

**"BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS"**  
**IS AUGUST 20**

# The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 8, 2017



**SERVING OTHERS** - 18 members of Woodmont volunteered at Morgan-Scott July 27-30. *See page 2 for more*

A photograph of Dr. Clay Stauffer, an older man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a black clerical robe with a red stole. He is standing next to a young man with dark hair, also wearing a black clerical robe with a red stole. They are both looking down at something in the young man's hands.

## Celebrating 10 Years!

**Dr. Clay Stauffer**  
Senior Minister  
Woodmont Christian Church

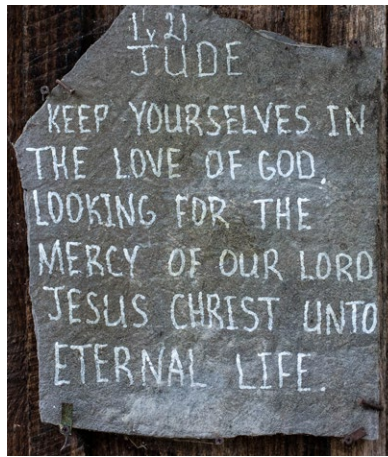
On Sunday, August 20, we will join together in the Gathering Hall for a reception in honor of Clay's 10-year anniversary at 10:30 AM.

DR. DONOVAN MCABEE RETURNS  
TO WOODMONT STAFF PART-TIME AS  
MINISTER OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION



We are glad to welcome Donovan back to the Woodmont staff! Donovan served as Woodmont's Young Adult Minister from 2009-2011. He graduated from Baylor University, Princeton Seminary (M.Div.), and the University of St. Andrews (Ph.D.). He will be helping lead worship, teach, and even preach from time to time.





## Morgan-Scott July 2017 Trip

by Judy Davis

Eighteen members of Woodmont's Mission Team drove to Morgan Scott to help improve Mrs. Lavada's home. She is 82 years old and has never had hot water in her home. The electric service was outdated and still had fuses. Before we could do any work, an electrician had to replace the electric meter and install a plug for our people to use power tools. Last week, the house was inspected and it has to be completely rewired in 45 days.

The kitchen was completely updated with a new ceiling, new flooring, & new cabinets. The walls were painted and her table and chairs were painted and upholstered. New walls, flooring, and ceiling were added in the bathroom. A new water heater and commode were installed. A walk-in shower will be installed this week.

Those attending were Ray Bruce, Keith Walker, Steve Wilson, Richard Anderson, Judy Davis, Adam England, Tom Bond, Ralph Parsons, Jack Derryberry, Susan Batson, Steve LaForge, Deb LaForge, Lynn McDonald, Jeremiah Weeden-Wright, Stephanie Weeden-Wright, Kristen Newman, Catie Pratt, Jeremy Pratt, Corrine H. Mattern, & Kevin Mattern.

Five members of the team went to the Scott County Homeless Shelter to hang drywall, apply seam filler and sand drywall, and, install electrical outlets. Two of the residents staying there were a 15 year old girl and a 17 year old boy. So sad!

A big thank you to those Woodmont members who provided food for our journey.

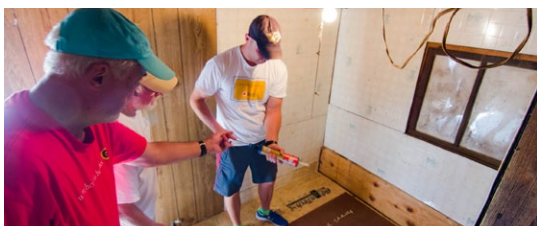


**BEFORE: Lavada's kitchen**



**AFTER: Lavada's kitchen**

*Pictured: Ella Smith, Director of the Morgan-Scott Project*



**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

Donovan McAbee • Minister of Spiritual Formation

### 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](mailto:info@woodmontcc.org)

Get the most up-to-date information at  
[www.woodmontchristian.org](http://www.woodmontchristian.org)

Woodmont Christian Church  
3601 Hillsboro Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
615.297.8563

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



# Elitism, Politics, and Middle America

by Clay Stauffer

I want to briefly reflect upon the current political climate which, regardless of your party loyalty, is certainly unlike any we have ever seen.

