

GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE

for the
**Glory of God
and the**

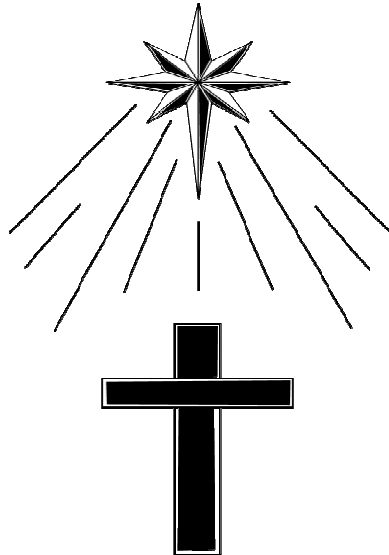
Renewal of His People

January 15, 2012

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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(If the temperature of the building is too cool, please avail yourself of shawls in the lobby near our water fountain)

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



Southside Community Church exists as a *community*  
*redeemed* by and *dependent* upon *God's grace*,  
that we might be  
engaged in and renewed by the *worship* of the triune God,  
*matured* by His truth, as evidenced by *love*,  
and engaged in His *mission of renewal* to *His world*.

## REFLECTION and PREPARATION

**Start with GOD—the first step in learning is bowing down to GOD;  
only fools thumb their noses at such wisdom and learning.**

*Proverbs 1:7 (The Message translation)*

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The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,

*I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head,  
I'll expose so-called experts as crackpots.*

So **where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent** in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense?

Human wisdom is so tinny, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."

Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That **makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ.** That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

I didn't try to impress you with polished speeches and the latest philosophy. I deliberately kept it plain and simple: first who Jesus is; then what Jesus did - Jesus crucified.

I was unsure of how to go about this, and **felt totally inadequate**—I was scared to death, if you want the truth of it—and so nothing I said could have impressed you or anyone else. But the Message came through anyway. God's Spirit and God's power did it, which made it clear that **your life of faith is a response to God's power, not to some fancy mental or emotional footwork by me or anyone else.**

We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what **God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene.** That's why we have this Scripture text:

*No one's ever seen or heard anything like this,  
Never so much as imagined anything quite like it—  
What God has arranged for those who love him.*

But you've seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the open before you. The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God, and brings out what God planned all along.

*from I Corinthians 1 & 2 (The Message)*

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## BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT... THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM

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(\*Indicates where congregation is invited to stand, as able)

### *The Baptism of Jesus*

*Matthew 2&3*

...when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, <sup>20</sup> saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." <sup>21</sup> And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee.

(near thirty years later)...<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said,

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

### \*CALL to WORSHIP

*from Hebrews 1*

*Leader: ...in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,*

**People: whom he appointed to be the heir of all things,  
through whom he created the world.  
He is the radiance of the glory of God  
and the exact imprint of his nature  
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**

*Leader: For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?*

*Or again,  
"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?*

*He says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."*

**People: Of the Son he says,  
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever!"**

SONGS of ADORATION

**This Kingdom**

Words and Music: Geoff Bullock

Jesus,  
God's righteousness revealed,  
The Son of Man, the Son of God,  
His kingdom comes;  
Jesus,  
Redemption's sacrifice,  
Now glorified, now justified,  
His kingdom comes.

*Chorus:*

*And this kingdom will know no end,  
And its glory shall know no bounds,  
For the majesty and power  
Of this kingdom's King has come;  
And this kingdom's reign,  
And this kingdom's rule,  
And this kingdom's power and authority,  
Jesus, God's righteousness revealed.*

Jesus,  
the expression of God's love,  
The grace of God, the Word of God,  
Revealed to us;  
Jesus,  
God's holiness displayed,  
Now glorified, now justified,  
His kingdom comes.

*Chorus*

Jesus, God's righteousness revealed.

## **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867

Music: Traditional Welsh Melody

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting and silent as light,  
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
All praise we would render; O help us to see  
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee!

**\*PRAYER of ADORATION**

AFFIRMATION of FAITH

from The Nicene Creed

*Leader:* What do you believe concerning Jesus, the Christ?

**People:** We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried;  
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and he shall come again, with glory,  
to judge both the living and the dead;  
whose kingdom shall have no end.

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## BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN...

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### CONFESSION of SIN

*John the Baptist before the Baptism of Jesus*

Matthew 3

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

<sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

<sup>3</sup> For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.'"

