

## Those to Serve

<b>Wednesday Evening December 3</b>	<b>Wednesday Evening December 10</b>
Building Lock Up — Scarsdale	Building Lock Up — Cartwright

Morning Worship December 7		Morning Worship December 14	
Opening Prayer	Lynn Adams	Opening Prayer	Greg Fabian
Song Leader	Paul Cartwright	Song Leader	Gary Adams
Communion		Communion	
<b>Presiding:</b> Demetris Kelly		<b>Presiding:</b> Kevin Scarsdale	
Phil Godwin	Ike Atkins	Kent Wroe	Rick Nudelman
Tom Langford	Jeremy Brown	Charlie Layton	Nathan Scarsdale
Daniel Brown	Bobby Parker	Logan Lindelof	Zach Williams
Announcements	Gary Adams	Announcements	Gary Adams
Closing Prayer		Closing Prayer	
Nursery Attendants		Nursery Attendants	
Laurie Maxcey	Dallas Maxcey	Molly Godwin	Nina Layton
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
*Clifford Layton, Warren Hudman, Craig Williams		*Lynn Adams, Jacob Carriere, Phil Godwin	
Greeters		Greeters	
Clifford & Nina Layton		Lynn & Lucille Adams	
Audio—Projector—Video for AM & PM		Audio—Projector—Video for AM & PM	
Whitmire, Riggs, Banyai		Whitmire, Riggs, Banyai	
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Cartwright		Building Lock Up for AM & PM—G Adams	

Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Opening Prayer	Paul Hamilton	Opening Prayer	Charlie Story
Song Leader	Paul Cartwright	Song Leader	Craig Williams
Communion	Daniel Brown, Bobby Parker	Communion	Charlie Layton, Logan Lindelof
Closing Prayer	Gary Adams	Closing Prayer	Gary Adams

### 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.

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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**  
**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**

www.pearlandcoc.com

DECEMBER 3, 2014

# The Pearland Harvester

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



## THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA

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Last weekend I had a sad conversation with a very zealous middle-aged man who was so enthusiastic about salvation and the way God moves within a person's heart before they believe. I began to ask him some questions designed to help him see the dilemma of his logic. He believes in free will, but only in matters that are inconsequential. This isn't difficult to understand. If there is no free will in salvation, then free will, by definition, does not exist.

Calvinism runs contrary to virtually everything Scripture teaches on salvation. It teaches that the elect are predestined for salvation. It teaches that the elect are irresistibly saved and the lost irresistibly lost. Even so, its many religious groups raise millions of dollars each year for missions. Why?

Does Scripture even speak of the "elect"? Yes! The elect are those God calls to Himself (Acts 2:39,40). However, to fail to answer His call is to forfeit His freely offered salvation. Why would Peter make the plea "Save yourselves from this perverse generation" if there is no free will?

Were those who were saved on the day of Pentecost saved through irresistible grace, or through the expediency of hearing and believing the message? The text says it was based on their hearing and believing (Acts 2:36,37). Not one conversion account in Acts occurred without the gospel being preached. That message IS the power of God for salvation (Rm. 1:16). If the power of salvation isn't in the spoken word, then Paul should have been ashamed of the gospel and preferred whatever does save! Saving power is in the word.

The word is that which operates on the heart (Hebrews 4:12). If there is something sharper than that two-edged sword that is able to pierce the heart, then why preach the word, being instant in season and out (2 Tim. 4:2-4)? If the word is not sufficient to save a

sinner who hears, then what value does it have? What is the purpose of 2 Tim. 3:16,17 if the word alone is insufficient for reproof, rebuke and exhortation to equip us for every good work?



Calvinism puts our thinking at odds with plain teaching. Romans 10:8-17 is a simple treatise on the power of the word. If the word is inspired of God (and it is), then it is only because the Holy Spirit gives it (1 Cor. 2:10-14). Jesus said the Spirit would guide the apostles in all truth (Jn. 16:13) and the Spirit would convict the world of sin (Jn. 16:8,9). Thus, the written word is the means by which God touches hearts. By it He reaches the hearts of the unsaved, resulting in salvation. And by it He reaches the hearts of the saved, resulting in strengthened faith and equipping for every good work.

We believe that we are saved by grace because the Bible tells us we are (Eph. 2:8). But that grace is through faith! It says so right there in the verse! Where does that saving faith come from? Now we're back to Romans 10:17—faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

If the power of salvation is not in the gospel (Rm. 1:16), then giving to missions is senseless and God lied. However, if God is true though every man is a liar (Titus 1:2; Rm. 3:4), then the power is in the word and we need to preach the word, let it convict men of sin, and let it save souls. That is how God saves the elect of Acts 2:39,40.

My conversation didn't have the immediate results that I hoped for, but it did result in this man's admission that maybe he hadn't read the Scriptures as carefully as he should have. I hope he went home asking himself this question: If salvation is a predetermined outcome dependent upon the direct operation of the Holy Spirit on the heart of the lost soul, why does God only reveal the message of salvation in His word? Keep studying!

YOUTH EVENTS



December 7 - Teen Devo following evening services at the Cuellars' house.

If you are participating in Faith In Action, we will be leaving the Annex at 9 AM sharp on Saturday, December 6. Please bring money for a fast-food lunch on the way home. We should be back by 1:30 PM.



Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, and painless health screenings at our Annex on December 8, 2014. Flyers are in the foyer. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners).

KEPT IN PRAYER

Lela Farmer is having a CAT scan today.

Von Knight is home and feeling a little better. He is on new medication.

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, Murrell Hill, Dorris Honeycutt, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Brenda Langford, Evelyn Lawhon, Betty Pridgen, Doris Stuteville, Delores Truelove. **Shut-In:** Libby Clayton **Others:** Mary Alford, Timothy Anderson, Marjorie Garrison, Jim Godwin, Rhonda Jones, Bartis Knight, Pat Miller, Lauren Murphy, Cloey Pruitt, Sherly Scott, Rick Stone, Darlene Woods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Adams is our contact elder for December. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see Gary.

The new pocket directories are in the foyer.

December

- 5 Annual Ladies Christmas Party - 6 PM - Brenda and Dave Blair's house. All ladies are invited for an evening of great fun!
- 8-12 Meals on Wheels - See Leah Bateman to volunteer.
- 11 Secret Sisters End-of -Year Party - 6:30 PM - Jean Coe's house. Meal will be potluck. Please bring meat, sides, or desserts. You'll discover who your Secret Sister was!
- 12 Congregation Christmas Party - 6-8 PM - Annex. Meat will be provided. Please bring your favorite Christmas dish and a gift for white elephant (\$15 limit).
- 13 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast - 8 AM - Kelley's
- 13 Elders, Deacons, Ministers Meeting - 9 AM - Elders' Conference Room

Communion Preparation and Audio-Projector-Video sign-up sheets for 2015 are on the bulletin board.

December Birthdays

- |    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 6  | Susan Peters      | 7  | Jacob Carriere    |
| 12 | Harold Moore      | 16 | Chase Shelton     |
| 18 | Kaliya Kelly      | 21 | Bryan Hudman      |
| 24 | Bob Williams      | 27 | Haley Biegay      |
| 27 | Matthew Fabian    | 31 | Jessica Bouillion |
| 31 | Maresha Scarsdale | 31 | Loma Stone        |

December Anniversaries

- |    |                        |    |                        |
|----|------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Jeremy & Heather Brown | 9  | Ricky & Janice Pearson |
| 19 | Chris & Susan Peters   | 27 | Rick & Jean Nudelman   |
| 27 | Bob & Mitzi Williams   |    |                        |