

# Second Street Church of Christ



May 13, 2018

## MINISTER

Doug English

## Office

662-454-9429

P.O. Box 126  
Belmont, Ms. 38827

Website:  
secondstreetcofc.com



## SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Bible Class...9:00am  
Sun. Morn. Worship.10:00am  
Sunday Evening.....5:00pm  
Wed. Evening.....7:00pm

*Endeavoring to keep  
the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.  
Ephesians 4:3*

## Her name is Norma

*Her name is Norma McCorvey. Just a few years ago she was baptized into Christ. It became a national story, with interviews by ABC News and other media outlets.*

Normally the faith response of a single mother in Dallas, Texas does not warrant national attention. She came to Christ bruised and beaten by life's cruelties. Today the Lord Jesus is binding the bruises, and pouring salve on to the wounds, for that is what he does.

In the early 1970's she was pregnant and unmarried. She made the harrowing, heart-breaking decision to end the unborn child's life. Close to fifty million children have perished because their mothers "had the right to choose." For perspective, the Vietnam conflict accounted for 58 thousand deaths, and World War II almost half a million. Please allow that figure to sink in. Fifty million. The most terrifying weapons of war man could devise, designed to tear into the bodies of young men, wielded by yet more young men trained specifically to take those lives, failed to kill as many as have been lost to the surgeon's knife.

No one questions the enormity of the decision for a scared eighteen year old who feels as if she has been abandoned by her family, her sexual partner (where are the men responsible when the decision comes down?) and her church. I am sure that the presence of a child represents a significant inconvenience to the young mother's lifestyle. It's not easy for a once freewheeling young woman to contemplate the burden of motherhood, especially if she faces those responsibilities alone.

And it should be said that the damage was not limited to Norma's unborn child. Norma herself spent the next twenty years beaten and broken by the magnitude of what she had done. Guilt tore away the lining of her soul. Her heartbreak drove her to drugs, drink and a broken family. Yet the same Jesus who forbade her action also sought to forgive her sin!

She rose from a watery grave in a suburban Dallas swimming pool. Then she faced the unblinking lights of the nation's media and the antagonistic questioning of its journalists.

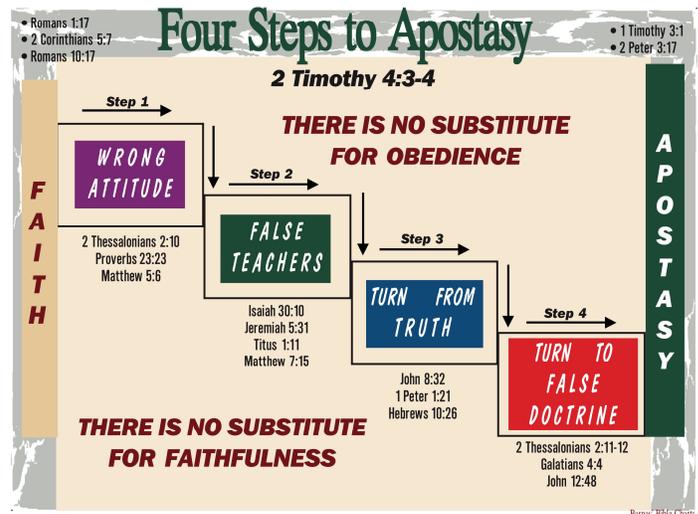
*(Continued on page 2)*

# Announcements

**Welcome Visitors!!** You are our honored guest, and we are glad you came our way! We invite you back to our evening services at 5:00 and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm.

**Scripture and Songs** tonight.

**Graduation Celebration** with fellowship meal to-night after services at Belmont café.



(Continued from page 1)

But why did they do this to Norma, whose mistakes, and whose return to her Lord was certainly not unique?

Television anchors implied that she was mentally disturbed, emotionally troubled and that she was being exploited by the religious right. So why did Norma decide to endure the glare of the media, the hostility of its powerful spokespersons?

Because though her given name is Norma, you know her as Jane. Jane Roe, the plaintiff in the landmark 1973 Roe versus Wade decision to legalize abortion. Norma understood that her action then had a national effect; now she wanted her latest decision to begin to reverse that effect.

Now that you know her name is Norma, I want you to know something else, something that transcends politics, “personal” decisions, one’s own body, and the body of the dying infant.

