

Bible Bowlers study

2 Samuel

See pg. 7

News and advertising deadline for the April issue is March 20.

1 **MARCH**
First Sunday
Singing, Pearsall
church of Christ

7 **MARCH**
Youth Day,
Riverside in Kerrville

27-29 **MARCH**
Gospel
Meeting & Youth Day,
Adams St., Beeville

3-5 **APRIL**
Texas Bible
Bowl, Camp Bandina

10-12 **APRIL**
Leadership Training
for Christ

3 **MAY**
First Sunday
Singing, Hondo
church of Christ

18-20 **MAY**
Sermon Seminar,
Austin Graduate
School of Theology



Memorial: Lois Murphy

Quince and Gayla Fryar honored Lois Murphy (1929 - 2016) with a memorial donation recently. Lois was a disciple of Jesus, a wife, mother sister, grandmother, aunt, and a much-loved Christian News columnist for many years.

Christian News

of South Texas

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2020
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Sermon Seminar: Scripture-based practice

AUSTIN – With a mission to “Promote knowledge, understanding, and practice of the Christian faith as taught in the Scriptures,” the Austin Graduate School of Theology presents the 39th Annual Sermon Seminar on May 18-20. According to Austin Grad President, Stan Reid, the focus is on Thessalonians, Habakkuk, the Gospel of John and the Song of Solomon.

Said Reid, “Since its inception, the Sermon Seminar has aimed to affirm biblical preaching and teaching. We also seek to encourage persons who are committed to those good ministries. I hope that you will be with us this year!”

The \$200 registration fee covers the cost of the seminar, lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, the handouts and access to all audio files. A \$40 deposit holds the spot. The fee is refundable through May 13, minus the deposit. Registration is online at the Austin Grad site. To pay by credit card, call 512-476-2772.

“I believe that we have another excellent program in place for 2020,” said Reid. Each morning begins with coffee and conversation, and those who attend will also enjoy worship and fellowship times together.

After registration at 6 p.m. on Monday, Todd Still will present the initial lesson on

Continued on page 5

Save the date for songfest in New Braunfels

by Maria Espinoza

SAN ANTONIO -- Mark Saturday, Sept. 26, as the date that the New Braunfels Church of Christ hosts the 16th annual “Evening of Spiritual Harmony.”

Students from the Southwestern Christian College Summer Tour will launch the program at 5:30 p.m. Two power-hitting groups from past years, DAWN and Sterling, are guaranteed to generate excitement for those in attendance as we branch out into a new decade and a new venue.

The Northside congregation, which has hosted songfest for the last 15 years, will be providing support as well. Their choral ensemble is on the program for that evening. New to the lineup, the New Braunfels Choral Ensemble and Praise Team will also deliver uplifting and inspiring melodies. Additional groups from the San Antonio-Austin region will perform, as well as other guests. The full lineup will be released in a future announcement.

There is no admission charge for the concert. Donations will be accepted and are tax-deductible as they provide SwCC scholarship opportunities for San Antonio-Austin area high school students, and also, renovations of the college’s Student Learning Center in Terrell.

Prior to the concert, a pre-paid home-style meal will be available from 4 to 5 p.m. in the NB Community Center, adjacent to the church building. Come and be a part of this spiritual evening of songs and fellowship, Saturday, Sept. 26.



A Message from the Christian News Board & Editorial Staff

by Paul McQuien

The Christian News of South Texas Board of Trustees met on Monday, Feb. 10, and arrived at an unhappy decision. According to Chairman Joel Bryd, “Due to loss of advertising dollars, sustained donations, and the challenge of digital media in journalism, this will be the final issue of Christian News of South Texas.”

The reason for the decision is that the Christian News, like so many other printed newspapers, is running out of funds. It costs about \$2,000 per month to print and mail out the paper to 5000-plus recipients, and our present bottom line is only slightly more than that. This being the case, the CNST Board of Trustees has decided to cease printing, unless some sustained funding is acquired soon, which seems unlikely.

