

The Meadowlark Messenger

Meadowlark Church of Christ

Glorifying God, Sharing Christ, Encouraging One Another



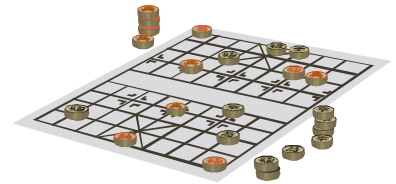
Fort Collins, Colorado May, 2006 Published Monthly

Wednesday Nights This Summer

This summer, we're going to be changing our usual Wednesday night format to allow for more family time! Our plans include a provided meal to begin at 6:30p.m. for a minimal charge per family and will focus on time spent together in fellowship and spiritual encouragement. Our normal class schedule will be suspended for the months of June, July, & August and all generations of the body from the youngest to the most "seasoned" will be able to spend time getting to know each other and spending quality time together. There will be singing, praying, and devotional time as well as fun activities that will appeal to ages across the spectrum. Some of the proposed activities could include game nights, softball, movie nights, old-fashioned singings, a talent show, family night ideas, Bunco, etc.

We will be asking for volunteers to assist in the facilitation of the logistics of these special nights. Ideally, one family would not have to help with more than one night this summer. If you would like to be involved in assisting with the summer planning or have any devo/fellowship/activity ideas, please contact Doug or any of the other members of the Adult Education Committee. Two to three families will be asked to volunteer to prepare 1 meal at the building – meals will be simple, could be purchased rather than cooked, and include ideas such as pizza, fried chicken, hot dogs, baked potatoes, sub sandwiches, spaghetti, etc.

Please be in prayer about this summer and ask that God bless our Meadowlark Family and that we're able to use our "Family Nights" as an outreach to our friends and our community!



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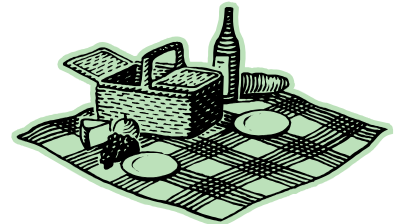
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Hall-Marks

Be Still!

About three years ago I took a course at ACU that was challenging to me, to say the least. The course was called Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders. In case you have never heard of spiritual formation you should know that it is one of the most talked about things in the greater Christian world today. We know that God is everywhere. His presence fills all creation. You do not have to climb a mountain or go on a retreat to find God. God's presence fills every moment of every day.

Spiritual formation is simply being sensitive to the divine presence. It is tuning in to His frequency and striving to know his peace and his love in every circumstance. I really have trouble with this sometimes because my life is so full of noise. In fact, I think that I sometimes prefer noise over silence, activity over stillness, struggle over surrender, and trying to be a tower of strength instead of admitting my own weaknesses.

It was the French philosopher and mathematician Blaise Pascal who said, "All human miseries come from not being able to sit in a quiet room alone." Could he possibly be right? Do we humans need more reflection than we permit ourselves? Time to take our thoughts and feelings seriously? The courage to bring them honestly before God to see what he may want us to learn? To be and not always to do?

If we are serious about being sensitive to God's presence changes must be made in our lives. We purposefully need to set aside time for silence. We need to create opportunities for deep reflection on God, His Word, and His will. We need to carve out times of stillness in the midst of our busyness.

One of the reasons that course on spiritual formation was so challenging to me centered on the flurry of activities that preceded my arrival in Abilene for the course. I read and prepared papers for over a month prior to the class, sometimes staying up until two in the morning. I was continuing my ministry in Tennessee and we were preparing to move to Fort Collins in a couple of months. There never seemed to be enough time in each day to do everything we needed to do. The date for the class to begin was swiftly approaching so Carole and I started out at 2:30 AM, the next Sunday morning and drove 1000 miles straight through. We arrived in Abilene about 16 hours later. The night before the class began, I literally became ill. I was able to drag myself to class but by the second morning I was feeling so bad that I had to leave class and go to an emergency

clinic. My blood pressure was high, I was totally exhausted, I had filled my blood stream with too much caffeine. I was a mess.

