It inevitably taints even religion, which by definition is supposed to be about the worship of God and His will but is turned by human cleverness into the exaltation of man and his wishes. It is the human inclination to serve God but according to their own judgments rather than God's.

The question, "Is worship about God or about me?" does have another dimension. From God's perspective everything is about us, not about our wisdom or will or way, which are frail and fallible, but about us. We are the objects of His eternal purpose (Eph. 1:4). He has poured Himself out on us in order to bring us to glory as His very own children (Rom. 8:28-30; Heb. 2:9, 10). The cost has been unspeakably great (Rom. 5:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-21) and has to do with the "deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:9, 10). Even God's call for us to worship Him and Him alone (Matt. 4:10) is not about Him but about us. He does not need us to shore up His self-image with our praises. God knows full well who He is. What is essen-

tial for our own eternal well-being is that we know who He is and that we acknowledge it, for in knowing who God is we come to know who we are. We are not God but we are made in His image and destined for great blessings if we are willing to accept the grand purpose that He has in mind for us as His creatures.

From our perspective, however, worship must be all about God. It is through the greatness of God's power, wisdom and grace that we are drawn out of ourselves into the splendor of His infinite glory. Jesus taught us that the thing that will cost us our essential lives is to focus on ourselves. His cautionary warning to those who would be His disciples is clear: "*If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.*" The crucifixion of self is essential not just to worship but also to the whole of discipleship. We, too, like our Savior, must say and mean it, "Not my will but Yours be done." This being done we may experience even now the state described from Charles Wesley's hymn, "Love Divine."

Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crown before
Thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.

—*Cyfair Family New and Notes*

One Placed Membership

We are pleased to welcome **Dorothy Reynolds** into our spiritual family here at Southside. She recently moved from Longview where she was a member of the Reel Road church. Her address is **100 PR 1311, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455**. Her telephone number is **903-575-7174**. Introduce yourself to her and welcome her personally.

Weekend Meeting!

February 26—28 are the dates for our meeting especially designed for young people, but all ages are invited. **Josh Kirby** and **Jacob Hudgins** will be the speakers. Josh works with David Holder and the Castleberry church in Ft. Worth. Jacob recently moved from the Campbell Road church in Garland to the Fairview Park Church of Christ in Little Rock, AR. Be making plans to profit from the good Bible teaching we will hear.

Our Spring Gospel Meeting

Will be **March 13 — 16, 2016**. Yes, this follows very closely after our weekend meeting, or otherwise we would have had to wait until June.

Roger Shouse from Charlestown, IN, will be the speaker in this meeting. He works with the Charlestown Road Church of Christ. He will be new to many of us, but some of us have heard him at the Southside Lectures in Pasadena. He is a

very capable and interesting preacher of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let's make plans to be in every service possible and pray for the success of the meeting.

Gospel Meeting

Bob Owen will be the speaker in a meeting at the Stallings Drive Church of Christ, **Nacogdoches, TX, February 14-18, 7:00** weeknights.

NEWS (continued from back page) and was not in our service—**Charles Davis** is scheduled to have another test February 17 relating to the protein in his blood issue. And he and Carolyn were sick week before last with respiratory infections—**Mark Caldwell** continues in Baylor Hospital in Plano and has developed another infection in a part of his incision and that demands more antibiotic—**Betty Rust** is scheduled to have her heart valve replacement sometime in March—Remember **Willie Don Davis, Vivian Stroman, William White, Catherine Moss, Randy Blackmon, Wade Miller, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, and Judy Hinson**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.**