

# The Meadowlark Messenger

Meadowlark Church of Christ

*Glorifying God, Sharing Christ, Encouraging One Another*



Fort Collins, Colorado February, 2006 Published Monthly

## Bless the Children

For the past few years, the first week of February has been a time for us to recognize the importance of rearing our children in a godly way. Children are among the most precious gifts we receive from our Father and it is good that we spend time committing ourselves to being the kind of example that our children need to see.

Sunday morning, February 5, we will be blessing the children that were born in our Meadowlark family in 2005. This year the Annons, the Donahues, and the Kohrings were blessed with new babies. Lily Mae, Caleb, and Jonah have filled these families with joy and we are excited to witness the parent's public commitment to rear their children in the nurture and love of the Lord.

The Meadowlark congregation will also be making a commitment to these babies and their families that day, promising to support these families with our prayers, our love, and our commitment to their well-being in the Lord. What a joy it is to witness these promises at the beginning of such precious lives. And what a great responsibility it is for us to be the spiritual family for these young ones.

Remember the words of our Lord.

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

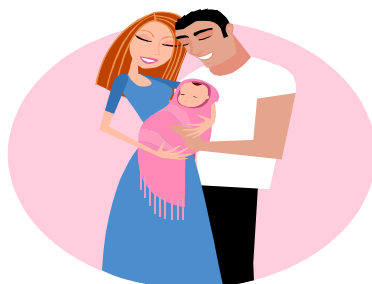
- Luke 18:16-17

As we prepare to bless our children in a few weeks there are several things you can do. First add Lily Mae, Caleb, and Jonah and their families to your daily prayer list. Pray that God will bless these children to grow up to know God and serve him faithfully every day of their lives. Second, make yourself available to be of aid to these young families. Let them know that you will be there for them through all the struggles they are sure to encounter as they rear their children. And finally, determine that you are going to be the very best example of Christian goodness and love you can possibly be for this child.

Thank God for all our children! I hope you will be here to celebrate these most recent blessings from God February 5!

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## Hall-Marks

### What We Owe Our Children

It is a normal thing for me to be the most challenged from my preaching and teaching. Going through the process of study and prayer causes God's Word to sink deep into one's soul. This has never been truer than it has been during the past few weeks as I prepared the lessons for the *Learning to Love* series. As I worked through several very familiar passages, it struck me time and again how important these teachings are. When we fail to love as we should, the church cannot be the church. It is not enough for us to do good works, as important as those works are. We are called into close relationship with one another. It is by our love that the world discovers who we are and what our values are. When members of the Body of Christ love one another, that love cannot but spill over on those outside the Body. In fact, every ministry in the church begins to work when we learn to love. We should not be surprised since Jesus told us that everything hangs on loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

As I explained in my two sermons, the major responsibility for love and peace in the church rests squarely on the shoulders of the strong. The weak are to be encouraged and accepted and loved through their weaknesses. It struck me that the greatest responsibility that we have is to our children. They may be the most important "weak ones" in the church. They are watching us constantly. They hear our words and take note of our actions. They become aware of our values and they follow our example. Indeed, they learn to love from us.

We owe our children a good example. The greatest gift a husband and wife can give their children is their love for each other. In the same way, the greatest gifts we can give the children of Meadowlark are brothers and sisters who love one another. Of course there

will be conflict from time to time, but mature lovers work through conflicts. They don't turn their backs on each other and give up on each other. They communicate and pray and seek counsel and they find a way to love each other.

Our children need to discover from us a deep and abiding respect for one another. We all come from different places and we all have had different experiences in our lives. We often have different opinions and may even be the product of different traditions. It is not unusual for us to find ourselves at odds. Despite our differences, we owe our children respect for one another. We owe them an example of how good people who are redeemed by the blood of Jesus treat each other with honor and respect. Blessed be the tie that binds is our song!

As we age, we often think of the legacy we will leave those who are left behind. What will they remember when they remember us? What will they recall about this generation of the Meadowlark family? Let our legacy be a legacy of love. Let it be said of our generation that they loved one another and that their polar star was love. Let our children remember with fondness how our family stood up for each other and honored one another. Let them remember how we bore with the weak and lifted up the discouraged and never ever gave up on each other. Let it be that our children have a clear understanding of how to pass down this love to a generation yet unborn. If our children do not learn love and respect from us, from whom will they learn it? How will they know how to treat one another after we leave this earth unless they find it in us right now? We owe our children a genuine demonstration of faithful love.

Stand Firm!!!

