

NEWS

Relda Marshall had to go back to Houston last Tuesday due to a jaundice problem. It was learned that her common bile duct was blocked and the doctor was able to correct that without having to open her up again. She will be staying a few days in the hospital and then a few more days in the Rotary House so the doctors can keep checking on her—**Joan Tosh** has been moved to the 5th floor of the local hospital for observation and treatment. The request is for no visitors at this time—**Irma May** has been having a problem with (continued on page 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:

May 13, 2012

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Thomas Hockaday

Andrew Arnold **Luke Arnold**
Ricky Davis **Tom Davis**

Sunday Evening

Andrew Arnold **Luke Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Ron Burns** (Opening)

—**James Johnson** (Closing)

PM—**Kenneth Amerson** (Opening)

—**Charles Davis** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Leon Goff**

P.M.—**Ken Johnson**

(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.

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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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The New Testament "Church"

By Robert Turner

When Paul wrote to the church in Philippi (4:15) he addressed "all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." (1:1).

Saints are "set apart" people, who have come "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9), who belong to the Lord. (1 Cor. 6:20) This is another way of saying that all Christians are saints (in the N.T. sense) and the beatification by some Roman council has nothing to do with it.

One does not become a saint by "joining" the church; but one becomes a part of the church by becoming a saint. The church does not save; it is the saved. Thus we read in Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church ("to them" "together" ARV) daily (day by day) such as should be saved (those that were being saved).

The word church is a collective word, such as "herd" "covey" "flock". Literally, it indicates a collection or assembly (called-out people) and is translated "assembly" in Acts 19:32,39,41, with no reference whatsoever to God's people. In some places it refers to saints literally assembled (1 Cor. 11:18) but is perhaps more often used to "collect" figuratively those who have something in common.

All of God's children (the firstborn ones, Heb. 12:22,23) make up

designation because they have something in common—their relationship to God the Father. They need not know one another, and God authorizes no plan for collective acts. But as each seeks to serve God through Jesus Christ, he “glorifies God in the church.” (Eph. 1:6,12; 2:6,22; 3:21) The reader is blind indeed who tried to bind these passages to the local organized church.

But there are requirements, and provisions in the N.T., for saints to work collectively—to function as a unit. They were to assemble (Heb. 10:25) worship, 1 Cor. 11:22-f) have overseers (Acts 14:23) a treasury (1 Cor. 16:2) etc. It was to such a group as this that Paul addressed the Philippian letter, and he called them a “church”. (Phil. 4:15) This is the local church or congregation—the largest, smallest, and only organization of Christians given divine sanction in the New Testament.

These saints are “collected” by something more than a common relationship to God; they enter into a certain oneness by agreement (Cf. Acts 9:26-28; 3 Jn 10); discipline one another (Matt. 18:17; 1 Cor. 5); have servants (Rom. 16:1) and send messengers (Phil. 2:25); and in many other ways work as one—collectively.

Many errors arise because we fail to recognize the N.T. definition of “church” (Ex.: the importance of being a member) or the various uses of the word

(Ex.: some try to make each obligation of the individual saint, an obligation of the local church.)

Careful reading “would from many a blunder free us, and foolish notion.” Beside that, we might learn something.

—*Plain Talk*, vol. 1, no. 4, p.4.

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The Universal And “Local” Church

Even a casual reading of the New Testament shows various applications of the word “church”. “I will build my church”— “the church, which is His body” — “Unto Him be glory in the church” — all, obviously, refer to the one universal church (Mat. 16:18; Eph. 1:23; Eph. 3:21)

But “tell it to the church” — “elders in every church” —and “let not the church be charged” as clearly refer to the local or organized congregation, of which there are many. (Matt. 18:17; Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 5:16)

Apparently it is not so clear, however, that the differences in these is sometimes more than size and number. Study the differences listed below, and when you have grasped the significance (exemplified in some conclusions we have drawn) you will be able to add other “points” to this list.

Universal Church—A Relationship Of Saints With God

In both heaven and earth *Eph. 3:15*
The Lord “adds” members *Acts 2:47*
Entered by baptism *1 Cor. 12:13*
All saints are here *Gal. 3:27*
None but the saved *2 Tim. 2:19*
One Shepherd only *Matt. 23:8*
Assembled figuratively *Heb. 12:23*
Satan can’t prevail against *Matt. 16:18*

Local Church—A Relationship Of Saints With Saints

Earthly, limited *Phil 1:1*
We “join” ourselves to *Acts 9:26*
By agreement with fellow-saints *3 Jn 10*
Certain saints here *1 Cor. 1:2*
Some “not of us” *1 Jn 2:19*
Lesser shepherds here *1 Pet. 5:2*
Literally assemble *1 Cor. 14:23*
Can and does prevail *Rev. 2:5*

The universal church is a relationship of individuals with God, that comes first, and exists regardless of what men do or say (3 Jo. 9-10) as long as the individuals walk in God’s truth. The local church is an additional tie, of saints with saints, which God wishes us to take in order that we may function as an organized unit—function collectively—to carry out His divine purpose.

—Robert F. Turner, *Plain Talk*, vol. 1, no. 10, p. 5.

One Baptism

Rianna Hockaday was baptized into Christ a week ago Friday night, the closing night of our Gospel Meeting with Robert Harkrider. We rejoice with Rianna and her grandparents, Thomas and Reve. We commend Rianna for her decision to serve the Lord. Let’s all do all that we can to encourage her in her journey toward heaven. Her cell phone number is 903-285-5383. Her address is the same as Thomas’ and Reve’s. Welcome Rianna.

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NEWS (continued from back page)
a wound and infection, but that is much better now—**Wanda Sikes** is still recovering from her knee replacement surgery and she is still having some good days and some not so good. She hopes to be in one of the services today—**Lelda Thompson** has recently suffered from an upper respiratory infection and has not been feeling well at all—**Amanda Willeford** has reported that the question about her heart issues have been answered and she is fine—**Yvonne White** is having serious back problems and she may have to have surgery in the near future—**Jennifer Arnold** was sick last Sunday and not in our services, but she was back with us Wednesday night—**June Guthrie’s Mother** has the shingles, had a procedure done recently and may have to have another one or possibly two, to relieve the pain—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson** and **Joan Tosh**.