

I hope that all of you had a great week. The first month of the year is already gone and that is hard to believe. I've been busy working on upcoming lessons and plans for the youth group this year. So far it is looking good! I need to book the rooms in Dallas for L.T.C. next week, so if you are planning on going with us, **please let me know ASAP.** This Saturday we will be taking the youth group roller skating. All youth are invited so make plans to join us. We will meet at the church building at 1p.m. and take the bus to Athens. Parents, if you have small children and they want to go too, that is fine if you come along with them. This will be a lot of fun!! **Tonight** after our worship service here, the youth group is invited to our house for a meal, devotional and games. If any of you (you know who you are) haven't been attending the devo's, please make plans to join us. See you all tonight!! BEN

## UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS

To achieve the unity our Lord prayed for we must begin with the platform for unity revealed by the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 4:1-6. But we must remember that unity is both relational and doctrinal. Paul said, "With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:2-3). A lot of times we put more emphasis on the doctrinal aspect of unity highlighting the section that reads, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" while glossing over the section of this passage that mentions lowliness, meekness, longsuffering and forbearance. The Scriptures make both of these equally important. Our attitude and the way we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ is a crucial element of maintaining Christian unity.

## "BRADFORD PEARS"

Have you ever noticed the beauty of a Bradford pear tree? It had beautiful blooms, thick, dense leaves, and almost perfect shape. It is a very desirable tree to most people. Those of us who do not desire them have spent time with them, cleaning them up! You see, the life span of a Bradford pear tree is about 15 years. After that, it breaks, splits, and falls to pieces. If you cut it down to the ground, what grows back is a thorn laden bush! Why? Because it is a pear tree grafted with a rose bush. That is why it flowers so beautifully. That is also what gives it the brittleness. What makes the things around us seem so beautiful and perfect, may have underlying things that destroy them down the road! Like all the "perfect" families with the "perfect" lives and all of life's beautiful toys... some are destroyed because of the things they graft into their lives to make it "look" more beautiful! What starts off as a sticker bush usually returns as sticker bush. Those things we implement into our lives will return to strengthen us or bite us, depending on whether they are good or bad things. Many people might say, it was beautiful or fun while it lasted, but compared to eternity, it will be a bad decision! Life is short. Don't trade the value of your eternal life for the pleasure of sin that just lasts for a short while. You need deep roots in God's word to sustain your life. Drink from the rivers of water of life. Enrich the soil in which you grow. Prune the bad, excessive, and rotten limbs out of your life so there is room for the healthy parts to grow! And never graft yourself to anything that promises to make you "look" better, only surround yourself with things that make you better! This world will end. Where will you "grow"?

SELECTED

**DOOR GREETERS –Feb. 15, 2015**

**Mark & Linda Johnson**

**COMMUNION PREPARATION  
Feb. 15, 2015**

**David & Jennifer Sparks**

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

1717 Crockett Road; P.O. Box 288  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
903/723-6291  
www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org

### MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel  
*Pulpit Minister*  
Ben Rhone  
*Youth Minister*

### ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel  
Dale Sparks

### DEACONS

Henry Baker  
Sam Ellis  
Dwight Franklin  
Adam Harding  
Kyle Lock

### SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

### MISSIONS

Brown Trail School of  
Preaching, *Bedford, TX*  
Jose Cuadras– *Mexico*  
*School of Preaching*  
Hershel Bearden  
*India Mission*  
Central TX Children's  
Home—*Buda, TX*  
Tipton Children's Home  
*Tipton, OK*  
GBN T.V. NETWORK  
GIVE ME THE BIBLE  
T.V. Program  
KETK-56 Tyler, TX.  
FOX 44– Waco, TX.  
FOX 33 Shreveport, La.  
FOX 29, Bryan-College  
Station, TX.  
NBC 53– Lufkin, TX.  
**ASSEMBLY TIMES**  
Sun: 9:30 AM Class  
10:30 AM Worship  
6:00 PM Evening  
Wed: 7:00 PM

## "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BIND"

John Fawcett was born into a poor family in Yorkshire, England, and was orphaned at age 12. To survive, he accepted a lengthy apprenticeship to a tailor. Then, while still in his teens, he heard the Gospel preached and became a Christian.

