

Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening May 14	Wednesday Evening May 21
Building Lock Up — Scarsdale	Building Lock Up — G Adams

Morning Worship May 18	Morning Worship May 25
Opening Prayer Charlie Story	Opening Prayer Kevin Scarsdale
Song Leader Paul Cartwright	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Gary Adams	Presiding: Demetris Kelly
Bobby Parker Russell Genaro	Stephen Morton Brandon Stafford
Tom Langford Tim Nations	Charlie Layton Logan Lindelof
Nathan Scarsdale Paul Hamilton	Matthew Fabian Phil Godwin
Announcements Greg Fabian	Announcements Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Debbie Brown Virginia Visel	Nina Layton Molly Godwin
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Jeremy Brown, Jacob Carriere, Rick Nudelman	*Daniel Brown, Warren Hudman, Lynn Adams
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector—Video for AM & PM	Audio—Projector—Video for AM & PM
Williams & Sheila Banyai	Williams & Sheila Banyai
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—G Adams	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Fabian
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer Demetris Kelly	Opening Prayer Charlie Story
Song Leader Bobby Parker	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion Paul Hamilton, N Scarsdale	Communion Logan Lindelof, Stephen Morton
Closing Prayer Greg Fabian	Closing Prayer Greg Fabian

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am

Morning Worship.....10 am

Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

Pearland Church of Christ

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

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ELDERS

Gary Adams 281-997-3790
Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
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 - Glazoue
Gaston Nda - 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

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MAY 14, 2014

The Pearland Harvester

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

DEAD AND BURIED?

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Questions are often raised about what Jesus meant when He responded to a disciple's request: **"Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father"** (Mt. 8:21). Does the Lord's reply, **"Follow Me, and allow the dead to bury their own dead."** (v. 22) seem harsh? Was it the case that

Jesus simply didn't care about this man's problem or his need to grieve?

First, we should note that we weren't there and we don't know the heart of the man or the exact circumstances he faced. For instance, was his father simply of that age in which one would reasonably expect that his time on earth was almost complete, or was there reason to think his death was imminent? While we do not know how much time was anticipated, we do know that the Lord's demands were no more burdensome for this man than for any other.

Discipleship was something he wanted for himself but it seems that he felt honor and duty required him to stay at home until his family obligations no longer existed. But was it reasonable for him to defer his discipleship until such a time in the future when his family obligations would no longer exist? His request was to "first" go and bury his father. Yet the teaching of Jesus had always been, **"Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness"** (Mt. 6:33). Jesus also taught, **"If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me"** (Lk. 9:23).

Second, we should consider that Jesus was calling to the man's attention the very heart of discipleship. To follow Jesus is necessarily to separate from those who do not. Jesus performed so many miracles in Galilee that the crowds continually pressed Him. Yet it seems that miracles were the only reason for the ever-present multitudes. They came, but often made sinful assumptions about what they saw (Mt. 11:18,19). They marveled at miracles, but they did not repent

(Mt. 11:21-24). Can one be a true disciple but only from a distance? If this man could stay at home until it was a more convenient time to truly commit, why doesn't the Lord allow all men to do the same thing? The test of discipleship was to leave behind those who don't believe, even if they are the members of one's own house (Mk. 10:29).



Third, we need to understand that **"allow the dead to bury their own dead,"** was to simply state that those who do not believe in Jesus are as dead spiritually as this man's father would soon be physically. In Jesus is life (Jn. 1:4) and only in Jesus (Jn. 14:6). To refuse to believe in Him as the Christ is to die separated from God by sin (Jn. 8:24; Is. 59:1,2).

Today the test of discipleship remains. We often want to follow Jesus but our sense of propriety compels us to put off following Him. Family wants our time on the Lord's day. Entertainment wants our time on the Lord's day. Merchants want the money we would have given to the Lord if we had put Him first. We want to be baptized, but to do so would surely offend some in our family. So do we wait them out? We want to give up sinful habits and practices that might be a stumbling block to others. Yet giving those things up immediately will surely send out a negative message to some of our friends. So do we wait them out as well? We want to put the Lord first in our lives and in our hearts. We really do. But first we want to ask the Lord's permission to go and ...

To follow anything or anyone is to do so for self-gain. To follow Christ, we have to be like Paul who said, **"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ"** (Philippians 3:7) and to be like the Macedonian brethren who **"first gave themselves to the Lord"** (2 Cor. 8:5).

