

Youth NEWS



The next Jr./Sr. High Devo will be hosted by the Cleveland Family on Sunday, January 14 following evening services.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, January 14 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Revive Us Again." Men naturally seem to tire and lose sight of what is important spiritually. Nations become apathetic and immoral. How can we restore in our hearts the fervor of our faith? What can we do to come alive spiritually?

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

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

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN
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VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND
INFORMATION
FOR MID-
TOWN
MEMBERS AND
FRIENDS

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

JANUARY 7, 2018

"NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS" by Ronnie Scherffius

As incredible as it may seem, another year has come and gone and a new year has begun...again! As with the beginning of each year, many have resolved to accomplish certain goals—*New Year's Resolutions!*

Did you know that the ancient Babylonians are said to have been the first people to make New Year's resolutions?! Some 4,000 years ago these ancient peoples held celebrations in honor of the new year. During this twelve day religious festival, known as *Akitu*, the Babylonians made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed—these promises are considered by some to be the forerunners of our New Year's resolutions.

The ancient Romans had a similar practice. Julius Caesar, in 46 B.C., altered the calendar and established January as the beginning of the new year. Because the month of January was named for Janus, the god whose spirit inhabited doorways and arches, the month had special significance to the Romans. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the superstitious Romans offered sacrifices to the pagan deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

According to Reader's Digest, some of the most popular resolutions through the years have been: get in shape, lose weight, spend less and save more, get organized, learn a new skill, and travel. While all of these are commendable resolutions, they each share a common defect—they focus on the physical life!

We would be much better served to focus on resolving to better ourselves spiritually. What are some resolutions we should make that would help us to become more spiritually minded and develop a deeper faith?

We should resolve to attend Sunday AND Wednesday Bible classes. In his first letter Peter admonished, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, ***that ye may grow*** thereby" (1 Pt. 2:2), and in the closing of his second letter he concluded "But ***grow in grace, and in the knowledge*** of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Pt. 3:18). Paul taught that in our knowledge of Christ we should be as mature men and not like children, "tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine" (Eph. 4:13-14). To the Colossians Paul wrote that to be filled (literally "filled full" or "crammed with") with

knowledge enables one to “walk worthy of the Lord,” to be “fruitful in every good work,” and to be “strengthened with all might” (Col. 1:9-11). Few resolutions could be better to make by Christian people than to grow in knowledge and faith! And what better opportunity to grow in a deeper knowledge and understanding of God’s Word than in planned, purposed, and organized Bible classes where the teachers have given much time and diligent effort to study and prepare lessons! In 2018, we should resolve to attend Sunday AND Wednesday Bible classes.

We should resolve to be faithful in our attendance to all services of the church. Someone may suggest, “I am faithful to Sunday morning worship services, and the Bible says nothing of Sunday evening services, therefore I have violated no command of God in being absent from services on Sunday evening.” A resolution for such a one as this should be *to have a heart that desires to be more pleasing to God than to self and to have a better understanding of the blessings of gathering with brothers and sisters in worshipping God!* Imagine, how much stronger one would become spiritually; how much improved the spiritual atmosphere of their home/family; the greater likelihood of their children to remain faithful; the spiritual strength to resist temptation and maintain fellowship with God if they simply were faithful to assemble with the saints at every opportunity *given by God!* The Hebrews writer admonished, “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:25). This admonition has great application for us today *especially* when we understand that it was given to those whose faith was being challenged in a time of approaching judgment! What a joyful resolution it would be to fulfill, and how encouraging it would be to others if all resolved to be faithful in their attendance to all services of the church.

Finally, we should resolve to more active in the work of the local church. This involvement should first take place in our giving! Every mem-

ber of the church should resolve to increase their giving by some percentage this year! God has given us His only begotten Son (John 3:16); a plan by which we might be made free from sin (Rom. 6:17); He has shown us mercy we do not deserve and and promised us an inheritance of which we are not worthy! Further, what Christian peoples have been as blessed as us—to live in a country with the liberties and opportunities to increase financially as us! It is truly a small thing for each of us to give of our means in a greater way that the cause of Christ and the kingdom of heaven may go forth more prosperously in our community and throughout the world! Add to this the good works of teaching Bible classes; encouraging our youth and elderly; visiting the sick, shut-in and less fortunate; seeking out souls hungry to hear the truth; inviting family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and fellow-students to Bible classes, worship services, and gospel meeting. The Scriptures instruct us to let our lights shine that others “may see your **good works**” (Mt. 5:16); that we are to always be “abounding in the **work** of the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:58); to be “fruitful in every **good work**” (Col.1:0). We should resolve ourselves to make this year, the year that we become a people known for producing fruits of the Spirit by our good works!

What resolutions! What improvements in our lives! What a stronger people we would be! What a deeper faith we would have, if we would make resolutions to grow spiritually! What resolutions should you make that you might become a stronger more effective worker in the vineyard of the Lord?

Records You Helped Make	
For the Week of	
DECEMBER 31, 2017	
Attendance	
Sunday Bible Class.....	105
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	109
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	NA
Wednesday Attendance.....	109
Offering: \$4,973	

News & ACTIVITIES

Saturday, January 20

MidTown will host its annual Ladies’ Day.

Sunday, January 28

Ronnie will answer bible questions placed in the “mailbox” in the foyer every fourth Sunday evening.

Wednesday, January 31

There will be a Fifth Wednesday Singing.

- The Tuesday Bible Classes will resume 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!

CARE GIVER Our God Given Role

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

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



Speaker:
Athena Scherffius

Keep in PRAYER



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