Assuming that our 40-plus years of sharing news and human interest stories with fellow members of the Churches of Christ throughout South Texas and beyond may be coming to an end, I wish to express my appreciation to all the individuals who have read, contributed to, and financially supported this publication. For me personally, serving as editor of the paper for the past few years has been a special treat. It has helped me grow professionally and, more important, spiritually. I feel sure that the same is true for my editorial colleagues, including Maria Garcia, Brenda Slatton, and Marsha Dowell.

One remaining possible option would be to continue to publish the Christian News online. We already have a free website available through Wordpress.com and have been copying articles from the printed paper to the website for several years. We could probably purchase our own domain for a modest yearly fee.

What would be helpful is for interested individuals to click on “Leave a comment” at the end of one of the online articles and express a desire to continue the paper online. This would help us make a decision. The url for our website is <https://christiannewsst.wordpress.com>.

Of course, the decision to continue online is contingent, not only on reader interest, but on approval by the Board and the willingness of the editorial staff volunteers to continue to participate.

In any case, may the Lord richly bless you all.

MCQUIEN'S MUSINGS Peter, Paul, and Roman Law

by Paul McQuien



PAUL MCQUIEN

Although the deadline for paying 2019 income taxes is more than a month away, I have already submitted mine. This is the first time in 17 years that my tax accountant hasn't done them for me, but since he is retiring, I decided to do them myself, and I wanted to start early. Fortunately, it looks as if I will get a modest refund, assuming that I completed the return accurately. Whatever the case, I suppose I can take some comfort from Paul's injunction in Romans 13:7: "If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue, if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (NIV).

In fact, several passages in the epistles of Paul and Peter emphasize the importance of obeying the civil authorities. Paul's injunction in Romans 13:1-7 begins, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established" (NIV). This statement is followed up by six more verses explaining that not to do so is rebellion against God because authority figures are God's servants. Obeying them is a "matter of conscience" (v. 5).

Several years later Paul repeated this advice to Timothy, perhaps from his first Roman imprisonment, recorded in Acts 28. Paul

urged "that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for . . . kings and those in authority. . ." (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Likewise, Peter called for obedience to the civil authorities when he wrote, "Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right." He concluded the passage with the words, "honor the emperor" (1 Pet. 2:13-17). Still, he did allow for one exception to the rule back in Acts, when he and the other Apostles made the famous reply to the Sanhedrin, "We must obey God rather than men" (5:29).

What makes these calls for submission to civil authority difficult for modern readers is the cruelty and brutality of the Jewish and Roman rulers, apparent in their earlier treatment of Jesus. The Sanhedrin had been especially hard on Peter, and Governor Felix had kept Paul in prison, hoping for a bribe from him.

But Nero (Emperor 54-68 A.D.), whose government tried and eventually condemned both Paul and Peter to death, was even worse. He conveniently placed the blame for the great Roman fire in 64 A.D. on the Christians to give himself an excuse for a campaign of persecution.

According to the Roman historian Tacitus, some Christians were crucified, and some were even covered with pitch and burned

like torches at night. Toward the end of the first century A.D., the persecution under Domitian (81-95) is believed by some scholars to be the background of John's Revelation.

But how does this emphasis on submission to a corrupt state translate to American Christians in the 21st century A.D.? Today, our society is deeply divided over legitimately controversial topics such as abortion, gender issues, and immigration, just to name some of the major ones. Part of the problem is that citizens disagree on what is acceptable and what isn't.

There is no easy political solution to these controversies in our diverse and even fragmented society today. But it would help for sincere Christians to keep in mind how Paul and Peter approached the issue of civil authority.

They weren't allowed to vote, but they demonstrated great respect for political leaders, even corrupt ones ("Honor the Emperor"). They "spoke the truth in love," violated the established law only when it was necessary "to obey God rather than men," and were willing to pay the price for their necessary disobedience.

