

**NEWS**

**Ron Traugher** came home from Baylor Hospital in Dallas Monday night and is doing well following the 3 By-passes he had last week—**Bettye Mitchell** was to be moved this past Friday from the local hospital to Pleasant Springs nursing home on north Edwards. She is receiving therapy and will continue therapy—**Amanda Willeford’s cousin** was killed in an automobile wreck and Amanda and the boys have gone to Nacogdoches to be with the family. She was planning to be back by today—**Carla Chapman** was not feeling (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:  
October 14, 2012**

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

Scripture: Ken Ferguson  
**Kendall Johnson** **Willie Don Davis**  
**Bobby Burns** **Colton Fulmer**

**Sunday Evening**  
**Kendall Johnson** **Willie Don Davis**  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PRAYERS**  
**Sun. AM—Kenneth Amerson (Opening)**  
**—Ricky Davis (Closing)**  
**PM—Austin Fulmer (Opening)**  
**—Richard Tapparo (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](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

Volume XIX

October 7, 2012

Number 38

### Which People Are The Church

By Robert F. Turner

“I know the *building* is not the church,” a friend said. “The church is made up of people—but WHO? WHAT? WHICH PEOPLE?” That’s the question!!

Let’s give it a whirl. A great multitude of people gathered about the apostles, the first Pentecost after Christ’s resurrection. Of that number 3,000 were “pricked in their hearts” by the proclamation of truth, and obeyed the commands, “repent and be baptized.” (Acts 2:37-41) Of those people in that multitude, *which ones* constituted the church? If you can read you know that it was “they that gladly received his word (and) were baptized.” (vss. 41,47)

What about those “good citizens, someone’s father or mother, who “believed” but didn’t think obedience was necessary? They just didn’t make it. And what if some baptized failed to “continue steadfastly in the apostles doctrine...? (vss. 42-f) They do not classify among the faithful. The only real question here is having enough courage to accept the record.

Antioch was a large city. Among the total population WHO, WHAT, WHICH people were the *church* in Antioch? It was those who “turned unto the Lord” at the preaching of Christ; those who would “cleave unto the Lord” with purpose of heart. (Acts 11:20-26) Those who failed to “turn” or “cleave” were on the outside; it is that simple.

The book of Acts is a history of the early church. Study it carefully, and you will see that TWO elements are essential to the Lord’s

There must be PEOPLE—yes; but there must also be divine TRUTH. People are the church ONLY when those people accept, obey and abide in the TRUTH.

It is not enough, therefore, that we consider a certain *party of people* as the Lord's church. We have a right, nay, the *obligation to expect a Bible-defined conduct of those people*. Just as there is no reason to call a man a Christian who does not act like a Christian; there is no reason to call a certain group of people the church of Christ if they do not act like the church of Christ given divine approval in the inspired word of God.

Their acceptance or likeness to another group or groups does not prove identity with the Lord's church. Those other groups are subject to the same test as the first group. And since our friend knows the *building* is not the church, he surely understands that staying with a certain *building* does no prove a group acceptable with the Lord.

This is no *easy way*—like name worn, building occupied, or even the *people* (old bro. John Doe) by which we can prove a church acceptable. We must examine their faith and practice in the light of God's word. That will prove difficult for people who refuse to study the Bible....and it may necessitate some brotherly discussions on the part of people who differ in their understanding of the word; but there is no other way. It places control

of such matters in the hands of God, who gave the word; and keeps it there where it belongs. *The true CHURCH OF CHRIST welcomes this sort of investigation!!*

—Plain Talk, June, 1966

=====

### The Glorious Church

The “glorious church” of Eph. 5:27 has been subjected to much abuse by those who “glory” in the institution, while failing to see the necessary characteristics for such an appellation. The thought in this scripture is that Christ gave himself (upon the cross) so that individuals might be cleansed and set apart “with the washing of water by the word.” The saved ones are grouped or collected by the word “church,” which is “glorious” by virtue of “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

From the first of the Ephesian letter GOD'S “glory” is shown to be the eternal purpose of all things. Saints are chosen in Christ “that we should be holy and without blame before him”—*to the praise of the glory of his grace*” (1:4-6. Verse 12 says, “That we should be to the praise of his glory,” and verse 14, “unto the praise of his glory.” God is called the “Father of glory” (vs. 17), and that which saints shall inherit has glory that is rich (vs. 18). Paul's tribulations are said to be “your glory” (3:13) but the obvious reference is to their ultimate benefit, not to

aggrandizement. The closing verse of chapter three says, “Unto him (GOD) be glory” and the church *gives* rather than receives the praise. God is glorified when His creatures are faithful unto Him; albeit such faithfulness is possible only through the forgiveness that is in Christ. Hence, the faithful church (in Christ) is the spiritual sphere for this praise-giving.

The “glorious church” is a people who have gone back to thinking and acting as God intended from the beginning (Eph. 4:23-25). They have “put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Col. 3:10). We are made to glorify God, but in our sin we have failed miserably. Now, in Christ, we can be renewed “in the spirit of your mind” and the change in conduct which accompanies such a renewal.

The “church” that is “glorious” is that body of people who have gone to Christ for sanctification and cleansing with the washing of water by the word; and, continue to glorify God by doing all to His glory (1 Cor. 10:31).

—Robert F. Turner, *Plain Talk*, December 1978.

=====

### Our Fall Gospel Meeting

**Dee Bowman** will be the speaker in our meeting **October 21-24**. This will be a Sunday through Wednesday meeting. We will have morning and evening ser-

vices Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Note that evening services will be at **7:00**. Let's make our plans to be present, work in every way we can for the meeting and pray for a successful meeting.

=====

### Gospel Meetings!

**Kris Emerson** is the speaker at the Rice Rd. church in Tyler, **October 7-12, 7:00 PM** weeknights.

**Lawrence Kelley** is the speaker in a meeting at the **Stalling Dr. church in Nacogdoches October 7-11, 7:00 PM** weeknights.

**Tom Kinzel** is the speaker in a meeting at the **Campbell Rd. church in Garland, October 7-10, 7:30 PM** weeknights.

**Tim Coffey** is the speaker in a meeting at the church in **Bradley, AR, October 7-12, 7:30 PM** weeknights.

=====

**NEWS** (continued from back page) well Wednesday night and was not in our service—**Marion Shurtleff** was sick last Sunday and not in our services, but she was back with us Wednesday—**Mollie Ferrell** was also sick last Sunday and not in our services—**Thomas Hockaday** was sick last Sunday morning but was back with us Sunday night—**Fred Jacklett**, a gospel preacher that the Chapmans have known for years is in a hospital in Dallas with an infection. Prayers are requested—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.**