

# The Spire

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WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 3, 2019





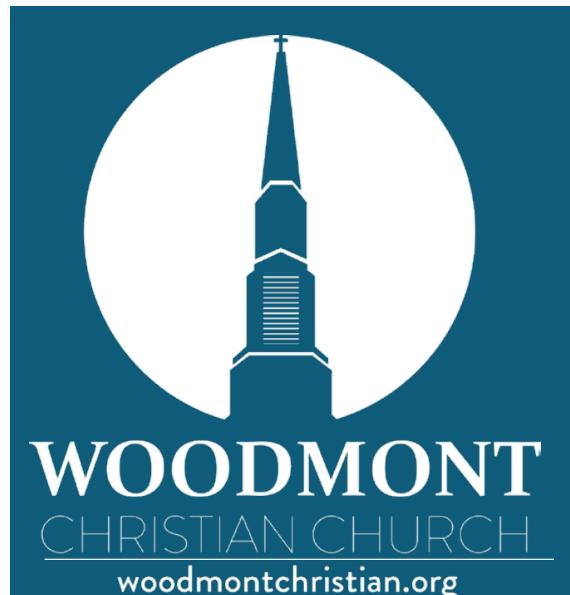
## 2020 Spiritual Formation Class with Clay Stauffer begins Wednesday, Jan. 8

Beginning on Jan. 8, Clay Stauffer will lead a four-week Spiritual Formation class focused our mission as a church, what it means to grow spiritually, and how we can serve the world.

The foundational text for this class is the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7. Newer members are especially encouraged to attend. This class provides a great opportunity to reflect on your own spiritual growth and goals for a new year.

1. Jan. 8: SEEKING CLASS – Overview of core beliefs, key scriptures, and what it means to be a Christian.
2. Jan. 15: SHARING CLASS – The Enneagram and spiritual formation
3. Jan. 22: SHARING CLASS – Overview of the Bible
4. Jan. 29: SERVING CLASS – How we use our gifts for ministry

RSVP at [woodmontchristian.org/formation](http://woodmontchristian.org/formation) or [amber@woodmontcc.org](mailto:amber@woodmontcc.org)



### 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  
Andra Moran • Creative Director, *The Bridge*  
Martha Duff • Preschool Director  
Anne-Marie Farmer • Small Groups & Connections Director  
Lauren Lucas Beuerlein • Young Professionals & Couples Director  
Steve LaForge • Missions Field Coordinator  
Dr. Ben Curtis • Spiritual Director In Residence  
Anne Mitchell • Parish Visitor

### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator  
Amber Moss • Executive Assistant  
Matt Diffenderfer • Communications Director  
Jan Anderson • Administrative Assistant  
Dr. Tom Gormley • Capital Project Representative  
Sam Marsh • Property & Facilities Manager  
Cliff Browning • Facility & Property Maintenance  
Steven Austin • Facility & Property Maintenance  
Courtney Akridge • Facility & Property Maintenance



For the most up-to-date information, download  
Woodmont's Realm church directory app.  
Search for "Realm Connect" in iTunes & Google Play.

3601 Hillsboro Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37215  
615.297.8563

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



# Bethlehem: A Great Woodmont Tradition!

BY CLAY STAUFFER

Advent is now in full swing. Woodmont is vibrant and active all year but especially during the Christmas season. For 36 years now, Woodmont has been putting on Walk Thru Bethlehem. What first started as a live nativity scene up at South Hall in 1983 put on by our youth (to honor Anne Keith) has grown and evolved 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 to thank the WTB planning Committee and the many members who are working hard this week to build the village. It is no secret that it takes a LOT of work and hundreds of volunteers to pull this off. Every year, it is a labor of love and an outreach to our community. But the question I always want to lift up is "Why?" Why do we do this? Why do we work so hard to bring the Christmas story to life? Here are a few thoughts:

- Christmas is all about the birth of Christ, the light shining in the darkness and the darkness not overcoming it. In the midst of the secular culture, many will forget why we celebrate Christmas in the first place, and this is a great reminder.
- WTB 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 that impacts thousands of people.

- WTB 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 community-wide event where we can come together, work together, and get to know each other better. This strengthens our faith community.

- Woodmont has a reputation throughout Nashville for hosting this event. We should take great pride in this fact and keep working year after year to make it even better.

- When it's over, we are always glad that we kept the tradition alive. The gratitude expressed by those who come reminds us that this event is a significant part of their Christmas tradition!



These are just a few of the many reasons that we continue Walk Thru Bethlehem. If you haven't signed up to be a part this year, it's still not too late. There are costumed roles and non costumed roles. Go to the website to find open slots [woodmontchristian.org/signup](http://woodmontchristian.org/signup).

