

Those to Serve

October 18		October 25	
Morning Worship		Morning Worship	
Opening Prayer	Paul Hamilton	Opening Prayer	Eugene Priestley
Song Leader	Gary Adams	Song Leader	Greg Fabian
Communion		Communion	
Presiding:	Eddie Ray	Presiding:	Gheath Alatrash
Davy May	Pete Griffith	Phil Godwin	Loyd Wilson
Bobby Parker	Derek Mauney	Russell Genaro	Tim Godwin
Jeremy Brown	Nathan Scarsdale	John Genaro	Anthony Sandoval
Closing Prayer	Ben Lenamon	Closing Prayer	Demetris Kelly
Nursery		Nursery	
Stephanie Ray	Laurie Huckabee	Judy Dillon	Laurie Maxcey
Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Opening Prayer	David Blair	Opening Prayer	Kevin Scarsdale
Song Leader	Gary Adams	Song Leader	Greg Fabian
Communion	C.J. Huckabee & C. Lindelof	Communion	L. Adams & R. Genaro
Closing Prayer	Chuck Huckabee	Closing Prayer	Von Knight
Nursery	Debbie Brown	Nursery	Tracey Mauney
Both Services		Both Services	
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
*Charles Huckabee, Chris Lindelof, Dal Randle, Russell Genaro, Charlie Layton		*Lynn Adams, Ross Genaro, Ron Bazy, Kent Wroe, James Taylor	
Announcements	Paul Cartwright	Announcements	Paul Cartwright
Video Camera	James Taylor	Video Camera	John Adams
Greeters		Greeters	
V. & R.J. Knight	C. & N. Layton	G. & J. Adams	B. & M. Williams
L. & L. Adams	R. Bazy & K. Wroe	L. & D. Roberson	D. & M. Blair
Building Lock Up	D. C. Brown	Building Lock Up	Clifford Layton
Wednesday 10/14		Wednesday 10/21	
Song Leader	Paul Cartwright	Song Leader	Ross Genaro
Opening Prayer	Matthew Fabian	Opening Prayer	Charlie Layton
Closing Prayer	David Blair	Closing Prayer	Daniel Brown
Devotional	Dick Case	Devotional	David Smith

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 Study9 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

DEACONS

David Blair – Building & Grounds

Chuck Huckabee – Finances

Chris Lindelof—Benevolence

Kevin Odom – I.T.

Eddie Ray – Education & Missions

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister

Paul Cartwright Youth & Family Minister

Paul Tiohanon Evangelist
Save, Benin West Africa

www.pearlandcoc.com

OCTOBER 14, 2009

The Pearland Harvester

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

CHURCH AND KINGDOM

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One of the perennial questions regarding the faith has to do with the church and the kingdom. In most denominational models the two are distinct either in a literal or a quasi-literal sense. The church is always the lesser of the two. It is the precursor, and it is either temporal or it loses itself in the kingdom when eternity begins. If those statements seem to lack definitive explanation, then it must be true that we cannot determine the true nature of the church. It must also be true that the significance of the church is less important in comparison to the kingdom. Therefore, while one must not miss out on the kingdom to come, the church might well be an optional matter. Would Scripture yield any conclusive facts?

Some teach that the church began the moment Jesus began His public ministry. Those who believed in Him and followed His teachings were both disciples and charter members of the church. Yet they heard, and heard often, that the **“Kingdom is at hand”** (Mt. 4:17; 10:7). If the church did begin when the Lord’s earthly ministry began, then it cannot be the equivalent of the kingdom.

Jesus began His ministry saying, **“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”** (Mt. 4:17). Later, He gave the twelve authority to cast out demons, heal the sick and, **“as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’**” (Mt. 10:1,7). Neither the twelve nor those to whom they preached thought that “at hand” meant “now.” They understood it to mean “near” but not “here.” After the Lord’s resurrection these same apostles asked if the kingdom was at last about to become reality (Acts 1:6). While they were in error as to the political nature of the kingdom, they were not informed that it had already come. We read that Joseph of Arimathea was **“a disciple of Jesus”** (Mt.

27:57). At the time of the Lord’s death, Joseph was still **“waiting for the kingdom of God”** (Mk. 15:43). These passages make it clear that the kingdom did not begin when the Lord began His ministry. Equally significant are those passages showing that Jesus taught His disciples to pray that the kingdom would come (Mt. 6:10) and to seek for the kingdom (Mt. 6:33; Lk. 12:31). The denominational model seems to hold up well to what is taught in Scripture in so far as their claim that the kingdom did not begin with the Lord’s public ministry. But there are problems with the model...

First there is the claim that Jesus would build a future church and give to Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 16:18,19). This presents two problems. First, it demonstrates that the church had not begun at the time that Jesus began making disciples (v. 18). Second, it demonstrates the kingdom would begin during the lifetime of the disciples and that Peter would play an integral part in the beginning of the kingdom era (v. 19). Thus, neither the church nor the kingdom began with the ministry of Jesus and both the church and the kingdom would arrive within the lifetime of the apostles. That agrees with the inspired model of the “at hand” and it refutes the denominational model.

A second problem is apparent when we realize that God has now placed Jesus on the throne (Eph. 1:20) and has made Christ **“head over all things to the church”** (Eph. 1:22). This passage speaks of both the kingdom and the church as reality, no longer future events. It also demonstrates they existed during the apostolic age.

Jesus promised the apostles in the upper room that He would not partake of the Passover again **“until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God”** (Lk. 22:16) and He further stated, **“I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes”** (Lk. 22:18). Yet more than two decades after the crucifixion, Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica (2 Thess. 2:1) and told them not to be **“soon shaken in mind, or be troubled,**



YOUTH EVENTS

JR. & SR. HIGH

J.A.M. 3RD THRU 6TH



Jr & Sr High Devo will be Sunday, the 25th, at the home of the Browns.

