

NEWS

Catherine Moss had her surgery Wednesday and came through that fine. She went home Friday—**Irma May** has been moved from the hospital to Pleasant Spring Nursing Home—**Peggy Bellamy** has reported that she is doing better—**James and June Johnson** were both not feeling well Wednesday and were not in our service—**Lisa Caldwell**, Joyce Williams’ daughter, who recently had surgery in Little Rock, received a good report when she went back for a checkup.

(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:
July 19, 2015**

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

Scripture: Phil Brown

Alec Capel Zach Willeford
Stephen Hall Chris Stone

Sunday Evening

Alec Capel Zach Willeford

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Randy Blackmon (Opening)
—Charles Davis (Closing)
PM—Ron Traughber (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Paul Chapman
P.M.—Leon Goff
(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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Volume XXII

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Number 28

Membership Matters By Wilson Adams

I am a member of the church...

The most used analogy to the church is... the “body.” Someone asked, “Where is ‘church membership’ taught in the New Testament?” Uh, 1 Corinthians 12:27 — “Now you are Christ’s body, and individually members of it.” If the “body” is the church (it is according to Eph. 1:22-23), then the phrase “members of the body” would be the same as “members of the church.” And...if you are a “member” you have “membership” i.e., a sense of belonging or connection.

It’s not that complicated. Unless you view the church with a “Country Club” mindset.

Ever eaten at a Country Club? It’s nice. You enter the door and are immediately surrounded by privileges and perks. The service is impeccable. Of course, the club member paid for those perks and expects something in return. Sadly, some view “membership” in the church the same way.

The club member mindset is more about receiving than giving, being served than serving, rights ahead of responsibilities, and entitlements more than sacrifice.

NEWS FLASH: The church is not a country club. It’s not about perks and privileges. It is a privilege! — in and of itself. It’s not just about believing “in” something, but belonging “to” something — something that is bigger...than...yourself.

Membership Matters (pt. 2)

I am a member of the church...

From 2011 to 2014, I've worked with 60 different churches: N.S.E.W.—some large, some small, some in between. Simple observation leads to common indicators as to why some grow and others do not. Much of the time it comes down to Leadership, Location and Love.

Strong Bible teaching? Leadership
Enthusiastic, hospitable, welcoming members? Love

Visibility in the community? Location

Uplifting singing? Leadership, Etc.

Oversimplification? Sure. Exceptions? Yes.

There are lots of reasons why some churches grow and others do not. Generally, it comes down to: Leadership, Location, and Love.

It's easy to blame-shift – to culture. "Our culture is so saturated by secularism and false religion, that it's impossible to grow." Hmm. You just described the first century.

Every church must look in the mirror and ask: "What are we doing/not doing that is hindering opportunities to grow?" Sometimes the most obvious questions are seldom asked.

Membership Matters (pt. 3)

I am a member of the church...

1 Corinthians 13 is read at many a wedding. It has nothing to do with a wedding (although the application to the home/marriage is certainly there). It has to do with love and the local church.

Sandwiched between Chapter 12 (the church is the functioning body of Christ similar to a functioning physical body) and Chapter 14 (the Corinthian failure to apply the body analogy — even at assembly time), there appears the "Love Chapter." Unless I've missed something, it appears in "context."

The "Love Chapter" is about how church members should treat one another.

We do not love our brethren because they are always so lovable. They aren't (and we aren't either). We do not pray for shepherds because their judgments are always the best (aka they agree with us). We do not serve only those with whom we feel a common connection (our closet friends.) We are to love, pray, and serve everyone.

And we love, pray, and serve without hesitation or discrimination.

One thing is clear: an inactive, non-loving, non-praying, and non-serving church member is an oxymoron.

I've encountered a few of those.

Membership Matters (pt. 4)

I am a member of the church...

Some view the church as a necessary bother, an infringement on their time, money, and extra-curricular calendar. Their mindset is: "I'll be a member as long as it doesn't interfere with..." These are often SMO saints (Sunday Morning Only) or CEO saints (Christmas and Easter Only). They don't work well. In fact, they don't work at all.

Others view the church as a hindrance to spiritual living. "I'm a 247 Christian..." "God adds to the church those who are saved" (Acts 2:47). They want to be part of that church (universal, world-wide) without being tied down to a local assembly where they actually have to be accountable and responsible.

The latter folks conveniently overlook one fact: the worldwide church and the local church are not mutually exclusive. Being a part of one doesn't deny the need for the other.

These folks also conveniently forget that the majority of New Testament letters were written to...local churches. And the Holy Spirit's history in Acts is focused largely on the establishment of... local churches. Hmm. Must be important.

And then there are all those "one another" admonitions (love, honor, be devoted to, serve, encourage, greet, etc.) — 58 in all... and all best fulfilled in the context of the local assembly. Go figure.

I'm not sure we grasp how much the church means to God. I hear husbands say, "I would die for my wife!" Jesus says, "I did die for mine!"

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One Places Membership

Donna Carson has made it known that she desires to be a member of the Southside church. We welcome her and are happy to have fellowship with her in our work. Her address is P.O. Box 0588, Lone Star, TX 75668, and her phone number is 903-424-6269. She plans to move to Mt. Pleasant as soon as possible. Make it a point to meet and welcome her.

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Philippine Benevolence

What has been given by the church and individuals from Southside has come to about \$4000 to help feed the starving Christians in the Philippines.

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NEWS (continued from back page)

—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.*