



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*

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

Learn From God's Creatures

By Phil McIntosh



The elements which Almighty God can utilize to teach us is unlimited. In Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome he praised the "depth of the riches" of God's wisdom and knowledge, saying His ways are "past finding out" (**Rom 11:33**). When we describe God we use words like *omniscient* (all knowing) and *omnipotent* (all powerful). We look at our Bible and see rules, guidelines, instructions, commands, demands, warnings, and entreats; but that is not the totality of what God's Spirit inspired to be included in Holy Writ. When opening the Bible, one sees the origin of life, a purpose for living, birth, death, friendship, betrayal, love, hate, celebration, war, scheming, vindication, losing, gaining, and all the good parts and painful parts of life. God has given us what has been divided up into 66 books, each unique in content and approach in some fashion. Even the books that were penned multiple millennia before our modern time retain the power to change our lives for the better if we'll read them and learn the lesson.

Many a lesson can be learned from God's word by unexpected sources. One such unexpected source are the creatures God made, the animals that inhabit our world. Last week I wrote in relation to the lowly ant, directing attention to Proverbs 6 and God's intended lesson against idleness. Did you know that the ant is mentioned another time in the Bible? It's actually in the same book, the wisdom book of Proverbs. The ant there is the head of a four-member team, all serving to represent some application of wisdom (and seemingly ability). Read the verses from "Agur, son of Jakeh" (**Prov 30:1**):

"Four things are small on the earth,

But they are exceedingly wise:

²⁵The ants are not a strong people,

But they prepare their food in the summer;

²⁶The shephanim are not mighty people,

Yet they make their houses in the rocks;

²⁷The locusts have no king,

Yet all of them go out in ranks;

²⁸The lizard you may grasp with the hands,

Yet it is in kings' palaces."

-Proverbs 30:24-28 (NASB95)

Four things small, for things weak, four things easily harmed by enemies or even by human beings; yet they are "exceedingly wise" and have great abilities. Why do they have these great abilities? Hold onto that question for a minute. Let's first talk about the animals.

The Ant- This has been described as the "harvester ant" or by a technical name which essentially means "sand harvester." The harvester ant is quite small, measuring anywhere between 5 and 18mm long. They are easily stepped on, or perhaps eaten by larger animals. So why are they included here? Because God says they're wise. The ants plan ahead for what is coming. The ants are kind of like Joseph, who suggested to Pharaoh that they store grain during the seven years of plenty before the seven years of famine came (**Gen 41:33-36**). The ant gathers before she has need and the whole colony is engaged in ensuring they have necessary supplies ahead of time.

The Shephanim- This animal goes by a few names in the Bible, depending on which translation you're reading. It is called *shephanim* (NASB95, LSB), but has also been called *coney* (KJV, ASV), *rock badger* (NKJV, ESV), and *hyrax* (NASB, NIV, HCSB). The technical name for them is said to be *hyrax syriacus* and you can pull up a picture of them very quickly in Google (search for hyrax or rock badger). They're not very big, weighing about 10 lbs. and approximately 2 ft. long (if that). What's fascinating about them is that they have little rubber-like pads on the bottom of their feet that are accompanied by sweat glands which moisten them; allowing them to act like suction cups. This animal then uses what it has been given to climb and live in "the cliffs" (*Psa 104:18*), thus achieving great heights.

The Locust- Little need be said regarding the locusts. Whether you think of a grasshopper or some other hexapod (creature having six legs), you likely immediately think of the plagues against Egypt in the book of Exodus. The locusts swarm and are capable of great impact wherever they might land. While we should not assume any harm come from the activities of Christians (we should "harmless as doves" *Matt 10:16*; and "harmless" *Phil 2:15*), we can take a lesson from them as they all form up into ranks and work together to accomplish their goal.

The Lizard- You have no doubt seen lizards, or maybe more properly geckos, in your home. They are easy to catch, but hard to keep out. They can scale brick walls and can scurry themselves into almost any building. God uses this small, weak, and easily caught animal to perhaps display the unstoppable ability of a determined animal.

