

NEWS

Kenneth Amerson continues in ETMC in Tyler following his bypass surgery. He has been having heart rate and rhythm problems, and evidently medication did not solve the problem so they planned to shock his heart back into rhythm yesterday—**Relda Marshall** continues to make progress in her recovery from cancer surgery. She is presently on a schedule of one treatment a week for three week, than off a week—**Ron Traugher** had sinus surgery Friday morning and beginnings of a polyp and much infection were found. He is doing (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:

June 10, 2012

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Luke Arnold

Ken Ferguson Pat Marshall
Kevin Kanaley Richard Tapparo

Sunday Evening

Ken Ferguson Pat Marshall

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—James Johnson (Opening)
—Andrew Arnold (Closing)

PM—Willie Don Davis (Opening)
—Charles Davis (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Bob Arnold
P.M.—Paul Chapman

(notify Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

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

Bulletin

815 S. Jefferson St. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455
(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XIX

June 3, 2012

Number 23

Vacation Bible School

June 11 - 14, 2012

10:00 - 11:30 AM

Theme: The Beatitudes

Classes for all Ages including Adults

Southside Church of Christ
815 S. Jefferson
Mt. Pleasant, TX

Two “Fellowships”

Robert F. Turner

(Read this twice, then think about it a while)

In 1 Jn. 1: John describes his fellowship with God as one dependent upon his walking “in the light” of God’s truth. He had learned of Christ, first hand, and then wrote this truth for our benefit; so that we may have the same kind of fellowship he had, i.e., fellowship with God. There is no fellowship with God for those who walk in darkness—error and sin.

But in 3 Jn. (vs. 9-10) John tells us of some of his brethren (evidently folk who had fellowship with God) who had been cast out of the church. Diotrephes had severed fellowship with them, and forbade others to have such fellowship. This was wrong, undoubtedly; but the fact remains that it could and did happen. *This is a case where God maintained a fellowship which men refused.*

The opposite is true in 1 Cor. 5. Here, a member of the church in Corinth (whom we conclude to have had fellowship with God at one time) now lived in immorality. According to 1 Jn. 1: (and implied here) this man had now severed his fellowship with God. He walked in darkness. But the brethren in Corinth continued to keep fellowship with him. This, too, was wrong—but it did happen. *Men maintained a fellowship which God re-*

fused.

Thus, two types of fellowship are apparent—that with God, depending wholly upon our walking in truth; and that with men (even brethren), which is subject to man’s approval or disapproval. Saying we *should* approve only that which God approves (with which I agree) does not change facts. Brethren sometimes approve that which they should not—or disapprove that which they should accept. God knows the difference, and judges accordingly, but the “party” doesn’t always act as God would have it act.

As we individually obey the gospel we pledge ourselves to serve God. To Him we must individually give account when life is through. (Matt. 16:24; Rom. 14:4,12) Following this agreement of allegiance, and subject to its obligations, we join hands with others to work and worship together in a local fellowship, or congregation. God commands this union; the ties of this association are grand and its obligations real; but it remains the means of serving the Master, and must never *become* our Master.

Fellowship of men with men is an earthly tie which has an acceptable relig-

ious significance only when it compliments our service to God. It is given divine regulations, but men do not always follow those regulations. One who counts on the outward bond of “church” fellowship alone to guarantee his spiritual redemption, leans on a broken reed. NO, I DO NOT DEPRECIATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH. I seek to emphasize the meaning of the true church, as God’s people, who do God’s work, in God’s way—praised for their allegiance and service to God, rather than for their faithfulness to the “party”.

Brethren who are primarily interested in keeping their fellowship with God intact, will be drawn to one another by this common interest, and find a congregational fellowship that forecasts the sweetness of heaven.

—*Plain Talk*, vol. 1, no. 11, p. 4.

Fading In The Long Stretch

As a wide eyed boy in Oklahoma, I owned a horse by the name of *Tony*. What I liked about *Tony* is that in a race he had a rapid take off. He would lead the gang in the take off but would soon fade in the long stretch and lose the race.

Some folks in the church are like *Tony*. They have what I call “Baptismal exuberance” but fail in the long stretch. When they come up from the waters of baptism they want to set the world on fire but soon fade into spiritual oblivion. Jesus talked about these folks in Luke 8:13

when he said, “They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy: and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”

Sometimes it is the vicissitudes of life that cause one to fade in the long stretch. Sometimes it is caused by a egocentric life based on pride and vanity. We need to be like the “good ground” that having heard the word “keep it” and bring forth fruit with patience (verse 15).

—Ward Hogland, *The Voice*

One Confession

Mollee Ferrell made confession of sins Wednesday night. May the Lord bless you, Mollee, as you try to live for Him.

Work Night for VBS

Monday (tomorrow) night at 6:00 PM here at the building!

NEWS (continued from back page)

well at home—**Jeremy, Catherine and Brantley Moss** have all been sick recently, but are doing some better now—**Zach Willford** informed us Wednesday that his arm has recovered from the injury he had—**Paul Chapman** had a fever Wednesday and was not able to be in the service Wednesday night—**Johnny Willeford**, Zach’s dad, was having kidney stone and gout problems—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.*