



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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The Theology of Potluck

by Wes McAdams



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SHEPHERDS

*Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties*

DEACONS

*Roger Deem
Paul Portley
Gaylen Williams*

PREACHER

Phil McIntosh

TREASURER

Gaylen Williams

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 AM WORSHIP - 10:30 AM
SUNDAY PM WORSHIP - 5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM

The word "potluck" means exactly what it seems to mean, a meal of chance. You reach into the "pot" to retrieve some food, not really knowing what you may find, because the dish was prepared by someone else. Personally, I think the best potlucks are church potlucks; table after table filled with casserole dishes, crockpots, and pie plates. Not only are potlucks incredibly enjoyable, they actually reflect good theology. Here are some lessons the church can learn from a potluck.

Potlucks Reflect the Mutual Generosity of the Church

We have probably all experienced a poor potluck. A poor potluck is one to which multiple families simply bring a 2-liter of Coke or a bag of chips (when they have the means to bring much more). At a poor potluck, the older ladies are typically wringing their hands and whispering to their husbands, "You may need to go to the store for more food."

Let's not focus on poor potlucks, but on ideal potlucks. An ideal potluck is one to which most families bring more than enough food to feed their entire family. These families show up not to be fed, but to feed others. When everyone shows up with selfless generosity no one goes away hungry, even those who can't afford to bring much food.

This is precisely the way the church should function; not just at a potluck meal, but day in and day out. Our attitude should be that of Jesus. Christians should "look not only to [our] own interests but also to the interests of others" (Philippians 2:4). We should desire "not to be served but to serve" (Mark 10:45). We should generously offer as much as we can possibly afford to share.

When the whole church lives this way, we experience the same phenomenon the early church experienced, "There was not a needy person among them" (Acts 4:34). The abundance of the wealthy supplies the needs of the poor, "that there might be fairness" (2 Corinthians 8:14) and no one goes away hungry.

Potlucks Reflect the Hospitable Nature of the Church

The Greek word that we translate "hospitality" (see Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2) is "philoxenia." It is a combination of the words, "phileō" (love) and "xenos" (stranger). Real hospitality is about taking care of strangers. Notice that "philoxenia" shares a root word with, "xenophobia," (fear of strangers). Hospitality is the exact opposite of xenophobia.

Good potlucks leave everyone feeling like family (even if they wandered in from the street). Each member prepares a dish, hoping it will be shared with a complete stranger. Strangers, of course, bring nothing to the table and don't even know they are going to be invited; but they leave as well-fed as anyone else. Every stranger should leave overwhelmed by the "hospitality" of the potluck table.

This generosity towards strangers should not be limited to potlucks, but should our practice every day. Followers of Jesus should be looking for opportunities to do good to people who cannot return the favor. Here is what Jesus says about this sort of hospitality:

"When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just." (Luke 14:12-14)

Potlucks Reflect the Diverse Nature of the Church

Next to running out of food, one of the worst things that can happen at a potluck is that everyone brings exactly the same thing. It's not much of a meal when everyone brings fried chicken and no one brings side dishes. Good meals consist of a variety of foods.

Isn't wonderful when a potluck is multiethnic? Don't you love when families of different ethnicities bring dishes that reflect their unique background, culture, and heritage. Everyone present has the opportunity to expand their palate by trying foods they haven't tried before. You really get to know someone when you eat the food their mother used to make.

I have never met someone who thinks a potluck would be better if there was only one type of food. No one ever dumps all the food into one large pot and mixes it together before serving. And we do not look at the potluck table and say, "We're going to try to overlook all of the differences here today and focus on what this food has in common." No, we all understand that diversity is one of the greatest highlights of a potluck meal.

The same is true in every aspect of the church, diversity is one of the greatest highlights. Rather than being a "melting pot," the church should focus on being like a potluck. We should recognize and celebrate the ethnic diversity of the people Jesus has brought to his table, people "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). The diversity of people at Jesus' table is a source of his glory and honor.

Conclusion

Let's strive to not only have potluck, but to be like a potluck. The church should be a gathering of diverse people, submitting all of their uniqueness to the "common good" (1 Corinthians 12:7). Everyone should have a burning desire to serve our brothers and sisters, but also a desire to serve the outsider and the stranger (Galatians 6:10). We should all make room for one another, just as Jesus made room for us (Romans 15:7).

I love you and God loves you,

Wes McAdams

McAdams, W. (2021, May 26). *The Theology of Potluck*. Radically Christian. Retrieved March 15, 2023, from <https://radicallychristian.com/the-theology-of-potluck/>



OUR GUEST SPEAKER:

Jesse Stuart is 33 years old and a 2nd year student at the Southwest school of Bible studies in Austin, TX. He is married to Holley Stuart and they have three kids: Avery (8- years old), Tate (4 years old), Caleb (14 months old). Before going to preaching school, Jesse worked with Union Pacific Railroad as a welder. He was a deacon at the Natalia Church of Christ, in Natalia, TX. He would fill in preaching on occasions for the preacher in Natalia, and decided he wanted to grow his knowledge in the Scriptures to serve the Kingdom of God more.

Join us for a fun filled

Family Bunco Night



Friday 24th March

7pm - 9pm

Friends-Fun-Prizes

Everyone
Welcome

In fellowship hall
Of church building

Bring fav
Snack
to share

R.S.V.P. with Gaylen or Nichole by calling or texting 254-258-1571

LADIES FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY:
Creta Bales is hosting a craft activity at her home on Friday, March 31st, at 6:00 pm. The cost is \$5 per person. Please sign up on the ladies' board and pay Creta by March 20th.

