

# *The Meadowlark Messenger*

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



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*Fort Collins, Colorado August, 2005 Published Monthly*

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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  
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 August

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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

MSN

IS

COMING!

...DETAILS COMING SOON



## Ordinariness

A life of faith always includes the option of a miracle.

When God saved the oppressed offspring of Abraham from slavery in Egypt, there were signs and wonders aplenty. The Nile River turned to blood, darkness shrouded the land, waters parted – God was at work.

When God gave Jericho to Joshua and the Israelites, a miracle brought down the city walls. When Daniel was rescued from hungry lions, a miracle happened. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tossed into a blazing furnace by the wicked King of Babylon, a miracle brought them out unharmed.

Then, miracle of miracles, God raised his Beloved Son from death's strong grasp. Neither guards at the tomb nor all the powers of hell could defeat him.

Yet a life of faith also involves the ordinary. There is more of the ordinary than the miraculous, more that is routine than spectacular. And the expectation of some people that supernatural intervention will become the norm in their lives is a misleading hope that can become a faith-destroying falsehood.

Once Israel was through the waters of the Red Sea, that vast company had to live in harsh wilderness for forty years. Think not only of the three men thrown into Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace but Joseph and Rahab, John the Baptist or Silas. The list just goes on and on – until it includes your name and mine as well.

Against the occasional miracle, most of the events in the lives of those biblical characters were routine and ordinary. Trekking in hot sand under a blistering sun. Working as captives in a foreign land. Getting by in jail without being killed by another inmate. Dealing with criticism. Handling self-doubt.

More often than not, God does not abolish the less-than-ideal situation in which he finds people. Instead, he enters it with us. He shares our plight. He allows our faith to be tested – with the promise that it never will be put to a test above our ability to withstand. He stays close to supply the strength we need.

God has performed many miracles in history and still shows himself in occasional bright moments of his presence. Those become part of our history and help ground faith. But he more typically walks through our ordinariness with us.

In Jesus, we learn the lesson of Emmanuel – God is with us. He is there to work redemptively in our job losses and disappointments, addictions and family crises, setbacks and heartaches, illness and death.

If you don't see a miracle today, don't quit. God still works in the ordinary.

By Rubel Shelly

The football crowds will roar, the city streets will be abuzz, even the trees will sense the mood and burst into color. If you haven't glanced at a calendar recently, then let us break the news. The excitement of Fall is just around the corner! Here in the Rams for Christ Campus Ministry, the Fall is the pivotal time when new students are arriving and returning students are re-settling in Fort Collins. The air will soon be charged with the energy of thousands of young people forging new relationships and rekindling old ones. Fresh out of their parents' nests, College students are also at the crucial point of deciding who they will be, what they will pursue, and how they will live for the rest of their lives. And herein lies the true excitement of the season. We, as a Meadowlark family, get to be a part of their decisions! Many of them will find their way here, and the amount of love they receive just might impact them for a lifetime. If you would like to help in this ministry to college students, there are many opportunities on the horizon.

**Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>** will be our "Welcome Back" day for students. We'll be having a meal downstairs at noon, and if you'd like to bring food and a welcoming smile, please let us know.

Then **Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** and every Monday night during the semester, we'll have our Rams for Christ Worship Gathering at **6:30 PM** in the fellowship room. We'd like to start with a meal and then have a time of praise and bible study, so if you'd like to help in any way, please tell us.

We'll also be starting up our **Adopt-a-Student** program again, in which we ask any members who are willing to take one or two students and just provide them with support and prayers throughout the year. Be thinking about whether you'd like to participate.

Ultimately, the most important thing you can do for the College students is simply show them the love of Jesus. Give hugs liberally. Introduce them to your brothers and sisters. Ask them about their lives. Pray for them. If they see the qualities of Jesus in us, then they just might decide to follow Him with their lives. And what could make for a more exciting Fall?!?

In Him,  
David and Russ

*Russ Whitten*

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**The Pure Word of God**  
**Wes Kohring**

I haven't been in youth ministry full time for any longer than fifteen months, but I still get tired. Tired of programs. Tired of teaching. Tired of wondering if I really make a difference, if kids really hear what I say, if kids really care. Don't get me wrong. I love youth ministry. I love students. The day that I lose my passion to turn kids into disciples for Jesus is the day I get out of youth ministry. And I don't ever want that day to come. I love every teen that I have the privilege to minister to. But that does not mean that I don't get tired sometime. I'm sure you know what I mean, even if you are not in youth ministry. Everyone needs a break sometime, a retreat, sabbatical, whatever.

