

# *The Meadowlark Messenger*

*Meadowlark Church of Christ  
Glorifying God, sharing Christ, encouraging one another*



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*Fort Collins, Colorado April, 2005 Published Monthly*

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## *Meadowlark Family Reunion 2005*

*On Sunday, April 24th, the Meadowlark family is inviting all former members to join us for morning worship services at 10:00am, and a catered lunch immediately following.*

*This year's theme is "Renew, Reconnect, Reunite"!*

*God is working, and we invite you to join us in celebrating His family.*

*Please make plans to join us by making your RSVP today.*

*To do so you may go to our website at: meadowlark-church.org or by calling the church office.*

*We hope to see you there!*

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**Meadowlark Church of Christ**  
2810 Meadowlark Ave.  
Ft. Collins, CO 80526  
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[office@meadowlarkchurch.org](mailto:office@meadowlarkchurch.org)

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|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Sunday Bible class</b>    | <b>9:00am</b>  |
| <b>Sunday Worship</b>        | <b>10:00am</b> |
| <b>Sunday Evening</b>        | <b>5:30pm</b>  |
| <b>Life Groups</b>           | <b>5:30pm</b>  |
| <b>Wednesday Bible Study</b> | <b>7:00pm</b>  |

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### **Elders:**

Dale Alexander 223-2663  
Milt Brown 221-3256  
Tim Brown 223-1949  
Paul Cooper 221-4073  
Don Fike 229-0676  
Don Kyle 225-8958  
Marvin Martin 484-8385  
\* Gary Richards 223-9663

\* Elder chairman for the month of April

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### **Ministers:**

**Doug Hall**, Pulpit Minister  
377-9863

**Russ Whitten**, Campus Minister  
494-0999

**Wes Kohring**, Youth Minister  
225-1173

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**Gena Neise**, Church Secretary  
223-7788

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## Jump Crickets, Jump!

Life is tough! There are all kinds of things that seem to push us down and cause us to be discouraged. After hitting the wall a number of times many people are likely to give up. I guess we are just like crickets! That's right, crickets! When I lived in Louisiana I found out that one of the most sought after fishing baits was crickets. In every bait shop you could find a big container of crickets for sale. The containers were really incredible. They looked like a huge fish aquarium but there was no top on it. You could look down into the cricket house and see them jumping, but not one cricket jumped out of the aquarium! I expected to see squashed crickets all over the floor but not a cricket could be found outside the cricket house.

This really puzzled me. At first I thought that maybe crickets just couldn't jump that high until I bought some crickets and found out that those little bugs can jump really high! So the next time I went to the bait shop I asked the owner, "How do you keep those crickets from jumping out?" He laughed and pointed to a white strip around the top of the aquarium. He told me that when crickets are very young, right after they hatch (or whatever crickets do) they place them in a fairly small container with a white top. The crickets jump up and bump their little heads on the top and fall back down again. The man told me that after only one week the crickets were trained. They would jump, but they would jump just high enough not to bump their heads on the white top of the container. They could then transfer the bugs to a bigger home and all they had to do was put some white across the top of the cricket's new home and the crickets would never jump out! Incredible!

We are like crickets aren't we. I love the New Year because it is a time of goal setting and resolutions. Did you know that a lot of folks don't set goals any longer and that some no longer bother with New Year's resolutions? How sad! How about you? Did you make any resolutions 11 weeks ago? Are you still working on them? Maybe like the crickets we have hit the top so many times that when the top is removed we have lost all will to dream. When we lose our will to dream and strive toward goals we lose something very important to life.

By the way, the bait store owner told me that in almost every batch of crickets he trains there is a maverick or two. He said that you could hear them singing at night from some place in the store. There are always a couple of crickets that jump with all their might and find that the top has been removed, but no matter how much they sing about their freedom, the rest remain unmoved. How sad!

How high do you plan to jump this year? What goals do you have? What resolutions? Maybe this is the year! Even though a fourth of the year has passed, don't give up now! Never stop dreaming! Never stop jumping!

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine!"

Stand Firm!!!  
Doug Hall



## Can We Afford a Student Center on Campus?

There are dozens of Christian Student Centers affiliated with churches of Christ at universities around the United States. Some are owned by a single church which has made it their primary evangelistic focus. Others are owned by a separate non-profit corporation whose purpose is to provide and maintain the facility for a campus minister supported by one or more church of Christ congregations. The student center committee believes this second style would work best to suit our situation at Meadowlark.

If a non-profit corporation is established it would be similar to the Cherokee Christian Youth Foundation which had owned the church camp in Cherokee Park. Like the camp, the Christian Student Center at CSU would be owned by a foundation and operated by a board of directors. Money would be raised for the purchase and operation of the student center from among interested individuals at congregations throughout the state and perhaps even nationwide.

