

NEWS

Judy Hinson had her third chemo treatment this past Thursday in Ft. Worth. It was good to see her in our service Wednesday night—**Melita Rivers** is in the local hospital in Room 511 taking therapy following what is possibly a mini-stroke—**Betty Rust** fell week before last and bruised her face and was not in our service last Sunday but she was present Wednesday night—**Pat and Relda Marshall** will be going to M.D. Anderson in Houston to have a procedure done—Mike and Lynn Lovell are grandparents again (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:
Bob Arnold 563-2977
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:
Jared Rogers 682-300-3602
Leon Goff 572-6809

**ASSIGNMENTS FOR:
June 15, 2014**

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

Scripture: Ron Traugher
Kenneth Amerson Phil Brown
Colton Fulmer Austin Fulmer

Sunday Evening
Kenneth Amerson Phil Brown

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Thomas Hockaday (Opening)
—Willie Don Davis (Closing)
PM—Kendall Johnson (Opening)
—Buford Guthrie (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Paul Chapman
(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.

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

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Is The Way of Christ Intolerant?

By Paul Earnhardt

Intolerance is an English word with a hard edge to it. Webster defines it as “incapacity to endure; esp. refusal to tolerate other’s opinions, religious beliefs, etc.; illiberality; bigotry.” This definition suggests a bigoted attitude toward others and their religious beliefs which might well employ ridicule, social ostracism, or force to drive out both them and their beliefs.

Frankly, it would be difficult to charge Jesus and His apostles with such an attitude. The Lord was remarkably patient and longsuffering toward all men and women, even those who hated Him and all He stood for. He urged His disciples to love all men, even those who spitefully used and persecuted them (Matt. 5:43-48). Peter, urging patience under unjust treatment, says “For to this were you called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example that you should follow His steps...who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered He did not threaten” (1 Pet. 2:21,23).

The apostle Paul also taught a love for others that was patient and longsuffering (1 Cor. 13:4-7) and urged the disciples to “speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men” (Titus 3:1,3). The idea of ridiculing people into compliance or seeking their conformity to the kingdom of heaven by force would have been abhorrent to Jesus and the early Christians who followed Him. Jesus was a teacher, not a soldier or a politician. People were drawn to Him by His teachings and His character. His teaching was plain but patient. No one ever left His presence without understanding two things: what the kingdom of God demanded, and how much the Teacher cared for them.

But in today's world to be tolerant means more than patient endurance of beliefs and practices in others which one earnestly believes to be wrong and eternally dangerous. Modern tolerance demands that one accept as equally valid, true, and good every belief and practice. In fact, so strongly and broadly is this felt that to challenge the truth of any religious belief or the morality of any life style, however kindly, is judged immediately to be outrageously bigoted and self-righteous. And, ironically, if any should find the courage to kindly disagree with the chosen convictions and behavior of others they are almost certain to be ridiculed and scorned. In this culture not accepting all religions and lifestyles as equally worthwhile is "the sin against the Holy Spirit." It will not be treated generously.

The reason for this current cultural mood is the widely held view that there is no such things as absolute truth in religion or morals, no such things as absolute right and wrong. In this worldview whatever works for you is true, but what works for you may not work for others. Each person is left to find his own truth. (Interestingly enough we are still very much given to absolute truth in the material world and have no interest in taking on a physician or pharmacist who believes that one way of treating disease or filling a prescription is just as valid and useful as another.)

To be candid, if we take this post-

modern definition of "truth," the way of Jesus Christ is bound to be indicted as both narrow-minded and intolerant.

Jesus' claims about His Father and Himself were unyieldingly absolute. He taught that there was only one God (Mark 12:29-30) and that no one could come to that God except by Him (John 14:6; 8:32; 16:12-13). Those who did not believe in Him, He said, would "die in their sins" (John 8:12). For the Son of God it was the "narrow way" which led to life. The broad road led to "destruction" (Matt. 7:13-14).

The apostles were equally adamant. Paul pronounced an anathema on any, even angels or himself, who should dare to preach any other gospel than the one he had first preached (Galatians 1:8). He also wrote that in Christ were "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" and that in Him dwelt "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:3,9). For him Christ was "the Way" (Acts 24:14) and not merely one of many.

Yet, if the way of Christ is narrow the love of Christ is wide, for God wants "all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). And in His longsuffering love He is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). It is for that reason that Jesus "tasted death for everyone" (Heb. 2:9). There is nothing narrow and constricted about the heart of God. The gospel is for all (Mark 16:15)

and that without "partiality" (Rom. 2:11).

Why then, if God's love is so wide, is Christ's way so narrow? Because the true God is real, not a fiction, and His righteous will and character are authentic, not a fantasy. The way of Christ is narrow because that is the only way to heaven, and that is where His Father wishes all of us to be.

—*Southside Bulletin*, Sulphur Springs, TX 5/11/14

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Annual Ladies Day
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Amanda Willeford and Emilee Capel are planning the Ladies Day for next year and will be sending out "Save The Date" cards. If you have any addresses that you would like to add to the mail out list please get those to Amanda or Emilee.

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Men's Meeting
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The elders have decided to have a men's meeting to discuss the work of the congregation and to receive suggestions. This first meeting will be on July 20, the third Sunday in July, at 4:45 PM. All male members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

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Ronald Stringer's New Address
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112 Buffalo Rd., Lawrenceburg, TN, 38464, and his phone number has not changed, 256-221-8740.

Congratulations to our Two Graduates

Mollee Ferrell and Colton Fulmer have successfully graduated from High School. We are thankful for them and wish for them the best in life, and especially that they continue to manifest faith in the Lord. We look forward to them continuing to be with us for the next few years since they plan to attend NTCC here in the Mt. Pleasant area.

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NEWS (continued from back page)
and William and Yvonne White are great-grandparents again. **Ellison Blake Wilkins**, a girl, was born to Courtney and Blake March 30th. Congratulations to all of them—**Joyce Williams** has gone to stay for a while with Lisa and Mark. She is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery at ETMC in Tyler June 19. She will have in hospital therapy for several days following the surgery. She will not be in our services for a while. She can be called on her cell phone and Lisa's address is 440 FM 1635, Atlanta, TX 75551—**Daxon Willeford** is scheduled to see a doctor in Nacogdoches tomorrow to check out a problem—**James Johnson** had a bad day last Wednesday and was not in our service Wednesday night—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Ronald Stringer, Boots Walker, Judy Hinson** and **Bob Arnold**—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*