And to think, I had read all those books and had written several papers on spiritual formation. I found out about myself that week that I sometimes am better at talking about things that are truly important than I am doing them. Even though work was required every night of the course, I found myself just stopping and breathing deeply and being still. I turned off the radio and the TV. I closed my books. I closed the lid on my laptop and just sat in silence and prayed. I am certain that I failed to read quite as carefully as I should have and that my papers and projects could have been better, but I did what I found to be necessary. I stopped. I was still. I was quiet. And I felt His presence. Not in an eerie or mystical way. I just knew in those quiet moments that He was there. His peace entered my pores and His love filled my heart. I was still and I knew my God and he healed my hurting, busy, frustrated, anxious soul.

It will only happen when we intentionally seek to feel his presence. When you are in the car by yourself next time, turn off the radio and just be silent. Talk to your Father who is always there and desires to listen to his children. When you feel like you are almost to your last straw, stop, take a deep breath, be still and listen. When you go on your next long walk, leave the iPod or the CD player at home. Instead spend the time walking in silent reflection about your life and God and what he is teaching you. You might be so stressed and strained that you don't feel like you can even spare a half hour of silence. What about 5 minutes a couple of times a day? Why not wake up just a few minutes earlier than the rest of the family each morning and seek the presence of God. With only a few adjustments we can become aware of God's constant presence and his care. We can learn to focus our lives on being over doing—the meaning of our lives over the routines.

It is time to realize that talk is not enough. We must make it our intention to seek God and be formed into his likeness. In the process we will find joy, peace, and even strength that we never knew possible.

Stand Firm!!!

Doug Hall

CAMPUS

ORNER

This month I'd like to share with you some of the things our college students have been involved in and some of what's to come. Our Monday night Bible studies that we have on CSU campus have been a great success this school year. We have a guys and a girls group and each group averages 8-12 students each Monday night. The ladies finished discussing the book, "Captivating" early this semester and have been going through "Women of the Bible" ever since. The guys finished their discussion on John Eldridge's "Wild at Heart" and have been discussing different relevant topics ever since. These topics have ranged from "spiritual warfare" to "being missionaries every day" to "the Holy Spirit." Both the guys and the girls have really enjoyed these times together and have grown closer to God and each other in the process.

Wednesday nights last semester were spent discussing how we can take our lives from just being average Christians to becoming passionate disciples of Jesus. This semester we began a series on the "I Am" statements of Jesus in the book of John. Now we have moved on to various Biblical challenges. For instance, last week we discussed how God calls us to take risks for him and how the Christian life cannot be described as a safe life. We brainstormed ways to take risks for Him everyday, and I was really challenged by some of the ideas the students came up with. Once a month we've been eating together on Wednesdays too, and this time of hanging out has become one of the most anticipated events of the month. It seems that if you offer free food to college students, their excitement level at least doubles. Not to mention that the food (provided by members of the Ladies' Bible Class) has been totally amazing.

On April 8th, many of our students had the opportunity to be involved in CSUnity, which is Colorado State's campus-wide service project involving thousands of students. The Rams for Christ team split up into two groups and went to the homes of a few local elderly individuals to clean windows, stain woodwork,

move heavy furniture, trim bushes, rake leaves, and help out in other ways. This was a really neat chance to go serve total strangers in love, hopefully showing them the love of God through us. The people we helped were immensely grateful, and wanted to feed us or give us money for food but we, of course, declined. It helped that we had Subway sandwiches waiting for us on campus. On that Saturday, we were a group of Christians acting like Christians together, and it was awesome!

We've also enjoyed hikes, cookouts, game nights, and more, and our community is growing. I feel like we're all coming along together towards God and his roles for us. As a continuation of this process, many of our students will be spending a few weeks in Ukraine beginning in June. This team is headed by Debbie Brunk, and with your prayers they plan on teaching not only the English language, but the plan of God to the Eastern Europeans He puts in their path.

Please keep praying for God's ministry to college students and young adults here at Meadowlark. He has done some great things this year, but I believe we've only seen the tip of the iceberg. With our prayers and action, this ministry will only grow stronger in the coming weeks and months and years. The best times for Rams for Christ are still to come! And I feel honored to be here to help. In Christ,

David Greer



Youth Happenings



From the Trenches Wes Kohring

Just thought I'd take this opportunity to tell you about the most incredible teenagers in the world and what we are up to "downstairs." Summer is breathing down my neck and yours and there is a lot coming up. Let me catch you up.

