

**Those to Serve**

Sunday 05-17-2009

**Sunday Morning Worship:**

Announcements.....Royce Armstrong  
Song Leader.....Royce Armstrong  
Opening Prayer..... Gene Campbell  
Closing Prayer..... Royce Armstrong

**Lord's Table—Month of May 2009**

**Southside:**

Wayne Pickrel  
Frankie Sargent  
Tim Jones

**Northside:**

Grady Duncan  
George O'Neal  
Austin Neal

**Sunday Evening Worship:**

Announcements.....Royce Armstrong  
Song Leader..... Royce Armstrong  
Opening PM Prayer.....Jody Sparks  
Closing PM Prayer.....Frankie Sargent

**Sunday Evening Lord's Table**

Fred Harkrider,Jr Darrell Cooper

**Serving Wednesday Night—May 20, 2009**

Announcements ..... Royce Armstrong  
Song Leader ..... Grady Duncan  
First Prayer..... Darrell Cooper  
Closing Prayer..... Sid Charlton

\*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place

**Attendance for the week of 05-10-2009**

Bible Classes..... 102  
Morning Worship..... 153  
Evening Worship ..... 108  
Tuesday Ladies Class ..... 17  
Wednesday Night ..... 101  
Regular Contribution ..... \$ 4,135.25  
New Construction Contributions.....\$ -0-

**Averages To Date This Year**

Bible Classes.....103  
Morning Worship.....143  
Evening Worship .....107  
Tuesday Ladies Class ..... 12  
Wednesday Night .....101  
Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,506.95  
New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 58,935.00

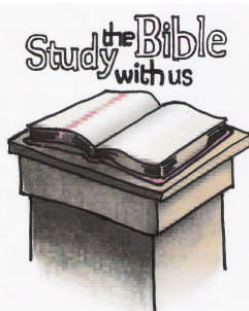
**PLEASE NOTE:** This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)

**Next**

**Sunday's Sermons**

**AM** Loving Your Enemies  
**Kris Groda, Preaching**

**PM** What the Bible Says  
About Friendship  
**Kris Groda, Preaching**



**Assembly Times**

**Sunday**

Bible Classes .....9:00AM  
Worship .....10:00AM  
..... 6:00PM

**Tuesday**

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM  
(September—May)

**Wednesday**

Bible Classes .....7:00PM

**Website:**

www.njcofc.com

**Email:**

njcofc@sbcglobal.net

**Church Office:**  
903.572.1136

**Elders**

Gene Campbell  
Weldon Miller  
Wayne Pickrel

**Deacons**

Grady Duncan  
Jim Duncan  
Jerry Freeman  
Bob Hedges  
Rance Robison  
Hal Roper

**Gospel Preacher**

Kris Groda

**Secretary**

Rhodney Freeman

North Jefferson Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 963  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Address Correction Requested

# North Jefferson Messenger

As the cold of snow  
in the time of harvest,  
so is a faithful messenger  
to them that send him"  
Proverbs 25:13



Volume 11 No. 12

Founded on the Word—Focused on the World

May 17, 2009

## Armor of God

—Jeff Whatley

Dressing for the occasion and equipping ourselves for the occupation one is involved in is not only important it is a necessity. We can use the examples of fire fighters, police officers and soldiers. Each one of these services need special equipment and gear to perform their jobs. This equipment also provides protection in their dangerous lines of duty. Fire fighters have unique helmets, masks, oxygen tanks, and fire retardant suits. Which enable them to be protected as they go into burning structures to save lives and extinguish flames. Police officers have bullet-proof vests, hand-cuffs, guns. This equipment allows the officers to protect and serve the public against violent criminals. Soldiers have the widest variety of apparel and gear. They are armored according to the duty they have and are given weapons to perform tasks and to retaliate when attacked. Everything provided these heroes is an attempt to protect them as they protect us and the freedoms we get to enjoy.

metaphor to prepare us all against the methods of the devil. Just as Peter warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

We need to purpose in our hearts and lives to think on protecting ourselves against temptations of this world and avoid sin at all cost. God's armor brings victory because it is far more than a protective covering. It is the very life of Jesus Christ Himself. Paul writes in **Romans 13:12-14** "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts".

