

**WALK THRU BETHLEHEM
THIS SUNDAY!**

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 5, 2017



JOIN US! CHRISTMAS EVE

10 AM
MORNING SERVICE

4 & 5 PM
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

7 & 11 PM
CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION

CHILD DEDICATIONS

December 3, 2017



**John "Silas" Quinn,
son of Stephen and Sara Anne**



**Olivia Grace Lackey,
daughter of Stuart and Jennifer**

**DISCIPLESHIP
CLASSES**

BEGIN WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10



Advent Begins!

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Photos by Steve Lowry



MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

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

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
Alexis Waggoner • Minister of Adult Education and Discipleship

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

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
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Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Why Walk Thru Bethlehem?

by Clay Stauffer

For 33 years, Woodmont has been putting on Walk Thru Bethlehem. What started as a live nativity scene at South Hall by our youth in the early 80's (honoring Anne Keith) has grown and grown into a major community event where thousands walk through the doors of our church to experience what it was like when Christ was born. I want thank Paul and Pam Hardin who have faithfully chaired this event for 11 years. I also want to thank everybody else who gives of their time to make this happen. It is no secret that it takes a LOT of work and MANY volunteers to pull this off. But the question I want to focus on is WHY, WHY DO WE DO THIS? Why do we work so hard to bring the Christmas story to life? Here are five thoughts:

1) Christmas is about the birth of Christ. In the midst of the secular culture, many will forget why we celebrate Christmas in the first place and this is a great reminder.

2) This is a major outreach of our church and a gift that we give to the Nashville community. Put simply, it is an act of love, generosity, and joy.

3) It brings our church community together. Our church has grown. We have three different worship services every Sunday, and we don't always get to see each other. WTB is a chance for us to come together, work together, and get to know each other better. It is a community wide event.

4) Our church has a reputation throughout Nashville for hosting this event. We should take great pride in this fact and work year after year to make it even better.

5) Every year, when it is over, we are always glad that we kept the tradition alive. The gratitude expressed by those who come reminds us that this event matters!

These are just a few of the many reasons that we continue Walk Thru Bethlehem. It is at the heart of our Advent tradition. If you haven't signed up to be a part this year, it's still not too late. **Go to the website to find open slots woodmontchristian.org/ministries/walk-thru-bethlehem.**

Years ago, Amy Grant wrote a beautiful Christmas song that we hear on the radio every December. It's called, "My Grown Up Christmas List." She sings:

*So here's my lifelong wish
My grown up Christmas list
Not for myself but for a world in need
No more lives torn apart
That wars would never start*

*And time would heal all hearts
And everyone would have a friend
And right would always win
And love would never end, no
This is my grown up Christmas list*

This is what Christmas is all about. This is why we put on Bethlehem year after year. This is why we celebrate Christmas. Jesus Christ can heal a broken world. He can heal our pain and our divisions. He can make us whole again.

Blessings,



Help tell the Christmas story! Volunteer for Walk Thru Bethlehem

You may volunteer and signup for a shift by visiting walk-thru-bethlehem.com/index.php/signups

Woodmont's 2018 Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for:

1 Chair Elect, 3 Board Members, 6 Elders, & 30 Deacons

Woodmont believes strongly in the ministry of lay people. Once a year, the congregation is asked to recommend fellow church members to serve in lay leadership positions, and that time of the year is now!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

We ask you to take time in prayer to thoughtfully consider fellow members of Woodmont who:

- 1) Live their lives guided by our mission "Growing disciples of Christ by seeking God, sharing love and serving others."
- 2) Suggest and lead opportunities for spiritual growth of the congregation.
- 3) Act as both leaders and servants in almost every area of church life.

The committee has a very challenging task ahead and we ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers. Nominations will be accepted between now and Jan. 31, 2018.

WOODMONT'S 2018 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Rich Sanderson

rjsanderson22@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Martha Galyon

mwgalyon@me.com

John Stauffer

john@qs-financial.com

Billy Crawford

tarheelbc@yahoo.com

John Steele

jsteele@equitableco.com

Emily Carpenter

eacarpenter1@gmail.com

Sandra Kyne

smkyne@icloud.com

Jeff Kinman

jnkinman1962@gmail.com



December 1-15th Birthdays:

George Farmer 12/11

Charlie Thomas 12/13

Fisher Bearden 12/15

Palmer Reynolds 12/15

Grace Rogers 12/15

Signup for Walk Thru Bethlehem!

