

CELEBRATING 74 YEARS!



The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH JULY 11, 2017

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017

More photos on pages 4 & 5



LIFE IN THE BALANCE

A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR COUPLES & PARENTS
BEGINS SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 10:45 A.M.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Molly Mason
July 2, 2017



Karly Schledwitz and Jeff Campbell
July 9, 2017

CHILD DEDICATION



**James "Finn" Hill, son of Ashley
and Kendall Hill, June 25, 2017**

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

NOVEMBER 4-11, 2017

DEADLINE FOR DISCOUNTED AIRFARE IS AUGUST 1! DON'T MISS OUT!

Through our relationship with Unbound, Woodmont is taking its 3rd group of adults to Guatemala this fall. We have reserved group airfare, but have to commit to the exact number of tickets soon.

If you would like to experience another culture from an insider's perspective, spend time with the beautiful people of Guatemala, meet your and Woodmont's sponsored friends, and provide hope and encouragement to the people of San Lucas Toliman, please join the trip. Info sheets are available in the church office.

A deposit of \$200 can be made on-line at : <http://bit.ly/2lnER3a>
Feel free to contact Emmie Thomas: emmie.d.thomas@gmail.com with questions or to sign up!

**VIEW 2017 GUATEMALA INFO SHEET AND FAQ AT
WWW.WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG/GUATEMALA2017**

2017 Hooper Classic Golf Tournament September 23 • Nashboro Village • 9:00 am 18 holes, free range balls, lunch, contests, awards, & prizes! REGISTER AT WWW.WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG/GOLF



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
www.woodmontchristian.org

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

Farrell Mason • Minister of Family Life & Pastoral Care

Michael Graham • Director of Music Ministry

Mary Clare Pyron • Parish Nurse

Katie Sheridan Gossage • Assistant Youth Ministry Director

Thom Schuyler • Director of Young Adults, Missions & Outreach

Andra Moran • Creative Director, "The Bridge"

Stephen Daniel King • Worship Leader

Abby McLean • Children's Ministry Director

Anne-Marie Farmer • Director of Small Groups & Connections

WOODMONT'S SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator

Mandy Barton Brown • Executive Assistant

Russell Davis • Accompanist

Martha Duff • Director of Preschool

Sam Marsh • Property & Facilities Manager

Matt Diffenderfer • Communications Director

Jan Anderson • Administrative Assistant

For assistance, please call the church office at
615.297.8563 or email info@woodmontcc.org

Get the most up-to-date information at
www.woodmontchristian.org

Woodmont Christian Church
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Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org

Woodmont Celebrates 74 Years!

by Clay Stauffer



This Sunday, July 16th, Woodmont will celebrate its 74th birthday. We will have a reception in the Gathering Hall at 10:30 a.m. This church was “planted” in 1943 by a group of members from Vine Street Christian Church and Dr. Frank Drowota came on a leap of faith from First Christian Church in Mayfield, KY to serve as the founding pastor from 1943-1973. Woodmont has an amazing history and many stories to tell. It has impacted thousands of lives in this community and beyond. A few years ago, I read an article by Dan Hotchkiss of the Alban Institute called, “Who Owns A Congregation?” Allow me to share some of what he says.

“A congregation does exist to serve its owner—but the members are not owners in the same way stockholders own business corporations. Who, then, is the owner? Jesus? God? Perhaps, but a more useful answer, I believe, is ‘The owner of a congregation is its mission.’ A congregation exists to serve its mission. The duty of a congregation’s leaders is to discern the piece of God’s will that constitutes this congregation’s mission, to articulate the mission well, and to ensure that what the congregation does will realize the mission. The “bottom line” is not the balance in the bank (important though that is) but the degree to which the mission is fulfilled. And what is the mission? The great management consultant Peter Drucker wrote that the core mission of all social-sector organizations is “changed lives.” The specific mission of a congregation is its answer to the question, ‘Whose lives do we intend to change and in what way?’ A congregation that limits its vision to pleasing its members falls short of its true purpose. Growth, expanding budgets, building programs, and such trappings of success matter only if they reflect positive transformation in the lives of people touched by the congregation’s work.”

