

You are *always* welcome at the

April 25, 2004

Plano East Church of Christ

Visit our Website:
planoeastchurch.com



3939 Merriman Drive
Plano, Texas 75074
972-424-2974

Ken Gardner, gospel preacher
Cell phone 469-323-6017

"I was glad when they said to me, '*Let us go into the house of the Lord*'" (Psalm 122:1)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Classes	9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes	7:00 pm

WAY TO GO, PARENTS!!!

Did you hear about the five teenage boys in McKinney who were arrested last week? They were students at McKinney High School, all under the age of 17, and they had been stealing credit card statements from mailboxes. They used the account numbers to order expensive items on the Internet.

Guess who turned them in? Their parents! Good for them! Way to go, parents!

Now, don't think this wasn't a serious offense. What these boys did is a "state jail felony," the newspaper said. It sounds like these boys could spend some time in jail. And it was their own parents who called the police and turned them in—their own sons! What courage these moms and dads showed—and what wisdom!

Of course, all of us know good parents, who did everything right, whose kids went bad. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try to be the best parents we can be. Many parents have not demonstrated the kind of courage and wisdom these McKinney parents showed. Some parents try to be friends with their children instead of parents, and that's a tragic mistake! Parents must be disciplinarians! (True, we may disagree about what discipline is appropriate at times, and not every child and every infraction requires a spanking, but we

parents *must* discipline our children). Parents must *take charge* of their families! God Himself commended Abraham because he commanded, he charged, he directed his children to “keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just” (Genesis 18:19, NIV). We must teach our children to live disciplined, controlled lives. If we don’t, then we are just not very good parents. And even our love for our children may be questioned.

An editorial in the paper pointed out what a mistake it is for parents to try to be friends with their children instead of being their parents. ***The best friend a child can have is a parent who is not his best friend!***

—Ken

Welcome to Worship!

Greeters

Norma Hill and Dortha Scoles

Welcome, Announcements, and

Opening Prayer

Weldon May

(Please fill out registration card and place in collection plate)

Song Service

(Sorry, no song numbers available for bulletin)

Lord’s Supper

Seth Ralph Mike Michael
Abbott Hutson Ealey Gardner

Contribution

Prayer

Stuart Archer

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:12-21

Sermon: “Back to Basics”

Closing Prayer

Jack Bowling

PRAYERS

When the body of James A Harding was being prepared for burial, it was found that there were calluses on his knees from praying so much.

Evelyn Michael’s sister, **Wyn Blanton**, had heart surgery last Thursday in Houston. There have been some complications, and she is

in intensive care, but hopefully she’ll be okay.

Ginny Cottle had a second surgery on her foot last Monday. She will be in the rehab hospital for several weeks.

Rita Raper is now in Heritage Manor, room 610, 1621 Coit Road, Plano, TX 75075, phone 972-769-7696. She continues to do well.

Joyce Thomas, who is a member of the Avenue F congregation, has asked us to pray for her and her family. Her son, **Vernon**, especially needs our prayers.

Others who continue to need our prayers are Verniece McCullough, John Childress (Charlena Anderson’s uncle, hospitalized for heart attack), Obie Todd (Charlena’s mother) Earlene Neely, Richard Raitt, Marie Klepper, Mary Warren, Emma Cates, Deanna White, Marie Hyatt, Zella Weaver, and Sherry Stephens (Rita Batson’s daughter, receiving chemotherapy for liver cancer).

CALENDAR

Tomorrow—

MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER, 7:00 pm

Tuesday—

MEN'S BREAKFAST, Poor Richard's, 7:00 am

"LUNCH BUNCH," Poor Richard's, 11:30 am

Saturday—

MEXICAN FIESTA at Jack & Linda's, 6:00 pm, bring food and drinks and a "fiesta" attitude

May 3-7—"39'ER" CAMP at Pettijohn Springs, Madill, OK (see Norma or bulletin board for more information)

June 6-11—CAMP IDA (first of four sessions)

June 7-10—BOLES HOME grocery van here; they need pretzel sticks (small sticks), baked beans, and graham crackers

June 14-18—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 5-9—MEDINA CHILDREN'S HOME grocery van here; they need paper towels and other items listed on bulletin board

July 11-14—GRAND TETONS ENCAMPMENT

WELCOME, VISITORS!

Recent visitors to our services include Obie Todd (Charlena Anderson's mother), Kris Wiggins, and Stephanie Patcyk, and son Steven. Thank you so much for worshipping and studying with us!

BUSINESS MEETING

At the last two business meetings some items were discussed that you need to be aware of.

