

**NEWS**

**June Johnson** had successful knee replacement surgery and went home last Thursday. She is beginning therapy, still very sore, but doing well—**Amanda Willeford** is suffering with kidney stones and was not at services last week—**Buford Guthrie** was scheduled to have a heart cath. done last Friday—**Thomas Hockaday** was sick with chills and a fever and was not in services on Wednesday—**Bettye Mitchell** is suffering with an irregular heart beat and blood pressure problems. She is currently undergoing tests—**Elaine Conradt** has had rheumatoid arthritis, but she recently found out that she is in remission—(cont. on p. 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:  
July 15, 2012**

**Serving The Lord's Supper  
Sunday Morning**

**Scripture: Paul Chapman**  
**Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns**  
**Charles Davis Bobby Burns**

**Sunday Evening**  
**Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns**  
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**PRAYERS**  
**Sun. AM—Willie Don Davis (Opening)**  
**—Buford Guthrie (Closing)**  
**PM—Luke Arnold (Opening)**  
**—Zach Willeford (Closing)**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**A.M.—Leon Goff**  
**P.M.—Ken Johnson**  
**(call 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  
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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

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### Deceit

By Ed Harrell

Upon his return from the Scopes trial in 1925, H. L. Mencken told a story of one of the leading citizens of Dayton who was a staunch prohibitionist but also spent much of his time half stewed.

This citizen went home one evening after drinking a bit too much and told his wife he was sick and that she would have to do the evening praying alone. He went to bed but he could hear his wife on her knees in the next room. She began: "Oh, Lord, throw the mantle of Thy mercy around my drunken husband." He bolted up in bed and shouted to his wife, "Gracious, woman, don't tell Him I'm drunk; say I'm sick."

No one believes such nonsense. But millions act like they do.

The recent public spectacle of a famous television preacher trapped by immorality is not new, nor is the use of deceit to try to escape the consequences of sin. It is difficult for the mighty to humble themselves and say, "I have sinned."

But it is not only difficult for the mighty; it is onerous for all of us. Fortunate is the man who has never been entangled in the treacherous descent from immorality, to lying, to a life of deceit, fleeing the public price of sin.

One pays a terrible cost for hypocrisy. We sacrifice the cleansing grace of a penitent heart, brought low by the chastisement of conscience (2 Cor 7:10). We lose our ability to identify with others, to comfort and instruct those who carry such burdens

in their own lives (**Gal 6:1-5**). And, above all, we forfeit our honor and self-respect (**2 Pt 1:9**). Somewhere, deep in my heart, I know that I lie to myself as well as to others.

So it is that one sin unacknowledged leads me deeper and deeper into the throes of deceit. Without self-respect, without the answer of a good conscience, the will to do right has perished.

Public wrong can rarely be hidden successfully; its public acknowledgement is the road to God's forgiveness and our own reformation. But even more dangerous is the private deceit which threatens the integrity of my conscience.

There is much about me that you do not know, and you will never know. But I know, and God knows. It is between me and Him that deceit becomes most deceitful. I have never believed that public recitals of private sins served either God or man. But the soul-searching, closet prayer of a penitent heart is the biblical road to forgiveness and personal reconstruction.

The most curious facet of the story of the Tennessee drunk is the image of God that it presents. Can we hide from God? Such thinking, callously pursued, denigrates God; it obscures His eternal presence and majesty; it contributes to the frivolous modern concept of powerless divinity.

I confess that I guard my behavior for many different reasons. I value my

family and loved ones; I am humbled by the esteem of others; I would not want to risk my job and the stability of my life. But, for all of that, I know that I can, if I will, run and hide. It may be risky, but I can sin and deceive.

The gyroscope of my life must be a God-consciousness. I live in His presence. He is with me everywhere I go—for good or evil. He watches, along with heavenly hosts, the adulterer and the liar. Will you do such dark and repulsive things in His presence? It is chilling to think such thoughts.

Of course, I do sin in His presence. And when I do, as I should, I fall remorsefully on my face and pray that He will do what I cannot do - remember it no more. It is a grand and awesome truth that I cannot forget my sins; they are painfully etched on my conscience for a lifetime. But He who knows all, has chosen to know no more.

The majestic truth can be thus stated: if you deceive yourself and pretend that He does not know - He knows. If you humble yourself and pray forgiveness for what He knows - He no longer knows.

-via *Anderson bulletin*

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**The Man Who Tried Three Religions**

*By W. Frank Walton*

"Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation,

full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task" (Acts 6:3).

The growing Jerusalem church consisted of converted Hebrew from Jerusalem (Acts 3:13; 4:50 and Hellenistic Jews "from every nation" (Acts 2:5). The Hellenistic widows' needs in the church were being overlooked, so the apostles' put seven spiritual "men of good reputation" in charge of this benevolent task (Acts 6:1-12).

How many can you name from memory of these early benevolent servants in the Jerusalem church? Probably Stephen, later the first martyr (Acts 7), and Philip, who later devoted himself to evangelistic work (Acts 8:5). All seven men in this list have Greek names. These are Hellenistic Jews, except one man listed last: ... Nicolas, the proselyte from Antioch" (Acts 6:5).

Nicolas is the first Gentile convert documented in Acts. Previously, he had converted from Gentile paganism to Judaism. Greek paganism was frightfully superstitious and morally bankrupt. In this idolatrous darkness, Nicolas the Gentile was attracted to the goodness and righteousness of the Jewish religion (Deuteronomy 4:6-8). He became a practicing Jew that meant annually going up to Jerusalem for feast days (Exodus 23:17).

Hence, it is most likely he was among that international crowd of Jewish worshippers on Pentecost (Acts 2:5). If so, he was

touched by the gospel of Jesus, by penitent faith in the Messiah, and gladly obeyed Christ in baptism (Acts 2:36-41).

What an exciting conversion story out of the wilderness of religious confusion! I like and admire Nicolas. He grew amid Gentile idolatry, converted to Judaism, and then became, upon hearing the gospel, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Here truly is a "good" man, willing to be led and controlled by "the Spirit" (Acts 6:3)! Having been in two other religions, he again was willing to change when faced with the truth. At last, he discovered the true religion of the Son of God and obeyed "truth as it is in Jesus" (Ephesians 4:21).

This is the spirit of an idealistic truth seeker (Acts 17:11). "Lord, what will you have me to do?" (Acts 22:10). Every person is his or her own "restoration movement" to be all the Lord wants us to be.

In seeking to be right before God, we must be willing to change wherever we err. This is the final test of a good heart's true sincerity: obeying the truth where it leads (Matthew 5:6,8; Luke 8:15).

-via *teachingtruth.com*

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**NEWS (cont. from back page)**

Let's remember **Relda Marshall** as she undergoes her chemotherapy treatments 3 times a month—**Remember** our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson, & Joan Tosh.**