J.A.M. will be this Sunday from 2–4 P.M..

Bible Class 2 Yr Old–6th Grade

Sunday morning Bible class lesson will be *Temptations* (James 1) Wednesday evening Bible class lesson will be *Showing Favoritism; Faith & Works* (James 2).



neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand (2 Thess. 2:2 - KJV). The church and the kingdom went from being future events, to present realities during the lifetime of the apostles. And the apostle Paul clearly states that the Lord's return IS NOT AT HAND. Denominational models teach that the church began years before the Lord said it would and they teach the kingdom is still to come. Paul taught that the kingdom already exists and he told the church at Thessalonica that the Lord's return was not hand. The kingdom cannot be dependent upon the Lord's return because that makes both the Lord and Paul liars when they spoke of things "at hand." Paul also observed that the church at Corinth misunderstood the significance of the Lord's Supper saying, **"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons"** (1 Cor. 10:21). If they were partaking with the Lord, and if the Lord will not partake until the kingdom of God is fulfilled, then it had to be fulfilled in their lifetime.

If the church and the kingdom are distinct, with one being a present reality and the other being a future event, then there are many contradictions in Scripture. If the church and the kingdom are the same, then Jesus kept His promises (Mt. 4:17; 10:7; 16:18,19; Lk. 22:16,18) and the apostles were right to refer to the church as the body of Christ and Him, the reigning king of the kingdom, is its head (Eph. 1:20-22). If you are in the church, you are in the kingdom. If you forsake the church, you forsake the kingdom. If you think the church is not important, you think the kingdom is not important. If you ignore the church, you ignore its head, and the king of the kingdom.

Keep studying . zD. C. Brown ©2009

KEPT IN PRAYER

Tony Bagwell as he continues his chemo treatments.

Scott Bockart, nephew of Charles Huckabee, has been diagnosed with glaucoma and a successful treatment has not yet been found.

Bruce Welch has received good news that surgery will most likely happen in approximately 2 weeks.

Rick Nudelman & Chris Lindelof continue their search for employment.

In Continuing Need:

Our Members: Terry Brown, LaRue Case, Glenda Cashiola, Jerry DeWeese Jr., June Evans, Cooper Gartrell, Elaine Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Becky Hopkins, Dorothy Kirkland, Ed & Wilma Koob, Claudia Martin, Jennifer & Chase Shelton, Rick Stone, Wally Weeks, Bill Westmoreland.

Shut-In: Varnell Allison, Katie Barnes, Rossie Gilbert, Rebecca Morgenthaler.

Others: Timothy Anderson, Elton Bennett, Justin Britt, Mark Brown, Delta Burner, Bobbie Chenault, Hazel & Doyal Childress, Margaret Clayton, George Dunn, Michael Fleury, Rachel & Joe Glaze, Jim Godwin, Dee Grigg, Fred & Florence Henshaw, Lola Hill, Wendell Hines, Gail Hunter, Kaye Hopkins, Leslie Hunt, George & Sandra Kassos, William Kay, Samuel Knight, Kerry Lemoine, Margaret McKinney, Jim & Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Clairette Pool, Diane Plumb, Lt Col Robert Reese, Betty Rosenberg, Bing Scherzer, Lance Smith, Brett Statham, Pat Stewart, Gary & Kay Taliaferro, Penny Waldrum, Bruce Welch, Elaine Wilson, Lauretta Wilson, Claudia Scott Wright.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Gary Adams** is the contact elder for October. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the elders, please see Gary.
- **A class for college-aged people** will begin Sunday. Kevin Scarsdale will be facilitating these classes. A variety of teachers and topics will be employed. All singles and couples who are beyond High School and are of college age (20's & 30's) are encouraged to attend.
- **Fall Festival** will be Saturday, October 24th, from 5:00–7:00 PM in the Annex & parking area. We will have booths for games, face painting, etc as well as Trunk & Treat. There is a sign up list on the Upcoming Events bulletin board.
- **Family Encampment** will be October 30–November 1 at Martin Dies State Park. There is a sign up sheet on the Upcoming Events bulletin board.
- **Medina & Boles Children Homes** will hold their annual fundraising dinner on Thursday, November 12th. It will be at the Hilton Americas Hotel in downtown Houston. We have 30 seats available to us. If you would like to attend, please sign up on the Upcoming Events bulletin board.
- We are compiling a church **cookbook**. Please contribute recipes from any and all categories including: appetizer/snack, main dish/casserole, soups, salads, breads, vegetables, desserts, misc. There is an envelope on the bulletin board to place your recipes in.
- **Katy Church of Christ** is presenting a series on *Creation v. Evolution* on October 16–18. See information on bulletin board.
- **Watters Rd. Church of Christ Men's Fellowship** will be November 13th & 14th. See information on bulletin board.

Thank you ladies for giving Cortez & I such a beautiful shower!! You are all truly appreciated. May God abundantly bless you always with the desires of your hearts! Love you all.

Laone Taylor

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your care and concern during my brother's illness and upon his death. Your prayers, calls, hugs and cards have been very comforting.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the funeral service and to feel your love.

In Christian Love,
Minnie & Jeanette

October Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 16 Clifford Layton | 16 Joy Sloan |
| 20 Paul Dillon | 20 Susan Lenamon |
| 20 Angela Parker | 22 Dal Randle |
| 24 Minnie Harris | 27 Sarah Adams |
| 27 Jeri Farmer | 28 Steven Cuellar |
| 29 Ramona Huckabee | |

October Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 21 Paul & April Cartwright | 28 Dwight & Leah Bateman |
| 29 James & Laurie Maxcey | |