

## Those to Serve

October 26		November 2	
Morning Worship		Morning Worship	
Opening Prayer	<b>Chris Lindelof</b>	Opening Prayer	<b>David Smith</b>
Song Leader	<b>Kevin Odom</b>	Song Leader	<b>Greg Fabian</b>
Communion		Communion	
Presiding:	<b>Charles Huckabee</b>	Presiding:	<b>Eddie Ray</b>
<b>Phil Godwin</b>	<b>Jeremy Pettit</b>	<b>Eugene Priestley</b>	<b>John Genaro</b>
<b>Chuck Huckabee</b>	<b>Claude Anderson</b>	<b>Bill Russell</b>	<b>Bobby Parker</b>
<b>Gary Adams</b>	<b>Anthony Sandoval</b>	<b>Kevin Odom</b>	<b>Kyle Huckabee</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>Mike Turner</b>	Closing Prayer	<b>Brian Pack</b>
Nursery		Nursery	
<b>Julee Genaro</b>	<b>Canova Genaro</b>	<b>Laura Odom</b>	<b>April Cartwright</b>
Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Opening Prayer	<b>Eddie Ray</b>	Opening Prayer	<b>Ron Bazzy</b>
Song Leader	<b>Mike Turner</b>	Song Leader	<b>Bobby Parker</b>
Communion	<b>B. Pack &amp; B. Williams</b>	Communion	<b>T. Greene &amp; C. Huckabee</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>Lynn Adams</b>	Closing Prayer	<b>Gary Adams</b>
Nursery	<b>Angela Parker</b>	Nursery	<b>Heather Brown</b>
Both Services		Both Services	
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
<b>*Brian Pack, Bob Williams, Kevin Ford, Gheath Alatrash, Nathan Scarsdale</b>		<b>*Tex Greene, Chuck Huckabee, Jeremy Brown, Loyd Wilson, Josh Hamilton</b>	
Announcements	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>	Announcements	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>
Video Camera	<b>Elijah Sandoval</b>	Video Camera	<b>John Adams</b>
Welcomers		Welcomers	
<b>Von &amp; Rubye Jo Knight</b>		<b>Claude &amp; Leona Anderson</b>	
<b>Gary &amp; Jean Adams</b>		<b>Lynn &amp; Lucille Adams</b>	
Building Lock Up	<b>Kevin Odom</b>	Building Lock Up	<b>Von Knight</b>
Wednesday 10/22		Wednesday 10/29	
Song Leader	<b>Dwight Ramsey</b>	Song Leader	<b>Bobby Parker</b>
Opening Prayer	<b>David Smith</b>	Opening Prayer	<b>Paul Cartwright</b>
Closing Prayer	<b>Tex Greene</b>	Closing Prayer	<b>Lynn Adams</b>
Devotional	<b>Greg Fabian</b>	Devotional	<b>Chris Lindelof</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

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## The Pearland Harvester

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

## THE LAW OF DIMINISHING RETURNS

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The Columbia Encyclopedia defines this as a law of economics stating that if one factor of production is increased while the others remain constant, the overall returns will decrease after a certain point. As an example they pointed out that if more and more laborers are added to harvest a wheat field, at some point the additional laborers will become less productive because there is less and less fixed land to harvest from. In other words, 10 laborers might harvest a 100 acre wheat field at a labor cost of \$1.00 per bushel of wheat. But if you want to speed the harvest up and hire 100 laborers instead of 10, you will get the field harvested faster but your labor cost will go up while the yield remains unchanged.

It is not just an economic law. The principle holds true when applied to spiritual matters. One man may be very devoted to the Lord, always putting the Lord above everything else in his life. As a result he may not ever amass the great fortunes that his neighbors acquire. Another man who also loves the Lord may see this and decide that a little less devotion to the Lord will pay dividends in more things acquired. So he starts to give a little less. He now attends a little less, fellowships a little less and serves others a little less so that he can now give a little more money and time to his own pleasures and pursuits. It seems like a fine idea to begin with. There is an immediate return on this new investment. He has things never before owned and time for personal pleasures never before enjoyed. Following the law of reaping and sowing, he now decides to spend just a little bit less time and money than he had previously been spending on spiritual matters and he expects to find that he will have more things and more time to enjoy them - and life will be good.

But at some point that plan fails – it always does.



It will fail because the body is made for the spirit and the soul, not the other way around. If the body becomes the focal point of life so that all of its wants and desires are met while the spirit and the soul languish, there will come a time when the pleasures that first stimulated the body no longer have that effect. A man who has forgotten God in order to satisfy self will find evil days ahead and a time where even life itself brings no pleasure (Eccl. 12:1). Solomon indulged himself in every pursuit of life, denying himself nothing. With all the wealth and power that only a king could possess he pampered his every whim. But the day came when no amount of money or labor would give increased satisfaction. **“All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun”** (Eccl. 2:10,11). None of us could ever apply the resources that Solomon had. If he experienced diminishing returns with all that he had to invest, what should we expect if we invest our resources on such things? Paul wrote, **“God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap”** (Gal. 6:7). And one day soon the harvest reaped will bring anything but joy.

It will fail for a second reason as well. God will not continue to bless the man who continues to move away from God. In Haggai’s day the people of God had pursued their own pleasures with great industry at the expense of rebuilding the house of God. And the immediate returns were great. They were living in splendid homes and taking their life at ease. But as time went on they found it harder and harder

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**YOUTH EVENTS**

**JR. & SR. HIGH**

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



**Bay Area Wide Paintball War** will be Saturday, November 1st at 10AM. Cost is \$25 which includes rental equipment and lunch. See Paul for more details.

