

## Youth NEWS



Thank you to the FitzSimmons, Jobs, Morales and Scherffius Families for hosting the progressive dinner yesterday!

**Today!** The monthly Jr/Sr High Devo will be hosted by the Verma's at their home following evening services.

**February 17-18** Jr/Sr High girls are invited to Young Ladies' Day hosted by University church of Christ in San Marcos. See Athena for more information.

If you are interested in hosting one of the Family/Youth Devotionals there is a sign up sheet in the hallway or you can contact Kasi Jobs.

## Education NEWS

### In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, February 19 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Maturity in Christ." When we first become Christians, we are babes in Christ. The Lord Jesus, however, expects to grow spiritually to maturity. What does a mature Christian look like, and how does he differ from the immature Christian?

### SUNDAYS

**Bible Classes** .....9:00 AM  
**Morning Worship** .....10:00 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](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MIDTOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

## "COLLECTING FEATHERS"

by Ronnie Scherffius

Yiddish folklore offers a telling tale about gossipers and rumormongers. One such man told so many malicious untruths about a local resident that he became overwhelmed with remorse and went to his neighbor begging forgiveness.

"Sir," the penitent man pleaded, "Please tell me how I might make amends."

His neighbor replied, "Take these two feather pillows; go to the public square and there cut the pillows open. Wave them in the air. Then return that we may at once settle our differences."

The rumormonger hastened to the square, and with knife in hand cut the pillows open. Feeling that redemption was near, he began to run waving the pillows, emptying them throughout the park. Satisfied with how completely he had carried out his sentence, he re-

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

Prov. 11:13

turned to the house of the man he formerly made his enemy.

"Have you completely emptied the feathers from the pillows?" His neighbor interrogated. "Did you broadcast them

across the public square allowing the wind to carry them to places unseen?"

Feeling justified, the man affirmed, "I did just as you said."

"Excellent!" The man exclaimed, "Now, to realize how much irreversible harm you have done to my reputation and to the reputation to my family by chatter and loose tongue, return to the square and collect all of the feathers. Only then, will you and I both find true peace."

What is gossip? By definition, *gossip* is "talking idly about the affairs of others." Generally speaking, we suppose that the "idle tale" is untrue, and that the false nature of the rumor is what makes the chatter gossip, but that is not necessarily the case. A greater part of the gossip spread by loose lips is often very true, and spoken originally in confidence by someone seeking comfort and advice. Solomon revealed the preciousness of the faithful friend when he wrote, "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Prov, 11:13). Paul spoke with stern rebuke of those who were, "tattlers [*gossips*] also and

busybodies, speaking things which they ought not" (1 Tim. 5:13). Peter, with even more severe language, likened meddling gossip to murder and theft, "But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (1 Pt. 4:15).

When gossip is spread and rumors are passed the end results can be devastating! A person's good name can quickly be destroyed by a simple whisper with little chance of restoration. How many political careers have been destroyed by "whispering campaigns" instigated by the loyal opposition of "friends" across the aisle! Indeed, a rumor is about as hard to "unspread" as butter.

Gossip and rumormongering will destroy friendships that have withstood the harshest storms. Solomon wrote, "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends" (Proverbs 16:28). Truly, gossip is the spark that has caused flames of destruction to bring ruin to families, friends, communities, and even the church!

Be honest with yourself, which is most appealing to you—gossip or the gospel? As Christians do we concern ourselves with spreading the gospel or spreading rumors? Are we as anxious to hear the words of God as we are to hear the latest gossip, rumor, and innuendo? Too often it seems that we spend more time at the end of the pew whispering about the latest problem in the local congregation than we do in fervent prayer for a peaceful and loving resolution of the matter! No doubt that many of the problems facing the Lord's church would resolve themselves if only Christians would cease adding fuel to the fires by gossip. As the wiseman said, "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" (Proverbs 26:20).

How can we bring to an end gossip, rumor, and talebearing? Actually, there are two very effective steps we can take. First, don't gossip! When you have the impulse to make known a thing that you

have heard, whether it is true or not, simply keep your mouth closed! Or better still, say something of a positive nature that will spur godly conversation and spiritual growth in others. Second, when someone begins to gossip, simply tell them they need to stop spreading rumors and then just walk away. Remember, no one can have a gossiping tongue unless he first has gossiping ears. Consider finally, that if someone will talk about others to you they will certainly talk about you to others.

James said, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." (James 4:14). When we consider the great work that God has set before us: of spreading the gospel of Christ; of seeking to restore the erring; of visiting the fatherless and the widows; of living a life that will bring glory to God should we, "like idle gossips, chat away our time, when we have such works as these to do, and so many of them?" The next time you begin to gossip, ask yourself the question, "Do I really want to pick up all these feathers?"

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:16-19).

Records You Helped Make For the Week of FEBRUARY 5, 2017	
<b>Attendance</b>	
Sunday Bible Class.....	114
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	144
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	90
Wednesday Attendance.....	90
<b>Offering: \$5,135.53</b>	

## News & ACTIVITIES

### Thursday, February 16

All men are invited to attend a weekly Leadership Development class here at the building at 7 p.m.

### Saturday, February 25

There will be a baby shower honoring Trisha Foerster on Saturday, February 25 at 10 a.m. at 108 Park View.



### Sunday, February 26

The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal this month will be held following evening services and will include the Annual Chili Cookoff! If you are planning on entering the competition, please sign up on the sheet in the hallway.

### Saturday, March 4

MidTown will host a Teacher's Workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church building.

- Brookdale Team #2 will meet.
- Today is the last day to bring items for Sunny Glen Children's Home. They are requesting canned beans/ranch-pinto and deodorant (non-aerosol). Please place items in the box in the hallway.
- The 2017 pocket directories are now available! Pick them up in the box located in the foyer.

## Keep in PRAYER



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Barbara Ashley**, mother of Pam Clifton.

### MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey  
Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Jan Farris  
Dee Gilpatrick

Betty Key  
Kathy Laws  
Sandy Malone  
Ann Pantel  
Glen Pitts  
Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez  
Clark Withers

### & Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,  
*brother of Virginia Escojido*  
Bert Haynes,  
*father of Pam Stryker*  
Glena Coon,  
Bo Dykes and Doris  
*family of Peggy Matlock*  
Kim Neel-Farthing,  
*daughter of Joyce*  
June Green,  
*mother of Janice FitzSimmons*  
Amy Jamison,  
*daughter of Terry*  
Barbara Lopez,  
*mother of Rosalba Barton*  
Liz Lopez,  
*friend of Nina Siegel*

Janell Marshall  
*mother of Karon Barton's sister-in-law*  
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 Arnots*  
Sammy Snead,  
*brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius*  
Prem Verma,  
*father-in-law of Archana*  
Kennedy Young, Sr.,  
*uncle of Naomi Flonnory*