



**Newsletter**  
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*Sunday, February 17, 2019*

*Our three teachers* on Wednesday nights this month will be Lyndon (13<sup>th</sup>), Lee (20<sup>th</sup>), and Tommy (20<sup>th</sup>). Then in the following months, Lee will help us focus more closely than usual on the Lord's supper.

*Say a special prayer* for Danny Sr. and his family. Last week he was in the Groesbeck/Waco area with his dying sister,

and he expects to be called back there any day now.

*An wide array of maladies* have hit quite a few of our people. Virginia Rhodes, Jann Allen, Richard Brazille, Nita Shelburne, Margaret Kimmins, Julia Browder and several of her crew need a place on our prayer lists as they deal with nausea, weakness, and/or pain. Don't forget to pray for Ty Hayes as he deals with that post-surgical bone infection.

*Check with Jack and Connie* to clear up confusion our posts have created about their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration. It's set for March 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall. This instruction was clear: no gifts please.

*When you're grocery shopping* in the days just ahead, pick up some garbage bags for New Mexico Christian Children's Home and add them to the stack on the pew across from the nursery. They plan to come get them on April 4.

*That smile on Mark Read's face* may reveal how pleased he is to be starting a new job this week. In his extensive career as an engineer, he's now gone full-circle back to TxDOT.

*The Sena family spent* Sunday afternoon troubleshooting our foyer furnace and updating its defective thermostat. Do you have any idea how many dollars Henry's energy and expertise save our church?

**Worship Assignments for This Lord's Day**

In charge, Danny Sr.; Prayer, Ken; Scripture, Jim (Ps. 119:33-48); Bread, Jeff; Wine, Cole; Serve, Cary, Ron J.

**Nuggets of Wisdom**

*By Dr. Joe Barnett*

"Being the center of attention isn't the only way to matter."

"You don't have to have a big name to make a big difference."

"Your worth isn't measured by what belongs to you, but to whom you belong."

**YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH**

*Bible Bashing*

Did you hear about that angry fellow who bashed his girlfriend with a Bible?

The *New York Post* reported that when some dude in the Bronx got into a hot argument with his 41-year-old lover, he grabbed her Bible and "smacked her in the head and shoulder with it."

At least the Bible-basher picked the right day to do it. It was Sunday. But the cops arrested him anyway and charged him with felony assault.

During my almost eight decades, I've witnessed more than my share of Sunday Bible bashing. Sadly, it was done in pulpits by men of the cloth who claimed to represent the God of grace.

I'll never forget the night when a revival evangelist in our little Kerrville church went berserk. I was only ten years old then, but that angry cleric's behavior left scars on my soul that are still tender.

Instead of preaching about the Lamb who loved us enough to die for the worst of us, that angry, ugly-mouthed man embarrassed all of us. In the name of God and in defense of "the truth," that hate-spouting preacher damned our dear Baptist neighbors who sat beside us that night. They had enough sense not to come back.

While reciting reams of Scripture, that red-faced, irate evangelist rudely insulted the congenial Catholic priest who had come to visit our church that night. It was the worst case of Bible-bashing I ever saw.

That one was extreme, to be sure. But Sunday after Sunday all across our land, those who believe the Bible the most have been the most guilty of using it to attack their neighbors.

It amazes me that in a jillion small towns jovial men gather in mom-and-pop cafes to swap jokes, tell tall tales, and laugh together. They thoroughly enjoy each other Monday through Saturday. They really are good friends. But, for an hour or two every Sunday, far too many of them retreat into their bastions of faith (called churches) and use Bible verses to bash each other.

The very Book the bashers use to abuse those who dare to differ with them says, "You must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (Col. 3:12).

And just a few verses later the apostle tells us, "Live wisely among those who are not believers. Let your conversation be gracious." That doesn't sound like Bible-bashing to me.

By Gene Shelburne