Please take a moment to sign you and your family up for a shift for Walk Thru Bethlehem! This is our wonderful, moving gift to the city of Nashville and beyond to show and tell the real story of the reason we celebrate Christmas. This is also a wonderful way for you to help your children understand and learn more about the birth!

walk-thru-bethlehem.com/index.php/signups

Coptic Christian Ministry (CCM) forms at Woodmont



Members of Woodmont have formed a new organization to serve Nashville-area immigrants who have escaped from the Christian persecution in Egypt.

The organization is Coptic Christian Ministry and its mission is "Helping men, women, and children who are new immigrants, refugees, or asylum applicants from Egypt access services for survival and new life in the USA."

Coptic Christian Ministry is in need of these items:

Clothing:

All ages and sizes

Kitchen Needs:

Utensils, pots and pans, dishes, flatware

Baby Needs:

Baby beds, Strollers, Car seats

Miscellaneous:

TV, vacuums, fans, washing machines, clothes drying racks

CCM will pick up any new or gently used items to deliver to new immigrant families. To arrange a donation, including pickup and delivery, call Jade at 615-243-6178.

If you have jobs or services to assist the refugees, call Peter at 615-360-9500 or Joe at 615-946-5544.



A Letter to Thom

If you had the opportunity to come to the service on November 26th, you got a small snapshot of how much Thom Schuyler means to this church. It's really hard to imagine Woodmont without Thom because he has been such an incredible role model to so many people in this church and throughout the denomination through his service to Bethany Hills Camp. Thom knows how to bring out the best in others and make them feel welcome. As you heard in the service on November 26th, Thom has also brought his musical talent to the church. His songs have been sung in the sanctuary, the jubilation room, around the campfire at Bethany Hills, on mission trips, in classrooms, and countless other places.

Thank you Thom for always being there for us, writing us rec letters, making us smile, giving us a ride, making us laugh, helping us when we cry, taking us on mission trips, offering support, letting us skip the lesson and just talk, playing us a song, taking us to dinner, camping with us, supporting Bethany Hills, taking us rafting, singing to our students at school, and loving us. There are really no words to describe how thankful we are for everything you've done for us and this church. We love you so much and are so sad to see you go. We hope you enjoy retirement and living on Jekyll Island. Woodmont will certainly miss you and hope you'll visit often. We don't know what we'll do with all this love for you, so take a little with you when you go.

With all our love,
Grace Davis and Lucy Meadors

"Release Your Song: A Tribute to Thom Schuyler"

Sunday, November 26, 2017 - Photos by Jim Thomas & Steve Lowry





Light the Lamps

by Farrell Mason

Our Christmas tree is decorated. It was my seven-year old Rose's year to climb the ladder and place the gilt-winged angel on the top. Elise carefully unwrapped the santons I collected years ago in France and placed the nativity figures in the arch window. Charlie hung the six stockings and pulled out the Santa mugs for hot chocolate. Percy (4) and Finn (almost 2) have already managed to run out the batteries in the "Dancing Santa" (Thank the lord!). "Candycane," the Mason family elf-on-the-shelf, has made his first appearance perched on the sparkling Eiffel Tower at the front door. "Nutcracker" has been on repeat on the iPad and Belle has danced her Sugar fairy pirouettes across the kitchen non-stop. And we officially are on "Christmas Go" at amazon.com. It is electric joy at our house!

But somewhere amidst the wrapping paper, tinsel and ribbons, jingle bells and chocolate truffles, my soul and I imagine yours too, is longing to experience something more. It is an inner glow that I'm after.

