



The Pearland Harvester

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

WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WELCOME	1
YOUTH EVENTS	2
KEPT IN PRAYER	2
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	3
UPCOMING EVENTS	3
THOSE SERVING	4

Our Homecoming honors the 64th anniversary of the Pearland Church of Christ. To all of you who are able to be with us, our sincerest welcome. More than that, we want you to know we are grateful to God for the years God let you be a part of and blessing to the work here at Pearland.

While this weekend is a longed-for opportunity for old friends to catch up and enjoy the fellowship of those who've meant so much to each other, it's also an opportunity to look ahead with a desire and a plan to be the light in our city for years to come. There is always the temptation to throw away or ignore the methods of bygone years and look for new ways, but often the successful strategies of the past are the key to future growth. With that thought in mind, I would like to share seven steps for church growth from an article by Nick Batzig taken from *The Christward Collective*, February 26, 2015.

Space limitations require that this be a two-part series, and you should know that I have borrowed the seven statements but then adapted them in some ways that I believe are helpful to us.

1. Regularly pray for a set number of new families and individuals. That may seem to some to be limiting. Perhaps, but it is also purposeful and directed. Praying for a dozen new families in a given year will engage the entire congregation in the mental preparation and planning for that kind of growth. It can then be a focus of those who teach the Bible classes. It can be a target for the eldership to aim for. It can be a part of the message from the pulpit and a regular part of each weekly bulletin. Each member prays for this at home and when each family prays together. With the expectation that the fervent prayer of the righteous can accomplish much (James 5:16-17), the focused prayer for growth then becomes the basis for planning and efforts. It demonstrates reliance upon the Lord for growth (1 Cor. 3:6) and a personal commitment to Great Commission commandments (Mt. 28:18-20). This should become a constant strategy to be repeated with each success.

2. Intentionally sit by someone that you don't know. This is probably the least utilized and yet most strategic step that can be taken to become a welcoming church. We have favorite places to sit, and we never chose those places with the intention of being unwelcoming. But the fact remains that we did choose those locations!

This strategy involves choosing to look for visitors and then sitting near them to make sure we have opportunity to get to know them. When we sit next to visitors, we can explain what is happening, demonstrate worship by example, and find ways to help them. It isn't a comfortable strategy because it takes us out of our comfort zones, but it is a logical extension of the prayer of faith that we are praying.

3. Go out of your way to talk with someone you have not yet met. Visitors are not going to be impressed by the song service or the sermon, but they will be impressed by what happened or didn't happen to them when they made themselves vulnerable in coming to worship with us. Purposefully speaking to them leaves a deep and favorable impression that can only be bested by the impression, "No one spoke to me at all." I visited a small congregation in central Arkansas last summer where I didn't know a soul. Before I left, I had been greeted by dozens of folks, thanked for my attendance, and invited to other services and to places to eat. One older gentleman said, as he put out his hand to shake mine, "I don't believe I've ever scratched your paw before." That little congregation is on my list of places to worship at again!

4. When you meet a visitor, introduce them to others in the congregation who may have common interests. This takes some thoughtful effort, but it is so important. We have school teachers, realtors, and doctors. We have families of the same age, singles of the same age, and people with the same interests. It is surprising just how many of our church family have once lived where they are moving from, went to the same college or university that they did, know something about what brings them to our area, etc. We can actively choose to make them aware of commonality, or we can passively choose to make them feel that they could never fit in here.



Part two – next week.

Keep studying and keep serving! ⚡DC Brown ©2016

Weekly Bible trivia question. Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. Here goes...Farmers, fires, rain, bridles, grass, gold, silver, reptiles, moths, and creatures of the sea—I mentioned them all and more. Who am I?

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, April 14, 2016:
 Thursday—**1 Corinthians 3-4**
 Friday—**Genesis 36-39**
 Saturday—**Ruth**
 Sunday—**Psalms 27-29**
 Monday—**Job 19-20**
 Tuesday—**Isaiah 51-55**
 Wednesday—**Matthew 26-28**

The correct answer to last week's question was: Hagar (Genesis 21:16) and Ruth and Orpah (Ruth 1:9, 14). Mitzi Williams was the first person to give the correct answer.

HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 16, 2016

5 pm—Singing with Rayford Welch, prayers, and memories in the Auditorium. A sandwich supper will follow in the Annex.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

Bible Class - 9 am

Worship - 10 am

Lunch catered by Central Texas Style BBQ at noon in the Annex and parking lot.