Surely this isn't too much to ask of us today.

Prism or Prison? by Marsha Dowell

When I was a child, I was enchanted by the scene in the Disney movie, "Pollyanna," where Hayley Mills uses prisms to make rainbows in a grumpy old man's living room. Unbeknownst to him, Pollyanna had collected all the chandelier and lamp prisms and hung them in such a way throughout the living room that when she opened the curtains (which he NEVER did), rainbows surrounded them. Pollyanna was the eternal optimist.

As a new teen-aged Christian, I was in a class on the fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23. Our teacher asked us to draw the fruit of the Spirit. We had a lot of fruit bowl drawings and one of a tree filled with the spiritual fruits.

For some reason, I recalled Pollyanna, so I drew a prism with God our Father



BY MARSHA DOWELL

Life with Father

as the sun shining through it. All the colors of the rainbow shot out of the other side of the prism, and I named the colors Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, and Self-Control.

Our teacher did not ask us to draw the works of the flesh. But if he had, I think I would have drawn a small shadowy room with prison bars with no sun shining through. The darkness inside would bear the name: "All the Works of the Flesh."

If you are a prism, you let God work through you. Jesus told us we are the light of the world in Matthew 5:14. Christianity is not something to be hidden. Its essence comes from God, and shines through us when we express our love, joy, peace, patience,

Christian News of South Texas

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A message from David Templeton

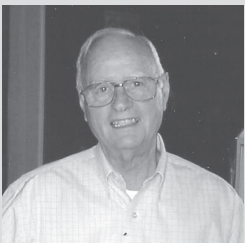
As the first editor of the Christian News of South Texas, I was sad to learn that it may have to stop publishing. It was a great blessing to be part of the beginning for this great work, and I am thankful that it was able to serve South Texas this long. As technology has changed and printing and postage costs increased, the Lord kept blessing this work.

I know Presley Osborn has been involved since the first issue was published, and I want to thank him for the many hours he put into the work each month. To all the board members and writers and behind-the-scenes volunteers who have worked with the Christian News through these years, thank you and may the Lord bless you.

Another big “thank you” goes out to all the individuals, churches, businesses, schools, and organizations that have supported the publication through advertising throughout its history. Your efforts are not in vain!

I was the minister in Cotulla when the publication started, and I find myself back here again as it ceases publication. My prayer is that this great work has promoted the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace while informing the area of the work that the church is

doing to glorify Christ. *David Templeton served as the first editor of the Christian News. He and Presley Orsburn, ads manager, founded the paper. Templeton preaches for the Cotulla church of Christ.*



Presley Orsburn

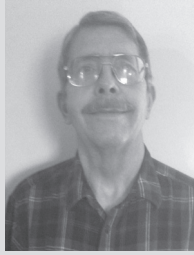
Prism or Prison? Life with Father

Continued from page 2

kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control to anyone around us.

If you are a prison, everything is locked inside. You do not allow God to work through you. Darkness – the works of the flesh - can overcome you. John chapter 1 describes Jesus as the light Who has come into the world, and darkness cannot overcome it. Jesus tells us, “I am the light” in John 8:12. God does not want his children in a spiritual prison. Because He loves us, He sent The Light.

God wants his children to be prisms, showing those around us, as Pollyanna showed the grumpy old man, that there IS indeed good in the world. And all of that good comes from God our Father when we open the curtains and let the light shine through.



Thank you South Texas, Harding University & all

by Maria Garcia, Associate Editor

SAN ANTONIO -- The board says that this may be the last issue of the Christian News. If it is not, then you’ll know how important you have been ahead of time. If it is, it’s time you knew.

The 5-10,000 words of news cannot happen unless some faithful servants go about doing His will in seeking first His Kingdom, and then others write about it in their bulletins or send it in to us for His glory.