Years ago, Phillip Brooks had a powerful experience in the Holy Land on Christmas Eve and wrote these words that would become the famous lyrics to one of our favorite Christmas hymns:

*O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in the dark street shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And fathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth  
And praises sing to God, the King,  
And peace to all on earth.*

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 bring us the peace that passes understanding. He can make us whole again.

Blessings,





# WOODMONT KIDS

## December birthdays:

Vivien Smith 12/5	Neilly Thompson 12/22
George Wiles 12/5	William Holmstrom
Aiden Moore 12/6	12/23
Cole Wright 12/10	Banks Svec 12/23
George Farmer 12/11	Harris Clymer 12/23
Charlie Thomas 12/13	Drew Welker 12/25
Grace Rogers 12/15	Charlotte Piedmonte
Fisher Bearden 12/15	12/27
Audrey Talbert 12/16	Harper Hand 12/28
Bentz Rich 12/17	Carter Patten 12/28
Silas Quinn 12/19	Monroe Dent 12/28
Eve Carr 12/21	Barrett Davis 12/29
Jack Thompson 12/22	Tate Maggart 12/30

## First Sunday of Advent

*Sunday, Dec. 1*



## Hope Made Me Do It

BY FARRELL MASON

I dreamed I was Katie Couric and scored the interview of all interviews with Mary following her momentous encounter with the Angel Gabriel. After an exchange of pleasantries, I got right down to it: "Mary, what were you thinking? Did you have any idea what you were signing up for? Why in the world did you say Yes?" Poised and peaceful, Mary's reply: "Hope made me do it."

Deep within us all, under the many layers of our humanity, there is a flicker of hope. Think of it in terms of your own interior pilot light divinely engineered to never go out. God installed the safety valve so that no matter life's circumstances there would always be a part of you that would never give up on love, healing, miracles, heaven, and especially God. It is the eternal blue flame within that gives you the courage to do really brave and benevolent things in this world.

God will never bully us to do something worthy and beautiful with our lives. The choice is always ours. But God will also never stop giving us opportunities to say, "Yes." Christmas happened and continues to happen when we agree to birth any amount of goodness into this world. Mary could have said no. Joseph could have said no. John the Baptist could have said no. The innkeeper could have said no. The Magi could have said no. You can say no but expect to live a life much smaller, dimmer and less memorable than the one God is offering you. The reality is we say no to God much more than we say yes. Selfishness, cowardice and fear of the unknown shut us down. But when we do have the courage to act from the "pilot light of hope" within us, and repeat the words of Mary, "Here I am God; let it be with me according to Your plan," we might actually change a life, a story--the course of history.

The hope is in you and me. We were made to say "Yes." This Christmas when the Angel Gabriel forces his wing through your door, and you feel the pilot light of hope click on, say "Yes!" Make a move for love. Call the friend whose struggling and give her a nudge of hope, make a love drop of soup to someone facing loss, extend a word of encouragement to the stranger crossing your path with his or her head bowed low, buy the coat and the meal for the homeless man, woman or child, show some mercy to a difficult family member, include, love better, harder and more often. And if anyone comes knocking on your door and asks you "Why?" Just say, "Hope made me do it."



## Why Stewardship?

BY BILL MEADOR  
WOODMONT ELDER

Walking the last set of steps to the costume room, I remembered the number of roles I have assumed at Walk Thru Bethlehem. The anticipation and joy has never diminished as I watch the town of Bethlehem come to life and see the look of delight and wonder on the faces of the children as they walk from shop to shop.

After being married at Woodmont over thirty years ago and participating in many varied opportunities in the church, my love for my Woodmont family has only continued to grow.

Where we are more engaged in church activities, then we can interact and connect with other members more meaningfully. In so doing, we can become more invested in church life and feel called to help Woodmont grow and thrive.

Our church is now experiencing remarkable growth and while our commitments to *Building Our Future* were needed and certainly appreciated, we cannot forget that our yearly pledges are essential for the ongoing financial responsibilities of the church. Although we are asked "Why give to Woodmont?", with all that our church offers and provides, my question is "How could I not give to Woodmont?".

## THIS WEEK

### SUNDAY, DEC. 8

#### WALK THRU BETHLEHEM 1-7 PM

9:30 AM Informal Worship, Sanctuary  
9:45 AM The Bridge Worship, Drowota Hall  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

### MONDAY, DEC. 9

3:00 PM "Geezers," Boardroom

### TUESDAY, DEC. 10

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group, C.S.  
10:30 AM CWF Circle # 2, Room 105  
10:30 AM CWF Circle #6, Campbell West  
6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

6:15 AM Men's Small Group, Room 100  
7:00 AM "Original" Men's Bible Study, 105  
7:00 AM Younger Men's Bible Study, Board Rm.  
5:30 PM Grace Notes, Kids Commons  
6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room  
6:15 PM Holy Yoga, Room 200