At Woodmont, our mission is clear: **“Growing Disciples of Christ by Seeking God, Sharing Love, and Serving Others.”** We affirm this every Sunday in worship. Everything that we do at this church should fall under the umbrella of our mission. We should also remember our core values – **Welcoming, Outstanding Worship, Outreach, Different Traditions, Mission and Ministry, On the Move, Nurturing, and Transforming.** In that same Alban article, Hotchkiss says: “The job of congregational leaders—boards, clergy, lay leaders, and staff—is not to “give the members what they want.” For one thing, if the only mission is to current members, the congregation will soon die. And so the mission must be not only to change the lives of members but of others yet to join. A real problem with democracy in congregations is that future members do not vote. If they did, at every meeting they would make up a majority.”

We must constantly be asking, what are we doing here at Woodmont to reach new people in our community? Are we inviting others in? Are we offering new classes and programs? Are we forming new small groups? Are we making new friends in the congregation? Are we reaching out to those who need to experience a community like this? Churches that are only inwardly focused never do well. Any healthy church must be outwardly focused, ready to serve the community, change lives, provide healing, and welcome new people in. So what are the things that have made Woodmont a great church for 74 years and that will continue to make it great in the future?? My response would include: the friendly people, a warm and welcoming environment, strong worship, mission opportunities, a commitment to outreach, education, spiritual formation, fellowship, children’s and family ministry, youth ministry, small groups, Walk Thru Bethlehem, agreeing to disagree on polarizing issues, diversity of backgrounds and denominations, generosity of the members, and a willingness to try new things.

The founding members of our church signed their names to a document called, “The Covenant” which now hangs in the narthex. It reads:

“We do hereby solemnly covenant with God and one another to band ourselves together to establish a Christian Church in this community for ourselves and posterity. We pledge our time, substance, talents and prayers to the end that His Church shall be a house of prayer for all people, a fellowship of those who believe in Christ and strive to follow his teachings, and a part of the Church Universal. We aim to erect a suitable edifice for divine worship, for Christian education, for stewardship, for world missions, and to minister to the spiritual needs of the community. All of this.... we covenant to be and do under the guidance of God and the leadership of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Dr. Drowota put it best: ***This Is the Church of My Dreams:***

A church of the warm hearted, open minded, adventurous spirit; a church of the people.

A church that is high – low – and broad. As high as the ideals of Jesus – as low as the humblest person – as broad as the love of God.

A working, worshipping, and saving church.

A church that interprets truth in terms of the times... and challenges times in terms of the truth.

A church that inspires courage for this life... and hope for the life to come. A church worthy of our best.

As we begin our 75th year together, may we recommit ourselves to standing on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, grateful for our rich history and excited for an even stronger future of serving this community and world!

WOODMONT KIDS

VBS 2017 Night 1 - June 27, 2017

Photos by Steve Lowry

July 1st-15th Birthdays:

7/2 Gavin Williams
7/7 Montgomery Stauffer
7/9 Annabelle Aguirre
7/9 Olivia Burks
7/10 Diane French
7/11 Ava Ramsey
7/13 Lucy Kate McIntyre
7/14 Charlotte "Charlie" Lewis
7/15 Isaiah Gung
7/15 Ava Hagelgans
7/15 Michael Holscher





In Plain Sight

by Justin Gung

One thing that intrigues me about superheroes is that so many of them are ordinary people. Though possessing of extraordinary powers, they were once quite ordinary. Spider-Man, for example, was just your average teenage

geek before a bite from a radioactive spider endowed him with web-slinging abilities. Even after assuming their superhero status, so many of them blend into the crowd until called into action. Superman, for example, spends most of his time as Clark Kent. Batman is more commonly known as Bruce Wayne. These heroes walk among us in plain sight.

There are other heroes who walk among us in plain sight: the volunteers of Vacation Bible School. We are fresh off another success, due in no small part to a band of faithful men and women. Without any overstatement, I can say that they are heroes to me. In alphabetical order by last name, they are: Jan Anderson, Lockwood Barr, Ashley Buchanan, Tami Buchanan, Bonnie Burks, Julianna Burks, Brit Gunter, Juky Holt, Polly Keith, Alissa Lindemann, Kirsten Lowe, Lauren Lucas, Sheila Mathias, Lissa McHugh, Abby McLean, Catie Pratt, Eva Pratt, Jeremy Pratt, Thom Schuyler, Marc Taylor, Erin Thomas, Linda Webb, and Christi Williams. Also, as is true with everything in the church, nothing could have happened without the essential support of the administrative staff: Chris Beck, Mandy Brown, and Matt Diffenderfer, and the custodial staff: Cliff Browning, Calvin Holmes, Sam Marsh, and Shirley Taylor.

