

# The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MARCH 20, 2018

## LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST



### First Leadership Breakfast of the year is Saturday, April 7 with Dr. Charlie McGowan



Our guest speaker is Dr. Charlie McGowan, a retired senior pastor with close to 50 years of ministerial experience who served Christ Presbyterian in Nashville. McGowan believes God has called him to use his vast network of ecumenical contacts, his years of ministerial experience, and his love for the Kingdom of God to address the most important issues facing churches in America. The breakfast begins at 9 AM in Drowota Hall and is open to the entire congregation. All deacons, elders, and board members are highly encouraged to attend!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



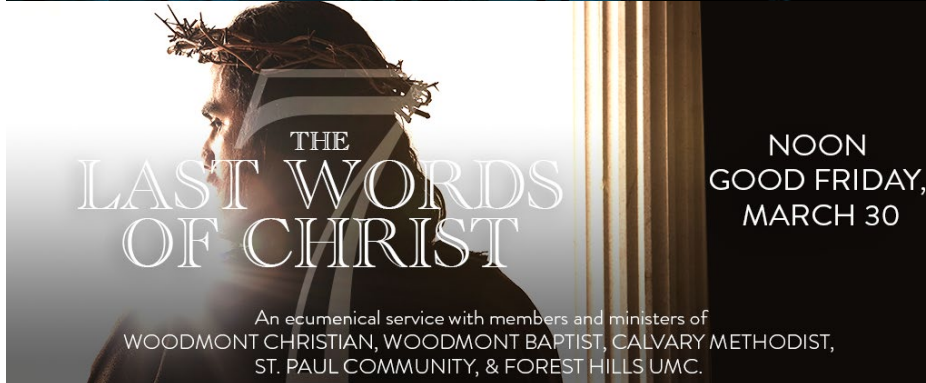
**Marshall and Laura Alexander**  
March 4, 2018



**Jim and Barbara (Bobbilou) Robinson**  
February 7, 2018



**Thomas Warren with Lily**  
March 11, 2018



## Come-and-Go Intergenerational Good Friday Experience

From 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM, a family-friendly Holy Week experience will be offered in Drowota Hall. This self-guided tour includes prayer spaces which offer a hands-on way to pray the Stations of the Cross, and a candle-lit labyrinth for prayer and meditation.

Please note, this event was designed for people ages 5 and up. Nursery care will be offered from 11 AM to 1:30 PM for children 4 and under.



## 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

### 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.

Woodmont Christian Church  
3601 Hillsboro Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
615.297.8563

[www.woodmontchristian.org](http://www.woodmontchristian.org)





# Five Key Lessons from the Life of Billy Graham

by Clay Stauffer

Billy Graham passed away peacefully on February 21, 2012 at his family home in Montreat, NC at the age of 99. Many have referred to him as the most influential preacher since the Apostle Paul. That would be difficult to argue.

An advisor to twelve different US Presidents, Graham traveled the world preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ in stadiums and arenas on multiple continents. There are many lessons we can learn from the life of Billy Graham.

First, he was committed to the Bible. He believed that the Bible speaks God's truth throughout the ages. Graham did not dismiss scholarship but he believed with all his heart in the transforming power of God's word. He preached it boldly and without apology. Graham had the utmost confidence that the word of God speaks for itself and his sermons were full of scripture. A common theme in his message was repentance and the importance of second chances.

Secondly, Graham demonstrated the relevance of the gospel to political life without becoming overtly partisan. Somebody once tried to corner Graham on a contentious political issue to see where he really stood. Graham responded: "I look at the birds of the sky. They have a right wing and a left wing, and it takes both to fly." Graham counseled both Republican and Democratic presidents without getting bogged down in the partisan fray. He knew that the gospel message transcended partisan politics and he worked for unity. The Mainline and Evangelical church have often become far too obsessed with politics and contentious social issues that simply divide the body of Christ.

Third, Billy Graham stood firm in the face of criticism. He was attacked and denounced by fundamentalists and liberals alike. Graham would reach out to his detractors both publicly and privately and work to reconcile. He turned the other cheek and did not respond harshly. Yet, Graham was fully aware that part of being a leader and a public figure was learning to face criticism, and he did so with courage and grace. He recognized that if you dabble in politics, you can expect to be betrayed. After all, Nixon secretly recorded their personal conversations.

