

LAKE HOUSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Newsletter for Family and Friends

...and a warm welcome to our visitors!

The Church Building: Help or Hindrance?

By Larry Heasley



So, let's jump right to the answer of the question posed in the title of this article. The answer is yes. That's right, the answer is that the church building is both a help and a hindrance at the same time. But how can that be? How can something made of concrete, wood, metal and plastic be at the same time both a help and a hindrance. Let's pursue that a little further.

I was drawn to this question last fall when I was doing some studying and came across some references to a book written by a couple of leaders in the brotherhood in the 1950's that stated it was every congregation's responsibility to construct a comforting and welcoming building so as to draw in the unbelievers in our community. That was a fascinating thought to me. Quite honestly, I found it a little hard to swallow. I have no reason to question their commitment to God and sincere desire to bring the lost to Christ, but their logic didn't exactly match what I had experienced in my own life growing up. I went to a church building several times every week to attend worship service, Sunday school, fellowship meals, Bible class parties, VBS, etc. Sure, the building was a convenient and comfortable place to meet, but I have probably seen more disputes between Christian brothers and sisters over building details than any other topic - the color of the carpet, whether the baptistry should have a curtain or not, what kind of lights to use, what kind of paint to use on the walls, straight in or angled parking, just to name a few. And, yes, I have actually witnessed strong disagreements on all these topics and more. But as far as I can tell, not a single one of those areas of disagreement, debate and strife had the least bit to do with bringing a single soul to Christ once finally resolved. But to this day, I am left to wonder if it may have driven some away.

Thankfully our building expansion at Lake Houston has not been filled with these types of disagreements and debates. Sure, some people may have done a few things differently, but we are moving forward no worse for the wear - still united as a family that loves God and each other. Thank God for that blessing! (And a special thanks to Ken Johnson for the countless hours he has devoted to making sure the construction project moves along.)

Elders

*JY Brown

Orville Culpepper

Bob Deister

Mike Drachenberg

Larry Heasley

Pat Porter

Doug Sessions

* Elder on call

DEACONS

Richard Ames – Building & Grounds

Joseph Barela – Youth

Michael Corley - Finance

Mike Degge – Foreign Missions

Mike Diaz – Benevolence

Carl Holder – Domestic Missions

Eric Johnson - Finance

Ken Johnson – Building & Grounds

Eric Kennedy - Visitation

Don McAdoo – World Bible School

Tim Mansell – Building & Grounds

Darvin Mitchell – Worship

Warren Roane - Education

Ron Schultz – Involvement

Billy Tharp – Building & Grounds

MINISTERS

Kevin Hahn – Preacher

Cason Pearce – Associate Minister;

Licensed Professional Counselor

Our Record

Bible Study	228
AM	408
PM	176
Wednesday	205
Contribution	\$13,755.66
Budget	\$15,238.00

Those Needing Prayers

MEMBERS

- ✧ Genie Deister – Health issues
- ✧ Pam Eddleman – Strength
- ✧ Elmer Hitt – heart catherization 3/10/15
- ✧ Rolanda McHellon and family - Strength
- ✧ Jalanda Williams–Kingwood Hospital – #1118
- ✧ Sean Williams – High Blood Pressure
- ✧ Jeri & Johnny Wood – At home recovering

MEMBERS WITH ONGOING CONCERNS

- ✧ Leon Boeker – Health issues
- ✧ Ellen Boucher – Health issues
- ✧ Max Comer – Long-term care
- ✧ Lou Crothers – Comfort Senior Care
- ✧ Johnny Eddins – Health issues
- ✧ Rosemary Farr – Health issues
- ✧ Quenton Farr – Prayers for children
- ✧ Larry Fain – Kidney dialysis
- ✧ Donna Gaddy – Health issues
- ✧ Marie Gordon – Home care
- ✧ Linda Haynes – Health issues
- ✧ Bob & Mary Latten – Health issues
- ✧ Larry Parker – Difficult decisions re: options
- ✧ Don & Donna Pringle – Home. No visitors.
- ✧ John Thornberg – Esophageal cancer
- ✧ Darwin & Rosemary Trevena - Work/Back
- ✧ Jerry & Sheri Wilson – Health and strength
- ✧ Derryl Wood – Cancer