And many did for the 40-plus years we have been publishing the news. The Harding University Library has archived every edition of the paper.

On every Tuesday, before the paper hit your mailbox, Ads Manager and founder Presley Orsburn and Business Manager Eric Sebastian handled getting the printed copies to the MacArthur Park building. On Thursday, dozens of senior members from the Mac group and from other congregations gathered to place the address labels on the 5000+ papers. After that, Presley and Eric took them to the post office.

On the newsgathering side, many assistants whose ministry is running the church offices were especially helpful. People such as the incomparable Stamo Andrews of Pleasanton, whose eye for the upbeat, the facts and a good photo brought encouraging news not only to the church for whom she does the weekly bulletin, but the South Texas readers who read it here. Despite all she has to do as the church secretary, Stamo often went the extra mile to give me a heads-up and send the jpeg photo files more suitable for publication. And her name was Legion.

In these pages, you’ve seen the work of many staff ministers and writers such as Kirk Eason of the South African Bible College, Stan Reid and the staff of Austin Grad, Bobby Ross of the Christian Chronicle, Thomas Bonham of Floresville, Raoul Ferris of Kerrville, Walter Williams of Mountain States Children’s Home in Colorado, Mark Hammitt of Corpus Christi plus Gabe Rodriguez of Shenandoah, Mel Hutzler of

Northern Oaks, Antonio Estevez of San Pedro and Shawn Price, all of San Antonio. They graciously sent news and/or granted permission to let us publish their writings and the high points of their sermons. The Holy-Spirit infused lesson delivered in their own words encouraged the church.

These faithful correspondents contributed often: from San Antonio, Chyrece, Reagan and Madison Campbell, plus Kennedy Lewis of the West Bexar County church, Charles Morris of Northwest, Joseph Walsh and Loretta Carpenter of West Laurel St., Lynette Kennedy and Maria Espinoza of the Northside church; from further out, Betty Vega of Edinburg, Mark Adams of Corpus Christi, and Dr. Lawrence Ray Smith when he was in Kerrville.

Many people wrote notes of appreciation for which we are thankful. Former editors Philip Vick and Jeff Tacker provided leadership. The current board members, volunteers and staff have been supportive and loving co-workers: President Joel Byrd (Northwest church of Christ), Vice-president Dick Porter (San Pedro), Secretary Dorothy Johnson (Northwest), Treasurer Jodel Nix (Northside), Ads Manager Presley Orsburn (Northside), Mailing List Manager Barbara Dye (Northwest), Eric (Business Manager) and Veronica Sebastian (MacArthur Park) and Buck Griffith (Kings Crossing, Corpus Christi), Editor Paul McQuien, columnist Marsha Dowell and especially Typesetter and web site manager, Brenda Slatton (Northside).

We thank faithful advertisers such as Apple Pest Control, George Denton, Sunset International Bible Institute, plus everyone listed in the Business and Church directories.

The Christian News may stop publishing, but the church will keep doing the Lord’s work.

If this is our last issue, I thank Him for the friends listed above and for you and look forward to meeting you up There. If it’s not, I thank Him for you and the friends above, and look forward to seeing you here next month : -).

Meeting, workshop celebrate the victorious Christ

BEEVILLE – A Gospel Sermon Series and Youth Day Workshop on the “News of Victory” at the Adams Street church here will focus on the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The series begins on March 27 at 7p.m. and concludes after worship on the Lord’s Day, the 29th.

Israel Rodriguez is the keynote speaker.

Lessons are scheduled for adults and young people, both separately and together. Sessions will focus on Christ’s victory over death, sin and worldliness.

For more information, contact Minister Daniel Garza by email at dbg361@gmail.com or by phone at 361-358-4428.



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Sermon Seminar: Scripture-based practice, continued from page 1...

the letter to the Thessalonians. The dean of the Truett Theological Seminar at Baylor University, Dr. Still teaches courses in New Testament studies and on the Greek language. He has also served as a Fellow at the University of Exeter in Exeter, England and at the University of Glasgow.

