



# Kelham Korner

**KELHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**

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Wednesday, February 22, 2011

## A Presidents' Day Case for Liberty

Like most my age, I remember celebrating George Washington's birthday (to a lesser extent Abraham Lincoln's birthday). Now we celebrate Presidents Day, an amorphous conglomeration celebrating no one in particular. It seems liberty has similarly declined with increasing government control of our lives. Law dictates we wear a seatbelt when driving. Our first car with seatbelts was a 1959 Ford station wagon. I thought they were really cool. Later when I drove that car myself I always wore my seatbelt because it kept me from sliding across the seat when taking corners faster than I should.

Government does not seem content with protecting us from ourselves on the road. It wants to dictate the foods we eat, the lightbulbs we burn, the kinds of cars we drive, how much water our toilets use, and countless nit-picking things Americans used to think were none of government's business. Under the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, every company that employs 50 or more must provide health insurance. Individuals who do not receive health insurance through work or government must purchase insurance or face a fine (administered by the IRS). The insurance provided or purchased must meet the government's standard for "proper" insurance—mental health benefits, drug and alcohol rehab, prescription drugs, dental and vision care for children and a "host of other services ... you may not want... [and which] may make your insurance more expensive" (Michael Tanner, "Misconception," *New York Post*, February 18, 2012).

The fly that recently popped up in the ointment is a mandate that reproductive services (a euphemism for contraceptives, sterilization services, and abortifacants —RU 486, "the morning-after pill" and ella, "the week-after pill") be covered. No exceptions were allowed for religious groups morally opposed to abortion. The mandate directly conflicts with the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom from undue governmental interference. The government proposed an "accommodation" that said those groups would not have to pay for those services but their insurers would be forced to cover them at their own expense. (The rule published in the *Federal Register* after the President's statement *does not* contain that accommodation.) Many religious groups are self-insured, like Guidestone, the SBC's medical care provider. The "accommodation" would require Guidestone to cover abortifacants, which the SBC has consistently opposed.

If researchers suddenly discovered that wearing a headscarf (*hijab*) were detrimental to women's health, what would be the response if it were banned under this law? Would the ACLU jump in to fight the law? Where are the voices of toleration and freedom when Christians are in the bulls-eye? They are oddly silent.

Under the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, the government can apparently mandate just about anything it chooses that it deems related to health. So what does this have to do with Presidents Day? George Washington in his *Farewell Address* wrote, "The spirit of encroachment tends to consolidate the powers of all the departments [of government] in one, and thus to create whatever the form of government, a real despotism. A just estimate of that love of power, and proneness to abuse it, which predominates in the human heart is sufficient to satisfy us of the truth of this position." Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, can not long retain it" (*Letter to Henry L. Pierce, et al*, April 6, 1859). On this Presidents Day, we cannot say we were not warned by those whose birthdays we celebrate.

—Gary.

Photo by Ed Lamb



Bradleys' grandson Quinn —*continued health concerns*



- Glenda Anderson—*health*
  - Rosan Bush—*health*
  - Friend of Larry Bradley—*health*
  - Shirley Craig—*health*
  - Alberta Darks's neighbor—*cancer*
  - Mark Handley's grandmother
  - Carol Handley's sister Linda—*health*
  - Huong Ho—rotator cuff surgery/rehab
  - Claud and Verda Holland's grandson, Barry—*health*
  - Willie & Julia Huntley—*health*
  - Danny & Tina Imhoff—*health and school*
  - Carol Kimberlin—*health*
  - Danielle Kuykendall's mother—*health*
  - Marge Long—*strength*
  - Friends of Bill Long—*cancer*
  - Maxwell family in Michigan—*wholeness*
  - Diane McConnell—*chemo/healing*
  - Xander Moore—*grace, strength, healing*
  - Pinky Porterfield—*health*
  - Jo Ann Ridley—*health/peace*
  - Dareck Smith—*well-being*
  - Deidra Stevens—*brain cancer*
  - Ray Squyres—*health*
  - Chris Vass—*health issue*
  - Jack White—*Afghanistan duty*
- Unspoken requests and SBC Missionaries*

### **Our Military:**

Devon Brandenburg; Pastor's nephews—Ed, Chris, Charlie, Beau; Sandy Carpenter's grandchildren; Heather McEver Smith & Tommy; Handley's grandson Dakota; Jack White—Rob Hoel's stepson; Families and soldiers of 45th Infantry; military families

### **Our Shut-ins:**

Kay Bohn, Bob & Irene Brumbaugh, Bill Daniel, Lester Hearn (Ranchwood Village), James Martin (Forest Glade), Carl Tuter

**OKLAHOMA BAPTIST MESSENGER ONLINE:**

<http://www.baptistmessenger.com>

## February Birthdays

- 22 Bill Hixon
- 23 Willis Bottger
- 26 Christina Vass
- 27 Becca Rocco
- 28 JoAnn Ridley

## February Calendar

- 25 Central Oklahoma Alzheimer's Caregivers meeting in the Fellowship Hall, 10 AM

## Welcome New Member—

### Profession of Faith and Baptism

Emma Realey



## Baptismal Service

Since the pastor was sick and not able to be here on our previously established date for baptizing, we will be observing the ordinance of baptism in the morning service on March 4.

## Presidents Day Quotations—

"Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, Religion and morality are indispensable supports. In vain would that man claim the tribute of Patriotism who should labour to subvert these great Pillars of human happiness, these firmest props of the duties of Men and citizens. The mere Politician, equally with the pious man ought to respect and to cherish them. A volume could not trace all their connections with private and public felicity" (George Washington, *Farewell Address*).

"I believe each individual is naturally entitled to do as he pleases with himself and the fruits of his labor, so far as it in no wise interferes with any other man's rights" (Abraham Lincoln, *Letter to J. M. Brockman*, Sept. 25, 1860).

What constitutes the bulwark of our liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling sea-coasts—these are not our reliance against tyranny. Our reliance is in the love of liberty, which God has planted in our bosom. Our defence is in the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men .... Destroy this spirit and you have planted the seeds of despotism around your own door" (Abraham Lincoln, *Speech at Edwardsville, Il*, Sept. 11, 1858).

## Stewardship

Budget Receipts:	02/12/12	\$1,862.50
Required:		\$3,106.42
<b>Under:</b>		<b>\$1,243.92</b>
TAB:		\$30.00
Gideons:		\$345.50



Budget Receipts:	02/19/12	\$6,529.61
Required:		\$3,106.42
Over:		\$3,423.19
TAB:		\$25.00

## Volunteers for February 26

### Opening/Closing—G. Adams

Nursery AM—Lynda

PM—Connie

Ushers—Hill, K Imhoff, CH Kuykendall (need one)

## Guess Who?

Can you identify the people in the picture to the right? This picture came to me from Lester Hearn's collection via her son-in-law Dale Allen.

The notation on the back of this picture says "Mrs. Anderson, Roberta Coate and her baby." I assume the baby is Jeanie, which would mean the photo is from 1944 or 1945.

