

The Meadowlark Messenger

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



Fort Collins, Colorado December, 2005 Published Monthly

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'"

"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'" Luke 2:8-14



On Behalf Of The Meadowlark Church Of Christ Staff,

We Wish You A
Merry Christmas

Meadowlark Church of Christ
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Website:
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E-Mail:
office@meadowlarkchurch.org

Sunday Bible class	9:00am
Sunday Worship	10:00am
Sunday Evening	5:30pm
Life Groups	5:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00pm

Elders:

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

* Elder chairman for the month of December

Ministers:

Doug Hall, Pulpit Minister
377-9863

David Greer, Campus Minister
226-0568

Wes Kohring, Youth Minister
225-1173

Gena Neise, Church Secretary
223-7788



2005 Swiftly Draws to a Close

What a busy month! If you are like me, you are trying to catch your breath after a very busy month of November. We were blessed to have Steve Diggs with us a couple of weeks ago for a seminar to help us be good servants of the financial resources God has given us. I hope you were able to attend for his important lessons, but if you were not, there will be additional opportunities in the future to learn more.

And then our Day of Thanksgiving! It is hard to believe that it could be better than the first two years, but it was. Our father/son teams did a great job leading worship, and our offerings to the Lord once again exceeded expectations. Almost \$5500.00 will be used to fund our Christmas baskets for this year, and to help Mountain States Children's Home and Colorado Christian Services. You are to be praised for your generous giving. The food and turkey contribution was larger than ever. The front of the auditorium was filled with your gifts. Phil Crews from Mountain States has already called this week thanking us once again for our generosity.

What a great Thanksgiving feast we enjoyed after worship. Our thanks go out to Chappy Well's Life Group for organizing the setup of the auditorium for our meal. Thanks to Shelly Walker and her gang for helping with the decorations. And thanks to Carole and Brad Hall for organizing the food for the meal. Thanks to my Life Group for helping serve and clean up after our meal. I am sure that I have left out several people who helped. We thank all of you for your participation. This was a full-family effort!

Special thanks to our kids for entertaining us Sunday during the meal. We announced that there would be a Christmas program put on by our kids December 16 but that **is not** going to take place this year. We got started with the planning too late, and just can't get it together for this year. The plan is to have the program in December, 2006. Encourage our kids every chance you get, and keep all our teachers in your prayers. They are doing an excellent job instilling the Word of God. We are so blessed to have Brian and Karen Shumate leading our children's ministry. Let's do all we can to encourage them.

The end of 2005 will mean a sad transition for those of us in the Meadowlark Office. Gena Neise, who has served as our Church Secretary for the past five years will be leaving us at the end of the year. The job here has changed to a part time position, and is not suitable for her situation. We love Gena and will miss her. She has done a good job serving this congregation. Keep Gena in your prayers as she seeks full-time employment, and keep us in your prayers as we seek a person to step into her role here.

Please keep the Whittens in your prayers as they continue their studies at Wycliffe Hall at Oxford. I know that we are going to be richly blessed with the things they have been able to learn this year. Continue to keep the Greers in your prayers as they work with Rams for Christ, and keep praying for the Kohrings as they minister to our teens. The Halls also covet your prayers. All the ministers here feel a special blessing to be a part of this great church. May God continue to bless us all as we join hands in this great work. To God be the glory!



Stand Firm!!!
Doug Hall



“I think one of the best prayers is to ask God to make me more like Jesus today,” David said as we walked to the 3rd hole on the Frisbee golf course.

Frisbee golf, for those of you who don’t know, is just like regular golf except that instead of hitting a ball into a cup in the ground, you throw a plastic Frisbee into a big metal basket. It sounds easy, but it’s not. Today, I was playing Frisbee golf with David Lacy, one of the college students, and Frisbee golf professional. Despite my best efforts to throw the plastic thing in the metal basket it always seemed to fly out of my hand at the wrong time, or hit a tree. A few times I actually threw it straight at the basket on a perfect line for a hole in one, until it started curving left and landed 50 or 60 yards from where I intended it to be.

My pursuit of Christ-like-ness often leaves me feeling like an inaccurate Frisbee golf player. I aim in the right direction, but always seem to end up so far from my goal of being like Jesus. So when David told me about praying to be like Jesus today, I agreed that it was a great prayer to pray, but remembered how I never end up like Jesus. Jesus was the one who touched the leprous man no one else would go near, took time to love the man who interrupted an important sermon by crashing through the roof, spent time making the outcasts of society feel important, and that’s just in one chapter of his story (Luke 15). I’m the one who, like Paul, often does what I wish I hadn’t, and seldom gets around to doing the things that are truly important. I often feel like I’m never going to make myself like Jesus. And the truth is: I’m not.

Paul knew it, Jesus knew it, God knows it, and it’s time we understood it for good. We will never be able to make ourselves look like Jesus. The harder we try, the clearer this truth becomes. Yes, as God transforms our minds and hearts to be more in step with His, we’ll look more *like* Jesus, as David prays. We’ll display the fruits of a spirit-led life more clearly, but we’ll never achieve Jesus-ness. And that’s why we need the man Jesus. As Paul said, “Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God-through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

In the same way that I’ll never perfect my Frisbee throwing technique, I’ll never ever be able to mimic the life of Jesus. And thanks be to him, we’re not required to!