Dr. Jim Martin teaches the first of three lessons on the book of Habakkuk at 7:15 p.m. on Monday. He preached for congregations in Florence, Ala., Kansas City, Mo., and Waco, and has served as Vice-president of Harding School of Theology since 2014.

The first session on Tuesday morning begins with Curt Niccum's lesson on John's gospel at 9:15. The college of Biblical Studies at Abilene Christian University professor specializes in ancient manuscripts and has done some of the work on the Dead Sea Scrolls and other projects.

The Song of Solomon is Mark Shipp's focus at 10:15. An author with a special interest in worship pieces, Dr. Shipp holds degrees from Pepperdine

University and Princeton Theological Seminary.

Jim Reynolds is conducting the special session titled "Addressing Controversial Subjects in a non-Confrontational Way" on Tuesday afternoon only. He holds degrees from ACU and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, Calif., and also a law degree from Southern Methodist University. The marriage and family counselor and author also teaches as an adjunct professor at Dallas Christian College and Austin Grad. He currently serves at the Lake Highlands Church in Dallas.

On Wednesday afternoon, John Harp of the Sunset Ridge church in San Antonio, David Heflin of the Woodward church of Christ in Okla., and Charlie Johanson of the Brentwood Oaks congregation here will facilitate the "From Text to Sermon 2.0" class.

Austin Grad's mission is to foster preaching and teaching which are based on responsible biblical interpretation, faithful theological inquiry, and the



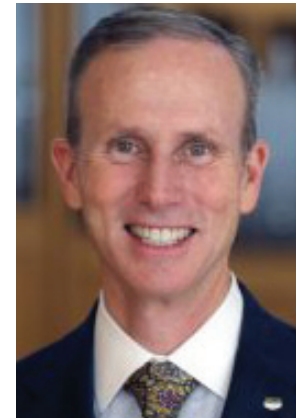
R. Mark Shipp

Restoration vision. The studies are challenging, helpful and appropriate for the contemporary cultural setting.

For more information, email Renee Kennell at rkennell@austingrad.edu or call 512-476-2772. Click on the Quick Links tab online at the AustinGrad.edu site to access the full schedule and register.



Jim Martin



Todd Still



Curt Niccum



Jim Reynolds

Rada preaches in Edinburg

EDINBURG - The church of Christ here hosted its 6th Annual Gospel Meeting on Feb. 7. Manuel Rada, of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, spoke before the 350 members and visitors.

Giving all the honor and glory to God, the church expressed gratitude for the edification and fellowship that arose between brethren and visitors with this line from the Psalms: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (133.1).

Local ministers, Juan Luna and Edilfonso Rodríguez, preach for the church.

Rada predica en Edinburg

EDINBURG – La Iglesia de Cristo en este lugar se gozó de presentar su 6a. Campaña Annual y confraternidad el día 7 de febrero. El hermano, Manuel Rada originario de la ciudad de Nuevo Laredo, México, predicó ante 350 miembros y visitantes.

Rindiendo toda honra y gloria a Dios, los miembros han manifestado su agradecimiento, ya que dicha actividad fue de gran edificación y convivencia entre los hermanos y visitantes. Como dice el Salmo: "¡Mirad cuán bueno y cuán delicioso es habitar los hermanos juntos en armonía" (133.1).

Los ministros, Juan Luna and Edilfonso Rodríguez, se encargan de la iglesia.



Manuel Rada preaches gospel meeting.

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KINGS CROSSING CHURCH OF CHRIST: 5901 Yorktown Blvd., (361) 992-8251, Sunday Bible Study 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday Worship & Bible study 7 p.m.

