



We celebrate that **Wayne, & LaDdell Bell, and their son, Dawson**, joined by affirmation of Christian faith during the Traditional Worship Service, Sunday, December 22. The Bell's recently moved to Garland from the Seattle area and were invited

by friends, Dana & Michael Womack, to attend our church. The Bell's have been attending church and the Christianity 101 class for the last two months. We welcome the Bell family!



MOMENT'S REFLECTION

I'll understand if you look at the picture and wonder about the significance of your pastor standing in front of a rock in an Idaho winter's sub-freezing cold. That rock stands in front of the high school I attended there. The rock is a sort of rough-hewn approximation of my high school mascot, the mighty Bruin. And as I said in Sunday's sermon, it'd been more than 37 years since I revisited that place in Twin Falls, Idaho.

You might think that my trip there was a sentimental journey home. In part it was, I suppose. But I should tell you the real story. I left that place, that school, September 1975, not with sadness but with happiness that finally I was leaving a town for which I had no great love. My high school years were not happy ones. I can't tell you why exactly except to say I didn't do well in school, always seemed to be at odds with someone so that when I was given the option to take a summer class and skip my senior year I jumped. And when I headed out of town to college in Oregon, I vowed to myself at the city limit that I would never come back.

But in the last couple of years, I've felt a growing need to go back there—if not to relive the memories with fondness, then at least to face them, not as the kid I used to be, but as the adult I am; to quit giving those years such power by allowing them to define me. And so I went. Like a soldier into battle, I girded my loins and went to the front line of my long-ago adolescence. Stood there defiantly, confidently, at the rock, the mighty Bruin and had Jenny snap a photo.

I'd like to say that the skies parted, God spoke and there was a searing moment of spiritual epiphany. But it was all rather anti-climactic. Just a rock, and an ordinary high school building, and a town like every other. On the two hour drive back to Jenny's mother's home, I couldn't quit thinking about why I'd made that place, that time of life, so fearfully enormous.

I tell you this story, not because my journey is terribly interesting. I tell it because in a variety of ways it is all our life stories—of some place, some time, some moment, some occasion, that for the pain of it, stands fixed in our memories and prevents us from moving forward into the greater joy of the present.

In her book, *Wild*, Cheryl Strayed, faces her fears by choosing to walk the Pacific Crest Trail. Along the way she makes an astute observation. She writes, "I knew that if I allowed fear to overtake me, my journey was doomed. Fear, to a great extent, is born of a story we tell ourselves, and so I chose to tell myself a different story" And this is my challenge to you this New Year: make the journey. Face the past. Or prepare for the future. Or allow yourself to live in the present and not let fear overtake you. Hear the stories you tell yourself and in listening to them ask God to help you tell new ones. —Epiphany 2013



Doves Covenant Group

The Doves Covenant Group will be praying for the following during the week of January 16th:

- Mark & Debbie Fetzer
- May Foreman
- Bill & Marilyn Fowler
- Bill & Linda Fuentes & Family
- Dale and Judy Garrett
- Jeff & Brandi Gentry & Family
- Jane Gipson
- Wade & Renee Godwin & Family



PRAYERS, JOYS, & CONCERNS... FOR THE FOLLOWING:

TERESA WILLIAMS
BEA AXE



KEITH BIFFLE

WE SEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO TRISHA WHALIN & FAMILY
UPON THE DEATH OF HER BROTHER, TRACY MATHESON
WHO PASSED AWAY JANUARY 1, 2013

Youth Ministry News



Sunday, January 13th

- Children's Choir 4pm
- Snack supper 5 to 5:30pm
\$3 donation
- CYF, JYF, PYF & Chi Rho
5:30-7pm
- CYF & College Bible Study
6pm on Wednesday nights
- CYF Midwinter
January 18-20
- Chi Rho Midwinter
February 8-10
Registration due Jan 13th

Leader Event

January 26, 2013

The 2013 North Texas Area Leader event will be January 26 at Creekwood Christian Church in Flower Mound, Texas, just north of DFW Airport, from 8:30 to 2:45. The \$20 fee will include lunch. This event will feature several learning tracks as well as multiple workshops on many key topics on church ministry. Contact church office for registration forms.



2013 VBS
June 16th-20th
Ages 4 - 5th grade

Spring Bible Study



February 17th & 24th

March 3rd & 10th

6pm

Prayers of the Psalmist

Happy Birthday
 to those who have birthdays in January

10th Amanda Roberts Hill
 10th James Dodd
 12th Eric Grasham
 13th James Schnitker
 14th Eric Womack

THIS WEEK'S SERMON

Sunday, January 13, 2013

Sermon: "Hospitality to the Holy Spirit"

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Synopsis: Fresh from a week of vacation spent with extended family, I can describe to you what hospitality is: it's an openness of the host to his or her guests. It's stocking the refrigerator with things the host knows the guest likes. It's surrendering control of the TV remote. It's setting some extra places at the dinner table. It's offering a place to sleep. In the Church we try to practice hospitality, too. Typically we think of Christian hospitality as the practice of making Sunday morning visitors welcome—greeting them, noticing them, sometimes giving them token gifts to express our hope that they return. In this regard, the Church's hospitality consists of part expectation (we know from experience to expect that visitors will come) and readiness (when they come we want to be prepared to offer that we can make them feel welcome). This Sunday I want to expand the notion of Christian hospitality. I want to think of it as our expectation and readiness to receive the visitations of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps we will need to go back to the basics: do we expect the Holy Spirit to visit us? And if we do, what plans might we need to make to be adequately prepared for the Spirit's presence? This week I'm drawn to the way Luke describes the people who come to John in the wilderness: "The people were filled with expectation." What expectations do we bring to our times of worship?

Scripture Link: <http://bible.oremus.org/?q=224608082>

As a fundraiser, JYF will be selling Valentines during coffee fellowship. Don't forget to bring your spare spending money!

January 27th and February 3rd

Valentines will be delivered during Sunday School on February 10th.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Training Days Ahead

Cabinet Training
 January 13th at 3pm

Diaconate Training
 January 20th at 10:30am

Pledged Offering Recap

	1/6/12	YTD
Budgeted	\$9,345	\$9,345
Received	\$10,913	\$10,913
Overage/(Shortage)	\$1,568	\$1,568

LOCK-IN for JYF
January 18th at 6pm

Thousands of youth from churches across the country will Tackle Hunger on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2013. On February 3rd, the FCCG Youth will be collecting cans and spare change before and after service to donate to Good Samaritans in Garland. Please take a moment to donate to those in need.