

# Visit Your House of Worship

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

### From Norton Christian Church

We build the beginning of the New Year upon it. When we are frustrated with ourselves, we hope that it is possible. Support groups are built around the conviction that it can happen. Without such a belief, New Year's resolutions, forgiveness, and recovery programs would be useless. Broken relationships would never mend, criminals could never be rehabilitated, and churches would have little reason to exist. We believe "it" can happen! However, many of us have a strange ambivalence about "it." We both loathe "it" and love "it."

We react toward change based upon our current satisfaction with our circumstances. If we are comfortable we tend to oppose change. We are only comfortable with change when we can control the outcome of the change. The Bible repeatedly reminds us that God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit have the power to change our lives. We experience this power in the radical change that occurs in conversion. This is power not only to forgive our past, but also to change our future. Change is scary for us. To open ourselves to God and ask him to transform our lives is a tacit acknowledgment that we cannot and will not control that change.

In Mark 5:15-17 it says, "A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, but they were frightened when they saw the man who had been demon possessed, for he was sitting there fully clothed and perfectly sane. Those who had seen what happened to the man and to the pigs told everyone about it, and the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away

and leave them alone." Any decent person who had an ounce of human compassion would have welcomed anyone who could help this poor demon-possessed soul, right? Wrong! Those who saw Jesus' power to change the man, and the cost of that change, begged Jesus to leave them because they were afraid.

His power to change us means we must give up everything and let him control our lives. We can't control the speed of that change.

We can't control the reaction of those around us to that change. We don't know where the results of our change will take us.

Unfortunately, many of us see this reality and we beg Jesus to go away. We still do the "church thing." We still pray. We may even read our Bible, go to Bible studies, and take part in Bible classes. However, we keep Jesus at arm's length because we are not fully convinced that it is good to give up total control of our lives. What ends up happening to us is that we call on Jesus to help us in emergencies, but we don't really let him be the Lord of our lives.

We are not going to produce changes in our lives that really matter by our own power. For that to happen, we must offer ourselves to Jesus to be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. To fully offer ourselves to Jesus means we lose control of what will happen in our lives and the cost of the changes he brings. If we choose not to we choose to live among the tombs.

Let's relinquish our fear and our need to control to the Lord who gave his life to help us find our own.

## Leaders and Followers

"Attention class...who would like to try out for the lead in our third grade play? Thomas, I believe I see your hand...and Martin...and Vincent. Who would like to play opposite the lead character? Oh yes, Emily and Andrea...anyone else?"

Many of us define our role in life at an early age. Some of us scramble to be leaders...the rest are content to follow or to watch from the sidelines. We do not know all of the reasons why this is so, but a teacher can usually predict who will be the first ones with hands flying toward the ceiling, and who will sit quietly and wait.

Yet, we need followers to complete the scene... supporting players...even in the spiritual sense. Though the minister, priest, or rabbi leads us in worship, there would be no service without a worshipping body of followers. Followers show by example God's goodness in their lives. In this way they, too, become leaders of their peers. We read in Luke 22:26, "Rather let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves." Won't you worship this week? You can be a leader of your fellow man as a follower of God's Word.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
John 17:1-26	Luke 8:40-56	Luke 9:1-17	Luke 9:18-36	Luke 9:37-62	Luke 10:1-16	Luke 10:17-24

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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## PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

Glen and Linda Hultgren and Richard Hultgren, Phillipsburg, and Laurie Hultgren, Omaha, went to Rapid City, S.D., for Christmas with their son and brother, Scott and Holly Hultgren and family.

Goldie Barker entertained for dinner on Christmas Day, Steve and Suzanne Barker, Kearney, and Bill and Rita Barker, Hays.

Eddy and Anita DeBoer, Phillipsburg, entertained guests on Dec. 27 with a Christmas dinner. Attending were: Kenny and Cindy Vink and Gavin and Lyndsee Herte, Ellinwood; Lester and Tammy Slayton, Briana and Brooke, Eager, Ariz.; Jerol and Jennifer DeBoer, Kelsey and Taylor; Mark and Lisa Grieve, Kaiden and Megan, Kila and Alex Bogart, Hays; Kerry and Rhonda Kellerman, Jordan, Jaron and Jacey, Phillipsburg; and Vivian Jansonius, Prairie View.

Heath and Lori Bogart, Hays, are the parents of a baby girl born on Dec. 27 in Hays. They have named her Kambri Jade. She weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 20 inches long.

She has a sister Kali and a brother Alex. Grandparents are Leann Jackson, Topeka, and Eddy and Anita DeBoer, Phillipsburg. Great-grandparents are: Vivian Jansonius, Prairie View; Esther and Leo Bruning, Torrance, Calif.; and Winifred DeBoer, Hill City.

