

Those to Serve

July 14		July 21	
Morning Worship		Morning Worship	
Opening Prayer	Kevin Scarsdale	Opening Prayer	Paul Hamilton
Song Leader	Greg Fabian	Song Leader	Paul Cartwright
Communion		Communion	
Presiding: Ike Atkins		Presiding: Charlie Story	
Matthew Fabian	Daniel Brown	Nathan Scarsdale	Tim Nations
Jeremy Brown	Damon McHargh	Matt Cheshier	Charlie Layton
James Maxcey	Russell Genaro	Logan Lindelof	Bobby Parker
Closing Prayer	Paul Hamilton	Closing Prayer	Demetris Kelly
Nursery		Nursery	
Laurie Maxcey	Dallas Maxcey	Nina Layton	Molly Godwin
Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Opening Prayer	Lynn Adams	Opening Prayer	Gary Adams
Song Leader	Gary Adams	Song Leader	Paul Cartwright
Communion	Charlie Layton, M Fabian	Communion	N Scarsdale, B Parker
Closing Prayer	Charlie Story	Closing Prayer	Kevin Scarsdale
Morning Worship		Morning Worship	
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
*Bobby Parker, Jacob Carriere, Warren Hudman		*David Clayton, Chris Peters, Derek Mauney	
Announcements	Chris Lindelof	Announcements	Chris Lindelof
Greeters		Greeters	
Greg & Linda Fabian		Gary & Jean Adams	
Building Lock Up	Fabian	Building Lock Up	Lindelof
Sound & Projector	Banyai, Whitmire	Sound & Projector	Banyai, Whitmire
July 10		July 17	
Building Lock Up	G Adams	Building Lock Up	Fabian

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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 Bible Study.....7 pm

ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-997-3790
 Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
 Chris Lindelof 281-997-6437
 Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866

DEACONS

Demetris Kelly
 Rick Nudelman
 Bobby Parker
 Chris Peters
 Charlie Story
 Bob Williams

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
 Paul Cartwright Youth & Family Minister

MISSIONARIES

Benin, West Africa:
 Paul Tohionon - Bohicon
 Pascal Djedatin - Dassa, Soklogbo, Paouignan
 Jonas Sambieni - BTC and Glazoue
 Gaston Nda & Raul Baya - Natitingou
 Boniface Yentekoua - Kaboua
 Dorothee Tchekpo—Savé, Boubou Pompe
 Andre Assogba - Savé, Besse, Atchakpa
 Blaise Atta - Beterou, Sinaou, Wari Maro
 Elie Kouagou - N'Dali
 Joachin Tonou - Abomey
 Gabin Agbeci - Savalou
 Bienvenu Assogba - BTC student from Savé

Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies
 Lewis Romain

Prison Ministry Gene Rowe



JULY 10, 2013

The Pearland Harvester

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

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IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING

The expression that is the title of this article is one that we hear all the time. It's synonymous with words like "obviously" or "of course." It is to assume that all parties in the discussion understand certain facts to be in evidence without the need to express them. However, sometimes that assumption is wrong. We've all been in the situation where someone points out an obvious fact or bit of reasoning that, up until that moment, wasn't obvious at all.

It is just as easy to miss an obvious point from God's word as it is in any other discussion. For instance, consider an oft-quoted verse from Peter's first letter: "Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21).

We often quote this verse when discussing the subject of salvation and the necessity of baptism. I don't believe I have ever heard a Christian misuse the verse – as it applies to baptism. Yet, the verse forms the summation of a point and the explanation of both an illustration and an event – on both of which there is much confusion that can lead to error. We've "gone without saying" much in regard to those two, and so "it goes without saying" that quite a few of us are confused by the passage.

To begin with, the inspired statements that Peter made which brought him to his summary remarks about baptism include: "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison" (v. 18,19). This is a statement that is guaranteed to be puzzling to many. Catholics and Calvinists alike take this to mean that Christ briefly went to hell and, while there, He preached. The teaching is prominent in *The Apostle's Creed* (which Catholics, Lutherans, Anglicans,

Presbyterians, and Methodists all subscribe to).

Peter did not say that Jesus personally preached in the days of Noah (v. 20), but rather that it was done by the spirit of Christ (v. 18,19). In other words, the work of Christ was carried out by someone other than Christ – in this case, Noah. Just as God does things today through our service and our good deeds (Eph. 2:10), Christ did things through the hands of those who served Him. John tells us that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was baptizing more people than John, yet the very next verse tells us that it wasn't Jesus but His disciples who were baptizing (Jn. 4:1,2). Similarly, Paul noted of Jesus that "He came and preached peace to you" in his letter to the Ephesians. Jesus never went to Ephesus in the days of His flesh; but after His ascension, His believers did – and they did it in His name. In fact, Peter had, earlier in the letter, noted that the prophets had proclaimed salvation and grace, but it was actually "the Spirit of Christ within them" (1 Pt. 1:10-12). When Noah, "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Pt. 2:5) preached the message he was told to preach, he was the agent by which the Spirit of Christ preached to that generation. The preaching occurred during their lifetime, by the mouth of Noah and of the Spirit of Christ. Their disobedience sealed their fate, and now their spirits are in prison. The verb tenses of the text are clear. "He went and made proclamation (past tense) to the spirits now (present tense) in prison" (v. 19). Where is this prison? It is the Hadean realm, the same realm that Jesus spoke of where Abraham, Lazarus, and the rich man are – a place where souls remain and cannot pass from one side to the other, until final judgment.

