



**Friday, August 14**

Archana Verma will host a Youth Family Devotional at 7 p.m. Girls please bring a creative dessert and boys bring drinks.

- **The last Thursday area-wide Summer Youth Series will be held August 13 @ 7 p.m. at Portland and is entitled, "Who Will Follow Jesus?"**

**EDUCATION**

**In Search of the Lord's Way**

The lesson for Sunday, August 16 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Jesus the Son." Jesus frequently describes Him merely as the Son. He is the Son of God and the Son of Man. The Scriptures describe Him as divine but also as coming in the flesh. How do we understand Jesus as both fully human and fully divine?

**SUNDAYS**

**Bible Classes .....9:00 AM**  
**Morning Worship .....10:00 AM**  
**Evening Worship ..... 5:00 PM**

*Mondays (every first and third week)*  
**Ladies' Bible Study ..... 7:00 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**

Clay Bond

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*

Cecil Shaw  
*Ocho Rios, Jamaica*

Mike Batot  
*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](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

"SETTING THE LORD BEFORE US" by Clay Bond

Psalm 16:11 reads, "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." True happiness and joy are to be found in the presence of God, but separate from Him there can be no lasting joy and happiness. Therefore, the key to maintaining continual joy is our proximity to God.

As long as we are close to God, our lives will be full of joy. However, there are times in our lives when we do not feel as

"I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

*Psalm 16:8*

close to God as we would like to. During these times we might feel like our inner joy, peace and happiness are quickly diminishing. There are numerous things that can make us feel this way, but I think Job summed it up well when he said, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble" (Job 14:1).

So the question is, what can we do when

we do not feel close to God? The answer is found in Psalm 16:8, "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." When we pair Psalm 16:11 with 16:8 we have this thought; since God's presence brings the "fulness of joy" to our lives, we must set the Lord before us every day of our lives. When we do, we will receive the benefits of His presence which motivates us to faithfulness and faithfulness brings joy regardless of what we are going through. You see, true joy is not based upon outward circumstance, it is based upon having a close relationship with God. It is during times of despair that we need the courage that comes as a natural response of having God at our right hand. The Lord has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto

me” (Hebrews 13:5-6). Let’s consider three ways we can set the Lord before us.

First, anytime we find ourselves drifting away from God a good place to start is to set the Lord before us through His creation. Creation should impress us with His eternal power and Godhead (Romans 1:20). “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handy-work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge” (Psalm 19:1-2). When we consider how God created this universe and how it is all held together by Him, we see that God is powerful and awesome and also that He is mindful of us (Psalm 8:3-4). If you feel distant from God, allow the beauty of creation to help you remember and refocus.

Secondly, we should set the Lord before us through His revelation. David said, “Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me” (Psalm 119:92-93). In essence David says “If it was not for God’s word I wouldn’t have made it”. He recognized that he was dependent upon the Word to remain close to God (Colossians 1:9-10; 1 John 2:3-5). Scripture nourishes our faith and it builds us up (Romans 10:17; Acts 20:32). Let us be like David who said, “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me” (Psalm 119:133). When we choose to draw near to God by through His Word, He will draw near to us and we will not feel like God is distant during our times of need (James 4:7).

Thirdly, we should set the Lord before us through prayer. Prayer is probably the number one sign of dependency upon God because in prayer we must humble ourselves and ask for what we need. Paul said, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
AUGUST 2, 2015

**Attendance**

Sunday Bible Class.....120  
Sunday Morning Assembly.....154  
Sunday Evening Assembly.....111

**Offering: \$5,443**

-7). If we expect to have peace and joy in the midst of the storms of life we must set the Lord before us by having a good prayer life. As Christians, prayer is the means by which we express our concerns, confess our sins and receive God’s mercy and grace (1 Peter 5:7; 1 John 1:9; Hebrews 4:15-16). David wrote, “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up” (Psalm 5:3). When you feel far away from God ask yourself, “when was the last time my heavenly Father heard my voice?”

Having a close relationship with God is a two way street. God has revealed Himself through His creation and expressed His desire to be close to us through His revelation. Now we have to decide whether we desire to have a close relationship with Him. If we long to be close to our Creator we must come to Him in obedience to His revelation and reveal ourselves to Him by communicating to Him in prayer. We can be filled with joy knowing that God is not far from every one of us (Acts 17:27). When our lives are radiant with the peace, joy and happiness of God’s presence, they are also stable and the joy of the Lord will be your strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

The Lord is not far from you, but are you far from Him?

## News & ACTIVITIES

### Today!

There will be a meeting for those interested in the visitation program immediately following evening services in the former auditorium.

### Thursday, August 20

The monthly Young Ladies’ Potluck Luncheon will be held at Noon.

### Friday, August 21

Everyone is invited to an evening of fellowship and fun beginning at 6:30 p.m. here at the building. There will be organized games for all ages to enjoy. Refreshments will be provided.

### Sunday, August 30

The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal has been moved to the fifth Sunday this month to recognize children earning Bible memory work awards during the Summer Series.

### September 18-20

MidTown will host a marriage seminar entitled, “Traveling the Road of Marital Joy.” Guest speakers are John and Carla Moore. Preregister by emailing [ccbond@email.com](mailto:ccbond@email.com)

- Homewood Team #2 will meet today.
- The Tuesday Morning Bible Studies will resume on **September 8.**

## Keep in PRAYER

### RESPONSES:

Please keep **Archana Verma** in prayer who responded on Wednesday.

### MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady  
Dee Gilpatrick  
Betty Key  
Sandy Malone

Bob Neel  
Mickey Tisue  
Ann Pantel  
Glen Pitts  
Rex Sims  
Etta Williams

### & Friends & Family:

Cynthia Barrett,  
*daughter of Dee Gilpatrick*  
Sandra Barton,  
*sister-in-law of Karon*  
Josephine Escojido,  
*mother of Lupe Escojido*  
Dee Ann Endsley  
*niece of Jerri Jeffres*  
Pam Hawkins,  
*daughter-in-law of June*  
Jim Hinchey,  
*brother-in-law of Lupe Escojido*  
Amy Jamison,  
*daughter of Terry*  
Perliene Johnson,  
*mother-in-law of Steve Randle*  
Dorothy Koenig,  
*mother of Mickey DeDear*  
Dorothy McCarn  
*aunt of Pam Clifton*  
Edna Randall,  
*aunt of Randy Tipton*



Sarah Randle,  
*mother of Steve*  
Ernest Rundzieher,  
*brother of Jackie Rutherford*  
David Smith,  
*brother of Bob Smith*  
Richard Smith,  
*uncle of Les Daltry*  
Ray Shannon,  
*son of Donna*  
Prem Verma,  
*father-in-law of Archana*  
Mark Withers,  
*nephew of Clark*  
Ray Williams,  
*son of Etta*  
Martha Young,  
*friend of Elana Carroll*