

The Encourager

PINE ACRES CHURCH

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Pictures from Treehouse special nights
- March Calendar
- Birthdays and Anniversaries

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WORDS FROM OUR PASTOR

List of books on apologetics

As we dive into the series “A Ready Defense” I thought it would be good to give you my favorite list of books (obviously subjective) on the subject.

GENERAL APOLOGETICS

My favorite general read is “The Case for Christ” by Lee Strobel. Strobel has written quite a few sequels to this original volume. The other books go into deeper detail on many of the subjects he introduces in his original volume. It is long enough to give you more than cursory comments yet short enough for a good overview.



Josh McDowell is an older defender of the faith, and you can't go wrong in picking up any of his million books. “Evidence that Demands a Verdict” is the go to book here. “A Ready Defense” is one of his books I'd suggest and the title of our series based out of 1 Peter 3:15.

J. Warner Wallace is an interesting writer. He was a crime scene investigator and may be quickly gaining steam as a new favorite. Best of all is his artwork and drawings that make visual learners engage better. “Cold Case Christianity” is just one of several great resources by Wallace.

“Why I Trust the Bible” by William Mounce is another great book. I find Mounce to be scholarly (his book on Greek is used by just about everyone in the United States) and yet it isn't a hard read at all.

Timothy Paul Jones has a book titled, “Misquoting Truth” and I find it very compelling. He argues against a current atheist's arguments and mainly focuses on the text of the gospels.

For those who want to go a bit deeper Craig Blomberg’s “The Historical Reliability of the New Testament” is great.

Dan Wallace is also a valuable thinker particularly when it comes to defending the text, the transmission of the text and the copies of the New Testament. “Revisiting the Corruption of the New Testament” is a bit deep, but very good.

Peter Williams, “Can We Trust the Gospels?” is the last one I will mention. I've only listened to the audio book, but it's excellent and British sounding, so it sounds even more scholarly.

Both J. Warner Wallace and Lee Strobel have kid version apologetics material. So, that's also a good place to look for inquiring young minds. The list is not exhaustive and I have a bunch more in my library if you are interested in a specific topic.

Pastor Brian

A WORD FROM OUR YOUTH PASTOR



This past month at Forge was nice to get back into better rhythm. We had to cancel 3 out of the first 5 Wednesday nights of the year. But as I write this Our first series that we went though was called, "Jesus Said Go". We talked about what it means to live out Jesus command in Matthew 28 to "go and make disciples". We talked about how Jesus modeled that for us by training and teaching his own 12 disciples and then sent them out to do the same. We talked about how Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few." It is our job to share with others what we have experienced in God and He is in charge of producing the harvest. Then we talked about what we called the "4 stones (or stages) of discipleship". We challenged students to focus on where they are at and understand what they need to do to move to the next stage in their spiritual discipleship journey.

We also have a few big events in February. We had our annual Parent Night where parents are invited to come and check out Forge once a year and play some games with us, hear a lesson, worship with us and I get to fill them in on what we have coming up. We had a great turn out this year! It was fun to have a lot of people come and invest in the spiritual life's of their kids by knowing what's going on at Forge.

We also had a Super Bowl party this year with lots of students coming out to watch the game and have some fun. I am not sure if everyone really knows who won the game, but I am pretty sure everyone had a great time!

As we enter into March we are going to continue in a series called, "Faith in an Anxious World". We are talking about how faith can help our anxiety and how can live in a world that is full of anxiety but also have faith as Christians. We all experience anxiety in some ways, and our students are experiencing it more and more every year they get older. We want to give them biblical tools to help them deal with anxiety

better.

Pastor Dave

(See more pictures on page 14)



CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR BRITTANY WILLIAMS

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Our theme for the Elementary kids in March is Jam Session. We are focusing on cooperation. Cooperation is a spiritual concept that originates with God. God created us to work together in a community. Throughout the Bible, we see how God brought people together to accomplish something big for Him. When we work together, we reflect what Jesus envisioned for His followers. Our love for one another can point people to Him. We will be reading in Exodus about building the Tabernacle and Joshua winning the battle over the Amalekites and Jesus healing the man who couldn't walk and the early church working together in Acts.

