



WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for joining us today to worship the Lord. If this is your first visit here, please honor us by filling out a visitor's card found on the back of each pew. Your prayer requests may also be made on the flip side of the card. At the close of service, please put your card in the contribution box at the front of the auditorium as you exit. Or you can hand it to any member.

During the service we will celebrate communion. (Sacraments are available on the table in the entry foyer.) This is a time that we partake of unleavened bread and juice from the fruit of the vine to remind us what Jesus has done for us. Communion is not only about Jesus' death, but his resurrection and triumph over death and sin. His resurrection is the source of our hope that God will fulfill his promise of eternal life through Jesus the Christ.

Address:	5728 White Settlement Road Westworth Village, TX 76114
Office Phone:	817-738-7536
Services:	Sunday 10:00 am
Bible Study:	Wednesday 7:00 pm
Website:	www.westworthcoc.org
Email:	Westworthchurch@sbcglobal.net
Facebook Group:	Westworth Church of Christ
Trustees:	Curtis Dunson, Randy Feters, Brian Flaherty, Eric Kreger, Curtis Thompson
Minister: John Jewell	Email johnjewell96@att.net

Jonah's Graduation

We went to visit our boy in Georgia and found a man in his place. The week at Fort Benning marks a milestone in our family that merits pause and recognition, so may these paragraphs represent that for our posterity as well as encouragement to you that God is working good things in our up and coming generations. The teenager who left us in May is now a soldier for the United States Army, but the transition didn't just happen in that time. There's something far greater to thank for the growth we have seen in our son.

After a few weeks of basic training when the recruits were first allowed to use their phones to call home, we were eager to hear all about Jonah's experience. He told us about the drill sergeants' constant intimidation tactics. They yell, they wake you in the middle of the night, they yell, they get in your face, they yell, they make you run drills, and they yell. They hand down impossible tasks and demand perfection. I asked if it was all very upsetting, but he laughed and said, "No. I just keep thinking, they don't know my mom." (I choose to take that as a compliment.) He was actually enjoying himself and happy to report, "I get paid to work out all day!" Maybe his dad and I have inadvertently prepared him for this. It seems all the moving and adapting that have characterized his childhood on the mission field have given him the flexibility to adjust to the erratic schedule of boot camp and to even appreciate the challenge. We were happy to hear that our best efforts to raise him were paying off in unexpected ways.

Jonah was soon permitted to call each Sunday, and we looked forward to hearing his humorous recounting of the tactics being used to terrorize the recruits. He admitted it was extremely difficult but seemed to understand that they were breaking them down so they could build them back up into the soldiers they were all there to become. Then one Sunday we heard less excitement and a bit of melancholy. He was getting tired, and he missed home. He assured us that he was determined to finish strong, and we were proud of him. He was developing fortitude and endurance before our very eyes. We continued to pray daily for him, thanking God for the training and discipline he was receiving.

Finally the day came that Jonah would graduate from six months of Army training. He had made it through boot camp, passed all the physical, intellectual, and emotional challenges, and now was going to claim the title of soldier. John's mom and niece and her three boys met us on the 182,000-acre heavily wooded military base to attend the ceremony. The graduates wore the traditional World War II service uniforms and marched onto a perfectly manicured field. Hundreds of husbands, sons, and brothers moved in unison with precision, making the families in the

stands beam with pride, reminding us that we indeed have the finest and most awe inspiring military in the world.

It was a wonderful few days of reunion and celebration. Fort Benning feels like a city, with restaurants, a movie theater, a bowling alley, and an infantry museum that rivals a Smithsonian gallery. We tried the local eateries, the boys played video games, and we just sat around our hotel room talking and drinking coffee as if we were home. It was good. But the best part of all was that each night when we took Jonah back to his barracks, he requested that we pray together. In those prayers I experienced a wide range of emotions and had to accept that a major life change was happening. These recent months have been our own sort of boot camp here at home. We're saying goodbye to our son's childhood but welcoming a strong, funny, kind adult in his place. I was so thankful that he wanted to pray with us, because it was then that I sensed God's peace, as if he were laying a hand on my shoulder saying, "I've got it from here." and I know He does.

Samantha Jewell



Youth Event—Let's try Again

DATE: Saturday, November 27

TIME: 5:00—9:00 pm (*Come-N-Go* event)

LOCATION: Westworth Youth Center and church yard

FOOD: Chili Bar— or you might

want to call it Frito Chili Pie.

Fritos, chili, cheese and other

'yummy' toppings.

ACTIVITIES: Volleyball and other outdoor games, weather permitting.



Just a note...

Several have asked—and we want to let you know—in 2022 we will return to the schedule of fellowship meals on each 3rd and 5th Sunday .

FYI: In 2022 5th Sundays occur on Jan 30, May 29, July 31, and Oct 30 .



Philemon the DILL Pickle

At best the life of a slave is sour and bitter because even if one is treated well there is NO freedom. Jesus changed things. He told the Jews in Nazareth that he had come to set the captive free and bring freedom to the oppressed. Then in John 8:32-36, he tells the crowd that if they follow his teachings, they will be free from sin. The Epistles echo this idea. The idea of spiritual slavery is mentioned thirty-three times in the Epistles, while physical slavery is only mentioned fifteen times. So, let's look at what the Epistles tell us about physical slavery.

