

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

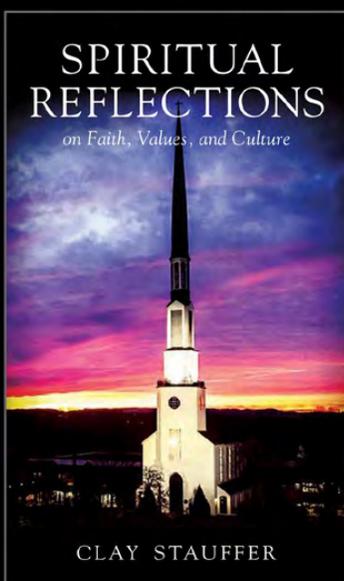
DECEMBER 4, 2018

JOIN US!
CHRISTMAS EVE

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES
SERVICES AT 4 & 5 PM**
The Napkin Nativity

**CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION
SERVICES AT 7 & 11 PM**
Lessons & Carols

New book release from Clay



Spiritual Reflections on Faith, Values, and Culture, a compilation of Tennessean articles and new material, will be available at Woodmont's bookstore this Sunday. The book covers wisdom, values, the Christian life, spirituality, and American culture. The release officially kicks off with a book signing in the Gathering Hall next Sunday, Dec. 16, at 10:35 AM.

Welcome our newest members!



The Bridge 9:45 a.m. Service, Dec. 2

Photography by Steve Lowry



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*

Dr. Ben Curtis • *Spiritual Director in Residence*

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.

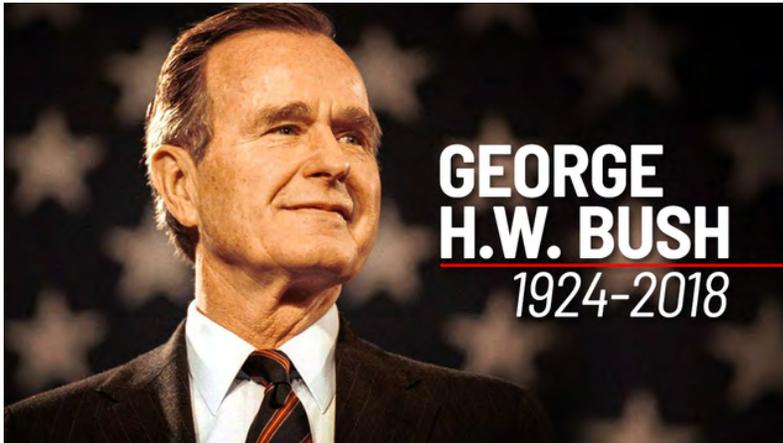
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Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Remembering President George H. W. Bush

by Clay Stauffer



This past weekend, President George H. W. Bush passed away at the age of 94. Bush was elected President of the United States when I was only eight years old. When I was in fourth grade at Presbyterian Day School in Memphis, I had the chance to go hear him speak live. It was an experience I will never forget. President Bush served our country well. Before being elected President, he was Vice President under Ronald Reagan, Director of the CIA under President Gerald Ford, Ambassador to the United Nations under President Nixon, and a Congressman from Texas from 1967-1971. He was a family man, a veteran, and once said

that the three most important roles he held were that of husband, father and grandfather.

In a *New York Times* article this past weekend, Nashvillian Jon Meacham, also the author of a great biography of Bush titled *Destiny and Power*, wrote this:

George Herbert Walker Bush, who died Friday night, at 94, was the last president of the Greatest Generation, a gentleman who came of age in an ever-uglier arena, the embodiment of a postwar era of consensus that, in our time, seems as remote as Agincourt. He deserves our praise, but he also repays closer historical consideration, for his life offers an object lesson in the best that politics, which is inherently imperfect, can be.

