



The Pearland Harvester

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

HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE LOCAL CHURCH 1
- YOUTH EVENTS 2
- KEPT IN PRAYER 2
- BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES 3
- UPCOMING EVENTS 3
- THOSE SERVING 4

The greatest joy in the life of the local congregation is when it witnesses the birth of a new Christian. There is so much enthusiasm, and the kind words and hugs can be a bit overwhelming for the new convert. This is the way it should be. Jesus said there is **“more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance”** (Lk. 15:7).

Not only do we surround that person because of rejoicing, but just as importantly, we do so as encouragement. We want to strengthen that person and let them know that we are there for them anytime they need us.

But what about the congregation? How can an entire congregation be strengthened? Surely every church leader who has a heart for the spiritual development of the family of God thinks about this all the time. What can be done? Does it require different things for different church families? Is there a “one size fits all” approach to strengthening the local congregation?

The answer lies somewhere in the middle. Specific congregations deal with specific issues that can make them weaker as time goes by. Our brethren in Benin, particularly in the villages near Bohicon, are subjected to idolatrous influences on a daily basis. But they aren’t subjected to constant peer pressure every day to spend “family time” at a sporting event instead of with the brethren. It is true that, in a sense, both are forms of idolatry; yet their culture embraces idolatry for spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. We embrace activities that cause us to forsake the assembly for personal enjoyment. Both are detrimental to the health of a congregation. Both weaken the congregation and will prove fatal if not corrected, but the approach to strengthening the congregation must be tailored to its needs. On the other hand, there is a “one size fits all” source that is the only real solution to all the issues that weaken a congregation.

Philip the evangelist went to Samaria and, through preaching the gospel, caused many to obey the Lord (Acts 8:4-13). It didn’t take long for the news of his efforts to reach the church in Jerusalem. When the apostles learned what had happened, they did not write cards to encourage the new Christians nor did they send word that they were praying for them. Both are good things to do (and should be done), but neither is of itself the solution. Instead, we learn that they immediately sent Peter and John to pray for them and impart gifts of the Holy Spirit to them (Acts 8:14-17). We miss the point if we assume that these gifts were solely for the purpose of healing the afflicted. These gifts would have included spiritual knowledge and wisdom (1 Cor. 12:8). In other words, at a time when **“that which is perfect”** had not yet come to them, the apostles imparted God’s word to them in miraculous ways so that they would have the same advantages that you and I have now that the perfect has come.



When the gospel came to Antioch of Syria, the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to encourage them **“to remain true to the Lord”** (Acts 11:19-23). Luke goes on to explain that Barnabas was the man for the job because he was **“a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith”** (Acts 11:24). In other words, Barnabas exhorted and encouraged them in the faith—the word of God.


When Paul and Barnabas had gone as far as they were going to on the first missionary journey, they turned around and revisited many of those churches they had planted **“strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith”** (Acts 14:22). Sometime after that they planned to return to the same churches again and for the same purpose (Acts 15:36).

Do you see the pattern? Preaching the word strengthens congregations! Bringing men in to specifically and intentionally preach on the faith will strengthen a church family. No matter how many may say it won’t work, the Bible says it will! My money is on the Bible. We ought to pray for such a time of strengthening for ourselves.

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER!



LINDA SHERRILL
 3335 SUMMERWOOD LN
 PEARLAND TX 77584
 661-330-2091



West Side Church of Christ
 2016 Ladies Day Program

THEME "Wait on The Lord"
 (Isaiah 40:31)

DATE September 24, 2016
LOCATION 600 West Miller St.
 Angleton, TX 77515

Please RSVP to (281) 352-3300
 before September 12

REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST
 9:00 am—9:45 am
PROGRAM
 10:00 am

SPEAKERS Sis Gwendolyn Goins
 Sis. Timeshia Austin
*(Special Session for
 Young Ladies ages
 9-18)*

The Moore Avenue Church of Christ in Bay City TX is having their 2016 Homecoming Annual Songfest and Gospel Meeting, September 25-29, 2016. The theme is "Are you Traveling the Right Path?" and the guest speaker is Tommy Brooks, Highland Heights Church of Christ in Houston TX. A flyer with more information is on our bulletin board.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Kayla Erbes, Kylee May's friend, is now able to walk on her own without assistance. She thanks everyone for the prayers from this congregation.

