



# Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."*-Ecclesiastes 12:13



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**VOLUME 29  
NUMBER 27**

**JULY 3, 2022**

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### **SHEPHERDS**

*Lee Fisher  
Zachary Petties*

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### **DEACONS**

*Roger Deem  
Paul Portley  
Gaylen Williams*

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### **PREACHER**

*Phil McIntosh*

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### **TREASURER**

*Gaylen Williams*

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### **MONTHLY SUPPORT:**

*Cherokee Home  
For Children  
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &  
Family Services  
Abilene, TX*

*Foster's Home  
For Children  
Stephenville, TX*

*Sunny Glen  
Children's Home  
San Benito, TX*

### **SERVICE SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - 9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM



### **A Fireworks Display By Phil McIntosh**



Twice a year in Texas, you will see recreational vehicles parked next to small, white, rectangular shaped buildings. These building have hinged door flaps that open upward and accommodate anyone with a few dollars to stand and purchase something that will either light up the night sky; scare neighbors; sparkle and mesmerize; or make sounds that crackle, pop, or burst. Most people (unless you have an auditory or sensory issue which prevents it) enjoy fireworks displays. The colors and shapes they create, the sounds they project, and the overall experience is indescribable. How many other things can make a collective group of people quietly watch and make the obligatory, if not involuntary, "ooh" and "ahh" sounds?

Perhaps one might assume fireworks are an American invention. I mean, we invented the "red, white, and blue" right? Fireworks are synonymous with the explosion of the "rockets red glare" in our country's anthem. When Americans celebrate something, they celebrate it with explosives, bright lights, and ear-popping sound. Could you imagine the sheer number of fireworks and monies that are expended during these times of year in America? In 2018, the American Pyrotechnics Association said that Americans spend more than one billion dollars on fireworks (yes, billion). That amounts to approximately 268 million pounds of fireworks; Americans truly "go big or go home." However, it is believed the firecrackers have been around even since BC era, when someone in China discovered that throwing a bamboo stalk into a fire created a bang. Likewise, it was China where history indicates the first man-made fireworks began, somewhere between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The more modern iterations of fireworks were shot off in Europe beginning in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with Italy making a name for itself as the first Europeans to engage in the production of fireworks for show and enjoyment.

We as a people are easily amused. We are easily entranced by things that are bright, shiny, loud, and beautiful. Fireworks fit the bill for all those things. It is easy to imagine a group of people gathering with their folding chairs, on tailgates, and, today with their cell phones out, anxiously anticipating the beginning of the fireworks display. If only people had half as much fascination with the final fireworks display as the one their local city officials will light up on July 4<sup>th</sup>. By the "final fireworks display" I am referencing the end of the world as we know it. The Bible tells us that one day, the terrestrial and celestial elements of God's creation will cease to exist. Peter wrote, regarding what will happen on that fateful day, and said:

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, <sup>12</sup>looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." -2 Peter 3:10-13

God created this world to serve a purpose. Once the purpose of a created thing has been fulfilled, it is done away with (*Gal. 3:24-25; Heb. 8:13*). Jesus told His disciples that there would be a day (the timing of which only God knows) wherein the world would be emptied of people, the created world itself would cease to exist, and mankind would be judged (*Mk. 13:31-33; Matt. 25:31-33*). Jesus said that He was going to "prepare a place" for His followers and that He would come again someday and take them wherever He was (*Jn. 14:2-3*). Paul wrote that, when the end comes, those who were in Christ would "meet the Lord in the air" and always be with Him (*1 Thess. 4:14-18*). The current residence of Jesus is Heaven (*Heb. 9:24*) and the eternal residence of Jesus is Heaven, with His Father, and those who have had their sins washed in the blood of the Lamb and whose names are in the Book of Life (*Rev. 21:1-22:5*). Before the judgment, when mankind and the physical earth are still living, there exists a time of immense importance! It is within this period that all who have been created by God and have chosen to sin can find forgiveness and salvation. The grace and mercy of God extend to everyone the grand blessing of salvation; but this invitation will no longer be available when the world ends. As of now, the door through man must walk to find eternal life stands open (*Jn. 14:6*). Walk through that door before the final fireworks display begins and the door is shut.

Since the universe, and everything in it, will be burned up one day, and since no human being can possibly know when that day will be, we are exhorted by Peter to prepare. The text in 2 Peter 3 could be boiled down in a single phrase to "get ready and stay ready." There is a promise of a new place of residence. There is a promise of a place of peace, devoid of pain and death, in the very presence of the Lord and the Father (*2 Pet. 3:13*). The pursuit of this promise is worth whatever is expended during our time on earth to ensure we can receive it on that day and for eternity (*Rev. 21:4*).

