



Volume 51 Issue 15

April 10, 2018

**SHEPHERDS**

Barry McDowell  
Jimmy Neatherlin  
J. R. Stroble  
**Our Door is Open**  
Anyone wanting to meet with our Elders is encouraged to contact any of the elders to set up a time.

**DEACONS**

Travis Crandall  
Johny Harris  
Larry Mitchell  
Mike Owens  
Virgil Smith  
Glenn Wells

**Ministry Team:**

*Jill Crandall  
Bruce Daughtry  
Tammy Frintz  
Brian McGonagill  
Glen Moore  
Eleanor Nelson  
Mark Schinnerer  
Charlie Weatherford*

**Sunday Services**

Sunday Bible Class  
9:00 am

Morning Worship  
10:00 am

Evening Worship  
5:00 pm

**Wednesday**

**Fellowship**

Ladies Bible Class  
10:00 am

Wednesday Night  
Meal  
6:00 pm

Bible Class  
7:00 pm

**Our Youth**

This past Sunday we were encouraged by the LTC youth as they led our worship service. I couldn't help but think about 1 Samuel in which one reads of a young Samuel in the care of Eli, the priest. In 1 Samuel 3:1, it says "The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli." As we continue to read the story, God speaks to this young boy in order to inform Eli of the fate of his sons and later descendants. They were doomed to die early because of the wickedness of Eli's sons and his neglect to correct the problem. Samuel then goes on to become a great leader for the nation of Israel.

I have heard both positive and negative comments concerning Sunday's activities. My hope and prayer is that as all of us come to the Sunset church building, we are doing so to worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24) and to encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 2:11). We sometimes make the mistake that the worship is for us and are upset when we don't experience what we want. As one of our former elders, Connie Coalson, used to say, "Shame on us!"

We have seen how our young people have grown in their faith and devotion to God, and we want to encourage these same young people to become leaders in the Lord's church. I am encouraged. How about you?

I have used the word "encourage" several times. We use that word in the context of cheering on someone. But the root word is courage and it means to put courage into someone. God repeatedly told Joshua to be strong and courageous as the Israelites prepared to take over the land promised to them. We have God's promises also and we should be encouraged to pursue those promises.

**His servant,**

**Barry McDowell**

### Prayer List:



**Bruce Daughtry** will have surgery Monday, April 16th in Lubbock.

**Audrey Fisher** is in Las Cruces this week for a doctor's appointment.

**Maureen Thompson** had her 16<sup>th</sup> surgery last week on her hand.

**Erma Waldrop** remains in Lubbock as she recovers from recent hip surgery. They also found cancer in her bones.

**Remember the following as they continue to heal: Tina Ausley, Curtis Cox, Eva Cruz, Becky Cunningham, J.C. Cunningham, Jan Groom, Eileen Tidwell, and Terry Wilson.**

**Home Bound: Grace Autry, Bob and Velma Brown, Durees Carriaga, Vallaree Cherry, Audrey Fisher, Vivienne Garner, Enid Gates, Kay Oakley, and Richard Titus.**

**Prayer Connection Cards: Lucas Hernandez.**

### Brian's Corner

#### We Pray for Too Little, and We Want It Too Soon

"God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20 NCV).

When we want God to answer our prayers, we must be willing to not only let God answer whenever he thinks is best but also however he thinks is best. God's ways are always better and bigger and higher.

What would have happened in the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth if God had answered their request for a baby immediately? They would have gotten a sweet little baby that they would have loved and cherished. But God delayed the request for a number of years, and then when he answered, he gave them John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus Christ, the only prophet to see the prophecies of Jesus fulfilled, and the forerunner of the Messiah.

Our problem is twofold: We ask too little, and we want it too soon. Ephesians 3:20 says, "God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine" (NCV). Think of the greatest thing in your imagination, and God can do even bigger than that.

Sometimes I believe that verse, and I try to claim it. I imagine the biggest thing I can pray for and think, "This is really going to impress God." I pray for it and wait for the "Wow!" from God. Instead I get, "Son, can't you do any better than that? Where's your creativity? Where's your imagination? I can do that with no problem! Why don't you try believing me for something above what you can imagine?"

If God had answered some of my prayers exactly as I'd asked them, I would have gotten shortchanged. His answers were much greater than my requests. I'm thankful that God hasn't answered all my prayers. Some of them would have been a disaster!

When my wife and I got married, we received a wedding card that said, "God always gives his best to those who leave the choice to him." Let's learn to let God answer in his time and in his way.

- Think of something you have been praying for lately. How would you pray for it differently when you consider that God's ways are always better and bigger and higher?
- Describe a time when God provided an answer to your prayer that was beyond anything you asked for or imagined.
- How can you demonstrate that you want God's best and not your own will?

### Birth Announcements:

Congratulations to **Chris and Brandi Connell** on the birth of their daughter, **Nikki Brianne** on **Friday, April 6th!** She weighed in at **7 pounds, 11 ounces** and was **19 inches long!**

Proud grandparents are Mike and Lorie Owens and her proud siblings are Jaret, Jacob, and Melanie.



