

NEWS

Charles Kyle is feeling some better than he was following the first treatment he received, but he has not been well enough to attend services since the treatment—**Dorothy Kyle** also was not feeling well enough to be in our services this past week—**Zachary Moss** was sick this past week with croup—**Naomi Copeland** was also sick last Sunday and Wednesday and was not in our services—**Judy Hinson** continues to struggle with the result of the surgery she had and has not been able to attend services yet. She starts chemo 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 717-3788
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR: November 16, 2014

Serving The Lord's Supper Sunday Morning

Scripture: Kendall Johnson

Paul Chapman **Andrew Arnold**
Kevin Kanaley **Colton Fulmer**

Sunday Evening

Paul Chapman **Andrew Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Leon Goff (Opening)
—James Johnson (Closing)
PM—Alec Capel (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Ron Burns

(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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Restoring Restoration

By Dee Bowman

“If Christianity would go back to its origins, cleanse itself resolutely from the silt of time, and take its stand with fresh sincerity from the personality and ideals of its founder, who could resist it?” That’s an observation from Will Durant from an article written for the Saturday Evening Post, in August of 1939. Isn’t it amazing how things don’t change? The statement is as relevant to our needs today as it was when Mr. Durant wrote it. It speaks of restoration. It is a call for restoration.

But that’s not the first time a call for restoration has been made. Both Old and New Testaments are replete with calls for restoration. The Prophet Jeremiah called for a restoration when he said “Thus saith the LORD, ‘Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls’” (Jer. 6:16).

Isn’t it amazing how things don’t change? The people then, much like the people of today were not obliged to listen. “But they said, we will not walk therein.”

Man wants his own way. He always has. It seems that no matter how many times he is called back to the truth of God, he can’t stay for long. He has to dilute. He has to rearrange. He has to make alterations. He has to do it his way.

God’s truth will not tolerate such mismanagement (2 John 9). Whether it is done in some sincere manner or out of gross rebellion, God will not allow man to tamper with His will (Psalms 119:89).

It’s hard to believe what’s happened to the restoration concept in the

past fifty years. I use the figure of fifty years because I've been acquainted with it for about that long. When I was a young man, the restoration motif was alive and well—in fact it was dynamic. People were constantly telling folks about the need to return to the Bible, to “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent.” They wanted “book-chapter-and-verse” preaching and would not be satisfied with less. They—most of them at least—could take you to that same book, chapter and verse and show you why they believed what they believed. What has happened folks? Why am I not hearing those same thoughts expressed?

In many churches of Christ today those slogans, cries for restoration, are not being heard. In fact, in many places they've not been heard in so long a time that many people are not even familiar with them. Are they no longer relevant? Do they no longer apply? Are they outmoded and antiquated?

Just how is a thing justified as scriptural today? Well, in many churches there is little effort made to give scriptural reasons for what is being done. And some preachers have gone so far from the restoration plea that they will tell you openly, and without shame, “what's the big deal? We're just another denomination anyhow.”

And do you know what's sad? In many cases, that's so. We have screamed out, “give us a king so we can be like the nations round about us!” (1 Sam. 8:5).

Churches in many places don't call for Bible authority for what they do (1 Pet. 4:11). They do what they want to do. If they want to have women participate in leadership roles in the worship services, they do it. If they want to have a choir, they do it. If they want a “contemporary service,” one with casual worship, (complete with coffee and donuts), they have it. And when asked where is the biblical authority for such, their reply is simple: “What's the big deal? We do lots of things for which we have no Bible authority.”

Churches in many places no longer subscribe to the Bible when it comes to the plan of salvation (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 1Pet. 3:21). For instance, many deny that baptism is even essential to salvation. “Churches of Christ say that?” you say. Yes sir. They will tell you that it's just an outward sign of the salvation that comes when one “accepts the Savior.” And they will tell you that with a degree of ecumenical pride—sometimes, even arrogantly.

Churches in many places are tainted with seeds of metropolitanism. Local autonomy is breached with impunity. One eldership oversees the work of several different churches. The work done by churches reaches into areas of psychology, home-health care, social and benevolent organizations, much of which is funded by churches without regard to whether or not the Scriptures approve of it. Para-church organizations and colleges and universi-

ties are funded by local congregations without consideration for what the Bible says about such matters. It seems that so long as a thing is done in the name of religion, it has God's approval. Phaw!

Could I just pose a couple or three questions?

Is the Bible the final authority regarding the plan of salvation and the work and worship of the church? Answer yes or no. Then read Romans 10:1-2 and John 14:6.

Will we be held accountable for what we teach and practice? Answer yes or no. Then read Galatians 1:6-9.

Is our plea to “speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent” relevant today or should we just abandon it as an old cliché? Just answer yes or no. Then read 1 Peter 4:11.

It's about time we decided whether or not the Bible is still relevant and whether or not we want to follow it. It's a matter of life or death, folks.

—*Southside in Pasadena, TX, online.*

One Baptism

Kylie Brown was baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of her sins Wednesday night. We rejoice with her and her loved ones. It is always a time of joy when people obey the gospel, God's power unto salvation. And it is encourag-

ing to see young people want to serve the Lord from an early age. We welcome Kylie as a member of Southside.

Upcoming Events

Our **Twelfth Annual Singing** is coming up **Friday night, January 16, 2015, 7:30 PM**. We are looking forward to another full auditorium and some wonderful singing led again by **Tim Stevens, Dane Shepard** and **Todd Dennis**. Keep this in mind and plan to attend.

Our **Weekend Meeting** for 2015 will be **February 13-15**. **Terry Slack**, from the Northwest church in Arlington, TX, and **Tyler Sams** from the Judson Road church in Longview, TX, will be our speakers.

Kris Emerson from Beaumont, TX will be the speaker in our spring meeting **April 19-24, 2015**. Kris is another outstanding young preacher.

NEWS (continued from back page) next Thursday—**Bob Arnold** had another treatment for his cancer this past week and only has one more treatment—Remember **Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy** and **Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Ronald Stringer, Judy Hinson** and **Bob Arnold**—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Lenelle Latimer, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*