Scripture tells us how we can be clothed in Christ. **Galatians 3:27** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We need to live faithfully in a way which is pleasing to our Lord, and the importance of putting on the good, and putting off the bad as we consider **Ephesians 4:22-24** "That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

I would like us now to consider what the inspired pen of Paul wrote in **Ephesians 6:11,12** "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." He continues in verses **6:13-17** saying what the whole armor of God is: 1) having girded your waist with truth 2) having put on the breastplate of righteousness 3) shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace 4) taking the shield of faith 5) the helmet of salvation and 6) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. The whole armor of God is the Christians protection against evil and the evil one. Paul presented this

In conclusion to make the whole armor of God as beneficial as it can be we pray earnestly. **Ephesians 6:18** "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints".



*“give attention to reading.....” 1 Tim. 4:13*

## Pleasing Me

By John Ratliff

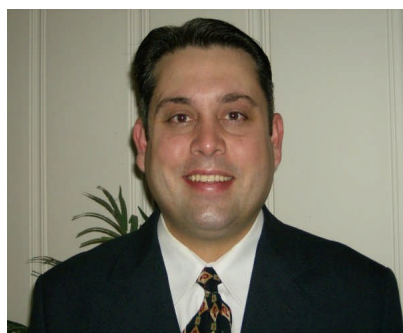
Sadly many today think along these lines “as long as it pleases me.” People want whatever they are doing to be convenient for them, they want it to please them. It is “all about me”. I “meaning the individual” want a church that satisfies my needs, I am looking for a “church that pleases me”.

Now, I may ask a question? Are all churches equal or are all churches correct? If we step back and examine this we can come to the conclusion that they are not. I can say without doubt that there is but one church, one body (Eph. 4:4). How many churches did Christ say He was going to build, He said “I will build MY church” (Matt. 16:18). How many churches did Christ die for? Just one (Eph 1:22-23; 4:4).

So when it comes down to it, if we are not seeking this one true church that Jesus spoke of, the one that He built, then are we not seeking one that pleases us. We need not be so concerned about a church that pleases us, as we should be about it pleasing God. God made us in His image according to Genesis 1:26. We are His special creation there is no other creature on this earth that is made like us, so what gives us the right to search for a church that pleases us. It is not all about pleasing ourselves. According to 1 Cor. 6:19-20 ‘we are not our own we are bought with a price we should glorify God in our body’. We should be concerned about finding that one true church the one that is spoken of in the Bible. Jesus said in Matthew 15:13, “Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”

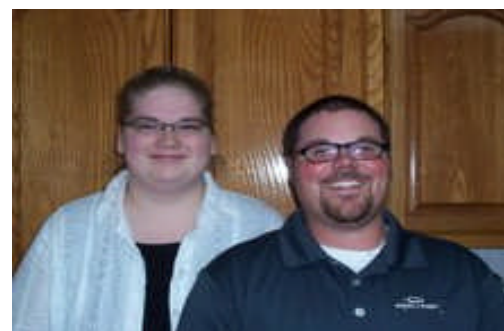
Should we follow God or man? Proverbs 14:12 says “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”.

## STUDENT PREACHER PROFILES



Jeff & Carrie Whatley natives of this area were married on May 11 1998. They have one child, Davin Jace who is 7yrs old. Jeff graduated from Mt. Pleasant High in 1993 and from N.T.C.C. with an Associate of Science-Business Administration in 1996. Carrie graduated Mt. Vernon High in 1994. Currently both Jeff and Carrie are employed with JML Enterprises dba McVideo at Mt. Vernon since 1993. They plan to attend Southwest School of Biblical Studies in Austin this August.

They live at: 304 N. Quille Ave.  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75455  
Home #903-572-4923



John and Ashley Ratliff come to us today from Emory, TX They will be married four years in August. John was baptized into Christ in 1996. Ashley obeyed the Gospel in 1999. They are both 26 years old and are expecting their first child in December. They would like to express their deepest gratitude for the support that this congregation will give them during their two years at Missouri Bible Institute in Springfield.

