



Why Do We Kiss?

Why do we kiss one another? An expression of love? To communicate care and concern? To develop a relationship? To fulfill our desires? What about “kissing cousins?” People enjoy kissing for many different reasons and circumstances. I found it interesting that Dr. Mark Cosgrove stated that *“human lips appear to be designed for kissing.”* Yes, our lips appear to be permanently turned outward for such a purpose. Who was the last person you kissed? Or do kiss so many you can’t remember? I remember a man I greatly admired, Wayne Jackson, wrote about kissing which I will do my best to recollect some of the things he said that I found very interesting.

Did you know that the Bible is filled with people kissing others on several different occasions? Kissing is often a display of special relationships. In Genesis 27.26, 27, when Jacob was deceiving his father Isaac into giving him the blessing reserved for the eldest son, Isaac said, ***“Come near and kiss me, my son. So he [Jacob] came near and kissed.”*** Thus, kissing among family members. Parents, how often have you kissed your children and told them you loved them? In Genesis 29.11-13, when Jacob first met Rachel, he kissed her. There is also an example of friends kissing one another. When Jonathan informed David that his father, King Saul, wanted to kill him, upon departing from one another, the scriptures says, ***“And they kissed one another and wept with one another” (1 Samuel 20.21).*** This same kissing of love was expressed between Paul and the Ephesians as Paul was departing from them with the sentiment that he would never see them again. Acts 20.37, 38, state, ***“And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.”***

Kissing also occurred as an expression of reverence and gratitude. David, in prophesying about the coming Messiah, used the act of kissing as reflection of the sacred honor that is due the Lord (Psalm 2.12). Do you remember when Jesus was at the home of a Pharisee when a woman with a sinful past entered? She came to Jesus and went to His feet, bathing them with tears and repeatedly kissing them. She was reflecting gratitude for the previous forgiveness of her sins by Christ. Jesus praised her loving faith (Luke 7.36-50).



There are many other instances where people kissed on different occasions. The prodigal son wandered into a far country to live a sinful life. When he hit rock bottom, he remembered that even his father’s servants had food to eat and, in despair, headed home. While he was still afar off, his father saw him and ran to meet his son. Moved with compassion, he embraced the lost son and kissed him repeatedly (Luke 15.20). Definitely an instance of kissing out of paternal love. Do you remember the book of the Song of Solomon? It is a love story between the king of Israel and a young woman from the country. The book exalts the physical aspects of love as a gift from God to enhance marital bliss. The young woman describes the king’s kisses as ***“better than wine” (Song of Solomon 1.2).*** What a blessing it is to have a good marriage!

As for the many wonderful ways kissing is used to express great love, there is another way that is not so exemplary. It is the kiss of rebellion. Even though Judas had been selected as an apostle of Jesus Christ and treated with great love for three years, he betrayed of the Son of God with a kiss. The Greek text suggests a repeated action, Judas continually kissed Jesus. The heinous act ultimately would result in the traitor’s suicide (Matthew 27.5).

What precious lessons in our God-given lips. Most of the time, our kisses are used for good, but they can, regretfully, be used for evil. How are you using your kisses?

Gary

Great Joy!

Luke 2.8-14

1. Are there things in your life that bring you great joy?
2. Many families come together during the holiday season to share their joy and love.
3. Was there great joy at the birth of Christ?

At The Birth Of Jesus...

I. _____ Was Filled With Exuberant _____ (Luke 1.26-55).

- A. The appearance of the angel Gabriel caused Mary to be filled with _____.
- B. Mary was confused about how she could give birth to the Son of God because she was still a _____.
- C. The anticipation of the coming birth caused Mary to burst out in _____.

II. An _____ Appeared To The _____ In The Field (Luke 2.8-12).

- A. The announcement of the angel is _____ and would bring great _____.
 1. The announcement is significant for three reasons:
 - a. It proclaims that a messianic _____ is born.
 - b. It fulfills _____.
 - c. It describes the _____ of Christ.
 2. The angel references a sign of the birth.
- B. Would the angel have ever appeared to me?
 1. Why did the angel appear to the shepherds?
 2. It is not _____ that receives divine favors, but _____.
- C. The shepherds found the babe lying in a manger, then departed glorifying and praising God.