These are just the everyday aliases that they use as they walk among us mortals, but they each could affix some adjective to their name: Super, Awesome, Fantastic, Loving, Generous, or Kind. The next time you see one of these folks, look to see if they're stepping out of a phone booth.

Each night of Vacation Bible School featured a different hero from the Bible: 1) Moses; 2) David; 3) the Widow of Zarephath; and 4) Jesus Christ. In each case, God worked through them to accomplish some great good. Excepting Jesus Christ, they all seemed rather ordinary. It strikes me that the volunteers of Vacation Bible School are shining examples and living parables of the same. Once again, God used ordinary people to accomplish an extraordinary good: the proclamation of the gospel to the next generation! In my (comic) book, there is nothing more heroic than that.

VBS 2017 Night 4 - June 30, 2017

Photos by Jim Thomas





74 Years Old

by Roy Stauffer

It was the year 1943. World War II was raging in Europe. Roosevelt, Churchill, and deGaulle held a war council in Casablanca. Due to the war, canned food and shoes were added to a growing list of rationed items, a list that already included coffee and sugar. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled it was unconstitutional to require students to salute the flag. Hitler's "Mein Kampf" was published in the United States. JFK saved his crew on PT109. George Washington Carver, Edsel Ford, and Beatrice Potter died. American Chess Champion Bobby Fisher, Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, French actress Catherine Deneuve, Russian Composer Sergei Rachmaninoff, and skier Jean-Claude Killy were all born. Upton Sinclair won a Pulitzer prize. "Oklahoma!" by Rodgers and Hammerstein was a smashing hit. The New York Yankees won the World Series. And, ... and, ... Woodmont Christian Church was "planted" by Vine Street Christian Church.

Approximately one hundred men, women, and children crowded into a sixth grade classroom of Woodmont School at five o'clock on the Sunday afternoon of July 18, and Woodmont Christian Church took root. Interestingly, the first chairman of the board was Bill Carpenter, whose great granddaughter – Mary Clare Pyron – recently gave birth to the fifth generation of the Carpenter family here at Woodmont. Gilbert Marshall was elected vice-chairman and Wilbur Sensing secretary-treasurer. Fifty-one "charter members" covenanted to "never let the dream grow dim, and never lose the vision."

These sixty-five years later that dream and vision is as strong as ever. Although it wasn't built until five years after the church was born, Woodmont's towering spire has been a constant reminder to the surrounding community of that dream and vision. Although churches, like the community itself, can have their "ups and downs," the spire has always stood tall above the community as a constant reminder of God's presence and the power of faith, hope, and love.

The cross on top of the spire is certainly representative of this church's mission and purpose. The vertical bar of the cross symbolizes the worship of God, prayer, Bible Study, and the devotional life. The horizontal bar of the cross symbolizes Christian mission and service, reaching out to others, especially the less fortunate. The two bars of the cross represent the two part of Jesus' summary of all the law and the prophets: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength; ... and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Without both bars, you don't have a cross; and without both parts of the "Great Commandment," you don't have full and complete Christianity.

So come out this Sunday and celebrate Woodmont's birthday. She may be 74 years old, but she is far, far from retirement age!

- Roy

Next Week's Calendar

Sunday, July 16

8:15 a.m. "Seekers" Bible Study, Room 105
9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School
Alice Edith Vernich Dedication
9:45 a.m. Worship at The Bridge, Drowota Hall
10:30 a.m. **74th Birthday Reception, Gathering Hall**
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School
12:15 p.m. **Intro to Woodmont luncheon, Boardroom**

Monday, July 17

3:30 p.m. "Geezers" Men's Bible Study, Boardroom

Tuesday, July 18

9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone

Wednesday, July 19

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

CWF Celebrates Year of Service

by Sandra Kyne

On June 6, a large number of women, who are part of Woodmont's Christian Women's Fellowship, gathered together to celebrate a successful year of service to others, and to install and welcome those newly elected members, who will be carrying forth the responsibilities of leadership in the coming year. As the outgoing President, Pat Johnston presided over the meeting in an atmosphere of love and warmth, there was a strong sense that indeed "the Lord is present in this place." Members were happy to be presented with the list of the many areas of ministry to which they have contributed, and thinking others in Woodmont also might be interested in knowing how lives are being touched throughout our area, we are sharing a list of the CWF Circle Projects for the Year 2016—2017:

**Alive Hospice
Women's Prison
Ronald McDonald House
Room in the Inn
Women's Shelter
Preston Taylor Ministries
Nashville Food Project
Walk Through Bethlehem
Caldwell School
Fannie Battle Day Home
Next Door Treatment
Center
Project Cure
Rescue Mission
Safe Haven
Hearts for Africa
Under the Bridge Ministry**

**Faith Family Medical
Center
Socks for Moldova
Sacred Sparks Ministries
Upper Room
Disciples Divinity House
A.B.L.E. for Children with
Disabilities
Juvenile Diabetes
Habitat for Humanity
Men of Valor
Siloam Health
Community Care
Foundation
Morgan Scott
Better Decisions**

We pray we will continue to allow our Lord to empower us to be used by Him in whatever ways He should choose—in serving others and spreading the Good News.