Afternoon fellowship includes history and recognitions with a period of devotional in the Auditorium.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Evelyn Cordell, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Minnie Harris, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Wanda Knight, Jan Lemoine, Mary Means, Becky Nicholson, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville. **Others:** Brianna Aaronson, Mary Alford, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Harold Anglin, Lincoln Backward, Mike & Cindy Barnhill, Ted Bowers, Margaret Brown, Ray Craycraft, Catina Davis, Brooke Dempsey, Billie Dykes, Marcia Ellison, Linda Evans, Richard Fairservice, Darrell Farmer, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Bo Herrington, Cody Holcomb, Robert Holmes, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Christy Indest, Carol Jackman, Ed Jones, Charles Layton, Sr., Kerry Lemoine, Dave Manley, Blake McAdams, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Steve & Gayle Miller, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Carolyn Cheshier Peters, Jillian Polete, Cloey Pruitt, Jayson Romano, Martha Salyer, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Frank Staten, Margie Stephens, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Heather Thomas, Larry Thornhill, Pedro Vasquez, Kinnie Warren, Anna Young.

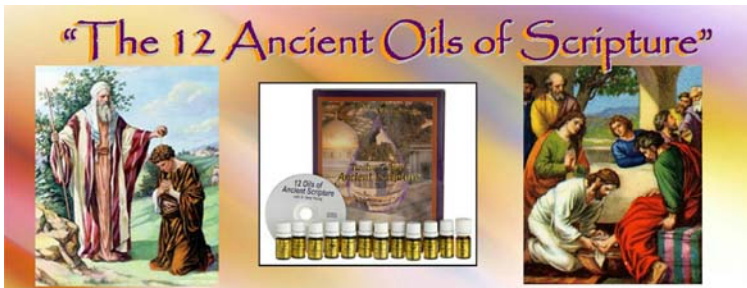
ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

April 2016

27 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

Camp Bandina (for 7th-12th graders) will be June 5-11, 2016. Applications are available from Paul, or you can register online at <https://campbandina.wordpress.com/full-registration/>. Please sign up quickly, as space is filling up fast.



Kylee May will host an informative class on oils from the Bible on Thursday, April 14, 2016, at 7 pm in the Annex. Snacks and drinks provided. A raffle and giveaway will also take place! Come join!



The church-wide encampment is set for April 22-24, 2016, at Cagle Recreational Area which is 6 miles west of New Waverly on FM 1375. Take I-45 north to New Waverly, take FM 1375 west for 6 miles to Cagle Rd. All sites have water and electricity for tents and full hookup for RVs. Two nice bathhouses, hiking trails and paved roads throughout. The campground is 80 miles north of Pearland. Each camper is responsible for making reservations.



The Arms of Hope Grocery Run will be the week of May 2-6, 2016. We need to collect the following:

- Paper Towels**
- Toilet Paper**

Please bring your items by Sunday, May 1. Arms of Hope did not specify quantity, but let's have a generous donation.

April Birthdays

2	Morgan Cuellar	2	Derek Mauney
3	Dianne Westmoreland	7	Jack Chisum
7	Elaine Genaro	13	Shawn Cravens
13	Tracey Mauney	14	Jean Coe
16	Brenton Cook	19	Michael Terry
23	Charlie Story	25	Lacey Gartrell
28	Lucille Adams	28	Noelle Holmes
30	Angela Terry		

April Anniversaries

7	Morris & Berna Dyes	7	John & Lacey Gartrell
9	Orlando & Amy Cuellar	18	Don & Connie Powell
19	Chuck & Sheila Banyai	25	Josh & Ashley Hundley

Those to Serve

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

Wednesday Evening April 13	Wednesday Evening April 20
Building Lock Up—Williams	Building Lock Up—Adams

Morning Worship April 17	Morning Worship April 24
Opening Prayer Paul Hamilton	Opening Prayer Daniel Brown
Song Leader Paul Cartwright	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion	Communion
Presiding: James Maxcey	Presiding: Zack Williams
Russell Genaro Charlie Story	Phil Godwin Demetris Kelly
Daniel Brown Nathan Scarsdale	Gheath Alatrash Brandon Stafford
Zack Williams Bobby Parker	Paul Hamilton Josh Hundley
Announcements Gary Adams	Announcements Gary Adams
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Laurie Maxcey	Appeal Byers Angela Parker
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Brandon Stafford, Jacob Carriere, Bob Williams	*Jacob Carriere, Nathan Scarsdale, M Fabian
Greeters	Greeters
Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale	Clifford & Nina Layton
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Mauney	Mauney
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Adams	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Cartwright

Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer	Opening Prayer Charlie Layton
Song Leader	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion	Communion N Scarsdale, M Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer Gary Adams

**HOMECOMING
EVENTS
&
DEVOTIONAL**

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am
Morning Worship.....10 am
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

ELDERS

*Gary Adams 281-797-2575
Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866*

DEACONS

*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
Gaston Nda - Natitingou
Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou
André Assogba - Gobé
Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé
Paul Kouagou - N'Dali
Jonas Sambieni - Kaboua
Gabin Agbeci - Savalou
Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies
Lewis Romain*

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