Doug Hall

# CAMPUS

# ORNER

by David Greer

Well, it's that time of year when the college students have rolled back into town ready to finish out their school year strong. Many of them have already discovered that their semester is going to be really hard, and they'll have little time for anything except studying. But many of them still commit to being a part of the Meadowlark College Ministry, or what we often call Rams for Christ. That commitment usually entails coming to college ministry events regularly, and not much more. This semester, however, the Rams for Christ group will be placing a greater emphasis on becoming a close-knit community of faith where the students live life together sort of like the early Christians did in Acts 2. That means that we'll be spending more time together not necessarily at church events, but at each other's homes, on campus, or wherever else we go to live life. We'll be eating together, playing together, praying together, reading the Bible together, studying together, skiing together, and more. The goal is to take our relationships beyond surface level social friendships and more onto the level of truly feeling and acting like the brothers and sisters in Christ that we are. Being a loving and active family is our goal. How do we do that? Here are a few of our plans:

Wednesday Nights we'll be having a community worship gathering and Bible discussion time. We'll often eat together beforehand too. This is definitely an Acts 2 type of gathering.

Mondays we'll be having the guys and girls split up for smaller Bible discussions and prayer times on the CSU campus. These are very informal, but are a really important part of our community.



**Rams for Christ at 14,000 ft.!**



Friday nights are fun social nights, so we'll be spending many Friday nights together playing games, watching movies, singing, or whatever we decide to do. This will mostly happen at students' houses or apartments.

We'll be spending an entire weekend together in February on a retreat to Estes Park. Talk about a community builder! Spending a weekend away from town with nothing to do but be with each other seems to form really tight family bonds.

Of course many of us will gather together to worship on Sundays, and we'll try to get out into the community and serve people as often as possible. I am praying that God will form us into a close community and transform us together into the image of Christ. With your prayers, I believe that God will bless us with the most amazing semester of college ministry that we've ever seen. To Him be the glory!



## Youth Happenings

### Faith and Doubt by Wes Kohring



My college friends and I have been very intentional about keeping in touch – it’s something that is very important to us. We have a message board on the internet that we use to keep up with each other. We talk about everything from sports to marriage to faith. All of us are in ministry whether it is full-time youth ministry, missions, or volunteer ministry. Below is a confession that my friend posted recently. He is doing full-time mission work as an evangelist in Perth, Australia. My response follows his comments. We have been taught not to question God or anything in the Bible. We have in turn taught our children that they must be equipped to answer anything that a non-Christian could ever possibly ask about God. In studying God, we have often met with despair, unable to figure the whole “God-thing” out and wondering why. My question is this: Did God ever mean for us to fully understand him? To know everything about him? To be able to give an answer about everything concerning Himself? Here is my exchange with Josh.

“As far as struggles go, I am struggling with the whole doubt thing. It is something that I have not experienced before as much, but it is something that is coming more and more as I ask questions about the Lord. I know that it is something that comes with faith, but it is not that wonderful while going through it by any means. This could be the fact that I have been in contact with more and more people who have a life that looks like mine, yet they have a totally different belief than me. Some agnostic, some atheistic, some Muslim, and another Buddhist. It is unreal the kind of questions that these people can come up with. One of which is the whole “time” conversation. That there is no beginning, it is just a human question. I am not saying by any means that I no longer believe, but I am saying that this has been something that I have been going through. The more that I doubt, the more that I come through on the other side a more refined believer. Well I guess this is a bit long so I am going to let you all off the hook. Peace”.

**My response to Josh:** “Josh thanks for your post. You said what probably most of us have felt at one time or another. I have to say that I totally disagree with Ryan's "trash in trash out" theory and think it's wonderful that you are engaging in relationship with people that believe differently than you do. It's time that all of us got outside of our Christian ghettos and started being salt and light like you are Josh. I applaud your efforts.

I certainly don't have a solution for you and I don't really think you are asking for a solution. Reading your post, especially your last line, reminded me that sometimes we have to take a step or two backwards in order to go forward. In order for you to grow, you need to doubt. You need to ask questions and you need to have difficult questions asked of you. If we never doubt anything about God, then we are in effect claiming to have him figured out. Pretty arrogant if you ask me. I just say all of this to encourage you in your journey, keep the conversation alive even if it makes you wonder. I agree with you in that doubt can test us and be painful at times, but still hold to the belief that God wants us to question. When we question God, he can surprise us more. Give us more to be awe-inspired by. I hope that makes sense.

Review *Velvet Elvis*. I started it a few days ago and am about 4 chapters through. It's the kind of book I don't want to put down, but I have to in order to think about what Bell is writing about and suggesting. Powerful stuff. We have for so long (at least I have) been raised to believe that we need to KNOW everything about the Bible, master it even. I can't do it and I don't think I'm expected to.

Remember that Paul said that we should be ready with an answer when people ask about the HOPE that we have (1 Peter 3:15). We don't have to have an answer to everything. Thinking that you DO have to have an answer to everything will only bring despair. Josh, I love you man. Keep living your life for the one who gives you hope. Embrace mystery. Keep asking questions. Stand in awe of God. When you cannot seem to find your faith, he is still faithful.”



## Ladies Bible Class

by Maxine Tamlin

Please join us Tuesday mornings 9:30-10:40 for Bible Study. Doug Hall is teaching "Fascinating Stories and Significant Lives". We meet in Room 10 and childcare is provided. The last Tuesday of each month we will continue working on service projects. The Ladies Bible Class just finished making 200 teddy bears, 24 tote bags (that include a coloring book and crayons), and 11 quilts. One of the life groups also contributed 8 children's taggies. These items were sent to Tammany Oaks Church of Christ in Mandeville, LA to be distributed to the victims of the Katrina tragedy. We plan on continuing this project with the next shipment going to Gulfport, MI to be distributed by a Church of Christ there. Other projects for local sources and for our service men and women overseas are also being planned. We encourage all of you who can to join us in our weekly Bible Study and with our service projects. If you have questions, please contact me.

**Note:** Maxine and the ladies involved with the Clothing Bank always need extra volunteers on Tuesdays to help sort and distribute clothing. If you are interested in helping, contact Maxine.

## Young Adult Fellowship

by Aaron Fletcher

With the new year also comes a new and exciting ministry, one that hopes to fill a need not only within the church but a need in the community of Fort Collins. This new ministry is called Young Adult Fellowship, or YAF for short, and has been created to minister to the 20 and 30 something's in the church who are looking for fellowship, spiritual growth, and an outlet for evangelism at their place of work. If you'd like to check out this new ministry come to Meadowlark on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00ish for dessert and fellowship. Our ministry will be very dynamic with a good mix of fellowship, open discussion, devotional setting, as well as practical education. Through the practical education nights we hope to provide excellent opportunities to bring friends who may not otherwise come to church. These nights will occur every other month and are also intended to be a way for YAF to serve the whole congregation. The first of these educational nights will be **February 16<sup>th</sup>**!! We are having a seminar on the steps it takes to buy a home. We have a licensed realtor and lender coming to Meadowlark to enlighten us on all the ins and outs of home buying. So please come to our seminar and bring your friends.

## Date Your Mate

by Heather Meyer

Do you want to serve your church family, but don't know just how to do it? How about helping once a year with childcare for the Date Your Mate Program? This program gives Meadowlark couples with young children the opportunity to reconnect once a month while their children are cared for at no charge at the building. We are looking for at least twelve pairs of people (teen, college students, and other interested adults) to commit to helping with the babysitting for just one Friday night a year! See below for dates, grab a friend, and contact Sue Jones or Heather Meyer to choose the date you would like to help: Feb. 17, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, May 19, Jun. 16, Jul. 21, Aug. 18, Sep. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15.

Also, if you are a family with children ages 6 months and older, and want to know more about DYM, please contact Sue Jones or Heather Meyer.

## Men's Support Network

by Doug Hall

Last Fall MSN kicked off. Since that time several accountability teams have begun to meet, and we have had a general meeting of our men. In 2006, we are planning to get even more men involved in accountability groups and we plan to have several scheduled events for the men of Meadowlark. Be watching the worship program and monthly newsletters for ways you can get involved. Or, you can contact Dale Alexander, Damond Dotson, Doug Hall, or Wes Kohring for more information.

## Upcoming Events

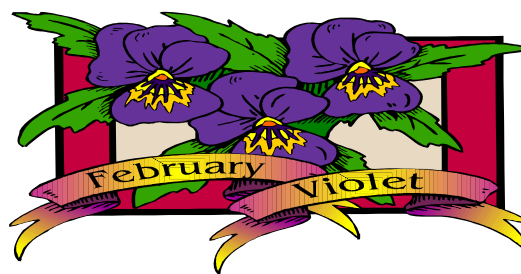
**The Christian Book Club Meeting** will be held at Kris Gillen's on February 2<sup>nd</sup> this month. The book for this meeting is *Unveiled* by Francine Rivers. Book club meetings are now held on a bi-monthly basis. A host is still needed for the meeting on 04/06. If you would like to host, please contact Stacy Dotson.

**Children's Blessing Day** will be on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for morning worship and help us welcome these new babies into the Meadowlark family!