FAMILY & FRIENDS

- ✧ Mike Bryan–Jeanie & Derryl's brother-in-law
- ✧ Mark Burtner–Hathaway's brother – Cancer
- ✧ Russell Caraway-McJobe's brother-Cancer
- ✧ Bernice Kmiec – Stan Januhowski's sister
- ✧ Becky McClure – Esteban's friend – loss of husband
- ✧ Mary Milam–Linda Haynes' sister-Cancer
- ✧ Wayne Nichols – Shane's father –Pace-maker
- ✧ Chris Ray – friend of Dan King – Infection
- ✧ Gary Reamy – Todd's dad - Cancer
- ✧ Bob Sease–J & J Wood's son-in-law – Cancer
- ✧ Kirk & Hali Trevena – Employment
- ✧ Chris Ward – Larry/Rebecca's son - migraine
- ✧ Lance Yaeger–Ginger Alexander's brother

THOSE EXPECTING

- Alyssa Alamia – May 15th – Boy
- Andrea Wheeler – March 13th – Girl

Please see our website for a complete prayer list.

Thank You

To all our Lake Houston family: Words cannot express the appreciation that my family has for the food, cards, expressions of concern and visits during the illness and hospitalization of my sister, **Debbie Speake**. The flowers the church provided at her service were very nice and deeply appreciated. I especially want to express my thanks to those who came to the service. We appreciate their love. Everyone has been so good to us during this tragic time. Your expressions of concern for Chloe and her family have been very well received by Maurie and Toby. We know that life must continue without the family member that you have had for so long, but with God's assurance and the family of the Church, it is possible. We are reminded that life upon this earth is but a vapor that appears and is gone way too soon. Thank you again,

Pat and Lynn Porter

Dear Brothers and Sisters, We cannot thank everyone enough for the love and concern shown for us. Please continue to pray for us as only the Great Physician can heal. We are better...progressing slowly, but better. We are eating **very** well. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We love you all very much.

Johnny and Jeri Wood

Thank you, church family, for all your prayers, kind cards, and beautiful flowers. You mean so much to us. We love you all.

Linda & Bobby Foreman

Dear Church family, Words cannot express how grateful we are for your love & support during this special time in our lives. The meals have been a tremendous help during a time when sleep, rest & baby maintenance are all so precious. Your selfless generosity exemplifies a Christ-like love that is cherished & inspiring. I am so grateful to call you family & appreciate continued prayers for my family at home. I can't wait to bring Luke to church, where, hopefully he will grow up to witness the same love & support I have come to know. You are all a blessing to us.

Sincere thanks, Love,

Tara Bolin & Family

Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to **Patti Carmona** and family at the passing of her brother, Martin Rodriguez Diaz, in Matamoros, Mexico on February 13th. Please keep this family in your prayers.

New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Michael, Jennifer & Blaze Hanson
3319 Cascade Creek
Kingwood, TX 77339



We'd also like to welcome **Melquesidec Fuentes** who comes to us from the Dallas area.

Sign-Up

Attention high school students: there is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for the **High School Retreat** scheduled for **March 27-29th**, at **Trinity Pines Resort**. Parents, this is a great opportunity for your 9th-12th grade student. Cost is \$40.

Plant/Garden Enthusiasts

It's that time of year... If you are a plant or garden enthusiast, please start your seedlings or rootings to be shared with other enthusiasts. We will be having another meeting in late March or April. If you have any questions, please see **Heather Hahn**.

Impact Donations

Thursday, March 26th, we will be taking donations to **IMPACT**. Any clothing items you no longer need can be put placed in Room 109 (cloud room) until then. Thank you for your help.



