



The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 7, 2017



**WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 15**

JOHN GEER

Vanderbilt Professor of Public Policy & Education

Following the Thanksgiving dinner, Political Scientist Dr. John Geer will give a special lecture in Room 105 at 6:30 PM on the current political landscape in the United States one year into the Trump Administration. Should be fascinating !

NEW MEMBER!



Phil Shirley
November 5, 2017

CHILD DEDICATION



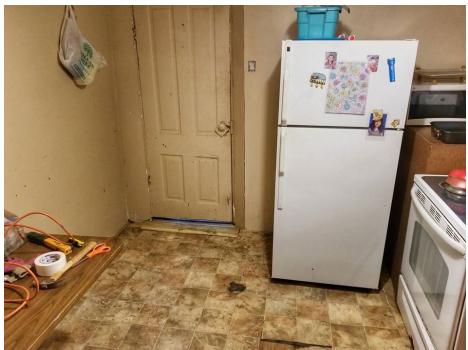
James Thomas McLean, son of Blake and Abby McLean
November 5, 2017



Morgan-Scott October 2017 Trip

by Jack Derryberry

On October 26th to 29th fourteen Woodmonters and friends went to the Morgan Scott Project to work on the home of a Kuwait War veteran who subsequently lost a leg to infection and later received a cancer diagnosis. His home is almost a hundred years old and crumbling around him. He has serious ambulation and health issues. The group worked on the front porch/deck, the kitchen, the bathroom, the bedroom and the roof. We also removed trash and considerable demolition/construction debris. The second day we were greeted by rain, wind and cold temperatures. While we did not get finished, a lot of good work was done and other work groups will be continuing the work to completion. The group was greatly aided by other Woodmonters who contributed food and resources to the trip. We had a moving communion service Sunday morning before returning.



OUR MISSION:
Growing disciples of Christ by seeking God, sharing love, and serving others

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming
- Outstanding Worship
- Outreach
- Different Traditions
- Mission & Ministry
- On The Move
- Nurturing
- Transforming

WOODMONT'S MINISTERIAL STAFF

Dr. Clay Stauffer, Senior Minister
Dr. C. Roy Stauffer • Minister of Adult Education & Church Life
Rev. Justin Gung • Minister of Children & Congregational Care
Rev. Chris Cox • Minister of Youth & Their Families
Dr. Donovan McAbee • Minister of Spiritual Formation
Farrell Mason • Minister of Family Life & Pastoral Care

WOODMONT'S PROGRAM STAFF

Thom Schuyler • Young Adults, Missions & Outreach Director
Katie Sheridan-Gossage • Assistant Youth Ministry Director
Abby McLean • Children's Ministry Director
Michael Graham • Music Ministry Director
Andra Moran • Creative Director, The Bridge
Stephen Daniel King • Worship Leader, The Bridge

WOODMONT'S SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator
Mandy Barton Brown • Executive Assistant
Martha Duff • Preschool Director
Sam Marsh • Property & Facilities Manager
Jan Anderson • Administrative Assistant
Anne-Marie Farmer • Small Groups & Connections Director
Matt Diffenderfer • Communications Director



For the most up-to-date information, download
Woodmont's Realm church directory app.
Search for "Realm Connect" in iTunes & Google Play.

Woodmont Christian Church
3601 Hillsboro Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Reflections from Princeton

by Clay Stauffer

I spent the majority of last week back in Princeton for a conference on polarization and the role the church should play. It was led by a guy named Allen Hilton, a Yale Ph.D. and a former New Testament professor at Yale. He has now formed an organization called "House United" with the sole purpose of bridging the theological and ideological divides within Christianity to honor Jesus final prayer in John 17 that "all would be one so that the world might believe."

The conference was fascinating and I will be sharing more about it in the future. Right now, it must suffice to say that polarization will continue to be one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. The church has the opportunity to be a place where people of different politics and ideologies can come together out of a common faith in Jesus Christ. It's not always easy but we have to try. As we say in the Christian Church, "that which unites us is greater than that which divides us." We must never forget that.

I hope Woodmont is poised to continue to be this kind of church in the future. When the conference ended on Friday, my family arrived in Princeton. What a joy it was to have Megan and my kids at a place that is so dear and special to me. When I was in school there, I wondered what my family would be like one day. Now I know, and I am grateful! Here's to a future of continuing to be the church that Jesus calls us to be – united and loving.