### THURSDAY, DEC. 12

6:30 PM Spiritual Journeys for Moms, Bay

### FRIDAY, DEC. 13

ROOM IN THE INN  
SOUTH HALL

## 2020 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 2020 Nominating Committee members:

L.A. Galyon  
Committee Chair  
lagalyon@brentwoodcapital.com

John Stauffer (Elder)  
john@qs-financial.com

Karen Conrad (Elder)  
karenconrad@comcast.net

Polly Keith (Elder)  
pollyymk@aol.com

John Steele (Deacon)  
johncartersteele79@gmail.com

Patty Bae Presley (Deacon)  
pattybeapresley@gmail.com

Stephanie Bowman (Deacon)  
mizzbowman@yahoo.com

William Lyles (Deacon)  
wliles@rwbaird.com

Jonathan Farmer  
jfarmer@fpwlegal.com

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

Nominations may be submitted at [woodmontchristian.org/nominate](http://woodmontchristian.org/nominate) now through January.



# Peace at Christmas

Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 8

Clay Stauffer • Isaiah 11:1-6 Matthew 2:1-12

	SUNDAY	TOTAL	
SCHOOL:	ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:	
NOV. 3:	415	958	\$102,808
NOV. 10:	410	899	\$94,464
NOV. 17:	468	1016	\$44,643
NOV. 24:	389	1071	\$98,814

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

### Dec. 5: Help Needed Loading & Delivering Angel Tree Gifts

On Thursday, December 5 at 10 AM, we could use some extra hands to help load Angel Tree bags and bikes onto Steve LaForge's trailer. Please meet in the Gathering Hall at 10 AM. After loading, we will deliver the bags to the Fannie Battle gym and could use help there unloading. Questions? Contact Tracy Crawford [crawfordbt@icloud.com](mailto:crawfordbt@icloud.com) / 615 294-4157 or Ann Wiles [annwiles@gmail.com](mailto:annwiles@gmail.com) / (202) 607-4159. Thank you, Woodmont!

### Dec. 15: Music City Bronze Handbell Concert

On Sunday, Dec. 15, at 4 PM, Nashville's professional handbell choir, Music City Bronze, will perform a free Christmas concert in our church sanctuary. It promises to be a festive and stunning performance. Music City Bronze performs many concerts every year, and this is the first time Woodmont Christian Church is honored to be hosting them. You won't want to miss this spectacular event filled with holiday favorites! All are invited to this free event, so bring your friends and families!

### Dec. 17: Book Club's "Sweet & Swap"

The next meeting of the Woodmont Book Club is Dec. 17 at 10:30 AM in Room 107. This is the club's annual "Sweet and Swap;" bring a plate of your favorite goody and a wrapped book to play Dirty Santa. The book club's next read will be *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover, which will be discussed on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 10:30 AM in Room 107 with Doris Dark as the leader.

### Dec. 18: Volunteers needed for Fall-Hamilton

Be a Santa Helper at Fall Hamilton! Donations and Volunteers are needed for Fall Hamilton's Holiday "Yard Sale" on Dec. 18. Students will use leadership tickets they have been earning all semester to "purchase" Holiday gift items for themselves or family members. Volunteers are needed to help kids shop and wrap gifts, as well as help setting up in the days leading up to it. We also need lots of items for the sale! Donations should be taken directly to the school between now and Dec. 15. Address is 510 Wedgewood Ave, Nashville, TN 37203. Questions? Contact Sarah Drury [sarah@caseantiques.com](mailto:sarah@caseantiques.com) or Denise Sesler [denisesesler@comcast.net](mailto:denisesesler@comcast.net).

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Emilie & John Stauffer, on the birth of their daughter, Meredith Bryson Stauffer, on Dec. 1.

### IN THE HOSPITAL:

Julie Howell - St Thomas West

### NEW CONCERNS:

Sarah Peay

### CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Rita Baldwin

Hale Hooper

Julia Shipp

Gary Thompson

Isse Waddey

Betty White

### FAMILY/FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

- Norma Bowman, Sheila Mathias' mother
- Will David Coleman's father, Ronnie Coleman - Vanderbilt CCU
- Glenn Hammonds, brother of Susan Hammonds-White, in Berkeley, CA
- Gary Jones, Pam Groom's father - hospital in Louisville, KY - Heart failure
- Jeff Kinman's father, Kirby Kinman, in Mobile, AL

## OUR ELDERS INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM IN PRAYER FOR:

### WALK THRU BETHLEHEM

1. We pray for all participants as the village of Bethlehem is recreated.

2. We pray that the villagers and the visitors alike will receive the blessing of experiencing the atmosphere surrounding the birth of Jesus.

3. From the chorus of the great hymn, *Go Tell It On The Mountain*:

"Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hill and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born."



**WOODMONT**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

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# The **Spire**



**JOIN US!**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**

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



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