

How Close Am I To God?

Do you ever feel like you are not close to God? Or, no matter what you do, you never feel as close as you want to be? We often sing a song by Frances J. Crosby "*Draw Me Nearer.*" The song asks God to draw the person singing closer to Him. There is a deep desire within Christians to be as close to God as possible. James, the half-brother of Jesus, said, "***Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded***" (James 4.8). It is our responsibility to make the effort to draw closer to God. A relationship with God is developed through a multitude of disciplines. The verse in James emphasizes the importance of confessing our sins, practicing humility, and immersing ourselves in scripture.



If I want to be closer to God, then how I chose to live greatly affects it. If I commit sin, then I must repent of such seeking God's forgiveness. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59.1, 2). How can I be close to God if I am living in ways that do not please Him? We learn humility from Jesus' example of selflessness and obedience to God's will (Philippians 2.5-8). The prophet Micah told the children of Israel, in order to please God, they were "***to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly***" with their God (Micah 6.8). We also must realize that if I want to be close to God, I must know what He desires of me. How do I know what God wants me to do? Peter tells us that God's word gives us everything we need to know how to walk righteously before Him and to live with Him for all eternity (2 Peter 1.3). If I truly want to be closer to God, then I must study my Bible.

Why do we have so much trouble making time to study God's word? Have we become a people so determined to get ahead that we spend all our time working? Or do we prefer pleasure and being entertained more than reading our Bibles? Do we sit in front of the television for hours instead of taking time to read our Bibles? Why? Because studying God's Word is work! It takes more than just opening your Bible and reading a random passage to draw closer to God. We must read to understand, and that takes time, effort, and devotion. To develop a strong relationship means listening to what each other has to say. If I want to

be close to God, I must listen to what He has to say; and that is through studying my Bible. God listens to me when I pray. To draw closer to God, we must communicate. What are you going to do to draw closer to God? "*Happy is the man who walks so close to God, that he leaves no room for the Devil to come in between!*"

Gary

Who's Praying For You?

Colossians 1.3-8

1. Have you ever had someone tell you they were praying for you?
 - A. Did they tell you what they were wanting God to do?
 - B. How did you respond?
2. The apostle Paul wrote a letter to the church in Colossea offering up to God thanksgiving and prayer on their behalf.
3. For what did Paul pray?

Paul Prayed The Colossians Would...

I. Know _____ Will (Colossians 1.9).

- A. God's will can be _____.
 1. Paul is praying that the Colossian Christians will be filled with the knowledge of God's will.
 2. God revealed His will through the _____ (Ephesians 3.3-5).
- B. Knowledge of God's will is to lead us to _____ and _____.
 1. What is wisdom?
 2. God develops our spiritual wisdom through...
- C. How well do you think you know God's will?

II. Walk In A _____ (Col. 1.10, 11).

- A. Knowledge is to bring about a _____ in the Christian.
 1. The Colossian Christians were to walk in a manner _____ of the Lord.
 2. The Christians were to strive to _____.
 3. To be pleasing to God, one must _____.
 4. They were to increase their _____ of _____.
- B. Is my walk worthy of God?
- C. How did God promise to _____ them?

III. Be _____ (Col. 1.12-14).

- A. Why should we be thankful?
 1. God _____ us to an inheritance among the saints.
 2. God _____ us from the realm of darkness.
 3. God _____ us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.
 4. God _____ us when we were baptized for the _____ of our _____.
- B. How thankful am I?
 1. As children of God, we need to be _____.
 2. May we...

Conclusion: Do you need forgiveness today?

C O N N E C T I O N

C Good Morning WH family! I hope you are
O enjoying this beautiful weather this
R weekend and are ready for a wonderful
N day of worship and fellowship with one
E another.

R I am taking a break today from the usual
member interviews and profiles this week
to say a special thank you. This week is
the beginning of my third year in serving
this family as your associate minister.



Deatra and I have been blessed beyond measure by your love and support. Not only have you been patient, kind, loving and incredibly encouraging to me as I am growing in the ministry, but you all have “ministered” to us as well. Daily, I am learning how to be a better minister by seeing this church love and care for each other.

I have enjoyed so much getting to know you all better through these interviews and articles, studying and sharing God’s word together, and hopefully helping you in lightening some of your burdens as well. So many of you have responded when I asked, giving our church family literally your “blood, sweat and tears” (Ok, shameless plug for the blood drives!) You have helped teach classes, opened your homes, worked very hard in various service projects. We are seeing the results of your love and efforts in how our church family is growing and new families are coming in and pitching in to the work whole heartedly. It is a great joy and honor to serve you, and I am thankful to God and the WH family for allowing me this opportunity. I look forward to the future with great anticipation of seeing how God will be glorified through us.

Les Keele



We would like to begin celebrating anniversaries as we do birthdays. Please add your name and date to the list in the foyer. If you happen to know the anniversaries of our shut-ins, please add those as well. Thank you.

SHEPHERDS

*Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7439
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

Gary Williams:	662-321-3208
<i>Pulpit Minister</i>	
Les Keele:	817-808-0566
<i>Associate Minister</i>	
James Bowie:	817-944-4492
<i>Youth Minister</i>	
John Boundtaroth:	817-891-2132
<i>Laotian Minister</i>	

DEACONS

Jon Bartee	817-889-2686
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Steve Taylor

Song Leader - Caleb Bartee

Song - To Canaan's Land I'm On My Way

Song - What A Day That Will Be

Song - Listen To Our Hearts

Prayer - James Bowie

Scripture - Colossians 1:3-8

Song - O Sacred Head

Lord's Supper - Joe Gentry

Prayer for Contribution - Joe Gentry

Song - Shine, Jesus, Shine

Who's Praying For You? - Gary Williams

Song - Poured Out Like Wine

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Greg Ball

Donate
by QR
Code?
Here is
ours:
Thank



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years, a mother's nursing room, and Children's Bible Hour for children ages 3 years old up through second grade.

For our members and visitors with hearing difficulties, we now provide single side in-ear mono earbuds with a personal receiver for your convenience. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for one.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, February 26

Deuteronomy 17 - 19

Tuesday, February 27

Deuteronomy 20 - 22

Wednesday, February 28

Deuteronomy 23 - 25

Thursday, February 29

Leap Year - No Reading

Friday, March 1

Deuteronomy 26 - 28

Saturday, March 2

Deuteronomy 29 - 31

Sunday, March 3

Deuteronomy 32 - 34

Last Week

Bible Class:	139	Wednesday:	98
AM Worship:	207	Contribution:	\$ 7,858.81
PM Worship:	82	Budget:	\$ 13,802.88

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM

PRAYER REQUESTS

Members

February 25 2024

NAME	SITUATION	PRAY FOR
Shirley Bennett 02/25/2024	Is in Harris Downtown, Room 350, Jones Tower. 4018 Ridglea Country Club, #508, Fort Worth, Texas 76126	A good diagnosis and treatment
Wanda Houston 02/25/2024	Following a fall, she is in Baylor, Scott, and White, Building B, Room 310 with a slight fracture that will heal in time with therapy. 5301 Bryant Irving Road, #117, Fort Worth, Texas 76132	Thanksgiving that the fall was not any worse and prayers for a speedy recover
Betty Wilcox 02/21/2024	Is in Harris Southwest, ACUTE CARE, Room 5253, with sepsis. Water Mark at Broadway Cityview, 5301 Bryant Irvin Road, Apartment 132, Fort Worth, Texas 76132	Antibiotics to work and for the sepsis to subside
Louise Beagle 02/16/2024	Had a pacemaker replaced. 3916 Reagan Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76116	Recovery
Kham Intharansy 02/15/2024	Is seeing an infection disease specialist and a hand orthopedic surgeon as they try to get better results with her hand. 7137 Bob Hanger Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76179	Peace for Kham while she waits for results; wisdom, skill, and knowledge for the doctors
Nathan Rutledge 02/14/2024	Eden and Asher have been very sick. Nathan is struggling. 1213 Trammell Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Healing for the children and the struggles of Nathan to be resolved
Karen Haas 02/14/2024	Her daughter's health journey is progressing. 4428 Birchman Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76107	Thanksgiving that it is proceeding well
Brandon Duncan 02/12/2024	Needs God's guidance as he looks for a new job. 9928 Farmington Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	God will open doors and point him in the right direction
Kitty Davis 02/12/2024	Is troubled by Parkinsons and other health issues. 812 Ala Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Healing
Shane Grantham 02/12/2024	Has cancer. 812 Ala Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Healing
Nancy Moody 02/05/2024	Mrs. Polly passed away February 2. 917 Willow Way, Fort Worth, Texas 76126	Comfort and peace for Nancy
Mary Jo Winters 02/04/2024	Has spiritual needs for which she request prayers. 9908 Caravelle Court, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	God knows what she needs
Angie Kirkpatrick 1/14/24	Is having neck pain. 1424 Yorkshire Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76134	Relief of pain and may healing occur
Quin Gary 1/29/24	Is in China on an extended trip visiting her 93 year old mother. 9912 Edmund Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Safety and good travels
Chandra Mann 1/12/24	Abdominal cancer has returned and she began chemo February 5, 2024. 106 Langham Drive, Aledo, Texas 76008	Healing and good news
John Walton 1/29/24	After a consultation with the surgeon, they have opted for pain management first. The doctors will start injections this week for his back pain. 101 Bent Tree Court, Aledo, Texas 76008	Healing and pain reduction
Nancy Wright 12/11/2023	Is in Stonegate Rehab, Room 115. 8600 Vista Royale Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Successful rehab and healing
Gail Willmington 02/12/2024	Had knee replacement surgery on February 12. 1603 Tierney Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76112	Reduction in pain and successful recovery

PRAYER REQUESTS

Family & Friends

February 25, 2024

NAME	REQUESTED BY	SITUATION	PRAY FOR
David Yarbrough, father of	Angie Kirkpatrick	Has gone home but still would like our prayers.	His health to get better 02/25/2024
Kay Hankins	Frankie Smith	Is in Harris Southwest, Room 4222, in declining health.	Comfort and peace 02/20/2024
Dese, sister of	Betty Adams	106 years old with COVID and experiencing declining health.	Better health 02/20/2024
Tammy, niece of	Sam and Dorothy Anderson	Had a major heart attack and, due to previous history, may require a heart transplant.	Doctors to make right decisions, treatment, surgery, recovery 02/20/2024
Ellen Dale		Bone scan.	Good results 02/20/2024
Kay Morris, friend of	Betsy Strother	Cancer.	Successful surgery and treatments 02/21/2024
Jaye Sanford, friend of	Betsy Strother	Cancer.	Successful surgery and treatments 02/20/2024
Renea Martin, sister of	Linda Tong	Is being treated for colitis while doctors try to diagnose other symptoms.	Complete diagnosis and healing 02/13/2024
Lynnette and Craig Latta, friends of	Debbie Turner	Lynnette is battling lung and breast cancer in addition to having had a mild stroke. Craig has severe MS and brain cancer for which he has had successful surgery.	Lynnette as she takes care of Craig and her father as she continues to try to work; Craig to relearn how to do the basics of life 02/12/2024
Chelsea, daughter-in-law of	Debbie Turner	Her father passed away.	Comfort and peace for the family 02/12/2024
Fredda Gentry, 103 year old mother of	Joe Gentry	Fell going into worship on Sunday, February 11. She did have a break but had surgery to correct it.	Complete healing and rehab 02/12/2024
Jane Wilson, mother of	Mindy Markum	Had a stint placed in her kidney on February 21.	Healing and recovery 02/04/2024
Jimena Montanez, younger sister of Madeline	Melissa Montanez	Has been moved from ICU and is recovering. She is still in need of our prayers.	Recovery and healing 02/04/2024
George Turner, father of	Keith Turner	Had surgery to put a stint in his abdominal artery in hopes of getting oxygen to his dying intestines. He has been in Harris Southwest for 3 weeks and is ready to stop the feeding tube and go to heaven.	That God's will is accomplished in His time and in His way 1/21/24

LTC: Practice today



2:00 PM Speech (outline due)/Signing

**2:30 PM K4C Puppets
MS/HS Drama**



3:15 PM Chorus

4:00 PM Bible Bowl

SNACKS: Jennifer Duncan



The Auditorium Small Group will have a soup and sandwich meal **TONIGHT**. Please bring out your favorite recipes and desserts and share in this time of fellowship.



The Pillow Ministry will meet this Tuesday, February 27, following the Ladies' Class. Please bring your lunch and join us for fellowship and service. If there are any questions, please see Linda Tong.