CS



The Stauffers at Princeton Chapel



Wade Stauffer at Princeton Chapel



The Stauffers at Princeton



WALK THRU BETHLEHEM NEEDS YOU!

DATES FOR COSTUME CHECK OUT

Costume check out will be on the top floor of the mansion on:

Nov. 19 from 9 am to 12 pm

Nov. 26 from 9 am to 12 pm

Dec. 3 from 9 am to 7 pm

Dec. 6 from 5 pm to 7 pm

WTB SHIRTS AND HOODIES FOR SALE

Adult Short Sleeve t-shirts (L, XL): \$8

Adult Long Sleeve t-shirts (XL): \$10

Adult Hoodies (M, L, XL): \$15

Youth Short Sleeve t-shirt (M, L): \$5

Youth Long Sleeve t-shirts (M, L): \$6

White (old version) Youth Short Sleeve t-shirt (10-12, 14-16): \$2

Contact Pam Hardin if you are interested in purchasing:

pamhardin92@gmail.com or 615-641-2287.



SHOPKEEPERS NEEDED!

Have you ever wanted to have your own business or market? Would you like to be a part of something special, wondrous and inspiring? If so, then please consider helping us out with taking ownership of a Bethlehem marketplace shop. The shops are listed below that we need help with. Shops may be done by an individual or a group of people. Contact Paul for more info: gpaulhardinjr@gmail.com, (615) 641-2287.

Shops we need help with:

- 1) Census Takers
- 2) Food Service/Tasting
- 3) Olive Press
- 4) Pottery Shop

Shop Keepers Responsibilities:

- 1) Setup and decorate their shop
- 2) Be available immediately after WTB (approx. 7:15 PM) to undecorate and pack up their shop
- 3) Submit the form for requested items for next year to Pam Hardin

SESAME SEED COOKIE BAKING FOR WALK THRU BETHLEHEM'S FOOD TASTING SHOP

No skills needed! Meet us in the kitchen Sat., Nov. 11, from 9 AM am until finished. If you have questions or want to let us know you will be coming, contact Pam at pamhardin92@gmail.com.



Guatemala Sponsorship tables at Woodmont Nov. 15 and 19

Woodmont will be hosting an opportunity to share hope and love through sponsorship of a child or elderly friend in Guatemala!

Please visit the sponsorship tables on Wednesday, November 15th at the Thanksgiving Dinner or Sunday, November 19th, which is World Day of the Poor. Talk with recent travelers to Guatemala and learn how sponsorship really changes the life of a family in need.

Learn more at unbound.org and let Woodmont's love for our neighbors shine!

WOODMONT KIDS

November 1-15th Birthdays:

Ella Grace Steele 11/1	Teddy Stranch 11/9
Ashe Coleman 11/4	Nix Joyner 11/11
Presley Boulware 11/4	Barton Keane 11/12
Chloe Mae Douglas 11/5	Maggie Johnson 11/13
Jack Keally 11/6	

Children's Choirs

Mark your calendars for Hanging of the Greens on Sunday December 3rd where both the Children's Choir and Cherub Choir sing! You won't want to miss this kick off to the Advent season with your children!

Thanks & Giving Meal

Please join us for our annual Thanks & Giving meal on Sunday November 12th at 12:15 in Drowota Hall. This is a wonderful tradition where we can express our blessings to one another and share in fellowship with other Woodmont families. This year, we are gathering clothing for the Nashville Rescue Mission Women & Children's Shelter. Please bring your donations that day and we will deliver them that week. Please sign up for a side dish or dessert as well to partake in that day.

Look forward to seeing you there!

**THANKS & GIVING MEAL SIGNUP:
WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG//THANKSANDGIVING**



Woodmont Christian Preschool

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL IS CURRENTLY GIVING TOURS FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR!

Sign-up for tours and the registration form can be found at www.woodmontchristianpreschool.com

The deadline to register for WCPS is December 14!

Advent Season IS QUICKLY APPROACHING!

Each year during Advent, our sanctuary is beautifully appointed with poinsettias. Members may purchase poinsettias in honor or memory of family and friends. Poinsettias are in 6 1/2" foil-wrapped pots and \$8 each.

WWW.WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG/SIGNUP

DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15!



