

### Those to Serve

(B) Kyle Stifflemire

(FV) Doug Pruett

(O) Jack Wall

(A) Jorge Garza

1st prayer Mike Mallett

2nd prayer Calvin Burks

Announcements: Keith Stifflemire

Singing: Judd Wall

### Prayer List:

Tammy Parker

Mike Lovell

Letha Sheldon

Ruby Jones

Loyd Crownover

Pray for our Nation

Our Troops

Law Enforcement

### Sentence Sermons

- ◆ A lack of courage will cause one to allow sin and error to go unchallenged.
- ◆ If you cannot be a faithful Christian in what you are doing, then stop doing it!
- ◆ If you are too busy to obey God, you are simply too busy!
- ◆ It is better to be criticized for doing right, than be to praised for doing wrong.
- ◆ Life's gold mine is a pure heart and a clear conscience.

**July 28th**

Noon Fellowship

**August 4th**

Mission Sunday

August 15th

First Day of School Lampasas

**August 19th**

First Day of School Evant

**August 25th**

Noon Fellowship



Mike Lovell July 16th

Keith Stifflemire July 22nd



**July 19th**

Mike & Connie Mallett

**July 25th**

Jorge & Valerie Garza

# Edifier

**Evant church of Christ**

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

**July 14, 2019**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Will Vann, Preacher

863-899-0987

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## The Joneses' Church

Keeping up with the Joneses is an old way of describing people who think they must have everything their neighbors have. Not wanting to be outdone, folks buy new houses, cars, clothes, sports equipment, electronic gizmos, and more. In some cases the old things really are worn out or obsolete; in others, we simply do not want to be (or appear to be) outdated.

There is often a problem, however: the Joneses may make more money than we do. To solve that, we convince ourselves that these wants are needs and outcome the credit cards. (Are the Joneses' finances in any better shape?) And there is another problem: the Joneses don't ever quit buying. We are always aiming at a moving target. The process never ends.

Did you know that the Joneses go to church? Yes, they do. And would you be surprised to learn that church has it all, too?

Denominational churches have long known about the Joneses' church. When it started having pot-lucks, others quickly followed. It then built a multi-purpose facility in which to have them. So did others. The Joneses' church then turned to musical programs, plays, sports teams, day care, schools, exercise classes, camps, retreats, recreational outings and more. They were determined to be the biggest. But so were others. They not only kept up with the Joneses' church, they tried to outdo them. Now, anything goes. Nothing seems too far-fetched; some church somewhere has it.

Lost in all this scramble for image, size, and novelty is the simple New Testament pattern for local churches. Also lost is God's approval. Merely attaching His name to a thing does not make it right ([Matthew 7:21-23](#)).

Conservatives preach against the Joneses' church's innovations, yet some of us look wishfully at their swelling numbers and begin to dabble. A few of our "gospel meetings" are looking a lot like youth rallies or marriage seminars. Sermon content is shifting away from salvation and doctrinal themes. In some places VBS is getting increasingly playful and dramatic. So are some preachers.

There is no virtue in getting stuck in a rut. The framework of what God authorizes certainly allows for some variety in approach. But the Joneses' church will always have more to appeal to the worldly minded. Salvation is what the Lord's church is all about ([Ephesians 5:23](#)). - by Frank Himmel

## One Died Though I Tried

By Will Vann

Most of you are probably aware of the tree that stands in the front yard of the parsonage. At one time it was large mature tree, but as the way of all things, it died and was cut down. However, from its roots sprung up half a dozen saplings as evidenced by what is there now.

Last year's big wind storm blew two of the little trees over and I thought they were done for. Against the odds, they clung to life so I tied them up with some parachute cord and secured them to the other trees in the grove for support. The two broken trees soon revived and have continued to live in spite of their fall. That is until a week or so ago. Another storm came through and tore one of the injured trees up from the roots and it soon died. Despite it being tied to the others for support there was nothing that could be done.

Sometimes, members of the Lord's Church endure the terrible storms of life and can be spiritually struck down to where it seems nothing can be done. What do we as members, together of common root, do? The prophet Isaiah tells us, "Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, 'Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you'" ([Isa. 35:3,4](#)). Sometimes, no matter what we do, the continuing storms of life will take their toll. But, "*Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken*" ([Ecc. 4:12](#)). Let us ever seek to strengthen and encourage one another!

## The Governor Called

I received a phone call from the Governor a few weeks ago. Well, sort of. It was the Governor's voice, but it was actually a recording. You see, it was election eve and he wanted my vote. I suspect many others got the same call. The Governor had never called me before. He never asked my counsel on any issue he faced. He never expressed concern about how I felt about any matter. He never thanked me for being a law-abiding, tax-paying citizen of the State. Even in this call the conversation was one-sided. I had no opportunity to respond. I was not allowed to make any suggestions. The Governor called only when he wanted something, and he gave me no indication of interest in a personal relationship beyond that. Of course, I understand the situation. I do not expect more from a head of state. It just got me to thinking about another means of communication: prayer. How often does God hear from me? Is it only when I need something? Am I disposed to do all the talking instead of listening to His word? How interested am I in His perspective? Am I thankful? Might I leave the impression that, despite the contact, I have little interest in a personal relationship with Him? Think about it. - by Frank Himmel