

## Those to Serve

Wednesday Evening September 17	Wednesday Evening September 24
Building Lock Up — Lindelof	Building Lock Up — Williams

Morning Worship September 21	Morning Worship September 28
Opening Prayer Charlie Story	Opening Prayer Chris Lindelof
Song Leader Paul Cartwright	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion	Communion
<b>Presiding:</b> Bob Williams	<b>Presiding:</b> Kevin Scarsdale
Charlie Layton Jeremy Brown	Matthew Fabian Nathan Scarsdale
Logan Lindelof Derek Mauney	Daniel Brown Russell Genaro
Chris Lindelof Brandon Stafford	Demetris Kelly Chris Peters
Announcements Greg Fabian	Announcements Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Molly Godwin Nina Layton	Canova Genaro Elaine Genaro
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Daniel Brown, Jacob Carriere, Nathan Scarsdale	*Bobby Parker, Warren Hudman, Clifford Layton
Greeters	Greeters
Lynn & Lucille Adams	Clifford & Nina Layton
Audio—Projector—Video for AM & PM	Audio—Projector—Video for AM & PM
Kent & Teresa Wroe, Sheila Banyai	Kent & Teresa Wroe, Sheila Banyai
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Williams	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Scarsdale

Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer Paul Hamilton	Opening Prayer Lynn Adams
Song Leader Paul Cartwright	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion Charlie Layton, Logan Lindelof	Communion Matthew Fabian, N Scarsdale
Closing Prayer Greg Fabian	Closing Prayer Charlie Story

### Worship Times:

#### Sunday

Bible Study .....9 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...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436

### 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**  
**Blaise Atta - Bétérou**  
**Clément Djebede - Okéwo**  
**Boniface Yantekoua - Kaboua**  
**Joachim Tounou - Abomey-Goho**  
**Gaston Nda - Natitingou**  
**Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou**  
**André Assogba - Savé et Kokoro**  
**Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé**  
**Paul Kouagou - N'Dali**  
**Jonas Sambieni - Glazoué**  
**Gabin Agbeci - Savalou**  
**Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies**  
**Lewis Romain**

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

# The Pearland Harvester

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

## I DON'T THINK GOD WANTS

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The following article, written by Jack Wilkie, is from Focus Press, September 9, 2014, and is part of their Questionable Quotes (?Q) series.

"I don't think God wants us to focus on (insert controversial doctrine)."

This questionable quote is one that seems to rear its ugly head every time there's a debate over

doctrine. Bring up baptism, unauthorized forms of worship, women's roles, or any number of other doctrinal matters, and eventually some person aiming to give sage advice will remark about how God doesn't really care about these issues like we do.

I'm sure you've heard the sermons or seen the articles from those who believe Christians need to avoid discussing those matters that aren't "salvation issues." A Facebook friend of mine recently posted one such article, and it had all of the trademark signs of those who use this questionable quote such as: the idea that we care a lot more about these things than God does, the point that it's hateful and judgmental to take a stand on those doctrines, the usual platitudes about how all we have been called to do is love God and love people (which is a convenient way of dodging all biblical discussion), and that if we are loving and free of pride as we should be we won't care to stand for such doctrines.

The problem with every single person who uses the "I don't think God wants us to focus on that issue" is right there in the quote. We don't have to "think"; we can know. God told us we can (2 Timothy 3:16-17). When we reduce doctrines like baptism or the worship of the church to what man thinks God may or may not care about, we ignore the fact that He has laid out exactly what He wants from us in His Word. (Of course, a person can do this with just about every single topic the Bible covers. These are simply the most common examples.)

Additionally, as soon as we depart from God's divine instructions, we place the truth about what matters or doesn't matter at man's discretion, creating a sliding scale of truth. To paint a picture of what I mean, consider the following example.

One man says all you have to do is say you believe in Jesus, and that's all God cares about. "I don't think God would want us to focus on the details of salvation, proper worship, or the roles He has given us - we've already been saved by faith!"

The next man demands that baptism is a part of salvation but doesn't think that God cares if women lead worship or if we worship with music. "It's judgmental to get caught up in these issues," he says, blind to the fact that he's judging the first man.

Still a third man agrees that baptism is necessary, but he believes that God has called men to lead in worship. Instruments are acceptable in his book, though. "Is God really going to care about that kind of thing? That's not very loving," he remarks. Despite the fact that he prides himself on not being unloving, he forgets that his beliefs naturally judge men #1 and #2.

