

# The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JUNE 19, 2018



## 75TH CELEBRATION

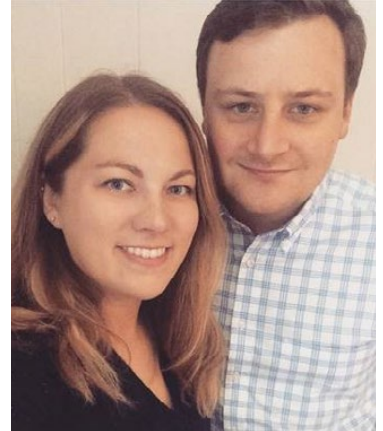
THREE DAYS OF EVENTS:

SUNDAY, JULY 8

SATURDAY, JULY 14

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY, JULY 15

***WELCOME  
NEW MEMBERS!***



**Carly Rabideau and  
Andrew Yocius**



**Matt & Louise Beasley  
with Laura and Wilson**



**Drew & Emily Harmata**



**Todd & Crystal Svec  
with Banks & Hudson**



**Kempton & Patty Bea  
Presley with Lucy Bea  
& Kemp**



# Father's Day

Sunday, June 17, 2018  
Photos by Patricia Taylor



## WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### 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

### PROGRAM STAFF

Michael Graham • Music Ministry Director

Abby McLean • Children's Ministry Director

Katie Sheridan-Gossage • Assistant Youth Ministry Director

Andra Moran • Creative Director, The Bridge

Stephen Daniel King • Worship Leader, The Bridge

Lauren Lucas Beuerlein • Young Professionals & Couples Director

Steve LaForge • Missions Field Coordinator

### SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator

Martha Duff • Preschool Director

Sam Marsh • Property & Facilities Manager

Jan Anderson • Administrative Assistant

Amber Moss • Executive 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.

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Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
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[www.woodmontchristian.org](http://www.woodmontchristian.org)



# RSVP for the 75th Celebration Dinner, July 15th!

by Clay Stauffer

We are now just a few weeks away from celebrating Woodmont's 75th anniversary. Here are the events that are coming up:

**\*Sunday, July 8th at 3 p.m.**— Special Concert in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Choir

**\*Saturday, July 14th 5-7 p.m.**— Family Fun Evening at Campbell West (all ages)

**\*Sunday, July 15th** — Morning Worship; **3 p.m.** Concert in Sanctuary with Woodmont artists; **5 p.m.** Dinner in Drowota Hall with Gov. Bill Haslam and Cane Ridge Revival (RSVP)

Richmond Williams and his committee have been working hard to plan these special events. Also, Cyril Stewart and his committee have worked hard to get the Wonder of Woodmont III ready for publication which will be available very soon. I am grateful to both of these committees for all the work they have put in. This is an exciting time in the life of our church. 75 years of mission and ministry is a major milestone! Come and join us for this important celebration.

## 9 Top Trends Impacting Church Leadership

by Clay Stauffer

I came across this article by Doug Powe and Ann A. Michel earlier this month and I found it fascinating as we prepare to install our new leaders this coming Sunday. I think these trends are well worth sharing and taking time for reflection.

### 1. Changes in church attendance patterns

Since 2001, worship attendance had been trending downward in many denominations, following a modest rebound in the 1990s. And declining worship attendance now plagues evangelical and Catholic churches in addition to the mainline. One contributing factor seems to be that "regular attenders" come to worship less regularly than in the past when pillars of the church would be in the pew virtually every Sunday. Today, many churches report that even their most faithful members sometimes attend only a couple of Sundays a month.

### 2. Changing life styles

Savvy congregations understand that church engagement can no longer be narrowly contained by traditional ideas about where and when church happens. The changing nature of young adulthood for generations born in the wake of the Baby Boom is one reason young adults are so absent in many churches today. Delayed marriage is perhaps the most notable trend. Since the 1960s, the average age for marriage among both men and women has risen 25 percent. Churches assuming that young adults will return once they marry and have children may be waiting a long time — forever, in fact, because these young adults may never come back. Churches do just about as well in attracting young marrieds with children as they ever did, but this group has become a much smaller slice of the young adult population. The percentage of singles exceeded the percentage of marrieds among American adults for the first time in 2014, suggesting the need to adapt ministry models that are explicitly or implicitly focused on families.

### 3. The impact of income inequality

In his poignant book *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*, sociologist Robert Putnam describes how growing income inequality has eroded the American middle class, increasing fragile families and at-risk children. While many churches claim a calling to support families and children in need, the sad fact is that non-traditional families — singles, unwed mothers, divorced parents, grandparents raising children — often feel unwelcome in congregations they see as bastions of middle-class propriety. Churches often draw their participants from a decreasing cohort of "traditional families" whose lifestyle is increasingly associated with higher levels of income and education, while lower income families are increasingly dechurched, with each successive generation more distant from the church.

