

NEWS

Kenneth Amerson is having some heart rhythm problems. He was in ER here at the hospital Wednesday and he is being treated with medication. He sees his surgeon in Tyler Tuesday and then his heart doctor here in Mt. Pleasant on Thursday—**Buford Guthrie** saw his doctor Thursday to determine the amount and where the treatments will be administered. A week from tomorrow he will have a colonoscopy, and then on September 6 he will have the implant procedure—**Augustus** was born to Ashley and Derek, Ron and Mary Burns' (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:

August 26, 2012

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Thomas Hockaday

Ken Ferguson **Pat Marshall**
Tom Davis **Richard Tapparo**

Sunday Evening

Ken Ferguson **Pat Marshall**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Buford Guthrie** (Opening)

—**William White** (Closing)

PM—**Leon Goff** (Opening)

—**Ken Johnson** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Bob Arnold**

P.M.—**Paul Chapman**

(notify **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

815 S. Jefferson St. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

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Two Churches Want To Grow

By Bill Hall

Two churches want to grow, but their attitudes toward growth differ greatly.

The first church looks upon growth as its primary purpose. Goals are placed before the membership: "We want to double our membership within the next three years," for instance. Success (or failure) is judged almost entirely on the basis of that congregation's numerical growth.

The second church looks upon the saving of souls as its primary purpose and any growth in membership is just a natural result of that primary purpose. Members of the second church are infused with the value of immortal souls rather than a sense of congregational pride.

Members of the first church become eager to get people to the water. Baptism is the point at which people are added to the membership list; consequently, it's going to take so many baptisms to keep pace with their goal of doubling their membership. They must not only get them to the water, they must get them there within the time period that has been arbitrarily set by their leaders.

Members of the second church are far more eager to get people to repent. Their concern is for additions to the Lord's body rather than additions to a membership list. Their approach is to bring sinners to a consciousness of their sin and the consequences of remaining in sin. If they can do this in one study, great! But if considerable time is required to up-

root false concepts and to plant the true seed of the gospel, they patiently accept this. Their only sense of urgency grows out of the uncertainty of life and its duration. But they know that shortcuts are not the answer; that baptism without repentance is worthless; and that once people are brought to true repentance, having been properly taught, baptism for the remission of sins will follow. So they wait with longsuffering until the gospel brings about its desired effect in the hearts of those whom they are teaching.

Members of the first church will be tempted to use questionable tactics in their approach to people. The old methods and approaches don't seem to be effective any more. New and more positive approaches must be found. So the members of the first church make their appeal to the pride of people. They persuade them of their self-worth; they build their self-image; they tell them how valuable they would be to the congregation.

"We need you," they tell their prospects. They might also extol the virtues of the congregation, persuading their prospects of the value of being a part of such a vibrant, growing group of people. So, people "become members," and they conform to the rules that are placed before them for acceptance within the group, but there may have been little grief over sin; in fact, they might even still believe they were Christians before they "became members."

The members of the second church recognize that the gospel never makes its appeal to the pride of people. They bring people to see their spiritual bankruptcy; that their true worth is not to be found in self, but in Christ; that they must humble themselves and look to Christ for their exaltation; that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation; that their only hope is to be found in Christ.

They would bring them to say, in the words of Mrs. C.H. Morris:

Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
Naught as an offering to Jesus my King,
Only my sinful, now contrite heart;
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart.

The first church may become compromising in its teaching. Its elders intend to maintain doctrinal soundness, but there is the pressure to produce, to maintain the growth rate set before the congregation. When doctrinal soundness becomes an obstacle to that purpose, the elders may succumb to the pressures and ease up on its teaching. The second church faces no such pressure, for in its concern for the spiritual wellbeing of people, there is desire for truth on every subject vital to salvation.

The emphasis of the first church is organizational and institutional; the emphasis of the second is spiritual and heavenly.

We commend the second church to our readers. Serious problems can result when churches see growth as their primary purpose. If goals are to be set and goals can serve a good purpose—let them focus on the number to be taught rather than the number to be baptized. If new approaches are needed, let them be conceived only if they are compatible with God's wisdom in efforts to reach others, let all determine to know nothing "except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." When churches thus become really serious about saving souls, God will give the increase and growth will take care of itself.

—*Southside Church of Christ Bulletin*, Sulphur Springs, TX.

Gospel Meeting

Tim Jennings will be the speaker in a meeting at the Franklin Drive church in **Texarkana, AR, August 26—29, 7:00 PM** Monday through Wednesday.

Have You Repented?

The definition of repentance is, "to change one's mind or purpose" (Vine's Expository dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. P. 525). Repentance involves changing our mind and attitude about sin. Instead of saying "yes" to sin - we start saying "no" to its pleasures. When we do that, our lives change for the better. We stop practicing the sin we once held onto and embraced in

our lives (1 Peter 4:1-4). The Bible commands repentance (Acts 17:30) so that we can be saved from the judgment that sin brings with it (Acts 17:31). Do not be lost because of sin - Repent!

—Brian Meade, *The Voice*

Building Progress

Our future building at the corner of Highway 49 and Alexander St., has the steel frame assembled and the parking lot is being prepared and poured. The recent rains have probably slowed the progress some, but we are thankful for the blessing of rain. Before long we will be seeing the superstructure take shape.

NEWS (continued from back page)

daughter and son-in-law, last Tuesday in Fredericksburg. All is well and Ron and Mary are with them. Congratulations to all of them—**Mary Helen Foster**, Paul Chapman's mother, is doing some better and Paul and Carla plan to go back down to Houston this week to be with her—**Catherine Moss** is obviously doing some better since she was in our service last Sunday. Continue to pray that all will be well with her and the baby—**Christine Davis** is doing some better and was in our services last week—**Jennifer Arnold** was sick last Sunday and not in the service, but she was back with us Wednesday night—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.**