While serving his apprenticeship, Fawcett became active in church and was often asked to speak. Then at age 25 (and newly married) he was invited to serve as Minister of a small church at Wainsgate. The poor people of that little village were able to pay very little, and much of Fawcett's pay came as potatoes and other produce. Once his wife, Mary, began having children, they found it difficult to survive.

Then Fawcett learned that the preacher of a large church in London was retiring, and he let the church know that he would be interested in serving them. They asked him to be their preacher at a much larger salary, so John and Mary packed their household and prepared to move. ***But then, as the story is told, Mary told John that she didn't think that she could leave these people whom they had both learned to love — and John expressed that he shared her sentiment*** — so the two of them unpacked the wagon and let the London church know that they wouldn't be coming.

Then Fawcett, who wrote a number of hymns during his lifetime, wrote this hymn, "**Blest Be the Tie,**" to convey his sentiments and those of his wife to the people among whom they had chosen to live. Fawcett served that little church for the rest of his life — **54 years in all.**

# ONE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST



*From Dan's desk:*

We rejoice with AMANDA HERBROUGH who was baptized last week. I had the opportunity to visit and study with her and following our discussion, Amanda was baptized for the remission of sins. We are happy for her and her family. She and her husband (Mitchell) have four children. We are proud for Amanda and welcome them to our congregation. It was great to see so many visitors last Sunday in services. We had a great attendance on Sunday night in spite of the Super Bowl game that was being played. If you were not here last Sunday and did not get a pair of the foot-massagers, we still a few available. Thanks to R. D. Prince, Dale Sparks, Dwight Franklin, John Mottern, Dennis and Bryan Homann, who helped load out several of the donations to the other congregations. These donations were made by Wal-mart Distribution center. We are grateful for what they have done for us. It is good to see each of you this morning. We hope you will be here tonight. Ben Rhone will be speaking tonight. Ben is doing a great job and we really appreciate his efforts. The youth will be gearing up for L.T.C. soon. This event will take place in the metroplex the weekend of April 3rd-5th. We have a number of young people who are making plans to attend this year. Remember the Chili cook-off that will take place on March 1st on Sunday night. This is always a fun time and we hope you will want to be with us. At present, we have several studies taking place with others who are not members of the church. Continue to pray that they will allow God's Will to be done in their lives. DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



## TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

**TODD MASON** is still in ETMC in Tyler.  
**JIMMY COOK** remains in critical condition at Cartmell Home.  
**BOBBY BAIRD** will have a procedure for an aneurysm soon.  
**BILLY MASON** will have treatment for his back soon.  
**DEANNA CHAPMAN** will be having back surgery on February 19th.  
**PATRICIA MANVILLE** has a lump on her neck. Testing has begun on it.

## RESPONSES BAPTIZED

Amanda Herbrough  
526 Craig Dr.  
Palestine, TX 7580  
903-723-0510

## CHILI COOK-OFF & CAKE AUCTION

The annual Chili Cook-Off & Cake Auction to benefit our youth group will take place on Sunday, March 1st, immediately after evening worship. If you would like to compete in the chili cook-off or bake a cake for the auction, please sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board across from the office.

## WELCOME VISITORS

A big hearty welcome to those visiting today. Allow us to meet and greet you following the worship service this morning. At the end of the service today you will be given a gift bag from our congregation. "It is a small gift, but it comes from big hearts." Thanks again for coming.

## AWAKEN BRETHREN

From what I am reading —and hearing and seeing in the media, Christianity may soon be facing the period of its severest confrontation and its biggest challenge for survival since the Roman persecutions in the first and second centuries. I hope by that statement I have not given you a reason to think of me as an alarmist, harmfully creating an atmosphere of needless fear. No one will be happier than I if I am proven wrong about that. It is not my purpose to frighten, but *awaken* our beloved brotherhood! For I believe the gospel message in the hearts of the people is our only hope of continued freedom to practice our faith in the good old USA. The church Jesus built, the one you read about in your New Testament was designed to be always and everywhere in constant confrontation with the wisdom and the ways of the world (1 Cor. 1:20-25). The idea was not to be converted to the culture, but to convert the worldly culture to belief in and acceptance of God. But today too many of us seem to be making peace with the ungodly world. Even many of the known to be conservative churches have not only modified their worship styles and moral standards, but their message too, to conform to the world's demands. It seems the idea is for the church not to confront the contemporary evil culture, but to seek its acceptance and approval. ADAPTED