



Fearless and Powerless

Is it not obvious that we live in a fear-filled world? And I think it is more than fearing terrorists, crazed gunmen, or getting mugged on the street. It also has to do with governments, corporations, and individuals who make laws, rules, regulations, and decrees that are more self-serving than for the benefit and good of the most. In reality, however, fear begins and festers in the human heart . . . and it is paralyzing.

As I ponder my own fears, I think they all have to do with my own powerlessness, things about which I have little control. My fears also have something to do with my insecurities and anxieties especially as they relate to what others may think of me.

Interestingly, Jesus was the example of powerlessness AND fearlessness. He didn't have any power as we might think of it. The authorities stripped him of his possessions and dignity and nailed him in humiliation on a cross. And yet Jesus absolutely was fearless. He was not concerned about what others thought of him or insecure about his own identity. Actually, his fearlessness came in his ability to love. The author of 1 John wrote, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear" (4:18).

If that be true, then the really fearless person is one who loves. Therefore, the one who loves is also very powerful. After all, Jesus changed the world and continues to do so not by human standards, but by God's.

May we become the fearless and the powerful.

Faithfully,
Dave

Request For Pictures

The Worship Ministry Team is once again asking for anyone who is interested to submit pictures to be used on the bulletins during the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is March 5 with Lenten Sundays beginning March 9. Please email or bring a flash drive/SD card to the office with pictures you would like to share. The following scriptures reflect the themes for each bulletin.

Ash Wednesday: Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9: Matt. 4:1-11

March 16: John 3:1-17

March 23: John 4:5-42

March 30: John 9:1-41

April 6: John 11:1-45

April 13-Palm Sunday: Matt. 26:14-27, 66 or
Matt. 27:11-54

April 17-Maundy Thursday: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18-Good Friday: John 18:1-19:42

April 20-Easter: John 20:1-18 or Matt. 28:1-10



Welcome Guests

We welcome visitors to our church and encourage everyone to bring friends and family to our worship services and activities.

Recent visitors included:

Katy, Grant & Gevin Davis, Allyson & Katie Fowler, Amy Alanis, Tracy & David Raines, Grace, Maggie & Will reed and Joe Dean Shipp.

Monthly Prayer List

Peggy Harris
Rusty & Priscilla Haynes
Clinton Helms
Bob & Madge Henry
Billy & Lea Ann Huse Family
John & Pam Johansen
Thomas Johansen
Francis Johnson
Brian & Debbie Johnston
Erick & Sheila Johnston
Glenn & Becky Johnston



**Belated
Birthday Wishes!**

JANUARY

- 4 – Susie Osborne
- 7 – Sara Ethington, John Quinby
- 11 – Meredith Bond
- 12 – Sofia Ochoa
- 13 – Aidan Bolton, Sue Ann Streit
- 14 – James Bolton
- 26 – Sydney Flynn
- 31 – Josh Benoit



James B. (Jimmy) King
By: Sherry & James Fuqua
Tom Elliott
Miki Singleton
Dan & Pamela Bond
Carolyn & Kent Smead
Dr. John Hardin
Mr. & Mrs. Heber Brantley
P.C. Kincheloe
Rob & Lindsey Conley
A.B. & Joline Wharton
Arthur & Mildred Strickland
Judy & Gene Heatly
Lockheed Martin
Eloise Thompson
Camille Brookshire



FEBRUARY

- 8 – Wyatt Brocklehurst
- 9 – Andy Duffie
- 11 – Susan Brocklehurst
- 12 – Susan Coker, Mike More
- 15 – Cameron Streit
- 16 – Susan Couch
- 18 – Marcie Andrews,
Deanna Rainwater
- 19 – John Hardin, III
- 20 – Bob Henry, Emily Wright
- 21 – Geary Coker
- 22 – Pam Johansen
- 23 – Lindsay Streit
- 24 – Joni Streit
- 25 – Darren Streit
- 26 – Iva Belew, Avery Conley

Average Attendance

January: 55
Members: 43
Regular Visitors: 9
Visitors: 3

CORRECTIONS TO THE 2013 CHURCH DIRECTORY:

Address Changes:

Tom Elliott
5500 W. 9th Ave. Apt. 410
Amarillo, TX 79106

VHS LUNCH BUNCH

On December 18, Chili Dogs, chips and brownies were served to high school students in Staub Hall. On January 15, nearly 100 students enjoyed bar-b-cue sandwiches, chips and cookies. The next Lunch Bunch will be February 19 during regular lunch periods. All High School students are invited and encouraged to come and bring their friends for a free lunch!



SERVING IN FEBRUARY

USHERS

Darren Streit, chair
Bobby Burrus
Dan Osborne
Kent Smead

LITURGIST

Kelly Couch

COMMUNION (Feb. 2)

Joe Rogers, chair
Becky Rogers
Pat Pifer
Kelly Couch
Pamela Bond
Rob Conley

CARE PERSON FOR FEBRUARY

Joe Rogers

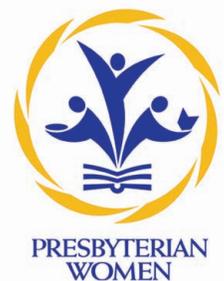


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Joni Streit and Vicki Buck hosted Presbyterian Women Circle meeting at 9:30 on Tuesday, January 7, in the parlor. Barbara Quinby led the lesson "God Provides," reminding those present that not only did God provide for the Israelites physical, emotional and spiritual needs in the desert as they wandered, he continues to provide for the church and the world through all his disciples.

