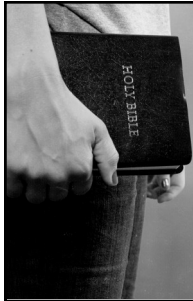


# Youth NEWS

**Today!** Young girls (up to 18 years) and their moms are invited to a devotional at 3:30 p.m.



## Sunday, Sept. 13

The Bond Family will host the Youth Family Devotional following Sunday evening service at the building. Boys bring drinks & girls bring desserts.

## EDUCATION

### September 8

The Tuesday Morning Bible Studies will resume on September 8 at 10 a.m. and include a luncheon. The Men's Class will study Song of Solomon. The Ladies' Class will continue their study in the book, *Songs of Deliverance*.

### September 14

The Monday Ladies' Class will meet weekly at 7 p.m. through October 19.

### In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, September 13 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "True Religion." We want our faith to be built on the truth. We want it to be authentic, genuine, and real. True religion is devoted to the will of God found in Scripture; we could never want anything more or anything less.

## SUNDAYS

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

### Mondays

**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)

SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

"APPROVED UNTO GOD" by John W. Moore

Because of his keen intellect, engaging ways, and ability to network, the young man soon found himself in a position of influence with abundant opportunities to affect countless lives for good.

He was revered for his ability to motivate, organize, and produce. Many within his sphere of influence were in awe of his knowledge, and often sought his advice. He was a part of a growing and dynamic work that was on the cutting edge of the business world. The fruit of his labor was multiplying—but his rise in influence was short-lived.

“...but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

*1 Timothy 4:8*

In his quest to make his mark and change the world, this new business phenom began to spend most of his time networking or searching out where his name could be found on all the whose who business internet sites. The time needed for meditating upon scripture and for personal development and devotion to God were being crowded out by the endless details of up and coming company. To keep up, he started cutting corners and began pass-

ing over details. He began neglecting his family, the advice of friends, and failed to humble himself before the elders of the church, and even before God as prayer time was reduced to a quick thanks before meals. With popularity came the problem of pride, and in his conceit he developed a desire for control. Soon he began to compromise his convictions, and would at times engage in immoral behavior and language to gain the favor of others.

What he had accomplished in volume became tainted by his method. What he possessed in intellect, he lacked in knowledge. His self-esteem was rooted in accomplishments, and his worth based on the standards of men. What he preached to others had not been tempered by personal experience, nor the wisdom of the wise. He failed to meet God's divine approval, and met only the approval of his own self-righteous needs and desires of the flesh.

Regrettably, from time to time this has been the epitaph of a hard-working Christian who became influenced by the world. When put to the test, there rise to the top was short-lived, their influence diminished, and some even abandoned the faith. Why? In part, because they failed to implement in their lives and work the precepts revealed in the letters to Timothy and Titus. They failed to be approved by God.

To be approved unto God, one must be genuine, and recognized as trustworthy, reliable, and accepted. This acceptance and certifying process often comes through experience or a period of testing. In the Roman-Graeco period an Egyptian child was thought of as having been "approved" when he had fulfilled his pious duties to his parents. The idea of being approved was also used in the banking system of the ancient world. When coins were made, metal was heated and poured into molds and then allowed to cool. After the cooling process, the outer uneven edges of the coin were shaved smooth. Some artisans, though, would shave extra amounts from their coins in order to keep back part of the precious metals for themselves. In contrast, those who placed only full weighted money into circulation were known as genuine men of integrity; they had been proven as trustworthy or *approved* by their practice. Similarly, a Christian must - by his or her way of living and work - be proven worthy to be given the identifying label as a workman of God, who can have no evil thing said of him (Titus 2:7-8). Christians must first and foremost be concerned with what God thinks of them, instead of being concerned about the praises of men (John 12:43). When our chief concern is in giving God the glory, and making sure that in all things His will be done, then we will be serving the Lord out of a pure heart, and a faith unfeigned (1 Tim. 1:15). Being approved of God demands that we do not become enamored with self. Our work should be all about Jesus (Phil. 1:21). He should be the object of our devotion (1 Tim. 1:18). His alone should be the only approval we consider essential (Col. 2:10). To be approved, a servant must be a model of holiness. (1 Tim. 2:8; 4:8; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 1:8 2:3). While no one is immune to sin, the Christian must set the proper example in fleeing youthful lust (1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:20-22), and in renouncing ungodliness (Titus 2:11-12). But simply abandoning sin is not enough. A genuine example of faith will also be seen in personal devotion to God through prayer (1 Tim. 2:1-8; 4:1-5; 2 Tim. 2:22), and in a life filled with righteous acts (1 Tim. 6:11-14; Titus 2:7-8; 3:8). To some degree there is within everyone a desire to be appreciated or honored in some way. Every child has at one time or another sought the approval of his or her

**TRAVELING THE ROAD OF MARITAL JOY**



**Guest Speakers:  
John & Carla Moore**

Childcare provided  
Friday & Saturday

———— Friday, September 18 ————

- **5:30 p.m. "Enjoying the Ride"**  
*Dinner - preregister at ccbond@email.com*
- **7 p.m. "The Rules of the Road"**
- **8 p.m. "Roadblocks and Detours"**  
*Breakout Session for Men & Women*

———— Saturday, September 19 ————

- **9 a.m. "Road Rage: Managing the Conflicts"**
- **10 a.m. "Knowing Your Passenger"**  
*Breakout Session for Men & Women*
- **11 a.m. "Knowing Your Passenger (part 2): Sexual Intimacy in Marriage"**

———— Sunday, September 20 ————

- **9 a.m. "Using the Map and Asking for Directions"**
- **10 a.m. "Fuel in the Tank"**  
*Lunch*
- **1 p.m. "Repairing the Engine"**

mother or father. I suppose we all want to be validated and know that our life has meaning and value. While humbly working in God's kingdom, our heavenly Father gives approval to our lives and certifies us in a way that could never be satisfied by the world. Working in the kingdom, and in living by the fair and righteous standards of God's divine approval, one can find acceptance and joy. After having finished our course and fighting the good fight, we can look forward to the crown of righteousness which will be the ultimate prize of God's approval of a life well lived (1 Tim. 4:8).

**News**

**& ACTIVITIES**

**Today!**

The monthly Men's Meeting will be held September 6 at 3:30 p.m.

**News:**

- Brookdale (formerly Homewood) Team #1 will meet today.
- If you are interested in participating in the Visitation Program, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.
- In consideration for preservation of the church building seating, the men of the congregation respectively request that all food and drink in the auditorium area be limited to an as needed basis.
- Please see the bulletin boards in the hallway for upcoming Ladies' Day invitations and also a new letter from Cecil Shaw.

**WELCOME:**

**Jeff and Kathy Laws** have asked to be identified with the MidTown congregation. Please be sure to make them feel welcome!

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
AUGUST 30, 2015

**Attendance**

- Sunday Bible Class.....135
- Sunday Morning Assembly.....163
- Sunday Evening Assembly.....126
- Offering: \$5,835**

**Keep in PRAYER**



**MidTown Members:**

- Jeff Cannady
- Dee Gilpatrick
- Betty Key
- Sandy Malone

- Bob Neel
- Mickey Tisue
- Ann Pantel
- Glen Pitts
- Rex Sims
- Inez Shafer
- 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*
- 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*
- Becca Wiese,  
*friend of Virginia Escojido*
- Mark Withers,  
*nephew of Clark*
- Ray Williams,  
*son of Etta*
- Martha Young,  
*friend of Elana Carroll*