

NEWS

Kenneth Amerson has a procedure schedule for tomorrow. He prepared for last Monday but paperwork got messed up—**Daxon Willeford** was sick Wednesday night and they were not in our service—**Madelyn Arnold** was also sick Wednesday night and they were not in our service—**T.L. DeRamos**, Carlos Barnes' aunt, is having serious health problems and requesting prayers—**Jennifer Arnold** was sick Wednesday night and not in our service. (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 21, 2014

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Paul Chapman

Zach Willeford Alec Capel
Stephen Hall Bobby Burns

Sunday Evening

Zach Willeford Alec Capel

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Ken Ferguson (Opening)
—Richard Tapparo (Closing)
PM—Charles Davis (Opening)
—James Johnson (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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Amid Dire Warnings

By Chuck Durham

In September 2008 Hurricane Ike devastated twenty-seven miles of Texas coastline. Stilts that once supported houses looked like sticks haphazardly stuck in the mud left in Ike's wake; the houses they supported vanished. Slabs of concrete were all that remained of once busy local grocery stores and restaurants. Fish were stuck in chain-link fences, frozen in death where Ike's floodwaters deposited them. Even downtown Houston looked like the frontline of a war zone, glass shards filling the streets below from highrise windows blasted by Ike's fury.

And still people stayed on Galveston Island, High Island, and Bolivar Peninsula when the mandatory evacuation orders were issued by government authorities! The National Weather Service warned residents of smaller structures that if they remained they would "face certain death." Looking at the pictures you know why they issued the warning.

One couple seeing the rise in water preceding Ike's arrival and waves as tall as fifteen feet crashing over Galveston's seawall decided riding out the storm was a bad idea. They loaded up everything they could take, including the pets, and left before it was too late to do so. But Emory Sallie of Galveston said he didn't think Ike would be any different than storms in the past; that he didn't believe the dire warnings (see AOL news, 12 September 2008).

"If the island is going to disappear it has to be a tsunami. If it ain't your time you ain't going anywhere."

Why do people respond to “dire warnings” in vastly disparate ways? Some heed the warnings given to save them. They move with alacrity to protect their loved one and belongings. They listen and obey because they believe it is the truth. Others hearing the same dire predictions, shrug their shoulders and head back home. They don’t believe. They think they know more than officials warning them to leave. They are callous to all attempts to get them to heed common sense for their own safety. It defies belief, as we oft say.

The Bible is filled with such “dire warnings” to the sinner. “Repent or else,” God intones. Still, some believe and some disbelieve (Acts 28:24). It is a predicament as old as human history.

Remember God’s warning preceding the plague of hail upon Egypt? God said He would send hail upon Egypt that had never happened since its foundation. He warned all Egypt to bring their servants and livestock indoors to safety. The text says: “He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. But he who did not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field” (Exodus 9:20-21). The plague of hail was seven of ten. It gives new meaning to the phrase “slow of heart to believe” (Luke 24:25). How is it possible for people to watch six plagues come to pass, but not heed the warning of the seventh?

The text tells “why” the difference. Those who obeyed “feared the word of the LORD.” “Fear” means to hold in awe and reverence; to respect and honor. And that is the root of man’s problem. Since we have freedom of will we often defy what we don’t like; that with which we don’t agree.

Tell John Doe child, “No cookies before supper.” His hand inches closer to the jar, all the while staring us down. As if what? - we won’t respond! We slap his little hand. Five minutes later he’s back with reinforcements, “Johnnie’s mom said he could have a cookie before supper.” “If all the lemmings run into the sea do we bail off with them? I said, ‘No, and I mean No.’” Unless sufficient force is applied to the right region of their anatomy they will defy again and again.

Why do children come to “fear” their parents? They have learned by hard knocks to know their parents mean business when they command them. They come to learn their parents love them too much to let them run like mad Gadarene pigs to drown in the depths of immorality. They see the sacrifices made over and over for their sakes so that they might have a good life. What begins in the fear of pain end in the awe of love and solace of devotion (cf. 1 John 4:18).

Why do men not heed the warnings of their Creator? He warns because He loves. The consequences of defiance

are real. Ike destroyed mightily just like we were warned it would. So, too, the Son of Man will come again, and the earth and all its works will be destroyed by fire (cf. 2 Peter 3:10ff.). He has warned us again and again. “Be holy. Be sober. Be vigilant.” The hearts that will heed are made pliable by fear, awe, and love. And yet, the hearts of stone remain hard in arrogant pride believing Man is the center of it all.

I wonder, “What do you suppose Galveston will do the next time there is a dire hurricane warning?”

—*Twin City Church of Christ Bulletin*, College Station, TX, Sept. 9, 2012

Christine Davis Passed Away

Christine Davis, a long time faithful member of the Southside church, passed from this life last Tuesday morning. She and her husband, Roy, were among the early members of Southside. Her funeral service was conducted Thursday afternoon here at the church building. She will be missed. We extend our sincere sympathy to her children and to all her loved ones.

Upcoming Events

Ladies of Light Ladies Day. Emilee Capel, Stacy Rogers, Amy Schlosser and Amanda Willeford will be the speakers at this special Ladies Day on **Saturday, January 10, 2015, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, at the **Mt. Pleasant Civic**

Center, 1800 N. Jefferson in Mt. Pleasant, TX. Southside ladies, especially Amanda Willeford and Emilee Capel, have been much involved in the preparation of this important event. If you haven’t yet registered for this and you would like to attend, see or call Amanda or Emilee.

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)

—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.*