### 4. Demographic shifts and increasing cultural diversity

Demographers predict that non-whites will constitute the majority of the U.S. population by 2040 or 2050, and gentrification is reshaping the urban landscape in many major cities. Typically, congregations are slow to adjust to demographic change in their communities. And many urban and inner-ring suburban churches, weakened over decades as people moved further and further from cities, may not be nimble enough to adjust to the reversed flow. It is increasingly important that successful church leaders prioritize intercultural competence and inclusive approaches to ministry.

### 5. Changes in how people connect with congregations

We often expect that new people will become part of our churches by first attending worship, then visiting for a few Sundays before being received as members. But many newcomers today are less interested in joining even if they plan to stay around and get involved. Additionally, worship is no longer the only point of entry. Savvy congregations are developing mission activities, small groups, and online experiences as meaningful points of entry. They understand that church engagement no longer conforms to traditional ideas about where and when church happens.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



**6. The imperative of reaching beyond church walls**

The idea that a church can simply fling open its doors and welcome those who come rests on the outdated cultural assumption that people wake up on Sunday morning motivated to find their way to a church. Successful congregations need to become “go to” churches rather than “come here” churches by extending their spiritual presence into the day-to-day places where people actually live and gather. New research on religion in everyday life provides hope to congregations that seek to connect with the spiritual impulses and religious memories of “nones” and “dones.”

**7. Changes in how faith formation happens**

How are people being brought up in faith today? Many are no longer taught at home. The Sunday School movement is waning. And preaching isn’t as significant a factor if people attend worship more erratically. Congregations attentive to these trends are developing more intentional discipleship systems, emphasizing organic approaches to faith formation such as relational mentoring, and exploring how spiritual development can be fostered through mission engagement.

**8. Creative approaches to church financing**

Just as the paradigm of church membership is challenged as people grow more skeptical of institutions, so too is reliance on pledging and tithing. Online giving holds great promise, not just for established givers, but also for those who might be reached through creative online fundraising on social media platforms. Looking to the example of other nonprofits, some congregations are more aggressively pursuing major gifts. And others are leveraging the value of their buildings and property through rentals or redevelopment opportunities.

**9. Changes in the religious workforce**

As the average age of ordained clergy continues to rise in most denominations, the contours of the religious workforce are evolving with more part-time and bi-vocational clergy, with more laity taking on significant roles as paid staff or volunteers, and with more of those called to ministry serving in non-congregational settings. These changes have sweeping impact on how congregations fulfill their missions and on how people are prepared for ministry, and they require much more study.

Nimbleness and adaptivity are the name of the game in this time of disruptive change in the church.



**75TH  
MUSIC  
CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY, JULY 8**  
GRACE NOTES  
HANDBELL CHOIR  
& CHANCEL CHOIR

**SUNDAY, JULY 15**  
JUBILATION  
THE GOSPELAIRES  
LOCKWOOD BARR & MARYBETH MEADOR  
LAUREN LUCAS BEUERLEIN  
ANDRA MORAN  
& MORIAH DOMBY PIRTLE

BOTH CONCERTS BEGIN 3 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY



**SUMMER GOSPEL  
SING-ALONG AND  
POTLUCK SUPPER**

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30  
WITH POTLUCK SUPPER AT 6:15



# Human Doing or Human Being?

by Roy Stauffer

The third funeral I ever conducted as a minister was while serving as a student minister to a church in Western Kentucky, the Sinking Fork Christian Church. It was also one of the largest funerals I have ever conducted, and I was just a seminarian student serving this church.

Most of the members of Sinking Fork were farmers. This particular member was a farmer too, but also the County School Board Chairman. Hence, the large funeral. But Wilbur had a severe heart attack at age 48 while throwing one hundred pound bales of hay on the farm wagon. After his stay in the hospital, we were visiting in his home one afternoon when he said to me, "I am good for nothing. The doctors say because my heart is so weak I can't do anything but sit in this chair with my feet up. What kind of life is that? I'm not any good to anyone."

I tried to tell him that he was of immense value to his wife and daughter and granddaughter, as well as his multitude of friends, that just his presence with them meant everything to them. But he never got it. He felt if he couldn't "DO" anything, he was worthless. And so he went back out on the farm, throwing those hundred pound bales of hay on the wagon, and suffered another heart attack that ended his life. His wife and daughter and granddaughter have never gotten over his loss, even to this day.

