

## News

**Catherine Moss** had her lung biopsy Thursday in Tyler, and she goes back tomorrow to learn the results——**Judy Hinson** had her chemo treatment last Tuesday which affects her feelings for a number of days——**Kenneth and Beverly Amer-son's granddaughter, Ashley**, has developed a heart problem and will see a cardiologist in Longview this week——**Brooke Cody**, Pat and Relda Marshall's daughter was recently an-nounced to be having problems with her pregnancy, and now she has had a miscarriage——**Pat and Relda** (continued on page 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 563-2977  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 717-0265

### 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** 5:00 PM

#### Wednesday

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

### PREACHERS:

**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**September 17, 2017**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Randy Blackmon

**Alec Capel** **Zach Willeford**  
**Colton Fulmer** **Dayne Stansell**

##### Sunday Evening

**Alec Capel** **Zach Willeford**

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### PRAYERS

**Sun. AM—William White (Opening)**

**—Pat Marshall (Closing)**

**PM—Thomas Hockaday (Opening)**

**—Charles Davis (Closing)**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A.M.—Bob Arnold**

**P.M.—Duane McGough**

**(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)**

**Think It Over**—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eter-nity? 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

**1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455**

**(903) 572-2148**

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

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## Our Common Cry For Help

*By Mark White*

**W**hat do all people have in common? They all want life to be better, and they're convinced—or want to be convinced—that certain formula or technique will make it so. The desire for a better life transcends skin color, language or location. Some of our techniques for obtaining a better life are superstitious, others mental, some mostly or partially rooted in Scripture, some thoroughly godly, and others thoroughly pagan. We have rituals, habits, tricks, routines, formulas, and all sorts of other means to try to influence our situations. That's because we feel out of control, and we're desperate to have some semblance of mastery over our circumstances. Mostly we're all just trying to get by in a frustrating world.

Human beings are full of questions: *What does my future hold? Who will protect me and provide for me? How can I find the truth? Does truth even exist? How can I be fulfilled?* When we feel confused, we search for answers. And when we feel beaten down—by adverse circumstances, by the forces of “fate”, or simply by the unpredictable movements of everyday life—we appeal to whatever sources of help we can find. History is littered with such appeals, from the mundane to the mystical: half-hearted superstitions, good-luck charms, psychological tricks, ritual prayers and sacrifices, magical blessings and curses, mantras, horoscopes, and on and on. Trapped in the confines of a material world, we seek access to whatever is behind it. Something in us craves an alternative to our very inadequate resources. We're frustrated by our limitations, and we hunger for *supernatural* help.

In New Testament times, the people in and around Ephesus were also seekers of the supernatural. They had an array of incantations, spells, amulets, and other techniques for harnessing divine power (cf. Acts 19). Paul used some of their terminology in his letter to the Ephesians, but for a different purpose. He attributed all power and authority to the One who was raised from the dead and exalted in heaven. God’s people—those who humbly depend on him in faith—have access to a greater power than the world has ever known.

One of the strongest messages in Ephesians is that we don’t have to live in frustration and futility anymore. Though we have long lived in a murky, confused, rebellious environment—a world separated from its Creator by its own counterfeit pursuits—our connection with our Father has been restored through the grace and the exaltation of His Son. We are seated with him in heavenly places, above every other power and authority (Ephesians 1:20-21; Ephesians 2:6). We are no longer alienated from God or each other; we can have real fellowship in His Spirit. We are redeemed for so much more than we’ve experienced in the past.

If you’ve ever felt like someone groping in darkness for any hint of light; if you’ve ever felt powerless to face the assault on your life by the world around you; if you’ve ever longed for a deeper connection with your heart’s true home;

then let the powerful words of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians really sink in. Its truths take us out of our own limitations, seat us at the right hand of the ultimate Father, and bestow on us the family name. We’ve been given an entirely new wardrobe—the clothes of the kingdom of light—and empowered with all we could ever need. We don’t need tricks or techniques or magic to get by. Our common cry for help has forever been answered by God in Jesus Christ. In Him, our *true needs* are met.

—Cyfair Church Family News and Notes, 9/3/17

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***“If the Lord Be For Us, Why Then Has All This Happened to Us?”***

Judges 6:13 records the words of this title. It was an anguished question, raised by Gideon, the servant of the Lord, to the angel of the Lord who visited him. Israel had suffered for seven hard years under the oppressions of the Midianites. Poverty was rampant, the land and crops were decimated, and people and livestock languished with hunger. It was a dark day in Israel. They needed a deliverer, but even Gideon was not sure that the Lord was their helper. Rather, it appeared that God left Israel to be ravaged by her enemies. Did God care about what was happening to the nation? Was He even aware of their devastation?

Gideon is not alone in raising this question about the Lord. Just let a tornado,

hurricane, earthquake, or tsunami ravage some part of the globe and people everywhere will ask, “Would a loving God allow such terrible things to happen to so many people?” When disaster strikes, television news pundits banter this question about. Atheists are certain that such disaster proves their case that there is no God in heaven. Some religious people see these events as a sure sign that God is punishing the world. They see this as an apocalypse of sorts. Yet, we must not presume to speak for the Lord. Whether He is judging a nation (as He often did in the accounts of His dealings with the nations, e.g. Ezek 25:30; 38) or whether this is simply a “natural” disaster, we should just not be so bold as to say.

Judges 6 should be considered. To Gideon, it appeared the Lord was oblivious to the plight of Israel. In reality, He most certainly was not blind to their predicament. The mere presence of suffering, even among God’s people, does not negate God’s existence, nor His sovereignty.

Jesus once referred to a disaster involving a fallen tower in Siloam, in which eighteen people were killed (Luke 13:4,5). He did not want anyone to conclude that this occurred because these people were worse sinners than residents of Jerusalem. Rather, he used this illustration to teach all men everywhere to repent. We live in a world where disasters occur. Tragedy strikes. People suffer. Sometimes, they die — through no fault of their own.

When we experience disaster and devastation, we often blame God, question Him, or deny Him altogether. As a rule, we do not deal well with tragedy. Be assured, however, that God does all things well. On the other

hand, men often speak without understanding and we speculate about things we cannot know (Job 42:2,3). Our first inclination may be to question God, but in our saner moments we must remember that we live in a fallen world that is breaking apart and declining (Romans 8:20-22). We must remember to praise God, come what may!

—Mark White, Cyfair News & Notes

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**The Nelsons**

**Drew** still plans to start preaching for us full time October 1st even if they are not able to move here by then. They are still looking for a house to buy.

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**Gospel Meeting**

**Bubba Garner** is the speaker in the meeting at the **Franklin Drive church in Texarkana, today through Wednesday, September 10-13, 7:00 PM Weeknights.**

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**NEWS** (continued from back page)  
**Marshall** went to M.D. Anderson in Houston Wednesday for a scheduled maintenance visit—**Carla Chapman** was sick Wednesday night and not in our service—**Peggy Bellamy’s Great Niece** has a cancerous nodule on her thyroid and prayers are requested—Remember **Phil Brown, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, William White, Catherine Moss, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Maurine Lee, Wanda Sikes, Vivian Stroman and Lelda Thompson.**