

## NEWS

**Lenelle Latimer** fell last Monday, was taken to ETMC in Tyler. She is in Room 3353. She received a deep cut in the back of her head. She is not doing well and she has not eaten for several days—**Vivian Stroman** also fell last Tuesday and she is in Harris Hospital in Ft. Worth. They have learned that she has a heart arrhythmia problem. Yesterday they had moved her to the Progressive Care Unit to treat her for that problem, and she was doing better—**Kenneth Amerson** has finally gotten his ablation procedure scheduled for February 8. (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:

**January 3, 2016**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Luke Arnold

**Kenneth Amerson** **Thomas Hockaday**  
**Dayne Stansell** **Jerry Don Davis**

##### Sunday Evening

**Kenneth Amerson** **Thomas Hockaday**  
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### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Zach Willeford** (Opening)

—**Tom Davis** (Closing)

PM—**Paul Chapman** (Opening)

—**Colton Fulmer** (Closing)  
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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Ken Ferguson**

P.M.—**Bob Arnold**

(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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## How To Listen To A Sermon

By Charles Willis

Jesus' instruction to His disciples must be learned by us: *"take care how you listen"* (Luke 8:18). As one who has listened to sermons for decades, I know I have been guilty of listening while distracted, listening while sleepy, listening vaguely and letting my mind wander. Perhaps you can relate. This is at times a result of poor preaching, but that is not what this article is about. Often the problem is not the delivery of the lesson, but the reception of the hearer.

Many today attend an assembly seeking an entertainment. The lesson is really not the focus, but rather the delivery of it. This was exactly God's statement to the prophet Ezekiel, *"They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain. Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on an instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them"* (Ezekiel 33:31-32). The attitudes of men's hearts have not changed in our day, however we must be certain that we are not merely listening to be entertained by a good speaker, or to hear a good illustrative story, or see some nice pictures on a video display during the lesson.

Jesus quotes from Isaiah saying some would have problems listening to the truth. *"You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And*

*understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them*” (Matthew 13:14-15). A real danger to us is this poor attitude toward listening to a proclamation of God’s truth: that my heart becomes dull and my ears scarcely hear. If my heart is in tune with God, and I truly *“hunger and thirst for righteousness”* (Matt. 5:6), my ears would be more attentive to God’s truth.

This issue of a proper heart to receive the word is exactly what is indicated in James 1:21, *“Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”* Humility helps us listen. Not that the preacher knows more than I know, but that God has seen fit to give me His word which needs to be implanted in me because it can save my soul when I obey it. I need to hear what God has said, I need to learn it because it effects my eternal salvation. What an humbling thought to keep me focused during a sermon, rather than distracted and mentally wandering. Additionally, this passage indicates I need a receptive attitude. To understand I do not know all God has revealed, even if I have heard a dozen sermons on the subject. There is always value and benefit to receiving God’s word, even when it is familiar. David wrote, *“The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple”* (Ps. (119:130), and again, *“Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your*

*law”* (Ps. 119:18).

We learn more about how to listen to a sermon in Acts 17:11, *“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”* The word was received with “great eagerness.” Some approach a sermon with dread (not because of the speaker) but because of a sick heart. This “eagerness” expresses a strong desire to learn and know God’s will. After the lesson they are praised for examining the Scriptures to ensure the truth was God’s will and not the apostle’s words. What an awesome example for us. What do you do on Sunday afternoon? Many nap. Perhaps we should adopt a habit of examining the Scriptures from the morning sermon to see if these things were true. This would be a good example of eagerness to learn and know. This is the same attitude of the Thessalonians praised by Paul when he said, *“For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe”* (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

After receiving a sermon, and confirming the truth of the lesson, we must then apply it. This was a fallacy of the people of Ezekiel’s time, *“they hear your words but they do not practice them.”* We

say ‘it goes in one ear and out the other.’ The failure to apply is a failure to listen. The application is the entire reason for listening! It does no good to have an extreme knowledge of God’s will but not practice what He commands. How do you listen to a sermon? I encourage you to examine yourself, and consider carefully what Scripture says on this important subject because it needs to be applied. *“Prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves”* (James 1:22).

—*Standing Firm*, 11/15/15

### Ladies of Light Signup

Ladies if you want to attend the Saturday program on **January 9, 2016** and you have not yet registered you need to do that as soon as possible. Do you realize this event is just 2 weeks from yesterday. Contact Amanda Willeford if you have questions.

Last year’s Ladies of Light Saturday was a great success, and it will be another great and encouraging day for the ladies. Make plans to be a part of it.

### Our Thirteenth Annual Singing

**Is coming up Friday night, January 15, 2016, which is the third Friday night in January, less than 3 weeks away.**

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. Let’s all make plans to attend and do all that we can for the success of this effort.

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**NEWS** (continued from back page)

And he is hoping they will be able to move that up some—**Betty Rust** is to see another doctor to get a second opinion concerning the replacement of a heart valve—**The Willefords** were sick Wednesday and not able to be in our services—**Jennifer Wildman** was sick last Sunday and not in our services but she was back with us Wednesday night—**Dorothy Kyle** was back in our services last week after being out for a few services. It was good to see her—**Mark Caldwell** has been moved to Good Shepherd Hospital in Longview, Room 1076. They continue to work on the healing of his incision—**Paul and Carla Chapman’s daughter, Elizabeth**, has been diagnosed with a thyroid problem and she will be having that examined—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.**