... <sup>5</sup> Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

*Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

1 John 1:8

*There are three types of people present at the Jordan River in this story and in our story, today:*

*(1) People who confess sins because they know they cannot do enough good to be saved*

*(v.5)*

*(2) People who think they are saved by their ethnicity, birth, or good deeds. (v.7)*

*(3) Jesus – the only one who can fulfill all righteousness.*

*In whom shall we trust?*

*(please, take this time to confess your sin and pride, silently; the music team will lead us forward)*

SONG of RENEWAL

**Prepare Ye The Way**

Words and Music: John Michael Talbot, 1977

The Word of the Lord came one evening  
concerning His bride's great sin.  
He sent down His Word to renew her  
to prepare for the Bridegroom again.

The Word said, Repent,  
from seeking vain glories  
thru the gifts in the Lord's name you give.  
Repent, of all the first stones cast to kill  
while your own self-righteousness lives.

*Chorus:*

*Prepare ye the way for the Lord.  
Prepare ye the way for the kingdom.  
Prepare ye the way, Prepare ye the way, for the Lord.*

The Word said, Repent,  
and turn from your strivings.  
Repent, and turn from your hatred.  
Repent, of the doctrines of men that divide  
and tear like the wedding gown ripped.

Walk in His love  
Like newborn children.  
Walk in His love,  
Let the wedding gown mend.  
Walk in His love,  
With humility come with pure hearts,  
and cast all your cares to the Lord.

*Chorus*

The Word of the Lord came one evening  
Concerning His bride's great sin.  
He assured me we will be forgiven  
And then let the marriage begin.

*Chorus Twice*

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## FOR THEY SHALL BE COMFORTED

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### \*WORDS of ASSURANCE

from 1 John 1:9

Leader: *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Leader: *The peace of Christ be with you.*

People: **And also with you.**

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## BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH

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### \*SONG of CELEBRATION

#### **On Jordan's Stormy Banks**

Words: Samuel Stennett Music: Christopher Miner

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day;  
There God the Son forever reigns, and scatters night away.

*Chorus:*

*I am bound (I am bound),  
I am bound (I am bound),  
I am bound for the promised land,  
I am bound (I am bound),  
I am bound (I am bound),  
I am bound for the promised land.*

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath can reach that healthful shore;  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

*Chorus*

When shall I reach that happy place, and be forever blessed?  
When shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest?

*Chorus*

I am bound (I am bound), I am bound (I am bound)  
I am bound for the promised land.

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**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, PURE IN HEART,  
PEACE MAKERS, PERSECUTED...**

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**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

*Fellowship Books.* Please take a moment to fill out the information on the attendance pads located underneath the seat on the inner aisles, providing any information to enable us to better serve you. When you finish, please pass the pads down the row so everyone has the opportunity to do so.

**PRAYER of COMMITMENT for our OFFERINGS**

**GIVING of OFFERINGS**

*Childrens' Worship.* We welcome children in our entire worship service. However, if you feel a child would benefit from a setting specifically designed for 4-8 years of age, you may escort them to Children's Worship down the west hallway of our building after our offering.

**PRAYER for GOD'S PEOPLE and HIS WORLD**

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**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED**

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**READING of GOD'S WORD**

*Ecclesiastes 7*

*The Contrast of Wisdom and Folly*

- <sup>1</sup> A good name is better than precious ointment,  
and the day of death than the day of birth.
- <sup>2</sup> It is better to go to the house of mourning  
than to go to the house of feasting,  
for this is the end of all mankind,  
and the living will lay it to heart.
- <sup>3</sup> Sorrow is better than laughter,  
for by sadness of face the heart is made glad.
- <sup>4</sup> The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning,  
but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.
- <sup>5</sup> It is better for a man to hear the rebuke of the wise  
than to hear the song of fools.
- <sup>6</sup> For as the crackling of thorns under a pot,  
so is the laughter of the fools;  
this also is vanity.
- <sup>7</sup> Surely oppression drives the wise into madness,  
and a bribe corrupts the heart.
- <sup>8</sup> Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,  
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.
- <sup>9</sup> Be not quick in your spirit to become angry,  
for anger lodges in the heart of fools.
- <sup>10</sup> Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?"  
For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.
- <sup>11</sup> Wisdom is good with an inheritance,  
an advantage to those who see the sun.
- <sup>12</sup> For the protection of wisdom is like the protection of money,  
and the advantage of knowledge is  
that wisdom preserves the life of him who has it.
- <sup>13</sup> Consider the work of God:  
who can make straight what he has made crooked?
- <sup>14</sup> In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has made the one as well as the other, so that man may not find out anything that will be after him.

