

**NEWS**

**Stacy Rogers** was sick with an upper respiratory infection last week and was not in the Sunday and Wednesday services—**Randy Blackmon** continued suffering from the flu last week and was not in the Sunday and Wednesday services—**Melita River** continued to suffer with an upper respiratory infection and was not in the services last Sunday and Wednesday—**Wanda Sikes** has also been sick and has not been able to attend recent services—**Pat Marshall, Naomi Copeland** and **Alma Goff** were all back 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:  
February 8, 2015**

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

**Scripture: Andrew Arnold**  
**Phil Brown** **Paul Chapman**  
**Ricky Davis** **Bobby Burns**

**Sunday Evening**  
**Phil Brown** **Paul Chapman**  
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**PRAYERS**  
**Sun. AM—William White (Opening)**  
**—Randy Blackmon (Closing)**  
**PM—Luke Arnold (Opening)**  
**—Pat Marshall (Closing)**  
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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**A.M.—Ken Ferguson**  
**P.M.—Kendall Johnson**  
  
**(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)**

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

**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

## Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455  
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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

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### Rearing Godly Children in Difficult Times

By Paul Earnhart

It is not uncommon today to hear older Christians who have already reared their children comment somberly in the presence of young prospective parents, "I certainly wouldn't want to be bringing up children in times like these." It may be innocently done, but it is not helpful. These already anxious young people do not have a choice of times in which to rear children. For them, it is now or never.

Candidly, from the short term perspective, these are certainly not the best times for the family. Much has happened in this century that serves to tear at the fabric of domestic life. We have become a city rather than a rural people, living in the anonymity of teeming urban anthills where no one knows or cares who his neighbors are. Our increasing mobility has made us a "nation of strangers" and the once supportive influence of an extended family of grandparents, uncles and aunts, has been lost. Even the homemaker mother has been gradually disappearing before the increasing power of industrialization. Today, for the first time, most American women of childbearing years are working outside the home.

Along with these important social and economic changes, there has been a significant philosophical shift. Our society has been increasingly secularized. Biblical values that once had at least some influence on our institutions have been largely set aside. From a world in which certain values were cherished, even though often violated, we have moved to one which denies that absolute values exist. Out of the passionate individualism which arose during the Vietnam War era has come a hedonistic pursuit of personal fulfillment which is heedless of the consequences to others. Marriage and family

commitments are seen as less important than the “finding” of oneself. Drug abuse and mindless sensuality abound.

And to this already frightening equation must be added the insidious factor of television, which has the ability to instantly, universally and powerfully infiltrate this moral and spiritual corruption into every American mind.

But if this analysis of our times is accurate in the short term, it certainly does not obtain for the long one. From a wider perspective, current circumstances do not present nearly the challenge to rearing children that past ages have. A few examples will suffice to make the point.

How would you have liked to rear children in the days of Noah, when the whole world was convulsed by violence and every human heart, save two, was wholly set on evil? In spite of the loneliness of their task (you think you’re in the minority!) and the ridicule which it must have brought, Noah and his wife reared three sons not only to trust the true God in the midst of a moral cesspool, but to influence three young women into the same commitment.

What chances of nurturing children in righteousness would you have given Hebrew parents during Israel’s abject bond-servitude in Egypt when even your infant children’s lives were under threat from an all-powerful state? Amram

and Jochebed reared two sons and a daughter in these very circumstances. In order to save the life of Moses, they were compelled to sacrifice the joys of seeing their youngest child grow daily into manhood and were not even allowed to openly claim him as their own. But the little time they were granted with that son was so well used that he never forgot who he was and, at last, chose affliction with God’s people over the pleasures of sin (Hebrews 11:24-25).

The New Testament world was no great advance over that of the Old Testament. Fully half the people of the first century Roman Empire were slaves. Human life was cheap and murder was frequent. Divorce was easy and generally accepted. Unwanted infants were simply exposed to die and the females were frequently saved by the enterprising, and reared as prostitutes. Every variety of corrupt pagan religion and superstition flourished and was woven into the work-a-day world of all the people. Devotion to some god or goddess was linked to every job and every social occasion. And yet in a world like that, in the midst of an intensely pagan city, a young Jewish girl, married to an unbelieving Greek, reared her son to be one of the great gospel preachers of the early church. With no synagogue in Lystra and only her mother to help with Timothy’s spiritual training, Eunice not only succeeded in rearing a godly son, she succeeded magnificently!

And so, when anxious young people approach me with concern and ask if I think it is possible to build solid marriages and rear godly children in these “difficult times,” I simply take them by the hand, look them in the eye, and tell them, “Absolutely!” All that is required is that they be willing to pay the price of a surpassing love for God and a deep love for one another which guided the parenting of those successful fathers and mothers who have gone before us.

—*Cyfair Church of Christ Family News and Notes 1/25/15*

### Upcoming Events

### Weekend Meeting 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. This is just two weeks from this weekend. Make plans to be in every service. Remember to encourage our young people to attend and invite other young people and others.

The theme is: *Improving Our Spiritual Walk*. Tyler and Terry will alternate with Tyler beginning first on Friday night. **Tyler’s topics are:** “*By Being Convinced of the Truth of God’s Word*,” “*By Appreciating the Word of God*,” “*By Letting Christ Live in Me*,” “*By Remembering*.” **Terry’s topics are:** “*By Realizing*

*We Are Resident Aliens*,” “*By Understanding the Keys to Victory over Temptation*,” “*By Worshiping an Audience of One*,” “*By Grasping the Point of Pain*.”

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

### One Baptism

**Claudio Ruiz** was baptized into Christ two weeks ago tonight. We rejoice with him and his family. His address is 828 CR 3010, Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455, and telephone is 956-742-5496.

### NEWS (continued from back page)

Wednesday after recovering from their recent sicknesses—**Betty Rust** received word from her biopsy that she does not have cancer and we rejoice with her in that news, but she does have an upper respiratory infection—**Jimmy Franklin**, Peggy Bellamy’s son-in-law, had another episode in his ongoing problems—**Samantha Krugh**, Vickie Brownlee’s granddaughter, recently had surgery and is waiting for results—Remember **Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Pat Brown, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, and Judy Hinson**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Lenelle Latimer, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson**.