

Groans we choose not to hear

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”
— Isaiah 58:6-7, New International Version

I’ve traveled to Africa numerous times in years past. Three times I’ve visited the Cape Coast Castle in Ghana.

This fort was built by the Dutch in the 1600s to protect their gold interests. Ultimately it was commandeered by the British and used to warehouse hundreds of thousands of captured Africans.

The dungeons of Cape Coast Castle — where occurred unspeakable horrors that surpass what Hollywood could conjure up — still give me nightmares. There the captives awaited the slave ships that would transport them to the Americas. (First Lady Michelle Obama traces her family roots to this departure point.)

In that hellish place you’ll find the most infamous door in Africa, “The Door of No Return.” It leads to steps down the cliffside, where canoes took the Africans to the slave ships.

The second time I was there I mustered the courage to ask our guide about the Europeans who lived at the castle. Wives and children of the officers resided behind the walls, I was told. There was a school. There was an Anglican church on the crest of the wall immediately above the slave dungeon.

The guide’s blazing dark eyes turned toward my white face. “Yes,” he said, “while the Europeans sang their sweet songs about Jesus and muttered their pious prayers, below their feet the captives groaned and thrashed in agony.” It was a transformative moment for me.

Back home in Texas, we fight our worship wars and engage in endless intramural debates. We sing our sweet worship songs. We voice our pious prayers.

Yet, what unspeakable horrors are at our feet? What groans do we choose not to hear?

I am so thankful to be a part of a faith community whose songs of praise and prayers for blessings are not so loud as to drown out the heartache at our feet.

JOHN SCOTT—Christian Chronicle, March 2016
Scott is the transformation minister for the Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas.

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Aaron Banks**
- **John Beiler** (health)
- **James Bohannon** (Rex Boggs’s cousin—health)
- **Jim Carpenter** (Cody Chrismon’s great uncle—health)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka’s daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick’s sister—Texan nursing home)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires’s mother—Alzheimer’s)
- **Jake Faires** (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- **Steven Faires, and Lexi**
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe’s father—throat cancer)
- **Family and friends of Herbert Hahn**
- **Josh Horn** (Jacob White’s cousin—health)
- **Debbie Jalufka**
- **Kevin and Victoria Johnson** (healthy pregnancy/baby)
- **Norman Pennock** (Debbie Fougerat’s step-father, health)
- **Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason’s sister—health)
- **Jean Rice** (Rex Boggs’s cousin—health)
- **Randall Sweeney** (recovering from surgery)
- **Adrienne Zingrich** (Susan Barnick’s cousin—cancer)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

happy mother's day!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FCA End of Year Cookout

You’re invited to the Gonzales FCA End of Year Cookout **this Thursday, May 18, from 5:30-8 p.m. at East Avenue Lions Park Pavilion.** Kevin Johnson sponsors the junior high chapter of FCA and they have been averaging around 100 students attending each meeting, so we are expecting a good turnout and need your help! **Please sign up in the foyer if you are able to provide desserts or are willing to volunteer at the cookout.** We will be grilling hot dogs and playing slip-n-slide kickball.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send Victoria your menu by Wednesday the week before.**

Men’s Meeting

The men have their monthly meeting **next Sunday, May 21, at 8 a.m.** at the building.

VBS Meeting

Please mark your calendars. ALL VBS Volunteers will meet **next Sunday, May 21,** immediately following morning worship.

VBS Registration

Parents, if your child(ren) are planning to attend this year’s VBS, please pre-register **by Sunday, May 28.** You may do so online at www.gonzaleschurchofchrist.org or you may pick up a registration form in the foyer and return it to Victoria Johnson. This year’s VBS is June 11-14 from 6-8 p.m. and our theme is Maker Fun Factory.

Area-Wide Singing: Bastrop

The Heart of Texas Church of Christ in Bastrop is hosting the next area-wide singing **next Sunday, May 21, at 5 p.m.** The church meets in the Opera House in Bastrop (711 Spring St. Bastrop, TX, 78602). Refreshments will be served afterwards by the Bastrop church. **Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend so we can let the congregation know how many are going.**

VBS Decorator Needed

We are in need of someone to head up decorating efforts for VBS. Please contact Stacia Sweeney if you are able to help in this area.

Memorial Wristbands

Gonzales Jr High FCA is selling wristbands in memory of Morgan Farrar, who would have been a 7th-grade cheerleader next year. The bands are \$2 each and all proceeds will be donated in Morgan’s name. Please see Kevin Johnson if you’re interested in purchasing a band.

Graduation Invitation

Please see the large bulletin board in the foyer for a graduation invitation from **Morgan Mason**, who is graduating from Gonzales High School. Graduation will be held **Friday, May 26, at 7 p.m.** at Apache Field.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us at **5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. **This week’s entrée is brisket.** Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord’s Supper is available.

Tuesday Morning Men’s Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Class

Ladies Class continues **this Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Jennie Chrismon’s house in Shiner.** We are continuing the series *Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy* by Kelly Minter. For more information, please contact Jennie.

YOUTH ZONE

MONDAY, MAY 15
TEE BALL
BREWERS @ BRAVES, 5:45 P.M. (FIELD 1)
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL
ASTROS @ MARLINS, 6 P.M. (FIELD 3)
TUESDAY, MAY 16
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
CUBS @ YANKEES, 7 P.M. (FIELD 1)



Hunter Babb—Cubs (Shiner Baseball)
Madelyn Babb—Brewers (Shiner Tee Ball)

THURSDAY, MAY 18
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
METS @ CUERO ORIOLES, 7 P.M.
FRIDAY, MAY 19
TEE BALL
BREWERS V. ASTROS, 6 P.M. (FIELD 5)
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
CUBS V. RANGERS, 7 P.M. (FIELD 1)



Caden Chrismon—Mets (Shiner Baseball)
Callie Chrismon—Astros (Shiner Softball)