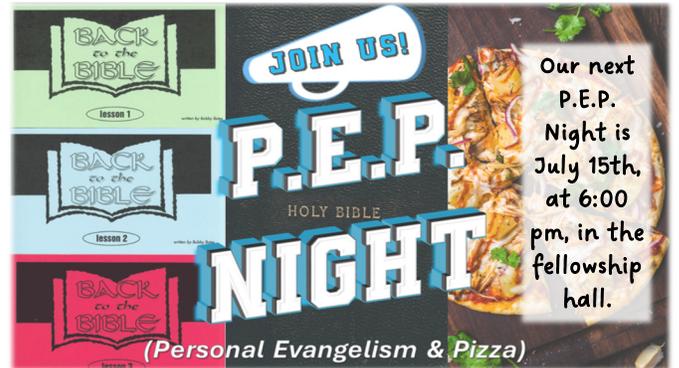
## OUT OF WEAKNESS WE ARE MADE STRONG

Shepherds Notes by Lee Fisher

We read in the book of Acts where the early church was working hard to grow itself and serve others in the face of much opposition. The apostles suffered many trials and persecutions, Peter even was told that he would deny Christ three times (John 18:38) and also Jesus said to him, *"O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"* (Matt 14: 29-31). But in Acts chapter (5:12-32), we see a different Peter, one full of spiritual Growth, a faithful, confident, dedicated and determined apostle in the face of uncertainty and difficult times. Solomon's Porch was the gathering place for believers in Jerusalem and they were *"all in one accord"*, in other words, one mind, one purpose, unity. The Holy Spirit was with Peter and the apostles in a very powerful way! Through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were given to confirm God's word, (vs.14-16). Think of it! Multitudes were increasingly added to the Lord. And if that wasn't enough more multitudes gathered from the surrounding cities of Jerusalem and not only the sick but those who were tormented by unclean spirits as well, and they were all healed! When things are going well and God is being Glorified, Satan always comes on the scene looking to destroy (1 Pet 5:8). *"Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation"*. Anger or extreme anger, mingled with contempt, disgust was in the Jewish leaders' hearts. The apostles were arrested by the high priest and Sadducees for preaching God's Word (Acts 5:17-18). After the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and they were released from prison, the apostles immediately started preaching Jesus again (Acts 5:19-21). The apostles were arrested again and told not to preach in the name of Jesus (Acts 5:27-28). Peter and the apostles responded by proclaiming the fundamental principle of why we are Christians he also said; *"We must obey God rather than men"* (Acts 5:29). Initially, the Sanhedrin wanted to kill the apostles in response to this statement (Acts 5:33), but after some thoughtful reasoning, they beat the apostles and warned them that they should not speak in the name of Jesus any more, (Acts 5:34-40). After the apostles were beaten and warned, they left rejoicing, that's right? rejoicing because they were considered worthy to suffer shame for the name of Jesus (Acts 5:41). Peter and the apostles may have started their walk with Christ, and made many mistakes but they overcame their weaknesses and grew stronger from their mistakes. By example they showed us that nothing was going to stand in their way of accomplishing God's will. Brothers and Sisters sometimes I think as Christians it seems like everything affects us. Where's the dedication? I know trials of life are real and painful and no one

wants to go through them. But do not let the least little thing keep us from serving God or assembling with the saints. The challenges of life that we go through should help us to build Faith, not take it away. We may not have the same tests of our Faith as the apostles did, for example, they preached under the constant threat of loss of life and beatings that were painful and bloody, but we experience sickness that never seems to go away, loss of loved ones, loneliness, marriage problems, divorce, children issues, employment, money issues and so much more. All these things can be like a dripping faucet, chipping away at our faith. But *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"* (Rom 8:35).

Trust in God! Hold on! In Christian Love Bro Lee



Our next  
P.E.P.  
Night is  
July 15th,  
at 6:00  
pm, in the  
fellowship  
hall.

BACK to the BIBLE  
Lesson 1

BACK to the BIBLE  
Lesson 2

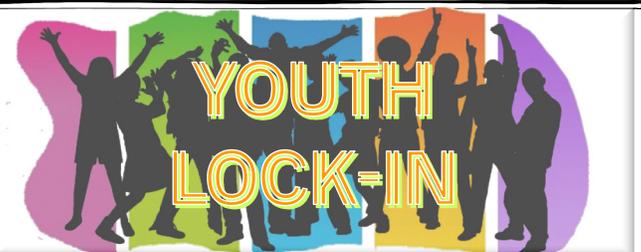
BACK to the BIBLE  
Lesson 3

JOIN US!

