



# Kelham Korner

**KELHAM BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3400 North Meridian  
Mail: P.O. Box 12605  
Oklahoma City, OK 73157  
(405) 946-9826  
[kelham.org](http://kelham.org)

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

## Prayer God is Faithful Newer Requests

Shelley Cloud—Knee replacement therapy  
Joan Cox—burns on leg improving  
Steve Daniel (Justine Hoel's son-in-law)—*cancer*  
Gary Goree—hospitalized, now has staph infection  
Baby of friend of Glenn Goddard—Maximus Jensen  
Mitzi and Roger Hembree—health (cancer of tongue)  
Floyd & Twila Howard—health  
Julia Huntley (health—home)  
Toni Huntley—cracked rib  
Littleton family—*unspoken*  
David May, Linda's husband—procedure Tuesday  
*Chris McEver*

Ron Meek's neighbor  
Chris, brother of Ginger Montgomery—*health*  
Billye Murrell—*hip replacement recuperation*  
Pam Sherrod—St. Anthony's ICU—*pneumonia*  
Del Wilburn (Kathy Rattan's father)—*declining health*

### Ongoing Prayer Needs

Glenda Anderson—health  
Beverly & Mike Beardain—health/memory; Chad  
Allen Cloud—*health—trip to Mayo in March*  
Bette Fehrle—health  
Mark Handley's son & his brother, Tracy  
Brady Hurd—nephew of Julia Huntley, *stage 4 cancer*  
Danny Imhoff—*health*  
Margaret Keillor, wife of pastor's friend—*radiation*  
David Smith—friend of Mark Handley, heart issues  
Sawyer Vincent—Danny and Tina's grandson—health  
Becca Rocco's sister-in-law, Kathy Ketter  
New leaders and representatives

### PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM Military

Heather Riggins; Floyd Howard's grandson

### Our Homebound

Sam Castleberry  
Lloyd and Joan Dickerson (Burlson, TX)  
Billye Murrell (assisted living, Texas)  
Donna Shick, Carol Kimberlin's mother (Grace, Bethany)  
Justine Hoel (Bellevue, Room 446A)

### Our College Students

Hallie Benedict—Southwest Baptist  
Madi Montgomery—Wichita State University  
Donavon Pietzsch—North Texas State University  
Mieka Pietzsch—University of Oklahoma  
Makenna Vess—OCCC

For addresses and phone numbers call the office.

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:13)*

## February Birthdays

- 12 Scott Phillips
- 13 Tina Imhoff  
Bill Long  
Don Lugafer
- 18 Peighton Newman  
Dick Clark
- 19 Lauren Lugafer  
Wheeler
- 20 Tara VanWieren  
Layla Pietzsch
- 21 Nevaeh Thomas  
Carys Adams  
Konnor Myers
- 26 Christina Vass
- 27 Becca Rocco

Stewardship for Morning	2/09/2025
Budget Receipts:	\$1,075.20
Weekly Budget Required:	\$3,894.57
Over/Under:	\$2,810.37



**Wednesday Night, 6 PM**

Please sign up on the list in Fellowship Hall.

*Chicken Alfredo*

Cost is one of the items on the list that on Sunday's bulletin insert.

All donations go to Hope Lodge, This is a Women on Mission Ministry.

## Guess Who!

Can you identify this "network" of workers, redoing the electric service at the Falls Creek cabin in March of 2021?

It looks like Donavon Pietzsch, Konnor Myers, and Colton Montgomery.





## Are You on the Network?

**Everybody today seems like** they want to be “on the network,” meaning the Internet in all its manifestations. Not so long ago, there were no networks. Some remember CompuServe; others recall the CDs AOL provided. Those were the days of slow dial-up connections. That all changed as computers made quantum leaps in processing speeds and cable TV companies started offering broadband internet. Computers had gone to GUI (graphical user interfaces) as opposed to terminals, which used only text and symbols. Companies now offer 500 MB per second download speeds and higher, giving us access to more data—translated to the ability to stream video, audio, something almost unimaginable in the old days.

**Nowadays, everybody seems** to want to be connected, on the network, all the time—whether in their cars, schools, homes, parks—wherever they are. This is accomplished using WI-FI or wireless Internet, which allows devices to exchange data by means of radio waves. Many churches today provide WI-FI connectivity in their buildings for convenience. I am sure some think members will use it to look up Scripture, but, of course, that isn’t what happens. People use it to check out or update their social media, text friends (present or absent), check out sports scores, etc.; in other words to stay connected.

**Networking is important to people.** Networking in the old-fashioned meaning of the word—being connected to other people in the real world—has always been important to humans. “Koinonia,” or fellowship, is the New Testament word for networking. It speaks of community, of having things in common. It is important for Christians to be in community. The New Testament stresses this over and over. Study the “one anothers” of Paul’s epistles to see a small example. It’s not possible to obey the “one anothers” without being in a community (<https://www.mmlern.org/hubfs/docs/OneAnotherPassages.pdf>). There are over one hundred in Scripture.

**Recent social research has demonstrated** “public health and epidemiologic research have established that social connectedness promotes overall health” (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9560615/>). A study of 100,000 people in the United Kingdom showed that “frequency of confiding in others and visits with family and friends emerged from over 100 modifiable risk factors as the strongest predictor of depression.”

**Diagramming social networks** has been studied much in recent years. If you take, for example, your neighborhood,

you could map your connections to your neighbors—which may be quite small if you don’t know your neighbors. That would be one of your social networks. If you work, you could map out the connections you have with co-workers. If a co-worker also happens to be a neighbor, the connection would be a double connection. You could map your connections to friends involved in a sport league as well. Each of these would be a network in your life. You might have few or many.

**Take a church as another example.** Larger churches tend to contain multiple networks that might be formed around Sunday school classes or age-groups. One study revealed, “How relational patterns may be linked to participation in congregational activities, occupying a leadership role, a sense of community and spiritual satisfaction, stratification, socialization, and spiritual support” (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ajcp.12359>). We might be tempted to call them cliques, but if they are open networks, networks available for others to join, they are not. When Kelham was a large church, there were numerous networks of various kinds. I have asked people who were around in those days if they knew someone else of approximately the same age. A gap of only three years could break the connection, with the two not even being aware of each other. The smaller the congregation, the lower the number of networks. “Nodes” in the network are individuals; “hubs” are “nodes” that are linked to multiple other “nodes.” “80 percent of network activity goes through the 20 percent of the nodes that are hubs. These hubs are so vital that one can actually remove up to 80 percent of the nodes in a network and the network will still function—provided the hubs remain intact. When the hubs are removed, the effect on the network is devastating” ([https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/30-3\\_E-dentity/Social%20Networking%20and%20Church%20Systems.pdf](https://wordandworld.luthersem.edu/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/30-3_E-dentity/Social%20Networking%20and%20Church%20Systems.pdf)). In *The Rise of Christianity*, Rodney Stark traced the spread of the gospel in the ancient world. He concluded, “Churches were held together by bonds of fellowship, teaching, and support among leaders and members.”

**Churches still spread and grow by that process.** How many times have you seen one person begin attending church and then before you know it, there’s a family attending? Human beings are social creatures, and connections bring incredible benefits. One NIH study showed “religion and spirituality have been related to important markers of cardiovascular health” (<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8764885/>). This was tied to “multiple potential mediators (e.g., hope, optimism, purpose and meaning, adaptation to and coping with bereavement, self-esteem and self-sufficiency.)” The more connected we are individually, the better for all of us.

**Get connected.** Don’t be merely a “node”; become a hub—get more people connected to the life-saving network of Jesus Christ.

**Brother Gary**