Keep studying and keep serving! D.C. Brown ©2014

YOUTH EVENTS

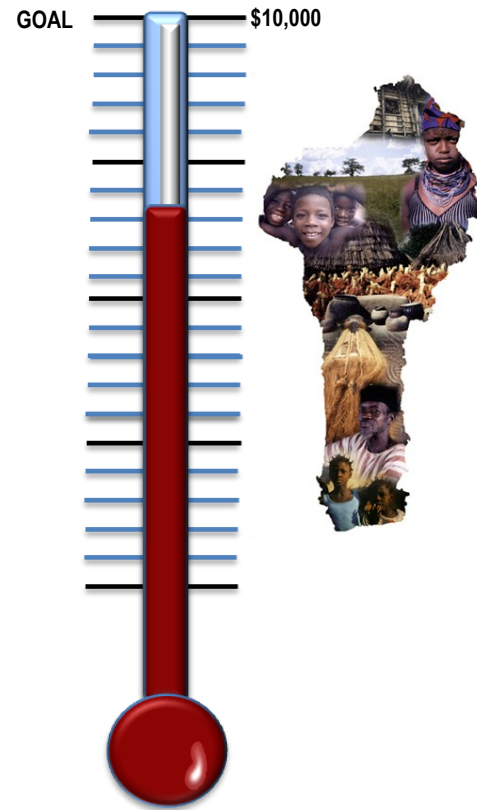


Camp Bandina (7th-12th graders) is June 8-14, 2014. Paul needs the forms ASAP.

VBS will be June 22-25, 2014. There will be a planning session at the front of the auditorium following morning services.

Camp Twin Oaks Ranch (formerly Camp Thousand Oaks Ranch) for our 3rd-6th graders is July 30-August 3. Please see Paul for more information.

BENIN 2014 If you would like to make a contribution to the gift offering I'll be taking to our brethren in Benin, please give your money or check to Bob Williams or to Gretchen. Thanks so much! DC



KEPT IN PRAYER

Dorothy Kirkland is recuperating at home.

In Continuing Need:

Our Members: Neil & Fran Barnhill, Tracy & Martha Cain, David Clayton, Evelyn Cordell, Daisy Dees, Billie Dykes, June Evans, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Minnie Harris, Noah & Murrell Hill, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Brenda Langford, Evelyn Lawhon, Claudia Martin, Betty Pridgen, Brenda Riggs, Doris Stuteville. **Shut-In:** Libby Clayton **Others:** Timothy Anderson, Marjorie Garrison, Jim Godwin, Rhonda Jones, Bartis Knight, Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Cloey Pruitt, Sherly Scott, Rick Stone, Darlene Woods, Wayne Wyatt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Fabian is our contact elder for May. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see Greg.

MAY

17 Congregational Cleaning Day - 9 AM. Tasks include grinding tree stumps, vacuuming the auditorium and classrooms, and fixing an office window.



Church Wide Cook Out

Saturday, June 7, at 7 PM in the Annex Parking Lot

Please bring the fixins for your family (meats, buns, veggies, chips, etc.) We would like to begin serving at 7:00, so come early with your meat in order to give us time to grill it! There will be no penalty for bringing home-made ice cream.

Effective immediately, the Prayer Ministry group will begin meeting only on the first Sunday afternoon of each month.

The Golden Agers will not meet for their luncheon during the summer months (June, July, August). The luncheon will resume in September.

We need volunteers to operate our sound/projector. Please check the sign-up list on the bulletin board to see if you can help in the available months.

May Birthdays

- 3 Jonathan Peters
- 5 Karissa Bouillion
- 6 Hailey Hopkins
- 8 Heather Brown
- 9 Jean Adams
- 9 Janice Pearson
- 14 Daniel Brown
- 18 Audrey Nelson
- 20 Fran Barnhill
- 24 Morris Dyes
- 31 Atticus Brown

May Anniversaries

- 5 Charlene Bagwell
- 5 Michael Peters
- 7 Peggy Story
- 8 Demetris Kelly I
- 9 Murrell Hill
- 13 Jeremy Cook
- 17 David Clayton
- 19 Adam Parker
- 20 David Blair
- 26 Gena Coe
- 5 Chris & Ginny Lindelof
- 13 Brandon & Patricia Stafford
- 17 Derek & Tracey Mauney
- 31 Bruce & Becky Hopkins
- 13 Claude & Leona Anderson
- 14 Gary & Jean Adams
- 18 Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale