



# The Pearland Harvester

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

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## LOOKING FORWARD

One of the most often cited quotations from the late A. W. Tozer reads as follows: *"If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on*

*and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference."*

It doesn't take a genius to understand why preachers of all stripes like to use that quote. It is embarrassingly true that so many of us have let an idea of what "church" should be take over as our foundation of Christian thinking. The words of Christ, given and preserved by the Holy Spirit, are not the foundation stones, nor are they the pillars that support our spiritual house. Instead they are more like beautifully framed pieces of art that adorn the walls of a self-designed house.

This problem isn't unique to our day or to our comfortable lifestyle. Paul first addressed that problem in words of encouragement and exhortation to the Christians of Colossae: Col. 3:15-17 <sup>15</sup> **Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.** <sup>16</sup> **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.** <sup>17</sup> **Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**

Our hearts are going to be ruled. Our speech will be influenced. And our deeds will be purposeful. ALWAYS. But it is not a given that Christ will rule our hearts, influence our words, and compel our deeds. It is easy for a Christian to sleepwalk or go through the motions without ever really being compelled to think, say, or do because they are in step with the Christ and reformed by the Spirit living within. And what is easy for the individual Christian is also easy for the local congregation.

We do so many things because "That's what churches do" instead of a deep desire to know Christ better and to serve Him more. To illustrate my point: As we were about to embark on a study of elders and deacons, I asked a group of students to tell me what the role of an elder was. The only assertion made, and it was made almost instantly, is that they take care of the money and the church building. I've never taught that, nor have I preached that. So where did such a notion come from? My guess is that it's an impression based on observable words and deeds rather than a dogma that was purposely taught.

To counter the assertion, I pointed out that church buildings were nonexistent in the first century, and money seems to have been spent on meeting the needs of those who were without or paying the elders and evangelists who made their living from the gospel. Without elaboration, I then had them read the qualifications for an elder from 1 Timothy. Afterwards, I asked them what they thought those qualifications suggested about the role of the elders. They had an entirely new perspective after they thoughtfully read the text and had discussed the meaning of terms like: *aspire, reproach, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach*, etc. It wasn't difficult at all for them to develop a whole new view of a New Testament-guided eldership.

That pretty well sums up where a lot of Christians are in their thinking on most things church-related. An idea or model has evolved down through the years that is comfortable, never radical—and it has become the foundation and the walls of what we think the church should be. A. W. Tozer, a self-taught man with a prolific pen, was exactly right. But if his observation strikes too close to home for comfort, there is opportunity for change. Would you take Christ out of the picture frame and let Him truly be your foundation? Let Colossians 3:15-17 have a higher priority in your life as you begin the NEW YEAR.



**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 wanted to count, but I didn't. It still took about 290 days. Who am I?**

**Answer to last week's puzzle:**

**Answer:** I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a **lulu**. Kept people **looking so** hard for **facts** and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others, it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a most** fascinating few moments for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. One little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **compete**. Relax now for there are really 16 names of books of the Bible in this story.

**Tracey Mauney, Heather Brown, Delores Truelove, and James Maxcey submitted correct answers.**

**Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, December 29, 2016:**

- Thursday—**2 Peter**
- Friday—**Deuteronomy 16-19**
- Saturday—**Ezra 6-10**
- Sunday—**Psalms 134-136**
- Monday—**Ecclesiastes 9-10**
- Tuesday—**Zechariah 8-14**
- Wednesday—**Acts 17-18**

I talked to my teacher friend, Jan Groves, about her son, Ron McCright, who has been on our Continuing Need prayer list for some time as he battled laryngeal cancer. Jan expressed her extreme gratitude for the effective prayers extended on Ron's behalf as his cancer surgery and lengthy treatments are complete. Although Ron's larynx was removed, he managed to communicate with his family and friends at Christmas without it. He now looks forward to receiving a newly developed "Hands Free" device to make his communication easier. God listens.

And I also wish to thank so many in the congregation who pray quickly and continually for my friends and family whenever I ask.

Judy Indest

For the Record—12-25-16	
Sunday AM	170
Sunday PM	No services
Wednesday (12-21-16)	43
Contribution	\$4,423
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$256,296
YTD Budget	\$301,600

**KEPT IN PRAYER**

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Pat Lewis** (Johnny Lewis' wife), who passed away recently. Services will be held on Friday, December 30, 2016, at 11 am at Gabriel Oaks Church of Christ, 408 W Morrow St, Georgetown TX 78626. There will be a luncheon following the service.