Dates to Remember

February 2015

22nd – Young Men-Tarkington congregation

22nd – Congregational Singing @ 5:15 p.m.

Directory Information

Please note **Wayne Campbell** has a new address and phone number:
24109 Kingwood Place Drive
Apt. #3208
Kingwood, TX 77339
(281) 706-9052



Items needed for our pantry:

Canned Ravioli

Canned Pears

Applesauce

Canned Chili

Vienna Sausage

Rice & Dry Beans

Potato Mixes

Sunny Glen: Body Wash & Canned fruit

Pre-School
**Teachers
Needed**



We are in need of pre-school teachers for the spring quarter!
Please see **Casey Pearce** if you can take a turn teaching or helping with the cradle roll or 2-3 year old classes.

Now that we have started the 3rd and final stage of construction with our fellowship hall expansion, I believe we now face our most important challenge yet - how are we to respond to this blessing that God has granted us? We have the very real risk of getting too comfortable in our new surroundings, enjoying having a bit more pew space, fellowship meals with more room between the tables, plenty of room to store all our stuff. 'Build it and they will come' is a clever line in a movie a few years ago, but I don't find it in the Bible. What I find in the Bible is the command to "Go." "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." We can get comfortable with our newly expanded building and wait for the people to come. We've built it. Surely they will come. In this instance our building has become a hindrance. Our comfort becomes apathy. Our apathy prevents us from seeing lost souls that we should reach out to. Rather we intend it or not, our comfort becomes a higher priority than crowding the pews with new souls. May God not let that happen at Lake Houston.

Our Missionaries

Foreign Mission Work

India - Visakha Valley Bible College
 Cameroon – Jim Corner
 Chile – Harry Hamilton
 Russia, Barnaul – Joseph & Sonia Rhodes
 Nigeria – Doug Wheeler
 Ukraine – Gary and Nadya Workman
 Ghana – Swedru International Bible Institute
 Scotland – Darrell Chappell

Domestic Mission Work

Impact Church of Christ – Houston, TX
 Boulder, CO church of Christ – Howard
 TDC Prison Ministry – Steve Handley
 Lake Houston Church of Christ Prison Ministry
 Bear Valley Bible Institute–Troy & Brenda Woolery
 Brown Trail School of Preaching – Gregory James
 Alvarenga Preacher Training
 In SEARCH of the Lord's Way – TV Outreach Program

Those Chosen to Serve

Sunday, February 22, 2015			Sunday, March 1, 2015		
Speaker		Kevin Hahn	Speaker		Kevin Hahn
Song Leader		Fred Fain	Song Leader		Terry Hunt
Greetings/Call to Worship		Frank Gunnels	Greetings/Call to Worship		Jeff Boyles
Communion Talk		Ken Johnson	Communion Talk		Doug Sessions
Communion	Don Caballero James Fillyaw	Rick Cunningham Lucas Heasley	Communion	Mike Degge Alvin Logan	Carl Brooks Richard Ames
Scripture		Ryan Daltry	Scripture		Fred Fain
Closing Prayer		JY Brown	Closing Prayer		O. Culpepper
Greeters		Fain/Delome	Greeters		Jones/Johnson
Communion Prep		Boyles	Communion Prep		Brooks
Cards	Eric Caballero Reid Jones	Cade Maple Anthony Perry	Cards	Caden Carnathan Keith Harrison Jr.	Sam Eddleman Drew Maple
Building Lockup		Barela/Tharp	Building Lockup		Corley/Ames
EVENING			EVENING		
Speaker		Kevin Hahn	Speaker		Kevin Hahn
Song Leader		Bert Esteban	Song Leader		Aaron Barnes
Opening Prayer		Carl Brooks	Opening Prayer		Eric Kennedy
Communion	Mike Maple	Gary Maple	Communion	John Gardner	Troy May
Wednesday, February 25, 2014			Wednesday, March 4, 2014		
Greetings		Grant McFarland	Greetings		Dick Arruda
Song Leader		Brent McFarland	Song Leader		Cason Pearce