

**Youth Winter Retreat**

The Southwest church of Christ will host a Youth Winter Retreat December 29-31 this year at Camp Bandina in Bandera, Texas. The retreat is for grades 6-12th with the theme from the 7 "I AM" statements in the book of John.



The next Jr./Sr. High Devo will be held Sunday, January 14 following evening services.

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

The lesson for Sunday, December 31 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Your Future." Everyone one of us has a past, a present, and a future. Have you thought lately about who you are, why you are what you are, and where you are going? How you live spiritually today will determine your destiny.

**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

**ELDERS**

Will Cleveland  
Tom Pitchford

**EVANGELIST**

Ronnie Scherffius

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*

John Moore  
*Bible Land Passages*

Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.  
*India*

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)

"SUCH AN ONE AS THYSELF" by Ronnie Scherffius

Man is the pinnacle of God's creation. He was created a little lower than the angels (Psa. 8:5); given dominion over all the earth (Gen. 1:27; Psa. 8:6); afforded the freedom to choose between good and evil (Gen. 2:17; Josh. 24:15; 1 Kings 18:21); and above all he was created in the image of his Creator (Gen. 1:27). Truly man is blessed above all of God's creation.

Being created in the image of God indicates that man is like God in at least three distinct ways: our *physical appearance* is like God—created in His image and after His likeness (cf. Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 5:1-3); our *spiritual nature* is like God, i.e. we possess an immortal soul that will never cease to exist (Gen. 35:18; Eccl. 12:7; James 2:26; et. al.); our *emotional essence* is like

"These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself..."

Psa. 50:21

God (we desire to love and be loved; to show mercy and pity; we express sorrow and can rejoice). What a wonderful thought to know that we have been fashioned in the image of our Creator!

As heartening as this truth may be, we must never consider the opposite to be true. Though man is like God—God is not like man! Through the psalmist God rebuked the wicked: "These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; **thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself**" (Psa. 50:21) Such a false belief would cause man to forget God and fall into utter apostasy. **Thinking that God is like man will lead us to believe that we can hide from God.** From an early age children learn how to hide. Parents play *peek-a-boo* with their little ones; *hide and seek* is one of

the oldest and most treasured games of youth. Being *unseen* is not lost to adults: in the hunting industry camouflage clothing generates millions dollars annually, and the military spends countless billions on “hiding” in stealth technology. But it is impossible for man to hide from God!

From the beginning, man in sin has tried to hide from God in the hope that God would not see his transgressions. Realizing the shame of their sin “Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden” (Gen. 3:8). Job indicated that he could have understood his misery if he, like Adam had tried to hide his transgression from God (Job 31:33). Though he falsely charged Job with wrong Elihu rightly declared of God: “For his eyes *are* upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. *There is* no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves” (Job 34:21-22), Echoing this eternal truth Solomon admonished his son, “The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Prov. 15:3).

Through the prophet, God declared, “Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.” (Jer. 23:23-24) We may hide from our fellowman but there is no hiding from God!

**Thinking that God is like man we will believe that we can deceive God.** From time immemorial man has practiced deception. Jacob, with the help and encouragement of his mother Rebekah, deceived his father Isaac to receive his brother’s birthright (Gen. 27:6-23). The sons of Jacob practiced deception to convince their father

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
DECEMBER 17, 2017	
<b>Attendance</b>	
Sunday Bible Class.....	138
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	192
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	NA
Wednesday Attendance.....	97
<b>Offering: \$5,054</b>	


that his beloved son Joseph had been killed by an animal (Gen. 37:23-35). Foxes are known to be sly and cunning creatures and those who have a deceptive nature are often referred to as foxy. Jesus referred to Herod Antipas as “that fox” (Luke 13:32) and Ezekiel likened the false prophets of Israel to “foxes in the deserts” (Ezek 13:4).

Man has made an art of deception but God cannot be deceived! Ananias and his wife Sapphira sought to gain position through deceit, but their scheme was known to God. (Acts 5:1-10) Men may lie and deceive one another; he may even deceive his own self (James 1:22; 1 John 1:8), but the deceptive schemes of man will never confound God who sees all things (Heb. 4:13).

*Continued next week*

**MIDTOWN’S LADIES’ DAY**  
Saturday, January 20, 2018

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.  
Lunch provided.



Speaker:  
Athena Scherffius

## News

### & ACTIVITIES

#### Today!

Ronnie will answer the following questions this evening:



1. Please discuss Hosea taking back Gomer in light of Deuteronomy 24:1-4
2. Please discuss John's baptism
3. What is the meaning of Jesus coming “in a cloud” in Luke 21:27
4. In Luke 22:31-32 the footnote in my Bible (v. 31) says the Greek word for you is plural; in verse 32 all four instances (you/your) are singular. Can you comment on this please? This would imply that Satan asked to sift all of them

#### Saturday, January 20

MidTown will host its Annual Ladies’ Day.

- The Tuesday Bible Classes will break until January 9.
- Sunny Glen Children’s Home is requesting picante sauce and sandwich bags. Please place these items in the boxes in the hallway.
- See the 2018 sign up sheets in the hallway on ways you can help serve!
- There will not be a Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal in January due to Ladies’ Day.

## Keep in PRAYER

#### IN SYMPATHY:

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Cheryl Herring** *sister of Melissa Cannady.*



#### MidTown Members:

- Jeff Cannady
- Les Daltry
- Frank Farris
- Jan Farris
- Lucille Hawkins

- Faye Henderson
- Betty Key
- Sandy Malone
- Ann Pantel
- Glenodine Pitts
- Bob Smith
- Clark Withers

#### & Friends Family:

- Mary Lou Arguelles  
*sister of Virginia Escojido*
- Buster Bailey  
*former MidTown*
- Victor Benitez  
*brother of Virginia Escojido*
- Ginger Holmes  
*niece of Karon Barton*
- Kim Neel-Farthing  
*daughter of Joyce*
- Susie Mesa  
*former MidTown*

- Scarlet O’Neill  
*friend of Yvonne Smith*
- Sarah Randle  
*mother of Steve*
- Harish Reddy  
*brother-in-law of Archana Verma*
- Cynthia Sneeringer  
*mother of Angela*
- James Tipton  
*father of Randy Tipton*
- Terri Jamison  
*son of Ben & Millie*