III. A Great Host Of _____ Gave _____ (Luke 2.13, 14).

- A. Heaven addresses earth about _____.
- B. The angelic praise contained two ideas:
 1. The heavens rejoiced and praised God for His _____ of _____.
 2. The people who draw near to God through Jesus will experience great _____.

IV. The _____ Came (Matthew 2.1-12).

- A. Why did the wise men come?
 1. They came because they saw the _____.
 - a. Herod called upon all the chief priests and scribes to tell him where the Christ was to be _____.
 - b. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great _____.
 2. They came to _____ the Christ-child.
- B. Are we _____ enough to _____?

Conclusion: Are you ready to be filled with tremendous joy by coming to Jesus today?

C O N N E C T I O N

C Good morning Western Hills family! This week in our Connection Corner, we feature Michael and Kitty Davis.

R Michael was born in Abilene, Texas, and attended Cooper High School there. While he was in school, Michael loved to play music in the band. He played the viola and alto saxophone in various bands and ensembles. (He still has a special love for music today.) Following school, He learned the HVAC trade and worked with some local companies there in Abilene. After a few years there, He moved to Fort Worth and began driving a truck for Camps Pallet Company and later the Pall-ex Pallet Company. Michael drove for the companies doing "drop and swap" runs, delivering full 57' trailers and bringing the empty trailers back. He retired from truck driving after a 30 - year career there.



Kitty was born in Fort Worth and attended Brewer High School. During her school years, she enjoyed running around and spending time with her friends. Kitty went to college at Tarrant County College and obtained her degree in Nursing and became an RN. She worked in local hospitals such as John Peter Smith, All Saints, and Plaza Medical Center, primarily in the ICU department. Kitty says that she thrived on working in the ICU department, helping patients improve and seeing them recover. Eventually, she went to work for a private contractor for the county prison system, also working in their ICU area. Unfortunately, an illness forced her to retire early and she misses it greatly.

Michael and Kitty met by being introduced by Michael's brother-in-law. They went to Mancuso's Italian Ristorante on their first date and it was a great start since they married 1 year later and have enjoyed being together ever since. They have been blessed with 3 kids, 13 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. They enjoy spending time together and have traveled to Colorado and California as favorite vacations.

These days, Michael stays busy working with the Beautiful Feet Ministry in Fort Worth. He drives a bus, picking up homeless people, and then taking them for breakfast and lunch. The ministry also provides showers, clothing, medical care, and has a prison ministry as well. Both Michael and Kitty have great compassionate hearts for those who need help, especially this time of year. I encourage you to get to know Michael and Kitty better, you'll be blessed! Les Keele



This week's shut-in spotlight shines on:

Please send them a note of encouragement or give them a call to let them know we still care.

*Barbara Adams
1004 Wade Hampton
Fort Worth, Texas 76126*

817-249-2252

*Cards only
No Calls or Visits*

*Charlie Beagle
1000 McKinney Street
Apartment 110 B
Benbrook, Texas 76126*

817-683-9480

Calls and Visits

SHEPHERDS

Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
*Tom Pauley	817- 370-5515
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000

*Shepherd of the month

MINISTERS

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

LAOTIAN MINISTRY

John Boudtaroth 817-891-2132

DEACONS

Jon Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
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
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Robert Scott

Song Leader - Jonathan Bartee

Song - O Come, All Ye Faithful

Song - Joy To The World

Song - The First Noel

Song - Silent Night! Holy Night!

Prayer - Jay Garner

Scripture - Luke 2:8-14

Song - What Child Is This?

Lord's Supper - Geoffrey Rodman

Prayer for Contribution - Geoffrey Rodman

Song - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Great Joy! - Gary Williams

Song - Softly and Tenderly

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Tom Pauley

Our Code for Tithe.ly Giving



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, December 23

I John 1- 5

Tuesday, December 24

II John - Jude

Wednesday, December 25

Revelation 1 - 4

Thursday, December 26

Revelation 5 - 7

Friday, December 27

Revelation 8 - 10

Saturday, December 28

Revelation 11 - 13

Sunday, December 29

Revelation 14 - 16

Last Week

Bible Class	141	Wednesday	113
Worship	236	Contribution	\$ 16,178.39
PM Worship	42	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

