



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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APRIL 7, 2024

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 - 6:30 PM

Easter Isn't Over

By Phil McIntosh



Last Sunday morning's worship service welcomed a number of visitors. Some of them might attend again and some might not. Regrettably, some of them might not visit again until December. The reason being that the majority of the religious "year" has for centuries been dominated by two specific days: Easter and Christmas. There are some churches in our world that have what is called "clout." A 21st century version of that word might be related to the power or affect an "influencer" can have. One of these churches is so powerful that even the local Sonic Drive-In will serve fish sandwiches during a certain time of year. While one might assume it is always a good thing when a religious group has an impact on the world and the name of God is promoted, it's concerning when the name of God is being promoted in methods and voices that are not controlled by or authorized by God. The influence of that one particular religion might even be why some people assume that "as long as I take communion" one's Sunday worship to God is fulfilled. The elevation of one part of the worship service over another and of one Sunday over the others is a restriction of the reverence owed to God and the commemoration of the sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 2024 iteration of Easter was a hotbed of trouble. The particular Sunday on which the mainstream religious world observed Easter fell on March 31. Unbeknownst to me, March 31st also happens to be the day when awareness is given to those in the population of our country who consider themselves as transgender (or gender non-conforming). I was unaware of the day's tie to this portion of our population; I was especially unaware that this day has been used by various peoples to focus on this group since 2009. There was an (understandable) highly combustible kerfuffle this year when the "Transgender Visibility Day" happened to fall on the same day as Easter (viewed by many as a 'high holy day' of Christianity). Why did Easter fall on March 31st? If you are anything like me, you never know when Easter is going to be. Honestly, I did not even realize Easter was coming until I received a phone call in the church office recently and someone asked if the upcoming Sunday was Easter. Easter never seems to fall on the same Sunday. Maybe you know some about Easter, but not a lot. Let's fix that.

Easter is, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, the "principal festival of the Christian church"; it goes on to record that "the earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration comes from the 2nd century." It has been concluded that our English word "Easter" comes from unknown origin. Bede (8th century AD) conjectured that it came from "Eostre/Eostrae...the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and fertility," while another suggestion is that it came from the Old German word meaning "east" which itself derived from a Latin word meaning "dawn." The reality is we have no real idea as to the origin and development of our English word. We do, however (and thankfully), know where the word for certain festival and high days in the Bible come from. For instance, the only time you'll see the word "Easter" in your Bibles is in one translation in one place, Acts 12:4. In that text, Luke was writing about the time at which Herod was planning to bring Peter out before the Jews and presumably offer him the same reception he had just offered James (death). In that text, the word in the Greek is *pascha*. That word is used 29 times in the NT and is translated every other time as "Passover." The word's origin is Aramaic in form (*pesach*) and is used 49 times in the OT (also rendered as "Passover"). In history, an Easter celebration has been observed at varying times. At one point, it was observed two days after the Jews celebrated the Passover, which would make it the 16th day of the month Nisan (our March-April) whether that fell on a Sunday or not. Others celebrated it on the first day of the week, regardless of where the other day fell, because Jesus was raised on the first day of the

week. A notable council declared in AD325 that it should be observed on the first Sunday following the full moon after the Spring equinox. Therefore, it is celebrated anywhere from March 22nd to April 25th (which is why none of us can remember when Easter is). Through the ages, Easter has morphed into a holiday where bunnies, eggs, and chocolate have dominated the commercial aspect of this day, and pictures are taken with nice new clothes-in our neck of the woods these often take place in patches of bluebonnets.

But Easter is over. Or is it? It is true that "Easter Sunday" is over as far as the broader religious world is concerned. Grandma has been visited, eggs have been hidden and found (mostly), and pictures in new dresses and suits have been taken. For some people their obligatory or customary one-of-two appearances in church are finished for the year. For the Lord's church though, today is still the Lord's Day and we still are celebrating and commemorating His resurrection from that stony tomb. Remember that the English word "Easter" is really "Passover." Let us not miss the relation of that word to Jesus the Lord, because the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to record that Christ was something special:

"Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?⁷ Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. ⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."