WEBER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST: 5253 Weber Road, 361-853-7701, Sunday Bible Study 9 a.m.; Worship 10 a.m. & 6 p.m., Wednesday Bible Study & Devotional 7 p.m.
Ministers: Pulpit, Mark Hammitt & Youth, Kenneth Pinckley
Families for Christ Coordinator, Stephen Charlebois
Website: webercofc.com

FLORESVILLE

FLORESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1204 3rd St. (830) 393-6154; Sunday 9 a.m. Bible Study, Worship 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m. Bible Study and Devotional.

FREDERICKSBURG

FREDERICKSBURG CHURCH OF CHRIST: 507 N. Llano, 830-997-4632 www.fbgcofc.com, disciples@fbgcofc.com, Sunday Bible Class 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship 5 p.m. Wednesday Evening Class 7 p.m.

KARNES CITY

Karnes City Church of Christ: (Building located at corner of Hwy. 181S and Crews St.) Mailing address: PO Box 115, Karnes City, TX 78118. (830) 780-2050. Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study 6 p.m.

KERRVILLE

RIVERSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST: 625 Harper Road, 830-257-5445 Sunday: Classes 9 a.m., Worship, 10 a.m. & 5:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study, 7 p.m. Visit www.RiversideChurchof-ChristKerrville.org

LAREDO

LAREDO CHURCH OF CHRIST: 5901 McPherson, Ste. 10b. Sunday 10 a.m. Bible study 11 a.m. Worship, 6 p.m. Worship. Wed. 7 p.m. Bible study. 956-333-2426 and saldivarfrank@yahoo.com

SAN ANTONIO

ALAMO CITY: 301 W. Dewey Place, 78212 (210) 532-8994. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship, Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible Study.

DELLCREST CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1550 South W. W. White Rd., 337-2044. Sunday worship 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Bible study 9:15 a.m. Wednesday Bible class 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Web page: www.dellcrestchurchofchrist.org

LACKLAND TERRACE: 2000 SW Loop 410, (210) 674-6417. English & Spanish Bible Study Sundays 9:30 a.m. English & Spanish Worship Services Sundays 10:45 a.m. & 5 p.m. English & Spanish Bible Study Wednesdays 7 p.m. Lackland Air Force Base - Bible Study Sundays 0730 Lackland Air Force Base - Worship Service Sundays 0830

MACARTHUR PARK: 1907 NE Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78217 www.macarthurchurch.org Bible Classes: Sundays, 9:15 a.m., Worship: Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Midweek Classes: Wednesday, 5:15 p.m. & 7 p.m.

NORTHEAST CHURCH OF CHRIST: 8195 FM 78, San Antonio, Tx. 78244 P.O. Box 1060, Converse, Tx. 78109 (210) 661-5483, Sunday Bible class - 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m., Evening -5:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible class - 7:15 p.m.

NORTHERN OAKS CHURCH OF CHRIST: 17435 Redland Rd., 78247, 210-496-1346, Sun worship 9:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Bible class, Sun 10:45 a.m., Wed 7 p.m., Minister Mel Hutzler, Web page http://www.northernoakscofc.org

NORTHSIDE: 19818 U.S. Hwy. 281 N, 78258, 210-494-1907, Sunday Worship 9 a.m., (Signing for the hearing impaired) Bible Class 10:30 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m. Wed. Bible Classes 7 p.m., nscoc.org.

NORTHWEST: 9681 W. Loop 1604 N., 210-688-3002. Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Bible Classes: 9:45 a.m., Sunday 6 p.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. www.northwestchurchof-christ.org

RANDOLPH CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1032 Pat Booker Rd., Universal City, TX, 210-659-1373; Sunday Worship, 10 a.m., Bible Study, 5 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m.

SAN PEDRO: 311 Jackson-Keller, 822-3305. Sun 9 a.m. Bible Study, 10 a.m. Worship, 5 p.m. Worship, Wed 7 p.m. Bible Study, email office@spcofsa.org NOW in Spanish Domingo (Sunday) Estudio Bíblico (Bible Study) @ 9 a.m., Adoración (Worship) @ 10 a.m.