Have you learned the lessons God is trying to teach with these animals? Earlier in this article I told you to hold on to a question. Do you remember? It was "why" such animals have those abilities. The answer is simple- it's how God made them. They are able to be wise and capable and to achieve great things because they are using what God gave them. You have talents that God has given you (*Matt 25:14-30*). You too can accomplish great things (and we can as a church) if you will use the talents God has given you. Your strength comes from God and God's strength is made perfect in our weakness (*2 Cor 12:9-10*).

SHEEP KEEPER ASSIGNMENTS FOR NOVEMBER

♦ **Group # 1-DELINQUENT MEMBERS**

Team Leader: Paul Portley

♦ **Group #2-WIDOWS**

Team Leader: Roger Deem

♦ **Group #3-NEW CONVERTS**

Team Leader: Gaylen Williams

♦ **Group #4-VISITORS**

Team Leader: Phil McIntosh

The elders will meet with each team in front of the auditorium following Sunday morning worship service.

(For visits conducted in November)

Group#1 Paul Portley - Dec. 3

Group#2 Roger Deem - Dec. 10

Group#3 Gaylen Williams - Dec. 17

Group#4 Phil McIntosh - Dec. 31

Note: if team members are unavailable, leave your information with your group leader.

Holiday Baskets

Please join us as we prepare & distribute holiday baskets this Saturday, December 9th, at 9:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to donate to this effort, please see Lee or Natalie Fisher.



Ladies FELLOWSHIP

Join us for a Ladies Holiday Potluck & Ornament Exchange at the home of Creta Bales, on December 14th, at 6:00 pm. Please sign upon the ladies information board.

YOUTH DEVOTIONAL

Join us December 10th, following evening worship, for a Youth Devotional at the parsonage. Please bring snacks & finger food.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - JESSIE TURNER
- 8 - NATALIE FISHER
- 10 - JUELZ MCKENZIE
- 12 - MARTHA BELL
- 12 - JAMES SEAY
- 14 - PAUL PORTLEY
- 17 - BRENDA SELLERS
- 18 - BRITTINI GRIFFITH
- 20 - BEVERLY WILLIAMS
- 20 - JOSEPHINE SPEAR
- 20 - ZACK PETTIES
- 24 - MONICA MCLEAN
- 25 - GAYLE WILSON
- 28 - GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- 4 - VICTORIA & JAMES ANNIVERSARY

December Nursery Schedule

- 3-Brenda & Gayle
- 10-Nichole & Brittni
- 17-Natalie & Victoria
- 24-Amanda & Briana
- 31-Victoria & Josephine

*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!

December Cleaning Calendar

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

3-TEAM LEE Natalie Ken	17-TEAM ZACK Amanda Diedre Paul Ruby	31-TEAM PHIL Michelle Beverly Josephine Lois Marcella
10-TEAM ROGER Patrick Brenda Linda	24-TEAM JAMES Kim-Marie Xavier Jaden Kingsford Barbara	

ORDER OF SERVICE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023

- ♦ANNOUNCEMENTS: ANDRÉ PETTAWAY
- ♦1ST PRAYER: ADAM ZAK
- ♦SONG: SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦SCRIPTURE READING: MICHAEL ROGERS
- ♦SONG: SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦SERMON: PHIL MCINTOSH
- ♦INVITATION SONG: SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦SONG BEFORE COMMUNION:
SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦COMMUNION:
PAUL PORTLEY & JONATHAN SMITH
- ♦SONG: SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦OFFERING:
PAUL PORTLEY & JONATHAN SMITH
- ♦CLOSING SONG: SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦CLOSING PRAYER: REGGIE BASS
- ♦AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- ♦SECURITY: SCOTT DAVIS & BILLY GAITHER
- ♦NURSERY: BRENDA SELLERS & GAYLE WILSON

SCRIPTURE READING

Sunday AM: Joy to the World (Luke 2:8-10)

“⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.”

Sunday PM: An Upside Down Message (Acts 3:1-4)

“³ Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. ² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; ³ Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. ⁴ And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.”

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MILITARY & CIVILIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

-Roman Polanco graduated from Basic Training last Thursday and will go to Ft. Eustis, VA, for advanced training.
-Tim Matter is contracting in Bogota, Columbia.