The next meeting of Presbyterian Women will be February 4 at 9:30 in the Parlor. Janice Tabor will lead the continuing study from the book *An Abiding Hope - The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy*. Lesson Six is entitled "Becoming a Holy People." God offers abundant blessings daily and we honor those through our daily choices. Patsy Sharp and Susan Coker will be hostesses.

All women are invited to attend. A nursery will be provided.



We are on the web. Friend us on facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Vernon is our name.

Also, a website is coming! Be sure to see the last page of the newsletter.



Dear Ladies,

Thank you for the lunch that you fixed for our family before Daddy's funeral.

Everything was perfect, from the food and decorations to the quiet time to be able to gather as a family.

This church has played a major role in our life here in Vernon. So, thank you for surrounding us with comfort and love.

Our love to each on of you,

Lydia King Akel

Dear members of Common Threads,

Thank you so much for the variety of kitchen supplies you gave us for our wedding.

We appreciate your thoughtfulness and support.

In Christian Love,

Tiffany & Brady Surber

Dear Church/Members,

I have enrolled for the Spring Semester at Tarleton. State. I have also changed my major to Industrial Technology, which is in the field of welding, construction, fabrication – stuff like that. My previous major was Animal Science but I am really looking forward to my new classes in my new major. I think I will enjoy it a lot more.

Thank you so much for the WalMart gift card – I can always use that! I am having a blast in college! Thanks to everyone, for the love & support. I am blessed to have a great community behind my back. I appreciate everything! Thanks so much again!

With much love, Elizabeth Smead

Dear Presbyterian Women,

I would like to express my gratitude by telling you how much your gift helped me throughout recruit training. Every time I read the devotional book that was given to me, I felt great comfort.

Thank You,

Lyle Rainwater

Dear Church Board and Members,

It is hard to find the proper words that convey our gratitude as we embark on this new chapter of our lives. The thoughtfulness of the church is so much appreciated!

The Prayer Shawl has touched me as no other gift I ever received and whoever made it for me knows me well. The colors are perfect, so soft, warm and comforting. Thank you so much, I use it every day!

The food, visit and prayers are so appreciated by us both. We are so glad that Dave and Dennie are here and are such an active part of the community. They are great!

We appreciate the outreach work of the Presbyterian Church, which is so needed in Vernon. Phil and I both hope to be able to help with the Cupboard by Grace program this coming year. You are meeting a need this community has and we would like to be a small part of it.

Again, please accept our sincere thank you!

Mary Ann & Phil McCuiston

Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your generosity to me at Christmas with a gift of money. I am in awe of the love and support that is shown to my family and me at all times by this congregation.

May God's blessings abide with each of you during 2014.

With love,

Pam Johansen

First of all I would like to thank all the busy hands, from the First Presbyterian Church in Vernon, that created the most beautiful cozy blanket for me.

It was a surprise that lifted my spirits.

Your generosity is appreciated.

Love,

Karin Mears (Evelyn Morrissey's friend)

Dear Church and Presbyterian Women,

Thank you for your continued support to USSV. Oh my! Without churches like you, we wouldn't be able to continue operating in the way we have been able to. May God continue to bless you in helping people with food as you have in the past.

Thank you for your financial support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Harvey, Volunteer Exec. Director

Dear Presbyterian Congregation,

Thank so very much for once again allowing my piano students to use your wonderful sanctuary for our Christmas recital. It is such a beautiful place, especially at Christmas.

Cynthia Baxter

Dear Members,

Thank you for baking cakes for the month of January for our patients' birthday parties at North Texas State Hospital. The patients thoroughly enjoyed them during their parties.

We are grateful for your assistance with the needs of the patients at this hospital.

Sincerely,

Community Relations Staff NTSH

Scout News

BEAR CUB SCOUT NEWS

Bears met on November 4 for their den meeting. Achievement 3 was completed. They met again on November 21 and completed Achievement 5.

A Pack Meeting was held on November 25. Popcorn prizes were handed out. We turned in food collected during the past month for the USSV. We also learned about the Food Pantry operated on Mondays by First Presbyterian Church.

The Pack continues to collect aluminum cans and newspapers for the Humane Society as one of our service projects. The other service project will benefit our chartering organization by boys volunteering to assist at the Food Pantry on Mondays from 3:30 to 5:00.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



First Presbyterian Church is going digital!

Our web page is almost ready to debut!

Lindsey Conley has been working with Joseph Porciuncula of Phoenix Technology to design and set up a page where we can keep you abreast of news, meetings, joys and sorrows.

The website is scheduled to be up and running in March.

Be watching for further information!