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

SYMPATHY TO:

Jeanie Taylor and family on the death of her husband, Joe Taylor, on Saturday, July 8, 2017. Services are scheduled for Friday, July 14, 2017 at Woodmont Christian Church. Visitation from 10:00am - 12 noon. Service at 12:00 noon.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Ben and Gayle Cherry

Ray Dickerson

Stacey Fletcher, Marcella Derryberry's daughter, tests at Centennial

James Frazier, father of Franklin Willis, at home

Robbie Graham, nephew of Michael Graham

Lee Ann Hawkins

Betsy Hendrick

Linda Langley, mother of Sabrina Kronk, Williamson Medical

JoAnn Patterson

Vicki Phillips

Tammy Regen, daughter in law of Gene and Elizabeth Regen. Knoxville, TN

Al Richardson, Belmont Village

Robbie Richardson, Woodcrest

Porter Earnest Short, infant son of Cory and Beth Short

Wilbur Sensing

Gus Stranch, son of Gerard & Patty Stranch

Mary Webb, Martha Galyon's grandmother

Kevin Weldon, son of John and Rosemary Weldon

Pam Zimmerman's mother, Winchester

9:30 AM - Informal Sanctuary Worship

Bread - Martha Galyon

Cup - Pam Richardson

Service Coordinator -

Video Camera -

So. Entrance Greeter/Offering - Kirtley Whittington

Greeter/Offering - Stephanie Bowman

Greeter/Offering - Todd Bowman

Greeter/Offering - Jim Batson

Usher/Cleanup - Billy Crawford

Usher/Cleanup - Pam Groom

Usher/Cleanup - Mike Jobe

Usher/Cleanup - Lanie Whittington

11 AM - Traditional Sanctuary Worship

Bread - Fran Stewart

Cup - Marcella Derryberry

Service Coordinator -

Video Camera -

So. Entrance Usher/Offering - Phil Schmutz

Greeter/Offering - William Liles

Greeter/Offering - Anne Arney

Greeter/Offering - Charlie Brinkley

Usher/Cleanup - Jody Cummings

Usher/Cleanup - Phillip Harrison

Usher/Cleanup -

Cleanup/Flowers - Nick Forlidas

9:45 AM - The Bridge Worship

Bread/Cup: Marcella Derryberry

Service Coordinator - Andrew Chelton

Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Kristen Newman

Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Chip Hooper

Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Sara Kate Hooper

Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Stephanie Chelton

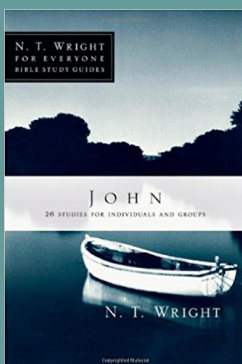
Hospital: Fran Stewart

Communion Prep:

BY YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR GIFTS:

DATE:	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
JUNE 18	250	731	\$23,120
JUNE 25	306	859	\$52,421
JULY 2	178	543	\$28,525
JULY 9	275	742	\$42,304

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT JOHN?



Come find out why the Gospel of John is different from the first three gospels. A Bible study discussion of John begins on July 9th at 8:30 a.m. in Room 105, but, if you arrive earlier, not only will you get a parking space of choice and a breakfast treat, you can share in great fellowship among fellow "Seekers". The series will be based on "JOHN: 26 Studies for Individuals and Groups" by N.T. Wright. Copies are available in the Spire bookstore or through Amazon.

Chancel Flower Opening

August 27th, 2017, is available for a church member to bestow/dedicate Chancel flowers of their choice in honor, memory or celebration of an individual or life event. Sentiments about you and your honoree are included in the bulletins and you have the choice to leave the flowers for shut-ins, take them with you after the 11:00 Worship service is over, or a little of both.

Please email jan@woodmontcc.org if you are interested. It is reserved on a first-come basis.



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Road, Nashville, TN 37215

The Spire

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