

Those to Serve

| December 14 | | December 21 | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Morning Worship | | Morning Worship | |
| Opening Prayer | Von Knight | Opening Prayer | Eddie Ray |
| Song Leader | Kevin Odom | Song Leader | Gary Adams |
| Communion | | Communion | |
| Presiding: | Chris Lindelof | Presiding: | Clifford Layton |
| Jeremy Pettit | Gheath Alatrash | Kevin Odom | Bill Russell |
| Lynn Adams | Kevin Scarsdale | Greg Fabian | Bobby Parker |
| Dwight Ramsey | Ross Genaro | Larry Roberson | James Taylor |
| Closing Prayer | Claude Anderson | Closing Prayer | Derek Mauney |
| Nursery | | Nursery | |
| Laura Odom | Michelle Griffith | April Cartwright | Kylee Fabian |
| Evening Worship | | Evening Worship | |
| Opening Prayer | Paul Hamilton | Opening Prayer | Tex Greene |
| Song Leader | Bob Williams | Song Leader | Paul Cartwright |
| Communion | B. Russell & C. Huckabee | Communion | M. Turner & D. Blair |
| Closing Prayer | Eddie Ray | Closing Prayer | Jeremy Brown |
| Nursery | Debbie Brown | Nursery | Amy Cuellar |
| Both Services | | Both Services | |
| Ushers (*indicates head usher) | | Ushers (*indicates head usher) | |
| *Bill Russell, Charles Huckabee, Eugene Priestley, Kevin Ford, Anthony Sandoval | | *Mike Turner, David Blair, David Blair Jr., Greg Fabian, Tim Godwin | |
| Announcements | Paul Cartwright | Announcements | Paul Cartwright |
| Video Camera | Nathan Scarsdale | Video Camera | John Adams |
| Welcomers David & Brenda Blair Gary & Jean Adams | | Welcomers Derek & Tracey Mauney Clifford & Nina Layton | |
| Building Lock Up | Clifford Layton | Building Lock Up | Gary Adams |
| Wednesday 12/10 | | Wednesday 12/17 | |
| Song Leader | Bob Williams | Song Leader | Greg Fabian |
| Opening Prayer | Bill Russell | Opening Prayer | David Smith |
| Closing Prayer | Lynn Adams | Closing Prayer | Claude Anderson |
| Devotional | Chris Lindelof | Devotional | David Blair |

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
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 Tiohanan Evangelist
 Save, Benin West Africa

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

ARE WE PLAYING RELIGION?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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While having lunch with one of our church members yesterday, I learned of a new trend in American society. I was told that more Americans are going to church these days. I asked him where he heard that and he told me that it had been reported on the radio. As soon as I got back to the office I started researching the issue and learned that church attendance in the greater Houston metroplex is up by more than 5% with the contributing factors being the *holiday season* (2.89%) and the *economy* (2.24%).

This is good news because, and only because, it is better than having church attendance on the decrease. Apparently, the numbers will slack off when the new year begins since Easter won't be observed until April 12th and Mother's day on May 10th. Those 102 days between the end of the year and the first of these two holidays next year will likely prove to be a cooling off period where religious fervor is concerned. However, should the economy continue to decline, the number of church goers might continue to increase.

The troubling thing about this rise in church attendance is that it doesn't reflect a change in our core values. Instead, it reflects our love of a panacea for every ill. Once things return to normal, or we acclimate to the new norms, the interest in God and the need to seek His blessings will rapidly dissipate. The reason is simple. Most Americans feel that their religious commitment is already acceptable.

Having a family connection to a particular church or denomination is really all that is needed for a large segment of our society. This connection gives too many of us a false sense of relationship with God, and affords

the convenience of not having to be committed to weekly attendance or involvement. For others, "church" is another civic organization that has its merits, but is seen as being more or less equal to other organizations. Active membership in many civic clubs may be limited to paying the required membership dues and participating in certain yearly events that already appeal to the member, such as a golf tournament or a walkathon.

In other words, religion is not a matter of zeal for most of us. In fact, we have been conditioned to admire zeal in those who follow certain sports or who are passionate for a cause such as breast cancer awareness. We can appreciate the political fervor that drives some people to do extraordinary things for the advancement of a political party. But zeal in religion is to be avoided at all costs. Politicians, Hollywood and society at large are in agreement that religion is to be tolerated but only so long as it requires no greater commitment than attendance among its most faithful, and affiliation for the rest. Anything beyond that is not just excessive; it is portrayed to be dangerous.

