

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 6, 2022

JOIN US!
CHRISTMAS EVE

**CHILDREN & FAMILY
SERVICES AT 4 & 5 PM**
The Napkin Nativity Christmas Story

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

**ORDINATION
SERVICES**

FARRELL MASON
THURSDAY, DEC. 15
5:00 PM
SANCTUARY

JENNY SIMMONS
SUNDAY, DEC. 18
3:00 PM
CHAPEL

PICTURE DAY

SUNDAY, DEC. 18
CHAPEL LOBBY

realm

**CHRISTMAS DAY
& NEW YEAR'S**

One all-church service
at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Welcome, new members!



Leadership nominations begin now! New this year: submit your nominations via email to Amber Moss at amber@woodmontcc.org

It is time for the congregation to begin nominating leaders for the next church year that begins July 1, 2023. We are accepting nominations for:

- 1 Treasurer – 2-year term
- 3 Board Members – 2-year term
- 7 Elders – 3-year term
- 30 Deacons – 3-year term

Nominations will be accepted through January 31. Please give thoughtful consideration to those who already exhibit leadership presence and are committed to Woodmont. Self-nominations are welcome if you have a strong desire to serve.

This year we are submitting nominations directly to Amber Moss (amber@woodmontcc.org). When submitting nominations, please include the candidate's name, position nominated for (Treasurer, Board, Elder, or Deacon), and your reason for nominating the candidate. All Woodmont members are invited to take part in this process and multiple people can be nominated.



Vision 2023! Seeking, Sharing, & Serving at Woodmont in the New Year

Join Clay Stauffer and Jay Hutchens as they cast vision for Woodmont's ministry for the coming year. This year's Discipleship Class will have a special emphasis on leading God's people in mission. Three Wednesday nights in January - Jan. 11, 18, and 25 at 6:15 p.m. in Carpenter Chapel with dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. in Drowota Hall. Mark your calendars to be a part of this important conversation!



WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

woodmontchristian.org

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Dr. Clay Stauffer, Senior Minister

Dr. Roy Stauffer • Minister to Older Adults

Rev. Jay Hutchens • Executive Minister of Small Groups & Discipleship

Rev. Chris Cox • Minister to Youth & Their Families

Rev. Justin Gung • Minister of Pastoral Counseling

Farrell Mason • Minister of Family Life & Pastoral Care

Dr. Donovan McAbee • Minister of Spiritual Formation & the Arts

Jenny Simmons • Associate Minister to Youth & Their Families

PROGRAM STAFF

Michael Graham • Music Ministry Director

Abby McLean • Children's Ministry Director

Andra Moran • Creative Director, The Bridge

Moriah Domby Pirtle • Director of Young Adult Ministries

Martha Duff • Preschool Director

Steve LaForge • Missions Field Coordinator

Dr. Ben Curtis • Spiritual Director In Residence

Anne Mitchell • Parish Visitor

Ashley Buchanan • Children's Curriculum Coordinator

Tammy Morgan • Connections Director & Bridge Ministry Assistant

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator

Matt Diffenderfer • Communications Director

Amber Moss • Executive Assistant

Jan Anderson • Administrative Assistant

Steven Quinn • Head A/V Director

Sam Marsh • Property & Facilities Manager

James Cockrell • Facility & Property Maintenance



Check out Realm, our online church directory, by searching for "Realm Connect" in the app store.

3601 Hillsboro Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Leadership Matters

BY CLAY STAUFFER

Walk Thru Bethlehem week is here and the church is very busy. We are excited to bring this major ministry back this year.

We are now accepting nominations for church leadership. New terms begin July 1, 2023. This is an extremely important process in the life of our church. Leadership always matters! John Maxwell says that “everything rises and falls on leadership.” He says: “PEOPLE determine the potential of the organization. RELATIONSHIPS determine the morale of the organization. STRUCTURE determines the size of the organization. VISION determines the direction of the organization. But LEADERSHIP determines the success of the organization.”

