

NEWS

Bess Arnold, Bob's mother, passed away last Monday night. Her funeral service was conducted Friday afternoon at Bates Cooper Sloan Funeral Home. We express our sincere sympathy to Bob and all the loved ones—**Clayton Bellamy** has been having breathing problems recently and has been having some difficult days—**Paul Chapman** has been sick with an upper respiratory infection this past week and was not in our services Sunday—**Andrew, Madelyn and Preston Arnold** were all sick last Sunday and not in our services (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: December 7, 2014

Serving The Lord's Supper Sunday Morning

Scripture: Andrew Arnold
Zach Willeford Alec Capel
Stephen Hall Bobby Burns

Sunday Evening

Zach Willeford Alec Capel

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Leon Goff (Opening)**
—**Phil Brown (Closing)**
PM—**Willie Don Davis (Opening)**
—**Colton Fulmer (Closing)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Kendall Johnson**
P.M.—**Pat Marshall**

(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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Too Little, Too Late

By Mark White

Why is it that we sometimes become interested in the right things only when the opportune time for doing so has passed?

A young couple marries, but they take one another for granted. He abuses his position as husband, and she stubbornly resists everything he says and does. Years and years pass with such neglect, abuse, and mistreatment of one another. Finally, they end up in a divorce court. In the process of working out a settlement, the husband decides he wishes to repent and reconcile his differences with his wife. Why now? Where was this penitent disposition when it would have done the marriage some good? She may resist his peaceful overtures at this point, deciding that it's no use trying anymore. For her, it's a case of "too little, too late."

A son becomes estranged from his parents due to foolish immaturity. He never calls, never visits, never shares his life with them. The parents agonize, but there is little they can do to have a relationship with a child who has nothing to do with them. Years of such estrangement passes. Age takes its toll on the parents. One day the son receives a call that his mother is dead. He attends the funeral, weeps loudly and uncontrollably — but for what? The opportunity to love his mother and develop a relationship with her is gone forever. He may now see his immaturity, his selfishness, his ungodly character. He may repent and do better in the future, even caring for his widowed and aged father. But as far as his mother is concerned, it is "too little, too late."

A man lives far from God. Immorality, ungodliness, and profligacy is characteristic of his life. He has not time for spiritual things, and has never made preparation for eternity. God is in none of his thoughts and he disdains the "holy Joes" he knows who do their best to serve God and live conscientiously. The day of judgment comes, and this man now knows of his need to have been prepared to meet God. He may now be willing to confess Christ (as all will do, Phil 2:11) but it is now too late to make preparation. Why wasn't he perceptive in life when he had time and opportunity to receive God's grace? He must now receive the consequences of choices he made in life, and his penitent spirit is now "too little, too late."

Of course, it is never too late this side of eternity to do the right thing. Parents who were not faithful to God in their child-rearing years may now agonize over the lost opportunities they had with their children now grown and gone from home. Little more may be able to be done at this point than offering an apology to those grown children for not serving the Lord earlier.

Perhaps an offense was never corrected and the person to whom you needed to apologize has since died. It may be impossible to personally right a past wrong under such circumstances, but it does not have to be a "forever failure." Pray to God for His forgiveness, and make whatever restitution you can for the wrong

that was committed. As long as the world stands and life is in your body, it is never too late to do the right thing, whether that is little or much.

As a youth, serious mistakes may have been made and sins committed which have followed you into adulthood. Don't let the past keep you from repentance immediately. God will forgive and accept you, even now.

"Today" is the day of salvation (Heb. 3:15). Let's use it before it is "too little, too late."

—*Cyfair TX Church Family News and Notes*, 11/23/14.

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The Anvil of God's Word

"Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime;
Then looking in, I saw upon the floor,
Old hammers, worn with beating years of time.

'How many anvils have you had,' said I,
'To wear and batter all these hammers so?'

'Just one,' said he, and then with twinkling eye,
The anvil wears hammers out, you know.'

And so, I thought, the Anvil of God's Word
For ages skeptic blows have beat upon;
Yet, though the noise of falling blows was heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone."

—John Clifford

Who Knows

Emerson said, "The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn." It takes my limited mind to consider all the implications of this simple statement.

How many small, seemingly insignificant actions on my part have great impact, both good and bad, on others? Who knows if that encouraging word spoken to a teenager will inspire him to accomplish great things in his life? Who knows if that quick retort, "not now I'm busy," will weigh heavy on a child's mind helping crush his self-esteem?

Who knows when you gave your life to Christ and subsequently taught others who came to live and obey the Lord, who then taught others who came to love and obey the Lord, and so on, that the world might come to know Christ?

Who knows? God does (Ps. 139)
Thinks about it.

—Mike Thomley

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Upcoming Events

Informational Meeting in preparation for the Ladies Day, this coming Tuesday night, December 2nd, at 7:00. All ladies are encouraged to attend. This is not a work meeting but a planning and organizing meeting. Ladies day is scheduled for **Saturday, January 10, 2015.**

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.

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NEWS (continued from back page)

Kris Ferguson, Jr., Kenny and Karen's grandson, went home from the hospital the early part of this past week—**Judy Hinson** has been some better and stronger recently. She will be continuing her chemo treatments soon—**Naomi Copeland** and **Melita Rivers** both had dental work done last week—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.**