SHEEP KEEPERS PROGRAM

Members, please sign up to be a sheep keeper on the information board. The Sheep Keepers program will be a visiting program to encourage visitors, delinquent members, widows & widowers, and new converts.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2-MARY MCANALLY
- 10-MARTHA CHAFIN
- 11-GARY FOSTER
- 13-COREY CULVER
- 13-GIANNI GRIFFITH
- 17-ANDRÉ PETTAWAY
- 27-SHARON MARTIN
- 28-DIANE LINGLE
- 30-DONNA MCCLENAN-WEAVER

March Nursery Schedule

- Feb. 26-Gayle Wilson & Victoria Polanco
- 5-Natalie & Brianna
- 12-Brenda & Josephine
- 19-Nichole & Victoria
- 26-Gayle & Amanda

*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!

March Cleaning Calendar

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

Feb. 26-TEAM LEE Natalie Derek Ken Tim	12-TEAM ZACK Amanda Diedre Paul Ruby	26-TEAM PHIL Michelle Beverly Josephine Yvonne Lois Marcella
5-TEAM ROGER Patrick Brenda Linda	19-TEAM JAMES Kim-Marie Xavier Jaden Kingsford Barbara	

ORDER OF SERVICE
SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023:

- ♦ANNOUNCEMENTS: TIM MATTER
- ♦1ST PRAYER: ZACK PETTIES
- ♦SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦SCRIPTURE READING: MICHAEL ROGERS
- ♦SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦SERMON: JESSE STUART
- ♦INVITATION SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦SONG BEFORE COMMUNION: REGGIE BASS
- ♦COMMUNION:
ANDRÉ PETTAWAY & ROGER DEEM
SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦OFFERING: ANDRÉ PETTAWAY & ROGER DEEM
- ♦CLOSING SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ♦CLOSING PRAYER: KEITH RUMMEL
- ♦AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- ♦SECURITY: ROGER DEEM, RUFUS BROWN, & SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦NURSERY:
NICHOLE WILLIAMS & VICTORIA POLANCO

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Sunday AM “How to be a Successful Fisher Man”
Luke 5:8-11.**

- ⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.
- ⁹ For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:
- ¹⁰ And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.
- ¹¹ And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”

**Sunday PM “It’s Time to Wake Up”
Romans 13:11-14**

- ¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.
- ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.
- ¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
- ¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

-Tracy Wilson's son, Zane, is in the final phase of flight school and is training to be a pilot on a Blackhawk.

-Sara Rummel's son, Bryan Johns, is in Marine boot camp.

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tim Matter's friend, Joe, who is in Saudi Arabia is recovering from open heart surgery Saturday.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME

BOUND: Martha Bell's sister (Betty); Gladys Driver & her daughter (Vicky); Toni Mendez's son (Brad Deshoutel), & his children; Shirley Wooten; Ken Sellers; Adam Zak; Josephine Spear, her sisters (Rose & Patricia), brother-in-law (Kent), neighbors (Clinton & Phyllis), & friend (Iris); The McIntosh's family friend (Bryan Christmas); Victoria Polanco's nephew (Christopher); Alexis Gaither's father & friends (John & Marion Slaughter); Lesa Crockett; Sara Rummel's friend's father (Jose Gonzalez), & best friend's father (Mike Romeo); Ivan McIntosh's friend (Brandon); Creta Bales' cousin (Terry Jackson); Brenda Sellers' mother; Cheryl Flores' aunt (Joy); David Hamrick; James Garner's wife (Tammy), & his mother; Donna Hines' stepmother (Darla), & niece (April Miller); Bill Rawlings & his mother; Beverly Williams' sister-in-law (Cindy Fisher); Jim Dukes & his family; former members (David Chapman), (Connie Cruz), and (Bobbie Knight); Michelle McIntosh's cousin (Nikki); Gary & Shirl Foster; Jon-Jon Simmons, Willard Jack Dunn; Tracy Wilson's mother (Ruth Hyde); Tim Matter's wife (Elda) & brother (Michael); Linda Deem's nephew; Tanja Arch & her family; Amanda Petties' sister (Jewel), & nieces (Carrington & Moneisha), & sister-in-law; Rufus Brown; Marcella Williams & brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford); Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmidt); Nada Miller; Billye Hughes; Jessie Turner; & Linda Walts.

SYMPATHY: We wish to extend our sympathy to James Seay and his family on the recent loss of his sister. Please keep the family in your prayers.

CHEROKEE HOME FOR CHILDREN DRIVE: We are collecting the following items for the Cherokee Home for Children through April 30th: pop tarts, cereal, paper plates, paper towels, and toilet tissue. The items can be placed in the foyer under the sign. Thank you!

Our Speaker Today Is Jesse Stuart

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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

LEE FISHER (elder): fisherfam79@gmail.com

PHIL McINTOSH (pulpit minister):

kcofcpreacher@gmail.com

Office: 254-634-7373 or email us at: kcofc@hotmail.com

☞MARCH CALENDAR☞

22,29-Ladies Bible class at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.

24-Bunco Night on Friday, March 24th, starting at 7:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Please RSVP with Gaylen or Nichole Williams.

31-Ladies activity at the home of Creta Bales at 6:00 pm. Please sign up on the ladies' board and pay by March 20th (the cost is \$5).

☞APRIL CALENDAR☞

1-Men's Breakfast & Grounds Cleanup beginning at 8:30 am, in the fellowship hall.

2-Fellowship Luncheon following the morning worship. Kitchen Group #1 will have kitchen duties: Brenda Sellers, Martha Bell, Lois Brown, Amanda Petties, Vicky Polanco, & Marina Scott.