

## Those to Serve

February 15		February 22	
Morning Worship		Morning Worship	
Opening Prayer	<b>Chris Lindelof</b>	Opening Prayer	<b>Ron Bazzy</b>
Song Leader	<b>Greg Fabian</b>	Song Leader	<b>Kevin Odom</b>
Communion		Communion	
Presiding:	<b>Mike Turner</b>	Presiding:	<b>Greg Fabian</b>
<b>David Blair, Jr</b>	<b>Bobby Parker</b>	<b>Bobby Parker</b>	<b>Loyd Wilson</b>
<b>Russell Genaro</b>	<b>Von Knight</b>	<b>Jeremy Pettit</b>	<b>Paul Dillon</b>
<b>Eddie Ray</b>	<b>Nathan Scarsdale</b>	<b>Chris Lindelof</b>	<b>Anthony Sandoval</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>David Smith</b>	Closing Prayer	<b>Ben Lenamon</b>
Nursery		Nursery	
<b>Amy Cuellar</b>	<b>Tracey Mauney</b>	<b>Canova Genaro</b>	<b>Julee Genaro</b>
Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Opening Prayer	<b>Bill Russell</b>	Opening Prayer	<b>Von Knight</b>
Song Leader	<b>Greg Fabian</b>	Song Leader	<b>Kevin Odom</b>
Communion	<b>P. Hamilton &amp; L. Adams</b>	Communion	<b>C. Layton &amp; M. Turner</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>Kevin Scarsdale</b>	Closing Prayer	<b>David Blair</b>
Nursery	<b>Laura Odom</b>	Nursery	<b>Stephanie Ray</b>
Both Services		Both Services	
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
<b>*Paul Hamilton, Lynn Adams, Phil Godwin, David Blair, Tim Godwin</b>		<b>*Clifford Layton, Mike Turner, Dal Randle, Kevin Scarsdale, Elijah Sandoval</b>	
Announcements	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>	Announcements	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>
Video Camera	<b>Kyle Huckabee</b>	Video Camera	<b>Tim Godwin</b>
Greeters		Greeters	
<b>Derek &amp; Tracey Mauney</b>	<b>Lynn &amp; Lucille Adams</b>	<b>Tex &amp; Pat Greene</b>	
<b>Greg &amp; Linda Fabian</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Mitzi Williams</b>	<b>Larry &amp; Deborah Roberson</b>	
Building Lock Up	<b>Eddie Ray</b>	Building Lock Up	<b>Chuck Huckabee</b>
Wednesday 2/11		Wednesday 2/18	
Song Leader	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>	Song Leader	<b>Ross Genaro</b>
Opening Prayer	<b>Von Knight</b>	Opening Prayer	<b>Bill Russell</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>David Blair</b>	Closing Prayer	<b>Mike Turner</b>
Devotional	<b>Eddie Ray</b>	Devotional	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>

## Pearland Church of Christ

...equipping the saints for the work of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

### Worship Times:

#### Sunday

Bible Study .....9 am

Morning Worship.....10 am

Evening Worship.....6 pm

#### Wednesday

Ladies Bible Class.....7 pm

Wednesday Bible Study...7 pm

### ELDERS

**Gary Adams** 281-485-2436  
**Greg Fabian** 281-485-2436  
**Von Knight** 281-485-2436  
**Clifford Layton** 281-485-2436

### DEACONS

**David Blair** – Building & Grounds  
**Chuck Huckabee** – Finances  
**Chris Lindelof**—Benevolence  
**Kevin Odom** – I.T.  
**Eddie Ray** – Education & Missions  
**Mike Turner**— Worship Services

### MINISTERS

**D.C. Brown** Pulpit Minister  
**Paul Cartwright** Youth & Family Minister  
**Paul Tiohanon** Evangelist  
 Save, Benin West Africa

[www.pearlandcoc.com](http://www.pearlandcoc.com)

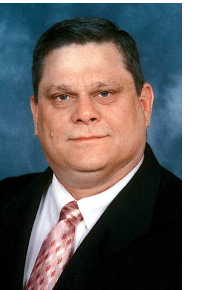
A PUBLICATION OF THE PEARLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST



## The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

## NON-ESSENTIAL COMMANDS?



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An interesting phrase caught my attention: “Non-essential commands.” A website dedicated to people who are into IRC codes (Internet Relay Chat) discussed the need to disable all non-essential commands. About the only thing mentioned that even remotely made sense to me was the word “disable.” The technical terminology was completely beyond me and I have no hope of making sense of what I read, but nevertheless, it seems that some of the coding and keystroke commands for those involved in networking are apparently “non-essential commands.”