<sup>15</sup> In my vain life I have seen everything. There is a righteous man who perishes in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man who prolongs his life in his evildoing. <sup>16</sup> Be not overly righteous, and do not make yourself too wise. Why should you destroy yourself? <sup>17</sup> Be not overly wicked, neither be a fool. Why should you die before your time? <sup>18</sup> It is good that you should take hold of this, and from that withhold not your hand, for **the one who fears God shall come out from both of them.**

<sup>19</sup> Wisdom gives strength to the wise man more than ten rulers who are in a city.

<sup>20</sup> Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

<sup>21</sup> Do not take to heart all the things that people say, lest you hear your servant cursing you. <sup>22</sup> Your heart knows that many times you yourself have cursed others.

<sup>23</sup> All this I have tested by wisdom. I said, "I will be wise," but it was far from me. <sup>24</sup> That which has been is far off, and deep, very deep; who can find it out?

<sup>25</sup> I turned my heart to know and to search out and to seek wisdom and the scheme of things, and to know the wickedness of folly and the foolishness that is madness. <sup>26</sup> And I find something more bitter than death: the woman whose heart is snares and nets, and whose hands are fetters. He who pleases God escapes her, but the sinner is taken by her. <sup>27</sup> Behold, this is what I found, says the Preacher, while adding one thing to another to find the scheme of things — <sup>28</sup> which my soul has sought repeatedly, but I have not found. One man among a thousand I found, but a woman among all these I have not found.

<sup>29</sup> See, this alone I found, that **God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.**

## HOMILY

### *"What True Wisdom Looks Like"*

*from the series,*

*"Wisdom for Living in a World with Jesus as King"*

\*SONG of RESPONSE

**Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Wretched**

Words by: Joseph Hart, 1759 Music by: Matthew Smith, 2000

Come, ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus, ready, stands to save you,  
Full of pity, joined with power.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.

Come ye needy, come, and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance,  
Every grace that brings you nigh.  
Without money, without money  
Come to Jesus Christ and buy.

Come, ye weary, heavy laden,  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry 'til you're better,  
You will never come at all.  
Not the righteous, not the righteous;  
Sinners Jesus came to call.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him.  
This He gives you, this He gives you,  
'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Lo! The Incarnate God, ascended;  
Pleads the merit of His blood.  
Venture on Him; venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.  
None but Jesus, none but Jesus  
Can do helpless sinners good.

None but Jesus, none but Jesus,  
Can do helpless sinners good.  
He is able, He is able;  
He is willing; doubt no more.

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...FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

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**\*\*BENEDICTION**

from *Jude 24-25*

*Minister: Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever.*

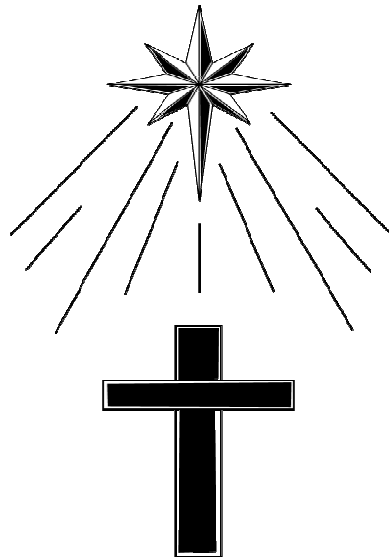
**People:** *(Loudly)* Alleluia! **Amen!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

*We praise the Lord for our accompanists this morning  
– vocalists and instrumentalists and audio and video technicians.*

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**Opportunities to Know, Connect, and Serve**

*Today*

**Ongoing ministry to the Johnson family.** Please note the sign up sheet in the narthex which the care group for Carlene Johnson has compiled, as there are ongoing opportunities for ministry and service for Carlene and her family following Willard’s death and funeral this past week. See Harry Lundgaard and Emily Weaver for more information.

**Lunch Bunch.** The congregation is invited to join the lunch bunch at Montana Mike’s, 6542 South Staples Street, following our worship service.

**New CCEF (Christian Counseling and Education Foundation) resources are available in the narthex,** providing counsel and encouragement to a number of the trials we encounter in our lives.

**Nursery Volunteers Needed.** Currently we have 17 volunteers for Sunday Worship as of January 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry please contact LaVaughn Lundgaard at [lt\\_1@cobridge.tv](mailto:lt_1@cobridge.tv) or 361.727.1527