Overall the anticipated cost is about \$700,000 to \$800,000. About a third would be used to purchase a suitable house near campus. The remaining money would be used to remodel the house and provide income for operating expenses. These are rough numbers, but are very reasonable based on our research into property costs and remodeling and operating expenses.



So, can we afford a Student Center at CSU? We at Meadowlark have already shown our commitment to the mission field at the CSU campus by hiring a campus minister. We trust that this conviction to offer the light of Jesus Christ will extend to providing a facility to support the work. In the near future a detailed plan will be presented for fundraising, acquiring, and operating such a facility. At that time we will be asking ourselves if we should do it or not. Please be prayerfully considering this upcoming and important decision.

In last month's bulletin the benefits of having a student center were given. If you missed the article, it is posted on our campus ministry website— [RamsForChrist.net](http://RamsForChrist.net)., and on the campus bulletin board. If you would like to help, contact Russ Whitten or Mike Von Gunten, or watch for the announced meeting times, (every 2 or 3 weeks), in the Sunday announcements.

Thank you,

Mike Von Gunten

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Prime Timer's breakfast will be Friday, April 1st, at 8:00am. It will be at The Egg & I (on Harmony and Lemay.)

**2005 MSCH Spring Food Drive**—Please have your donations to the church building *no later than April 12<sup>th</sup>*. You can drop them off in the coat closet in the foyer. Items requested are: canned fruit/pears, salsa, chips, flour, Pam, Crisco, vegetable oil, sweetened cereals, Ibuprofen/Tylenol, Miracle Whip/Mayo, canned green chilies, olives, and beans, fruit juices, cough drops, throat lozenges, peanut butter, and grape jelly. Thank you for participating in our food drives! Your care and support means so much to all of us here at MSCH. May God continue to bless each and every one of you!

**Starting in April**, the Clothing Bank will be open on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. It is open from noon to 3:00pm on those days.

**Bible Bowl**—This year's bowl is scheduled for Sat., April 23rd. This is for children in 3rd through 6th grades. We began studying for this in March during our Wednesday evening class. Please call Karen Shumate for more information.

**Please remember**—if you would like to post something on a wall or window in the building, we ask that you *not* use scotch tape, staples, or push pins. The church office (please see the secretary), has an adhesive product that can be attached to walls and/or glass without leaving any sticky residue, hole, or mess after the item has been taken down. Teachers, if you would like a supply in the Teacher's Room, just let the secretary know. We ask that you use this in an effort to keep our walls and windows looking nice—especially for our newly remodeled areas of the building. Thanks!

**Cooks Needed!!** In our effort to reach out to college students on Wednesday nights this semester we are serving a free homecooked meal from 6:30 - 7:00pm before each Bible study. We have all but two Wednesday nights covered for the rest of the Spring semester. We are still in need of volunteer cooks for April 6th and April 13th. If you can help with one (or a portion of one) of these meals please call Charlene Whitten at 494-0999. (In the past, two or three members would sign up for one of these meals to make it less of a burden). Thank you!

**Logan and Katie Brown** have a new address: 2828 Silverplume Dr., Unit J1, Ft. Collins, CO 80526. Their phone number is 204-6605.

## TEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Spring Retreat** - Friday April 1-Sunday April 3rd. This year's spring retreat will be at Highlands Presbyterian Camp in Allenspark, CO. Cost of the event is \$75. The theme of the retreat is "One Way" based on John 14:6. Each participant needs to fill out an application and hand it and money in to Wes no later than Sunday, March 27th. See Wes if you would like to help with the retreat in any way.
- **Student Lifegroups** meeting at the building at 5:30 on Sunday nights.
- **Chosen Chicks Conference** - April 8-10 @ Montgomery Church of Christ, Albuquerque, NM. Any girls interested in an all-girls retreat should see Wes for details and an application ASAP. Cost is only \$21.
- **Area Wide Event**, Sunday afternoon, April 17th.

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## DO YOUR BEST

Abraham Lincoln said, "Whatever you are, be a good one." What a great encouragement this is. It doesn't really matter what you do in life if you do the best you can at it. Everyone has a ministry, and that ministry is whatever that person does in the name of Jesus Christ. So, regardless what you do in your life, realize that you are important in God's plan. Do whatever you do as well as you can, and give God the glory.