**Jean Nudelman** fell recently and broke her leg in two places. She was in ICU as of last Sunday.

**Alice Puckett**, sister of one of Judy Indest's college roommates, began chemo on 12/27/16. She just had one successful cancer surgery, but a cancerous spot was subsequently found on her liver. Please pray that the treatments work.

**Continuing Need:**

**Our Members:** Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Jeff Coe, 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, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Jan Lemoine, Valerie McHargh, 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, Catherine Bailey, Octaline Beaupierre, Raquel Castillo, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Roger Farmer, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Robert Hudman, Sharon Johns, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Pat Lewis, Martha Locke, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, James Navarro's son, Jean Nudelman, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Alice Puckett, Sandra Brown Ryan, Butch Sapp, Shirley Scarsdale, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Tony Smajstrla, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Erin & Elijah Timmons, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Alexis Anderson Washington, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown's friend).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Gary Adams** is our contact elder for **December**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Gary**. **Greg Fabian** will be our contact elder for **January**.

Please note the following schedule of services:

**Sunday, January 1, 2017:** Classes, morning service, and evening service at usual times.

**Sunday, February 5, 2017:** Classes, morning service, and evening service at usual times. No Super Bowl party is planned.

### *January 2017*

- 4 Wednesday Night with the Master—Meal will be served at 6 PM in the Annex with areas of service following at 7 PM. The menu will be breakfast. DC & Debbie Brown are preparing the meal.
- 9 Kickoff meeting for Secret Sisters—6:30 PM—Annex (potluck dinner).
- 11 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 14 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 25 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 29 Friends & Family Day

2017 sign-up sheets for communion preparation and sound/projector are on the bulletin board.

We are also in need of more volunteers for nursery duty and leading the youngsters in song before the services.

### *December Birthdays*

- 31 Jessica Bouillion
- 31 Maresha Scarsdale
- 31 Loma Stone

### *January Birthdays*

- 2 Jared Johnson
- 4 Branden Shelton
- 14 Valerie Lee-McHargh
- 20 Bobby Parker
- 25 Ethan Brown
- 28 Terri Bumpers
- 30 Lindsay Parker
- 4 Wanda Kirby
- 8 Jeanette Hays
- 17 Tom Langford
- 22 Cameron Alatrash
- 27 Meredith Williams
- 29 Dawn Bell

### *January Anniversaries*

- 17 David & Libby Clayton

## 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**

<b>Wednesday Evening December 28</b>	<b>Wednesday Evening January 4</b>
Building Lock Up—Greg Fabian	Building Lock Up—K Scarsdale <b>WNWTM</b>

Morning Worship January 1		Morning Worship January 8	
Opening Prayer	Kevin Scarsdale	Opening Prayer	Chris Lindelof
Song Leader	Greg Fabian	Song Leader	Gary Adams
Communion		Communion	
<b>Presiding:</b> James Maxcey		<b>Presiding:</b> Bob Williams	
Phil Godwin	Charlie Story	Jake Satterwhite	Josh Hundley
Jacob Carriere	Daniel Brown	Russell Genaro	Nathan Scarsdale
Jimmy Terry	Paul Hamilton	Matthew Fabian	Bobby Parker
Announcements	Greg Fabian	Announcements	Greg Fabian
Closing Prayer		Closing Prayer	
Nursery Attendants		Nursery Attendants	
Lianne Biegay	Angela Parker	Nina Layton	Molly Godwin
Ushers (*indicates head usher)		Ushers (*indicates head usher)	
*Clifford Layton, Zack Williams, Bob Williams		*Lynn Adams, Tom Langford, Gheath Alatrash	
Greeters		Greeters	
Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale		Clifford & Nina Layton	
Audio—Projector for AM		Audio—Projector for AM	
Mauney		Mauney	
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—K Scarsdale		Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Bob Williams	
Evening Worship		Evening Worship	
Song Leader	Gary Adams	Song Leader	Greg Fabian
Communion	Jimmy Terry, Daniel Brown	Communion	Russell Genaro, N Scarsdale
Closing Prayer	Greg Fabian	Closing Prayer	Greg Fabian

### Worship Times:

#### *Sunday*

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*