

Meadows Prayer List:

Members:

Wayne Bibb / health
 Sally Bourg / health issues
 Vicki Mansfield / rec from shoulder surg
 Erskine Relford / heart, lung issues
 Reba Riggs / surgery 12/16
 Elmer Sabrsula / health
 Shirley Sturm / chronic pain
 Kaleb Trumps / recovering

Members Unable to Worship With Us:

Charles Baird
 John Beard
 Mildred Campbell
 Marjorie Crabtree
 Floyd & Georgia Guillory
 Marsha Hoskins
 Mary Kattawar / severe eye issues
 Annie Pearl Leigh
 Betty Jo Sorrell
 Shirley Sturm

Our Friends & Family:

Sadie Barina / Reatha's newborn grand-daughter / will have surg to repair the hole in heart, soon as she gains enough weight
 Marvin Hart / Derrell's brother / several health issues
 Ana Sophia Hood / newborn grand-daughter of S/S Hood / in NICU @ The Women's Hospital in Houston
 Don Roerick / rec from stroke
 Eiza Smith / Carol Smith's infant gr-daughter, open heart surgery when she gets stronger
 Mason Street / leukemia, friend of co worker of Jackie Smith

Members taking Treatments/Chemo:

Rhonda Crabtree, Sharon Hood, Terry McNeel, Keri Robin, Mark Thompson

Out-of-Town College Students:

Jaden Keller, Rolan Phelps
 Jack Thompson

Attendance & Contribution

2024 Weekly Budget:

\$12,550.00

Collection 12/1/24:

\$9,480.36

Sunday AM (12/1) ... NC

Sunday BC (12/1) ... NC

Sunday PM (12/1) ... 26

Wednesday PM (12/4) ... 54

Weekly Averaged Collection

for November: \$11,668.80

Building Fund / Parking Lot:

\$65,459.47

Hurricane Helene Donations:

\$7,216.20

“Hope is a good breakfast but it is a bad supper”

Having a “Yes Face”

When Thomas Jefferson was president, he and some friends were traveling across the country on horseback. They came to a river flooded by the recent rains. The fast-moving water had taken out the bridge, and now each rider was forced to cross the river on horseback. All the riders fought for their lives across the strong currents. Nearby, a traveler apart from their group watched as a couple of the riders made it across the river. The traveler must not have felt he could walk across with his horse, because he turned to President Jefferson and asked if he would ferry him across the river. The President jumped right to the task and led the stranger across. Once safely on dry ground, one of the members of Jefferson's group asked the stranger, “Why did you select the president to ask this favor of?” The man was shocked and admitted he didn't know the president was the one who helped him. But then the man said, “All I know is that on some of your faces was written “No,” and on some of them was the answer “Yes.” His was a “Yes face.”

More than ever, the church needs people with “Yes faces.” These are people who are looking for ways to serve. These are people who jump at every opportunity to help. These are people who are characterized by a desire to serve and help others. Interestingly, this characteristic is a choice, not just a personality trait. This can be you if you so choose! H to H

Control Versus Influence

“We don't control our children's destiny; we only influence it.” Many parents operate under the mistaken notion that *control* and *influence* are the same word. *Control* means we have 100% of the power over outcome. *Influence* means we have somewhere between 1 and 99% of the power over outcome. In reality, we can never be 100% responsible for the choices our children make. We can only be 100% responsible for what we do to try to influence them. One of the greatest tasks of parents is to develop a relationship with their children that motivates and inspires responsible behavior and promotes openness and trust. To influence our children, they need to sense that it is “safe” to open up and let us “in.” H to H

Anniversaries:

12/8 Robert & Stacy Peden
 12/14 Rodney & Norma Gonzalez
 12/22 Del & Melinda Barnett
 12/26 Eric & Ebony Keller
 12/28 Larry & Vicki Thomas
 12/31 Elmer & Ann Kieshnick



This Week's Birthdays:

12/10 Lela Rawls
 12/11 Bless Garner
 12/14 Norma Gonzalez
 12/14 Brady Hailey
 12/14 Frances Howard



December 8, 2024
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Schedule of Services:

Sundays:

Morning Worship 9:30 AM
 Bible Class 10:45 AM
 Evening Worship 5 PM

Monday Night Study:

Monday Nights 6:30 - 8 PM

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class:

Tuesday Mornings 9:45 AM

Wednesday Night Devo / Bible Class:

5:15-6:15 PM Meal
 6:30 PM Service

Beaumont Nursing Homes Service Times

Harmony @ Beaumont
 (2660 Brickyard Rd., Bmt)
 Sunday @ 2 pm

Birchwood of Beaumont
 (4195 Milam St., Beaumont)
 Sunday @ 3:30 pm

Brookdale Dowlen Oaks
 (2250 Dowlen Rd., Bmt)
 Sunday @ 2 pm

Meadows Church of Christ
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 Beaumont, Texas 77726

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 409-892-6420 Office

On the web:

Meadowschurchofchrist.com

Meadows Messenger



“A Very Liberal Church . . . !”

I so enjoy the conversations I have with the Lord's people. Christians are so encouraging, interesting and informative. Recently someone mentioned they had heard “The Meadows” congregation was the most liberal church in the area. Really? Who knew?! Well, let's just see about that.



First, I don't like labels. So much depends upon the person's frame of reference. For example, when Jesus wrote to the Christians in Smyrna, He said, **“I know your tribulation and poverty (but you are rich),” Revelation 2:9.** (Now most would say these were poor people. But Jesus wouldn't, for He knew them to be spiritually wealthy!) Later, to the Christians in Sardis, Jesus wrote, **“...you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead,” (3:1).** YIKES! This congregation had a great reputation (from men), but Jesus knew them to be spiritually dead, (see **Ephesians 2:1-2**). Clearly, how a church is labeled seems to be a matter of perspective. Yet the only perspective which truly matters is the one Jesus holds!