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Barbara Anderson had a cataract surgery consultation last Friday.
-Zack & Amanda Petties' granddaughter, Kyemara, has been on medication to help with her hearing loss, but had to pause for another week due to her low blood count.
-Former member Gladys Driver's daughter, Vicky, had surgery last Friday to have her Medi port removed.
-Please keep the Williams family in your prayers as they wait for their official date to finalized their adoption.
-Adam Zak has an appointment with an ENT doctor on December 22nd.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME

BOUND: Former member (Bobbie Knight); Donna Hines; Barbara Anderson's son (Derrick); Glenda Boudreaux & mother; Michelle McIntosh's cousin (Nikki), aunt (Christy); Martha Bell; Jim Dukes & family; Al Wilson & friend (Linda Ray); Gayle Wilson's friend (Sherry Canes); James & Jaden Seay; Amy Cole; James Garner & wife (Tammy); Shirley Wooten; Tom Holubec; Gary & Shirl Foster; Lois Brown; Yolanda Wright & her mother; Ralph & Barbara Hughart; Judy Wall's husband, (James); Opal Jones; Eddie Gandy; Monica McClean's sister & brother-in-law (Janeth & Neville Grey); Bill Rawlings & mother; Nada Miller; Julie Odum & mother (Sharon Schmidt); Katelyn Bowles' cousin (Brittany), and sister-in-law; Tanja Arch & her family; Tim Matter's wife (Elda), brother (Michael), mother, aunt (Vivian), & sister's husband (Christopher); Josephine Spear, cousin, sister (Patricia), neighbor (Clinton) & friend (Iris); the McIntosh's family friend (Bryan Christmas); Alexis Gaither's father, aunt, & friends (John & Marion Slaughter); Creta Bales' cousin (Terry Jackson); Cheryl Flores' aunt (Joy) & brother-in-law (Raymond Flores); Donna Hines' stepmother (Darla), & niece (April Miller); former members (Rey & Connie Cruz); Jon-Jon Simmons; Tracy Wilson's mother (Ruth Hyde); Linda Deem's nephew; Zack & Amanda Petties' granddaughter (Kyemara), Amanda's brother (Rex), sister (Jewel), nieces (Carrington & Moneisha), sister-in-law, & Zack's brother's son (Darius); Rufus Brown; Marcella Williams & brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford); Billye Hughes; Jessie Turner; & Linda Walts.

FOUNDATIONS BIBLE STUDY: Starting January 7th, there will be a new Sunday Morning Adult Bible Class taught by Lee Fisher, in the south hallway classroom. Please sign up in the foyer if you plan to attend.

NEW YEARS EVE FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON: Join us for a New Year's Eve Fellowship Luncheon following morning worship on Sunday, December 31st. Please bring meats, casseroles, side dishes, & desserts. Kitchen Group #4 will have kitchen duties: (Michelle, Lex, & Ivan McIntosh, Alexis & Juelz Gaither, and Briana, Gianni & Brittini Griffith).

NO EVENING WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 31ST: We will not have an evening worship on Sunday, December 31st. We will have an afternoon singing devotional instead, following the fellowship luncheon.

Our Speaker Today is Phil McIntosh



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

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LEE FISHER (elder): fisherfam79@gmail.com

PHIL McINTOSH (pulpit minister):

kcofcpreacher@gmail.com

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

DECEMBER CALENDAR

- 6, 13-Ladies Bible Class, 10:00 am, in the fellowship hall (the ladies will resume class on January 10th)
- 6-Monthly Singing Night, 7:00 pm
- 9-Holiday Baskets made in the fellowship hall, 9:30 am
- 10-Youth Devotional at the parsonage, 6:30 pm
- 14-Ladies Holiday Potluck & Ornament Exchange at the home of Creta Bales, 6:00 pm
- 21-Youth Gathering at Gaylen & Nichole Williams' home
- 24-Guest Speaker Caleb Griffith
- 25-Office closed for Christmas Day**
- 27-Singing devotional
- 31-Fellowship Luncheon followed by a Singing Devotional (no evening service)