Sandra Brown Ryan was sent to rehab on August 29, 2016. She still has an infection and has a long way to go. Thanks for the continued prayers.

Alexis Anderson Washington, a co-worker of Beverly Stewart and whose husband is a co-worker of Grayson Townzen, suffered multiple seizures recently due to an extremely high fever. She has been released from Memorial Hermann (Medical Center), but we do not yet know where she was moved. She is only 28 and has two sons, 5 and 3. She has a difficult recovery ahead of her.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Ben Lenamon, Jan Lemoine, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville. **Others:** Kathyne Ahmed, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Lincoln Backward, Octaline Beaupierre, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Heatwole family, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Logan Indest, Carol Jackman, Sharon Johns, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Martha Locke, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Ron McCright, Mary Means, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Sandra Brown Ryan, Henry Schaefer, Vicki Schwierking, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Larry Thornhill, Bennett Vincent, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Gloria Wolf, and the families suffering from an accident in Ohio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

September 2016

- 7 Wednesday Night with the Master—6 PM—Annex. Menu is Cowboy Stew; bring your favorite dessert. Buck & Jari Thompson are coordinating the meal. Areas of service begin at 7 PM.
- 10 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 14 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 21 George Akpabli, Director of the Bible Training Center in Benin, will be the guest speaker at 7 PM.
- 28 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

In DC's absence on September 11, 2016, James Taylor from the Crestmont congregation will be preaching Sunday morning. Sunday night we will watch a DVD of a sermon by Jim McGuiggan entitled "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, There is Transformation." Both services will be in the auditorium.

For the Record—9-4-16	
Sunday AM	150
Sunday PM	45
Wednesday (8-31-16)	46
Contribution	\$5,460
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$183,611
YTD Budget	\$208,800

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...**In the book of Acts, who was the fourth prophet Peter mentioned by name?

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, September 8, 2016:

- Thursday—1 Thessalonians 4-5
- Friday—Leviticus 22-24
- Saturday—2 Kings 21-25
- Sunday—Psalms 90-92
- Monday—Proverbs 14-15
- Tuesday—Ezekiel 43-48
- Wednesday—John 1-2

The correct answer to last week's question was: They were unclean birds (Lev. 11:13). Debbie Brown submitted the first correct answer.

September Birthdays

- 1 Jari Thompson
- 2 Danette Moss
- 3 Hugh Fletcher
- 4 Kristin Alatrash
- 5 Janice Lemoine
- 5 Larry Truelove
- 6 Randy Knight
- 7 Cooper Gartrell
- 7 Maurya Hill
- 14 Dorothy Cherry
- 16 Ben Maxcey
- 18 Landon Brown
- 20 Berna Dyes
- 22 Becky Hopkins
- 23 Greg Fabian
- 23 Canova Genaro
- 24 Ricky Pearson
- 26 John Sloan
- 30 Lianne Biegay

September Anniversaries

- 16 Bobby & Angela Parker
- 22 Ben & Karen Valdez
- 28 O'Dell & Linda Sherrill
- 30 David & Brenda Blair

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 September 7	Wednesday Evening September 14
Building Lock Up—Fabian <i>WNWTM</i>	Building Lock Up—Lindelof

Morning Worship September 11	Morning Worship September 18
Opening Prayer Bobby Parker	Opening Prayer Demetris Kelly
Song Leader Greg Fabian	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Demetris Kelly	Presiding: Bob Williams
Gheath Alatrash Tom Langford	Charlie Story Nathan Scarsdale
Josh Hundley Phil Godwin	Matthew Fabian James Maxcey
Russell Genaro Daniel Brown	Paul Hamilton Jimmy Terry
Announcements Greg Fabian	Announcements Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Laurie Maxcey Tracey Mauney	Nina Layton Molly Godwin
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Paul Hamilton, Bob Williams, Clifford Layton	*Lynn Adams, Zack Williams, Phil Godwin
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
M. Williams & Townzen	Brown & Townzen
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Lindelof	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Scarsdale
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer James Maxcey	Opening Prayer Bobby Parker
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion Russell Genaro, Daniel Brown	Communion Jimmy Terry, Charlie Story
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

ELDERS

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

DEACONS

James Maxcey
Bobby Parker
Charlie Story
Bob Williams

MINISTERS

D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Zack Williams Youth 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