Of the passages that deal with the subject of slavery four deal with the relationship between slaves and their masters (Ephesians 3:22-41, Ephesians 6:5-9, Titus 2:9-10, 1 Peter 2:18-21). Paul and Peter encourage Christian slaves to obey and respect their masters. They also expect Christian masters to treat their slave fairly and to provide for them. Paul informs us in 1 Timothy 1:9-11 that slave traders are unholy. In Philemon Paul pressures Philemon to grant Onesimus his freedom and treat him as a brother (Philemon 16). Finally in 1 Corinthians 7:21-23 Paul gives us the jewel we are waiting for; kind of. While discussing how new Christian's lives should change Paul tells them if you are not circumcised stay that way, if you are circumcised stay that way, if you are slave do not worry, BUT IF YOU CAN GAIN YOUR FREEDOM DO SO.

From the scriptures it is clear that God is much more concerned with freeing people from sin than freeing people from slavery. However, it is also clear that God desires freedom for all people. He placed limits on the harsh treatment of slaves, and even commanded the release of slaves after 6 years of service. During the year of Jubilee all slaves were to be set free and all lands returned to the families. The result was that not only could the slaves gain their freedom they could get their property back. In the New Testament Paul's instruction to masters to treat their slaves fairly and

provide for them, and his plea to Philemon to receive Onesimus “as a beloved brother,” indicates that God desires all to be free.

So, if God wanted freedom for all, why didn’t slavery disappear in society after Constantine legalized Christianity in A.D. 313? It is true that mainstream Christianity rarely criticized slavery. However, scripture prohibited the long-accepted practice of raping slaves, and before long the church allowed marriage of slaves, and even ordained slaves as elders and popes. This difference in legal status undermined the institution of slavery. But slavery was the monster under the church’s bed that would raise its ugly head periodically. So Pope Gregory could not realize the contradiction when he wrote, “Since our Redeemer, the Maker of every creature, was pleased mercifully to assume human flesh in order to break the chain of slavery in which we were held captive, and restore us to our pristine liberty, it is right that men, whom nature from the beginning produced free, and whom the law of nations has subjected to the yoke of slavery, should be restored by the benefit of manumission to the liberty in which they were born, “ as he looked out the window of his papal estate watching the two hundred slaves working in the fields below.

Next week: we will look at slavery during the Middle Ages.

Next week’s question: Which pope legalized the arrest, and enslavement of the citizens of Florence?

David Keller



Jessica Snell is currently serving in the National Guard at the Texas/Mexico border. Please note this address for sending cards and notes of encouragement. (not a military address)

Jessica Snell
106 W. Village Blvd.
Laredo, TX 78040

NOTE: This may change in the near future and I will update the info when available.

Together

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”
- Matthew 18:20

Sunday Morning Services - 10:00am

Today's speaker: John Jewell

Ladies Bible Study

(Virtually over Google meets)

**The ladies study group has hit “Pause”
until after the holidays.**

Contact Tracy Robertson with suggestions or for more info

Phone: 817-308-0554 / Email: snowgirlntx@yahoo.com

The Chosen

Wednesdays — 6:30 pm

Next Wednesday, we will relinquish the Wednesday night gathering to allow everyone to prepare for Thanksgiving Day and family celebrations.

THEN On Wednesday, December 1, our mid-week bible study will feature season 1, episode 6. This is more than “movie night”. The objective is that discussion after the viewing may stretch our minds and challenge us to study more. Each episode includes a ‘study guide’ with recommended scriptures and questions to consider.

- ◆ Food is provided beginning at **6pm** (to help folks add this special study time to their schedule).

Menu for 12/1 — Oriental foods

Invite your friends and family to join us in the activity building to enjoy and learn from this worthwhile study.

Celebrate

November Birthdays

Wanda Bryant	1 Nov		Samuel Flaherty	20 Nov
Nancy Goochey	13 Nov		Andy Jewell	26 Nov
Bill Jones	17 Nov		Melva Campbell	29 Nov
John Snell	17 Nov		Tom Reynolds	30 Nov



November Anniversaries

David & Tracy Burris 17 Nov

Annual Holiday Meal **TODAY**

Stay after services and enjoy
fellowship and lots of good food.



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Psalms 95 (NIV)

- ¹ Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
- ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song.³
- For the LORD is the great God,
the great King above all gods.
- ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth,
and the mountain peaks belong to him.
- ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands formed the dry land.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Date	Today— November 21
Open/ Announcements	Max Lisle
Usher	Brian Flaherty
Songs/Close	Curtis Dunson
Communion	Mike Lisle
Prayer	Cooper Thompson
Bible Story	Max Lisle
Reading	Marty Montgomery
Lesson/Sermon	John Jewell
A/V	Randy Feters

COMING WEEKS

Date	Nov 28	Dec 5	Dec 12
Open	Curtis Thompson	Curtis Thompson	Brian Flaherty
Usher	Bill Jones	Eric Kreger	Randy Feters
Songs/Close	Eric Kreger	Christian Lindsey	Samuel Flaherty
Communion	Max Lisle	Max Lisle	Mike Lisle
Prayer	Tom Reynolds	Curtis Dunson	Max Lisle
Bible Story	Randy Feters	Brian Flaherty	Curtis Dunson
Reading	Ben Jewell	John Snell	Johnny Box
Lesson	John Jewell	Trustees	John Jewell
A/V	Susan Flaherty	Susan Flaherty	Robby Robertson

Communion Preparation November: Hettie Keller