Fourth, Graham lived a life of character and integrity. He was the same person in private that he was in public. He had nothing to hide. He was always honest about missteps and regrets, one of them being how often he was away from his family because of his calling and schedule. He was faithful and committed to his wife Ruth for sixty four years, until her death in 2007. He and Ruth loved their five children, and they passed their faith legacy along to them.

Lastly, Graham knew that, for Christians, there was no substitute for an authentic, personal relationship with Christ. In an age of cultural Christianity, this is very important. He was once invited to preach at Duke Chapel the first year Will Willimon was the minister there. After the service, standing in Willimon's office, Graham said: "You will have a great ministry here and I wish you well. But many of these folks are completely unaware the Christ is eager to have them."

Graham knew that discipleship involves commitment, passion, and sacrifice. It is not always convenient or comfortable.



**Stauffers having lunch with long-time Woodmont member Dr. Steve Stroup, who now lives in FL with his wife Judi.**

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## Lecture on Humor in the Bible

The Challenge Class is delighted to welcome Dr. Amy-Jill Levine to lecture on the subject of Humor in the Bible, at 9:30 AM on Sunday, April 8 in Room 200. The Class has just completed a book study on spirituality and laughter. Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at the Vanderbilt Divinity School, author of many wonderful books, and a much loved guest speaker at Woodmont Christian Church. All are invited!

# ISSUES THAT MATTER

Racial Justice & Reconciliation Issues 50 Years After MLK's Death

BEGINS APRIL 4, 6:30 PM

In honor of the 50th anniversary of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, Woodmont is kicking off a new series called "Issues that Matter" on April 4.

"Issues that Matter: Racial Justice and Racial Reconciliation 50 Years after MLK's Assassination" will feature reflections on where we stand 50 years later on racial justice issues, race relations, racial unity/reconciliation in the church and what it all means for us as followers of Christ

Dr. Teresa Smallwood is the associate director and postdoctoral fellow of the Vanderbilt Divinity School Public Theology and Racial Justice Collaborative, an initiative that started in Fall 2017. She leads the daily operations of the collaborative, whose goals are "to be a hub of national conversation on public theology and racial justice" and bring together a wide array of people "to eradicate racism and all of its reciprocal forms of injustice and hatred". She is a member of New Covenant Christian Church.

## Brené Brown

author, renowned speaker and research professor at the University of Houston



Also in April, Woodmont member Julie Ingman will be facilitating a discussion group on Brené Brown's works, particularly her book *Daring Greatly*. After spending the past sixteen years studying courage, vulnerability, empathy, and shame, Brené Brown's impact as an acclaimed researcher, writer, and speaker are tremendous.



## WOODMONT KIDS

### Birthdays March 16th-31st:

3/16 Hattie Hobart	3/23 Penn Gossage
3/16 Robert Hobart	3/24 Evie Moore
3/17 Bo England	3/26 Eli Giompoletti
3/18 Briggs Waddey	3/29 Morgan Chapman
3/19 Liam Cox	3/29 Ivan Sloan
3/19 Alice Vernich	3/30 Hannah Walker
3/21 Parker Holley	

### Holy Week childcare: Childcare for Maundy Thursday

Nursery (Children 4 and under)

JYF (Children 5 yrs-4th grade)

### Childcare for Good Friday

Nursery care for children 4 and under

*Children 5 and older may participate in the prayer stations and attend the service with their families.*

## SAVE THE DATE VBS 2018 • JUNE 26-29

# ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE



REGISTRATION COMING SOON



WOODMONT  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH



## Rowing in the Same Direction

by Lauren Lucas Beuerlein

In the summer of 2012, I drove to Hamilton Creek Marina on Percy Priest Lake one Saturday morning in the pouring rain. I was in my self-professed, "Year of Yes," and this particular Saturday, I said, "yes," to a novice rowing class (rain or shine!) from the Nashville Rowing Club. I didn't know a single soul out there, I didn't consider myself the sporty type and, considering that I didn't have proper rain gear, I was beginning to wonder why in the world I said, "yes" to this. I mean, isn't the point of being in the boat that you don't get wet?! Nonetheless, I climbed into the "beginner skull" and followed the coach's instructions.

I had a blast. And I made a friend!

So, I went back the next weekend, and the weekend after that. A couple of months into beginner lessons, all of us newbies were getting the hang of feeling the rhythm, rowing together and heading in the same direction.