SHENANDOAH CHURCH OF CHRIST: Home of the Shenandoah Lectures, www.shenandoahcofc.org, 11026 Wurzbach Road, (210) 696-5532, Sunday 9 a.m. Bible Study, 10 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Combined Classes. Wednesday 7 p.m. Bible Study

SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST: 1604 & Old Pearsall Rd. 210-238-3883, Bible study, Sunday 9:45 a.m., Worship Sun. 10:45 a.m., 5 p.m., Wednesday 6 p.m., www.ChurchofChristSWSA.com.

WEST LAUREL: 1747 W. Laurel, 734-7495. Sun Bible Study 9:15 a.m., Worship 10:15 a.m., Evening Worship 5:30 p.m., Wed Bible Study 7 p.m.

WEST BEXAR COUNTY: 10106 State Highway 151 S, 78251 (in Big'z Burger Joint), 210-901-9932, Sunday Bible study 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m., info@wbccc.life, http://wbccc.life, **SCHERTZ**

SCHERTZ CHURCH OF CHRIST: 501 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz, TX 210-658-0269. Sun Bible Class 9:30 a.m and Worship 10:30 a.m., Evening 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Ministers Stan Crowley and Scott Springer Website: schertzchurch.com

SEGUIN

WALNUT STREET: 1351 E. Walnut, Seguin, TX. 78155, (830) 379-6857. Email: walnutstreetcoc@att.net FAX: (830) 379-6957 Sun. 9 a.m. Bible Study, 10 a.m. Worship, 6 p.m. Worship, Wed. 6 p.m. Bible Study, Minister: Ken Walters Web Address: walnutstchurchof-christ.com

WESLACO

BRIDGE AVENUE: 1220 S. Bridge Avenue, Weslaco, TX 78596, (956) 968-7457 Services in English and Spanish Sun. Bible Class 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:20 a.m., Evening Service 6 p.m. 1st Sunday Evening 1:15 p.m. Wed. 7 p.m. Ministers: Hugo Camacho, Cary Gillis www.bacofc.org, email: bridgeavenuechurchofchrist@yahoo.com

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Our Departed: Lester Warren McCoy

In the spring of 1943, Second Lieutenant to-be, Lester Warren McCoy had learned to fly the BT-13 training aircraft in the Army Air Corps base in Waco and had gone on to Victoria for the next stage. There, three days before he got his wings, he was ordered to “do some aerobatics” in an AT-6.

The aviator did some rolls, and, he says, at the top of his first loop, “I was upside down, and the engine stopped. I had never heard such a quiet sound in my life. I had a decision to make. I could either bail out or try to make it down.” He stayed with the plane. After some spirals and spins, the engine restarted at 4,000 feet.

After landing safely, McCoy asked the mechanics about the engine failure. “Yes, that can happen,” they said. They added that it was common for the engine in that plane to die at the top of a loop.

That was the first of many close calls during McCoy’s four years in uniform. He flew a variety of aircraft, including the B-17 Flying Fortress. Gary Kent of the Bee – Picayune newspaper in Beeville took McCoy for a car ride last March and chronicles the events in a 2019 online story titled, “Broomstick & Bombers: Tales of a test pilot in WWII.”

McCoy, a veteran test pilot, English teacher, high school principal, Bible class instructor and former elder of Beeville’s Adams Street church of Christ died on Jan. 17. He would have been 100 on his birthday in 2020.

Born in Springfield, Mo., McCoy graduated from high school in nearby Cabool after his family moved there. Beginning in 1938, he majored in English for two years at Southwest Baptist College in Bolivar, and then, left to teach in a one-room schoolhouse. When the war began, McCoy got in the shortest line to enlist, according to Kent, and that was the Army Air Corps.