A belated Christmas dinner and gift exchange was held Dec. 28, at the home of Walter and Darline Brown. Those present were Harley Renee Brooks, Tucson, Ariz.; Dale and Marilyn Brooks, Corey and Lance, Hays; Irene Brooks, Phillipsburg; Bill and Nancy Brown, Barry Jacques, Manhattan; Rhonda Jacques and Blake, Norton; Kevin and Vanessa Clark, Abilene; Robert and Lisa Blecha, Ricole and Reese, Jeffrey Brown, Logan; Brandon Jacques, Elm Creek, Neb. and friend Betty of Kearney; and Steve and Terra Brown and Cody, Prairie View. Eric Witmer, Malorie, Kyle and Macey, Phillipsburg, were afternoon visitors. Susan Witmer, Phillipsburg, and Sherry Kline, Norton, were unable to attend.

Vivian Jansonius went to Phillipsburg, Dec. 30. At noon she took her granddaughter, Carol

McGinnis, Carlsbad, Calif., Briana Slayton, Eager, Ariz., Anita DeBoer and Glenn Jansonius and Jelden, Phillipsburg, out to lunch at the Chicken Inn.

### SUNSHINE CITY LIBRARY

The Sunshine City Library is seeking more articles for the Prairie View School Memorabilia Case. Perhaps this winter, you might run across items that you would be willing to give or loan for display.

Some of the items on display include a large picture of the 1929 girls champion basketball team; a 1943 diploma; graduation announcements from 1943, 1959 and 1960; a prom program from 1963; a warm-up jacket and trophies for sports and plays; and school books. If you find something, please contact a library board member.

Rod and Marla Job of Prairie View are the parents of a baby girl, born Jan. 6 at the Norton County Hospital. She was the first baby born in the Norton Hospital in 2004. They have named her Helena June and she weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long. Along with her parents, she has a sister, Jessica Weaverling. Grandparents of the new baby are: Bob and June Thompson, Klamath Falls, Ore., and Steve and Alice Luttrell of Orleans, Neb.

The Gleaner's Circle of the Prairie View Reformed Church met Jan. 8 at the home of Hazel Jansonius. Chairman Darline Brown shared a reading, "Have Courage" and gave the Bible lesson, "Conspiracy". Goldie Barker had the devotions. Members discussed a new Bible study and shared a letter from Lavonne Ponstein who is in Belarus for a month. Others attending were Julianna Lasniewski, Linda Hultgren and Vivian Jansonius.

The American Cancer Society, Heartland Division, Phillips County Council met Jan. 8. Those attending were Joni Mandeville, Hays; Joyce Lenker and Charlie Brown, Phillipsburg; Jayne Jarvis, Long Island; Lucille Hofaker, Logan; and Deb Thomas and Vivian Jansonius of Prairie View. Topics discussed at the meeting included the Relay for Life and Daffodil Days.

## WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE

Norris and Marie Smith of Omaha returned Marie's mother, Lillian Lemaster, to her home on Jan. 9. Mrs. Lemaster had been visiting in the Smith home since before Christmas. On Jan. 14, she accompanied her daughter, Pam Frecks, to Hastings. Mrs. Frecks attended a teacher's workshop and Mrs. Lemaster visited her cousins, June and Wilbur Jorgensen.

Brad and Carla Holtze drove to Lexington Friday afternoon where they met Kenneth Holtze. Velma Holtze accompanied them as far as Arapahoe and visited in the home of Katherine Atterbury until they stopped for her en-route home. Velma and Katherine enjoyed eating supper out that evening. Katherine had been to McCook on Thursday when her sister, Lydia Ruf was moved from the hospital to Hillcrest Nursing home.

Jim and Becky Holtze returned home Thursday night from Rochester, Minn., where Becky had had doctor's appointments. This Monday and Tuesday she has been in Lincoln for treatments.

The Baptist-Christian Church certainly looks different than it did a year ago. The shingling and the painting of the steeple spire was completed the last of the week. The annual meeting was held Wednesday evening. The report books were distributed and discussed. Several upcoming projects and changes were discussed.

### Wilsonville Women's Club

The Wilsonville Women's Club met on Monday evening, Jan. 12 in the Baptist-Christian Church basement at 7:30 p.m. Thirteen members and one guest, Sandy Kasson, enjoyed singing and dancing the Hokey-Pokey. Also during music moments with Nadeane Haag and Margaret Spence two birthdays, Maxine Parrish and JoAnn McLaughlin, for the month were sung to. Roll Call was a heart healthy recipe. Secretary Laurie Laws read thank you notes from Joshua Townsend and Roxie Lang. Sandy Kasson demonstrated physical therapy stretches and proper ways to do things around the house. Several of the members helped demonstrate the stretches. Co-hostess Connie Holiday and Pat Yost had the basement decorated in an abundance of snowmen (some even talked). Connie and Pat served a wonderful heart healthy luncheon.

### United Methodist Women

Wilsonville United Methodist Women met in the church basement Jan. 15 with six members attending. Vice President Nadeane Haag opened the meeting with Margaret Spence and Nadeane giving special reports. Love plates will be packed at 1 p.m. at the February meeting. Mary Wilmot led the pledge service lesson using a special worship table using the globe and candles where members presented their pledges for the year. Hostess was Nadeane Haag.

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