One of my most vivid memories of Christmas as a child was our house at night. Not only was a twinkling tree in the front bay window but every window, door and arch was illuminated by a candle. The street might be pitch-black when I came home from a school pageant or holiday activity, but upon arriving at 383 Connecticut Avenue all was aglow. During Advent I or one of my sisters would be tapped to go through the house at dusk to "light the lamps" as my mom called it. I imagine many a spirit was lifted driving past our house during Christmas. But what I especially remember is how it felt to live in a house that glowed from the inside out. It didn't matter how dark it was outside or how scary the world could be because I was surrounded by candles of loving light on the inside. Maybe I could not have articulated my theology as a nine-year old in a flannel candy cane nightgown, but my soul knew a little of that peace beyond my understanding. Now all grown up, oh how my soul longs to live in a flesh and bone house filled with a sea of candles and for even a breath experience that child-like peace only God can give me.

This is what it's all about; why I am here and what God needs from me now. I am supposed to be the house at 383 Connecticut Avenue, candles in every window. Every day, God taps me to walk through every room of my inner being and "light the lamps." Some days will be harder than others: three funerals in a month, a friend recently diagnosed with cancer, the pressure, energy and devotion to be the mother my six children need and deserve, even a crazy dictator in S. Korea with a missile pointed at us. I know the absolute fragility, unpredictability and tenderness of this one precious life we are given. Whoever said that living in faith would be easy?

What I do know is that this Christmas I do not want to be the dark house on the street. I want to glow.

God needs me to glow.

This "house" that each of us is given, illuminates when we dare to trust God with our life, with all that we love, with our today and our tomorrows. We can ask God to light a candle inside, not for ourselves alone but also at the chance that someone might pass by our house this Christmas and find faith, hope and love again.

Want to feel something more this Christmas? Get busy lighting candles.

Live in Hope,

Farrell

Next Week's Calendar

Sunday, December 10

1 to 7 PM WALK THRU BETHLEHEM

9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School
11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School
3:00 p.m. Vesper Service in the Sanctuary
4:00 p.m. Vesper Service in the Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Vesper Service in the Sanctuary

Monday, December 11

WALK THRU BETHLEHEM TEARDOWN

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

Tuesday, December 12

WALK THRU BETHLEHEM TEARDOWN

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

Wednesday, December 13

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. Waiting in Hope Dinner, Campbell West

Thursday, December 14

6:00 p.m. Youth Girls Basketball Practice, D.H.

7:00 p.m. Youth Boys Basketball Practice, D.H.

Friday, December 15

Room In The Inn, South Hall

Saturday, December 16

8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

1:30 p.m. Jubilation Rehearsal

Room In The Inn, South Hall

Be an ANGEL

Heart for Africa

Beautiful, unique ornaments from Africa available in our bookstore

Woodmont's bookstore is continuing to sell Christmas ornaments to support the 172 children that live on Project Canaan. The proceeds from 26 ornaments provide care for an entire month for a child! Each ornament takes about four hours to make and sells for a donation to Heart for Africa of \$12.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

SYMPATHY TO:

Jill Fuller on the loss of her father, Pete Peters, early Tuesday morning. Visitation Saturday, Dec 2 10:00 am. Service at 11:00 am at St. Henry Catholic Church.

John Collins on the death of his brother, Steve, last week

Jessica Collins on the death of her mother, Debbie Grider, on November 16 in Gallatin.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Isse Waddey, Ben and Gayle Cherry

Mary Hofwolt

Nancy Hooper

Renee Lewis

JoAnn Patterson

Becky and Michael Miller's son, Michael, surgery on his hand Tuesday, Nov 21

Al Richardson, Belmont Village

Robbie Richardson, Woodcrest

Wilbur Sensing

FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

Jack Derryberry's cousin, Paul Leeper, surgery Nov 28 at Vanderbilt

Gary Jones, Pam Groom's father, at home

John DeVoe, Elisa Clark's father

Bill Daniel, Lisa Rollins' father in WI

Andra Moran's mother, Ruth Ann Moran, in California

WOODMONT'S ELDERS ASK YOU TO PRAY FOR:

Walk to Bethlehem.

Restoration of Bethany Hills.

Those who were killed and wounded in the bombing of the Egyptian Mosque.

Persons killed and wounded in the hospital bombing in Syria.

Racial harmony and justice for all.

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 3, 2017 - Photos by Patricia Taylor





WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Paid
Nashville, TN
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The Spire