-1 Corinthians 5:5-8

Christians do not observe the Passover in the Jewish sense, but we do commemorate the feast initiated and commanded on the night Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. Jesus took some unleavened bread and said to:

"Take, eat; this is My body." ²⁷Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. ²⁹But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.' "

-Matthew 26:26b-29

That meal impresses upon us the sacrifice of the Lord, the blessing of communing with Him at God's table, and implied within must be the power of God in the

resurrection of Jesus- because the Bible teaches us that the salvation from God came through the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection. Paul said that if we only have hope in this life and if there were no resurrection that we would all still be in sin, and we'd be eternally hopeless (*1 Cor 15:16-19*). The apostle Paul also gave instructions as how to properly observe the Lord's Supper in chapter 11 of that same book. Therein, he said the Lord taught Him that we are partaking of that meal "in remembrance" of Jesus and that we are "proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes" (*11:26*). The "until He comes" only makes sense because God the Father raised Jesus from the dead. Every Sunday, not just a single one sometime in March or April, we should herald and remember the sacrifice, humiliation, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some people might celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave on that one special day each year, but the Bible invites us to celebrate it every first day of the week when we assemble before the Almighty and commune with Him- a blessing afforded to us only because the Lord died and rose again (*1 Pet 1:21; Heb 10:19-22*).



"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple." -Psalm 27:4

Ladies, please make plans to attend the annual Ladies Retreat at the Nolanville Campground on Saturday, April 20th, beginning at 9:30 am. Bring your favorite picnic dish! Sign-up sheets & more information are on the Ladies Bulletin Board. Our speakers are Nichole Williams and Creta Bales.

SCRIPTURE READING

**Sunday AM: "The Beginning of the End"
(Genesis 3:13-15)**

"¹³ And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. ¹⁴ And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

**Sunday PM: "Perfect Hands, Dirty Feet"
(John 13:3-6)**

"³ Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; ⁴ He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. ⁵ After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. ⁶ Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?"

SHEEP KEEPER ASSIGNMENTS FOR APRIL

♦ **Group # 1-NEW CONVERTS**

Team Leader: Paul Portley

♦ **Group #2-VISITORS**

Team Leader: Roger Deem

♦ **Group #3-WIDOWS**

Team Leader: Gaylen Williams

♦ **Group #4-DELINQUENT MEMBERS**

Team Leader: Phil McIntosh

***All groups will meet for visits in February/March after morning worship on April 14th.**

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

ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

- ♦ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** PAUL PORTLEY
- ♦ **1ST PRAYER:** LEE FISHER
- ♦ **SONG:** GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦ **SCRIPTURE READING:** BILLY GAITHER
- ♦ **SONG:** GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦ **SERMON:** PHIL MCINTOSH
- ♦ **INVITATION SONG:** GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦ **SONG BEFORE COMMUNION:**
GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦ **COMMUNION:**
GIANNI GRIFFITH & SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦ **SONG:** GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦ **OFFERING:**
GIANNI GRIFFITH & SEAN MALDONADO
- ♦ **CLOSING SONG:** GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ♦ **CLOSING PRAYER:** ZACK PETTIES
- ♦ **AUDIO/VISUAL:**
PATRICK SELLERS & JUELZ MCKENZIE
- ♦ **SECURITY:** GARY FOSTER
- ♦ **NURSERY:** AMANDA PETTIES & NATALIE FISHER

April Nursery Schedule

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 3/31-Nichole & Victoria | *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! |
| 7-Amanda & Natalie | |
| 14-Victoria & Josephine | |
| 21-Brenda & Gayle | |
| 28-Briana & Brittni | |

April Cleaning Calendar

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

3/31-TEAM ZACK Amanda Diedre Paul Rubye	14-TEAM PHIL Michelle Beverly Josephine Lois Marcella	28-TEAM ROGER Patrick Brenda Linda
7-TEAM KINGSFORD Kim-Marie Jaden Barbara Gaylen Nichole	21-TEAM LEE Natalie Ken Adam	

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 10 - IVAN MCINTOSH (17)
- 18 - MICHELLE MCINTOSH
- 24 - GABI WILLIAMS (12)
- 26 - ANNIECE BANE
- 28 - MARTHA WILLIAMS

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR MILITARY & CIVILIANS IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Justina Young's husband, Terry, is deployed to Korea.
- Michael Rogers has deployed to Poland.
- Roman Polanco is training at Ft. Eustis, Virginia.
- Tim Matter has returned to Bogota, Columbia.