The illustration of the worldwide flood and Noah's salvation points to the need for baptism. Still, some of us misunderstand what happened and what didn't. It was not that Noah's soul was saved and his sins were forgiven by the waters that bore him and his family up – they saved his life, not his soul; and they spared his life, but they did not wash away his sins. What saved His soul was his faithful obedience and trust in God.



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YOUTH EVENTS

Bay Area Wide Devotional Schedule:

- July 15 - 7 PM at Hidden Valley; van will leave the Annex at 5:45 PM.
- July 22 - 7 PM at Graeber Road; van will leave the Annex at 5:45 PM.
- July 29 - 7 PM at Angleton; van will leave the Annex at 6 PM.
- August 5 - 7 PM at League City; van will leave the Annex at 6 PM.



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However, the illustration of his life being saved by the waters of the flood points to the spiritual truth that at baptism our souls are saved by washing away our sins (Acts 22:16) and **“by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”** (Titus 3:5). The illustration of a life saved points to the greater value of a soul saved.

Because it does not necessarily go without saying – we need to say that Jesus did not descend into hell and preach to the generation contemporary with Noah, and we need to say that the flood waters did not save the souls or wash away the sins of Noah and his family. We need to say that the Spirit of Christ used Noah to preach to his generation, and they were judged by their response to that preaching. We need to say that God once used the water to bear up the ark and save the lives of Noah and his family, and today God uses our submission to the command to be baptized as the way in which we make an appeal to God for a clean conscience.

However, it goes without saying that I will end this article in the way that I always do...

Keep studying! ✉DC Brown ©2013

If you are the parent of a child in the congregation or are responsible for bringing a child to the Pearland Church of Christ, you are invited to a planning session on Sunday, July 21, following the evening worship service. We will have a potluck-style meal, so bring enough food for your family and a few extra. Childcare will be provided for the younger children. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Cartwright.

SOUND & PROJECTOR - WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTHS OF AUGUST & DECEMBER. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING, FREE TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED. TWO PEOPLE ARE REQUIRED FOR THE VARIOUS DUTIES. PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU CAN ASSIST. WE NEED MORE PEOPLE !

KEPT IN PRAYER

David Clayton received a good report from his surgery last week.

Dawn Bell is home.

Kay Taliaferro is a cancer patient; she recently learned her cancer has spread to other areas. Kay is Anthony Taliaferro's mother; Anthony is Dianne Westmoreland's son-in-law.

Scott Westmoreland is almost finished with his current round of treatments and will have his scans in early August. He is feeling well.

Aidan Fritz, Molly Carriere's great-nephew, is still in Texas Children's Hospital and receiving IV antibiotics.

Darlene Woods is having a PET scan at MD Anderson today.

Charles Huckabee is home and on IV antibiotics. No visitors are permitted.

In Continuing Need:

Our Members: Neil & Fran Barnhill, Tracy & Martha Cain, Evelyn Cordell, Billie Dykes, June Evans, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Noah & Murrell Hill, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Evelyn Lawhon, Chris Lindelof, Claudia Martin, Betty Pridgen, Brenda Riggs, Doris Stuteville. **Shut-In:** Libby Clayton **Others:** Timothy Anderson, Evelyn Fabian, Marjorie Garrison, Jim Godwin, Dee Grigg, Charles Huckabee, Mike Huffman, Linda Kacal, Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Charlie Pruitt, Cloey Pruitt, Gene Rowe, Sr., Rick Stone, Steve Taylor, Scott Westmoreland, Darlene Woods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Lindelof is the contact elder for July. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see Chris.

July Events

- 13 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 13 Elders, Deacons, Ministers Meeting—9 AM—Elders' Conference Room
- 22-26 Meals on Wheels

THE WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES' CLASS WILL NOT MEET ON JULY 17. IT WILL RESUME ON JULY 24.

If you are interested in ordering business cards (example below), please see DC Brown or Gretchen Whitmire. The cost is \$13.50 per 100 cards. The cards are double-sided with a high-gloss finish.



July Birthdays

- 3 Nina Layton
- 6 Leon McHargh
- 12 Shane Harder
- 17 Amy Cuellar
- 19 Gary Moss
- 23 Sarah Brown
- 27 Jack Cherry
- 29 Logan Finch
- 31 James Maxcey

July Anniversaries

- 6 Gabriel Alatrash
- 7 Demetris & Kaliya Kelly
- 8 Linda Fabian
- 12 Trenton Hudman
- 19 Logan Lindelof
- 20 Doris Teague
- 24 Neil Barnhill
- 27 Leah Gartrell
- 31 Kylee Fabian
- 25 Paul & Judy Dillon
- 28 Jeremy & Heather Cook
- 31 Jack & Dorothy Cherry

We will not intentionally omit anyone from the birthday/anniversary list. If you have not turned in the **Members Information Update Sheets** to the office, please do so.