

NEWS

Enoch Waldrep's Mother passed away around 9:00 last Tuesday night at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. She is being cremated and there will be a memorial service later. We express our sincere sympathy to Enoch and his loved ones in their loss—**Kenneth Amerson** has continued to have problems with his heart going out and in rhythm, but he was able to be in our service last Sunday night—**Randy Blackmon** has been having back trouble and also an upper respiratory infection. He has received shots in his back and he says he is much better. He saw his heart doctor in Tyler Wednesday and (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:
December 27, 2015**

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

Scripture: Duane McGough
Luke Arnold Andrew Arnold
Kevin Kanaley Jaron McGough

Sunday Evening
Luke Arnold Andrew Arnold

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Kenneth Amerson (Opening)
—Tom Davis (Closing)
PM—Alec Capel (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Leon Goff
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
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Simply Christians

By Dale Smelser

We read with interest the reports on every hand of the growing disenchantment with present religious forms which originated in the Middle Ages and have become meaningless. We hear of displeasure with denominational structures and their pronouncements which reflect only the preferences of influential elite, ignoring the convictions of the rank and file. Because of these aspects of modern religion, some have decided that Christianity is not even relevant to this day and age. We believe they have so decided because they are not sufficiently acquainted with the scriptures to be able to distinguish between the relevant gospel of Christ, and the things men have added to religion since, and which truly are not relevant to serving God.

If some of these things have troubled you, and you have felt an urge, or even a yearning, to return to the simple uncomplicated religion of Christ, and if you have felt the desire to strip away all non-essential elements of religion and simply abide by the truths of Christ, truths which alone can transform the soul and bind it to God, let us suggest that such a possibility actually exists.

Let us begin with one essential fact. Jesus Christ is the Son of God. His coming (**Gen. 49:10**), His mission (**Is. 53; Zech. 6:13**), and His new message (**Jer. 31:31-33**) were all foretold in the Old Testament, which Jehovah used to govern Israel until the Christ should come and establish the New for all mankind (**Gal. 3:19**)!

The New Testament is the word of Christ. It reveals the religion of Christ (**Heb. 9:15-17**). By studying it we become aware that among the fol-

lowers of Christ no denominational organizations have existed whatsoever. All such began at a later time. We see people hearing the gospel and in faith obeying the conditions of God's grace. That is, they turned to God and were baptized in order to be forgiven of their sins. Being thus saved, they were added to the Lord's people or church (**Acts 2:36-47**). As the gospel spread, we find them assembling together in congregations in various localities. Each congregation was under its own elders (**Acts 14:23**) and no one else on earth. These elders could not make laws or be masters. They were given the responsibility of tending and caring for the congregation as shepherds would a flock (**Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 5:1-3**)! The only headquarters those disciples knew was heaven, where their head Jesus Christ was and is (**Eph. 1:22-23**).

Their worship was something to participate in, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's Supper and hear preaching (**Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-29**). They would share their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity, and we find contributions being collected on no other day than the first day of the week (**1 Cor. 16:1-2**). Incidentally, no hierarchy could tax them or tell them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own heart (**2 Cor. 9:6-7**). In their assemblies they all would sing (**Eph. 5:19**), and pray with

various ones leading (**1 Cor. 14:15-16**). In all this they were all necessarily involved, for each saved person was a priest (**Rev. 1:5-6**). No one could perform his service or worship for him.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers where they could not go. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery the gospel was preached throughout civilization in a short time (**Col. 1:23**). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians (**Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16**). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not sensual or materialistic. They sought not to impress God with pious ceremony. They sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed him, contrite obedience (**1 Sam. 15:22**). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel to a troubled world for it was God's power to save (**Rom. 1:16**), and any other appeal was beneath them.

"If only such could be today," many say. But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it no necessity or relevance and only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored. They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some earthly organization.

A group of such people meets

within minutes of where you live. We are just Christians. We worship and serve God in the same way as the early disciples. Christ is our only creed and the Scriptures our only guide. We are not members of any human denomination, but simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. We would like thus to share Christ with you and with the entire world.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by no denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please visit us, or contact us.

—via *The Lenexa Edifier*

Two Baptisms

Carr McElroy and Natalie Ysas were baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of their sins last Sunday morning. We rejoiced with them in their submitting their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ and starting their journey toward heaven.

Ladies of Light Signup

Ladies if you want to attend the Saturday program on **January 9**, and you have not yet registered you need to do that within the next two weeks. Contact Amanda Willeford if you have questions.

Our Thirteenth Annual Singing

Is coming up Friday night, January 15, 2016, which is the third Friday night in January.

This annual singing has been an outstanding evening of singing Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs in worship and praise to God. **Tim Stevens, Dane Shepard** and **Todd Dennis** will be with us again to direct the singing. They always do an outstanding work in their leading.

NEWS (continued from back page)

he wants to do a stress test to check out a rhythm problem—**Betty Rust** is scheduled to have a heart valve replacement on December 28—**William White** has been recovering at home following his carpal tunnel surgery on one hand. He went to Paris Wednesday to have the stitches taken out. He is to have surgery soon on the other hand—**Mark Caldwell** continues in Baylor Plano and is fighting infection in his incision—**Charles and Dorothy Kyle** have not been feeling well and were not in our services last Sunday or Wednesday—**Jerry Wildman** has been sick this past week and was not in our service Wednesday night—**James and June Johnson** are great-grandparents again. **Lucy Beth Whittaker** was born Wednesday to Justin and Bethany in Bakersville, CA. Congratulations to the family—Remember **Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, and Judy Hinson**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Lenelle Latimer, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.**