



# 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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### ***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

## **Sheep Keepers- Why Christians Leave the Church**

*Shepherd's Notes by Lee Fisher*



*The shepherd drives the wolf from the Christians' throat, for which the Christians thanks the shepherd as his liberator, while the wolf denounces him for the same act as the destroyer of liberty. Plainly, the Christians and the wolf are not agreed upon a definition of liberty.....Abraham Lincoln*

Although President Lincoln was referring to a more tragic event in our nation's History, his point was well made. Liberty sometimes is seen with very different points of view. History takes us beyond our natural shortsightedness and pride. It becomes a source of warning, and encouragement. I read this, that many members think of the twenty-third psalm as the "Shepherd's psalm." There is another chapter we could rightly think of as the "shepherds' chapter." Ezekiel 34:1-6 addresses the responsibility of Israel's shepherds—to look back on it today helps us all see why some Christians leave the church. Some leave because they are spiritual sick. The cause of spiritual sickness is not always made known, but members leave the Lord because of personal problems, which makes it so hard for them to grow spiritually. Thinking back, I have noticed that it can easily happen to new Christians, it also impacts those who have been in the faith for years.

That's the nature of sin, it brings sickness, and it always ends in death and if not repented of forever being separated from GOD. The word "broken" may indicate a more sudden onset of "sickness" *The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.* (Matt. 13:20-21) ..." Jesus described the seed as the person who "...hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, but are unable to stand up to life challenges, tribulation or even persecution because of the word, and they stumble. Sin is powerful, and it can easily break the spirit of any of us!

Some leave because they are driven away. All of us in the church have a responsibility toward each other to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). It is tragic when Christians who have been in the faith for some time, either use their words the wrong way or just do not say anything at all to new and struggling members it may drive them away from the body. Ezekiel described them as those who "...have pushed with side and shoulder, butted all the weak ones with your horns and scattered them abroad" (34:21). While thinking their actions are justified, many Christians come under the judgment of Christ who said, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe to stumble, it would better for him if, with a heavy millstone hung around his neck, he had been cast into the sea" (Mark 9:42). One word of encouragement goes a very long way!

Also, some leave because they love the world. While this is not specifically mentioned by Ezekiel, this truth is shown simply by seeing the attraction that sin must have to those who have returned to the sinful world after their salvation "If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning" (2 Pet. 2:20).

Finally, Paul speaks of how evil companions corrupt the godly. Some are not willing to seek new friends in His Church. Each of us has a God-given responsibility to the rest of us. Whenever you see a brother or sister beginning to stumble, you cannot sit idly by and watch it happen. We have the great Shepherd who leads us and watches over us, but we must each feel a personal obligation to all of those in his body.

Bro Lee





**CHURCH COMMUNICATION:**  
Please check your email for the  
Monday Morning Message!

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2 - LUKE MARTIN  
3 - RUFUS BROWN  
5 - JADEN SEAY  
9 - AL WILSON  
9 - RALPH HUGHART  
18 - BRUCE BROWN  
23 - JODI CULP  
27 - TONI MENDEZ  
30 - ALFREDA PETTAWAY

### January Nursery Schedule

†Brenda Sellers  
8-Josephine Spear  
15-Nichole Williams  
22-Amanda Petties  
29-Natalie Fisher  
\*Substitute or Assist:  
Victoria Polanco

\*We are in need of  
more ladies to help in  
the nursery. If you  
would like to be on  
the nursery list,  
please contact the  
office. Thank you!

### January Cleaning Calendar

- May be done any time before the next Sunday.
- Please consult with your team leader for further questions.

1-TEAM ZACK Amanda Diedre Paul Ruby	15-TEAM PHIL Michelle Beverly Josephine Yvonne Lois Marcella	29-TEAM ROGER Patrick Brenda Linda
8-TEAM JAMES Kim-Marie Xavier Jaden Kingsford Barbara	22-TEAM LEE Natalie Derek Ken Tim	

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2023:**

- ♦ANNOUNCEMENTS: TIM MATTER
- ♦1ST PRAYER: REGGIE BASS
- ♦SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦SCRIPTURE READING: IVAN MCINTOSH
- ♦SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦SERMON: PHIL MCINTOSH
- ♦INVITATION SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦SONG BEFORE COMMUNION:  
PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦COMMUNION:  
ANDRÉ PETTAWAY & GIANNI GRIFFITH
- ♦SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦OFFERING:  
ANDRÉ PETTAWAY & GIANNI GRIFFITH
- ♦CLOSING SONG: PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦CLOSING PRAYER: BILL RAWLINGS
- ♦AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- ♦SECURITY: TIM MATTER & ROGER DEEM
- ♦NURSERY: NICHOLE WILLIAMS

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

**“Calvinism: Pillar 1”  
Psalm 51:3-7**

- “<sup>3</sup> For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is  
ever before me.*
- <sup>4</sup> Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil  
in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou  
speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.*
- <sup>5</sup> Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my  
mother conceive me.*
- <sup>6</sup> Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in  
the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.*
- <sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me,  
and I shall be whiter than snow.”*