Jay Hutchens & I will be leading our VISIONING 2023 CLASSES in January where leadership and growth will be a special focus (Jan 11, 18, 25.) Please come join us. Robert Greenleaf defines servant leadership the following way: “The servant-leader is servant first. It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead. That person is sharply different from one who is leader first, perhaps because of the need to assuage an unusual power drive or to acquire material possessions” (Greenleaf 27). Servant leadership is not the same thing as simply holding a position.

Jesus set the example for servant leadership. In Mark’s gospel, Jesus says, “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Many people in our world long to be leaders but they are not willing to be servants. Many long for power and influence, but don’t want the responsibility and the accountability that comes along with it. Leadership is not easy, but it is absolutely vital for the health of any organization or institution!

In considering individuals to nominate, please ask these important questions:

- 1) Are they serious about their faith, spiritual life, and commitment to Woodmont?***
- 2) Are they present on a regular basis in worship and in other activities/ministries and do they support Woodmont with their time, talent, and treasure?***
- 3) Do they have a servant’s heart and have they already demonstrated leadership ability?***
- 4) Are they committed to the overall health and well-being of Woodmont Christian Church and our mission of Seeking, Sharing, and Serving?***
- 5) Will they keep Woodmont moving forward in the years to come?***

If you can answer “yes” to each of these questions, then I highly encourage that you nominate them for leadership in our church.

Kempton Presley is chairing the 2023 nominating committee. The following individuals have been approved by the board to serve: Alison Bueschen (Elder), Mike Jobe (Elder), Grace Johnson (Deacon), Christie Harrison (Deacon), Tracy Crawford, Jim Hester, Bill Meador, and LA Galyon. Nominations will be accepted through the end of January. We are nominating **1 Treasurer (2-year term), 3 at large board members (2-year term), 7 Elders (3-year term), and 30 deacons (3-year term).** Please give prayer and serious consideration to those you would like to see serve as leaders at Woodmont.

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When submitting nominations, please include the candidate’s name, position nominated for (Treasurer, Board, Elder, or Deacon), and your reason for nominating the candidate. All Woodmont members are invited to take part in this process and multiple people can be nominated.

Blessings,



Woodmont Christmas Concert

SUNDAY, DEC. 4 • PHOTOS BY STEVE LOWRY



The Bridge

SUNDAY, DEC. 4





"The birthplace of faith is not dogma, creed, or doctrine; faith emerges from awe, wonder, and joy.

Just to be alive in creation is holy."

—Bonnie Smith Whitehouse

I have the perfect Christmas gift for you and those you love! My friend and fellow Sewanee grad, now a popular professor of English at Belmont University, and the author of several celebrated books, has written what I believe to be the spiritual book of the year. At her recent book launch at Parnassus she shared the story that *Seasons of Wonder* came to life in a farmhouse where she was helping our dear friend Tallu edit her NY Times Bestseller, *What I Wish Were True*. It was Tallu that gave Bonnie the sacred nudge to write this wonder of a book! I am sure Tallu is smiling from heaven!

In a world that feels coarse and much too critical; where the future is uncertain and there are too many tragedies, we long for a tender voice, one of hope, to remind us of the good, the beautiful, and the sacred in our midst. My friend has created a 52-week devotional that will nurture your mind, body, and spirit. In the introduction, Bonnie invites us to be surprised by God in our daily lives. She writes, "When you live with a tender, vulnerable, open-hearted, awe-filled faith, you're always on the lookout for opportunities to connect the divine and the ordinary."



I love how she organized the year around weekly invitations to dig deeper and expand your faith. My favorite calls to action are: embrace mysteries, point to love, cultivate resilience, look for the light, and adore creation. We can all agree that we would like for our small, ordinary lives to feel more sacred, even holy. She writes, "When you consider God as a Surprise, you're always on the hunt for people, places, and moments that illuminate that ultimate illusion: the illusion that we are separate from God."