J.A.M will be November 8th from Noon to 2 PM.

**Bible Class 2 Yr Old—6th Grade**

Sunday morning Bible class lesson will be **Altar Built By Three Tribes Joshua 22**. Wednesday evening lesson will be **Joshua Warns Against Foreign Nations & Joshua's Farewell Address Joshua 23 & 24**.



*Continued from pg 1*

to maintain, let alone increase in wealth. Through the prophet, God said, **“Consider your ways! You have sown much, but harvest little; you eat, but there is not enough to be satisfied; you drink, but there is not enough to become drunk; you put on clothing, but no one is warm enough; and he who earns, earns wages to put into a purse with holes”** (Hag. 1:5b,6). The harder they worked, the less they got back! It is a prime example of the law of diminishing returns. Why was this so? Why did increased effort and increased expenditures not yield an increased harvest? God actively worked against them so that their harvest was smaller each year. The rains they depended on came less frequently. Whether it was field crops, vineyards, orchards or herds, God caused all of it to diminish because they had failed to put Him first (Hag. 1:9-11).

That part about failing to put Him first is not found in the first chapter of Haggai. I chose to express it in that way but the text doesn't use those words. The text says that they neglected the house of the Lord. They actively put off rebuilding it (v. 2) and they allowed it to remain in a state of desolation (v. 9). Not putting God first is the same as neglecting Him altogether. In this endeavor, God will not bless us even if we ask Him to (James 4:3).

It is a hard law, this law of diminishing returns, and it seems that there are no exceptions to the rule. Well, maybe there is one.

The Bible teaches that the man who puts the Lord first in everything will see an ever increasing harvest. There is more joy, more knowledge, more faith, more hope, more love, and more peace. When we add moral excellence to our faith and then add knowledge to that; and then add self control and perseverance; and then add godliness and brotherly kindness, and then add to all of that love - and then *increase* each of these as the days go by, we will never be disappointed with a smaller return (2 Pet 1:5-8). Nor is it possible that such would be the case seeing that He has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness (v. 3).

In these uncertain times where we are seeing our investments dry up and the value of our possessions becoming less all the time, doesn't it make sense to start investing in the one thing that will never have diminishing returns?

Keep studying, D. C. Brown ©2008

***There is a pressing need to assist the brethren at the Broadway church in Galveston, They are without a bldg but are providing meals and assisting their fellow islanders. I do not have a phone number, but you can contact the Lake Jackson congregation and they can help you help others. Thanks, DC***

**October Birthdays**

22 Dal Randle	24 Minnie Harris
27 Jarod Go	27 Sarah Adams
27 Jeri Farmer	28 Steven Cuellar
28 Ashley Turner	29 Ramona Huckabee

**October Anniversaries**

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

**KEPT IN PRAYER**

**Betty Bazy, Cooper Gartrell, and Bill Westmoreland** as they continue to struggle with health issues.

**Katie Barnes** is in Clear Lake Hospital with heart problems. No visitors please.

**Betty Bazy** has returned to the hospital but has requested no visitors. She will receive a nerve block on Thursday to help with pain management. Please keep the entire family in prayer in this very difficult time.

**Alice Moore** is in St. Luke's CCU—please call before visiting.

**Lauretta Wilson** has moved to Converse, TX to live with her sister, Sondra Reese. Please pray also for **Lt. Col. Robert Reese**, Sondra's husband, who will be deployed in Jan. for a year tour in Saudi Arabia.

**Grant O'Brien**, grandson of Vi price, has returned home.

**Bruce Welch** is undergoing chemo.

**In Continuing Need:**

**Our Members:** Betty Bazy, LaRue Case, Glenda Cashiola, Cooper Gartrell, Dorothy Kirkland, Ed & Wilma Koob, Janice Lemoine, Claudia Martin, Dwight & Andra Ramsey, Elaine Rawlings, Jennifer & Chase Shelton, Rick Stone. **Shut-In:** Varnell Allison, Katie Barnes, Leonard Dunford, Rossie Gilbert, Rebecca Morganthaler. **Others:** Timothy Anderson, Alexander & Elias Barahona, Elton Bennett, Justin Britt, Delta Burner, Bobby Chenault, Hazel & Doyal Childress, Margaret Clayton, Michael Dykes, Dee Grigg, Fred & Florence Henshaw, William Kay, Kerry Lemoine, Margaret McKinney, Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Clairette Pool, Talley Pruitt, Katy Ramsey, Betty Rosenberg, Bing Scherzer, Lance Smith, Brett Statham, Kay Taliaferro, Alan Walker, Elaine Wilson.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **Von Knight** is the contact elder for October. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the elders, please see Von.
- **Trunk-n-Treat** will be Friday, October 31st from 7:00—9:30 PM in the Annex parking lot. We are asking that you decorate the trunk of your car, bring candy to pass out & come dressed in seasonal attire if you wish. We need to know a definite number of cars participating—**PLEASE** sign

the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer.

- **Sync/Swim** has been postponed to Nov. 7th & 8th. All times and other information remains the same.
- **General Business Meeting** will be Sunday, November 2nd, following evening services.
- **Golden Agers Game Day** will be postponed one week till the 10th.

**November Birthdays**

2 Anthony Sandoval	4 Vi Price
4 Michelle Griffith	8 Laura Wilson
15 Tim Godwin	16 Rossie Gilbert
16 Charles Huckabee	16 Phil Gerber
17 Chip Bateman	26 Lela Farmer
27 Emily Ford	29 Larry Phillips

**November Anniversaries**

5 Tex & Pat Greene	19 Bill & Donna Russell
19 Chuck & Laurie Huckabee	