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."* (Col. 3:17)

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for **Barbara Herron**. She had hip replacement surgery in March. Pray for a good and speedy recovery for her. Pray for a successful **ML Family Reunion** on Sunday, April 24th. Continued prayers for: **the family of Joe and Kay Findley, Jack Poland, Bob Lang, Mable Dowse, Elnora Boone, Joan Taylor, and Eunice Young.**



# April 2005

## Meadowlark Church Of Christ



| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed                          | Thu       | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--|--|------------------------------|-----------|--|---|
|  |  |  |                              |           | <b>1</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast<br>8:00am Prime Timers Breakfast<br>Spring Retreat (TEENS) →        | <b>2</b> Set clocks forward 1 hr @ midnight |
| <b>3</b> Start Day-light Savings<br><b>Coins for Christ</b><br><i>Sign Language Class</i><br>3:30pm Rm. 10<br>TEEN Retreat → | <b>4</b> College Men and Women's Bible Studies<br>6:30-8:00pm  | <b>5</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast<br><br><b>Ladies Bible Class</b><br>9:30am<br><br><b>Clothing Bank</b>                    | <b>6</b> Bible Class 7:00pm  | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast<br><br><b>"Chosen Chicks" Conf.</b> →<br>Elders/Ministers Retreat → | <b>9</b>                                    |
| <b>10</b> "Chosen Chicks" Conf. →<br>3:30-4:30pm<br><i>Sign Language Class, Rm. 10</i>                                       | <b>11</b> College Men and Women's Bible Studies<br>6:30-8:00pm | <b>12</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast<br><br><b>Ladies Bible Class</b><br>9:30am<br><b>Deadline for MSCH Spring Food Drive</b> | <b>13</b> Bible Class 7:00pm | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast  | <b>16</b> John Mark Hicks Seminar →         |
| <b>17</b> John Mark Hicks →<br>3:30-4:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10<br>Area Wide Event (TEENS)                             | <b>18</b> College Men and Women's Bible Studies<br>6:30-8:00pm | <b>19</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast<br><br><b>Ladies Bible Class</b><br>9:30am<br><br><b>Clothing Bank</b>                   | <b>20</b> Bible Class 7:00pm | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast  | <b>23</b> Bible Bowl                        |
| <b>24</b> ML Family Reunion<br><br><b>3:30-4:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm. 10</b>  | <b>25</b> College Men and Women's Bible Studies 6:30-8:00pm    | <b>26</b> Teen Prayer Breakfast<br><br><b>Ladies Bible Class</b><br>9:30am<br><br><b>Clothing Bank</b>                   | <b>27</b> Bible Class 7:00pm | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>                                   |
|  |  |  |                              |           |  |   |

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**2810 Meadowlark Avenue**  
**Fort Collins CO 80526**

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**MEN SELECTED TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP**  
**APRIL**

|                       | <u>Apr. 3</u> | <u>Apr. 10</u> | <u>Apr. 17</u> | <u>Apr. 24</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Song Leader           | J. Schmitz    | W. Kohring     | B./C. Hall     | W. Kohring     |
| Opening Prayer        | J. Schmitz    | W. Kohring     | B./C. Hall     | W. Kohring     |
| Elder Prayer          | G. Richards   | G. Richards    | G. Richards    | G. Richards    |
| Communion             | M. Martin     | R. Mankin      | K. Berry       | TBD            |
| Server 1              | D. Wheat      | D. Wheat       | D. Wheat       | D. Wheat       |
| Server 2              | D. Walker     | D. Walker      | D. Walker      | D. Walker      |
| Server 3              | F. Bruce      | F. Bruce       | F. Bruce       | F. Bruce       |
| Server 4              | L. Brown      | L. Brown       | L. Brown       | L. Brown       |
| Take Count            | B. Derman     | B. Derman      | B. Derman      | B. Derman      |
| Communion Coordinator | T. Brock      | T. Brock       | T. Brock       | T. Brock       |
| PM-Worship            | D. Watson     |                |                |                |
| Greeters              | King          | King           | Williams       | Poland         |
| Nursery               |               |                |                |                |
| Attendants            |               |                |                |                |

Children's Bible Hour for April: Eric and Michelle Williams

Please meet in the back of the auditorium on Sunday morning before worship service at 9:45am. Be punctual. *Please contact Todd Gillen, or the song leader if you cannot serve. He will arrange for a replacement.*

| <u>FAMILY RECORD—MARCH</u> |            |             |             |             |
|----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                            | <u>3-6</u> | <u>3-13</u> | <u>3-20</u> | <u>3-27</u> |
| Attendance--               |            |             |             |             |
| Bible Class                |            |             |             |             |
| Worship A.M.               | 278        | 219         | 270         |             |
| Sunday P.M.                |            |             |             |             |
| Life Groups                |            |             |             |             |
| Weekly Contribution—       |            |             |             |             |
| This Week                  | 6,941.00   | 5,375.00    | 7,543.00    |             |
| Budget                     | \$6,910.00 |             |             |             |