FAMILY

NAME	SITUATION	PRAY FOR
Charlie and Louise Beagle 12/18/2024	Daughter, Beff Kay, passed away Wednesday, December 18. Charlie: Benbrook Nursing Home Memory Care, Room 110 B, 1000 McKinley Street, Benbrook, Texas 76126 Louise: 3501 Renzel Boulevard, Apartment 221, Fort Worth, Texas 76116	Comfort for the family
Michaelangelo Sanchez 12/15/2024	Has been diagnosed with autism. 3142 Sappington Place, Fort Worth, Texas 76116	Treatments and therapy
Carlos Wallace 12/15/2024	Had a daughter that was born on 12/25/1979 and she passed on 12/29/1979. This time of year is always hard for him. 3501 Renzel Boulevard, Apartment 249, Fort Worth, Texas 76116	Comfort and God's care
Anthony McGraw 12/15/2024	Is having some health issues. 3501 Renzel Boulevard, Apartment 137, Fort Worth, Texas 76116	Improved health
Bob Howard 12/13/2024	Is in Medical City, Weatherford for what has now been diagnosed as Industrial COPD. Barbara has broken her wrist once again and is waiting to see if she needs surgery. Their son is not doing well with his cancer. 6075 FM 1189, Weatherford, Texas 76087	Prayers for each of them to be healed and recover quickly
Aubrey Hallum 12/08/2024	Yvonne passed away on Friday, December 7. 25 Leonard Trail, Apartment 317, Fort Worth, Texas 76114	Comfort for the family
Dahlia Cade 12/05/2024	Had hip replacement surgery on December 19. 3832 Kelvin Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76133	Strength and swift recovery
Nancy Wright 11/11/2024	Is back in Stonegate Rehab, Room 115. 8601 Cook Ranch Road, Apartment 350, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Healing and comfort
Brandon Duncan 11/7/2024	Is having issues with controlling his blood pressure. 9928 Farmington, Benbrook, Texas 76126	A quick solution for correcting his blood pressure
James and Bridget Yawn	James had his surgery and has returned home. 9213 Idaho Street, Joshua, Texas 76058	Swift healing and recovery for James and strength for Bridget while she is the caregiver
Bill Baumann 10/20/2024	Has been diagnosed with both lung and prostate cancer. In the weeks to come, the doctors will be developing a plan of treatment.	Healing, peace; skill and knowledge for the doctors

All prayer requests are published for 30 days and then removed unless the office is notified to continue the announcement.

FRIENDS

Paula Hamrick, sister of	Patti Musselman	Has had her cancer to return and underwent a biopsy on December 13 to determine if it is the same type of cancer or a new type.	Doctors will be able to discern the type of cancer and set her on the track for another remission 12/08/2024
Waylon Gramer, student of	Mindy Markum	Underwent an 8 - hour heart surgery on Wednesday, December 11.	Strong recovery, comfort for the family 12/08/2024
Ronnie Hoover, a frequent visitor to	Our Assembly and Food Bank Volunteer	Was unable to have the knee surgery as he failed his stress test. He will now have a heart cath first followed by the replacement surgery at a later date.	Successful heart cath in order to have the knee replacement 12/08/2024
Robert Birdow, father of	David Birdow	Began chemo Monday, December 9, for 20 consecutive weekdays.	Good results, strength to take the treatments, and family who will be caring for him 12/04/2024
Dad and Wife of	Russ Jones	His dad had a PET Scan on Wednesday. It is an aggressive form of prostate cancer. There will be 2 surgeries and then radiation. His wife's biopsy is scheduled for the end of the month.	Good results 12/01/2024
Dorene Helton, sister-in-law of	Vickie Bowers	Cancerous mass was discovered. Her chemo has begun and surgery will follow treatments.	Strength and successful treatments and surgery 12/05/2024
Jean Saba Husband of,	Dana Saba	The medication is working. He is not having any chest pains and there will be no surgery.	Praising God for the positive results with the medication 11/7/2024
Joanne Powers, mother of	Adam Powers	She needs an aortic valve surgery.	God to guide the surgeons, good results, and recovery 10/21/2024
Lisa Harriman		Has been diagnosed with cancer of her breast, colon, and liver. UPDATE: A CT showed that both the tumor in the colon and the lesion in the liver have shrunk significantly! The cancer markers in the blood work have all dropped to normal levels. There will be 3 more rounds of chemo followed by another scan and then surgery (probably in March). She sends her thanks for all our prayers. 400 North Tacoma Street, Farmington, Arkansas 72730	Thanking God for the good results of the present treatments; prayers for upcoming surgery and continued treatments; strength, peace of mind 09/11/2024
Sangkhip Bouapraseth, father of	Kasie Muongnamvong	Has stage 4 pancreatic cancer.	Healing and pain control 09 /17/2024