Our memory verse is "TWO PEOPLE ARE BETTER THAN ONE. THEY CAN HELP EACH OTHER IN EVERYTHING THEY DO." ECCLESIASTES 4:9, NIRV

Our Preschool theme is Put on your shoes. While Jesus was on earth, He lived a life that very clearly said, "Everyone can be friends with Me!" While not everyone took Him up on His invitation, those that did were changed forever in the best way. That is why we are teaching preschoolers that no matter what kind of shoes we wear, everyone can be friends with Jesus. We can be friends with Jesus no matter how young or old. We can be friends with Jesus wherever we live and whatever language we speak. We can be friends with Jesus no matter how much money and education we have. There are no special requirements to be friends with Jesus. It's a come as you are kind of friendship that lasts forever. Everyone can put on their shoes and follow Jesus because everyone can be friends with Jesus.

Our memory verse is. "COME AND FOLLOW ME," JESUS SAID." MATTHEW 4:19, NIRV

We had a wonderful opportunity to attend Super Start (A preteen conference) in Tulsa on February 18-19. We took 22 Bridge students and 5 adult sponsors. The theme was Unlocked. They clearly explained the gospel message in a way that was relatable to this age group. The worship was one of the kids' favorite parts. Please pray that these conversations continue at home and that these kids will know without a doubt who Jesus is and will want a personal relationship with him. (see pictures on pages 10 & 11)

-Miss Brittany



NURSERY SCHEDULE

Pink Room—1st Sunday—Stephanie Harris, Cortney Bell
2nd Sunday—April Javorsky, LaNae Meacham,
3rd Sunday—Erin Funk, Raquela Jones
4th Sunday—Jamie Collins, Katie Habekott

Blue Room—1st Sunday—Denise Pearcy, Carol Short
2nd Sunday—Lanita Nikkel, Kathy Harms
3rd Sunday—Sarah Brewer, Marcela Miller
4th Sunday—Travis and Deirdrah Dyck

Green Room—1st Sunday—Liz Lindamood, Nora Lindamood
2nd Sunday—Matt and Lindsey Fast
3rd Sunday—Ashlyn Pugh, Nicole Akin
4th Sunday—Carissa Cox, Denise Pearcy

Red Room—1st Sunday—Holly Funk, Kilee Funk, Remi Randol
2nd Sunday—Angela Day, Presley Fast
3rd Sunday—Jeremy and Keely Anderson
4th Sunday—Neelie Lindamood, Lorelai Bull



HERITAGE NOTES

FIFTY YEARS AGO

March 1972

- Held quarterly business meetings

FORTY YEARS AGO

March 1982

- The Adult II Class held a pizza dinner with each family bringing a pizza
- A building committee was formed to begin plans for a new addition
- A Saturday breakfast for the whole church was held with MB seminary students as speakers
- Congratulations went to Rick and Donna Miller on the birth of Colby Don.
- Average Attendance—137

THIRTY YEARS AGO

March 1992

- Began a 50-Day Spiritual Adventure
- Congratulations went to Robert and Lanita Nikkel on the birth of Ethan Luke
- Began an 8-week trial period of having two morning worship services.
- A paint day was held and everyone was asked to come help paint the church trim.
- Average Attendance—161

TWENTY YEARS AGO

March 2002

- The church choir presented five performances of “HIStory: The Easter Experience”

- Jimmy Joe and Senea Young served the OASIS group a grilled pork chop meal and the CBA men’s ensemble provided music.
- Average Attendance—249

TEN YEARS AGO

March 2012

- Enjoyed a “What is God Doing Round Us” Sunday with guest speaker Todd Franz
- Our youth went on a Mission Trip to Costa Rica and presented the morning service when they got home.
- Ave. Att.—269

ONE YEAR AGO—March 2021

Average attendance—203

CHURCH STATISTICS 2022

February Ave. Attendance:

