

## NEWS

**Carolyn Davis** spent a couple of days in the local hospital this past week due to being dehydrated and her potassium was low—**Mrs. Stout**, Charlyn Harrel's mother, passed out Wednesday and she will see a neurologist tomorrow—Continue to pray for Enoch Waldrep's sister, **June Cox**, who has thyroid cancer—**Peggy Bellamy** was sick last Sunday and not in our services, but was back with us Wednesday night—**Marion Moon**, Peggy's brother-in-law, has been moved to the Villas on Greenhill Road—**Ricky Harris** (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:

**Drew Nelson** 254-541-3815  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**April 7, 2019**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Matt Harrel

**Jerry Wildman** **Kenneth Amerson**  
**Jessie Carillo** **Carlos Garcia**

##### Sunday Evening

**Jerry Wildman** **Kenneth Amerson**  
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### PRAYERS

**Sun. AM—Dale Rockett (Opening)**

—**Ricky Davis (Closing)**

**PM—Bob Arnold (Opening)**

—**Charles Davis (Closing)**  
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A.M.—Ken Ferguson**

**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

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

(903) 572-2148

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

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## You Can't Imprison the Gospel

By Drew Nelson

*“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and signing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them” (Acts 16:25).*

Paul and Silas were traveling far and wide to preach the Gospel to anyone who would listen. They worked miracles, baptized many, and established churches. This was Kingdom work of the highest order. And what do they get for their trouble? In Acts 16, they had cast a demon out of a girl, which angered her abusive owners who used her for profit (it's amazing how often miracles made people mad). The evil men whip up a mob, beat them with rods, and throw them in prison. To amplify the injustice, Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, which should have protected them from beatings and imprisonments without a trial.

But what happens as a result of this evil and injustice? Do Paul and Silas give up on their mission? Do they alter their message in order to offend less people? Do their antagonists successfully stop the gospel? Actually, as a direct result of the evil injustice that happened to Paul & Silas, a Philippian jailor and his household were saved. God can and does use injustice, discomfort, and persecution to further his plan. When God's enemies try to imprison the gospel, the gospel just gets preached to the prison guard!

When we encounter difficulty, resistance, or persecution for speaking God's truth, don't be deterred or tempted to alter the message because God can use all kinds of circumstances to spread his kingdom. Joseph, who had a laundry list of injustices done to him, declared, *“you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” (Gen. 50:20).* During a

different imprisonment, Paul wrote, “*what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear*” (Phil1:12-14).

God advances his kingdom through hardship more than he does through ease. The gospel seems to spread in prisons better than it does in palaces. If it became illegal to preach the gospel tomorrow and we all got thrown into prison, it would not be time to whine & moan—it would be time to start up a prison ministry! If the gates of hell cannot prevail against the gospel, then what can man possibly do?

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### **Ain't Anything Meaner Than Killin' Babies**

*By Kenny Chumbley*

In Marc Connelly's wonderful 1930 play, *The Green Pastures*—wherein heaven is viewed through the eyes of African-Americans in the Deep South—there's a telling scene involving Pharaoh and a court official identified as the head magician.

Pharaoh's order to drown the male Hebrew children has been carried out, but his hatred for the Hebrews hasn't abated, and he's still trying to come up with something to make the Israelites' exist-

tence more miserable than it already is. But in response, the head magician says, “there ain't anything meaner than killin' babies, King.”

One of the most terrifying passages in the Bible is **Matthew 2:16**: “*Then Herod...was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under.*”

Pharaoh and Herod have rightly been held in infamy for millennia, but it wouldn't surprise me if before long they're the poster boys for the pagans in this country openly advocating the unspeakable atrocity of infanticide.

(1) In 1973, the Supreme Court said women have a right to privacy that allows them to get an abortion. (2) When asked about the fetus's right to life, the Court arbitrarily decreed a fetus, an unborn child, is a nonperson. (3) The Court further decreed that a person's rights exceed a nonperson's rights, reaffirming that a mother can do with a fetus, whatever she wants. (4) Former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop—in *The Right to Live; The Right to Die*—pointed out that the Court's logic, essentially said that life begins at live birth.

But not anymore. Various state officials, including the Virginia governor, have recently argued born babies can be murdered if the mother doesn't want the child. God help us.

I believe there's an equality to sin (**Jas. 2:10**), but I also believe there's an inequality to it as well. I believe all sins are equal, but some are more equal than others. “Whereas all sins,” wrote J. W. Montgomery, “receive their just recompense at the last judgment, some sins are such an affront to the divine majesty that they are very likely to trigger imminent judgment in the course of human history as well” (Slaughter of the Innocents, 122).

But what bothers me most right now is not what elected barbarians in the country are promoting, but the sense of outrage I've lost over this issue. If—contrary to all Biblical, rational, and scientific evidence—an unborn child can be defined as a nonperson, I'm not surprised murdering a born child is defined as a social good (as Hitler, Stalin, Mao, et al., argued). But I am disgusted that somewhere along the line I lost the virtue of anger and have done next to nothing as what was once a crime (abortion) became a debate that became a practice (legalized abortion) that has now become out-and-out murder (infanticide).

In the *Lord of the Rings*, the two hobbits, Merry (Meriadoc Brandybuck) and Pippin (Peregrin Took), meet Treebeard the Ent (a giant human-like tree). Treebeard was angry about the evils going on around him but had taken no action. When Merry and Pippin fill him in on Saruman's treachery, Treebeard comes to understand “there is something very big going on,” and says, “I have been idle. I have let things slip. It must stop.”

When it comes to killing babies, born or unborn, Treebeard's self-reproach and resolve are mine. I don't care if what I do amounts to no more than a drop in the bucket or dust on the scales (**Isa. 40:15**); I'm angry, and in godly, legal ways, I'm going to do something. Because listen, there's nothing meaner than killing babies.

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### **Gospel Meeting**

**Tim Stevens** begins a **Gospel Meeting** with the Franklin Drive church in Texarkana, AR, today, **March 31st**, and will continue through Wednesday night **April 3**, weeknight services at 7:00.

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### **Our Gospel Meeting**

**April 28 through May 3rd**, are the dates for our spring meeting of 2019. **Kris Emerson**, from Lindale, TX, will be our speaker. There will be the **regular times on Sunday**, then **weeknight services at 7:30 pm**, and **weekday morning services Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 am**. Let's be working and praying for this meeting. We will benefit from the scriptural, forceful and interesting preaching by Brother Kris.

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**NEWS** (continued from back page) was not feeling well Wednesday night—Remember **June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Carlos Barnes, Bob Arnold, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Jace Hockaday, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown, and Tammy Willeford**—Remember our **Shut-ins**: *James Johnson,*