



# Killeen Church of Christ



**VOLUME 26  
NUMBER 48**

**DECEMBER 22 & 29, 2019**

## **SHEPHERDS**

**Boyce Edwards  
Lee Fisher  
Zachary Petties**

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## **DEACONS**

*Roger Deem  
Dennis Marler  
Gaylen Williams*

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## **PREACHERS**

*Dan Carter  
Boyce Edwards*

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## **TREASURER**

*Trevor Heilman*

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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*

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY**

BIBLE CLASSES \_\_\_\_\_ 9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ 10:30 A.M.

EVENING WORSHIP \_\_\_\_\_ 5:00 P.M.

### **WEDNESDAY**

CLASSES/DEVOTIONAL \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00 P.M.

*"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*

## **Keeping Christ in Christmas**

by Jack Wilkie

It's kind of weird, in an entertaining way, to watch the religious world battle over Christmas. There is the "Jesus is the reason for the season" crowd, who make sure that Christ is at the center of every mention of Christmas. There is the "historical" crowd, who are quick to point out that Jesus was not, in fact, born on December 25th and so the day has nothing to do with Him. And, there is the "peace keeping" crowd who remind everyone that it doesn't matter what you celebrate it as.

All three groups have good intentions, and all three are right in their own way. I appreciate the zeal for Christ shown by the first group, the historical accuracy of the second group, and the hearts of the third group to appeal to Romans 14 and maintain unity.

But should we really care whether December 25th holds importance to Christians today or if people are wrong to say that it does? Or should we see it as one, big opportunity?

The world doesn't have five minutes for Jesus all year long and yet in December, it's okay to mention His name and talk about His time on earth. It doesn't matter how accurate or inaccurate someone's beliefs about Bethlehem and the manger might be according to me, what matters is that the door is opened to discuss Him in a way that I might not get to the other 11 months of the year. While December is often about gifts and time with family, Christians need to start to view it in another light, and that's as the time of the greatest opportunities for evangelism that we're going to get all year.

I know as well as any that it's very difficult to turn a conversation to Jesus, but it's a lot easier this time of year. Ask people what Jesus' birth means to them, ask them if they observe it with a church, ask them their favorite account of Jesus' life... come up with something to open a door that's far more cracked than it's going to be the rest of the year. Even with New Year's resolutions people will often aim to be more spiritual, read their Bible more, attend worship more often. One survey even found that 57% of people who don't regularly go to church are either "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to attend if invited around Christmas. FIFTY. SEVEN. PERCENT! Opportunities abound. Again, the point remains – do something.

You don't have to support Christmas as CHRISTmas to see that the fields are particularly white unto harvest this time of year. We live in a world where Jesus' name is everywhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and by New Year's Eve, he's completely forgotten again. Everyone wants to talk about the manger, few want to talk about the cross. I understand that, and I see the challenge that presents... but at least they're thinking about Him. It's our job to take that and use what they do know about Him to make them into disciples who see Him as He truly is. I've talked to Christians who are more concerned that the world has misunderstood December 25th than they are that those souls are lost. Our focus has to change.

The whole point of Jesus coming to earth, whether that occurred in December or not, was to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10) and to take our sins to the cross with Him (1 Peter 2:24). If people see that we'll go to great lengths to make sure "Merry Christmas" is used instead of "Happy Holidays" but don't see us caring about those around us, shame on us. If people learn from us that there weren't actually three wise men but don't come away understanding what Jesus' life means to them eternally, shame on us. Instead of worrying about the specific date or the details that have been misunderstood over time, let's use the chance given us to show people the entirety of who Jesus is and to follow His mission to reach them with His love.

Wilkie, Jack. "Keeping Christ in Christmas." *Focus Press*, Focus Press, 6 Dec. 2017, <https://www.focuspress.org/2014/12/17/keeping-christ-christmas/>.

***Our midweek devotional for the week of Dec. 22 will be Thursday, Dec. 26, @ 7:00 PM.  
The office will be closed Dec. 24-25, in observance of the Christmas holiday and Dec. 31 &  
Jan. 1 for the New Year holiday.***

***Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!***

*From the Desk of Dan Carter*

*Saying 'Goodbye'*



I am very tired. Saturday, I left home at 6 am, driving to San Antonio for the funeral service of a dear friend and brother in Christ. I got back at 4 pm. It was a very hard trip. Having to preach the next day, made it even more difficult. I am not as young as I used to be.

I said 'Good-bye' to a dear brother in Christ. Dr. Al Burden has been a friend for nearly 40 years. A better man I have never known. His Christian Life was outstanding.

Many have been the times that I have had to say good-bye to dear ones. I remember that the hardest time I had was when my grandfather passed. It hurt me so deeply. I was only 13 at the time.