We are living in a time of major polarization, incivility, and many would argue dysfunction on multiple levels. But to really understand our current situation, I think it's important to ask this question: how many people have actually taken the time to seriously and objectively reflect upon what happened in this country in 2016? How did a billionaire businessman manage to become the spokesperson for the rust belt and blue collar Americans? How did he manage to dominate the Republican primaries and then take on and defeat the all-powerful Clinton machine?

One word comes to mind: people were fed up with "elitism." Elitism is not being rich. Elitism is not going to Ivy League Schools. Elitism is not living in a particular neighborhood. Elitism actually happens on many socioeconomic levels and is prevalent within many university settings. It is the mindset that you are superior to, smarter than, and more sophisticated than other people, especially common people. Its only antidote is humility and perhaps, lost elections.

Political elitism among both Democrats and Republicans opened the door for Donald Trump, a populist outsider who had never held elected office before, to become the 45th President. Sure, there were other factors at play but this is what so many people seem to be missing and conveniently forgetting. JD Vance captures the sentiment well in his memoir Hillbilly Elegy.

In a May article for the New Republic, Michael Tomasky describes elitism as liberalism's biggest problem. There are clearly things that elitists simply don't get about those living in middle America. First, they go to church. God and Jesus play an important role in their lives and they don't feel a need to apologize for their religion. Second, politics does not consume their lives. They don't sit around watching cable news every night and obsessing about the most recent conspiracy theory. They are working hard raising children, tending to their marriage, paying bills, and working to build the American Dream. Third, the lives of middle Americans are very different from the lives of elites. Many of them own guns to protect their families and believe strongly in the second Amendment. Fourth, middle Americans are deeply patriotic and they don't badmouth the country in which they live. They are thankful for the chance to be here and enjoy tremendous freedom and opportunity of this nation.

Tomasky, who admits that he himself is a liberal elite, goes on to say that "this chasm between elite liberals and middle Americans is liberalism's biggest problem." Given the way things unfolded in 2016, I'd say he is right, but again, elitism is not limited to just one political party. Citizens can sense when a system is broken. People don't like to be talked down to and told how to think. People despise condescension and arrogance. Everybody gets a vote. So then you might ask, how could middle Americans choose Donald Trump as their guy? Isn't he an elite? Why did they come out in droves to support him? Were they just tired of business as usual? Yes. He rode the wave of Middle America's deep sense of frustration. But more importantly, they had absolutely had it with the elitism and false promises of both political parties and wanted to send a disrupter to Washington. Now, we are watching to see how it unfolds.





# The Chorus of Compassion

by Andra Moran



When I was growing up, my father shared the morning ritual of one of his professors at Princeton in the form of a post it note. Just above his razor and toothbrush, he hung a bright yellow square on the bathroom mirror so he could read this message each morning: "Remember, Geoff Moran, half the people you meet today are going through their own private hell, and the rest have been through it and are thankful for small favors."

Compassion was a major value for our little family and is something we're working hard to instill in our one year old daughter now. Compassion, Erin Wathen writes, is "love with skin on it." The impetus for compassion must be nurtured in all of us daily, for compassion requires active practice. Wathen continues, "Perhaps the best way to nurture the value of compassion is to encourage our children in that which they already love." We can do this with all people in our community, little ones and grown up ones alike, by actively choosing compassion as the way we live and move in the world.

