

Doing Beautiful Things

I've read the story of the woman at Bethany many, many times. You're likely also familiar with the story. Jesus's anointing at Bethany:

Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. "But not during the festival," they said, "or the people may riot."

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

- Mark 14:1-9

Most of the attention in this text has swirled around Jesus's enigmatic phrase, "the poor you will always have with you." But that's not what grabbed me the other day. What grabbed me was this phrase:

"She has done a beautiful thing..."

As best I can tell, this is the only time in the NT where the word "beautiful" is used to describe an action or behavior. The doing of a beautiful thing.

More and more, I've come to describe my faith in similar terms, in aesthetic terms. Some things in the world--big global things and small things I notice during the day--I find beautiful. Other things I find ugly. And more, I try to live in a beautiful way. And in a way that has artistic integrity. And behind all these judgments is an aesthetic that is distinctively Christian.

What is faith? I'm often not sure. But I think a part of faith looks a lot like what the woman at Bethany does.

Faith is going places and doing beautiful things to anoint the Crucified One as Lord.

By Richard Beck

From: <http://experimentaltheology.blogspot.com/2012/12/doing-beautiful-things.html>

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health, recovering from surgery)
- **Larry Barnett** (Jacob White's friends—recovering from bike accident)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Fred Bray** (Weavers' friend—health)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Ben Faires** (Joyce Faires's grandson)
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Tomas Gomez** (Debbie Fougerat's employee—recovering from surgery)
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Eddie Hunt** (Debbie Jalufka's father—Alzheimer's)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **John Jobe** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health, stroke)
- **Debbie Jalufka** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger** (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Jay Mason and family**
- **Emory Meier** (Cheryl Pitts's father—health)
- **Orvan Muelker** (Kathy Winegeart's father—health)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **David Pearson** (Eric Davis's friend—brain tumor)
- **Stacey Placker and Meagan Miller** (Lexi Miller's mother and sister)
- **Junior and Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health, decision-making)
- **Bryson Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—upcoming brain surgery on April 18 for epilepsy)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Paris, Lexus & Maelyn Robertson** (Johnsons' friends—Maelyn born 10 weeks premature)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Mia Schauer and family of Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend)
- **Jocelyn Seals** (Hallettsville—cancer)
- **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Buddy Watson** (Victoria Johnson's cousin—health)

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.

PRAYER UPDATES

Ada and Junior Powell, Sharron Mason's sister and brother-in-law, have to make some difficult decisions regarding care and living. Junior has Alzheimer's and Ada has health struggles, too.

Ben Faires, Joyce's grandson, is struggling through a very difficult time right now.

Fred Bray, the Weavers' friend, had heart surgery a couple weeks ago and his recovery isn't going well.

Lauren Babb had another spinal tap last Tuesday because her pressure got too high.

We extend sympathy to **Mia Schauer**, Susan Barnick's friend, for the loss of her brother, **Monty Allen**, of Laredo, on Monday morning.

Last Saturday, the **Christian Service Center** facilities in Abilene burned down. Christian Service Center is a community ministry supported by various churches of Christ in Abilene, which provides many services, such as food, clothing and household goods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Men's Meeting

The men have their monthly meeting **next Sunday, April 17 at 8 a.m.** Church committees are being restructured at this meeting. If you would like to be on a committee, please plan to attend the meeting, or express your interest in serving to one of the men. The new committees will be: Worship & Education, Benevolence, Facilities, and Finance.

Youth & Family Cookout

Please join us for a youth a family cookout **next Sunday, April 17 from 12:30-3 p.m.** at Palmetto State Park. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side to share. The park entrance fee is \$3 for adults. Children 12 and under are free. Please sign up in the foyer so we can plan food accordingly.

2016 VBS: Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E.

This year's VBS is June 12-15. Please sign up in the foyer if you are interested in helping. We will have a planning meeting on **Sunday, May 1** immediately following morning worship.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. in the annex. Everyone is welcome to attend. The Lord's Supper is available for anyone who was unable to partake on Sunday morning.

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 Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class meets **Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the building.** We are continuing our *War Room* Study.

Congratulations to Caden Chrismon who was baptized into Christ on Wednesday, April 6!

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

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

Stockdale Ladies Day 2016

Stockdale Bilingual Church of Christ is hosting its 2016 Ladies Day on **Saturday, April 23 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** This year's theme is "Relax and Soar" and the speakers are Tracy Clapp and Carolyn Richter. Please see the flyer on the large bulletin board for more information.

Peach Valley Bar-B-Q Fundraiser

Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp is hosting its Annual Bar-B-Q Fundraiser on **Saturday, April 30 at 11:30 a.m.** A silent auction will follow. Please sign up in the foyer if you are able to prepare a dessert. Desserts need to be to the annex **by 10 a.m. that morning.** Please see Peggy or Pauline if you have items you can donate for the silent auction.

Cherokee Day Open House and Food Drive

Cherokee Home for Children is hosting Cherokee Day Open House and Food Drive on **May 7**, which includes a BBQ lunch. For more information, visit www.chc4kids.org or see the letter on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

FCA T-Shirts

Gonzales Junior High FCA, led by Kevin Johnson, is selling t-shirts for **\$8 each.** Please see Kevin or Victoria if you are interested in purchasing a t-shirt.

Notice: Annual Meeting of Members on Sunday, April 24, 2016 immediately following morning worship service.

YOUTH ZONE

Congratulations to Morgan Mason who won Champion Senior Brahman Heifer and Reserve Champion Heifer at the Austin Stock Show two weeks ago. Kayla Mason placed second in Senior Division and Cole Hendershot placed 4th in Junior Division, both with Brahman Heifers.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

BASEBALL

RED SOX V. GONZALES ASTROS, 7 P.M.
(SHINER MAJOR LEAGUE FIELD)

SOFTBALL

MARINERS @ ROYALS, 6 P.M. (SHINER SB FIELD 3)
REVS V. YOAKUM #1, 7 P.M. (GONZALES FIELD 1)



TUESDAY, APRIL 12

TEE BALL

INDIANS @ MOULTON GREY, 6 P.M. (MOULTON)

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

SOFTBALL

REVS V. YOAKUM #1, 7 P.M. (GONZALES FIELD 1)

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

TRACK & FIELD

GONZALES JR HIGH @ DISTRICT MEET (WIMBERLEY)

Rea' Anna Flores—REVS, Gonzales Major League Softball
Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales Jr High Track & Field
Hannah Rowland—Gonzales HS Track & Field