Sunday School—171

Morning Worship—236

Wednesday—166

Here is another Pre-school Spotlight from 10 years ago

PRE-SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT—Presley Fast

Parents: Matt & Lindsey Fast

Sibling(s): Dylan

Favorite Game: Pretty, Pretty Princess

Favorite Animal: Zebra

Favorite Bible story: Moses in the basket

Favorite Food: Peas, bread, green beans, noodles

What do you want to be when you grow up?: An Astronaut

Favorite Color: Pink



GEN2GEN

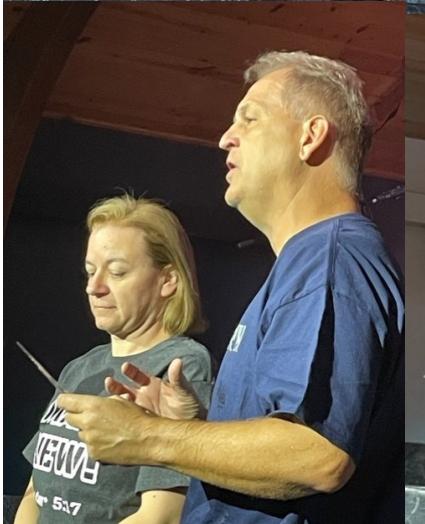


At the February Gen2Gen Tea Party. The ladies had a fun time making stained glass sun catchers to take to the Nursing Home for the residents on Valentine's Day. See page 11 for a picture and a thank you from one of the happy residents. They also enjoyed different teas and lots of yummy goodies! See page 15 for info on the next Gen2Gen meeting.



BAPTISMS

We were privileged to witness the baptism of four people on Sunday, February 13th. Donavan Belier, Pam Mowles, Lincoln Williams and Lyric Manney were all baptized.



TREEHOUSE

Wednesday, February 16th was TEAM SPIRIT NIGHT in Treehouse. Here are some clubbers showing off their favorite teams.



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...by Sharon Blagg

WHERE DID THE ETC. SHOP BEGIN?

Started in 1977 by two ladies who had seen the concept elsewhere, the ETC shop fills a spot in Weatherford, OK like no other. Seven Mennonite Brethren churches from 7 towns sponsor it and provide volunteers to staff it.

Last year there were 7,948 volunteer hours given! That's \$58,000 of donated time. Please consider volunteering if you're looking for a fun atmosphere and wanting to help a worthy cause.



CURRENT STAFF

Ellen Shantz has been the faithful leader of this group for many years. When asked about the most unusual donation to come in, she thought a minute and said false teeth and real teeth with gold fillings. You may find cars, musical instruments, or designer purses. Brighton, Coach, and Kate Spade brands are frequent finds if you're looking for a handbag.

The list is long for the many ministries the ETC helps:

6 ministerial alliances in local towns	CASA
5 area schools (no strings attached)	Hope is Alive
Backpack program for 6 schools	PALS
First Choice Pregnancy Center	Just Joy
Step-Up program	Rock the Spectrum
Agape Clinic	YMCA
Food and Resource Center	MCC



Local news

WEATHERFORD DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2021 - PAGE 7A



The Et Cetera Shop donated the store's proceeds to local organizations like Connections Food and Resource Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates, several ministerial alliances and five schools.

Also the ETC shop sponsors mammograms for those who are in need, help for fire victims, and those facing job losses.

A representative of the churches, plus an accountant and the ETC representative make up the board of directors. The board decides the benevolence distribution

So next time you are heading to the trash with something to toss, REMEMBER, your trash may be someone else's TREASURE!

Drop offs to ETC can be made M-Sat at 121 N State, Weatherford, OK .Furniture drop offs may be left at the alley door of the ETC furniture store 121 East Main.

(info courtesy of Krisha at ETC shop).

SUPER START PICTURES





8tracks



The 8-Tracks had a lot of fun Sunday evening, February 20th when we met for a Baked Potato Bar. We had all the toppings and it was delicious!



THANK YO U'S



Corn Heritage Village said a big Thank You to the Gen2Gen ladies for the beautiful stained glass valentine's! And Hope is Alive was so grateful for the large amount of cleaning supplies provided by our Church Family! They were amazed by your generosity! Thank you so much for giving! You made a difference in people lives !