Praise from both Republicans and Democrats has been pouring in over the weekend. A service will be held on Wednesday morning at the National Cathedral and a family service on Thursday at St. Martin's Episcopal in Houston, Texas. This was a good man, a decent man, a moderate who was not afraid to compromise. He always wanted what was best for the country. He was humble and put others before himself. He loved his family and his friends, and he did not take his blessings for granted. He and his wife Barbara tragically lost a daughter, Robin, to leukemia in 1953, and they had to work through that pain together. One of his most difficult political defeats was his loss to Bill Clinton in 1992 when seeking a second term. It was very painful but Bush handled it with class. In a letter that he left on the Oval Office desk for the new President, he wrote the following:

Dear Bill,

When I walked into this office just now I felt the same sense of wonder and respect that I felt four years ago. I know you will feel that, too.

I wish you great happiness here. I never felt the loneliness some Presidents have described.

There will be very tough times, made even more difficult by criticism you may not think is fair. I'm not a very good one to give advice; but just don't let the critics discourage you or push you off course.

You will be our President when you read this note. I wish you well. I wish your family well.

Your success now is our country's success. I am rooting hard for you.

*Good luck,
- George*

Bush & Clinton would later become very close friends and collaborated on a number of humanitarian projects.

Clearly we are saying good bye to a man of class and dignity. As we prepare to light the candle for peace this week, let us remember that peace begins with kindness, civility, decency, and showing respect to others. Godspeed President Bush!



Fall-Hamilton Christmas Needs

Our adopted elementary school needs your help in three important ways!

1 Yard Sale donation drive

Our Metro Public School partner, Fall-Hamilton Elementary, is seeking donations of small used items for its annual "Yard Sale" on Dec. 20. Children work to earn tokens during the year for good behavior, which they can then spend at the sale. They often use the tokens to buy Christmas presents for their parents and other relatives, so adult items are welcome along with children's.

Items needed for yard sale:

(bring to Room 107 Dec. 10-17 or the gym on Dec. 16)

Small toys (baby through pre-teen, no toy weapons or action figures)

- Books
- Baseball caps
- Any Titans, Predators, Sounds stuff
- Sports equipment (balls, baseball gloves, etc.)
- Games (board, puzzles, complete card sets, etc.)
- Electronic/Video Games (rated E only)
 - Movies (G or PG only)
 - Perfume (even half bottles)
 - Stationery
 - Handbags/Purses
 - Backpacks
- Lotions, soaps, body spray, etc.
- NEW gloves, mittens, hats, socks, slippers, scarves
- Kid's Coats sizes 3T to Youth XXL 18 (please, no other clothing!)
- Wrapping paper, tissue paper and scotch tape, gift bags
- Used plastic grocery bags (for kids to use while shopping)

Volunteers are needed to help with setup, cleanup, and wrapping presents. To see dates and sign up, visit the volunteer page at signup.com/go/mMAZMpU

2 Large donations needed

- A queen mattress (new or used ok)
- A washing machine (new or used/functional)
- A real Christmas Miracle (see below)

Unfortunately, we've also learned that due to Metro's funding cuts, Fall-Hamilton will lose its "Enhanced Option" status and services beginning in Fall, 2019. This devastating turn of events will result in cutting the "extended day" program for children with working parents and a 9% pay cut for several of the school's teachers who will be working shorter hours as a result. The amount of money needed to keep this program going for 2019-2020 (and help teachers keep their current hours & pay) is around \$70,000. While the ideal solution would be funding from MNPS, a miracle gift in the form of corporate or private donations would at least keep the program going for one more year while longer term solutions can be sought. If you have questions or ideas, please contact steve@woodmontcc.org, sarah@caseantiques.com, or denisesesler@comcast.net.

If you can help with the mattress or washing machine, please contact Emily Chadwick at 615-291-6380.

3 Weekend food packs

Fall-Hamilton is also seeking food donations packaged in plastic grocery bags to be sent home over the Christmas break for students in families experiencing food insecurity who will not be able to get breakfast and lunch at school over the holidays. Items can be dropped off the same time/place as Holiday Yard Sale items. Each pack should contain 2 breakfast items like box cereal and Pop Tarts, 2 lunch items like Easy Mac and a can of soup with a pull tab, and 2 snack items like fruit cups and granola bars.