My dad's post it note was his daily reminder to push past his own impatience and ego, and to let God move him to be Love in Action. When we see each others' pain and respond in love, we are following Christ more nearly, and we grow. As I think about the people in my own community, the words from that post it note ring so true. Half the people I know are indeed struggling mightily. Someone dear to me is unexpectedly pregnant, while another beloved friend battles infertility. A colleague from the first church I served was just diagnosed with a brain tumor. A neighbor's child is autistic and wrestles with how to live in our noisy world. Another neighbor, an elderly shut in, remains haunted by the suicide of her son many years before. Those of us who have weathered life's storms, are regrouping and rebuilding, grateful to have survived, and taking stock of who we are as survivors. Financial pressure, addiction, depression, family, marital or relationship tension, job stress (or lack-of-job stress) are common refrains in our culture today, and yet, if we listen, we hear God's chorus of compassion, hope and promise ringing out, quietly persisting, steadfastly resisting heartbreak and despair. I believe it is our call as Christians to catch hold of God's song in the wind, and to sing it bravely to one another, as if our lives depended on it, because, in fact, they do.

## Homecoming Sunday Blessing of the Backpacks

Kids, bring school supplies  
to donate to Caldwell  
Elementary and receive a  
blessing for the new year!



# 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?*



## ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, ALL CHILDREN WILL BE PROMOTED TO THEIR NEXT GRADE IN THE CHURCH'S SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Important: Please help us to start the year on the right foot by completing our brief online form for each of your children. Doing so will help us to place each child in the correct Sunday School class and watch over his or her health and safety. Thank you!

**REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN AT** [woodmontchristian.org/register](http://woodmontchristian.org/register)



## PROMOTION SUNDAY IS TWO SUNDAYS AWAY



## MYSTERY GUEST ON AUGUST 27! Who am I?

# WOODMONT **KIDS**

## "BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS" AUGUST 20

### August Birthdays:

Sam Simmons 8/21  
Corinne Smith 8/23  
Thomas Woodard 8/29  
Wils Jackson 8/24  
Webb Joyner 8/1  
Frederic Burks 8/4

Katherine Lewis 8/20  
Dorothy Lewis 8/16  
Luke Johnson 8/28  
Evelyn Dieckhaus 8/2  
Gus Wood 8/10

1. You pay attention to her when you decide what to wear to school.
2. The identity of our guest is a mystery, of course. But someone with our guest's first name rides in the Mystery Machine.
3. She has a husband named Josh, a dog named Nash, and a Savior named Jesus. Though she often talks about sunshine, she actually prefers to talk about Son-shine!





## Oh Little Town of Bethlehem (A Respectful Parody)

by Thom Schuyler

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem  
We build you again each year  
We recreate and celebrate  
A moment we hold so dear  
    With shepherds, songs and soldiers -  
    With carpenters and doves  
We turn our space into a place  
Our city truly loves

It started many years ago -  
The dream of a tender heart  
As I recall - a sweet and small  
Tableau on the South Hall yard  
    A makeshift little manger  
    Of two-by-fours and hay  
    A single sheep, a Babe asleep  
    One angel on display

That humble Walk Thru Bethlehem  
Has grown into something grand  
So here's a plea, a kind decree:  
We'd like you to lend a hand  
    It takes a huge commitment  
    To see our Church transformed  
    Into the town of great renown  
    Where Jesus Christ was born

There's lots of parts for you to play:  
A shepherd, a Rabbi and...  
A scribe, a priest - or from the East  
A king from a foreign land  
    So sit down with your family  
    And please encourage them  
    To join us then and be there when  
    We Walk Thru Bethlehem

**Walk Thru Bethlehem 2017**  
**Sunday, December 10**

**Build begins Monday, December 4**



# HOLY YOGA

WEDNESDAYS 5:30 PM IN ROOM 105

**Sunday, August 13**  
 8:15 a.m. "Seekers" Bible Study, Room 105  
 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School  
 9:45 a.m. Worship at The Bridge, Drowota Hall  
 11:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, Sun. School

**Monday, August 14**  
 3:30 p.m. "Geezers" Men's Bible Study, Boardroom

**Tuesday, August 15**  
 9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell-Stone

**Wednesday, August 16**  
 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. Holy Yoga with Brooke Lovelace, 105



**DIVORCE Care®**  
Begins September 6



**LIFE IN THE BALANCE**  
A NEW SMALL GROUP FOR COUPLES & PARENTS  
BEGINS SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 10:45 A.M.



