

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 22, 2020

Welcome new members!



HIRAM & LYNDIA COX



SUSAN HARTMAN & LARS KALLAS



ERIC & RAGAN GRAVES



JOIN US FOR THE 5th ANNUAL
*Father Daughter
Dance*

We invite any Father, Grandfather, Uncle or Special Friend
to join us for this occasion.

*Sunday, February 9th, 2020
4-6pm*



PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 5th
woodmontchristian.org/dance



Sign up for our 2020 Habitat build
woodmontchristian.org/habitat



Deadline to submit leadership
 nominations is this Friday, Jan. 31
woodmontchristian.org/nominate



Sunday morning parking reminder

Due to the large number of parking spaces we have lost to the construction area, our parking lot fills up by 9:25 AM most Sunday mornings. In order to make room for first-time guests, visitors, and those who need to park close to the building, we ask those that are able to consider parking at the Boy Scout Lot, which is diagonally ("kitty-corner") across from us on Hillsboro Pike and Woodmont Blvd. We have shuttles running continuously from the Boy Scout Lot to the front of our Sanctuary from 8:45 AM to 12:30 PM on Sunday mornings.

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THE SPIRE



WOODMONT
 CHRISTIAN CHURCH
woodmontchristian.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
 Cortney 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



Will Christianity Remain Relevant?

BY CLAY STAUFFER

American scholar Sam Pascoe once said that, “Christianity was born in Israel, only to be taken to Greece and morphed into a philosophy. From there it was taken to Rome and made into an institution of civil power. Eventually it migrated into Europe where it was developed into a culture. And later, it was brought to America and made into an entrepreneurial business enterprise.”

One of the questions many ask as we begin a new decade is whether or not Christianity will remain relevant and vibrant in the future. Research continues to show that many young people consider themselves “spiritual” but not religious. When you take the time to ask them why, here’s what you hear: Christianity is hypocritical, judgmental, overly political, homophobic, and boring.

For those of us who lead churches, preach on Sundays, and pour our heart and soul into the faith, this is difficult to hear. *Christianity Today* made a big splash before Christmas in publishing an article saying that President Trump needed to be removed from office. Mark Galli wrote, “Unfortunately, the words we applied to Mr. Clinton 20 years ago apply almost perfectly to our current president. Whether Mr. Trump should be removed from office by the Senate or by popular vote next election – that is a matter of prudential judgment. That he should be removed, we believe, is not a matter of partisan loyalties but loyalty to the Creator of the Ten Commandments.”

As you can imagine, this article was divisive. Some dismissed it and

got angry. Some celebrated it and subscribed to the magazine.

It is interesting to note that many who defend President Trump do not do so on the basis of his character or temperament but on his policies. Many celebrate the thriving economy, surging stock market, record low unemployment, border security, and have a dire fear of our country moving in the direction of socialism. It is no secret that there are serious ideological and policy differences between the two parties that only seem to be growing. Democracy has never been dull.

I continue to argue that Christianity must remain relevant in the future because our world is fractured and broken, and because faith has the unique ability to address three great challenges that our culture now faces: loneliness, extreme polarization, and fear.

Arthur Brooks recently published an article in *The Washington Post* showing how loneliness and polarization fuel each other. He states, “A reason for the uptick in social isolation is political polarization. When we politically curate our networks and friendships,

most of us have fewer opportunities for new social interactions. If I am unwilling to interact with people who hold - or might hold - the opposing viewpoint from mine, I have cut way back on the number of people with whom I might make a meaningful human connection.”

Brooks is right. We are letting political differences dictate who we choose as friends. It’s also dividing families. At the core of all of this is intense fear. Fear of the future. Fear of being wrong. Fear of not towing the party line. Fear of accepting differences. As far as I can see, the only remedy to intense fear and anxiety is faith. Faith in God. Faith in each other. Faith that there is still more right with the world than wrong with the world. Faith that when things seem chaotic and tensions are high, God is still at work.

Is Christianity perfect? Of course not. But does it continue to offer meaningful solutions to our culture’s most significant challenges? Without a doubt! Live in community. Act civilly. Love your neighbor because perfect love casts our fear.