Years later I couldn't help but compare/contrast Wilbur's story to another man I was asked to visit in the VA hospital. When I walked into his room I was a bit shocked. He was sitting on his bed but he had no arms or legs. He had lost them in Viet Nam. Before I could say a word to him, he said so very cheerfully, "Good afternoon! How are you? And who might you be?" That began an animated conversation with this man I had never met before. Obviously, with his physical losses he couldn't "DO" a whole lot, but he sure could "BE" a whole lot. He was one of the most enthusiastic, spirit-filled individuals I have ever met. To this day I don't know what my visit did for him, but he sure made a world of difference in my life. And I have never forgotten him.

Isn't it interesting how we humans are so busy doing, doing, doing. All of us admit our schedules are too full and we get worn out from running place to place trying to fit it all in. We are kept in perpetual unrest with all our craving, clutching, and pursuing material, political, social, emotional, and intellectual matters. We seem to think that the busier we are, the more meaning we will add to our lives. We ought to call ourselves "Human DOINGS" rather than human beings. Most of us don't know how to just "be."

Recently, our Tuesday morning centering prayer group has been reading *The Spiritual Life*, four broadcast talks by Evelyn Underhill, the great twentieth century writer on spiritual practices and Christian mysticism. When talking about "What is the spiritual life?" she makes the following comment: "Being, not wanting, having, and doing, is the essence of the spiritual life." (p. 24) She goes on to observe how people are so busy, filling their lives with activities of really secondary importance that they are unable to experience that which of utmost importance namely, unable to really understand life because they've lost their hold on the eternal.

In a world where there is too much going on, too much to do, and people are always exhausted, we need to remember the words of ancient wisdom: "Be still, and know that I am God." (Proverbs 46:10) Until we stop all our "doing," and spend regular time just "being" and knowing God, we will never find the peace we all long for.

So, how's your life? Are you just a "human DOING" or are you truly a "human BEING?"

## Book Club

The WCC Book Club is taking the summer off from meeting, but not from reading. Our summer read is *LEONARDO DE VINCI* by Walter Isaacson. Judy Davis will be our discussion leader when we meet on September 18th at 10:30 in Room 100. Hope to see everyone then. Enjoy your summer.



## Am I Young? Or Professional?

by Lauren Lucas Beuerlein

Labels are funny, aren't they? We catalogue and categorize data so that we can simply process all of the information that comes into our lives. It's human nature. At times, this human quality serves us well. On the other hand, sometimes labeling people and events causes us to miss out on opportunities that would otherwise add value to our lives.

Take, for example, the labels we use to identify our small groups. The single most common question I get about the Young Professionals and Couples group is some form of, "How 'young' is considered Young Professional?" In close second is, "I'm (insert marital status here). Will I fit into the group?"

With resounding enthusiasm, let me rip off the label and say, "YES!" You'll fit right in if you're married, engaged, single, dating, or "it's complicated." If you're a parent or a bonus parent, there's a dinner plate and a discussion with your name on it. Yes, if you're in your 40's. Yes, if you're in your 30's, and yes twenty-something's, too! Yes, you'll feel welcome with a fox or in a box, or... you get the idea.

The YP & Couples group typically varies from mid-twenties to early forties in age and runs the gamut in all of the other categories listed above, as well, because the group isn't really about age or coupledness. Rather it's about peers coming together celebrating community and tackling similar life stage challenges (and celebrations!) together.

Some months we dive deeper into one of Clay's sermons from prior weeks. Other times, we might talk about how to achieve better work/life balance, or we do a fun service project like we did back in May for Fall-Hamilton Elementary School.

Nearly every month we hear about YP & Couples participants taking huge leaps of faith in their daily lives: changing jobs, quitting jobs, getting engaged, starting a Life Group, visiting Woodmont because they are new to the city and don't know a soul, and the list goes on. It's comforting to gather together every month and just... be. It's confidence-building to relax over dinner with people who want to engage in church community, who are going through similar challenges in life, and who cherish growing in their faith with friends new and old.

If you've been wondering what the YP & Couples group is all about, please consider this your official invitation to join us. We typically meet the first Tuesday of each month (except in July, we'll meet on the second Tuesday, July 10th, due to Independence Day). Dinner and childcare is provided [with a RSVP](#). If you want to receive the emails about our upcoming events, then just drop me a line! My email hours are always open and I'm happy to answer any questions and/or connect over coffee: [lauren@woodmontcc.org](mailto:lauren@woodmontcc.org). Hope to see you soon!

