

NEWS

June Johnson was in the hospital for a few days beginning last weekend. Her sodium was unusually low. She went back to Assisted Living last Tuesday and she is doing better—**Tonette Harrel** continues in the Rehabilitation center in Tyler. She seems to still be having trouble with swelling. Continue to remember her in your prayers—**Judy Hinson** was given a chemo treatment last Tuesday. She has not been able to be in our services this past week—**Bob Arnold** continues to wait for his plan of treatment for his cancer—**Nova** (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:

February 9, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Ken Johnson

Shea Bilbo Luke Arnold
Bobby Burns Jerry Don Davis

Sunday Evening

Shea Bilbo Luke Arnold

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Thomas Hockaday(Opening)

—Dale Rockett (Closing)

PM—Terry Jordan (Opening)

—Richard Tapparo (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Ferguson

P.M.—Paul Chapman

(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

Volume XXVII

February 2, 2020

Number 5

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

By Mark White

These words, of what may very well be my favorite hymn, were written by Isaac Watts, the father of English hymnody. According to Albert Edward Bailey, Watts was the first Englishman “to think out the theory of congregational praise and to furnish a well-rounded body of material for the Church to use.” (The Gospel in Hymns: Backgrounds and Interpretations.

Watts’ hymn of five stanzas, “*When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*” is a paraphrase of Galatians 6:14. It first appeared in Hymns and Spiritual Songs in 1707 and was titled, “*Crucifixion To The World, By The Cross Of Christ.*” The hymn was written for use at the Lord’s Supper. H. Augustine Smith in Lyric Religion says, “The stanza, ‘*See from his head, his hands, his feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down,*’ surpasses every other stanza in the range of hymnody for solemn beauty and intense sorrow.” Originally, the second line of the hymn was “*Where the young Prince of glory died.*” Watts later altered the line to “*On which the Prince of glory died,*” for some had criticized his saying that the Lord was young.

English hymnologist Erik Routley says, “*In ‘When I Survey’* there are five adjectives. These purely descriptive adjectives are: ‘*wondrous,*’ ‘*richest,*’ ‘*vain,*’ ‘*rich,*’ ‘*amazing,*’ ...it must be agreed that this is the most penetrating of all hymns, the most demanding, the most imaginative. It is these things precisely because its style is so simple which is drawn throughout in strong, clear, simple lines and colors.” Albert Edward Bailey said, “ ‘*Survey*’ suggests not only sight by contemplation ... the cross is ‘wondrous’ because a Roman instrument of torture and

God's instrument for saving mankind. 'Prince of glory' suggests the highest exaltation and sacrifice, all I have ever achieved is as nothing and all I have taken pride in is by comparison contemptible. "Vain thing" leads each person to inventory his own worthless things to which he clings."

Reading those comments about my favorite hymn, I was reminded that much thought has gone into these lyrics, not only by Isaac Watts the author, but by others who have studied them to see the Bible truths they contain. I am made to wonder: "Have I given the kind of careful analysis I should to the songs I sing in worship to God?" After all, God has required worshippers to "sing with the spirit and with the understanding also" (1 Cor. 14:15). We live in an era when many of our contemporaries are writing beautiful hymns and spiritual songs for the church to use when expressing congregational praise for God. Among these are brothers and sisters in Christ who have shared their gift for hymn writing with their brethren. Adding these to the hundreds of scriptural songs which have already been used by worshippers for many generations, there is no lack of good music for the church to sing.

Worship in song requires more than attention to the melody or the harmony. Song worship pours from the heart through the words that are spoken and understood by the worshipper. Our singing would make essential improvement if all of us truly gave careful attention to what we are saying as we sing.

The Lure of the Fashionable **(Or, Duplicating Gruesome Reality)** *(By Warren E. Berkley)*

One index of the reign of sin is the lure of the fashionable. It is remarkable how powerful worldly fashion is to those who are given to this dimension of human appetite. When you do something, without any mature motive or reason - simply because others are doing it, you are captive to the influence of fashion.

I thought about this a few days ago, as a result of something I observed. I came to an intersection and noticed an automobile next to me riddled with bullet holes. It appeared to me that the vehicle had been through a fierce gun battle. There was a sense of alarm at first, so I looked inside the cars - only to witness normal occupants who seemed to be in good health. I concluded the necessary auto body work had not been done yet, but I was still alarmed at what had happened to the owners.

A few days later I drove into a parking lot at the grocery store, and here was another vehicle with a dozen or so bullet holes in the driver's door. This caused me to think about the crime rate, the violence that must be growing in my community. What times we must live in, to see automobiles torn up and obviously penetrated by bullets! Terrible!

Then I went to auto parts store to buy an air filter for my truck. While wait-

ing for the employee to find the part, I noticed a display of FAKE BULLET HOLE decals! I caught myself just before uttering the verbal expression of astonishment common in my grandmother's generation: "Of all the thangs!!"

I suppose the explanation is - if you can't get your vehicle shot, you can buy these decals to make it look like you've been shot!! Then I went to Wal-Mart yesterday, and the guy in front of me was wearing a shirt with bullet holes and blood (imprinted on the shirt to duplicate gruesome reality.)

It provoked me to think about what strange things people will do, simply because others do it. This is the lure of fashion, also seen in tattoos and body-piercing. I suppose an argument can be made in favor of custom and convention, or private opinion where no sin is involved. You can study that.

But it may be personally useful for us to stop and inquire of ourselves, before duplicating fashion: Why am I doing this? What good will be accomplished? What message will I send? What influence will I have? Would Jesus do this? Based on His revelation of Himself, what would God's judgment be? Will a mind and conscience, directed by the example of Christ and the teachings of the Bible desire to give the appearance of violence?

Without any doubt, Christians must guard against the impulse and habit of conforming to the world. "I beseech

you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of you mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." -Rom. 12:1,2

—*The Beacon*

=====
"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you." (Phil. 4:8-9).
=====

NEWS (continued from back page)

Montgomery is doing better but she and **Richard** were not with us Wednesday night. They are out of town, but hope to be with us tonight—**Shea Bilbo** was in Ft. Worth Wednesday, and **Meredith** was not feeling well—Remember **Kenneth Amerson, Enoch Waldrep's brother, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Laverne McCurdy, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust and Wanda Sikes.**