The aviator tested airplanes, but he also married Odie

Mae Carson in 1944. A year later, faced with going to Japan to fly B-17s or going back to civilian life, McCoy and his wife decided to return to Missouri, and later, they went back to Texas.

He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education and English from Texas Christian University. He served as teacher and principal in and near the Panhandle until a friend’s call led him south in 1956. According to Kent, McCoy recalled, “I was principal at A.C. Jones 23 years. I enjoyed every minute of it.”

McCoy and his wife had two children, a daughter and a son. As member and as an elder, he was active in the Adams Street congregation for many years. He served stints as treasurer and deacon, as well as Bible class teacher and elder. Many, though, remember him for the moving prayers he led.

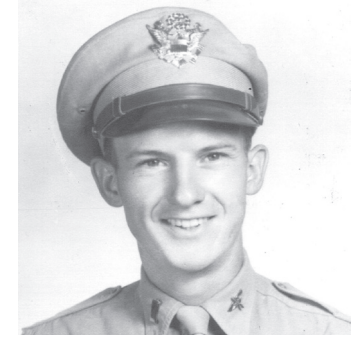
He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Odie Mae; his son, James; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and extended family.

A former student, Tom of the class of 1970 posted this message among the many accolades on the online tribute wall: “Mr. McCoy - a great man who lived a GREAT life.

“I remember Mr. McCoy as an outstanding principal who knew how to work together with students, teachers, parents, and board members. My dad was a member of the school board for many years and had the highest respect for Mr. McCoy.

“He earned that respect by the way he lived his life. Mr. McCoy always told us we were his ‘favorite class.’ I’m sure he told that to every class!

“I’ve been fortunate enough to have great men in my life that have positively influenced me, but none greater than Lester McCoy. Our prayers are with the entire family.”



Lester McCoy 1920-2020



Bible bowlers study for 2 Samuel test

BANDINA – The 11th Annual Texas Bible Bowl is set for the weekend of April 3-5 at Bandina Christian Youth Camp this year. Each year, more than 100 school kids of all ages and adults gather to take the test on Saturday morning.

Students come from all over the state and some from Oklahoma for the event. The study this time is on the book of 2 Samuel.

The TBB site now offers the text in PDF and Word formats. For further study, the highlighted text, a practice test, study guide and one-word list are also available.

Coaches may download the rules and regulations from the web page. For more information or to register, visit texasbiblebowl.org.

What is our mission?

By Mark Hammitt

A “mission” is defined as “a vocation or calling, a strongly felt aim or ambition, an important assignment.” As the Church of Christ, we have a mission that was given to us by our Savior.

He has left that mission to be carried out by those whom he has saved by His blood and their obedience to the gospel of Christ. We may pursue different missions in life such as attaining a degree of learning, climbing the corporate ladder, advancing in our skill for an important endeavor, improving in a sport, maturing as a decision maker, and more.

But, as children of God we have

been given a mission that is to be incorporated into everything else we do, and that is to spread the message of Jesus Christ and His gospel. The number one mission of the church can be summed up with Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:17-20: “And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’”

We must be all about finding ways to share the fact that Christ came and died for the world lost in sin, that He was buried in a tomb,

that He was raised from the dead, and that He ascended back to God the Father in heaven. Also, we have confidence that He will return again and we will all face judgment before the judgment seat of Christ.

What a wonderful message of salvation to all who believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24), confess Him as the Son of God before others (Mt. 10:32-33), repent or turn from sin (Acts 3:19), and are baptized or immersed for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38). Let’s fulfill our mission throughout our lives on this earth, not just as a church where others work to spread the message, but as individuals, each one taking on one part of the task. Jesus said, “Go...and make disciples!” [Mark Hammitt preaches for the Weber Road church in Corpus Christi.]

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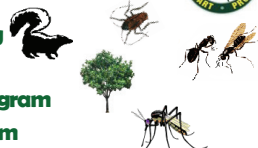
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