So the example could go on ad infinitum, but you get the point. They decide what a salvation issue is, and anyone who goes beyond that point is unloving and judgmental. In their call for "balance" by not emphasizing what they don't think is important, they paint themselves as tolerant, loving people while forgetting that they judge someone, somewhere, including the very people whose doctrines they attempt to undermine. What these folks forget is that it is not loving to aid someone in remaining ignorant to God's will. It's not loving towards your fellow man, and it's especially not loving toward the God who provided us His spoken word so we could know exactly how to serve Him as He pleases. And, just as it's not loving to ignore God, it's not judgmental to teach and act on what He has told us to do. It is nothing more than humble obedience to a God who deserves it. When a person says that something doesn't matter because he "doesn't think God would want us to care about that," he sets himself up as a higher standard than God's holy Scriptures.

What's loving is to teach people the truth as God has given it, whether they want to accept it or not. God didn't give us the Bible so we could pick and choose what doesn't matter and talk down to people who want to apply it any more than we do. Through the course of your Christian life you are going to find plenty of people to your "left" and plenty to your "right" in areas of doctrine. What matters is

Continued on page 2

**YOUTH EVENTS**



There will be a video game night in the youth room Saturday, September 20, 2014, from 7 PM to 9 PM. Please bring your favorite snacks and drinks.

There will be a teen devotional following Sunday evening services at the home of Kent and Teresa Wroe. The van will leave following services and return no later than 9 PM.

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not your opinion or theirs, but what the Bible says. While there is room for disagreement and varying interpretations in the Bible, He hasn't left us in the dark on any of the issues that "progressives" want to ignore.

"I don't think God wants us to focus on \_\_\_\_\_" or whatever similar form that quote takes has become the trademark of those who don't want to examine and apply God's instruction, and we must be incredibly wary of those who use that phrase to manipulate doctrinal discussions. Any time a preacher, writer, or anyone else tells you "I don't think God wants us to focus on that," remember to ask one simple question: Has God spoken about it? If He has, He wants us to focus on it.

By Jack Wilkie



There is a draft of the pocket directory on the bulletin board. Please put a check mark by your name if the information is correct, or make changes if it is not. We would like to publish this information by mid-October, so please review by **September 28**.

**Church Wide Family Encampment** is scheduled for Oct 31<sup>st</sup> through Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> at Cagle Recreational Area near New Waverly. Several new families have placed membership and might not be aware of this opportunity. If you would like to camp with us (tenting or RV), go online to <http://www.recreation.gov> and reserve your site. We camp in the 2<sup>nd</sup> loop (Sycamore loop). All the sites have full hookups. There are also clean bath houses in the loop. We have worship on Sunday morning before breaking camp. It is located on Lake Conroe, 45 minutes north of Houston. Take I-45 north to the New Waverly exit, turn west on FM 1375 and go 6 miles. *For questions about food, what to bring or anything else, please see Charlie and Peggy Story or DC Brown.*



**KEPT IN PRAYER**

Kaliya Kelly will have hernia surgery on Tuesday, September 23.

**In Continuing Need:**  
**Our Members:** Neil & Fran Barnhill, Tracy & Martha Cain, David Clayton, Evelyn Cordell, Daisy Dees, Billie Dykes, June Evans, Lela Farmer, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Minnie Harris, Noah & Murrell Hill, Dorris Honeycutt, 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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The elders gave permission for the following announcement from Susan Lenamon to be published:



**BENEFIT FOR  
DARLENE GRIFFIN  
WOODS**

We all know her...we all love her...and we are all here to help her! The AskOzzie.com Tailgating for a Cause beneficiary is Ms. Darlene Woods of Pearland. ALL PROCEEDS will go to help her with her battle with cancer.

**AskOzzie.com**  
Real Estate Answers.

**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL TAILGATING FOR A CAUSE  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> 2014  
HOUSTON TEXANS VS. NEW YORK GIANTS**

**BILLY'S HALL**  
4070 Wells Dr. Pearland, TX 77584  
11:00 AM-7:00 PM

FOOD | DRINKS | AUCTIONS | 50/50 | MOONWALKS | DUNKING BOOTH  
GAME ON MULTIPLE SCREENS | LIVE MUSIC | RAFFLES |  
MECHANICAL BULL & MUCH MORE  
TO VOLUNTEER OR DONATE CONTACT US AT ASKOZZIECHARITIES@GMAIL.COM

**September Birthdays**

- 2 Kenneth Cain
- 3 Hugh Fletcher
- 5 Emma Cartwright
- 6 Randy Knight
- 8 Rick Nudelman
- 14 Dorothy Cherry
- 16 Ben Maxcey
- 20 Berna Dyes
- 23 Greg Fabian
- 24 Ricky Pearson
- 30 Lianne Biegay

**September Anniversaries**

- 16 Bobby & Angela Parker
- 30 David & Brenda Blair



The Arms of Hope Grocery Run will be the week of **October 6-10, 2014**. We need to collect **50 large bottles of clothes washing liquid and 30 bottles of body wash**. Please bring your items by Sunday, October 5. Let's have a generous donation.