YOUTH NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 22
6 PM
AT THE HOME OF THE
BOWIE'S



PLEASE BRING A
\$10 GIFT
FOR EXCHANGING



SCHEDULE CHANGES

There will be **NO MIDWEEK SERVICES** the week of Christmas nor the week of New Years. Please use this time to spend with your family and friends during the holiday season. The **Office** will be **closed** December 24, 25, 31, and January 1, 2025.

LADIES' AND MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

We wish to inform you that there will be no ladies' or men's Bible class on Tuesday mornings December 17 - January 6. Classes will resume on January 7, 2025. We look forward to seeing you then! Wishing you all a joyful holiday season!

CONGREGATION FELLOWSHIP



NEW YEAR'S EVE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31
6:00 PM

COME JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GAMES
AND CELEBRATION. BRING YOUR
FAVORITE GAMES, SOFT DRINKS, TEA,
AND FINGER FOODS.

COME RING IN 2025 WITH THE FAMILY

MEMBER INFORMATION

Address Changes

JEAN WIGGINS

EVA TORREZ

Memory Care
Brookdale At Tanglewood Oaks
Room 72
2698 South Hulen Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76109-5593

2721 Wingate
Apartment #102
Fort Worth, Texas
76107

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

JOE NULL: DECEMBER 28
VISITATION: 11:00 AM

MOUNT OLIVET CEMETARY CHAPEL
SERVICE: 12:00 PM

FOOD BANK STATS FOR NOVEMBER

227 – Families Served \$755.81 – Cost to WHCOC
7,392 pounds – Estimated Weight of Food

OFFICE EMERGENCY PANTRY

OFFICE PANTRY

We have a pantry in the office, separate and apart from the Food Bank, for emergencies.

We are in need of the following items:

CANNED CHILI
SOUPS
DRIED BEANS
DRIED PASTA

CANNED MEATS
CANNED MILK
HOT/COLD CEREALS
POWDERED MILK

If you are able to help provide any of these items, please drop them off in the office.

Thank you!



Happy Birthday December

1 Kao Chanthanounsy

2 René Johnston

2 Melissa Montanez

2 Jeff Thiravong

2 Ross Tomlinson

3 Robert Bow

4 Jean Cox

4 Adams Powers

4 Bev Pratt

7 Kristie McLeroy

8 Lee Bradley

8 Thomas Chakrathouk

9 Dorothy Anderson

10 Christina Intharansy

12 Lorenza Fernandez

12 Martin Franz

12 Thonglouath Manyoun

12 Auna Walton

14 Wayne Gary

17 Gloria Speak

17 Jake DeKoker

18 LaRue Bow

19 Steven Johnston

20 Jeremy Swan

20 Mary Jo Winters

21 Chuck King

22 Bob Willyerd

23 Ronny Tucker

24 Betty Adams

24 Lucille Patterson

26 Zach Brookshire

30 Jay Garner

30 Cassidy Tunnell

30 Karen Haas

31 Thienxay Manyoun

CHILDREN

10 Tanner Chakrathouk

13 Ian Thomas

27 Jonathan Everett

30 Jack Meyers

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 5

Sandra & Tommy Wade 60th

Dec 14

Amy & Jonathan Bartee 22nd

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

3 ANGIE KIRKPATRICK

5 SUSIE MUONGNAMVONG

5 ROBIN STEPHEN

6 JEAN SABA

7 LOUISE BEAGLE

7 BRANDON DUNCAN

11 EVELYN WOOLSEY

12 BEVERLY LIPHAM

13 GREG BALL

14 CHARLIE BEAGLE

16 JONATHAN BARTEE

17 JOSHUA WITHERSPOON

17 BRIDGET YAWN

21 JULIE MEYER

25 MARY HELEN BOWIE

26 FERN MARTIN

29 ELLEN BARTEE

29 GARY WILLIAMS

CHILDREN

1 TRACE WITHERSPOON

4 ABEL BROOKSHIRE

4 ELI BROOKSHIRE

9 ASHER RUTLEDGE

18 HARLO DEKOKER

NO ANNIVERSARIES ON RECORD