Advent candle lighters

First Sunday of Advent, Dec. 2



THE RYERSON FAMILY, 9:30 AM SERVICE



THE WILLIAMS FAMILY, 11:00 AM SERVICE

WOODMONT KIDS

November 16-30th Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Cristian Stephan 11/17 | Lucy Bea Presley 11/23 |
| Mae Mae Galyon 11/18 | Liza Hadley 11/23 |
| Mary Caroline Thompson 11/20 | Warner Leach 11/24 |
| James Johnson 11/20 | Camille Zade 11/25 |
| Bond Piercy 11/20 | Rose Mason 11/25 |
| Mimi Steele 11/21 | Annie Everett 11/27 |
| Cash Bugg 11/21 | Walt Moore 11/28 |
| Windsor Wood 11/22 | Will Rudolph 11/30 |

December 1-15th Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Liza Eller 12/4 | George Farmer 12/11 |
| Vivian Smith 12/5 | Charlie Thomas 12/13 |
| George Wiles 12/5 | Palmer Reynolds 12/15 |



Island of Misfit Toys

by Chris Cox

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is better than it has any right to be. The longest-running Christmas special in TV history is built off the barest of premises: a reindeer with a red nose gets mocked by fellow reindeer yet becomes a hero when called upon to guide Santa's sleigh one foggy Christmas Eve. That's it; they stretched that short song into a nearly hour-long story.

At its heart, *Rudolph* is a story about the value found in those believed to have none. Nowhere is that more clear than when the special visits the Island of Misfit Toys: a refuge where unwanted toys live out their days. All that the spotted elephant and ostrich-riding cowboy wanted was to be loved by a child, but they couldn't be. They were defective in one way or another.

Working with teenagers, I witness the feeling of being a misfit firsthand. You want to fit in yet you simultaneously want to feel like you are your own person. It is a difficult time to navigate. Even when one is told that they are awesome and loved, it's hard to shake the feeling that you don't quite fit in.

That feeling often morphs and then follows us into adulthood. We don't feel like we quite have it together. We don't have enough money or the career that we want. We don't fit the image of what a man or woman should look like according

to advertisements. Perhaps we feel out of place in our families or our communities. There are many ways in which one can feel like a misfit.

There is a song that closes out the book of Zephaniah which includes in verse 3:17 the line "[God] will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you in His love." It concludes with the prophet's people being brought home. Granted, this word was for the Zephaniah's exiled people rather than to encourage 21st century Christians. But I think we can still claim it because we repeatedly see throughout scripture how God loves and values us.

At Christmas, we celebrate God with us. Sure, this world can sometimes seem like a giant Island of Misfit Toys. Yet God loves us so much that Jesus came to live alongside us, to love us, and to show us what it means to be truly human. God not only loves us, but gives us a home and trusts us to carry on this message of love for this world.

At the end of *Rudolph*, Santa and his reindeer return to the Island of Misfit Toys and find homes for every last one of them. It turned out that the Misfit Toys were not as unwanted or defective as everyone had thought. They weren't misfits at all. They were valued and loved. Christ and Christmas remind us that the same is true of us as well.

2019 Nominating Committee announced

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! As we begin the nomination process, here are your 2019 Nominating Committee members:

Bryan Sargent (Chair)
bryansargent@aol.com

Emily Patten (Deacon)
emily.c.patten@gmail.com

Chad Greer
chadgreer1@gmail.com

Robin Heyne (Elder)
robinheyneinteriors@comcast.net

Rusty Lewis (Deacon)
russellwlewis@hotmail.com

In addition to recommending fellow church members, you may also nominate yourself for leadership positions.

Anne Mitchell (Elder)
da6223mitch@bellsouth.net

Denise Sesler (Deacon)
denisesesler@comcast.net

Nominations may be submitted at woodmontchristian.org/nominate now through January.

