

# *Southside Church of Christ*

## **Bulletin**

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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

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## **“Its Just Church!”**

*By Jerry King*

One year, when my son Matt was a little fellow, I coached his "coach pitch" baseball team. We practiced a couple of afternoons a week, and then games were played on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Matt and I were fortunate in that only one of our games conflicted with a worship service. We had no Wednesday evening conflicts, but we did have a Tuesday evening one – our Spring Gospel Meeting. The service started at 7:30, the game started at 7:00.

I have long believed that children learn as much, if not more, from the example that their parents set than from any words their parents might speak, and I have always believed that church services should be a priority over any other conflicting activity. And so, not only did I tell my children that Wednesday evening Bible study was the Wednesday evening priority and Gospel Meeting services were the weeknight priority during the week of our Gospel meetings, I tried my best to exemplify it as well.

In this case, it meant that Matt would miss playing in the baseball game and I would miss coaching it on that Tuesday evening. That certainly was not a "life or death" decision – we would have more than enough players suited up to play the game, and several assistant coaches who could fill my shoes. The game would go on perfectly fine without us (as much as we would like to think otherwise), and if not, it was a game – "an activity engaged in for amusement" (WordPerfect Dictionary).

When I shared with my head assistant that Matt and I would be missing the lone Tuesday evening game, he was a bit stupefied. He found it difficult to understand why I would miss the game to attend church. He asked me to reconsider, and when I refused to, he answered, "But it's just church!" Now, mind you, this was a fellow who had already missed several Saturday morning games because he was a race car enthusiast and several races he wanted to attend had been run out of town on Saturday. But that was race cars! This was "just church."

That kind of attitude has become more and more prevalent in our recreation-mad society. "It's just church" has become a mantra for unbelievers who see nothing of interest or entertainment, and therefore nothing of value, in church services. That is certainly disturbing, but what is even more disturbing is the increased slack attitude toward church evident among those who claim to be believers. It used to be that schools and recreational organizations would not schedule activities on Wednesday evenings because of pressure from most of the more conservative denominational churches. That pressure seems to be almost non-existent today. And so, not only are Wednesday evening activities scheduled with no thought, but even Sunday morning activities have become commonplace.

And even in the Lord's church (where we continue to stress the importance of "church") it is not uncommon to see a slack attitude about church services, especially weeknight services. "It's just church" might not be on the lips, but is it in the heart? Is it in your heart?

Perhaps it is unfortunate that we have come to use the phrase "going to church" to describe what we do on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings and during Gospel Meetings. Maybe we need to be reminded of what "going to church" really is. "Going to church" is singing songs of praise to God. "Going to church" is offering prayers to God for and with one another. "Going to church" is remembering in a special way the death of Christ for our sins. "Going to church" is studying with other Christians so that we can better understand the will of God for our lives. "Going to church" is adoration to the One who created us and continues to bless us. "Going to church" is stirring one's fellow Christians to love and good deeds.

Wow, "It's just church" sounds pretty lame when we remember what going to church is, doesn't it? The next time you are tempted to miss, thinking that "It's just church," try substituting the word church with one of those descriptions of what church is. "I think I will stay home tonight. After all, it's only singing songs of

praise to God!" "My best friend is coming over, I think I'll go to a movie with him. After all, it's only adoration to the One who created me and continues to bless me!" "I think I'll go to the game instead. You know, it's only stirring up my brothers and sisters in Christ to love and good deeds!" Hmmm . . . church doesn't sound so insignificant that way, does it?

The world might think that "It's just church," and so see no harm in missing it if there is something else we want to do, but our God thinks more of it than that. That is why He led the Hebrew writer to warn his readers not to have a casual attitude about it: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Heb. 10:25).

—*churchofchristss.com*

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**Our Gospel Meetings**

**Bubba Garner** will begin his meeting here at Southside October 19 and will continue through Friday. Make your plans to attend.

Flyers are available in the foyer. Think of someone you would like to invite and hand them a flyer. Bubba is an excellent teacher and communicator. You can have confidence inviting a friend to hear him.

**Area Gospel Meetings**

**Ira Lynn** starts a meeting with the Rice Road church in Tyler, TX. The meeting will run through this Wednesday.

**Michael Cawthon** starts a meeting with the North Main church in Gladewater, TX. The meeting will run through Wednesday

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**Second Adult Class**

A second adult class will begin today in the large classroom. It will be taught by Jared Rogers and will cover the book of Ephesians.

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**Weekly Ladies' Class**

The Ladies' Class will meet this Wednesday, October 8, at **10:00 AM**. **Mary Burns** will be the teacher and all ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

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**NEWS** (continued from back page)

- **Bob Arnold** continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments.
- Continue to remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Judy Hinson, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson, Ronald Stringer, and Bob Arnold.**
- Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, Lelda Thompson, Lanelle Latimer.*

## NEWS

- **Judy Hinson** was able to come home this past Wednesday after a successful surgery.
- **Kristen Craig** has not been feeling well and is having some tests done.
- **Shirley Duncan's** grandson, **Troy**, has been diagnosed with an ulcer on his eye.
- **Melita Rivers** was not feeling well this past week.
- **Luke Arnold** was sick this past Sunday.
- **Boots Walker** continues to be very weak as he battles cancer. He is not able to attend services with us. (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**      717-3788  
**Leon Goff**         572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

October 12, 2014

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

Scripture: Phil Brown

**Ken Ferguson**        **Pat Marshall**  
**Stephen Hall**        **Richard Tapparo**

#### Sunday Evening

**Ken Ferguson**        **Pat Marshall**

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### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Kenneth Amerson** (Opening)

—**Bob Arnold**            (Closing)

PM—**Ricky Davis**        (Opening)

—**Willie Don Davis**    (Closing)

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Paul Chapman**

P.M.—**Leon Goff**

(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.

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