Can You Dare a Yes?

by Farrell Mason

I am reminded today of the gospel story in Mark of the two fishermen mending their nets on the beach when a stranger approaches and simply says, "follow me." I have always been struck by their response. There was no hesitation. The Bible says they "immediately" laid down their nets and followed him.

For years, I have read this story and thought that if it had been me that day I would have answered God with a litany of excuses why I couldn't commit. I can hear myself now, "there are dozens who are smarter, kinder and have a deeper faith than me." "I really cannot come right now. My life is just too busy with six kids, a husband, job. Maybe when things slow down." If I was feeling especially honest I might confess: "I prefer to be in control of my own life, my time, my treasures, even my faith, thank you."

But really, I think I often hesitate to answer God's call, surrender my agenda for God's agenda, for fear that my heart isn't strong, brave and selfless enough to fall in line behind the disciples.

What if by saying yes, you could metaphorically "lay down your nets." All of those invisible worries, insecurities, expectations and vulnerabilities that have been holding you back could now be managed by God? What if by saying yes, doors and dreams that you never imagined became your new reality? What if, by saying yes, you had the ear of God? What if, like those first fishermen your life suddenly took on cosmic importance? What if by saying yes, you finally began to heal, you dare to forgive or accept forgiveness, grief loosens its grip and you experience hope again? What if by saying yes, you finally experience the fullness of God's love?

Wherever you are in your life, whatever you have done or left undone, God is calling out and asking you to follow. The moment you agree to entrust your life to God, you come under divine protection. Where before you could only rely on your limited intelligence, muscle and imagination, now you are given access to a higher power. Sometimes I wonder who I think I am trying to control my own destiny. If you need to check God's credentials take a look at the Book of Job. A sure-fire ego check. God says, "Job, where were you when I laid down the foundation of the earth? Is it by your wisdom that the hawk soars and spreads its wings to the south? Did you give the horse its might and clothe its neck with mane? Who do you think made you and put wisdom in your inward parts? Do you know the ordinances of heaven?"

When you have the leader of all of creation asking you to follow, you better lay down those nets of yours and follow.

The irony is the moment we have the courage to say, "Okay, I am going to follow Love's lead," then we are suddenly weightless and set free. Yes, it requires daring to trust God but what is the other alternative? Trying our best to control every square inch of our lives, we will always come up short. Destined to remain earthbound, instead of gifted with transcendence.

Egos, insecurities, bravado and fear, stand down!

It is important to affirm that trusting God with your life is a daily yes. Let me correct myself, it is an every breath "Yes." God does not care where you are, what you do or how you look. All God is asking is for a little courage and trust.

Eight months ago, I said yes to God and helped bring a four-year old child from Haiti to Nashville to seek treatment for cancer. Ferlando had God's unmistakable twinkle in his eye and an angel's smile. I found myself saying yes over and over again to this larger-than-life spirit who loved mangoes, avocados and American hot dogs. I fell in love with Ferlando and encouraged my husband and kids to fall in love too. On Saturday, we said good-bye to Ferlando. The ride home from the funeral was quiet. I suspect we were all asking ourselves, "Was it worth it to say yes? We gave our hearts only for them to be broken." But that's just not the truth. The day we said "yes" to Ferlando was the day our lives were forever changed. Our capacity for love grew exponentially. Our family "yes" is a living testament to the truth that beautiful living happens when we follow where Love leads us.

Rose, my four-year old, piped up from the back seat, "But what do we do now, Mama?"

"We open our hearts again, Rose. We say "yes!" Because that is what God asks us to do."

We cannot even begin to connect the dots to what God is imagining for our lives. As Rumi once said, "We wander from room to room hunting for the diamond necklace when it's always been right there around our neck." The shimmering life is ours for the taking. All it requires of us is a big, brave heart-Yes. And then we live in curious and hopeful expectation of what God will do in our lives next!

Live in Hope,

Farrell





Small Groups for Men

by Anne-Marie Farmer

Woodmont offers several small groups dedicated to fellowship and spiritual growth for men, with options for all ages. If you are looking for a place to connect, develop deep friendships, and be challenged, you should take a look at the following groups. As an added bonus, no need to grab breakfast before any of the morning groups, sausage biscuits and coffee are served.

Younger men meet Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m. in the church boardroom. Senior Minister Clay Stauffer leads a discussion on current events & living out your faith day-to-day in the modern world.

