



The Pearland Harvester

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

NO PATH

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I've been reading Leonard Gross's account of *The Last Jews in Berlin*. It chronicles the hardships and harrowing escapes from the death camps by Jews who chose not to believe Nazi propaganda about relocation camps. For them, no hour of the day or

night and no places were truly safe. No stranger or acquaintance could be readily trusted. Still, it was the kindness of strangers who daily risked their own lives to help Berlin's underground Jews.

One such benefactor who lived in Berlin was himself a citizen of Sweden. As a neutral country, Swedish officials, fearful of being overrun by Germany, would have dealt just as harshly with him, as would the Gestapo. Erik Perwe was the priest for the Berlin congregation of the Church of Sweden. He forged identity cards, gave sanctuary, and smuggled Jews out of Nazi Europe. Considering the fact that his predecessor had been deported by the Gestapo on suspicion of aiding Jews, Erik Perwe truly put his life on the line every day.

I know someone is probably reading this bit of history and growing impatient. What does any of it have to do with us? Patience, grasshopper.

I wasn't familiar with the Church of Sweden and could only assume it was a Lutheran derivation. Research confirmed that I was right about that. I also learned that though they boast 70% of Swedes are members, that's an alarmingly low percentage given it is the state church. In fact, they are losing membership at a rate of greater than 1% annually. How can that be? In 1996, automatic membership at birth for all Swedish citizens ceased. In 2000, the government stopped all financial support of the church. It is officially an evangelical Lutheran body, but it retains high church customs and has an openly homosexual woman as its archbishop. Although it claims to be the third largest church in Europe, the fact remains that its membership continues

to decline. All of the above factors contribute to that decline, but its biggest problem is that it was never designed to grow in the first place!

You see, the Church of Sweden has no path to growth. When the Swedish Parliament revised its constitution so that citizenship by birth no longer makes one a member of the Church of Sweden, there really wasn't another way to increase membership. Lutherans do not hold gospel meetings. While one can apply for citizenship and then further apply for membership in the Church of Sweden, it is a difficult thing to do. If one wants to hold office in the Church of Sweden, rules require that he or she be at least 18, be a church member, AND be baptized.

How quickly we make a mess of things when we decide we know a better way than God does! I would imagine that any archbishop of the Church of Sweden has to be constantly depressed by their church's slow demise into obscurity, made doubly so by an intentional decision that removes a path to church growth.

They can't grow because they tied growth to nationalism. But what is even sadder still is when the Lord's church decides to abandon efforts that reach out to the lost souls of its community.

To assume that responsible parents and effective preaching in its pulpit will assure the next generation of Christians is to be as far down the path of decline as any state denomination that sees the church as its own franchise into the spiritual needs of its citizens. When those citizens don't see that spiritual need and when their culture and media denounce the need, that state church is doomed. Are we really going to succeed (when others have failed) by abandoning the Lord's call to reach the lost where we are, in the hope that the economical strategy of keeping the porch light on is going to be sufficient?



For the Record—10-30-16	
Sunday AM	121
Sunday PM	35
Wednesday (10-26-16)	44
Contribution	\$2,806
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$219,709
YTD Budget	\$255,200

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...**Riddle me this... *Five hundred begins it; five hundred ends it, And five in the middle is seen; The first of all the letters, the first of all the numbers, Have taken their stations between; And if you correctly this medley can spell, The name of an ancient king then it will tell.*

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, November 3, 2016:

Thursday—Hebrews 1-4

Friday—Numbers 25-28

Saturday—2 Chronicles 6-10

Sunday—Psalms 114-116

Monday—Proverbs 26-27

Tuesday—Obadiah

Wednesday—Acts 1-2

The correct answer to last week's question was: **Manasseh (2 Chr. 32:33; 33:1)**. No one submitted the correct answer.

Friends

November 6, 2016

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



Family Day

KEPT IN PRAYER

Funeral services for **Yvette Barrett** are on Saturday, November 5, 2016, at the Bellfort Church of Christ, 6606 Bellfort St (intersection cross street: Northdale St), Houston TX 77087, as follows: viewing at 10 AM and services at 11 AM. Yvette was Anthony Davis' sister; Anthony is Kaliya Kelly's brother-in-law.

Jim Brown reports that his wife **Margaret** is doing a lot better; the mass in her lung is shrinking. She was moved to Regency Village Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation, Room 509A, 409 W Greene St, Webster TX 77598, and hopefully will be home in a few weeks.