We have several teens going on missions to Northern Colorado Christian Camp which is taking place June 3-10 for staff (June 4-10 for campers). These young missionaries include: Alex Berry, Caitlyn Wells, Natalie Van Kull, Janie James, Sarah Kyle, Nikki James, Kirk Van Kull, Ryan Wells, James Wilson, Colby Morrow, Dylan Morrow, Matt Richards, Dan Grenier, Josh Kyle, and last year's high school graduate Garrett Von Gunten. These students have hearts for God and expect to see Him move powerfully at camp this year.

Mission Summer continues in July when we will embark on a journey to Casa de la Esperanza (House of Hope) in Chihuahua, Mexico. We will be pairing up with the Rocky Mountain Church and their youth. The House of Hope is a Church of Christ sponsored orphanage. We have high hopes for the impact this kind of mission will have on our teens and leaders. This trip is taking place July 14-22. One more word about this trip: You will notice in the bulletin that you have an opportunity to help send students to Mexico to serve on this mission. The Cherokee Christian Youth Foundation will be helping our young missionaries by making donations toward their trip based on the service they perform for Meadowlark members in the next couple of months. If you have

Any project underway and you might be able to use the services of our teens, please contact me with the job, dates, how many teens you might be able to use, etc. You are free to do this ANYTIME, but especially in the next two months as our teens will be trying to raise the funds to go serve their brothers and sisters in Mexico.

Summer in youth ministry is a joyful time. It will be busy. Kids will grow in their faith. God will be glorified. Please be in prayer for our students this summer. May God make his light shine on them as they learn more about this great and huge God that we serve. May He be glorified not only in our words, but in our actions as well (1 John 3:18).



The Benevolence Ministry

by Bob Bland

The primary purpose of the benevolence ministry is to meet the needs of those within the Meadowlark family, and especially emergency needs. We try to “keep our ear to the ground” in regards to any such needs. If you become aware of anyone who may have a particular need, please let one of those on the committee know. We deeply appreciate the several within the congregation who are always willing to help in some financial way when there is an emergency need which the benevolence budget is not able to handle.

On the average, the church office receives from two to three calls each week from those within the community who are asking for financial help of one nature or another. We try to screen these calls very carefully for two or three obvious reasons: Sometimes there is a contact made from a community call which is a potential opportunity to visit with them further in regards to their need for Jesus Christ and their relationship with God. We need two or three other persons who would be willing to follow up on these contacts.

The basic premise upon which Jesus launched His “outreach ministry”, while walking on earth, was in doing benevolent and caring things. Most of the “hands on” examples of Jesus’ contacts have to do with people who were hurting and troubled. There is no limit to the good that we can do within our community because there is no limit to the people who need Jesus Christ and the Bible. If you would be willing to help in some way, please contact Maxine Tamlin, Ed Lucardie, or Helen or Bob Bland.

Children’s Ministry Update

By Craig & Crystal Bolding

We started a new curriculum this spring quarter from Through the Bible Publishers called DiscipleLand. We love what it brings to the classrooms and the kids really seem to like it. We are also doing a different part of that curriculum on Wednesday nights for the 1st – 6th graders and it has gone wonderfully. It enables us to get into some great discussions with the kids and provokes plenty of thinking on our parts as well. Our new summer quarter will be starting soon and we will be combining some classes on Sunday mornings with families traveling. The classes for the summer on Sundays will be 2’s & 3’s, 4’s thru Kindergarten, 1st – 4th graders and 5th & 6th graders. We hope to have many volunteers for these classes as well as all the regular classes starting in the fall quarter. It is a great blessing to us to be a part of this ministry and we hope each of you will take part in these kids’ lives and volunteer in some aspect of the ministry. Also, don’t forget VBS is coming soon and we need volunteers for that to be the huge success we want it to be. Shelli Walker and Cristal Kohring will be heading up the VBS efforts this year. Please get with one of them if you would like to help. Thanks ladies for your willingness to take on this task. Thanks to everyone for all of your support and always keep us and this ministry in your prayers.