Intrigued, I began looking for more fields in which “non-essential commands” occur. I can’t take advantage of non-essential commands related to IRC codes, because I R Sure I don’t know what any of it means. But...if out there somewhere there are some “non-essential commands” that could work to my advantage, then I need to find them.

Dog trainers apparently have a few “non-essential commands.” You have to be a dog trainer to know about non-essential commands? We have a dog at home who assumes that all of our commands are non-essential; what’s the big deal?

Thomas Hobbes (1588 –1679) espoused a political philosophy that says that a sovereign might issue commands that are “non-essential commands.” Now, we’re on to something! Commands issued by the ruling authority that are not required to be kept! Sadly, my parents apparently did not read his book. Hobbes believed that any command issued by the sovereign could be disobeyed, unless disobedience frustrated the purposes of the sovereign. (Perhaps my parents did read the book and claimed all their commands were to further their purposes.)

A number of Christian denominations teach that some New Testament commands are “non-essential commands.”

- On the role of women taking leadership in the church, the commands given in 1 Cor. 14:34 and 1 Tim. 2:11,12 are non-essential.

- The command to have a plurality of elders over the congregation meeting the qualifications given in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 is “non-essential.” I remember vividly a conversation I once had with a denominational pastor on the subject of a plurality of elders. He told me clearly that he believed the chain of command was “God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit and me [this pastor].”
- The command to observe the Lord’s Supper as a memorial is a “non-essential command” and its purpose, as stated in Scripture, is rejected and replaced by a new purpose: to obtain forgiving grace. Others keep the command to observe the Lord’s Supper as a memorial, but they consider the approved examples of it being done each first day of the week as being “non-essential.” Taking up a collection from among the saints (1 Cor. 16:1,2) is never debated, nor is its frequency ever ignored. It, apparently, is an essential command.
- The command to speak “to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19) and the command to teach and admonish “one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16) are non-essential commands. And if example is a commentary on “non-essential,” these two commands are at the top of the “non-essential” category. None that believe instrumental music to be a permissible option practices worship without them.
- The command to “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (Acts 2:38) is a non-essential command. That means that the additional teaching that baptism washes away sin (Acts 22:16) is a non-essential teaching. And the apostolic reminder that “all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (Gal. 3:27) has no valid purpose. The point blank confession that “baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good con-

**YOUTH EVENTS**

**JR. & SR. HIGH**

**J.A.M. 3RD THRU 6TH**



Jr. & Sr. High Devo will be February 15th at the home of the Scarsdales.

**Bible Class 2 Yr Old—6th Grade**



Sunday morning Bible class lesson will be **Stephen's Defense & Stoning Acts 7**. Wednesday evening Bible class lesson will be **Persecution and Scattering of the Church Acts 8**.

science--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pt. 3:21) is an example of how Peter could never grasp the non-essentiality of baptism. He taught it as being essential for salvation on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38) and decades later he was still teaching the same thing (1 Pt. 3:21).

The problem with "non-essential commands" is that the determining agent is never the one who issues them. God is not consulted when a group of people determine that one or more of His commands are non-essential. Jesus was once accused of trying to invalidate some parts of the Law of Moses. To that charge, Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt. 5:17-20).

He viewed that covenant to be essential, even its smallest particulars, and taught that those who viewed parts of it as "non-essential" by annulling them and teaching others to do likewise would be least in the kingdom of heaven. How "least" is "least"? The statement, "unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" is a clear warning that the scribes and Pharisees - who were annulling and so teaching - would not be in heaven, nor would those who followed them. Jesus concludes His teaching on the subject with these words, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter" (Mt.7:21).

We'll always be better off if we leave the decisions about "non-essential commands" to code writers for computer languages and dog trainers. When it comes to our Sovereign, which of us could ever be qualified to say that His commands are "non-essential?" Could our choice to ignore God's commands because we consider them to be "non-essential" cause us to reject God's purpose for us? If you think not, read Lk. 7:30.