LADIES' RETREAT

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF PLANNING A SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR OUR LADIES. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE FILL OUT THE SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE FOYER SO WE MAY HAVE A MORE ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THOSE INTERESTED. YOU MAY PLACE THESE IN THE ATTENDANCE BASKETS. THIS WILL ALLOW US TO CHOOSE A SUITABLE LOCATION EARLY ON. THANK YOU.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

Sundays:

Auditorium: Revelation: Russ Bartee

Young Married and Singles: 1 & 2 Peter: Robert Scott

Wednesday Nights:

Ladies' Class: Prayer: Deatra Keele and Lisa Williams

Men's Class: Step Up To The Plate: Les Keele

Ladies, if you would like to share prayer time and gain strength by coming together with your sisters, come to the Library on Wednesday nights at 6:40 PM.



BYO Brown Bag Suppers continue on Wednesday nights. Please bring your family's meal and we will enjoy a time of fellowship before evening services and classes. The building will be opened at 6 PM.



there I Am in the midst

Small Group Sign-Up:

FRONT WEST FOYER

Please take a look at the lists and sign-up. Small groups **will not meet** on the 1st or the 5th Sundays of the month.

BEGINNING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

COMBINED AUDITORIUM CLASS

LES KEELE

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS:

A STUDY OF JAMES

BEGINNING SUNDAY, MARCH 3

YOUNG MARRIEDS: LES KEELE:

UNCOVERING WHY?: WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

AUDITORIUM: GARY WILLIAMS:

1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

Join Us For Our Tuesday Morning Bible Classes At 10 AM.

Men's Topic: 1 & 2 Peter - Milt Birmingham

Ladies' Topic: Micah - Paula Pauley

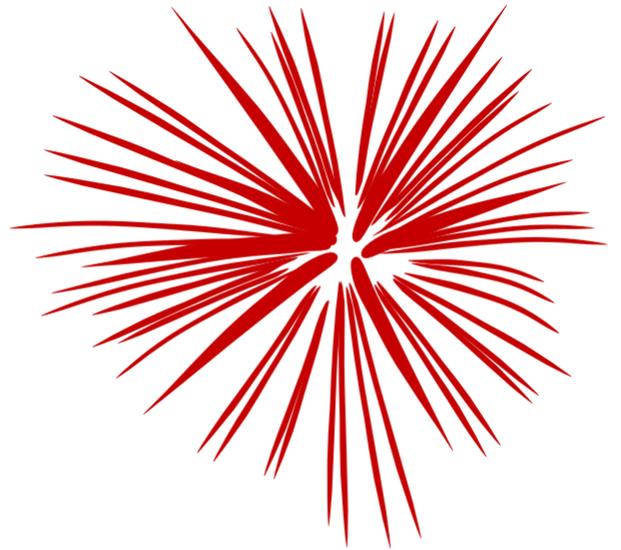


Happy Birthday to you, February People

2 Joy Nanthareth
3 Chris Intharansy
5 Meth Boudtaroth
7 Mignon Bandy
8 Makayla Johnston
10 Dwight Blair
11 Minnie Collins
12 Kim Brown
12 Jean Wiggins
13 Marie Perez
14 Joe Gentry
15 Michelle Glenn
16 Andrew Montanez
16 Carol Meyer
17 Sandra Wade
17 John Wright
25 Carlene Reeves
27 Mary Lou Lee
27 Paula Pauley
27 Gene Menzdorf

Children:

13 Lily Scott
21 Mason Martinez
25 Stephanie Duncan



MARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 STEPHAN MYERS

3 BEVERLY FORGEY

4 JIM GILBERT

8 CHARLES KITE

11 MIKE WHITACRE

15 JANELLE BALL

15 BARBARA MEISENHALDER

17 AMY BARTEE

18 BEA HOUSE

20 STEVE TAYLOR

21 MARK MUSSELMAN

22 KAREN TAYLOR

22 BETSY STROTHER

23 GLENN BAIRD

29 MONTY BOWERS

CHILDREN

10 BOYCE MILLER

16 BELLA GILBERT

24 MADDOX DUNCAN

26 SELAH GARNER

27 BRENA THOMAS