Special Events in June

By Doug Hall

June is going to be a month of great blessing here at Meadowlark. It begins with a week of Christian camp (June 4-9). Wes and his camp crew will do a great job with kids from all over Northern Colorado. This is one of the best camps anywhere and it will be a tremendous blessing for your kids.

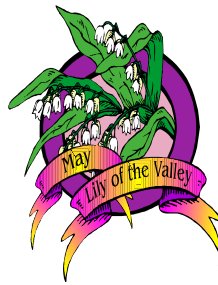
The weekend after camp (June 10, 11), Dr. Jeff Childers, who is a professor at Abilene Christian will be here for a Spiritual Formation workshop. The Saturday portion of the workshop will be for leaders and their spouses. Jeff will have some special encouragement and guidance for leaders and their families. Then on Sunday, Jeff will be teaching a combined adult Bible Class and he will also be preaching. Jeff will be sharing with us the need for a deeper spiritual life and will be making some helpful suggestions about how we can grow spiritually every day. I know Jeff well and I know that you will be incredibly blessed by this humble and genuine servant of God.

The following Sunday (June 18), Dr. Neil Lightfoot, long time ACU professor of Bible will be with us. Most of you know that Neil is now Judy Poland’s brother-in-law. Judy’s sister and Neil were married last year. Neil is one of the most compelling teachers you will ever hear. Neil will teach our adult class and will preach for us.

Volunteer Workers Available

by Galen Brunk

During the next two months a number of our teens need to raise money to partially cover their costs for mission trips to Mexico and Ukraine this summer. **Attention ministry leaders and senior members of the congregation:** teens going on these mission trips are available to help you. The Teen Ministry in cooperation with the Cherokee Christian Youth Foundation are working together to provide funding for this effort. If you provide the work opportunities, Cherokee Christian Youth Foundation will provide the funding, and our teens will supply the labor. Contact Wes Kohring, Chuck Van Kull, or Galen Brunk for more information.



Upcoming Events

Primetimers Breakfast—Friday, **May 5th @ The Egg and I** on Harmony and Lemay (1112 Oakridge Drive), **8:00a.m.** Primetimers meet for breakfast every first Friday of the month.

We will be having an egg hunt at the **Bland's house** this year!!! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 6th @ 3pm.** This is for **toddlers through the 6th grade.** Please **donate** plastic eggs and wrapped candy by **Sunday, April 30th.** A box will be located in the foyer for donations. There is also a sign up sheet for donating cookies. Please call Sue Jones or Cami Schmitz with any questions. Hope to see you all there!!

Young Marrieds Life Group Luncheon will be on **May 21st,** in the fellowship room @ ML, noon.

NCCC planning meetings will take place on **May 14th & May 28th @ 2:00p.m.** at Meadowlark.

The monthly Saturday Night Praise gathering will be on **Saturday, May 6th @ 7:00p.m.** in the fellowship room at Meadowlark. Contact David Greer or Wes Kohring for more information.

Promotion Sunday will be on **May 28th.** Children who need to move up to the next grade of classroom can move up on this day.

Family Meeting—Our next family meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 28th. Time and venue TBD.

Red River Family Encampment in Red River, New Mexico, June 24-27, 2006. Theme: "I Lift Up My Eyes to the Hills".

There are still rooms to rent in Red River, lots of private condos/cabins which are your best deal. Contact Reservations Unlimited to learn more. Go to www.redrivernewmex.com or www.redriver.org There are classes and activities available for all ages including: children 1yr.-5th grade, teens, and college students. See email on members-list for more information or call the office for a print out of the info. sheet and schedule.

It's a Girl! Anastasia Sutton gave birth to a girl, Raven Leigh Bowman, on April 22nd. She weighed 8 lb. 2 oz. and was 20 ½ inches long. Janet Girard is the proud grandma. Anastasia is registered at Toys 'R Us.

Date Your Mate is on **May 19th** 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.

