

NEWS

Deloris Traugher is having her back surgery in Plano this coming Tuesday, April 28th. Pray that it will be very successful—**Lisa Caldwell**, Joyce Williams' daughter, will have surgery on May 7th in Little Rock to repair the aneurysm behind her eye—**Joyce Williams** was not feeling well last Sunday and was not in our services, but was with us during the week in our meeting—**Elaine Conratt** was not feeling well last Sunday morning and was not in our service—**Clayton Bellamy** was diagnosed with bulging discs and bone (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:

May 3, 2015

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Willie Don Davis

Luke Arnold **Andrew Arnold**
Kevin Kanaley **Bobby Burns**

Sunday Evening

Luke Arnold **Andrew Arnold**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Ricky Davis (Opening)
—**Kenneth Amerson (Closing)**
PM—Leon Goff (Opening)
—**Phil Brown (Closing)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Kendall Johnson
(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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Do You Want The Church To Grow

By Mark White

Most brethren I know pay attention to the number of people who attend the services. There is nothing wrong with taking a count and keeping up with the statistics, because every number represents a soul. But when it comes to the attendance number on the board, two false extremes often exist within the church.

Some people don't want the church to grow. They may not come right out and say it. But their actions speak louder than words. Some members will be heard to say, "I like this church because it is small." Do they realize what they are saying? What if the congregation should grow? Will they leave the congregation because they don't like the growth? Does this attitude affect the evangelistic fervor of an individual? Perhaps we are not trying to teach people for fear they will obey and the church will not be so small anymore! Surely we do not think in this way! None of us would purposely attempt to frustrate or hinder God's purposes. We cannot stand in God's way by insisting that the church be kept small! After all, increase comes from the Lord (1 Cor. 3:6).

The New Testament church at Jerusalem grew quickly and became large. At the rate of growth mentioned in Acts 2:41; 4:4; 5:14 and 6:1 it is probable that this congregation numbered over 10,000 souls by the time Saul launched his vehement persecution against the church (Acts 8:1). The Scriptures show that the church first met in the Temple, a building and complex which, according to some educated estimates, could accommodate some 20,000 people. The Scriptures do not mention even one complaint that "the

church is getting too big” for the disciples in Jerusalem. Our desire to be like the New Testament church should surely involve having the same joyful spirit for the growth of the church and the salvation of lost souls.

There are those, however, who would force the church to grow even by unauthorized means. Some brethren believe that large facilities will produce a large church. They have a “if we build it, they will come” attitude toward church growth. Churches have even been known to hire preachers who are especially adept at entertaining people in an attempt to raise their numbers. A stand-up comic may please the masses, but God will not be pleased when such is passed off as preaching. Some congregations have even been known to survey and pool their communities to see just what it is that the people want from a church. Then, they provide according to the community's wants. If it's food they build banquet halls. If it's recreation, they build gymnasiums. If it's baby-sitting, they build daycare centers. This is fueled by an intense craving for large numbers on the board. And for what? Certainly not for spiritual things. *It could be that the idol many modern churches bow down to is the attendance board!* What good is a church building filled with souls who are unconcerned for spiritual things? They may be at the church building, but these souls are still just as lost as they were.

There is considerable difference between numbers added to the roll and believers who have turned to the Lord (Acts 11:21). God wants great numbers of penitent souls who will genuinely serve His cause. We must not stand in God's way of achieving this goal by refusing to be as fervent as we can in preaching the Gospel. At the same time, however, we must not artificially force growth. The Great Commission does not say “Go ye into every congregation and make it grow!” It does command us to preach the Gospel to the lost and faithfully teach those we convert to the Lord. God will be responsible for the growth of the church. We must do our part of planting and watering and let God give the increase to our efforts as He sees fit (1 Cor. 3:6).

It may be “old fashioned” to some in our day to achieve church growth by these means, but they are God-approved. We must not seek to replace them.

—*Cyfair Church Bulletin*

You Are Needed

Everyone is important, whether they realize it or not. God compares the church to the human body: “Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually” (1 Cor. 12:27). This makes each of us VERY important to the rest of us.

What is your function in the local body? Some serve as elders or deacons. Some lead singing or prayer. Others assist

in distributing the elements for the Lord's supper. And still others preach. But these are NOT the only important jobs.

In the body there are many who are great encouragers in word and deed. They write cards, make phone calls, pray for others, or provide food for those who are sick and bereaved. These good brothers and sisters are integral parts of the heart and soul of the congregation. They are vital to the spiritual growth of the local church.

The parable of the talents shows that every ability from God is intended for use in His service. We may see ourselves as “one talent” people, but his function was important to the Master too. Rather than belittling what we can do, let's serve God with all of our might by using the abilities He has given.

If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ...” (1 Pet. 5:11). All of us are important to God and the faithful! Let's work diligently!

—Shane Carrington, *Sulphur Spring Bulletin*

A Great Week

Our Gospel Meeting this past week was a very exciting, interesting and successful week. Brother **Kris Emerson**

did some outstanding preaching and we had good crowds all week. Members supported and visitors were many.

One Confession

Randy Blackmon made confession of sin last Wednesday night and requested us to pray for his forgiveness and for the strength to overcome the temptations of the devil. We love and respect Randy for being open and honest about his sin. Let's give him all the encouragement we can. Continue to pray for him.

Gospel Meeting

Bubba Garner will be the speaker in a meeting at the Rice Road church in Tyler beginning today, **April 26**, and continuing through Friday, **May 1**, services each evening at 7:00.

News (continued from back page) spurs in his back. He was admitted in the local hospital in Rehap on the 5th floor—**Randy Granau**, a former member of Southside who has ALS, has had to have a feeding tube installed because he is no longer able to eat and swallow—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.*