Through the years, I have gone to the graves of many loved ones: Dad, Mother, Two Brothers, and, My Dear Wife.

The thing I must realize is that we are only here a short time. We are just 'passing-through.' Those who have died in Christ will be happy. Their race has been run. They have finished their course.

There was much sadness among the disciples at our Lord's death. No doubt, many tears were shed. His dear Mother was so grieved. Remember the death of Lazarus? The Sisters were weeping, and so did Christ. There is no shame in weeping. We should shed tears, but we need to remember the joy for loved ones in Christ. Recall the words of the Lord: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." And In Psalm 116:15, we read: "*Precious in the sight of God is the death of His saints.*"

Nevertheless, it hurts to say good-bye. With the blowing of 'Taps' my heart was touched. Dr. Burden was Retired Captain in the Army Reserves. It always touches me with the Folding Of The Flag, also.

Just remember this: 'Life is not made of day's pass through; Life is made of what we do--The thoughts we think, The words we say, this is what counts; it's not the days!'

I left here at 6 am, and returned home that afternoon at 4 pm. It was so good to see a number of dear ones and to say words at the service for a dear brother.

I have dear brethren in many places who have ask if I could please say words at their passing. Of course, I tell them that I will but also remind them that I might pass, first.

None of us know how long we will be here. Solomon, by inspiration said: 'There is a time to be born; there is a time to die.' And, Paul said: 'It is appointed unto man once to die, then comes the judgment.'

**❧ DECEMBER CALENDAR ❧**

**24 & 25**-Closed for the Christmas Holiday

**29**-School Supply Drive for Liberia ends.

**31**-Closed for New Year's Eve

**31**-New Year's Eve Fellowship: We will have a New Year's Eve Fellowship on December 31, from 6-8 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

**❧ JANUARY CALENDAR ❧**

**1**-Closed for New Year's Day

**4**-Men's Breakfast at 8:30 am, in the Killeen Golden Corral.

**12**-Fellowship Luncheon after morning service (Group #2 will have Kitchen duties: Judy Wall, Creta Bales, Linda Deem, Cheryl Flores, Yvonne Hardiman, Dennis & Sandra Marler, & Josephine Spear).

**18**-Ladies Breakfast & Workday, 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

**20**-Office will be closed in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

**THOSE TO SERVE THE WEEK OF  
DECEMBER 22, 2019:**

**PARKING LOT DUTY:** BRUCE BROWN

**HALL MONITOR:** ROGER DEEM

**AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS FOR DECEMBER:**  
PATRICK SELLERS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** DAN CARTER

**SONG DIRECTOR:** REGGIE BASS

**COMMUNION:**  
(NORTH) LEE FISHER, DERREL HEGINBOTHAM  
RUFAS BROWN, MICHAEL ROCKHOLD

(SOUTH) DENNIS MARLER, PAUL PORTLEY  
CHARLES CULVER, TYLER CUTTS

**SCRIPTURE READING:** MARVIN FLETCHER

**PICK UP CARDS:**  
COREY & CHASE CULVER

**PRAYERS:**  
(A.M.) ANDRE PETTAWAY, TREVOR HEILMAN  
(P.M.) GAYLEN WILLIAMS, DAN CARTER

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS (A.M.):**  
BRENDA SELLERS & NATALIE FISHER

**EVENING SONG DIRECTOR:** PAUL PORTLEY

**EVENING COMMUNION:**  
MARVIN FLETCHER, ROGER DEEM

**THURSDAY SONG LEADER (SINGING  
NIGHT):** GAYLEN WILLIAMS

**THURSDAY CLOSING PRAYER:**  
BOYCE EDWARDS

**PREPARE COMMUNION FOR DECEMBER:**  
DONNA HINES & BEVERLY WILLIAMS

**THOSE TO SERVE THE WEEK OF  
DECEMBER 29, 2019:**

**PARKING LOT DUTY:** JAMES GARNER

**HALL MONITOR:** MARVIN FLETCHER

**AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEMS FOR DECEMBER:**  
PATRICK SELLERS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** BOYCE EDWARDS

**SONG DIRECTOR:** GAYLEN WILLIAMS

**COMMUNION:**  
(NORTH) PAUL PORTLEY, REGGIE BASS  
CLAY CULVER, TAY HIGHTOWER

(SOUTH) ANDRE PETTAWAY, TREVOR HEILMAN  
RUFAS BROWN, SHAWN FORKEY

**SCRIPTURE READING:** TYLER CUTTS

**PICK UP CARDS:**  
RANGER SANDERS & ANDREW FORKEY

**PRAYERS:**  
(A.M.) BOYCE EDWARDS, ROGER DEEM  
(P.M.) TREVOR HEILMAN, JAMES GARNER

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS (A.M.):**  
JOSEPHINE SPEAR & VICTORIA POLANCO

