



The Pearland Harvester

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

THE WATCHMEN

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Years ago, many small municipalities were just too small to afford a 24/7 police force for protection and public safety. Instead, many simply hired a night watchman for basic patrol duties. Typically, this involved a check of the local businesses each night to make sure doors were locked. Usually,

that was about all there was to it. But there was a time when a watchman did a lot more.

In ancient times, a city set on a hill with fortified walls was all but impossible to capture because its vigilant watchmen could see the threats and call its soldiers to duty long before the threat could get close. Of course, the system only worked if the watchman was serious about his responsibility. He was the one who stood in the tower and kept an eye on the horizon for any sign of danger. He had to know what to look for, when to sound the alarm, and then make sure it was sounded. The safety of everyone behind the city walls relied on his vigilance and his ability to know danger when he saw it.

Sardis, the ancient capital of the kingdom of Lydia, was protected by a fortress high atop a narrow rock ridge considered impossible to scale. Herodotus tells us that in 547 B.C. the city came under attack by a large Persian army commanded by Cyrus. Day after day, Cyrus was frustrated by the inability to capture it. A reward was offered to the man who could find a way to scale the cliff upon which the fortified city was built. A Persian soldier was considering the problem when he observed one of the lookouts atop the cliff drop his helmet, which fell all the way to the canyon floor. The unwary sentry descended a hidden trail to the bottom, retrieved his helmet, and then retraced his steps back to the top. The Persian soldier marked the trail and memorized the route. That night, he led a group of soldiers to the top and found that the fortress itself was empty. The soldiers of Sardis had gotten into the habit of abandoning the fortress each night because they believed no one could scale the walls. There was no night watchman to sound the alarm, and no

soldiers were there to hear it. Sardis fell in a single night. In 214 B.C. the Greek king Antiochus captured the city of Sardis in exactly the same way, while its overly confident soldiers slept in their own beds.

Jesus rebuked the church at Sardis for having a reputation of being alive but spiritually dead. They were advised to wake up and strengthen what remains (Rev. 3:1-2). This, no doubt, was a reference to the ignoble fall of the city on two occasions because no watchman stood his post.

The church is always under the watchful eye of the enemy who looks for any vulnerability. Its leadership needs to be watchful and sensitive to any threat. It's easier to assume that no real danger is present and that little things, which seem harmless, are just as they seem. But "little things" that seem harmless are exactly how the local church comes under attack. The generation that is glad we've "loosened up" and aren't so "uptight" about things also assumes that this lack of spiritual vigilance is a good thing. All the while, their love for the truth begins to wane.

If the watchman urges conduct in keeping with holiness, it is seen as prudish. The "watchword" of the day has become "I don't see anything wrong with ..." (cf. Ezek. 18:29). The psalmist's words, "**Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path**" (Ps. 119:105), may express a nice sentiment that is agreeable to all; but there is no deep conviction and seldom is the next verse considered, "**I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances**" (119:106).

We need more watchmen today. Too many have tried to police the church and in so doing have created their denominations. We simply need the watchmen of old who call us back to the Scriptures. We need to heed their warnings and never seek to silence them.

If the watchman remains silent to avoid persecution, he falls under a greater condemnation (Ezek. 3:17-18).



For the Record—9-25-16	
Sunday AM	137
Sunday PM	58
Wednesday (9-21-16)	66
Contribution	\$4,095
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$196,167
YTD Budget	\$226,200

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...Which of these are NOT descriptive of the church: sheep, leather, building, soldier, eagle, cup, builder, vessel, gold?**

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, September 29, 2016:

Thursday—1 Timothy 4-6
 Friday—Numbers 5-8
 Saturday—1 Chronicles 10-14
 Sunday—Psalms 99-101
 Monday—Proverbs 19
 Tuesday—Hosea 1-7
 Wednesday—John 7-9

The correct answer to last week's question was: *Ezra pulled out some of his hair from his head and his beard because priests had married Gentiles and by so doing dishonored themselves and the nation "as a peg in His holy place" (Ezra 9:3, 8).*

Connie Powell gave the first correct answer.

October 30, 2016

Invite someone to be your guest and to stay for a great meal!

Friends

&

Family Day



KEPT IN PRAYER

Carol Addison, Delores Truelove's sister, is having a colon test this Friday.

Marc Johnson, Ricky Pearson's friend, has a brain tumor and will undergo surgery to remove the tumor in two weeks. Please pray for a successful surgery and a full recovery.

Sally Lynch, Judy Indest's sister, will have gallbladder surgery on Thursday of next week.

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:** Carol Addison, 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, Marc Johnson, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Martha Locke, Sally Lynch, 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, Leon Vanderveer, 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**. **Chris Lindelof** will be the contact elder for **October**.

October 2016

- 1 Gulf Coast Ladies' Bible Study—9:30 AM—Jefferson Street Church of Christ, West Columbia TX
- 3 Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Juanito's. Sarah Romain & Gretchen Whitmire are hosting.
- 5 Wednesday Night with the Master—Meal served at 6 PM in the Annex. Menu is fried chicken, potato salad, beans, rolls, and desserts. Meal is coordinated by Jo Knight & Nina Layton. Areas of service begin at 7 PM.
- 8 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 8 Elders-Deacons-Ministers Meeting—9 AM—Elders' Conference Room
- 12 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 26 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 30 Friends & Family Day



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.

The new pocket directories are in the foyer.

September Birthdays

30 Lianne Biegay

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 | |

September Anniversaries

30 David & Brenda Blair

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 28	Wednesday Evening October 5
Building Lock Up—B Williams	Building Lock Up—G Adams

Morning Worship October 2		Morning Worship October 9	
Opening Prayer	Bobby Parker	Opening Prayer	James Maxcey
Song Leader	Greg Fabian	Song Leader	Gary Adams
Communion		Communion	
Presiding: James Maxcey		Presiding: Bob Williams	
Demetris Kelly	Josh Hundley	Tom Langford	Jacob Carriere
Phil Godwin	Lynn Adams	Derek Mauney	Clifford Layton
Charlie Story	Jake Satterwhite	Paul Hamilton	Gheath Alatrash
Announcements	Chris Lindelof	Announcements	Chris Lindelof
Closing Prayer		Closing Prayer	
Nursery Attendants		Nursery Attendants	
Laurie Maxcey	Tracey Mauney	Canova Genaro	Elaine Genaro
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
*Jimmy Terry, Matthew Fabian, N Scarsdale		*Daniel Brown, Jimmy Terry, Zack Williams	
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—G Adams		Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Greg Fabian	

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

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