PACT SUPER BOWL PARTY AND FORGE

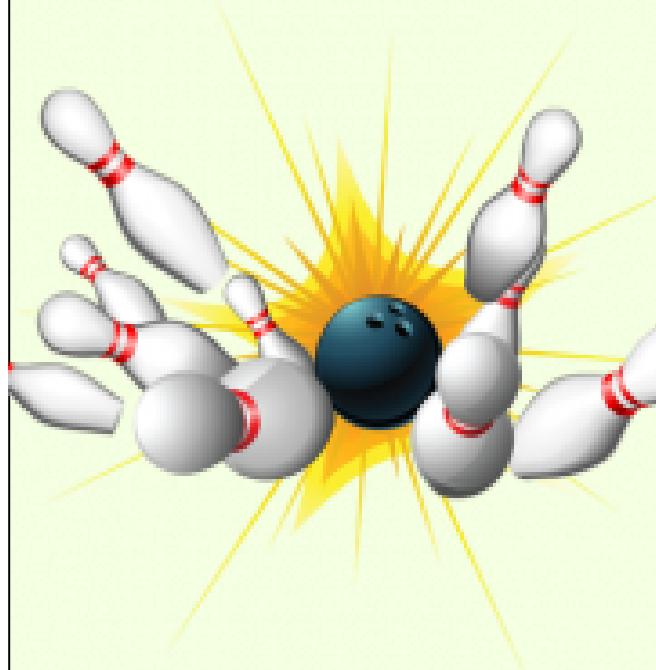


Thank you to some of the unsung heroes of Treehouse—Rick and Vonnie Schmidt lead Game Time each week and do a fantastic job. We also have some great Nursery workers that care for the very littlest so their parents can help with Treehouse. Also pictures of our littlest Treehouse guys.



BOWLING WITH HOPE IS ALIVE

BY LYNDON HARMS



Please join us for Bowling with Hope is Alive on Saturday evening, March 26th beginning at 6:00 at the Southwestern Lanes Bowling Alley. I would love for families to come and enjoy this evening of bowling with these men who are working so hard to overcome addictions.

The cost for the evening is only \$15 a person which includes bowling, pizza and a drink!

Please sign up at the Information Booth or contact Lyndon Harms at 580-302-4635. You can also call or text with any questions.

**GRAND OPENING
& Dedication
Ceremony**

1:15 PM - ALUMNI BAND PRACTICE
2:00 PM - ALUMNI CHOIR PRACTICE
3:00 PM - DEDICATION CEREMONY
& RECEPTION

CBA
CORN BIBLE
ACADEMY

MARCH 26
22387 E 1070 RD
CLINTON, OK



GEN 2 GEN

BY KATHY HARMS

March Meeting

All ladies are invited to join us for our March meeting on Tuesday, March 1st in The Gathering. This will be a fun-filled evening with everything Irish! We will enjoy Irish Stew, Irish Soda Bread and Dessert. Please sign up at the Information Booth or contact Kathy Harms at 580-302-4644. Childcare will be provided if you sign up for it!



Vision for Mission

Inspiring updates from Multiply's Global Lead Team

Louise Sinclair-Peters

Regional Team Leader, Southeast Asia

As I write, I can hear gunfire and bombs falling on villages along the border between Myanmar and Thailand. Every day children, farmers, and innocent civilians are losing their lives. Whole villages are being razed to the ground. Thousands of people from Myanmar are hiding in the jungle, desperately trying to get into Thailand.

Since the Coup began, Pastor Janu's church here in Mae Sot, Thailand has been a depot for sending food and aid to the Myanmar churches. She regularly receives requests for help from the other side of the border, and her church has jumped into action, gathering together food, clothes, and medicine. Through Multiply's Urgent Relief Fund, we have joined the church in this effort and we are partnering with World Mission to give MP3 Solar Bibles to refugees. Recently, we drove into one of the refugee camps to deliver goods and we were shocked to see 3000 people sitting in the open sun. It was heart wrenching. When a friend of Pastor Janu named Ma Nwei saw us, she ran over to our truck, broke down in sobs, and thanked us for coming. We were not allowed to get out of the vehicle, but we reached out our arms and laid our hands on her head, asking God to protect her and her three children.

As we prayed, we were surprised by a clear word of encouragement from the Holy Spirit for Ma Nwei: "It is not an accident that you are here. God is calling you to be his light and a messenger of the hope that you have found in Jesus Christ. We send you into this camp in the power of Jesus' name! Amen." Then we gave Ma Nwei hundreds of MP3 Bibles and quickly trained her how to use them before we had to leave.