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WOODMONT'S WINTER STAFF RETREAT, JAN. 15

Meet Your 2020 Worship Committee

BY RICH SANDERSON



WORSHIP COMMITTEE (LEFT TO RIGHT): RICH SANDERSON, ALISON BUESCHEN, MICHAEL GRAHAM, LIZ HOLLEY, BRYAN SARGENT, JAN ANDERSON, PAM RICHARDSON, PAM GROOM, & CAMILLE BITER. NOT PICTURED: ANDRA MORAN

We would like to re-introduce the Woodmont Worship Committee to our congregation, which has historically been very influential in creating the wonderful, faith-nurturing services that exist today.

We have reclaimed the committee with church members diversely plugged into our community. We feel timing is right in hopes to play an important role in our “new space” service planning later this year.

The committee’s purpose is to:

- Support Woodmont’s services to be anchored by our church mission of seeking, sharing and serving, our values and our annual focus areas
- Support our Woodmont Staff apprising of service and cultural trends in worshiping
- Support the operational needs of the many special services we have throughout the year
- Serve as the pulse of the congregation, Woodmont staff, and church visitors relative to concerns and suggestions

Should you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact the Worship Committee through Rich Sanderson, Chair, at (615) 997-6391 or any of it’s members.

WOODMONT KIDS

January birthdays:

William Minkoff 1/3	Oscar Bell 1/18
Hannah Johnson 1/4	Wilson Beasley 1/19
James Andrews 1/5	Stratton Coleman 1/19
Katherine Minkoff 1/6	Hudson Duvall 1/23
Caroline Buck 1/8	Anders Waynick 1/26
Percy Mason 1/11	Rye Steele 1/28
John Thomas Jackson 1/12	Stone Trainer 1/29
Chase Fiorenza 1/13	Allen Lyles 1/29
Lillian Douglas 1/15	Emma Pfeiffer 1/30
Margaret Alexander 1/16	Lee Queener 1/30
	Rowan Askew 1/30





90 Seconds of Wonder Taking Out the Trash

BY CHRIS COX

I was talking to our youth a few weeks ago about looking for God in the regular moments of our lives and a little while ago, I realized something kind of strange: I enjoy taking our trash to the dumpster. It isn't enormously important to my life. It's not like I get excited when I go into our kitchen and see that this chore must be done. But for that minute or two that I am out there, I'm grateful.

Many times, I run the trash out at night. There's a stillness to the night when the sky is just moon and stars. Even with the hum of cars on Hillsboro, the night is relatively peaceful. When I stop to look up at the sky and see it stretching in all directions, I feel small in the best possible way. When I feel small, I typically think about how big God is and marvel at the fact that God would care about any of us at all.

I don't usually stop that much

anymore. In Nashville, it is a rush to get from Point A to Point B as efficiently as possible. Of course getting somewhere efficiently doesn't ever happen and then I get frustrated. I have been reminded recently that I need to get outside more, to get quiet, to slow down. When I do these things, it calms my soul. I think all of our souls need to be calmed.

I often pray when I run, but those are usually prayers of locomotion: either of accelerating joy or hanging on for dear life; elation or desperation. Those prayers are important, but there is also a place for those slow, often silent prayers of wonder: "When I consider Your heavens..." and all the rest.

Which brings me back to these holy moments by the dumpster. It's kind of appropriate that I get rid of my trash along the way. What else is prayer but a place where we can let

go of our stuff and get to experience a walk back where we don't have to carry it anymore? There's a rhythm to it. I leave the junk behind and I walk back home.

At times, I think this is kind of foolish: the whole making a big deal of ninety seconds of prayer once a week. Am I blowing this out of proportion and making a household chore super spiritual? Perhaps. Yet I can't deny that when I walk back to my house in the still night air, that it seems like a thin place. It seems like a place where God is close.

God is always close; that's the point. It's not the garbage or the night or the hill that slopes down to our home. It's me actually stopping to realize that God is there. The awesome thing is that when I do remember, God can turn the mundane into something wonderful.

