WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Polly and Alex Ryerson with Guy (3), Gazzie (6), and Knowles
June 25, 2017

Melissa Johnson Carr
July 16, 2017

Michelle Williams
July 16, 2017

Randy Farmer
July 17, 2017

HOMECOMING SUNDAY
IS AUGUST 20

This Fall!
At Woodmont

Family and Parenting Series
With Daystar's Dave Thomas,
Melissa Trevathan, & Sissy Goff

Sep. 13: Raising Girls
Sep. 20: Special guest Jim Schleicher
Sep. 27: Wild Things
Oct. 4: Are My Kids on Track?

The Road Back to You
An Enneagram Journey to Self-Discovery
Available Now

“Understanding Yourself”
Special Leadership Series

An Introduction to the Enneagram
Wednesday nights. August 30 &
September 6 at 6 PM
BBQ dinner at 5:30 - $10

Presented by Ian Cron,
Author of The Road Back to You

Drowota Hall, child care provided
Elders, Deacons, & Board encouraged to attend
Open to Congregation.
Three Sunday Morning Opportunities for Young Adults and Parents

“Life in the Balance” small group begins Aug. 20!
Specifically designed for parents of preschool and elementary aged children, as well as younger couples, “Life in the Balance” is a NEW small group debuting Homecoming Sunday, August 20, from 10:45 – 11:30 AM in Room 100.

Led by a rotating group of WCC staff members (Thom Schuyler, Anne-Marie Farmer, and Justin Gung), this group focuses on life, balance, priorities, friendship, marriage, parenting, and spiritual growth. Come grow with others at Woodmont who are facing many of the same challenges you face every day and learn from those who have been where you are. For more information, email annemarie@woodmontcc.org

Pathways Class
The Pathways Class is designed for parents of kids in middle and high school. An energetic group of 30–50 “somethings” who are seeking spiritual and practical guidance on our journey of faith. The class meets at 11:00 AM Sundays in the Board Room.

Pathways uses video lessons and guest speakers who share their insight and perspective on the challenges facing the modern Christian family. For more information, email laura_dovan@yahoo.com

Young Adults Class
The Young Adults class takes an in-depth look at a variety of topics, including specific books of the Bible, theological questions, and social justice issues, as well as personal spiritual growth. Led by Rob Quinn, this class is made up mostly of young adults in their mid 20s to mid 30s, and is a perfect study opportunity for those who attend the 11:00 worship service. The class meets at 9:45 AM Sundays in the Board Room. For more information, email robquinn@comcast.net

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP
NOVEMBER 4-11, 2017

DEADLINE FOR DISCOUNTED AIRFARE IS TUESDAY! DON’T MISS OUT!

VIEW 2017 GUATEMALA INFO SHEET AND FAQ AT WWW.WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG/GUATEMALA2017
An undeniable reality of being human is that pain and suffering are inevitable. We all hurt. We all suffer. We all experience loss and grief. Some hurt more than others but there is simply no way to avoid it.

The most difficult part of any minister’s job is helping people work through their pain. Divorce, addiction, depression, loneliness, infidelity, financial hardship, fear, worry, and relentless anxiety are all real problems in our complicated world.

Thich Nhat Hanh has a new book called The Art of Living in which he says, “Many of us want to do something to help the world suffer less. We see so much violence, poverty, and environmental destruction all around us. But if we are not peaceful, if we don’t have enough compassion, then we can’t do much to help. We ourselves are the center. We have to make peace and reduce the suffering in ourselves first, because we represent the world. Peace, compassion, and well-being begin with ourselves.”

This is a truth that many overlook. Jesus commands us to “love others as we love ourselves,” and I am convinced that many people are doing that. They are hurting others because they are hurting inside themselves. It is a vicious and dangerous cycle. It’s only when we first tend to our own soul and healing that we can then tend to others. Most of the time when people lash out in anger, there is something going on inside. But the question still remains: how do we grow through our pain? How does it change us? How does it make us stronger?

Paul writes to the Romans: “We boast in our suffering knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint.” He writes to the Corinthians: “We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed.” There is great truth in both of these verses but many who are hurting have a hard time seeing it. Sometimes the pain is so great that we can lose our perspective, lose our hope.

Jerry Sittser is a professor at Whitworth University. Years ago, he lost his wife, daughter, and mother in a car accident that he and his other children survived. He wrote an incredible book after that experience titled A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows Through Loss and I have given it to many people over the years. Sittser says, “The soul is elastic, like a balloon. It can grow larger through suffering. Loss can enlarge its capacity for anger, depression, despair, and anguish – all natural and legitimate emotions whenever we experience loss. But once enlarged, the soul is also capable of experiencing greater joy, strength, peace, and love.” He says, “Those who suffer loss live suspended between a past for which they long and a future for which they hope. Catastrophic loss by definition precludes recovery. It will transform us or destroy us, but it will never leave us the same. There is no going back to the past which is gone forever, only going ahead to the future which is yet to be discovered.”

