

God gives us His word as a spiritual plumb line

“Thus He showed me, and behold, the Lord was standing by a vertical wall with a plumb line in His hand. The LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” And I said, “A plumb line.” Then the Lord said, “Behold I am about to put a plumb line in the midst of My people Israel. I will spare them no longer.”
— Amos 7:7-8

Have you ever used a plumb line? It is basically a string with a weight attached at the end. Builders used a plumb line to show a true vertical. Some things are so far off plumb that the variance is visible even to the untrained eye. The Tower of Pisa is an astonishing 12 feet, 10 inches away from being perfectly vertical.

In a spiritual sense, we may become blind to our own leaning away from God’s standard if we do not compare ourselves to that standard.

God showed Amos a figurative plumb line to illustrate how far away the people of Israel had moved from him.

Traveling through South Dakota one summer, I saw a large billboard with these words written in red: “Prepare to meet thy God ... Amos 4:12.” Amos’ warning is still being used in the 21st century. Though it seems like a slogan meant to scare people, the phrase is meant to give wicked people another chance. God is “not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

A spiritual plumb line is not to be used to compare ourselves to other people. Jesus told of a Pharisee who used a tax collector as his plumb line, thanking God that he was so much better by comparison. But the tax collector compared himself to God’s standard and realized his need for mercy. Jesus said, “I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:14)

Thank you, God, for your Word — our plumb line — and for your mercy.

— Laurel S. Sewell - Christian Chronicle, January 2014
Laurel is a member of the Henderson Church of Christ in Tennessee.

PRAYER LIST

- Pauline Alvarez (health)
- Lauren Babb (health)
- Aaron Banks
- John Beiler (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)
- Paul Faires (health)
- Steven Faires, and Lexi
- Leon Giesecke (Jan Moerbe’s father—throat cancer)
- Kameron Glass (recovery from surgery, broken ankle)
- Herbert and Nelle Hahn (health)
- Debbie Jalufka
- Sandra Jetton (health)
- Kevin and Victoria Johnson (healthy pregnancy/baby)
- Ada Powell (Sharron Mason’s sister—health)
- Jean Rice (Rex Boggs’s cousin—health)
- 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Lunch Series

Please make plans to attend the Community Lunch Series at First Baptist of Gonzales (422 Saint Paul Street) **this Wednesday, March 15 at noon**. Clay is delivering the message and lunch is provided immediately following at First United Methodist.

Teach Appreciation Sunday

Please make plans to join us on **Sunday, March 26**, as we honor those who serve our congregation by teaching Bible classes. John Schumacher of Marble Falls will deliver a special message during morning worship and lunch will be provided in the annex immediately following service.

Easter Egg Candy

Our annual Easter egg hunt will be Sunday, April 9. The congregation is asked to bring candy or pre-stuffed eggs to the church **by Sunday, April 2**.

Field Day Supplies

Following our Easter egg hunt on April 9, we will have a family field day. **Please pick up a list of needed supplies in the foyer**. If you have any of the items on the list, please contact Kevin or Victoria, or bring the items to the church **by Sunday, April 2**.

Host Family Needed

Volunteers are needed to host April’s 5th Sunday Fellowship on **April 30**. Please contact Victoria Johnson if you are interested in hosting this event.

Ladies Class

Ladies Class is scheduled to resume on **Tuesday, March 21**. We will be starting the six-week series *Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy* by Kelly Minter. Cost for the book is \$14. To order the book or for more information, please contact Jennie Chrismon.

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 **hamburgers**. 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: 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 your menu to Victoria by Wednesday the week before your turn.**

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.

Mark Your Calendars

March 26—Singing at The Heights
April 9—Egg Hunt & Family Field Day
April 23—Men’s Meeting, Singing at The Heights
April 30—5th Sunday Fellowship

YOUTH ZONE

Congratulations to our youth who had excellent showings at the Gonzales Livestock Show:



Morgan Mason—Grand Champion Heifer

Kayla Mason—Grand Champion County-Bred Steer

WEDNESDAY MARCH 15
HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD
GONZALES DUAL PRACTICE MEET @ SHINER
THURSDAY, MARCH 16
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES @ GIDDINGS, 5 P.M.



FRIDAY, MARCH 17
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES V. AUSTIN EASTSIDE, 7 P.M.
SATURDAY, MARCH 18
HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD
GONZALES GIRLS @ SOUTHLAKE CARROLL DISTANCE FESTIVAL

Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales HS Girls Track & Field
Morgan Mason—Gonzales HS Varsity Softball