There is a group of older men who also meet at 7 a.m. on Wednesdays in Room 105. These men delve into scripture and connect with other mature men for ecumenical friendship and discussion led by John Henderson.

For early risers, a group meets on Wednesdays at 6:15 a.m. in Room 100. Roy Stauffer facilitates a lively discussion of contemporary issues, books, and articles on Christian faith.

If you're not a morning person, check out the Geezers. This group for older men meets Monday afternoons at 3:30 in the board room and studies various books on spirituality, led by Roy Stauffer.

All of these groups provide a meaningful opportunity to connect with other Christian men and spend time growing in your faith. If you have questions about any of these groups or are interested in starting a new small group, please contact me! **I'd be delighted to help you connect to one of these wonderful groups for men, or help you start a new group of your own. Contact me at annemarie@woodmontcc.org or 615-403-4385.**



ORPHAN SUNDAY IS THIS SUNDAY, NOV. 12

The Christian Alliance for Orphans observes Orphan Sunday on Nov. 12. Each November, thousands of events around the globe will share a single goal: that God's great love for the orphan will find echo in our lives as well.

Please consider commemorating this event by buying ornaments to support CAFO's partner, Heart for Africa's 172 orphaned children. There are four different ornaments that sell for \$12 each. They will be available in the Gathering Space this Sunday.

For more information or to pre-order for easy pick up Sunday, contact Mary Welsh Owen at mwoven1123@gmail.com.



FRESH CHRISTMAS WREATHS FOR SALE!

November 12 and 19 in the Gathering Hall

Beautiful 24" Fraser Fir wreaths accented with a red velvet bow. The wreaths are \$25 each and Boy Scout Troop 92 uses the proceeds for outdoor programs: camping, caving, backpacking, and Scout summer camp. Scouts will be taking orders in the Gathering Hall from 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. on Sundays, Nov. 12 & 19. Cash, check, or credit card. Wreaths will be available for pick up at Woodmont Sunday, Nov. 26 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. under the Porte-Cochère on the south end of the building.



Please join us for our Annual Retreat:

The POWER of the Rested SOUL

Moving from Chaos to Calm

Saturday Nov. 11th, 9am - 4pm & Sunday Nov. 12th, 9am - 12pm

coffee will be ready at 8:30am both mornings

This year's retreat will be at Campbell West, the redone parsonage behind Woodmont. The retreat is \$75 per person* and may be paid by check Saturday morning at the retreat, or during the *Spiritual Journey for Women Class*, led by Anne Stauffer every Sunday morning at 9:30 am in The Bay Room.

To register contact Anne Stauffer at cottageinthewoods@gmail.com.

*scholarship assistance available - please inquire during registration

Next Week's Calendar

Sunday, November 12

8:15 a.m. Seekers Bible Study, Room 105
9:00 a.m. Spiritual Journeys for Women retreat, C.W.
9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School
9:45 a.m. Worship at The Bridge, Drowota Hall
10:45 a.m. *Life in the Balance* class, Room 100
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School
12:00 p.m. Thanks & Giving Meal, Drowota Hall
4:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, Outdoor Chapel
5:00 p.m. Jubilation Youth Choir, Youth Wing
5:45 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Wing

Monday, November 13

10:00 a.m. The Baby Bunch, "Puppies" Room
3:30 p.m. "Geezers" Men's Bible Study, Boardroom

Tuesday, November 14

7:00 a.m. Centering Prayer Group, Room 100
9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone
9:00 a.m. CWF Circle #4, Room 100
9:30 a.m. CWF Circle #1, the Boardroom
10:30 a.m. CWF Circle #2, Room 105
10:30 a.m. CWF Circle #6, the Bay Room
6:00 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

Wednesday, November 15

6:15 a.m. Men's Small Group, Room 100
7:00 a.m. "Original" Men's Bible Study, Room 105
7:00 a.m. Younger Men's Bible Study, Boardroom
5:30 p.m. Grace Notes practice, Kids' Commons
5:45 p.m. Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner, D.H.
6:15 p.m. *DivorceCare*, The Bay Room
6:30 p.m. Holy Yoga, Room 200
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. *The United States One Year Into the Trump Administration* with Vanderbilt's John Geer, Drowota Hall