**Children's Education Ministry** will be having a **Planning Meeting on Sunday, February 5th** immediately following morning services. We will be providing a spaghetti lunch and discussing the upcoming year, curriculum, planned events and more for all children up through 6th grade. We hope everyone who has a child involved in this ministry or who is interested in this ministry will attend. If you have any questions, please **contact Craig or Crystal Bolding**.

**The NCCC camp meeting** will be held on **February 5<sup>th</sup> @ Meadowlark, 2:00 p.m.** If you are interested in working at camp or want to help in anyway, please attend this meeting.

**All Primetimers are invited to the Sweetheart Dinner**, held in your honor on **February 12<sup>th</sup>**, following morning worship in the fellowship hall. The students in the teen ministry would like to take this opportunity to get to know each of you a little better and to fellowship over a wonderful meal together. Please **RSVP** to Holly (223-7788) by **Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**.



**Date Your Mate** is on **February 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00p.m. – 10:00p.m.** If you would like to volunteer to help provide childcare for this event, or like to be involved as a parent in this program, please contact Sue Jones or Heather Meyer.

**Life Groups** -- If anyone is interested in joining a Life Group there is still time. Contact Eric Williams at 223-6264.

### **College Dates:**

**Every Wednesday Night**-- Rams for Christ Worship Gathering at 7 pm in the ML College Room  
**Feb. 5--** Super Bowl Party at Adam Prior's house  
**Feb. 17-19--** Rams for Christ and YAF Winter Retreat in Estes Park. Cost: \$30, contact David Greer to sign up.

**The Young Adult Fellowship Group** will meet in the fellowship room of Meadowlark every Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. The tentative schedule for these meetings is as follows:

**Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Potluck and Fellowship

**Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>:** Discussion—hosted by Cindy Eckstein

**Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Meredith Mayer from Group Inc.

“Buying a Home”

**Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Discussion—hosted by TBD

### **Reminders:**

Ladies Bible Class is held every Tuesday in Room 10 from 9:30 a.m.-10:45a.m.

The Clothing Bank is open every 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Bible Classes are held every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**Meadowlark Church of Christ**  
**2810 Meadowlark Ave.**  
**Ft. Collins, CO 80526**

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 Website:  
 www.meadowlarkchurch.org  
 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

**Shepherds:**

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 February

**Ministers:**

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

**David Greer**, Campus Minister  
 226-0568

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

**Administrative Assistant:**

**Holly Fletcher**, 484-4124

**Men Selected to Assist In Worship**

*February*

	<u>Feb. 5</u>	<u>Feb. 12</u>	<u>Feb. 19</u>	<u>Feb. 26</u>
Song Leader	D. Greer	W. Kohring	J. Schmitz	D. Herrington
Opening Prayer	D. Greer	W. Kohring	J. Schmitz	D. Herrington
Shepherd's Prayer	T. Brown	T. Brown	T. Brown	T. Brown
Communion	B. Bland	D. Martin	R. Mankin	G. Brunk
Server 1	B. Lacy	B. Lacy	B. Lacy	B. Lacy
Server 2	D. Lacy	D. Lacy	D. Lacy	D. Lacy
Server 3	D. Beardshear	D. Beardshear	D. Beardshear	D. Beardshear
Server 4	T. Brock	T. Brock	T. Brock	T. Brock
Comm. Cor.	D. Walker			
Take Count	D. Walker			
Greeters	Tamlins	Tamlins	TBD	TBD
Nursery Attendants	R.&R. Martin J.&A. Fivecoate	D. Brunk V. Martin J.&T. Albiston	C. Stevens R. Smith J.&J. Goldman	A.&L. Annon J.&C. Schmitz
Children's Bible Hour Feb:	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

*Help Wanted!*

**Church photographer**—We are looking for someone who is willing to take pictures at a wide variety of church events and activities so we can share some of those pictures in the newsletter each month. Must know how to use a digital camera.

**Banners**—We are looking for a few people with design and/or artistic ability to design and make banners for the auditorium. Contact Doug for more details.

**Repairs needed**—One of our white boards has a broken stand and needs to be repaired. If you would be willing to do this please contact the office and let us know.

**Volunteer for Church Office**—Volunteers are needed at the office on Fridays from 10:00 – 10:45 to help put together the Sunday morning handouts. If interested please contact Holly.

*Family Record—January*

	12/25	1/1	1/8	1/15	1/22
Attendance—					
Worship A.M.	203	244	259	283	293
Weekly Contrib.	\$4,850	\$7,015	\$4,931	\$6,958	\$6,934
Budget	\$8,105.00				