**EVENING SONG DIRECTOR:** REGGIE BASS

**EVENING COMMUNION:**  
DERREL HEGINBOTHAM, ROGER DEEM

**WEDNESDAY SONG LEADER (SINGING NIGHT):**  
REGGIE BASS

**WEDNESDAY CLOSING PRAYER:**  
ZACK PETTIES

**PREPARE COMMUNION FOR DECEMBER:**  
DONNA HINES & BEVERLY WILLIAMS  
**PREPARE COMMUNION FOR JANUARY:**  
NATALIE FISHER

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

**MILITARY & CIVILIANS OVERSEAS:** Alyssa Halcomb & Cameron Reeves have deployed to Poland, Kingsford Asare has deployed to Kuwait, and Tim Matter is contracting in Kuwait. Please keep these members & their families in your prayers in your prayers.

**OUR SICK:** Paul & Rubye Portley have requested prayers for their daughter, Brittany. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Monica McLean has requested prayers for her son, Anthowan Burrell for depression, and also for Dick Sprouse who is undergoing heart testing. Please keep them in your prayers.

-Brenda Sellers' sister, Jessie Gilcrest, has been placed in a nursing care facility. Her address is posted on the south hallway bulletin board and would love greeting cards sent. Please keep her in your prayers.

-James Garner is recovering from the flu and is scheduled to have surgery on December 30th. Please keep him in your prayers.

-Donna Hines' mother, Clara Frost's pneumonia has reoccurred and is temporarily moved to room #310, at the Hill Country Nursing Facility, in Copperas Cove. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Doris Edwards is back in the Everest Rehabilitation Hospital, room #135, in Temple. Please keep her in your prayers.

-Former member, Jack Bigham has been moved to Indian Oaks Nursing Facility, room 120-A, in Harker Heights. Please keep him in your prayers.

-Former member, Marcella Murphy's daughter is awaiting a kidney transplant. Please keep her in your prayers.

**PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND:** Carl Nicholson, Lois Brown, Gayle Wilson, Esther Cox, Scott Davis, James Garner's wife (Tammy), Shawn Forkey, Jim Dukes, Natalie Fisher's mother (Odessa Dawkins), Linda Moore's mother (Alta Britton), Mary McAnally's son, former members (Rey & Connie Cruz) (Janet & John John Simmons) (Zack Knight), Diane Holubec, Martha Bell's sister, Skip & Tina Pallo and her son (Jeremy) and sisters (Cheryle & Jeanette), Willard Dunn, Jodi Culp & her sister (Catrina), Gail Mende & her son (Eric) & friend (Sue Worshim), Kathy Edwards, Brenda Sellers' mother, Carla Heginbotham's sister (Eileen Olson), Tanja & Natasha Arch, Gaylen Williams' co-worker (Cynthia), Tyler Cutts' grandfather, Julie Odum, Jean Basco, Heather Heilman's co-worker's son (Jordan Davis), Archie & Jessi Turner, Mary Ann Culp, William Odum & his father & uncle, David Shilling, Judy Wall's brother (Don Scott), Alice Allison, Garnie & Nada Miller, Linda Walts, and Shirl Foster. Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

**VISITATION TEAMS:** Visitation Teams will resume again the week of January 5.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE FELLOWSHIP:** We will have a New Year's Eve Fellowship on December 31, from 6-8 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite finger food and join us!

## WELCOME!

*\*Our speaker for today is  
Boyce Edwards.*

*\*Our speaker for December 29, will be  
Dan Carter.*

Please fill out an Attendance Card and pass it to the inner aisle so we may have a record of your attendance.

## Thank You!

### BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

⇒ Bible Studies With One Of Our Preachers Or Elders

⇒ Free Bible Correspondence

⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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

**LEE FISHER (elder):** fisherfam79@gmail.com

**BOYCE EDWARDS (elder):** bkedward@embarqmail.com

**DAN CARTER (pulpit minister):**

gospel1killeen@embarqmail.com

**Office:** 254-634-7373 or email us at:

kcofc@embarqmail.com

**\*SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR THE FORD-MADDEN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY IN LIBERIA HAS EXTENDED:** We are collecting school supplies to help the Ford-Madden Christian Academy in Monrovia, Liberia. These items may be placed in the foyer. The last day of collecting will be December 29.

\*For anyone wishing to sponsor a child or send a donation of support of the Liberian School talked about by brother Arthur David, please contact Zack Petties or Roger Deem as to where to send your donation.