God knows just what I need and he never ceases to give it to me. This summer has been a mountaintop experience for many of our teens (summers tend to be that way, what with camps, mission trips, etc.). The past few weeks have been special because I've been able to witness the transforming power of God in students' lives. Soul Quest was great, Northern Colorado Christian Camp was fantastic, even last night's class seemed to be somewhat special. But tonight was wonderful. Tonight we studied the Word of God. We *didn't* teach from the newest, hippest video clips. We didn't have to play a game to warm up. All we did was open up the word to James. Nine students came to my house and I taught from James 1:1-8. And everyone was totally into it. It was just the pure word of God, transforming lives, changing hearts. It wasn't surface. It was a great discussion about the value that trials have in our lives and how gracious God actually is for sending them our way. Tonight was a refreshing time - I saw more depth in some students than I'd ever seen before.

When we were finished, we sang a song together. Then we prayed, shared a few laughs, and then split for the evening. After they left my house, I kept singing our final song in my head:

For all that you've done I will thank you  
 For all that you're going to do  
 For all that you've promised and all that you are is all that has carried me through  
 Jesus I thank you

I'm thankful that God provides me with times like tonight. Times that I get to see him more clearly. And it's a joy to see him in students - my passion.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **One-On-One Bible Study Workshop—**

The congregation is invited to a One-on-one Bible Study Workshop sponsored by our campus ministry, Rams for Christ. Mike Schnieder and Joe Brumfield, ministers at the Laramie church of Christ will present how "Bible Talk" has been effectively used in their evangelistic efforts. It will be on Tuesday, August 2 from 6 to 10 pm at the Meadowlark Church building. A light dinner will be provided. Course materials, if you would like to purchase a set, are \$13. Please join Rams for Christ at this valuable event by registering with our interim campus minister David Greer by calling him at the church, or leave a message with the church secretary.

**Volunteers needed—** We need help in the Children's Bible hour ministry. We need people willing to sign up for two weeks at a time during the summer months to minister to the children during the morning worship service. If you are willing to help please contact Gary Bolin or sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer. This a great ministry for those wanting to get involved in a ministry that involves service to children.

**Shepherd Groups**-newly updated Shepherd Groups are posted in the foyer and on the bulletin board. It is the goal of our shepherds that every family unit at Meadowlark be assigned to a shepherd group. Please check this listing for your current shepherd group. If you have input or feedback on our shepherd groups, please provide your feedback to one of our shepherds.

**Jim and Peggy King** recently moved to Arkansas. Their new address is: 34 Skylar Cove, Cabot, AR 72023. Their phone number is: 501-605-9222.

**The next Prime Timer's** breakfast will be Friday, August 5 at 8:00am. It will be at The Egg & I (on Harmony and Lemay.)

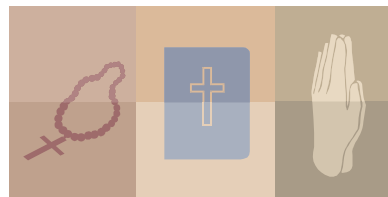
**Teachers—**Because of everyone's busy summer schedules, I am in need of several substitutes for the preschool bible classes. I need teachers for the 3's and 4's class on Sunday Aug. 7th. I also need teachers for the preK and K class on Sundays for the entire month of August. Usually I try to substitute, but I'm already teaching on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights both. If you can help out please let me know ASAP. 223-7355 or 217-1599. Thanks, your help is greatly appreciated! Loyce Bolin

**There is a box** of firewood in the teacher's workroom at the church building. Andrew thought that someone might want it for the upcoming campout. Please feel free to take it! Also, someone may have accidentally taken a bag of leftover Bible buddies. They were lions and giraffes. Please return these if you have them. We send our VBS kits to Ukraine, and the complete sets of buddies would be nice to send for the children there. Leaders, please return your station leader books to the workroom, and thank you for the outstanding job you did! Love Karen