Something else happened during my 2012 "Year of Yes." I started my faith journey and began visiting Woodmont. By the next year, I became a member, met my now-husband at the "Talent 4 the House" spaghetti supper fundraiser, and was baptized. Wow. Saying yes has made an amazing impact on my life!

At the beginning of this year, I found myself saying, "yes," again to becoming the new Director for Young Professionals and Couples. At our January party, I knew a handful of people, but a lot of faces were new to me. I was nervous. I have big shoes to fill and it's all on my shoulders to provide something meaningful to this group of busy professionals and parents!

Then, in February, we got together and discussed work/life balance as it relates to how we're spending our energy and if we're aligning with our individual core values. We found that we're all going through the same stuff! In March, we talked about fear and anxiety and how we sometimes funnel that energy for good, but often that energy causes us to lose sight of what's important. The room bounced from one idea to another, people chiming in and relating to what the person said before them. Again, we found that we struggle with similar fears and want similar things for our lives. Slowly but surely, just like the rowing club, we're cultivating a feeling that we're getting into the same boat, rowing in the same direction... together. And isn't that what fellowship, spiritual practice and group ministry is all about?

The first few months on the job have been so powerful for me. I feel certain that I'm gaining much more from this group than I could ever give and I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings. So, based on my experience, I encourage you with this: say, "yes," and prepare to be amazed!

*If you'd like to participate in the Young Professionals & Couples Group, contact [lauren@woodmontcc.org](mailto:lauren@woodmontcc.org). We meet the first Tuesday evening of each month for dinner and discussion. Childcare is typically provided with an RSVP. Service projects and special events are built in throughout the year.*

### April CWF Program

Join us at CWF in April for an inspiring program - we'll inspire you to make do with less. The Nashville Waste Initiative is working to cut down on the staggering 40% of food produced in the US that is thrown out. That amount of food could fill a 90,000 seat stadium every day.

Come hear how Nashville is getting restaurants - and us - to prevent food waste, donate food and/or recycle food scraps to help feed the 110,000 plus food insecure residents in Davidson County. We will meet Tuesday, April 3, at 11 AM in Room 105. Lunch following; for lunch reservations call the church office. All are welcome.

**YP & COUPLES DINNER + DISCUSSION**

*Fearless*  
**GENEROSITY**  
w/ special guests!

APRIL 3RD • 6PM • CAMPBELL WEST





## Characteristics of Maturity

by Roy Stauffer

How often have I heard it said that if you move to a new city and want to find the best church, you should go to an AA meeting. AA, Al Anon, Alateen, Naranon, Overeaters Anonymous, and other such 12-step programs are immensely helpful. Sometimes in such meetings you feel like there is more honesty, closeness, love and caring than is often found in many churches. The 12 steps of AA are good steps for anyone who wants to live a healthy life. You don't have to be addicted to alcohol or drugs to benefit from them. But they're just as beneficial for "the rest of us." (However, I once heard a leader say everyone is addicted to something. At first I wanted to argue, but then I realized it's true. Food, shopping, materialism, pleasure, greed – all of us are addicted to something... even golf or tennis for some.)

I once read in an Al Anon publication the following "Characteristics of Maturity." I would say from my point of view that you could add the word "spiritual" and it would be equally true – "Characteristics of Spiritual Maturity." Here they are:

- Knowing myself
- Asking for help when I need it and acting on my own when I don't
- Admitting when I'm wrong and making amends
- Accepting love from others, even if I'm having a tough time loving myself
- Recognizing that I always have choices, and taking responsibility for the ones I make
- Seeing that life is a blessing
- Having an opinion without insisting that others share it
- Forgiving myself and others
- Recognizing my shortcomings and my strengths
- Having the courage to live one day at a time
- Acknowledging that my needs are my responsibility
- Caring for people without having to take care of them
- Accepting that I'll never be finished – I'll always be a work in progress

(from *Courage to Change*)

How well do you measure up to that list? How spiritually mature would you say you are? That's not only a great list to think about ourselves, but would be a great topic for a small group discussion.

- Roy

## Who loves Bethany Hills?

Is anyone out there attached to Bethany Hills, either through your own experiences or those of your children? Bethany Hills, our Disciples of Christ campgrounds in Kingston Springs, has fallen into disrepair. If we are going to be able to save it we need to do some delayed maintenance and make some much needed improvements. If you would like to see this happen or be a part of a work team for the restoration please contact Ralph Parsons ([ralph.parsons@comcast.net](mailto:ralph.parsons@comcast.net)) or Susan Batson ([subatson@gmail.com](mailto:subatson@gmail.com)).