To Meadowlark Church of Christ, Thanks for your love and concern at the passing of my sweet, beloved wife, Elnora Boone. Our gratitude also to the ladies of the church who prepared such a wonderful dinner. I have received so many beautiful cards from friends. Above all, your prayers have been a real comfort. Prayer is asking God to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Meadowlark is a good church and I enjoy the fellowship and love that flows from heart to heart. When sorrow comes into your life you realize more than ever the comfort of friends and our dependence upon God. We know that God knows all things and does all things well, and we as mortals must look up to him as our creator, preserver, and benefactor. Let us continue to worship and serve God and someday we will all be together in heaven.
In Christian Love, Ernest Boone

Baby Shower! There will be a baby shower for Katie Brown at the home of Cathy Brown on Sunday, May 7th from 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. Katie is registered at Target and Toy's 'R Us.

College Dates:

Every Monday Night—Men's and Ladies' Bible study on campus @ 7:30p.m.

Every Wednesday Night-- Rams for Christ Worship Gathering at 7 pm in the ML College Room

Teen Announcements:

Senior Sunday! May 21st we will be honoring our high school seniors.

Reminders:

Ladies Bible Class—every Tues., 9:30a.m.-10:40a.m.

The Clothing Bank is open every 1st, 3rd, & 4th 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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The Meadowlark Messenger is published monthly, and is mailed free of charge to members of Meadowlark Church of Christ. If you would like to start, cancel, or change the address on your copy, contact the office at the address above. Mailed Third Class.

Meadowlark Church of Christ

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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 Kyle 225-8958
 *Gary Richards 223-9663

* Elder chairman for the month of May.

Ministers:

Doug Hall 377-9863
David Greer, Campus Minister 226-0568
Wes Kohring, Youth Minister 225-1173

Administrative Assistant:

Holly Fletcher, 484-4124

Members Selected for Service

May

	<u>May 7</u>	<u>May 14</u>	<u>May 21</u>	<u>May 28</u>
Song Leader	J. Schmitz	W. Kohring	D. Greer	T. Wells
Shepherd	G. Richards	G. Richards	G. Richards	G. Richards
Communion	L. Brown	D. Fisher	R. Donahue	J. Lucardie
Server 1	S. Meyer	S. Meyer	S. Meyer	S. Meyer
Server 2	M. Von Gunten	M. Von Gunten	M. Von Gunten	M. Von Gunten
Server 3	T. Brock	T. Brock	T. Brock	T. Brock
Server 4	J. Nance	J. Nance	J. Nance	J. Nance
Comm. Cor.	D. Riffle			
Take Count	D. Riffle			
Greeters	S. Poland/G Koch Wells/Martins		Lucardies	Martins
Nursery Attendants:	R.&R. Martin	J.&C. Schmitz	C. Stevens	A.&L. Annon
	L.&S. Riffle	B. Beardshear	R. Smith	J. & C. Schmitz
		J. Savage	J.&J. Goldman	

Help Wanted!

Child care providers – Date Your Mate needs 9 pairs of volunteers for DYM Fridays to provide child care at the building from 6:00p.m.-10:00p.m. Please contact Sue Jones or Heather Meyer if you can help.

Help Wanted: A Women of Faith coordinator to purchase tickets, make hotel reservations, collect money, arrange carpooling, etc., for this year's conference, September 22-23, 2006 at the Pepsi Center in Denver.

Kitchen Coordinators needed—We need 3 people to volunteer to check the kitchen each week for towels, dish rags, etc. that need to be washed, and to make sure that the kitchen stays clean. If you are interested and want more details about what this involves, contact the office.

Children's Bible Hour—Volunteers are needed for teaching Children's Bible Hour for the rest of this year. There is a sign up sheet for volunteers posted on the bulletin board. For more info. Contact Loyce Bolin.

We are looking for anyone who is interested in helping to **control the heating and cooling systems** in our building. The more people who understand how it operates, the more likely the building will be comfortable when we are using it. See John Lucardie if you are able to help in this way.

<i>Family Record—April</i>	04/02	04/09	04/16	04/23
<i>Worship Attendance</i>		218	240	262
<i>Contribution</i>	\$10,004	\$5606	\$4589	\$7510
<i>Budget</i>	\$8,105.00			

Thanks to the **Browns, Alexanders, Wheats, Martins, Lucardies, Greniers, Shumates, Sue Poland, Gerri Koch, and Martha Wells** for volunteering to be our Sunday morning greeters for the next few months.