**Prayer List:** Betty Abbey, Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Louis Bell, Doris Bell, Suzanne Charlton, Jim Duncan, Irene Duncan, Dorothy Kyle, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed.  
**Also:** Wanda Alston, Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Wesley DuBose, Jennifer Freeman, Janice Lineberger, Wayne Lineberger, Minnie Wafford, Charles Whitney

in her lungs, liver, bones and brain. Please pray for this family. You can send cards to:  
Johnnie Ann Wacaster  
801 West 11th Street  
Clarksville, Texas 75426

### Congregational Shut-Ins:

**Home:** Doris Bell, **In Tyler:** Louis Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Home:** Joyce Lee, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide, **Mt. Vernon:** Alice Lovelady, **Home:** Marie Plemmons

**REMINDER:** *Anyone leaving a note of any kind on the Secretary's Desk for inclusion in the bulletin will need to sign the note and show your telephone number in case I need to verify or clarify your meaning. — Thanks, Rhodney Freeman*

All supply items needed for new purchase need to be submitted for approval, utilizing the **new Purchase Order Form**. You can get copies from either Cindy Armstrong or Rhodney Freeman. Then you can make the purchase and furnish the receipt and a copy of the PO in to Jim Duncan. A tax exemption letter can also be furnished to go along with the Purchase Order.

### Health Updates:

**Little Jaxon Vaught** (born Feb. 28, 2009) great grandson of Hallie Lang, grandson of Larry & Jennifer Freeman, and kin to many here in this congregation, passed away early Friday morning at ETMC. Jaxon was born with heart problems, requiring surgery, and other problems as well. At the printing of this bulletin funeral services are pending at Bates-Cooper-Sloan funeral home. We need to remember this family in our prayers.

**Brenda Riley** is still not feeling well. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Suzanne Charlton** is scheduled for her first surgery on June 01.

**Wayne Pickrel** is still not feeling well.

**Betty Abbey** had surgery last Wednesday on her right knee.

**Charles Whitney** (Sue Whitney's husband) had vascular surgery last week but the doctors did the wrong one. He is rescheduled to have the surgery done again.

**Jim Duncan** did not get a good report from his urologist. He does have prostate cancer. He is scheduled for more tests in the near future and will be undergoing a bone scan and cat scan to see if the cancer has spread. He meets with his doctor in a couple of weeks to discuss the results of the tests and his options regarding the possibility of treatment or surgery. Jim and Barbara have asked that we keep them in our prayers during this uncertain and difficult time.

The last report we got was that **Wanda Alston** (mother of Johnnie Ann Wacaster) is not expected to live. She has cancer

### EVENTS, PAST AND UPCOMING:

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL for 2009** is scheduled for June 15 through 19 (Monday through Friday) from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM each day. Planning is enthusiastic. You are encouraged to enroll your child(ren) and bring a friend. Topic will be “Great Men of the Old Testament.” **If you would like to make a monetary contribution to help provide snacks and refreshments for our VBS students, please give it to Veleta McFerrin or Dorothy Kyle.**

**We are still three (3) teacher short for VBS. If you can help, please contact Bob Hedges.**

**“Senior Appreciation Night” will be on Sunday May 31, after evening services.** Everyone is invited to stay for a reception to honor our graduating seniors. This year's seniors are:

**Kaitlin Grimes**  
**Austin Neal**  
**April Miller**  
**Travis Robison**

If you have questions see Cathy Robison or Vicki Miller.

The **monthly Ladies Devotional** will be on **May 28th** and NOT on May 21st. It will be at the home of Janaan Parker. Amy Jones will bring the lesson.

-Vicki Miller

### Summer Youth Series:

We have a real opportunity to turn this into a major evangelistic effort. The Theme of this SYS is “Conquering Enemies of the Mind.” The key verse: Romans 8:37 “we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.” **The series kicks off June 8 at 7PM here at North Jefferson.** Doug Martin, youth minister for the Handley church in Fort Worth will be our speaker. He will be speaking on “conquering the Enemy of Fear.” We will need energetic members to provide their vehicle for transportation to as many of the series as possible. This SYS is for all ages. If you have small children ... go ahead and invest the time now. It will be good for the young children to be raised in the atmosphere of church work and youth activities.

Our youth are encouraged to invite as many of their friends as they can to attend with them. This series builds upon itself and will be a great tool for shaping their thinking in the manner of the Lord. Plus it will have a positive effect on our youth for the upcoming school year.

THANK YOU ... “Dear Sisters in Christ: On behalf of those of us from Mount Vernon who attended your “Ladies Day.” May I convey our “thank you” once again. Janice brought us a great lesson, singing was wonderful, and we thoroughly enjoyed the delicious lunch. We love our “mirror” favors! Thanks for all your hospitality and a splendid occasion.

—Love, Sue Bolin, Mt. Vernon church of Christ