Since that first trip, thousands of traumatized people have been comforted by the love of Jesus Christ and the power of the Gospel. One woman who received an MP3 solar Bible said, "I have lost everything, my house, my chickens, my pigs, everything that we owned. I was sitting here in the camp going crazy, like I was losing my mind! I was so mad. But then I started to listen to the MP3 you gave me. It is changing me. It is making my mind and heart peaceful now.

Another huge encouragement for us has been the compassionate response of the Thai churches to this need among Myanmar refugees. Last week, two churches loaded up trucks full of clothes and food and drove eight hours to deliver the supplies to us. When our Thai brothers and sisters saw the hunger and true plight of the children, pregnant women and grandmas, their hearts were broken. You may not be aware of this, but the long history of war, prejudice, and hatred between people groups in Southeast Asia often infiltrates the church, preventing believers from having compassion for each other. But since the beginning of this year, our Thai, Khmu, Laos, and Myanmar believers have been visiting each other, taking time to encourage each other, and to pray and worship together. It's a miracle! We still hear the bombs falling and our hearts are breaking, but this new and powerful wind of the Holy Spirit's love and the unity that is falling on all our churches has captivated our attention

Father God, send your ambassadors of peace and reconciliation into each conflict zone in Myanmar. Thank you for Pastor Janu and the many Christian leaders who are helping get aid to Myanmar refugees. For all the pastors like Ma Nwei who have been forced to flee their homes and have now found themselves in a refugee camp, we ask for your Spirit to help them to not miss this incredible opportunity to explain the Gospel. We thank you for the great harvest of Buddhist souls being ushered into your kingdom through this terrible suffering! Jesus, we are so blessed to see the increased love and unity among all the churches, working together. Make us one, just like you and the Father and Holy Spirit are one! Amen.

MARCH MADNESS!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00 pm—Gen2Gen 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	2 10:00 am—Ministerial Alliance 6:00 pm - Treehouse 6:00 pm—Bridge 6:00 pm – Forge	3 9:00 am—Encouragers 6:30 pm—Constitution Com.	4 CBA Jr. Play/Sr. Supper	5
6 9:30 am—SS/ABF 10:30 am—Prayer 10:30 am – Worship 11:00 am—KOW	7 9:00 am—Staff Meeting 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	8 6:00 pm—Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	9 6:00 pm - Treehouse—Tacky Tourist Night 6:00 pm—Bridge 6:00 pm – Forge	10 	11	12
13 9:30 am—SS/ABF 10:30 am—Prayer 10:30 am – Worship 11:00 am—KOW	14 9:00 am—Staff 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	15 6:00 pm—Women's Study 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am—SS/ABF 10:30 am—Prayer 10:30 am – Worship 11:00 am—KOW Treasured Preteen Mother/Daughter Bible Study	21 9:00 am—Staff 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm—Deacons	22 6:00 pm—Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	23 6:00 pm - Treehouse 6:00 pm—Bridge 6:00 pm – Forge	24	25	26
27 9:30 am—SS/ABF 10:30 am—Prayer 10:30 am – Worship 11:00 am—KOW	28 9:00 am—Staff Meeting 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	29 6:00 pm—Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm—Men's Bible Study	30 6:00 pm - Treehouse 6:00 pm—Bridge 6:00 pm – Forge	31		



PINE ACRES CHURCH

CONNECT · GROW · SERVE · GO

1321 Lark Street
Weatherford, OK 73096

Phone: 580-772-2190

Email: pineacres@pineacres.org

Pastor: Brian Harris
Youth Pastor: Dave Stegall
Children's Director: Brittany Williams
Office Manager: Nancy Fast



BIRTHDAYS

- 1—Jackson Keasler
- 1—Kelly Parker
- 5—Iver Collins
- 6—Reggie Miller
- 9—Lorelai Bull
- 9—Haley Kliewer
- 10—Trent Keasler
- 11—Keith Sawatzky
- 16—Newt Miller

- 18—Dylan Fast
- 19—Abel Caswell
- 19—Colby Miller
- 20—Harmony Miller
- 22—Olivia Hawkins
- 23—Matt Fast
- 26—Glenna Johns



ANNIVERSARY

- 3—Mike and Jackie Aaron
- 7—David and Pam Harms
- 9—Trent and Toni Keasler
- 12—Jimmy Joe and Senea Young
- 14—Kelly and Karen Martin
- 17—Colby and Megan Miller
- 23—Lyle and Joyce Miller