The reality is that lukewarm religion is destroying this nation. Years ago, D. Elton Trueblood said, "In our modern world, our real danger comes not from irreligion, but from mild religion." His assessment was on target and reflects the feelings of our Lord. Christianity is not intended as an appendage of our culture. The New Testament makes it plain that Christianity IS our culture. Jesus said, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). Should that not make the case with clarity, recall the rebuke He gives to the brethren at Laodicea: "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,'



YOUTH EVENTS

JR. & SR. HIGH

J.A.M. 3RD THRU 6TH



Jr. & Sr. High Devo will be at the Cartwright's house this Sunday. Bring a gift for exchange—Under \$10.

J.A.M will be January 10th from Noon to 2PM.

Bible Class 2 Yr Old—6th Grade

Sunday morning Bible class lesson will be **Jesus Teaches Love** John 15. Wednesday evening lesson will be **Overcoming The World** John 16.



and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked..." (Rev. 3:15-17).

Let's pray for a renewal of interest in God's will among those of our nation and in our city. Mild religion is no blessing and its positive effects will at best be short lived.

In the three Awakening Movements that have occurred in this nation – times in which real religious fervor was

rekindled - we have never come out worse for the experience. They were never just the results of economic downturns; they were cultured and fed by those who saw the value of a nation turning to its God. We could be instrumental in creating and fostering one for this generation. It is needed!

Keep studying.

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Officer Needs Assistance

One of Pearland's police officers is dealing with a personal tragedy. Officer Jason Myers lost his wife and the mother of his three children (ages 8, 5 and 1) through a sudden illness that took her life last week. Officer Myers is now struggling with several mounting financial burdens. He has incurred medical expenses, he is faced with the sudden loss of her income, and the pressures of the holiday season are causing additional strain. The office has been in contact with the police department and we have learned that food is no longer a need, but monetary needs are increasing. An account has been set up at Washington Mutual Bank for Jason and his children. Those wishing to make a donation can do so through one of the following methods:

- 1.) You can take your donation directly to any Washington Mutual branch and have them look up the account number under "Pearland Police Officer's Association FBO Jason Myers." You can also refer them to the Pearland Police Officer's Association Special Account.
- 2.) Members of this congregation can also provide Washington Mutual with the account number. We have that number on file here at the office but we don't wish to publicize the number.

Officer H. T. Hoaglan sent us the following message: "Thank you very much...it is very nice to hear such consideration and willingness to help, especially being in the business we are in."

KEPT IN PRAYER

Bill Kirby remains in Triumph Rehab, Room 109.

Jessica Little, a former member, came forward Sunday to request prayers on her own behalf as well as two friends of hers. One friend is undergoing cancer testing & the other just lost her mother.

Jackie Jackson, a friend of Marsha Bradbury's has returned to Oklahoma. He is need of continued prayers.

Patsy Pierce, friend of Susan Lenamon is in Scott & White Hospital in Temple, TX following surgery to repair severe breaks in one leg. She is also struggling with bone cancer.

Bruce Welch is undergoing chemo treatments.

In Continuing Need:

Our Members: LaRue Case, Glenda Cashiola, Cooper Gartrell, 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 Morgenthaler. **Others:** Mark Brown, 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, Katy Ramsey, Betty Rosenberg, Bing Scherzer, Lance Smith, Brett Statham, Kay Taliaferro, Alan Walker, Elaine Wilson.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

• **Gary Adams** is the contact elder for December. If you would like to schedule a meeting with the elders, please see Gary.

• **Golden Agers Christmas Party**—Dec 12 at 6:30 PM. Meat will be furnished, bring side dishes and a gift for the Exchange Game.

• **Elders/Deacons/ Ministers Meeting**—Dec 13. Breakfast at Kelley's at 8 AM, meeting at 9 AM.

• **Ladies Prayer Breakfast**—Dec 13 at 8:00 AM at Kelley's.

• **Jr/Sr High Service Project**—Dec 13, from Noon—3PM in the Annex. Lunch will be provided. Please bring \$5 to cover cost of activity.

• **Meeting for ALL ADULTS WHO SERVE AS USHERS** following services Sunday morning.

• **Meals On Wheels**—Dec 15—19. If you can help, please contact Leah Bateman.

December Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 10 | Ron Bazy | 11 | Craig Willeford |
| 11 | Barbara Puckett | 12 | Harold Moore |
| 17 | John Genaro | 24 | Bob Williams |
| 24 | Joyce Howard | 25 | Noah Hill |
| 27 | Matthew Fabian | 27 | Mallory Odom |
| 31 | Stacey Sandoval | 31 | Maresha Scarsdale |
| 31 | Loma Stone | | |

December Anniversaries

| | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| 17 | Michael & Teresa Turner | 18 | Bill & Dianne Westmoreland |
| 27 | Bob & Mitzi Williams | 27 | Rick & Jean Nudelman |