Life is certainly full of hurts and pains but all of us need to make the decision, whenever possible, to grow through it. Nobody said the process is simple or easy, but what alternative do we have?
Dance
by Chris Cox

For one night, the Bethany Hills dining hall was turned into a dance club. Flashing lights pulsed and a smoke machine filled the room. Every few songs, a group of teenagers poured outside for a break. It was an unusually cool evening for June and even by the campfire the night air allowed for a brief recharge before the bass line of a favorite song compelled them to come back in. The students recruited while they were outside.

“Chriiiiiiiiiiissssss, come in and daaaaaaaance.”

I don’t dance. Not because of some grand moral stance. I would love to dance. Or at least I think I would. No, the problem is I am a white guy from South Carolina who was raised Baptist. I have tripped other people doing the Electric Slide. Dancing for me is peak awkwardness for an individual that already feels pretty darn awkward most of the time.

I kind of hate that, because dancing looks like so much fun. Yet my own head gets in the way. I cannot quite let go and therefore I miss out. I regret that, but I apparently don’t regret that enough to relinquish what’s holding me back to just dance. I did dance the Wobble at the behest of a fellow youth minister and it was awkward and it was fun and I’m glad I did it, but I was relieved to head for the exits with others when the song was over. I want to dance, but I don’t want to dance.

My favorite image of the Trinity comes from my college theology professor. As he talked about the concept of perichoresis, Dr. Shelley likened the Trinity to a wedding dance where the dancers spin and move in and around each other into a blur until you cannot tell where one dancer begins and another ends. God—Creator, Son, and Spirit—in joyful celebration. Even more we are invited into this rhythm of creation. To join in spreading grace, love, justice, and goodness all over. God offers a hand to us. Come in and dance.

You would think that we would jump at a chance to join this dance. Yet we hesitate. We’re worried about our two left feet. We think we’re going to trip, knock someone over, and mess the whole thing up. We don’t want to completely let ourselves go. We like to be in control. We don’t want to disturb our carefully curated inner-calm. Come in and dance. We’d really like to. We see the joy and freedom, but sitting on the sidelines seems a lot more safe.

Yet God knows all of this. God knows about our two left feet, our lack of rhythm, and everything else that could turn the dance floor into a demolition derby. And yet the Trinity still beckons us to come and dance. Join this beloved community. Move and sweat and laugh and rejoice. We stand over on the side and incredulously ask, “Who am I that you would invite me to dance?” And God just shouts again over the music, “Come and dance!”

There was a brief window of time when it wasn’t an issue. The reason was a girl. It’s always a girl. I was so smitten by her that I didn’t care how much I looked like a fool. I just wanted to be with her. Maybe that’s how it has to be with God. Maybe we have to fall so hard for God that we don’t care how much we look like a fool. We just want to be with the one we love. So we come and we dance.
Woodmont Ministry Areas

Over the next several weeks we will be talking about major ministry areas at Woodmont and how you can get involved, along with providing resources to help you learn more:

WORSHIP
Make all of Woodmont's worship services outstanding, including music ministry and special services for Advent, Lent, and Holy Week.

MICHAEL GRAHAM & ANDRA MORAN

CHILDREN & FAMILIES
Old friends making new friends in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through dynamic nursery, elementary, and youth activities.

JUSTIN GUNG, ABBY MCLEAN, CHRIS COX, & KATE GOSSAGE

SPIRITUAL FORMATION
Lead and participate in Bible study, small groups, and adult education classes throughout the week.

ROY STAUFFER & ANNE-MARIE FARMER

CONGREGATIONAL CARE
Nurture our members who are sick, hurting, or in transition.

FARRELL MASON & JAN ANDERSON

OUTREACH
Grow our missional impact in the local community and across the globe

THOM SCHUYLER, JACK DERRYBERRY, & RICK CLARK

LEADERSHIP
Lead the church and prepare leaders for the future.

CLAY STAUFFER, DAVID CONRAD, FRAN STEWART, & RICH SANDERSON

Stay tuned for more!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONNECTING WITH YOU
Summer has arrived and it is the time to travel, take a more leisurely pace and enjoy the family before the routine of school returns. I thought it might be a good time for some of you to consider joining our music ministry. There are many opportunities to minister to others with your talent. Here are some choices and the personnel to contact if you would like to make a joyful noise in the fall.