## Calendar

### Sunday, June 24

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
9:45 a.m. Worship at The Bridge, Drowota Hall  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
*Installation of New Leadership*  
11:00 a.m. Bridge Brunch, Drowota Hall  
11:30 a.m. Elders Appreciation Brunch, Campbell West

### Monday, June 25

10:00 a.m. The Baby Bunch, Room 134  
3:00 p.m. Geezers, Boardroom

### Tuesday, June 26

7:00 a.m. Exploring the Contemplative Path, Campbell West  
9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone  
**9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School, Drowota Hall**

### Wednesday, June 27

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  
**9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School, Drowota Hall**  
5:30 p.m. Summer Gospel Sing-Along, Room 105  
6:15 p.m. Potluck Dinner, Drowota Hall  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Thursday, June 28

**9:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School, Drowota Hall**

### Friday, June 29

**4:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School, Drowota Hall**

## WOODMONT KIDS

### June 15th-30th Birthdays

Whitaker McGuigan  
Emelia Hadley 6/17  
Anna Patton Mayes 6/17  
Frances Thompson 6/17  
Grace Milam 6/18  
Rex Wadley 6/21  
Charles Wiles 6/23  
Caroline Wedemeyer 6/23  
Charlotte Cropp 6/23  
Ricky Reynolds 6/23  
Ben Smith 6/24  
Elise Mason 6/25  
Rob French 6/26  
Wyatt Wills 6/26  
Septra Tanner 6/29  
Gazzie Ryerson 6/30  
Rollin Durrett 6/30






## Growing Up at Woodmont

by Abby McLean

With the upcoming 75th birthday of Woodmont, it has made me very nostalgic about my childhood growing up at WCC. Growing up at Woodmont meant a second family. A group of people that we could call on at any time or date. Births or deaths, multitudes of friends would show up with food, love, comfort, support. Whatever we needed, people would come in flocks. This has not changed at Woodmont. We are still a loving family who care for one another and do what we can to minister to one another.

As we look back at the last 75 years, I see growth. I see potential for another 75 years because of the bonds we make inside these walls. On July 14th, we will be celebrating the 75th birthday with a "Family Fun" night complete with dinner, bounce houses and fellowship. This is a way to not only celebrate our church home but to start making those connections. We need each other in our lives and what better place to have a good solid group of "family members" than at Woodmont. We continue to pray for each other, to build each other up, to be there in times of trouble or deep sorrow and this community knows what Woodmont is. That is why we continue to grow and why we are a beacon within the Nashville community.



|          | SUNDAY SCHOOL: | ATTENDANCE: | OPERATING: |
|----------|----------------|-------------|------------|
| MAY 27:  | 125            | 635         | \$82,195   |
| JUNE 3:  | 315            | 808         | \$68,645   |
| JUNE 10: | 279            | 745         | \$29,725   |
| JUNE 17: | 324            | 882         | \$48,312   |

## Guatemala Youth Commissioning

The Bridge, Sunday, June 17, 2018



## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### SYMPATHY TO:

Gayle Cherry on the death of Ben Cherry on Friday, June 15, 2018. Services scheduled for Saturday, June 23rd - visitation at 10:00 am with service to follow at 11:00 am at WCC

The Hawkins and Woodard families on the death of Boxwell "Box" Hawkins on June 17, 2018. Services are Saturday, June 23rd at 11:00 am at Grace Chapel.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Port and Brooks Campany, on the birth of their son, Nelson Williams Campany, II "Wills" on June 14, 2018. Big brother is Porter.

### IN THE HOSPITAL:

Bethany Barton Burns - St. Thomas Mid Town Womens

### CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Gayle Cherry  
Bill Heyne  
Hale Hooper - The Cumberland at Green Hills, Room 425  
Sheila Mathias  
JoAnn Patterson  
Al Richardson  
Pam Richardson  
Nikki Schmutz  
Barrett Sutton  
Lynne Thompson  
Isse Waddey

### FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

Gavin Duke's brother, Burton Duke, recently diagnosed with cancer.  
Paladino family, 6 year old, Ashton, fighting brain cancer  
Ann Luther's mother, Dorothy Ann Patterson, The Oaks at Limestone, Gainesville, GA.  
Rebecca DiNapoli and Melinda Norris-Munro's father  
Paul Hardin's uncle, Jimmy Glasgow - Hillcrest Nursing Home, Ashland City, TN.  
Martha Duff's sister, Barbara

## PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

Vacation Bible School.  
Our youth campers at Bethany Hills.  
Wildfires and the first responders.  
Preparation for the 75th birthday of Woodmont.  
Ministerial Staff and Pastoral Relations Committee.



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# The Spire



Installation of newly elected leaders this  
Sunday, June 24 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

## Q4 Outreach Grants Awarded:

- Bethany Hill Camp
- Charis Ministries
- Family and Children's Services
- HELP Center
- Int'l Partners in Rural Dev.
- Morgan Scott Project
- New Life Christian (Kenya)
- Renewal House
- Rooftop Nashville
- Minister's Discretionary Fund