Alex Ryerson (Deacon)
aryerson1@gmail.com

Justin Leach
jleach@mckenzielaird.com



Grief Support Group by Anne Marie Farmer

Christmas and the holidays are magical, indeed. But this can also be a tender time of year for those of us who are dealing with grief and loss. If you find yourself among this group, please know that there is a warm and welcoming resource waiting for you at Woodmont. Hal and Faye Tevebaugh have opened their home for over three years for gatherings of those who are in various stages of grief. These church members have experienced loss, whether it be death of a loved one, end of a marriage or other relationship, loss of a job, loss of health, and the list goes on. Loss and grief come in many forms. For some, the loss is recent and fresh. For others, it occurred years ago but the grief lingers.

At grief group meetings, members share and offer support to each other, although there's no pressure to talk. Folks who have attended have found the deep friendship of others who understand what they are going through. While there are sometimes a few tears, the meetings are also joyful and filled with laughter. You are invited to come to every gathering, or stop in for just one if you'd like. Faye and Hal serve coffee, tea, sandwiches, and snacks in their lovely home, which offers a friendly and safe place to grieve. Meetings are every other Thursday at 3 pm. If Christmastime feels bittersweet this year, please know that you are not alone and you can find solace in your church family. To learn more, please email me at annemarie@woodmontcc.org or call Faye Tevebaugh at 615-300-5109.

Calendar

Sunday, December 9

Walk Thru Bethlehem 1 to 7 PM

9:30 a.m. Informal Worship, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. The Bridge Worship, Drowota Hall
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

Monday, December 10

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

Tuesday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone
9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study, Room 200
10:30 a.m. CWF Circle #2, Room 105
6:00 p.m. Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

Wednesday, December 12

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 Rehearsal, Kids Commons
6:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room

Thursday, December 13

6:00 p.m. Youth Parents' Night Out, Drowota Hall

Friday, December 14

Room In The Inn, South Hall

Book Club

Woodmont' Book Club will have it's annual SWEET AND SWAP on Tuesday, December 18th, at 10:30 a.m. in the Bay Room. Bring a plate of your favorite goodies and a wrapped book for playing Dirty Santa.

The Book Club's next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15th, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 107. Anita Demster will lead a discussion of Martha Hall Kelly's book, LILAC GIRLS.

January retreat to explore and set intentions for the new year

"And So, We Begin Again" Retreat

Friday, Jan. 11, 9 AM to 4 PM at Woodmont's Center for Healing & Spirituality

Cost is \$175/person and space is limited to 15. Email dane@soulprint.org to register.

As an antidote to new year's resolutions...step away for one day to explore what the threshold of the new year offers to your life and work; setting the intentions that will guide and nurture 2019.

This retreat will offer a reflective space in the context of a supportive community to engage questions of importance and deepen your understanding of the relationship between who you are and what you do. We will experience a shared exploration of the intersections between our inner passion, courage and sense of purpose that give meaning to our life and work in the world.



Prayers for our church family:

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Robyn and Adam Long on the birth of their daughter, Lyda Hazen on Nov. 5.

Kate and Josh Allen on the birth of their son, Jackson Todd Allen, on Nov. 27.

Ginger and Davis Bell on the birth of their daughter, Adeline Rose Bell, on Nov. 28.

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Isse Waddey - Vanderbilt
 Tom Hamner - NHC Place Cool Springs - Room 2102
 Charlotte Dukes, Janice Parker's granddaughter - at St. Jude

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Rita Baldwin
 Everett Davis - Richland Place - Room 226
 Bob Garrard -
 Jan Goans - Green Hills Rehab Room 235
 Malcolm Lewis
 Alberta Martin - NHC - Trace (Hwy 100) Rm 502
 Sheila Mathias
 JoAnn Patterson
 Maurice Pinson - at home
 Helen Schull - Surgery Wed. Dec 5 - St Thomas West

FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

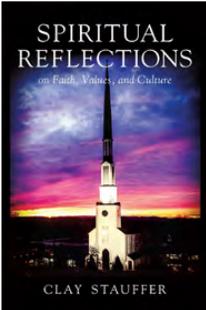
William Davis Galyon, nephew of Martha & L.A. - will have surgery Dec 3
 Andra Moran's father - in California
 Lauren Beurlein's mother, Debbie Lucas