Friday & Saturday, November 17 & 18

Room In The Inn, South Hall



9:30 AM - Informal Sanctuary Worship
 Service Coordinator - David Todd
 Welcome Center - Lanie Whittington
 So. Ent. Greeter/Offering - Kirtley Whittington
 Greeter/Offering - Mike Jobe
 Greeter/Offering - Emily Patten
 Greeter/Offering - Daniel Patten
 Usher/Cleanup - Clark Rollins
 Usher/Cleanup - Lindi Jobe
 Usher/Cleanup - Laura Stephan
 Usher/Cleanup - Seth Joyner
 Bread - Liz Smith
 Cup - Martha Galyon

9:45 AM - The Bridge Worship
 Service Coordinator - Kristen Newman
 Greet/Serve/Clean Up - Sabrina Kronk
 Greet/Serve/Clean Up - Megan McAbee
 Greet/Serve/Clean Up - Stephanie Chelton
 Greet/So Entrance/Serve - Andrew Chelton
 Bread/Cup: John Hobby
 11 AM - Traditional

Sanctuary Worship
 Service Coordinator - Bob Faricy
 Welcome Center - Don Rollins
 So. Entrance Usher/Offering - Aaron Durbin
 Greeter/Offering - Jim Batson
 Greeter/Offering - William Liles
 Greeter/Offering - Jeremy Pratt
 Usher/Cleanup - Don Hart
 Usher/Cleanup - Jill Fuller
 Usher/Cleanup - Denise Sesler
 Cleanup/Flowers - Josephine Durbin
 Bread - John Stauffer
 Cup - Robin Heyne

Communion Preparation: Lockwood Barr
 Hospital: Faye Tevebaugh

BY YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR GIFTS:

DATE:	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
OCTOBER 15	424	781	\$18,283
OCTOBER 22	389	870	\$41,017
OCTOBER 29	341	822	\$45,445
NOVEMBER 5	351	803	\$33,197



NOVEMBER 11, 2017
 #projectbethanyhills
 WORK
 DAY &
 5K

<http://indisciples.org/calendar/2017/11/11/work-day-5k-bethany-hills>



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

NEW CONCERNS:
 Susan McDowell

IN THE HOSPITAL:
 Robbie Richardson

SYMPATHY TO:

Liz Anne Allen and family, on the death of
 Liz Anne's brother, Ted Greer, on Nov. 1.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Willie Bandy - moving to AR
 Ben and Gayle Cherry
 Susan Hammonds-White
 Mary Hofwolt
 Nancy Hooper
 Mary Keith
 Maggie Kunkel
 Renee Lewis
 JoAnn Patterson
 Pete Peters
 Vicki Phillips
 Christine Reed
 Al Richardson, Belmont Village
 Robbie Richardson, Woodcrest
 Wilbur Sensing
 Beverly Small
 Pam Zimmerman's mother, Winchester

FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

Susan Creagh, Ceci Billington's mother, hip replacement surgery
 Todd Bowman's mother, open heart surgery on November 2
 Donna Clegg, step-grandmother of Anne-Marie Farmer & Patty Stranch
 Gary Jones, Pam Groom's father, in ICU Louisville
 Stephanie Gerding, Nicole Herndon's sister, Seattle, WA
 John DeVoe, Elisa Clark's father
 Pam Zimmerman's mother, Winchester

OUR ELDERS ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

The families of the people killed in New York City and those injured in this senseless tragedy.
 Those who are still in desperate need in Puerto Rico from the hurricane.
 Those from our congregation in Guatemala.

WHO?

Everyone is invited!

WHAT?

Help with a project;
 clean, paint, rake leaves,
 and more.

WHAT ELSE?

Help the fundraising by
 purchasing food and
 other goodies available
 all day, and
 participate in the 5k!

WHERE?

1080 Bethany Hills Rd.
 Kingston Springs Rd.

WHEN?

November 11
 5k (\$25)
 Registration 7a
 Run 8a – 10a
 Work Day (free)
 10am – 2pm

WHY?

Because Bethany Hills is
 our Eden and our
 Oasis...lets show it
 some love!



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Paid
Nashville, TN
Permit No.1204

The Spire

UPCOMING HOLIDAY EVENTS!



ONLY 4 ANGELS LEFT!
OUR ANGEL TREE IS IN THE GATHERING HALL