**Wednesday 6:00 AM Men's Group – What's this all about?**

# TEN LESSONS IN TEN YEARS

Clay Stauffer • Sunday, August 13  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & Matthew 22:34-40

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 • ELDERS & DEACONS SERVING**

**9:30 AM - Informal Sanctuary Worship**  
 Service Coordinator - Stephanie Bowman  
 Video Camera - Benson Hadley  
 So. Entrance Greeter/Offering - Marcie Anderson  
 Greeter/Offering - Jennifer Drinnon  
 Greeter/Offering - Mike Jobe  
 Greeter/Offering - Jim Batson  
 Usher/Cleanup - Billy Crawford  
 Usher/Cleanup - Heather Douglas  
 Usher/Cleanup - Lindi Jobe  
 Usher/Cleanup - Gavin Duke  
 Bread - David Reynolds  
 Cup - Mark Christofersen

**9:45 AM - The Bridge Worship**  
 Service Coordinator - Kristen Newman  
 Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Chip Hooper  
 Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Sara Kate Hooper  
 Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Anne Arney  
 Usher/Offering/ Cleanup - Jeff Kinman  
 Bread/Cup: Mary Welsh Owen

**11 AM - Traditional Sanctuary Worship**  
 Service Coordinator - Becca Robinson  
 Video Camera - Rusty Lewis  
 So. Entrance Usher/Offering - Phil Schmutz  
 Greeter/Offering - Jill Fuller  
 Greeter/Offering - Mike Robinson  
 Greeter/Offering - Emilie Stauffer  
 Usher/Cleanup - Sandy Dickerson  
 Usher/Cleanup - Clark Rollins  
 Usher/Cleanup - Bob Faricy  
 Cleanup/Flowers - Bette Christofersen  
 Bread - John Stauffer  
 Cup - Faye Tevebaugh

**Hospital:** Fran Stewart

**Communion Prep:** Margaret Organ

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

### NEW CONCERNS:

Beverly Small

Mal Baird

### CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Willie Bandy, Woodcrest

LuAnn Brent

Ben and Gayle Cherry

Robbie Graham, nephew of Michael Graham

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 who suffer from addictions and mental health problems.

Our young people who have so many life changing decisions to make.

The Coptic Christians.

Those who have been harmed by fires, floods and tornadoes

## BY YOUR PRESENCE AND YOUR GIFTS:

DATE:	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
JULY 16	312	778	\$50,108
JULY 23	286	681	\$42,601
JULY 30	257	707	\$39,990
AUGUST 6	258	625	\$44,015

## UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF SPECIAL LEADERSHIP SERIES

*An Introduction to the Enneagram*

Wednesday nights. Aug. 30 & Sep. 6 at 6 PM

Catered Edley's BBQ dinner at 5:30 - \$10

PRESENTED BY IAN CRON,  
AUTHOR OF *THE ROAD BACK TO YOU*

Drowota Hall, child care provided, open to everyone.  
Elders, Deacons, & Board encouraged to attend



**SIGN UP AT [WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG](http://WOODMONTCHRISTIAN.ORG)**





Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
Nashville, TN  
Permit No.1204

# The Spire



**ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 10:30 AM, WE WILL JOIN TOGETHER IN THE GATHERING HALL FOR A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF CLAY'S 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AS WOODMONT'S SENIOR MINISTER**

*Photos from Clay Stauffer's installation service as Woodmont's sixth Senior Minister on Sunday, October 21, 2007*