**Patricia Ann Renea Gonzalez** was born on **Sunday, April 8th.** She weighed **6 pounds, 54 ounces** and was **19 1/2 inches.** Her proud parents are **Rolando and Taylor Gonzalez** and proud brother is **Brixten** and **Trisha Gonzalez** is the proud grandma. Congratulations!



### Baptisms

**Cadie Pulice** was baptized on **Sunday, April 8th** during morning services. Cadie is the daughter of **Chris and Chrystal Pulice.** Welcome to the family **Cadie,** we are so blessed to get to call you our sister!



### \*Anniversaries & Birthdays:

**April 10th-Kamry Allison, Ashleigh Wilson, Brandon Wilson**

**April 11th-\*Tracy & Nell Dearing, Erin Neatherlin**

**April 12th-Paige Harvey, Andrew Owens, Noah Rios, \*Johnny & Becky Waldrop**

**April 13th-Jackson Bannister, Becky Beard, Rolando Gonzalez, Alexis Isbell, Tricia Jamieson, Aleice Mitchell**

**April 14th-Adeline Calliccoat, Virgil Smith**

**April 15th-Kenni Barnett, Irene Campos, Terry McKean**

**April 16th-Laura Griffith**



### Thank You Notes:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*I would like to take this time and opportunity to thank you for all the cards, flowers, donations, and visits when I had my surgeries. I am so blessed to be a part of this loving Christian family.*

*Please continue praying for me.*

*In Christian Love,*

*Lista Calderon*



## Upcoming Events



**Men's Breakfast** is this **Saturday, April 14th** at **8:00 am** in the **Multi-Purpose Room**. Hope to see you there!



**Hermosa Church of Christ** in Artesia is hosting a **Ladies Day** on **Saturday, April 28th**. Registration and breakfast will be at 9:00 am and lunch will also be provided.

The speaker will be Linda Wagner and the theme is "The Woman Behind the Mask". Please RSVP by **Friday, April 20th** by calling the office at 575-748-3301.



We are needing **volunteers** to cook **Wednesday night meals!** If you don't think it's your calling to cook, we'd also take volunteers to clean up after the meal is served. Please let **Joy Massey** or **Amanda Harrington** know if you're able to serve in either of these ways.

Baccalaureate services will be held **Sunday, May 13th** during evening services. Our **2018** graduating seniors are **Krista Allison, Kylie Allison, Monet Calderon, Caleb Giblin, Cody Oliver, Machaon Shoemaker, and Michael Sims**. Congratulations on a job well done!



### It's VBS Time!

- Dates: June 4-8, 2018
- Times: 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- Ages: 3 years old – 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- Volunteers needed!

Volunteers and participants, please register online at <https://vbspro.events/p/sunset2018>

Registration for **Mountain View Christian Camp** is open! Sign up early to reserve your spot. Here are this year's sessions:

- July 1-7 Session 1 (age 8-15) Leland Mallett**
- July 8-14 Session 2 (age 13-18) Bruce Daughtry**
- July 15-21 Session 3 (age 8-13) Bruce Daughtry**
- July 22-28 Session 4 (age 13-18) Ray Young**



Please remember to bring food for the **Blessing Box** and clothing for the **Benevolence Room**. Also if you have any hangers especially children's hangers we could really use them. Thank you all for being so generous!



## Jill's Corner

### Raising a Strong Willed Child

We fight a lot. We butt heads often. We argue on the regular. And to be honest, he seems okay with it. He seems fine with it. He seems to actually enjoy it somewhat, and that's probably the thing that gets to me the most. Like disagreeing with me gives him some kind of high. Like trying to win the power gives him some kind of kick. Like pushing the buttons of what he can get away with gives him some kind of weird, sick pleasure.

I'm a people-pleaser, a peace-lover, a don't-rock-the-boat kind of gal all the way down deep into my core, so I don't understand his desire for contempt, for control, for cunning his way out of every situation. As submissive as I am, he is ten times more stubborn. As calm as I am, he is ten times more cantankerous. He is strong-willed from the very top of his little blonde head to the very bottom of his dirty toes.

He's only 5, but he gives me a run for my money every single day. Every. Single. Day. I'll say "turn left," and he'll say "but I want to go right." I'll say "jump up," and he'll say "no, down is better." I'll say "don't do that again," and he'll look me square in the eyes and do it again. And again. And again.

He would rather watch me pull every single highlighted hair out of my head than agree with me. He would rather sit in timeout for an entire day than make things easy on me. He would rather let me put every single Nerf gun in play-jail than be on the same side as me.

Questioning and challenging and pushing the limits is just in his very nature. It's been this way from before he could even speak. At one, he would scream and kick and yell his way out of nap time. At two, he would fight getting buckled into his car seat until he was bright red with fury. At three, I don't even want to talk about three. That was a rough year. For everyone. And now at five, he fights me about screen time and getting dressed for school in the morning, and how much milk to pour into his bowl of Cheerios. The other night, we had a fight over whether or not he could sleep on top of a table. Y'all. I kid you not. The argument went on so long that my husband physically removed me from the situation.