## MORGAN SCOTT MISSION TRIP APRIL 5-8

JOIN THE WOODMONT MISSION TEAM IN HELPING  
TENNESSEE'S MORGAN AND SCOTT COUNTIES

**GROUPS LEAVING THURSDAY, FRIDAY AFTER  
WORK AND FRIDAY MORNING!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
[JEREMIAH.WEEDENWRIGHT@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JEREMIAH.WEEDENWRIGHT@GMAIL.COM)

## Holy Week Calendar

### Palm Sunday, March 25

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
*Garner child dedication*  
9:45 a.m. *Disciples Class* with Justin Gung, Room 232  
9:45 a.m. Worship at The Bridge, Drowota Hall  
*Gossage child dedication*  
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
11:00 a.m. Bridge Brunch, Drowota Hall  
5:00 p.m. Jubilation Youth Choir, Youth Wing  
5:45 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Wing

### Monday, March 26

3:00 p.m. Geezers, Boardroom

### Tuesday, March 27

7:00 a.m. Exploring the Contemplative Path, Campbell West  
9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone  
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Room 200  
12:00 p.m. GEMS Luncheon, Room 105  
6:00 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

### Wednesday, March 28

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  
6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
6:30 p.m. *Holy Yoga* with Brooke Lovelace, Room 200  
6:30 p.m. *Waiting in Hope*, Campbell West

### Maundy Thursday, March 29

5:45 p.m. Maundy Thursday Dinner, Drowota Hall  
6:15 p.m. Maundy Thursday Reenactment, Drowota Hall

### Good Friday, March 30

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Come-and Go Intergenerational  
Good Friday Experience, Drowota Hall  
12:00 p.m. "The 7 Last Words of Christ" Good Friday  
Ecumenical Service, the Sanctuary  
Room In The Inn, South Hall

### Saturday, March 31

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt, East Lawn  
Room In The Inn, South Hall

# COURAGEOUS HUMILITY

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25  
Clay Stauffer • Zechariah 9:9-10 & Matthew 21:1-10

	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
FEBRUARY 25:	453	918	\$19,621
MARCH 4:	455	979	\$52,953
MARCH 11:	379	860	\$22,156
MARCH 18:	361	910	\$49,979

## WOODMONT'S 2018 HABITAT BUILD

March 11, 2018



## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### SYMPATHY TO:

Jack Derryberry, on the death of his cousin, Celeste Johnson, on Monday, March 19, 2018.

### NEW CONCERNS:

Lynne Thompson

### CONTINUING CONCERNS:

LuAnn Brent

Ben Cherry, at home (no visitors at this time)

Gayle Cherry

Jim Easter, hip replacement

Hale Hooper - Richland Place

JoAnn Patterson

Jim Phillips

Al Richardson, The Meadows

Wilbur Sensing

Isse Waddey

George Wiles, infant son of Brent and Ann Wiles

### FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

Martha Duff's sister, Barbara - cancer

Laura Crenshaw's friend, Paul Lawler's nephew, Paul Markos in Oxford MS.

Kimmy Bennett's friend, Angela Poston-Kornegay, in Tuscaloosa, AL

## PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

*This week, Woodmont's elders ask you to pray specifically for:*

All those who were killed or injured and affected by the snow and ice in the Northeast.

Prepare our hearts for the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

For the restoration of Bethany Hills.

Those traveling on Spring break.

## Remembering Nashville's Past: Life Around the Public Square, Then and Now

The March GEMS meeting will be presented by historian Debie Oeser Cox. Reservations required by noon on Friday, March 23. Lunch is \$10, event begins at noon on Tuesday, March 27, Room 105



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# The Spire

## Easter Sunday Parking

April 1, 2018



### Woodmont members

In order to accommodate the large number of guest we expect at our four Easter Sunday services, we will have extra volunteers on hand to operate an overflow parking lot at Campbell West. If you are able, please park in this lot to save space for others who won't be aware of it.

### The elderly

There will also be several reserved spaces located close to the front of the Sanctuary for members that are not able to walk farther distances. If you need one of these spaces, our Shepherds team will be on-site to assist you on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Thank you for your cooperation!