Coming Down the Mountain

Wes Kohring

As I write this article, I am still in good old Nashville, Tennessee having just attended a four-day youth ministry seminar called National Youth Worker Conference. There were over 7,000 youth ministers from all over the world inside the Nashville Convention Center – all experiencing heart moving worship, spiritual renewal, and the pleasure of sitting at the feet of some of America’s finest veteran youth workers. Most of us have heard talk of and experienced the “mountaintop” experience. These experiences set us on spiritual fire; they bring us closer to the heart of God in ways we never imagined. I can remember a few in my lifetime. This one tops them all. In fact, I do not want to come down. I like it here. I am comfortable. I have seen Jesus, and have experienced Him in a powerful way. I feel as if I could remain here forever. Or at least until Jesus comes back to take me where I really belong.

But I cannot. Something deep inside my heart is calling me back to youth ministry in Fort Collins, Colorado. However, at the same time something deep inside my heart is saying that it would be better to remain on the summit. Paul experienced this, and he wrote about it in Philippians 1:22-24: “If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body (NIV).” At some point, Paul had seen a glimpse of heaven, and longed for that which he knew was home. However, Paul knew it was better for him to descend the mountain and dwell in the valley, in the trenches of ministry. Jesus experienced the same thing. Transfigured on the mountaintop in Mark 9, he looks more like his Father. He hangs out with Moses and Elijah. The experience must have reminded him of home. Surely he wanted to go back to where he truly belonged. But he stays. Jesus Christ, God incarnate, does not stay because his love for us compelled him to descend into the valley where he ran into those who were demon-possessed, hurting, ill, and far from God.

Now, I am not saying that I need to get on my plane and come back to Fort Collins to minister to students because they are demon-possessed! My point is this: We are Saturday people. We dwell in the tension between the crucifixion and the resurrection. We experience heartache and disappointment. We see others fall down, and we fall down ourselves. Sin is alive in our world. But we have seen a glimpse of Sunday! God in his mercy has passed us by and we have seen his glory on our own mountaintops. We can taste Sunday. We are assured that God has claimed victory over death, and that the valley will soon be no more! No more sickness, no more pain, no more suffering, no more tears. One day we will ascend the mountain, and we will never come back down. We will see the face of God and every day will be Sunday!

I am thankful that Jesus came and met me in the valley. If he had stayed on the mountain, I would be lost. Likewise, my love for God and His children compel me to take joy in my ministry, to take joy in experiencing God here on earth. But I sure look forward to home.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meadowlark Ladies--Following are the dates & book titles for our next 3 Book Club meetings (meeting are on a bi-monthly basis now):

-- Thursday, 12/1/05 7:00pm @ TBD

"Captivating" by John & Staci Eldredge (FYI, John authored "Wild at Heart")

-- Thursday, 2/2/06 7:00pm @ TBD

"Unveiled" by Francine Rivers

-- Thursday, 4/6/05 7:00pm @ TBD

"The Red Tent" by Anita Diamant

All ML ladies are encouraged to attend! Please reply if you would like to host one of these meetings. Thanks, Stacy Dotson

The next Prime Timer's breakfast will be Friday, December 2 at 8:00am. It will be at The Egg & I (on Harmony and Lemay.)

Attention Meadowlark Ladies! Women of all ages are cordially invited to attend a holiday cookie exchange on Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m. We will meet in the basement and have a lovely tea service with fellowship and a holiday craft activity. Attendees are asked to bring one dozen of their favorite holiday cookies to exchange with others for a nice plate of goodies to take home! To ensure sufficient craft materials, please RSVP with Heather Meyer asap.

New Address: Marge and Randy Robinette have a new address: P. O. Box 323, Bellvue, CO 80512. The street address is: 5063 WCR 52 E.

Looking for a chance to get rid of some old furniture? Wes Kohring and David Greer would like to let you know that the Youth and College groups are looking for donations to improve their student areas. So if you have any couches, lamps, coffee tables or other furniture items you'd like to donate, please let David or Wes know. Thanks for your support of these two ministries!

At our recent family meeting, the topic of internal communications at Meadowlark surfaced. At that meeting, a committee was formed to look into this issue and the members who have volunteered to serve include: Daniel Herrington (chair), Crystal Bolding, Steve Burnam, Katie Brown, Stacy Dotson, Duane Fisher, David, Greer, Heather Meyer & Marilyn Watson. We hope to gain a better understanding of the areas where we could improve and develop some strategies that will increase effective communication in the body. We are consulting and working with the church leadership during this process. Our group feels that improving communication and creating stronger bonds of unity are vital in order to fulfill Meadowlark's desire to fully serve the Lord. We welcome any feedback from the body, and invite you to speak with one of us about suggestions, thoughts, and solutions you might have concerning these matters. We ask for your prayers as we address these important issues. Thank you, Heather Meyer

Because of the Christmas holidays, the church offices will be closed on Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26.