I want you to know that whatever you have done, no matter how horrifying, no matter how deep a hole you have dug yourself into, that Jesus Christ can, and what is more, deeply desires to forgive you.

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord, “though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isaiah 1:18).

The Lord forgave Norma; he wants to forgive you, too.

Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (forthright.net). Copyright © 2018 Stan Mitchell

## Baptism in the name of Jesus

“While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul went through the inland regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples there and said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They replied, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ ‘Into John’s baptism,’ they replied. Paul said, ‘John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy. (Now there were about twelve men in all.)” ([Acts 19:1-7](#) NET).

When Paul returned to Corinth, he found twelve men who were disciples. We don’t know whether they were meeting with the group of Christians in Ephesus, or perhaps with the Jews in their synagogue, or just meeting on their own. At the end of the previous chapter Priscilla and Aquila had found Apollos in a similar situation. I think we can safely presume that they had not found these men.

Notice that they were “disciples.” In some way, they were giving their allegiance to Jesus. But Paul could detect something wasn’t quite right. Again, we don’t know what it was that led him to ask them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you were believed?”

The word “believe”, as it is used in the book of Acts, means far more than we normally use it today. These men had more than an intellectual acknowledgment of Jesus but had placed their trust in what they had been taught. Today we might say that they had believed and obeyed. The word implies that they had acted on their belief.

**Baptism is for those who can understand what they are doing and the commitment that they are making.**

Their reply, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit” confirmed that there was something missing. Paul then asked them, “Into what then were you baptized?” Baptism since the day of Pentecost provided forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit as a gift (see [Acts 2:38](#)). If they knew nothing about the Holy Spirit, then their baptism was not what had been taught since that day. It was not baptism in the name of Jesus.

The men told Paul that they had been baptized into John’s baptism. Paul then explained: “John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.”

Immediately the men saw that they had not been baptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus” and they were baptized properly. Paul then placed his hands on them and they received the ability to speak in other languages and to prophesy from the Holy Spirit. These miraculous gifts were given by the apostles (see Acts 8:18).

What can we learn from this incident? This well illustrates that sincerity is not enough. These men had been baptized and were sincerely trying to follow Jesus with what little information they had. Sadly, they had not yet received God’s Spirit. It is the Spirit of God that identifies us as belonging to God (see Romans 8:9). Even though they had been baptized, they had not been baptized into Jesus.

We can see from what happened here that it isn’t enough just to be baptized. A person needs to understand why they are being immersed in water and what will happen as a result of this action.

Baptism is for those who can understand what they are doing and the commitment that they are making.

Used by permission from Forthright Magazine (forthright.net). Copyright © 2018 Jon Galloway

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday

**Bible Study**      **9:00am**  
**Worship**        **10:00am**  
**Evening**         **5:00pm**

### Wednesday

**Bible Study**      **7:00pm**

---

Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**Psalms 133:1**

### Prayer List

Paula Wanner	David Alexander
Cassie Tierce	Kathy Gullede
Betty Lindley	Francis Mortland
Stephanie Moore	Barbara Trollinger
Ralph Montgomery	Linda Parker
Lou Dodson	Lynn Sander
James Adams	Christian Harris
Londyn Perry	Calvin Barber
Christy Hickox	Brenda Leatherwood
Susan Vandagriff	Kenneth Orrick
Tonia Martin	Misty Inmon
Julie Wilson	Grace McClelland
Freda Baron	Henry Vandagriff
Stephen Saponara	Rita Johnson



The process for becoming a Christian is the same as it was over 2000 years ago!  
To become a Christian, one must:

*Hear the Gospel - Rom. 10:17*

*Believe the Gospel - Heb. 11:6*

*Repent of Sins - Luke 13:3*

*Confess Christ - Rom. 10:10*

*Be Immersed Into Christ - Acts 2:38*

*Live a Faithful Life - Rev. 2:10*

None of these alone will make you a Christian. These commands are from God and must be obeyed from the heart to become a Christian.



### May Birthdays

*Rada Malone 5/4*  
*Millie Higginbottom 5/10*  
*Stephanie Harris 5/16*  
*Stella Higginbottom 5/17*  
*Mallory Cleveland 5/27*

### May Anniversaries

*Wendell & Doris 5/26*

### Sympathy