

Youth NEWS



The May Junior High/Senior High Devotional

will be hosted by the Withers Family Sunday, May 14. All food and drinks will be provided.



Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp

July 16th-21st, 2017. Camper (9-15 year olds) applications available online. Camper drop off Sunday 2 p.m. Camper pick up Friday 2 p.m. Priority registration is now through June 8.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, May 14 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "In Christ." It most certainly matters whether we are "in" Christ or "out" of Christ. One who is in Christ will enjoy His fellowship and His blessing for an eternity, but those who are outside of Christ are excluded from the promises of Christ.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Tuesdays (September through May)

Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

MAY 7, 2017

"IS CHRISTIANITY A SPECTATOR SPORT?" by Ronnie Scherffius

The story is told of a football coach from a prominent university who was asked by a reporter, "How much does college football contribute to the national physical-fitness picture?"

"Absolutely nothing," was the blunt and stern reply from the coach. Taken back by the answer, the surprised reporter continued, "Why such strong feelings?"

"Well," the coach exclaimed, "The way I see it, you have 22 men on the field desperately needing rest, and 80,000 people in the stands desperately needing exercise."

Now, apply this same thought to the work of the local church and ask yourself this question: "Am I one of the 22 on the field or one of the 80,000 in the stands?" How involved are you in the work to strengthen the brethren

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work** of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" 1 Cor. 15:58

and help the church to grow?" If an examination was made of the work at Mid-Town, and more importantly your involvement in the work, would you be a laborer in the field diligently working

with your brethren in the Lord or would you be more characterized by the spectator, sitting in the stands cheering on those willing to spend the time and energy to accomplish the work or perhaps (as is more often the case) that spectator complaining about how inefficient and ineffective the work is being done?

Paul admonished the Corinthian church, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, **always abounding in the work** of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). Is every member at MidTown striving to accomplish the work of the church, abounding in the work of the Lord for the cause of King Jesus? Speaking of Epaphroditus Paul wrote, "Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to

supply your lack of service toward me” (Phil. 2:30). Paul was not speaking harshly of the Philippian brethren here, but stating simply that where they had been limited in their ability and opportunity to labor with him and/or provide assistance in his work, Epaphroditus had gone above and beyond, even to the detriment of his own health, to take part in the field of labor for the cause of Christ.

Is there work to be done? Ever before us is the need for an eldership, all agreeing and fervently praying for the day when we are able to appoint men to this worthy office. Nevertheless, there is much work that needs to be done now. There are those of our number who are *sick, shut-in, discouraged, or struggling* who need to be visited and encouraged. Some of our brethren are *facing difficulties* worthy of both our prayers and assistance through the providing of meals, sitting with family members while they tend to matters outside the home, and even help with work around the house to help keep things in order. We have *visitors* regularly attending, no doubt looking for a place to worship, and perhaps giving serious consideration to becoming a part of the work at Midtown. These certainly are worthy of our time and energy! An organized effort to reach out to these and to encourage them to become an active part of the work should be a high priority to every member. Some who have very recently expressed a desire to identify with the church at MidTown have seemed to slip through the cracks, and others who have been members for a number of years seem disheartened and struggling with situations and circumstances among us. Besides these, space does not allow to detail the continual need to build up and mentor our youth, regularly visit members who are absent, the need to increase the number of men and women teaching our Bible classes, as well as the need for special help to maintain our property and building that arises from time to time.

Yet, for work to be accomplished there must first be laborers. What should we do? Here are some suggestions. First, instead of scratching our heads about everyone else we should examine our own lives first and if we are not active then we should get up and get to work! Second, do not be a

Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
APRIL 30, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....119
Sunday Morning Assembly.....152
Sunday Evening Assembly.....NA
Wednesday Attendance.....100

Offering: \$5,006.53

MEN’S MEETING:

Today, there will be a monthly Men’s Meeting at **3:30 p.m.** at the building.

discouragement to those who are working! Do not be critical of brethren who are doing their best to help the church to grow, who are giving so much of their time and energy to keep the church sound, strong, and striving to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Instead, be an encourager and supporter of their efforts and seek what benefit you may be for the same end. Finally, if you are actively participating but are discouraged that others are not – invite them to help you in the work that you are doing. It may be that they feel insecure about their abilities; it may be that they do not know where to start; or it may simply be that they only need to be asked. Remember, Jesus not only did the work of His Father BUT He constantly invited others to join in the work with Him.

Brethren, Christianity is not a spectator sport; cheers and jeers is not what causes the local church to grow and to flourish! But Christians working together, encouraging one another, and giving first of themselves for the cause of Christ will bring both unity, peace, joy, and great growth to the local congregation.

Now, ask yourself this question, “Am I on the field, or am I in the stands?”

News
& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, May 21

Plan to attend the Sunday Fellowship meal following evening services to honor our 2017



graduates **Emily DeDear & Desmond Flonnory**. Please bring sandwiches, chips and dips. A cake will be provided and there will be a basket for your cards and best wishes.

Sunday, May 28

You are encouraged to submit bible questions in a “mail box” in the foyer to be answered each fourth Sunday during the evening service.

- Brookdale Team #1 will meet today.
- Thank you for your kindness and prayers for Susie Mesa. Please note that she is on a cardiac diet (no salt; no canned foods; please use Mrs. Dash instead of salt on vegetables).

CONGRATULATIONS!

**JACK ALEXANDER
FIELDER
BORN
THURSDAY, MAY 4
6LBS. 14 OZ.**



**Keep in
PRAYER**



**MidTown
Members:**

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key

Kathy Laws
Susie Mesa
Betty Mabe
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Angela Sneeringer
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers

**& Friends
Family:**

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Keith Lempa,
son-in-law of Larry Nuckles
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
mother of Karon Barton's
sister-in-law

Amanda Mueller
sister of Amy Harris
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Madeline Posey,
family of Julie Posey
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Polly Ray,
aunt of Connie Cleveland
Scott Reeves,
son of Sam and Leta
brother of Sherry Lynch
Gary Rush,
friend of the Arnolds
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory