

From the Minister's Desk



Orpheus Heyward

You Don't Have To Go To Heaven

No one can make you go to heaven. You won't be dragged into heaven against your will kicking and screaming. No matter how hard people try to get you to go, God won't let it happen if you don't want it to.

Many of you would rather sleep an extra hour or two on Sunday morning than worship God. You're an adult. No one can make you acknowledge God's existence against your will. So if you'd rather not get involved in spiritual matters — if you'd rather not worship your Creator — God won't make you. If you'd rather ignore the sacrifice that Jesus made for you when He died for your sins, you can. No one is stopping you. Maybe you had to live by your parents' strict rules when you were younger, but not now. No, no one can make you stop living a sinful life.

That's the thing about serving God — it's completely up to us. It's a choice we're allowed to make. We don't have to do it. God doesn't force anyone to serve Him. In fact, God doesn't force anyone to do anything. He gave humans free will. He allows us to choose what to do with our lives. So if you like cussing, God will let you do it. If you like telling dirty jokes and ripping out vulgar words, God won't stop you from doing it, even though He hates filthy speech.

Your mother may have tried to teach you the Bible when you were young, but you don't have to listen to her anymore. Maybe a preacher has talked to you about your soul, but now that you're grown, you can ignore him. Besides, you probably think it's none of his business what you do with your life. Maybe your spouse has begged you to attend Bible study and worship, or to give up sinful activities. But, hey, you're your own person now.

Heaven is a spiritual place with spiritual activities. Those who go to heaven will spend their time praising God, and that sounds a lot like worship. And there certainly won't be any drinking, womanizing, and carousing in heaven. No filthy language will be allowed.

In Luke 9:24, Jesus sums it up. He says that if we follow our own desires, we'll lose our soul. But if we live completely for Him in this life, we'll gain eternal life. And the choice is up to you. It's up to each of us. Jesus paid the price. The way of salvation has been revealed. Now we have to decide whether we'll live for Him in this life, or whether we'll live for ourselves. No one can make you serve God, and no one can make you go to heaven. But on Judgment Day, will those who tried to get you to live right enter into eternal rest and joy while you descend into everlasting torment and sorrow? Don't let that happen. Choose to serve God now. – copied.

P R A Y E R L I S T

Keith King	Lee Runnels & Family	The Logan & Pointer Families	Joneatha Carter & Family
Ruby Moore	Datron Brunson	Betty Hayes	The Perkins Family
Breauna Moore	Susan Hodge & Family	Opal Chase	Geneva Quick
Lazelle Jones, Jr.	Terry Almond	William Johnson, Jr. & Family	The Thomas Family
Tanny Brock	Mr. & Mrs. Terrell Hodge	Gwendolyn Ferrell	Calvin Jacobs
Olympia Billings	Rory Thomas	Christine Colley	Juanita Smith
George Odom	Tarvia James	Shanita Adams & Family	Octavis Royals
Ervin Smith	Lonnie McWilliams		The Mack Family
Jeremiah Whitehead	Chalion Martin		
Charlette Hickson	Doris Morgan		

Prayer Ministry – If you have a desire for prayer, or know someone who does, please forward your request to dhmor30331@yahoo.com, or call Doris Morgan at 404-346-1372. You can also contact Johnnie Stephens at 404-243-1139, Esther Brown at 404-696-3941, Angela Dillard (midnite626@yahoo.com), or Nettie Fanning at 404-696-9104. In order to avoid duplication, names that are currently listed on the Sick and Shut-In list will not be added to the Prayer List.

MINISTRY / COMMITTEE / ZONES NEWS

Zone 7 Meeting this Friday – *The next meeting for Zone 7 will be Friday September 28 at 7:45 p.m. at the home of Kevin and Joan Smith. 3054 Brandon's Valley Ct., Ellenwood, GA 30294. Call 678-933-3149 for directions and more information.*

WEST END ACTIVITIES & INFO

Annual Brothers' Fellowship – It is time for our annual "Brotherhood Fellowship" on 9/21 at the home of Cornelius Todd, 105 Brownlee Rd., Atl., GA 30331; 404-691-2789. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. Please invite as many as you can. For those who are bringing food to cook please come early. We are not collecting money, however if you want to donate to assure we will have enough, please contact Cornelius or Avery Pitts (404-328-9090). Bring the games of your choice. We will need volunteers to assist in setting up, please come early.

Sorry, No Change – As you cheerfully give as you prosper this Lord's Day, please be prepared with the exact amount you have determined to contribute. Our ushers are unable to "make change" during the collection or afterwards. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

The **Membership to Discipleship** group meets each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the brick annex. See J.P. Collier, David Logan, or Dorothy Reed for more information.

YOUTH AND SINGLES

Annual Youth Rally Date Set – West End's Annual Youth Rally will be held December 1-2, 2007 (Saturday and Sunday) with a tentative location at Paul D. West Middle School in East Point, GA. Saturday's activities will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday Bible classes and youth worship will be from 9 a.m. to approximately 12 noon. See David Bishop or Jabari Sykes if you'd like to help with planning and other tasks.

AREA EVENTS

The **34th Annual Southeastern Lectureship** hosted by the Moulton Heights and North Alabama Churches of Christ will begin October 7-11, in Decatur, Alabama. For more information contact Harold Gilmore at 256-350-0275 office; 256-355-0836 home; 256-303-2475 cell.

Attend the **2007 Christian Annual Trade Show** - "Christians Supporting Christians" and **Gospel Explosion** on Oct. 19-20 at the Quince CofC located at 6384 Quince Road, Memphis, TN 38119 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more details and ticket prices, see Knox or Twanda Bates and see the flyer in the display case in the foyer.

The ladies of the **Schaffer Road CofC**, Marietta, GA announce their 6th Annual **Ladies' Inspiration Day** scheduled for Saturday, October 27, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The theme is "My Soul Is Anchored In The Lord". Keynote speaker will be Gail Hill of Westside CofC in Jacksonville, FL.

Gospel Meeting CDs

Audio CD orders placed during our Fall Gospel Meeting are presently in production. You will be notified when your order is available via the contact information you placed on your order envelope. Thanks in advance for your patience.

RE M I N D E R

The Second Annual Leadership Retreat
is October 19-20 at Stone Mountain Park for all elders and deacons.

Got Baptized or Placed Membership from Another Church of Christ?

All individuals and families placing membership with West End from another Church of Christ, or those that have been baptized here should attend our New Members/New Converts Orientation Class. The class is for two consecutive Sundays and Wednesdays (total of four class sessions) and led by members of West End's leadership. Contact elder, I. David Logan (404-755-1016) with any questions about the orientation class. The class is held in the red brick house located adjacent to the main building, and is held during regular Bible School class times. After taking the class, new converts will be directed to the New Converts Class; new members will be advised of the classes available for them and their families. Contact minister Orpheus Heyward (678-592-3397) or any elder or deacon with any questions.

Baptism Certificates

If you were recently baptized here at West End and have not received a baptismal certificate, please see Gayron Johnson or call her at the church office. You can also contact Bro. David Logan

Baptisms

9/16 - **Kristian Hart**
406 Ivy Crest Dr.
Dallas, GA 30157
678-363-4798
Date of Birth 8/26/99

9/16 - **Kaylin N. Hart**
406 Ivy Crest Dr.
Dallas, GA 30157
678-363-4798
DOB: 1/16/97

9/16 - **Tina C. Lee**
2609 Louis Lane
Atlanta, GA 30315
404-766-1641
DOB: 2/14/68

Hush Little Baby

Visitors and members with infants and young children are asked to immediately take those ones that are talkative, crying, or otherwise irritated to the nursery located outside the auditorium. What may sound okay to you may be disturbing another's ability to worship properly. You may take them out at any time - even during times of congregational prayer if necessary. Thanks in advance for cooperating.

Familiarize yourselves with and greet
our many new converts.
Visit: www.thewestender.com/new_converters.htm.

See the bulletin board in the foyer for additional
area events.

SICK & SHUT-IN

To be included or to have someone included or removed from this listing please contact Gayron Johnson at the church office.

One of our sisters in Christ, Rasheeda Smith, recently fell and hurt her back. She seeks assistance with laundry and other various household tasks. You can call her directly at 404-704-2740. The mother of Isacque Nixon is hospitalized after open heart surgery. Please keep the family in your prayers. Thomas Chase is in Crestview Nursing Home located at 2800 Springdale Rd., Atl., GA 30315, 404-616-8100. Visitors are welcomed. Felia Gordon-Schell is at home recovering from back surgery. Calls and visits to 478 Beckwith Court, Apt. A, Atl., GA 30314, 404-525-5457. Lillie Tyler - 419 Crossing Dr, Lithia Springs, GA 30122, 770-732-8914. Annie Glaze - A.G. Rhodes Home at Wesley Woods, Room 421, 1819 Clifton Rd., NE, Atl., GA 30329. Barbara Edgerton is at home ill. Robert Fuzell - 10413 Southhampton Ct., Jonesboro, GA 30238, 678-479-7942. Tallulah Latham - 320 Fairburn Rd., Apt H-6, Atl., GA 30331, 404-505-1581. Willie Mae Morrow - 3060 Continental Colony Pkwy., Apt. 502, Atl., GA 30330. 404-344-9990. Elizabeth Perkins - 1392 Maynard Rd., NW, #31, Atl., GA 30331. 404-691-0268. Elnora Bethel - 3700 Potomac Dr., East Point, GA 30344. Daneka Vickers, daughter of Mack and Sandra Freeman. Annie McArthur - 751 Fairburn Rd., SW #2212, Atl., GA, 30331. 404-699-2939. Anrenea Johnson.