I would agree the Meadows congregation is very “liberal”! When it comes to a desire to know God's will/word, we liberally spend many hours in our study; Sunday am, pm, Monday night, Tuesday Ladies Class, Wednesday evening classes. We are also incredibly liberal in our giving. Not only in the weekly offering, but individually using money to take care of shut-ins, impoverished school children, etc.

So with time and money I would say this is a very liberal congregation. But these brethren are also liberal in the amount of love they show. Not only to each other, but also our guests (at church), and even strangers away from the church building. Many are the stories of brethren helping neighbors and others who are struggling financially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. The love this family liberally showers upon others is one of the features about “The Meadows” for which I am most humbled!

The label *liberal* is usually applied to a congregation's “doctrinal” positions. Too often, however, when people talk about “liberal in doctrine” they are actually speaking about matters of opinion. A Bible example of this was when some Pharisees (who were strong in matters of opinion but weak in their observance of God's commands) complained to Jesus about His disciples (see **Matthew 15:1-2**). Jesus response (see **vs. 3ff**) demonstrates His concern is for God's commands (not man's opinions). So if following God's commands and not man's opinions is considered liberal – then we will wear this label proudly! Brethren, keep on keeping on, you are doing great things for the Lord!

Rick Walkgr



Current Events & Activities:

Our congratulations to Brandon & Maritza Hood in the birth of a daughter, Ana Sophia Hood. She was born on Monday, November 25th. She weighs 7 lbs, 7 oz. Scott & Sharon Hood are proud first time grandparents to a girl. Please keep the Hood family in your prayers as the baby continues to get stronger so that she can go home.

There will be a Congregational Holiday Luncheon today following morning Bible classes. The meal is provided, so all you have to do is stay and enjoy a meal together. This is to thank everyone for all the activities and events that you have planned for Meadows in 2024. There will be pictures taken with the Big Guy in the Red Suit. Evening service will follow the Holiday Luncheon. Many thanks to all who had a part in making this luncheon possible and a great success! Thanks Meadows!!!!




SENIOR SAINTS (60+)
Christmas Banquet
Thursday, December 19th @ 5 pm
@ Meadows RSVP by Dec 4th
 You will be served by the Meadows **YOUth** Group!

Meals on Wheels
Wednesday, December 11th

Holiday
Treats

 Please sign up if you can help deliver the bags



Men's Leadership Meeting next Sunday, December 15th @ 3 pm in the conference room.

"Opportunity is sometimes hard to recognize if you're only looking for a lucky break"

The Plastic Years
 They pass so quickly, the days of **YOUth**, and the children change so fast
 And soon they harden in the mold, and the plastic years are past.
 Then shape their lives while they are young, this be our prayer, our aim,
 That every child we meet shall bear the imprint of His name.



TEEN SCENE IN DECEMBER....

9th ~ **Mystery Monday**. This one has prizes!

13th ~ **YOUth Ladies Polar Express night!** YOUth ladies come in Christmas attire to enjoy a night of **Polar Express Christmas Festivities!**

19th ~ **Senior Service Dinner!** Our YOUth will be serving the meals, drinks, and attending to any of the seniors needs at 5 pm at the building! Please come to serve. Parents who would like to help, reach out to Chloe @ (405) 617.3727.

22nd ~ **YOUth and family progressive dinner and white elephant!** YOUth meet at the building with a wrapped gift of \$20 or less @ 4 pm to head to our first location! Be prepared for games, rewards, and TONS of food!

Modern Apostles



The apostles were men that were hand picked by Jesus to help establish His church after He ascended back to the Father. Jesus picked 12 men from the ordinary ranks of Jewish men. We know that at least 4 were fishermen, one was a tax collector, one a Zealot, and not much is known about the others. These men traveled with Jesus during His earthly ministry and learned up close about His Kingdom (**Matthew 16:18**). Jesus often taught in parables and explained the meaning of these to His apostles. The definition of apostle is one sent (as on a mission).

One of the qualifications of the apostleship was to be an eye witness of Jesus. The apostle Paul was referred to his apostleship as the one born out of season. He witnessed Jesus, in a miraculous way, on the road to Damascus.

This office did not continue after these men died. It needs to be noted that after Judas hanged himself, Matthias was chosen to take Judas' place with the other eleven.

I read an article in the Houston Chronicle's religious section that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) have 12 apostles. Really! These men are witnesses of Jesus' ministry? I don't think any of them are 2,000 years old. So, they are not qualified to be called apostles because they don't meet the proper criteria.

The Roman Church (Catholic) claims such a thing as apostolic succession for their Popes. They claim that Peter was the first Pope and he handed his apostleship off to another man who handed it off to another, and so on to the present Pope. The 27 books of the New Testament do not verify in any way this claim.

Paul said in **I Corinthians 15:7** that he was the last person that Jesus appeared to after His resurrection. Paul also stated in that passage that there was a season for apostle selection and that time was long ago.

Beware of impostors!

Donnie Landrum

Omnipotent

A college student asked his preacher, "Do you think there is life on other planets?" The preacher said, "No, I don't think so." The student replied, "You mean, all those billions and billions and billions of planets out t here and you don't think there's life out there?" He said, "No, I really don't think so." The student then asked, "Then, why did God go to all that trouble to make all that stuff?" The preacher said, "What trouble?"

"Ah Lord God! Behold, thou hast made the heave and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee" Jeremiah 32:17

It was no trouble ~ He spoke, and it was so. The only trouble that God ever had was bloody Calvary when He gave His beloved Son for humanity's sins.

H to H