P.E.P.  
NIGHT  
(Personal Evangelism & Pizza)

## YOUTH DEVOTIONAL

Join us for our Youth Devotional on Sunday, July 17th, at 5:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Please bring finger foods!



Join the fun at our Youth Lock-In on July 29th, from 7:00 pm-7:00 am, in the fellowship hall. There will be lessons, singing, games, & junk food. Invite your friends!  
If any members would like to help chaperone, please see Gaylen or Phil for details.



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MILITARY & D.O.D. CIVILIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Michael Rogers is away for training.
- Jessica Rogers is currently deployed to Kuwait.
- Tracy Wilson's son, Zane is in the class portion of flight school.
- Kingsford Asare is training until August.

### PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Michelle McIntosh's cousin Nikki has ovarian cancer and is hospitalized with severe complications from her treatments.
- Zack Petties' sister, Shena, has Covid.
- Josephine Spear' sister, Rose, & a pregnant family member have Covid.
- Wayne Ellis' caregiver's child has Covid and is asthmatic.

### CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND:

Aaronique Turner, Roger & Linda Deem, Gary & Shirl Foster, Rodney Carter's daughter (Kaylyn) & mother-in-law (Betty Martin), Joyce Brown's sister (Janet Simmons), Donna Hines' niece (April), Willard Jack Dunn, Marcella Williams, Wayne Ellis, David Hamrick, Tracy Wilson's mother (Ruth Hyde), Adam Zak, Temesha Lawal's mother (Cassandra Watson) & step-mother (Stephanie), Jim Dukes & his niece's husband, Joyce Brown's nephew (Jon-Jon Simmons), James Seay, Martha Chafin, Beverly Williams' aunt (Dorothy Sauls) & neighbor (Nina Rudnick), Tim Matter & his brother (Michael), James Garner & his wife (Tammy) & family, Josephine Spear & her sister (Rose) & friend (Iris), Linda Deem's nephew, Tanja & Tiffany Arch, Julia Jones' cousin (Larry Sanford) & daughter (Judy Seales), Amanda Petties' brother (Anthony Allen) & sister (Jewel), Rufus Brown, Marcella Williams' brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford), Shirl Foster, Martha Bell's sister, Julie Odum & her mother (Sharon Schmidt), Nada Miller, Lois Brown, Cheryl Flores' brother-in-law (Raymond Flores), Billye Hughes, Mary McAnally's sister (Ann Ahrens), Gladys Driver, Archie & Jessie Turner, and Linda Wals. Please keep these members & loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

**SYMPATHY:** We wish to extend our sympathy to Joseph Cox, on the passing of his wife, Esther Cox, in May. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** The office will be closed on Monday, July 4th, for the Independence Day holiday.

**SUNNY GLEN CHILDREN'S HOME DRIVE:** Our Sunny Glen Children's Home Drive is underway through July 10th. The items requested are: ketchup, mustard, mayo, kid's cereal, mashed potato mix, and Hamburger Helper. A take-home list is posted in the foyer and the items can be placed below it.

**SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE:** We are collecting school supplies through July 24. These items can be placed in the foyer.

**FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON:** Join us for our next Fellowship Luncheon on Sunday, July 10th, following the morning service. Please bring casseroles, meat dishes, vegetables, and desserts. Kitchen Group #1 will have kitchen duty (Brenda Sellers, Martha Bell, Lois Brown, Amanda Petties, & Victoria Polanco).

## Our Speaker Today Is Matthew Gibson



*We want to especially welcome our visitors!  
If you are visiting, please fill out an attendance card from the back of the pew directly in front of you, and drop it in offering box as you leave. Thank you for your visit and please join us again!*

### BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

- ⇒ Bible Studies With Our Preacher Or Elders
- ⇒ Free Bible Correspondence
- ⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

*To our visitors—Thank you for being with us today, and please come again!*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**ZACK PETTIES (elder):** [zpetties@yahoo.com](mailto:zpetties@yahoo.com)

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## ☪ JULY CALENDAR ☪

- 4-Office will be closed in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
- 10-Fellowship Luncheon: Kitchen Group #1 will have kitchen duty (Brenda Sellers, Martha Bell, Lois Brown, Amanda Petties, & Victoria Polanco).
- 10-Sunny Glen Food Drive ends.
- 15-P.E.P. Night at 6:00, in the fellowship hall.
- 16-Men's Bowling at 12:00, at Hallmark Lanes.
- 17-Youth Devotional, 5:00, in the fellowship hall.
- 24-School Supply Drive ends.
- 20-Singing class at 6:00, in the auditorium.
- 29-Youth Lock-In 7:00 pm-7:00 am, in the fellowship hall.
- 31-Aug.3 Vacation Bible School, from 6:00-7:30.