Keep studying

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**February Birthdays**

12	Avery Turner	12	Gary Adams
15	Rubye Jo Knight	16	Andra Ramsey
21	Candice Dobson	23	Jacob Genaro
27	Gretchen Whitmire	29	Jeremy Blair

**February Anniversaries**

14	Harold & Alice Moore	20	Pete & Michelle Griffith
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**KEPT IN PRAYER**

**Varnell Allison** remains in Southeast Memorial Hospital, Room 102, with a blood infection.

**Leah Bateman** will undergo surgery on February 18th.

**Glenda Cashiola** requests our prayers as she deals with several issues in her life.

**In Continuing Need:**

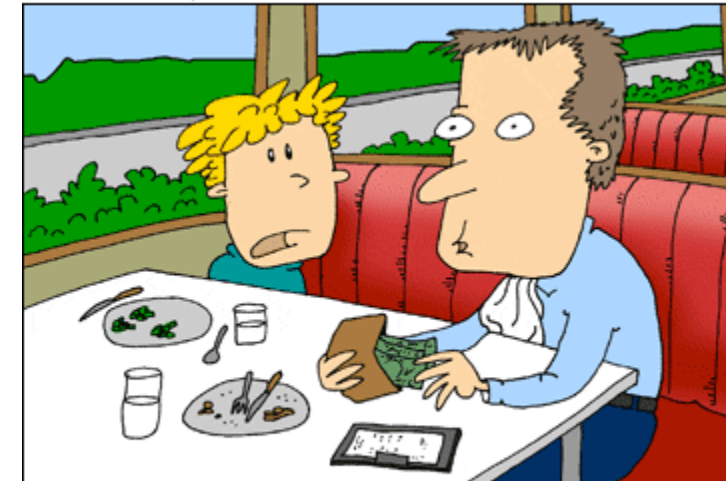
**Our Members:** LaRue Case, Glenda Cashiola, Billie Dykes, June Evans, Cooper Gartrell, Dorendia Hamilton, Dorothy Kirkland, Ed & Wilma Koob, Janice Lemoine, Claudia Martin, Elaine Rawlings, Jennifer

& Chase Shelton, Rick Stone, Jason Talley, Bill Westmoreland. **Shut-In:** Varnell Allison, Katie Barnes, Leonard Dunford, Rossie Gilbert, Rebecca Morganthaler. **Others:** Marvin Aly, Timothy Anderson, Alexander & Elias Barahona, Elton Bennett, Justin Britt, Mark Brown, Delta Burner, Bobby Chenault, Hazel & Doyal Childress, Margaret Clayton, Michael Dykes, Michael Fleury, Dee Grigg, Fred & Florence Henshaw, William Kay, Samuel Knight, Kerry Lemoine, Margaret McKinney, Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Clairette Pool, Katy Ramsey, Lt Col Robert Reese, Betty Rosenberg, Bing Scherzer, Lance Smith, Brett Statham, Kay Taliaferro, Penny Waldrum, Alan Walker, Bruce Welch, Elaine Wilson, Claudia Scott Wright.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

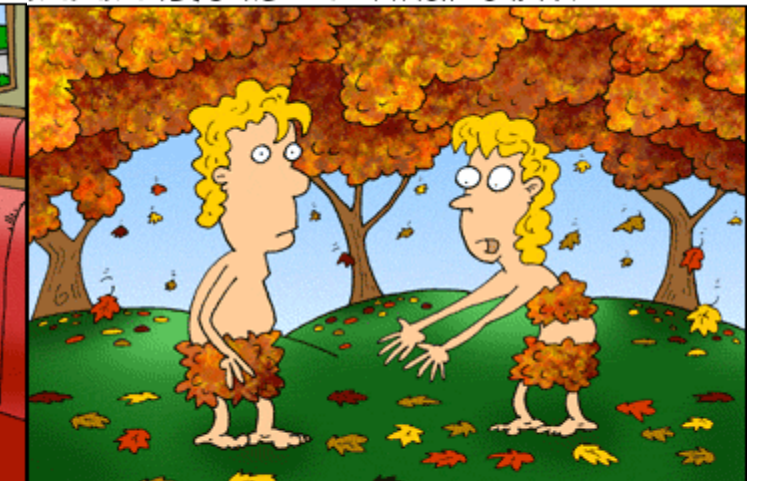
- **Von Knight** is the contact elder for February. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the elders, please see Von.
- **Elders, Deacons, Ministers Meeting** will be Saturday. Breakfast will be at 8 AM at Kelley's and the meeting will begin at 9 AM.
- **Ladies Prayer Breakfast** will be Saturday at 8 AM at Kelley's Restaurant.
- **Men Vs. Boys Paintball.** Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at Paintball Zone on Dixie Farm Rd. \$25.00 per person if we get at least 20 people. So please sign up if you are interested and invite your friends.
- **VBS Planning Meeting** will be Sunday, February 22nd, following evening services. Everyone who is willing to help with VBS needs to attend.

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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004  
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

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10-06-2006  
WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?