Jo Knight spent a few days in the hospital for tests, but is now home. All of her test results were good.

Becky Nicholson requests prayers for a good result on a recent skin biopsy.

Angela Terry is having knee replacement surgery on November 8, 2016.

Cal Greiner, a former member of our congregation, was hospitalized recently at Memorial Hermann (Medical Center) after a serious car accident. His wife Juanita thought he would be released this past Monday to return home to Livingston.

Kerry Lemoine, Jan Lemoine's son, is having tests for a spot on his lung.

Tony Smajstrla, Pat Smajstrla's husband, does not have cancer. He has a serious lung fungus and is now at home.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Margaret Brown, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Matthew Fabian, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Ben Lenamon, Jan Lemoine, Becky Nicholson, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, Wendell & Sarah Romain, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville, Angela Terry. **Others:** Carol Addison, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Octaline Beaupierre, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Carol Jackman, Sharon Johns, Marc Johnson, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Martha Locke, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Ron McCright, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, James Navarro's son, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Sandra Brown Ryan, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Tony Smajstrla, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Alexis Anderson Washington, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown's friend).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

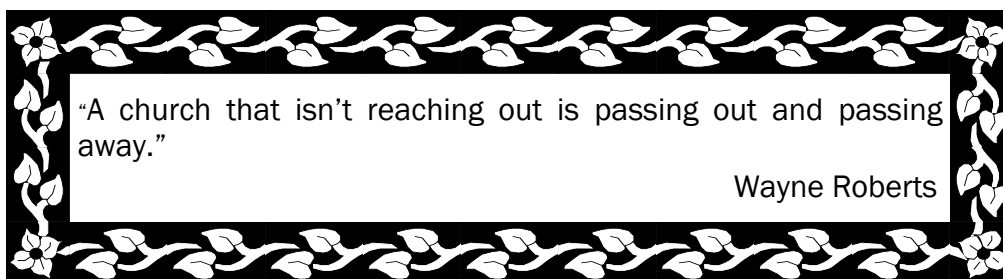
Kevin Scarsdale is our contact elder for **November**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Kevin**.

November 2016

- 2 Wednesday Night With The Master—Meal served at 6 PM in the Annex—Areas of service begin at 7 PM. Chili will be provided by the elders; please bring your favorite side dishes.
- 7 Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Jodi Briand's home. The ladies working outside the home will not be required to bring any food. Jodi will contact others to bring side dishes.
- 9 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 12 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 23 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex

December 2016

- 2 Ladies' Christmas party—6 PM at Brenda Blair's house, 2321 Francis, Pearland TX 77581.
- 7 Wednesday Night With The Master—Potluck meal (meat will be furnished).



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 AM, Sunday, November 6, 2016. Set your clocks back one hour.

November Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Ben Valdez | 4 Michelle Griffith |
| 4 Vi Price | 4 Karen Valdez |
| 5 Warren Hudman | 8 Buck Thompson |
| 8 Mitzi Williams | 13 Laura Moss |
| 15 Tim Godwin | 18 Doris Stuteville |
| 20 Becky Nicholson | 21 Delores Truelove |
| 27 JJ Martinez | 30 Jeremy Bouillion |

November Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 5 Daniel & Sarah Brown | 30 Davy & Kylee May |
|------------------------|---------------------|

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 November 2	Wednesday Evening November 9
Building Lock Up—K Scarsdale WNWTM	Building Lock Up—G Adams

Morning Worship November 6	Morning Worship November 13
Opening Prayer Charlie Story	Opening Prayer Chris Lindelof
Song Leader Gary Adams	Song Leader Greg Fabian
Communion	Communion
Presiding: Demetris Kelly	Presiding: Zack Williams
Tom Langford Jacob Carriere	Jake Satterwhite Josh Hundley
Gheath Alatrash Zack Williams	Nathan Scarsdale Matthew Fabian
Derek Mauney Daniel Brown	James Maxcey Jacob Carriere
Announcements Kevin Scarsdale	Announcements Kevin Scarsdale
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Canova Genaro Elaine Genaro	Appeal Byers Angela Parker
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*Clifford Layton, Paul Hamilton, Jimmy Terry	*Lynn Adams, Bob Williams, Bobby Parker
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—G Adams	Building Lock Up for AM & PM— G Fabian
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer NO EVENING SERVICES	Opening Prayer James Maxcey
Song Leader	Song Leader Gary Adams
Communion FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY	Communion Bob Williams, Bobby Parker
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer Kevin Scarsdale

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*

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