I saw a counselor and sought his advice on what I was doing wrong. I sat in the chair and cried and told story after story. I used to bawl "I want to be a good mom. I just need him to let me be one. Why won't he let me be one???" I sought some kind of guidance that would lay out the groundwork for turning him into somebody who was nice to get along with, who knew how to bend, and obey, and yield.

I used to pray that he would change. It sounds horrible now, I can't stand even typing those words out now, but I just didn't know what else to do. I was so tired of fighting. Disciplining every day was draining my spirit. It was all so far out of my comfort zone that it zapped every ounce of energy I had. He was my first child, my first baby, my first time. I already had no clue what I was doing, but he really just threw me off the deep end. And I just knew that I had to be royally screwing everything up. I mean, I had to be, or otherwise he would be easier, right? Aren't kids supposed to be easier and more pleasant and happier?

One night, in the middle of my prayers, God smacked me hard with some tough love. It still hurts me to this day just to think about. "Stop trying so hard to change him. Stop trying so hard to mold him and work him and pray him into who you think he should be. Let him be him. I created him that way. I created him to be a stubborn child, because one day, I am going to need him to be a man who stands his ground. I created him to be a difficult child, because one day, I am going to need him to be a man who is unwavering in his decisions. I created him to be a strong-willed child, because one day, I am going to need him to be a man whose ideologies don't sway, whose beliefs don't waver, whose integrity doesn't give way to anything or anyone. I created him to be a dominant child, because one day, I am going to need him to be a man who leads the masses. I am going to need him to be a man who leads his family. I am going to need him to be a man who leads people to my name.

This isn't about you, Amy. This isn't about what you want. This isn't about what you need. This isn't about living up to your expectations of all you hoped motherhood would hold.

This is about me. This is about what I want. This is about what I need. This is about you raising a child who goes out into the world and isn't afraid to move mountains and carve paths and create magic. This is about you training a child in the way that he should go. Are you up to the challenge? I gave him to you because I know that you are. I entrusted him to you because I know that you are good and strong and capable."

God's answer spoke to me in a way that night that no counselor, no therapist, no parenting book ever could. Nothing. Not one thing has been the same since that night. I've always loved him. But now, I see him. All of him: who is he, who he isn't, and most of all, who he is going to be. I see how God will use him to do big things for His kingdom. I see the plans God has for Him. I see the tower God is laying brick by brick and fight by fight to build a strong, steady and secure man. I see how it's not my job to change him into someone else. I see how it's not my job to mold him into something he isn't. I see how it isn't my job to pray him into the person I want him to be. It's my job to pray him into the person God wants him to be.

It's not easy raising strong-willed children, but what a blessing it will be to watch that strong-willed child grow into an uncompromising, unshakeable, determined man. A man with the fire to change the world. A man with the will to shake the earth. A man with the grit to love a big God in a big way. It will be such a blessing. But for now, God help the strong-willed children. And God help the women who raise them.

*From Perfectionpending.net*

The meal is at 6:00 pm and Bible class starts at 7:00 pm. Volunteers for Wednesday night meals are needed. Sign up on the calendar in the kitchen or call the office at 887-1278.



*Contribution For  
Sunday, April 8, 2018*

<b>Checks</b> \$10,490.40	<b>Average</b> \$10,994.05	<b>Wednesday, April 4th</b>	
<b>Bills</b> \$754.00	<b>Weekly Budget</b> \$11,166.00	<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Change</b> \$1.47	<b>Weekly + or (-)</b> \$(171.95)	<b>Evening</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Online Giving</b> \$295.00	<b>Kid's Cash</b>	<b>Sunday Morning</b>	
<b>Total</b> \$11,540.87	<b>\$245.00</b>	<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>177</b>
		<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>242</b>
		<b>Evening Worship</b>	<b>53</b>

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Sunset Church of Christ  
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*PERIODICAL RATE*

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*Men to Serve for Sunday, April 15, 2018*

<b>Speaker:</b> Brian McGonagill	<b>Men To Serve</b>	<b>Greeter &amp; Nursery</b>	<b>Communion Talk</b>
<b>Worship Leader:</b> Mark Schinnerer	<b>Communion:</b> Lynn Shelton	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Schedule</b>
<b>Welcome:</b> Barry McDowell	Andrew Sims	<b>Greeters:</b> Green Team	<b>April 22nd-Orlando Ortiz</b>
<b>Scripture:</b> Dalton Stroble	Jason Sims	<b>Welcome Desk:</b> Marilyn Stade	<b>April 29th-Steve Peterson</b>
<b>Communion Service</b> Charlie Weatherford	Michael Sims	<b>Nursery Attendant:</b> Kristy Allison	<b>May 6th-Glynn Shelton</b>
	Mike Sims		<b>May 13th-Mike Sims</b>
	Dwayne Smith		<b>May 20th-J.R. Stroble</b>
	Robert Stade		<b>May 27th-John Tigert</b>
	J.R. Stroble		