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS & LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

- Scott Davis is recovering from surgery last Friday. He is in Scott & White, Temple, STC, room #570.
- Roger Deem is the ICU at Scott & White, Temple, recovering from a stroke he suffered last Tuesday.
- James Garner is asking prayers for his wife, Tammy, who is having problems from her recent back surgery, and for his sister-in-law who has diabetes complications.
- Josephine Spear had to have a cast on her thumb.
- Donna Hines is asking prayer for her niece, April Miller, who is having difficult life circumstances and may be experiencing depression.

SYMPATHY: We wish to extend our sympathy to Letty Burgos on the loss of her father last Tuesday evening. She has traveled to south Texas to be with her family.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOME BOUND: Jim Dukes; Hannah Fane's uncle (Mark); Ralph & Barbara Hughart; Yolanda Wright; Opal Jones; Beverly Williams' sister (Patsy); Michael Rogers' father (Michael Sr.); Lois Brown; Jim Dukes; Yvonne Hardiman's husband (Ray), sister (Michelle); Lee Fisher's brother (Jessie); Bill Rawlings & his mother; Justina Young's grandfather (Terry); Mary Lou Daines' son (Shawn); member in Georgia (Joyce Huff); Donna Hines, husband (Les), & stepmother (Darla), Vicky Polanco's nephew (Christopher); Eddy Gandy; Barbara Anderson, grandson (Derrick), & brother (Elijah); Glenda Boudreaux & mother; Michelle McIntosh's cousin (Nikki), aunt (Christy); Al Wilson & friend (Linda Ray); Gayle Wilson's friend (Sherry Canes); Jaden Seay; Amy Cole; James Garner, & family; Shirley Wooten; Shirl Foster; Judy Wall's husband, (James); Monica McClean's sister & brother-in-law (Janeth & Neville Grey); Nada Miller; Julie Odum's mother (Sharon Schmidt); the Arch family; Tim Matter's wife (Elda), brother (Michael), mother, aunt (Vivian), & sister's husband (Christopher); Josephine Spear, sisters (Rose & Patricia), brother, & brother-in-law (Levorn); Alexis Gaither, father, aunt, & friends (John & Marion Slaughter); Creta Bales' cousin (Terry Jackson); Cheryl Flores' aunt (Joy) & brother-in-law (Raymond Flores); former members (Rey & Connie Cruz); Jon-Jon Simmons; Tracy Wilson's mother (Ruth Hyde); Linda Deem's nephew; Amanda Petties' sister (Jewel), brother (Rex), nephew (Quincy), nieces (Carrington & Moneisha), sister-in-law, & Zack's brother's son (Darius); Rufus Brown; Marcella Williams & brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford); & Jessie Turner.

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

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

APRIL CALENDAR

- 10, 17, 24-Ladies Bible Class, 10:00 am, in the building
- 13-Ladies Breakfast & Workday, 9:30 am, at the building
- 14-Youth Devotional following evening worship, at the home of Donna Hines
- 20-Ladies Retreat, 9:30 am, at the campground
- 27-Men's Workday, 8:30 am, at the building
- 28-Cherokee Home for Children Pantry Drive ends



CHEROKEE HOME FOR CHILDREN DRIVE:

We are collecting canned soup items for the Cherokee Home for Children through April 28th: cream of mushroom, cream of chicken, cream of celery, cheddar cheese & tomato soups. These items may be placed in the foyer.