Dear Meadowlark Church Family: It is now time for us to start forming the new "Life Group Ministry Teams" that we have discussed with those who have been in attendance at our meetings. For those who we have not talked to face to face, here is a recap of what we are planning in regards to our 2006 Life Groups:

1. Life Groups will not meet during the month of December.
2. Sign up sheets will be available on Sunday, Dec. 4th.
3. Ministry Teams will consist of three-four families, (or individuals) who will work together to make their group successful, without all of the responsibility falling on one or two families.
4. New groups will have their first meeting on Sunday, January 8, 2006.

If you are interested in being a part of one of these new "Life Group Ministry Teams", please let us know as soon as possible. We are very excited about the organization of new Life Groups, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We would like to encourage everyone to sign up for a Life Group this year! Feel free to call us at 223-6264, or email us at ewilliamsfamily@yahoo.com Thank you, Eric and Michelle Williams

2006 Winter Retreat: Discussions are also in the works about planning a ladies retreat for January or February of 2006. If you're interested in either participating in or planning for this retreat, please let Karen Richards or Stacy Dotson know.

TEEN ANNOUNCEMENTS

-- Parent Meeting - Sunday, December 4th after morning worship in the fellowship hall. All parents of youth ministry teens please plan on attending. This meeting is very important. Lunch will be provided for \$10 a family.

--Teen Ministry Christmas Party - Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 at the home of Gary and Loyce Bolin. Teens please bring a "white elephant" gift. All members of teen families are invited to attend. More details coming from Wes very soon.

--Teen Ministry New Year's Eve Party - Saturday, December 31st at 6:30 at the home of Kyle and Liz Berry. All members of teen families are invited to attend. More details coming soon.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nita Watson had hip surgery recently, and is now at Center Rehab in Room 143. Pray for her recovery. Please also pray for a speedy recovery for **Lorene Oliphant**, who recently had hip replacement surgery. She is at the Columbine Rehab Center, Room 238. Before visiting, please call her at 494-2151.

Continued prayers for: **Ken Hollingsworth, Anika Bott, Robert Donahue, Warren Kraxberger, Billie Harvey, Bob Lang, Barbara Herron, Elnora Boone, Joan Taylor.**

DECEMBER 2005

Meadowlark Church Of Christ



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 Prime Timer's Breakfast 8:00am	3
4 <i>Coins for Christ</i> Teen Parents Meeting! 3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10	5	6 9:30 Ladies Bible Class Clothing Bank noon-3pm	7 Bible Class 7:00pm	8	9 <i>Date Your Mate</i>	10 Teen Ministry Christmas Party @ Bolins
11 <i>Commitment Sunday</i> 3:30pm- Sign Language Class, Rm. 10	12	13 9:30 Ladies Bible Class	14 Bible Class 7:00pm	15	16	17
18 3:30pm Sign Language Class, Rm 10	19	20 9:30 Ladies Bible Class Clothing Bank noon-3pm	21 Bible Class 7:00pm	22	23 Church offices closed	24 Christmas Eve
25  Christmas	26 Church offices closed	27 9:30 Ladies Bible Class	28 Bible Class 7:00pm	29	30	31 Teen Ministry New Year's Eve Party @ Berrys

Meadowlark Church of Christ
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MEN SELECTED TO ASSIST IN WORSHIP

DECEMBER

	<u>Dec. 4</u>	<u>Dec. 11</u>	<u>Dec. 18</u>	<u>Dec. 25</u>
Song Leader	B. Shumate	D. Greer	J. Schmitz	B. Hall
Opening Prayer	B. Shumate	D. Greer	J. Schmitz	B. Hall
Shepherd's Prayer	G. Richards	G. Richards	G. Richards	G. Richards
Communion	C. Nance	C. Bolding	C. Van Kull	TBD
Server 1	A. Galvan	A. Galvan	A. Galvan	A. Galvan
Server 2	M. Richards	M. Richards	M. Richards	M. Richards
Server 3	K. Van Kull	K. Van Kull	K. Van Kull	K. Van Kull
Server 4	D. Grenier	D. Grenier	D. Grenier	D. Grenier
Take Count	Wylie Smith			
Communion Coordinator	Wylie Smith			
PM-Worship				
Greeters	J.&S.Poland G. Koch	D.&S.Riffle	B.&K.Shumate	C.&M.Tamlin D.&S.Walker
Nursery Attendants	H.Meyer C Lucardie K.&S.Wheat	D.Alexander R.Burnam D.&S.Jones	Shannon Watson H.Donahue J.&C.Schmitz	
Children's Bible Hour Dec.:	—	—	—	—

FAMILY RECORD—NOVEMBER

Attendance--	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27
Bible Class				
Worship A.M.	274	243	269	
Sunday P.M.				
Life Groups				
Weekly Contribution—				
This Week	\$7,141.00	\$5,155.00	\$10,877.00	\$
Budget	\$6,910.00			