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

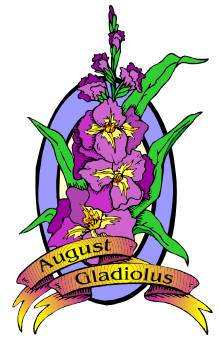
Prayers are requested on behalf of **Todd Gillen and his family**. Todd had a motorcycle accident recently, and broke his tibia plateau (where the shin meets the knee.) He had surgery on July 23. Prayers are requested on behalf of **Helen Bland**. She has had knee replacement surgery. Pray for a complete and speedy recovery for her. Please pray for strength and comfort on behalf of the **family of Hattie Wells**. Hattie, who was a shut-in member passed away July 23rd. The **James' family** has requested prayers on behalf of **John's mother, Ann**. She is having serious health concerns and is undergoing tests. **Anita Schiebel** has suffered a setback. She is in critical, but stable condition.

Continued prayers for: **Bob Lang, Judy Poland, Eric Williams' mother- Wilma, Geri Cooper, Barbara Herron, Elnora Boone, and Joan Taylor.**



# AUGUST 2005

## Meadowlark Church Of Christ



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Clothing Bank noon-3PM</i> <b>College Bible Study 7-8pm @ Seth Tourney's</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Bible Class 7:00pm</b>	<b>4</b> Campus Ministry Seminar—Norman, OK 8/4-8/7	<b>5</b> <i>Prime Timer's Breakfast—8:00am</i>  ML Family Camping in WY 8/5—8/7	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <i>Coins for Christ</i> 3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10  ML Praise in the Park @ City Park—6-8pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>College Bible Study 7-8pm @ Seth Tourney's</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Bible Class 7:00pm</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Teen Bible Study</b>	<b>12</b> Teen Backpacking Trip 8/12-8/14  <b>DATE YOUR MATE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Clothing Bank 12-3om</i> <b>College Bible Study 7-8pm @ Seth Tourney's</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Bible Class 7:00pm</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Teen Bible Study</b>	<b>19</b> <b>RAMS FOR CHRIST-Full Moon Hike</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Welcome Back Students! RAMS FOR CHRIST MEAL—Noon</b>  3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10	<b>22</b> School Begins—Back-to-School Breakfast-Teens  <b>College Worship-ML Fellowship Hall 6:30pm</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Clothing Bank 12-3pm</i>	<b>24</b> <b>Bible Class 7:00pm</b>	<b>25</b> College Bible Study—ML Fellowship Hall 7-8pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10	<b>29</b> <b>College Worship-ML Fellowship Hall 6:30pm</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Bible Class 7:00pm</b>			

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**2810 Meadowlark Avenue**  
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**MEN SELECTED TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP**

**AUGUST**

	<u>Aug. 7</u>	<u>Aug. 14</u>	<u>Aug. 21</u>	<u>Aug. 28</u>
Song Leader	B. Shumate	B. Hall	W. Kohring	TBD
Opening Prayer	B. Shumate	B. Hall	W. Kohring	TBD
Shepherd's Prayer	P. Cooper	P. Cooper	P. Cooper	P. Cooper
Communion	J. Poland	D. Herrington	C. Grenier	C. Page
Server 1	D. Riffle	D. Riffle	D. Riffle	D. Riffle
Server 2	G. Brunk	G. Brunk	G. Brunk	G. Brunk
Server 3	D. Fike	D. Fike	D. Fike	D. Fike
Server 4	R. Wells	R. Wells	R. Wells	R. Wells
Take Count	C. Tamlin	C. Tamlin	C. Tamlin	C. Tamlin
Communion Coordinator	W. Smith	W. Smith	W. Smith	W. Smith
PM-Worship				
Greeters	V.&M.Martin	D.&S.Riffle	Shumate/Wells	—
Nursery	C.Stevens	C.Schmitz	L.Grenier	D.&J.James
Attendants	R.Smith	B.Brock	V.Martin	B.Worrell
	T.&T.Brock	J.&J.Goldman	K.&C.Lucardie	H.Meyer

Children's Bible Hour for August:

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.

FAMILY RECORD—JULY					
	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24	7/31
Attendance--					
Bible Class					
Worship A.M.	240	229	253	235	
Sunday P.M.					
Life Groups					
Weekly Contribution—					
This Week	\$5,665.00	\$5,832.00	\$5,637.00	\$5,721.00	
Budget	\$6,910.00				