



The Pearland Harvester

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

7 SMALL CHURCH CHOICES THAT WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR MINISTRY

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The title is not my own or this article, for that matter. The December 7, 2015, issue of Christianity Today published this article by Karl Vaters. I've adapted it for our benefit.

bigger church. They want to know the people they're worshiping and ministering with. They're not wrong for wanting that. A small church can't become healthy or big if we distance ourselves from people when we don't need to.

2. Tailor Methods to Size. *(I completely reworked this point. DC)* It's easy to see good programs and effective techniques when visiting a large congregation and think, "If we were doing that, we would be large, too." But usually the program they use requires human resources and other things that we just don't have. We might have adults in five different demographic groups, but we don't have the men to teach a class for all five groups. We don't have the resources to set up the classes exactly like they do. Trying to force that model to our resources will just frustrate and wear down the teachers we do have. We need to use methods that take advantage of the size we are. If we outgrow them, and hopefully we will, then we adjust the methods.

3. Let the preacher be the preacher, not the pastor. *(Again, I've made significant modifications. DC)* The pastor-led churches may seem to thrive, but looks can deceive. Pastor mentality, and many of our preachers have that mentality, is to pick up the ball and run with it all the time. Some members will admire him for doing that and sing his praises—but it's still him doing it. He will get exhausted and frustrated and hurt. The congregation will not mature because it has become trained to cheer on the pastor instead of picking up the ball. Another danger is that his focus becomes THE focus. What if he is majoring

in minors? Then so is the local church. The Lord appointed a plurality of scripturally qualified men to be pastors of the church for a reason.



4. Do More By Doing Less. *(Okay, I'll admit, I like the other guy's first point. I've pretty much reworked the rest. DC)* It would be hard to deny that the church in Jerusalem was the largest church mentioned in Scripture but that doesn't mean that they were doing more different things than any other congregation. Acts 2:42 shows that they only devoted themselves to four things. We don't have to buy into every new program in order to grow, but we do have to be devoted to those four things. And they are enough. They will satisfy even the most ambitious church family.


5. Build Your Farm Team. *(I like this analogy, so I'll leave it for the most part as he wrote it. DC)* Big churches are like the New York Yankees. When they need a new team member, they can hire a great player from another team. Small churches are like the Kansas City Royals. If they want a great team, they have to build it from the ground up by developing a solid farm system. It has to be homegrown. That's a lot harder, but it can still win you a World Series. It's hard to find and train willing volunteers. But in the long run, it's harder not to do it. Finding and training volunteers is a good small church choice.

6. Let People Make Mistakes. *(Back to me on this one. DC)* We aren't big enough to use only the most talented and the smoothest among us. We have who we have and that's all. They aren't all perfect in technique or ability, but we need them just the same. We don't want laziness or carelessness, but imperfections don't have to be permanent. Nor should we wait until Mr. Perfect comes along. He won't.

7. Don't Act Like a Big Church; Act Like a Great, Growing Small Church. *(No need to elaborate. DC)*

Hope these were helpful.

For the Record—9-11-16	
Sunday AM	142
Sunday PM	32
Wednesday (9-7-16)	WNWTM
Contribution	\$6,007
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$189,618
YTD Budget	\$214,600


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)*



All youth and parents are invited to go on an indoor rock-climbing adventure at 3 PM on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Please call or text Zack Williams (832-904-3965) to reserve your spot in the van or to get more details.

The Abell St. Church of Christ in Wharton TX is having a gospel meeting with Jay Lockhart, September 25-28, 2016. The theme is "Words That Make A Difference." A flyer with more information is on our bulletin board.

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

Annette Bumpers is undergoing rehab at Cornerstone for several weeks for a blood infection. No visitors are requested at this time.

Matthew Fabian is now home and doing well after being hospitalized with heart problems.

Aiden & Jamie Hundley are home and doing well. The family thanks us for all of the prayers.

Jan Lemoine has an infection in the site of her operation. If it is not better by Thursday (September 15), she will be hospitalized for treatment.

Martha Locke, Beverly Stewart's stepmother, is doing better after a procedure to get her platelets up.

Mark Pridgen has had another occurrence of cancer. Please remember him in your prayers.

Alexis Anderson Washington, Beverly Stewart's co-worker, is doing well. She will have some memory loss.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Matthew Fabian, 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, Alexis Anderson Washington, 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

- 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**

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...**Who was the second named person of Thyatira?

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, September 15, 2016:

Thursday—**2 Thessalonians**
 Friday—**Leviticus 25-27**
 Saturday—**1 Chronicles 1-4**
 Sunday—**Psalms 93-95**
 Monday—**Proverbs 16**
 Tuesday—**Daniel 1-6**
 Wednesday—**John 3-4**

The correct answer to last week's question was: **Samuel (Acts 3:24)**. The office didn't receive a correct answer.



The **Arms of Hope Grocery Run** will be the week of **October 24-28, 2016**. We need to collect the following:

Variety of Salad Dressings (please check the expiration date)

Please bring your items by Sunday, October 23. Arms of Hope did not specify quantity, but let's have a generous donation.

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 |

The new pocket directories are in the foyer.

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 14	Wednesday Evening September 21
Building Lock Up—Lindelof	Building Lock Up—Scarsdale

Morning Worship September 18	Morning Worship September 25
Opening Prayer Demetris Kelly	Opening Prayer Paul Hamilton
Song Leader Greg Fabian	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Bob Williams	Presiding: Gheath Alatrash
Charlie Story Nathan Scarsdale	Derek Mauney Tom Langford
Matthew Fabian James Maxcey	Bob Williams Bobby Parker
Paul Hamilton Jimmy Terry	Clifford Layton Zack Williams
Announcements Greg Fabian	Announcements Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Nina Layton Molly Godwin	Appeal Byers Angela Parker
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Lynn Adams, Zack Williams, Phil Godwin	*Jacob Carriere, Daniel Brown, Russell Genaro
Greeters	Greeters
Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale	Clifford & Nina Layton
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Brown & Townzen	Brown & Townzen
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Scarsdale	Building Lock Up for AM & PM— Bob Williams
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer Bobby Parker	Opening Prayer James Maxcey
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion Jimmy Terry, Charlie Story	Communion Zack Williams, Bob Williams
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