What is a "Green Chalice" Congregation?

BY STEVE VINING

Woodmont recently formed a team to look at ways to make our church more energy efficient and environmentally responsible. We'll also be looking at scheduling educational opportunities on how to live out our faith as individuals, being good stewards of God's creation. We invite you to learn more about the Green Chalice program and share ideas on



Wednesday, Feb. 5 in Room 105 at 6:30 PM. During the meeting, we will also be hosting a Q & A on "what can/can't I recycle?" Come learn more about Metro's new rules on home recycling. For more information, contact Steve Vining at svining-tn@outlook.com.

New Access Requirements for West Doors

BY MIKE BRENT

As we continue to review and enhance our access situation for the building, please note that beginning Sunday, Feb. 2, access via the West doors (rear parking lot) will be only by keycode on Sunday mornings. If you use the West doors on Sunday mornings and do not have the current security code, please ask the leader of your Sunday School class, or check with the church office.



Freedom & Limitations

BY MICHAEL GRAHAM

Igor Stravinsky's composing room resembled a painter's studio where he artfully notated his music using different colored inks for various diacritical markings. His compositions were well-planned. He liked to set his boundaries before he started composing, deciding much of the form before he put pen to paper. Once his limitations were set, he felt comfortable working freely within them, creating inventive master-works of sound and color.

The truth and knowledge experienced in God's Word sets the boundary of Love in which we are to walk. Love requires us to live within a framework of reality that acknowledges a God-centered worldview which seeks to help others while loving ourselves as well. Once we are yielded to God's truth as it is found in Jesus and have the knowledge and power gained by the indwelling Holy Spirit, we have the freedom to be light and salt, enacting God's truth in a needy world.

Jesus, Lover of our souls, may our lives be a creative master-work within Your framework of love.

"I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts." - Psalm 119:45

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." - John 14:26

Child Dedications

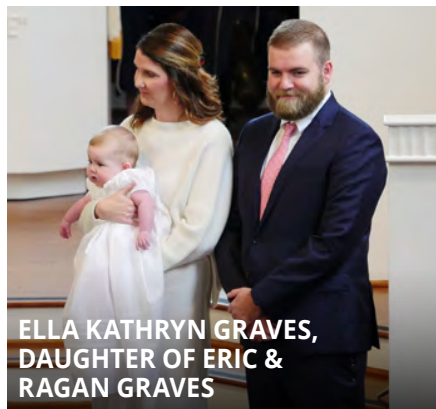
Sunday, Jan. 12



HAYES LINCOLN CAMPBELL, SON OF JEFFREY & KARLY CAMPBELL



ANNE BLAIR MCWHIRTER,
DAUGHTER OF TERRELL &
MARYANNE MCWHIRTER



ELLA KATHRYN GRAVES,
DAUGHTER OF ERIC &
RAGAN GRAVES

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

- 8:30 AM Seekers Bible Study, Room 105
- 9:30 AM Challenge Class, Room 200
- 9:30 AM Disciples Class, Room 105
- 9:30 AM Informal Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM 21st Century Class, Boardroom
- 9:45 AM The Bridge Worship, Drowota Hall
- 10:45 AM Life in the Balance Class, C.W.
- 11:00 AM Pathways Class, Boardroom
- 11:00 AM Points of View Class, Room 105
- 11:00 AM Reflections Class, Room 200
- 11:00 AM Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 5:00 PM Jubilation Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 5:45 PM Youth Group, Youth Wing

MONDAY, JAN. 27

- 3:00 PM "Geezers," Boardroom

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

- 9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group, C.S.
- 12:00 PM G.E.M.S. Luncheon, Room 105
- 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

- 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
- 5:30 PM Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, D.H.
MENU: Carnitas • Flour and Corn
Tortillas • Chipotle Vinegar Slaw • Salsa,
Sour Cream, Chips • Tres Leches Cake
and Churro Cookies
VEGETARIAN: Fried Avocado
KIDS: Cheese Quesadillas

