

## NEWS

**Enoch Waldrep's Mother** was released from the hospital recently but had to go back to the hospital having not eaten for six days—**Judy Hinson** is doing well since her treatment and surgery for cancer. She is looking forward to a good surgery October 12—**Doug Hinson**, Judy's brother, who lives in the Ft. Worth area, has been having seizures and blood pressure problems, and has requested our prayers—**Judy McGough** was not in our service Wednesday night due to an ankle injury—**June Johnson** was also not in our Wednesday (continued on page 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 563-2977  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

### DEACONS:

**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: September 13, 2015

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

Scripture: Thomas Hockaday

**Alec Capel**                      **Zach Willeford**  
**Stephen Hall**                **Chris Stone**

#### Sunday Evening

**Alec Capel**                      **Zach Willeford**

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### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Bob Arnold (Opening)**

—**Charles Kyle (Closing)**

PM—**Jerod Rogers (Opening)**

—**Colton Fulmer (Closing)**

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Paul Chapman**

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

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

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## Christians as Priests

By Nathan Pickup

In his first letter, the apostle Peter describes Christians as a “priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5, 9). This concept wasn’t a rhetorical invention of Peter’s, but rather was God’s creative purpose for His People from the beginning (Ex 19:6). This designation of our role as the people of God is brimming with meaning, but only if one is familiar with the role of the Aaronic priests from which Peter draws his comparison. I would like to explore two aspects of the Aaronic priest’s role that shed light on how Christians are a “priesthood” for God today.

After they were consecrated to be in Yahweh’s presence, priests were then tasked to *work* in God’s dwelling place, whether that be the tabernacle or the temple. They were not given their special status so that they could sit back and relax. On the contrary, they were constantly hard at work slaughtering animals, cleaning, counting utensils, mixing spices, burning incense, preparing showbread, tending to the golden lampstand, etc. (Ex. 27:20-21; 1 Chron. 9:28-32). In short, the priest’s life was one of sacrifice—not merely the preparation and execution of sacrifices at the altar, but also a life of sacrificing one’s time and energy in the service of God’s kingdom.

When Peter refers to Christians as a “priesthood” in 1 Peter 2, he is revealing the same expectation of sacrificial work. We have been purified by God (1 Cor. 6:11), not so that we can sit back and relax, but so we can be “zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14). Peter reveals as much when he says we are to “offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5). We should not be neglecting to “do good and to share what (we) have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God” (Heb. 13:16; see also

4:14-18). We should be walking in love, “a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” (Eph. 5:2), offering up “a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name” (Heb. 13:15). We work to present our very bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship (Rom. 12:1). Our priesthood means we should be *working* in His presence, for we have been “created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Eph. 2:10). If we are wearing the name of Christ, but not sacrificially working for His kingdom, then we are failing to fulfill our role as priests. An Aaronic priest could not accept his privileged status while neglecting the duties inherent in his position. Likewise, we cannot accept the privileged status of Christian and then neglect the duties inherent in it. As a priesthood to God, our lives should be one of continual work and sacrifice in His presence.

Besides working in God’s presence, priests were also tasked with teaching God’s commandments. They were to “distinguish between the holy and the common, and between the unclean and the clean, and you are to teach the people of Israel all the statutes that Yahweh has spoken to them by Moses” (Lev 10:10-11). “For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts” (Mal. 1:7). As a priesthood to God, Christians have been tasked with the same responsi-

bility; we should be teaching people to observe all that God has commanded (Matt. 28:20). We are meant to distinguish between the unclean and the clean (2 Cor. 6:14-18), taking no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead exposing them (Eph. 5:11). We are the salt of the earth, meant to teach others the ways of God (Matt. 5:13). When a priest fails to teach others God’s commands, God does not view that lightly. In Hosea 4:6, God reveals His feelings toward priests who have neglected their God-given task of teaching: “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me.” We would not want to hear similar words on the Day of Judgment for neglecting our own priestly duty to teach our fellow man God’s commandments.

The priestly status bestowed on us is a gift of God’s grace, but it comes with responsibilities. We must constantly be working on behalf of God’s kingdom, and teaching God’s commandments to the people around us. Those who failed to fulfill their priestly function incurred God’s wrath, as evidenced in God’s words to the priest, Eli: “‘I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,’ but now Yahweh declares: ‘Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be treated with contempt’” (1 Sam. 2:30). May we recognize the responsibilities our priestly status

confers upon us, as well as the severity of judgment that will befall us if we spurn those responsibilities in our Christian living.

—*Focus Online*, 09/03/15

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### Ron Burns Passed Away

His death was unexpected and sudden last Saturday around noon. He was found dead in a lot on the farm he had leased for his cattle. He very possibly had a heart attack, but that is not sure. No one was with him at the time of death. Ron and his wife, Mary, moved here from the Temple, TX area 11 year ago and have endeared themselves to us through all those years. Ron served as one of our deacons for most of those years, and was one of our song leaders.

Ron and Mary were school teachers for many years and Ron served as Principal and also Band Director some of those years before retiring here.

Our condolences go out to Mary and their daughters and families and to all their loved one. Ron will be missed by us and all who knew him.

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### Weekly Ladies Class

Will resume meeting this coming Wednesday morning at 10:00. A new class book will be passed out at that time. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend.

## Gospel Meetings

**Rickie Jenkins** is the speaker in a meeting at the Franklin Dr. church in Texarkana September 13-16.

**Virgil Faires** is the speaker in a meeting with the South Main church in Lindale, September 13 –16.

**Dee Bowman** is the speaker in a meeting at the Southside church in Jacksonville, TX September 13-16.

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### Our Gospel Meeting

**October 25 — 30, 2015**

**Wilson Adams, Speaker**

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**NEWS** (continued from back page) night service due to Blood pressure problems. She went to the emergency room during the day Wednesday—**Alma Goff** has been diagnosed with a meningioma tumor in the right rear section of her head. The Neurologist is confident it is benign, but he is sending her to UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas for a second opinion. Prayers are requested—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.*