

NEWS

Carolyn Himes, Jared Rogers' mother, had her cancer surgery at Medical City in Dallas Friday afternoon, came through the surgery fine and went home the same day—**Enoch Waldrep's mother** is doing better and is reported to be eating better and also talking—**Clayton Bellamy** was in the local hospital as a result of falls and other issues but went home Friday evening—**Chris Ferguson, Jr.** has been in Children's Hospital in Dallas with upper respiratory infection, but was scheduled to go home yesterday—**Stephen Hall** has been in the Pittsburg Hospital this past week with cellulites. (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 20, 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—Richard Tapparo (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

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

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Retain The Standard of Sound Words

By Jim Deason

Those of us in the older half of the population and who have been members of the church for a long time grew up listening to preachers emphasize the need for "sound doctrine." We heard a steady diet of sermons on the distinctiveness of the New Testament church, Bible authority, and the work, worship and organization of the church. Great emphasis was placed upon the first principles of the gospel.

When I grew up, there was no shortage of sermons that made specific application to personal righteousness. Sermons on modest dress, fleeing fornication, using pure speech (including avoiding euphemisms), and the dangers of worldliness were every-Sunday fare. We were taught to be good examples at work, at home, and at play. When and where you slipped out of line there seemed to always be someone who loved you enough to say something to you. Their loving rebuke stung a little, but it caused you to think, resolve to change, and do better.

Bible classes drilled kids in the basics of the Bible. We learned the books of the Bible and the distinction between the covenants at an early age. Our teachers expected us to come to Bible study with lessons prepared and ready to recite information about Bible characters, events, and topics. Parents usually made it happen.

This kind of thing is still taking place in a lot of churches I know. There are many dedicated preachers whose sermons possess that "ole Jerusalem gospel" ring. I know Bible teachers who work long hours to present Bible

stories in the most effective way possible. Only the most naïve, however, refuse to recognize that things are changing—and not for the better. Though most folks today possess a greater level of education than many of our predecessors, their Bibles go unread and their knowledge of spiritual things is weak or absent altogether. Feelings and subjective religion have captured the imagination of many because they have little grasp of the need for Bible authority (Colossians 3:17). Some have ridiculed our demand for book, chapter, and verse in all that we do, calling it a patternistic “plague” which is “foul and diseased.” In answer, I respond with Paul’s instruction to Timothy, “*Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus*” (2 Timothy 1:13). Perhaps it would do good for us to reflect upon this statement for a moment.

Someone once said that a “**word**” is a “vehicle upon which a thought rides.” Words uttered by the human voice give expression to concepts or ideas. The thoughts of God are expressed to us through words He has chosen (1 Corinthians 2:12-13) and are recorded for us in Scripture. Thus, they are inspired words (2 Timothy 3:16-17). They are:

* Important. By them our faith can rest, not in the wisdom, philosophies, and feelings of men, but in the power of God (1 Cor. 2:1-5).

* Profitable. Paul said they were “...*profitable for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Moses reminded Israel that God’s statutes were “*for our good always*” and commanded them to be observed (Deuteronomy 6:24-25).

* Understandable. Admittedly, some concepts in Scripture are hard to understand (2 Peter 3:18). But this is not the case most of the time. Paul said we could understand merely by reading (Eph. 3:4).

* Authoritative. The words of Jesus will judge us (John 12:48). Paul wanted us to know that what he wrote was the “*Lord’s commandment*” (1 Corinthians 14:37), not his suggestions or mere sentimental pleadings. We must do all in the name of the Lord (Colossians 3:17).

* Unalterable. When we speak, we are to speak as the very mouthpiece of God (1 Peter 4:11), without addition or subtraction (Deuteronomy 4:2; Joshua 1:7-9; Revelation 22:18-19). All teachers and preachers need to take this into account (James 3:10).

“**Sound**” is from the same Greek word from which we get our English word “hygiene,” and literally means to be in good physical health. Here it is used in the figurative sense of being free from error or correct.

Sound teaching is teaching that is teaching that is healthy and nutritious.

Most everyone recognizes the need for a healthy diet for our physical body, even if we do neglect it at times. How much more so our spirit! Spiritual survival depends upon good spiritual nourishment. We dare not neglect it. Yet many folks today think they can survive on spiritual “junk” food, and just as little of that as possible. An older preacher once said, “Sermonettes preached by preacherettes will produce Christianettes” — food for thought.

God’s word is our “**standard**” or pattern for living. A standard is a basis of comparison. Every woman who has made the attempt to sew a garment knows the importance of following a pattern. Every man who has made the attempt to build knows the importance of following a blueprint. Even our children learn early of the need to color all the picture, inside the lines, or paint by number. It’s the same principle.

It is impossible to overstate the case. Only by sound teaching can we develop wholesome, healthy spiritual lives — either individually or collectively. Therefore, when some loving brother or sister comes alongside you to encourage you, whether in standard of worship or pattern of life application (modest dress, speech, worldliness, etc.), don’t think that this is merely some “church of Christ doctrine.” They are encouraging you to “*retain the standard of sound words*” that you might be pleasing to God and go to heaven when you die.

Pictures for the Directory

For new and updated picture will be made next Sunday after services.

Gospel Meetings

Rickie Jenkins is the speaker in a meeting at the Franklin Dr. church in Texarkana September 13-16, 7:00 PM.

Virgil Faires is the speaker in a meeting with the South Main church in Lindale, September 13 –16, 7:00 PM.

Dee Bowman is the speaker in a meeting at the Southside church in Jacksonville, TX September 13-16, 7:00 PM

Our Gospel Meeting

October 25 — 30, 2015

Wilson Adams, Speaker

NEWS (continued from back page)

Catherine Moss has had chronic bronchitis and upper respiratory, and **Brantley** and **Zachary** have also been sick—**Donna Carson** and **Carlos Barnes** were not feeling well Wednesday night—**Alma Goff** is scheduled to see a doctor at UT Southwestern in Dallas October 5th—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.*