



The Pearland Harvester

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

WHAT IS THE DESIRED OUTCOME?

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It's a question that can be applied to any number of situations, but it always seeks to establish one thing: a clearly expressed goal. That goal may be so unrealistic that it is simply unattainable or so easy that it is underwhelming. Either one is worthy of another conversation, but neither is the ultimate point

of the question. The question seeks to establish that not only is there a goal somewhere out there, but also a way to reach it.

A long time ago I had the conversation with myself in a newly furnished preacher's office of a small church building on the plains of northeastern Colorado. The books had been unboxed and put on the shelves; the desk that I bought as a kit had been fully assembled. The telephone had a dial tone, and the computer and printer were hooked up and ready to go. And all the long hours in a classroom or studying at home in the wee hours of the morning were behind me, but Sunday was just around the corner—that first Sunday of my now officially new career. And I had to ask the question: What is the desired outcome?

For me, it boiled down to one thing. I wanted my preaching and teaching to strengthen the faith of others. I didn't want to teach new things. I believed then, and still do, that all the truth God intends for man has been revealed in His word. I didn't want to lead the congregation to do new things, for I believed then, and still do, that the model of New Testament Christianity in the 20th century had already been developed. It wasn't to change the world or even a small part of it by promoting a cause other than the gospel. I still believe that it is the only cause that matters. Right or wrong, I stand by those same desired outcomes after all these years. I believe that it has helped me avoid some of the tragic mistakes often made by preachers and congregations alike.

I still stand for preaching the truth even when I see that it often falls on deaf ears. It has always fallen on deaf ears, but a few attentive ones as well. I've heard some express the idea that we should ditch the idea of holding gospel

meetings because they are no longer effective as an evangelistic effort.


I would submit that it should never have been the case that baptizing lost sinners who come to the meeting and who respond to the invitation is THE exclusive desired outcome. If it was, then I'll admit our best days are behind us. But then I have to ask the same question about weekly preaching from the pulpit. Why do we still offer an invitation at the end of every sermon? For those 104 invitations per year that are extended, we seldom get more than a handful of baptisms all year long and almost never in response to the Sunday evening invitation. Should we stop offering the invitation? Surely the lost souls in the pew understand that they can respond to the Lord's grace at any time. Perhaps the invitation has lost its value as well.

Why do we struggle to find a teacher for every class and strive to offer "classes for all ages," when it is obvious that the majority, when given the choice, choose not to attend a class at all? A lot of money could be saved if we weren't spending it on curriculum or using it to illuminate and heat up or cool down classrooms.

We continue to offer invitations, and we continue to offer classes because we don't have a desired outcome of one baptism per invitation or 100% lifetime attendance at Bible class. Instead we have a desired outcome of instilling hope to those who want to reach out for help and a desired outcome of strengthening those who want to be edified. If we had a desired outcome of offering a venue for the lost in our community to hear a lesson or a series of lessons on a gospel theme, then numbers wouldn't be the gauge by which we measure success or failure. If we had a desired outcome of advancing the gospel, then we simply want the preaching to be done because men cannot be saved until they hear (Rm. 10:13-17) preaching. Also, because our God chose the foolishness of preaching to reach the lost (1 Cor. 1:21). I just can't get comfortable choosing a different method than my God did. I want His desired outcome for those in and out of His church (1 Tim. 2:4), and I support any plan that He promotes and that accomplishes His desire.



For the Record—9-18-16	
Sunday AM	133
Sunday PM	58
Wednesday (9-14-16)	46
Contribution	\$2,455
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$192,072
YTD Budget	\$220,400



**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 now in a rehab facility, but prefers **no** visitors at this time. The infection in both legs is gone.

Jan Lemoine did not have to go to the hospital last week, but is on long-term medication for UTIs.

Leon Vanderveer, brother of Linda Sherrill, has colon and liver cancer.

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**



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.

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...I pulled some hair when I heard a bad report and feared for the peg. Who am I?**

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, September 22, 2016:

- Thursday—**1 Timothy 1-3**
- Friday—**Numbers 1-4**
- Saturday—**1 Chronicles 5-9**
- Sunday—**Psalms 96-98**
- Monday—**Proverbs 17-18**
- Tuesday—**Daniel 7-12**
- Wednesday—**John 5-6**

The correct answer to last week's question was: **Jezebel (Revelation 2:20); Lydia was first (Acts 16:14). Connie Powell gave the first correct answer.**

The new pocket directories are in the foyer.

September Birthdays

- 22 **Becky Hopkins**
- 23 **Greg Fabian**
- 23 **Canova Genaro**
- 24 **Ricky Pearson**
- 26 **John Sloan**
- 30 **Lianne Biegay**

September Anniversaries

- 28 **O'Dell & Linda Sherrill**
- 30 **David & Brenda Blair**

October Birthdays

- 1 **Brenda Riggs**
- 4 **Libby Clayton**
- 8 **Ginny Lindelof**
- 16 **Clifford Layton**
- 16 **Joy Sloan**
- 20 **Susan Lenamon**
- 20 **Angela Parker**
- 27 **Sarah Romain**
- 27 **Jerri Farmer**
- 28 **Steven Cuellar**
- 28 **Daniel Townzen**
- 29 **Nnenna Osuorji**
- 29 **Jimmy Terry**

October Anniversaries

- 2 **Clifford & Nina Layton**
- 5 **Lynn & Lucille Adams**
- 28 **Dwight & Leah Bateman**
- 29 **James & Laurie Maxcey**

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 21	Wednesday Evening September 28
Building Lock Up—Scarsdale	Building Lock Up—B Williams

Morning Worship September 25	Morning Worship October 2
Opening Prayer Paul Hamilton	Opening Prayer Bobby Parker
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Gheath Alatrash	Presiding: James Maxcey
Derek Mauney Tom Langford	Demetris Kelly Josh Hundley
Bob Williams Bobby Parker	Phil Godwin Lynn Adams
Clifford Layton Zack Williams	Charlie Story Daniel Brown
Announcements Greg Fabian	Announcements Chris Lindelof
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Appeal Byers Angela Parker	Laurie Maxcey Tracey Mauney
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Jacob Carriere, Daniel Brown, Russell Genaro	*Jimmy Terry, Matthew Fabian, N Scarsdale
Greeters	Greeters
Clifford & Nina Layton	Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Brown & Townzen	Brown & Townzen
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—B Williams	Building Lock Up for AM & PM— Gary Adams

Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer James Maxcey	Opening Prayer Daniel Brown
Song Leader Greg Fabian	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion Zack Williams, Bob Williams	Communion James Maxcey, Bobby Parker
Closing Prayer Greg Fabian	Closing Prayer Chris Lindelof

Worship Times:	
<i>Sunday</i>	
Bible Study	9 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