	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
NOVEMBER 11:	367	798	\$28,385
NOVEMBER 18:	391	994	\$71,248
NOVEMBER 25:	338	817	\$19,420
DECEMBER 2:	420	1073	\$46,616

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Wednesday night classes return after Christmas break January 16 with Clay's 3-week Discipleship series

Taught by Clay Stauffer with special guests, our annual Discipleship Classes are designed for new members, anyone thinking about joining Woodmont, and current members and leaders who want a refresher. Each week's class is formed around the three parts of Woodmont's mission statement:



Jan. 16 - SEEKING:

Our core beliefs, what it means to be a Christian, how we understand God, and why the church matters.

Jan. 23 - SHARING:

Spiritual growth and formation and how we share love with others.

Jan. 30 - SERVING:

How we serve and give back to the community and the world.

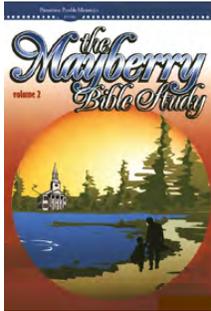
New in 2019! Our Discipleship classes will be based on content from Clay's upcoming book called *Spiritual Reflections on Faith, Values, & Culture*, which is scheduled for 2019 release with early copies available for Woodmont members in Dec. **Please RSVP to Amber Moss amber@woodmontcc.org**

The elders invite you to join them in prayer for hope, recognizing that:

- Christian hope conveys absolute certainty based on the promises of God.
- We experience hope for both the present and the future.
- Christian hope frees us from despair
- "The God of hope will fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him." (Rom. 15:13)

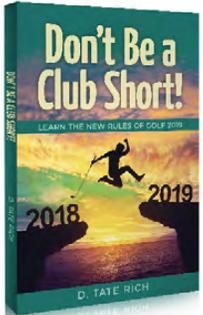
Mayberry Bible Study begins January 16

Featuring classic episodes from The Andy Griffith Show with relevant scripture, *The Mayberry Bible Study* uses them as modern parables on the teaching of Jesus. The series provides simple examples of ways Christians should live and teaches important lessons about service, peace, mercy and commitment. Led by Mike Shipp, the class will run four weeks Jan. 16, 23, & 30, and Feb. 6.



Woodmont member releases new book

Woodmont's Tate Rich has authored a new book called *Don't Be a Club Short*, which teaches the rules of golf for 2019.





WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

The Spire

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Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 9 • PEACE

WORSHIP AT 9:30 & 11:00 AM

“FINDING CHRISTMAS PEACE”

Isaiah 11:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12

“True Gifts of Christmas” series, Dr. Clay Stauffer preaching
Music by Rebecca Norris DiNapoli and Melinda Norris-Munro and their children

WALK THRU BETHLEHEM 1 PM TO 7 PM

Each year thousands of people come to visit Woodmont’s recreation of the village of Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth. Begun as a youth project in 1982, Walk Thru Bethlehem has evolved into a major ministry for our entire church and is loved by many. Those who join us for the 11:00 a.m. worship service are invited to visit Bethlehem before it opens to the public.

Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 16 • JOY

WORSHIP AT 9:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM

“FINDING CHRISTMAS PEACE”

Micah 4:1-4 & Luke 2:1-20

“True Gifts of Christmas” series, Dr. Clay Stauffer preaching
Music by Julie Mangus at the 9:30 AM service; Woodmont’s Chancel Choir presents the Christmas portion of Handel’s *Messiah* with orchestra at the 11:00 AM service.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 23 • LOVE

WORSHIP AT 9:30, 9:45, & 11:00 AM

“LEARNING TO LOVE AGAIN”

John 1:1-14 I John 4:7-12

“True Gifts of Christmas” series, Dr. Clay Stauffer preaching
Music by the Woodmont Consort