The Cherub Choir is for children ages 3-K. They meet every Sunday during the school year at the beginning of the 9:30 Sunday School hour in the 3 year old Sunday School classroom. They sing quarterly and for Hanging of the Greens in December. Cherub Choir is directed by Abby McLean and accompanied by guitarist, Jamie Huling. For information, contact Abby McLean at abby@woodmontcc.org.

Grace Notes is our children's choir for ages K-5th grade and focuses on praising God through song. In addition to healthy vocal singing, children learn to read music, play percussion instruments, and experience music improvisation. They rehearse on Wednesday from 5:30-6:00 P.M. in the Choir Room in the Kid’s Commons, and sing quarterly for worship services and special occasions. For more information contact Catie Pratt at jc-pratt@comcast.net.

The Handbell Choir rehearses each Tuesday evening during the school year from 6-7 P.M. We play a wide variety of music that enhances worship, and are always learning new music and techniques. The group includes professional musicians and non-music readers. If you are interested in joining us, contact Kathy Hart at castonhart@comcast.net.

The Chancel Choir performs around 50 anthems per year in the 11 A.M. service, in addition to special services, seasonally. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. We rehearse from 6:30 to 8 P.M. each Wednesday (except during the summer months) in the choir room. For more information, contact Michael Graham at mgraham1750@gmail.com.
THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF FORGIVENESS
Clay Stauffer • Sunday, July 30 • Matthew 18:21-35

SUNDAY! JULY 30 • ELDERS & DEACONS SERVING

9:30 AM - Informal Sanctuary Worship
Service Coordinator - David Todd
Video Camera - Maryanne McWhirter
So. Entrance Greeter/Offering - LeAnn Stokes
Greeter/Offering - Anne Arney
Greeter/Offering - Paul Steele
Greeter/Offering - Lowell Stokes
Usher/Cleanup - Billy Crawford
Usher/Cleanup - Paula Walker
Usher/Cleanup - Sarah Anne Quinn
Usher/Cleanup - Laura Stephan
Bread - Mark Christofersen
Cup - Martha Galyon

11 AM - Traditional Sanctuary Worship
Service Coordinator - Laurie Hester
Video Camera - Walter White
So. Entrance Usher/Offering - Phil Schmutz
Greeter/Offering - Jim Hester
Greeter/Offering - Becca Robinson
Greeter/Offering - Mike Robinson
Usher/Cleanup - Bette Christofersen
Usher/Cleanup - Don Hart
Usher/Cleanup - Lockwood Barr
Cleanup/Flowers - Tom Woodard
Bread - John Stauffer
Cup - Randy Luther

9:45 AM - The Bridge Worship
Service Coordinator - Jeff Kinman
Usher/Offering/Cleanup - Erik Milam
Usher/Offering/Cleanup - Sabrina Kronk
Usher/Offering/Cleanup - Andrew Chelton
Usher/Offering/Cleanup - Stephanie Chelton
Bread/Cup - Mary Welsh Owen

Hospital: Faye Tevebaugh
Communion Prep: Renee Lewis

BY YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR GIFTS:

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DivorceCare at Woodmont starts back September 6
Are you currently separated or divorced? Do you feel all alone? Led by Anne Stauffer and Janet Wall, DivorceCare is a small group of people that meets at Woodmont who are also experiencing separation and divorce. Class begins Wednesday, Sep. 6, 6:15 PM, register at woodmontchristian.org

Jonathan Farmer receives chalice for serving two years as Deacon Chair, 2015 to 2017.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Phillip and Christie Harrison on the birth of their twins, Barrett Alton Harrison, a boy, and Elizabeth Duke Harrison, a girl, on Monday, July 24, 2017. All are well! Please no visitors until they are home.

IN THE HOSPITAL:
Willie Bandy, Centennial

CONTINUING CONCERNS:
LuAnn Brent, at home
Ben and Gayle Cherry
Robbie Graham, nephew of Michael Graham
Linda Langley, mother of Sabrina Kron, 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
Wilbur Sensing
Gus Stranch, son of Gerard & Patty Stranch
Kevin Weldon, son of John and Rosemary Weldon
Pam Zimmerman’s mother, Winchester

WOODMONT’S ELDERS ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:
Those on the Morgan Scott trip.
Those who are fighting fires in the West.
Those suffering from the heat.
All the new parents in our church.
LIFE IN THE BALANCE
A NEW SMALL GROUP FOR COUPLES & PARENTS
BEGINS SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 10:45 A.M.

READ “3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS AND PARENTS” ON PAGE 2