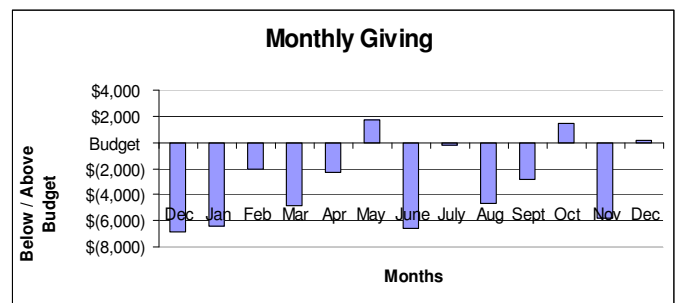
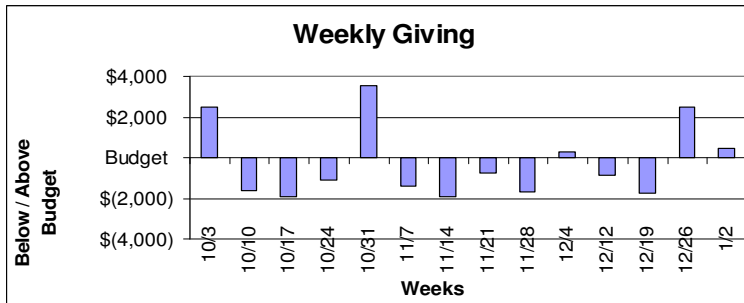
**Closure (partial) of Airline Road.** Airline Road will be closed between Saratoga and Cousteau. Access will remain to Southside via Airline from the south and from Rodd Field road. *Note: Given that the area of closure on Airline could change at anytime, planning to come to Southside via Rodd Field road will be to the advantage of all.*

*Upcoming*

**Fellowship Luncheon. January 29<sup>th</sup>.** All are invited to stay after the Worship Service for this monthly covered dish meal. Families are asked to bring a main dish and either a side dish or dessert, with a view to accommodating our guests.

**Women’s Half day retreat, Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at Southside. Childcare provided. Contact person - Meredith Hood at [Meredithhood730@yahoo.com](mailto:Meredithhood730@yahoo.com).

**Financial Update**



*Giving Month-to-Date: \$ 9,508.00*

*Budget Month-to-Date: \$ 11,982.00*

*Giving Year-to-Date: \$ 226,574.00*

*Budget Year-to-Date: \$ 249,132.00*

**Rummage Sale and Mortgage Reduction:**

*The rummage sale proceeds and a matching gift totaling \$4,330.89 served to reduce our mortgage. The principal remaining as of December 8<sup>th</sup> was \$121,225.49.*

**Save the Date**

- **Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly session meeting (**reschedule date**)
- **Jan. 27-28<sup>th</sup>** – South Texas Presbytery meeting, Austin
- **Jan 29<sup>th</sup>** – Monthly Fellowship Luncheon
- **Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>** – Womens’ Retreat

## **\*\*Ongoing Bible Study and Opportunities for Service with Groups**

### **Sunday Christian Education Classes – 9:15 - 10:15**

|                     |                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ages 2 - 3</b>   | <i>A Sure Foundation</i>                                   |
| <b>Ages 4 - 9</b>   | <i>Camp Southside – “...so they set their hope in God”</i> |
| <b>Ages 10-13</b>   | <i>Serve Camp Southside</i>                                |
| <b>Ages 14 - 18</b> | <i>Serve Camp Southside</i>                                |
| <b>Adults</b>       | <i>The Pauline Epistles</i>                                |

### **Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am**

4-8 Years, Children's Worship (children dismissed prior to Homily)  
Staffed nursery for newborns - 3 years for Education Hour and Worship Service

### **Weekly Meetings**

#### **Tuesday Morning @ Town & Country Café**

**6:30 am Men's Study** *The Minor Prophets*, by James Boice

**7 :00 am Women's Breakfast**

Contacts: Bill and Jean Newberry at 537-0549 or 537-9681 or Gordon and Linda Landreth at 992-3046.

### **Wednesday**

**Fall Midweek Study 11:00 am** Study *-Through His Eyes, God's Perspective on Women in the Bible* and meal.  
**Resumes January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Meredith Hood at MeredithHood730@yahoo.com or 361-232-1364.

**Youth Gathering** Fellowship with study and food, 7:00pm.

**Resumes January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Stephen Shepperd at 537.2281 or Shepshep3@gmail.com

### **Monthly Meetings**

**Women's Book Club** Contact Jeanie Cotten @ 991-6478 or jcotten@stx.rr.com

**Tuesday Women's Noon Fellowship** Contact Andy Beaver @ 442-2721

### **Mercy and Service Opportunities**

**Mission 911 "The Center Peace"** Contact Paige Peden @ 290.2174 or hydrangeasplendor@yahoo.com  
Nutrition, Reading and Fun. If interested in volunteering please contact Paige for more details.

### **Elder on Call**

Gordon Landreth

Jan 15 – 21

Johnny Cotten

Jan 22 – 28

Rob Sigler

Jan 29 – Feb 4

Ed Arvin

Feb 5 – Feb 11

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