- ❑ Should we buy a church van? Perhaps a mini-van or a larger, 15-passenger van? What do you think?
- ❑ Also, we decided to pass out a questionnaire every year asking members how they would like to contribute to the work here. Are you willing to teach, or help teach a Bible class? Prepare communion? Lead prayer? Lead singing? If you would like to lead singing, when, and how often?
- ❑ Jack Bowling, Charles Raper, Will Cottle, and Seth Abbott are trustees for our "corporation."
- ❑ Copies of this year's budget will be prepared and made available to the congregation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

"Say not, When I have leisure I will study; perhaps you will never have leisure."

—Hillel, Jewish rabbi, Aboth 2:5

Apr 25	Sun	Judges 17-18	Acts 25
Apr 26	Mon	Judges 19-20	Acts 26
Apr 27	Tue	Judges 21	Acts 27
Apr 28	Wed	Ruth 1-2	Acts 28
Apr 29	Thur	Ruth 3-4	Psalms 1-3
Apr 30	Fri	I Samuel 1-2	Psalms 4-6
May 1	Sat	I Samuel 3-5	Psalms 7-8

MEMORY VERSE

“The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up” (I Samuel 2:7).

THANK YOU

We want to say thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits. I'm back home now and doing much better.

We are all so blessed to be a part of the Christian family at Plano East.

We love you all.

Emma Cates
Sandra & Al Neely

HOW WOULD WE COMPARE?

The Jacksonville church of Christ, in Jacksonville, Alabama, has about two hundred members. Recently, 94% of their members present for all services one week. And apparently that percentage is not all that unusual for that congregation.

Imagine that—a congregation where virtually of the members are present for every service: Sunday morning Bible class, Sunday morning worship, Sunday evening worship, and Wednesday evening Bible class!

How do we measure up? Our church has 103 “members”—Christians and the children of Christians, people, who, if asked where they went to church, would say, “We are members of the Plano East church of Christ.” Here are our attendance figures and percentages so far this year:

Service	Average Attendance	Percentage of membership
Sunday morning Bible class	37	slightly more than a third
Sunday morning worship	72	about 70%
Sunday evening worship	28	less than 30%
Wednesday Bible classes	26	less than 30%

You might also keep in mind that these figures include visitors, so the actual percentage of our members who are attending is even less than the table shows.

So a congregation in Alabama, with twice as members as us, whose

“make-up” is probably similar to our congregation (same percentage of old, middle-age, and young people) has 94% of its members attending every service. And we only have about 70% of our members attending Sunday morning worship. We have only about a third of our members attending Sunday morning Bible class, and well under a third attending Sunday evening and Wednesday evening.

People who study these things say that the percentage of members attending services is the best indicator of how strong a congregation is, not the total number of people present and not the number of new members.

So, you tell me. Where are we as a congregation? Just how strong a congregation are we? Are there congregations whose members are more dedicated, more devoted, more concerned than we are?

We have members of our congregation whom we do not see for weeks at a time. They’re not here, and its not because of illness or being out of town. They have simply chosen not to worship God. They have decided that something else they are doing is more important than honoring God—their job, their hobby, their rest, their family or friends who have come to visit. Do they consider themselves Christians? I assume they do. But

they are not. Are they? No, they’re not—at least not faithful Christians. Are we pleasing God if we do not honor Him? Are we on the road to heaven if we do not worship Him? You need to answer these questions. You don’t have to answer to me, but you do need to ask yourself these questions. And there is Someone you do have to answer to.

Again, the percentage of members attending services is the best indicator of how strong a congregation is.

This congregation is what you make it.

NEWCOMER VISITATION

Several of us showed up for newcomer visitation yesterday, despite the inclement weather, and we were able to visit about 60 newcomers to the east side. We had several very favorable responses, including several who were looking for a place to go to church, and one or two interested in Vacation Bible School.

Could you have helped yesterday? What were you doing yesterday that was so important that you could not have taken an hour or so to welcome our new neighbors to our community and to our church?

How about going with us next time, Saturday morning, 9:30, May 22?

We could use your help.

ASSISTING THE TEACHER in my son's second-grade classroom, I was reviewing papers handed in by the children. The form contained a listing of sentences that the boys and girls were to complete about their likes and dislikes. One of the sentences was: "I like to read about..." Several students wrote responses such as sharks, baseball and UFOs. Then I go to my son's paper. He had written: "I like to read about *one page*."

A YOUNG BIBLE CLASS STUDENT was asked to list the Ten Commandments in any order. He wrote: "3, 6, 1, 8, 4, 5, 9, 2, 10, 7." OUR SECOND-GRADER brought home a report card that didn't meet our expectations. After dinner, my husband sat the boy on his knee and said, "Son, we're going to have to do something about these grades."

"We can't, Dad," our son replied. "They're in ink." PREACHER TO FRIEND: "I'm thinking of retiring. I've already fooled all the people some of the time."

CHURCHGOER TO PREACHER: "Your sermon reminded me of the mercies of God. I thought it would go on forever."

THE MEMBERS OF ONE CHURCH called their preacher "Pharaoh," because he wouldn't let the people go (he preached for an hour and a half).