- 6:00 PM DivorceCare, The Bay Room
- 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 6:15 PM Deeper Bible Study, Room 107
- 6:15 PM Spiritual Formation Class, Boardroom

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

- 6:30 PM Youth Basketball Practice, D.H.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31 ROOM IN THE INN SOUTH HALL



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

IN THE HOSPITAL:

- Wills Cooper - Vanderbilt Children's Hospital
- Judith Malloy, Jerri Malloy's mother and Steve Lowry's mother-in-law
- David Weatherman (Jackie May Weatherman's husband) - St Thomas West

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

- Matt Beasley - Stalworth (Guillain-Barré Syndrome)
- Betty Brent - Belmont Village Rm 203
- Elner Hamner
- Hale Hooper
- Julie Howell
- Sarah Peay
- Christine Reed
- George Shreeve
- Gary Thompson

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

- Mike Neeley, friend of Jonathan Farmer - diagnosed with stage 4 cancer in bones and lymph nodes and liver and back
- Will David Coleman's father, Ronnie Coleman
- Kasey Clymer's father
- Glenn Hammonds, brother of Susan Hammonds-White, in Berkeley, CA
- Jeff Kinman's father, Kirby Kinman, in Mobile, AL
- Joel Pepper's mother, Marjorie Cassell

PRAYERS FROM OUR ELDERS

This week, our elders ask you to join them in prayer for:

1. The families of Woodmont who are grieving for loved ones
2. The families of Woodmont who are welcoming new life
3. Men and women who are incarcerated
4. Our Room In The Inn guests each Friday and this ministry in our community that we are fortunate to be a part of

SUNDAY SCHOOL: TOTAL ATTENDANCE: OPERATING:

DEC. 29:	114	566	\$91,457
JAN. 5:	443	1082	\$147,255
JAN. 12:	431	1110	\$67,049
JAN. 19:	394	940	\$64,466

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Jan. 23: Deeper Bible Study continues exploring the books of the New Testament

Deeper Bible Study will meet this Wednesday from 6:15 to 7:15 PM in Room 107. Everyone is welcome. Our passage this week will be 2 Corinthians 5:16-21. No preparation is required, and you are welcome to drop in for one week, every week, or whenever your schedule allows. Join us in our journey through some of the New Testament's Greatest Hits! Questions? Email Beth Pattillo bethpattillo@gmail.com.

Jan. 26: "Waking Up White" book study continues

Interested in pursuing God's heart for racial reconciliation but not sure where to even begin in conversations on race? Join the Young Adults and Challenge Sunday School classes as they join together in a discussion of this topic through a 9-week book study of *Waking Up White*, by Debby Irving. This class, which just began last week, meets Sundays at 9:40 AM in Room 200. Anyone is welcome but commitment to joining the entire reflective journey is appreciated. Contact Rob Quinn, Susan Hammonds-White, or April Gung with questions.

Jan. 28: Next GEMS meeting to feature "In the Footsteps of Paul" presentation with Anne & Roy Stauffer

The first GEMS luncheon in 2020 is set for noon on Tuesday, January 28, in Room 105. Roy and Anne Stauffer will be presenting on their recent cruise from Rome including Sorrento, Sicily, Malta, Corinth, Santorini, Ephesus, and ending in Athens. They visited many places where the Apostle Paul lived, preached, and established churches. Roy said "seeing the ruins of Corinth and Ephesus made Paul come alive." GEMS (Greet, Eat, Meet, Socialize) meets on the 4th Tuesday with lunch catered by Barley to Rise. The cost is \$10. Reservations are needed by Jan. 24.

Feb. 4: YP & Couples "What Role Does Faith Play in Success and Happiness?"

Our next Young Professionals & Couples event is Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 6 to 8 PM at Campbell West. Clay Stauffer will be speaking on the topic of "What Role Does Faith Play in Success and Happiness?" To RSVP, email lauren@woodmontcc.org.



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The Spire



2020 SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS

6:15 PM WEDNESDAYS

Jan. 22: Overview of the Bible with Roy Stauffer
Jan. 29: How we use our gifts for ministry with Clay Stauffer