Each week, Bonnie gifts us with a spiritual meditation, invites us to wonder and reflect on the message, and then she gives us an activity to deepen the experience. Bonnie will have you and your family making candles, walking sticks, yummy soups, and rosaries to reinvigorate your prayer life.

I was happily surprised how she weaves the liturgical calendar into our every day lives. Bonnie's voice throughout the book is gentle and encouraging. She recognizes that she is not alone in her desire to experience more sacred moments in the busy, hustle bustle of our earthly lives. I have read the book cover to cover. It's beautifully written, but more importantly, its message speaks right to the soul. I am looking forward to reading through the book again, and doing the activities with my family starting in January. Follow my lead and purchase *Seasons of Wonder* for every single person that you would like to bless, and give them a nudge of hope!

I could read her Benediction every single day. I especially love the line, "May we return to wonder again and again—wonder for God, wonder for other people, wonder for other creatures, and wonder for our kin on this planet." "At its heart," she writes, "*Seasons of Wonder* is a plea to view and know the Divine not in terms of certitude but as a vast unfolding, unknowable mystery."

This is a book for your soul! You can purchase on Amazon or visit your local bookstore! As a special gift, Bonnie has created an Advent calendar with the hopes that we will have a deeper experience of Christmas this year. To view the calendar, visit

www.breadandhoneyblog.net

Caught in the act of service



MONTGOMERY, MEGAN, & CLAY
STAUFFER AT ROOM IN THE INN



BRENT WILES, PATTY BEA
PRESLEY, & ANN WILES



The Angels of Woodmont!

BY STEVE LAForge

Many thanks to all of you that participated in the Fannie Battle Angel Tree this year! The gifts have been delivered with the aid of many Woodmont angels! God bless each of you that helped make someone's Christmas special, and another big thank you to every one of you that helped load and unload Santa's sleigh!

Thanks again to Ann Wiles and Tracy Crawford for continuing to make this such a special part of Woodmont's many Christmas traditions!

Merry Christmas to all!



- THIS WEEK -

SUNDAY, DEC. 11
WALK THRU BETHLEHEM

MONDAY, DEC. 12
3:00 PM "Geezers" group, Boardroom

TUESDAY, DEC. 13
9:30 AM Women's Prayer Group, Board.
10:30 AM CWF Circle 1, Campbell West
10:30 AM CWF Circle 2, Room 105
10:30 AM CWF Circle 4, The Bay Room
6:30 PM Alateen (ages 12-19), South Hall
6:30 PM Parents AL-ANON Group, 105
8:00 PM AA Meeting, South Hall

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14
6:00 AM Men's Small Group, Room 107
7:00 AM Younger Men's Bible Study, Board
8:00 AM "Original" Men's Bible Study, 105
5:30 PM Stephen Ministry, C.W.
6:00 PM College Advent Bible Study, Zoom
6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, DEC. 15
10:00 AM Sit & Stitch, Gathering Hall
1:00 PM Majhong Group, Gathering Hall
4:30 PM WTB Committee, Room 107
5:00 PM Farrell Mason Ordination, Sanctuary
5:30 PM Handbells, Choir Room
6:30 PM Andra Moran Virtual Vespers, Zoom
6:30 PM Naranaon, Room 105
8:00 PM AA Meeting, South Hall

FRIDAY, DEC. 16
ROOM IN THE INN
3:00 PM Pickleball, Drowota Hall

SATURDAY, DEC. 17
10:00 AM Al-Anon, Drowota Hall



**THIS SUNDAY,
DEC. 11**

**“TRUE
GIFTS OF
CHRISTMAS”
SERIES**

**“JOY IN BETHLEHEM!” • CLAY
STAUFFER • MICAH 4:1-4 &
MATTHEW 2:1-12**

8:30 A.M. BREAKFAST

9:30 A.M. INFORMAL & LIVESTREAM

**9:40 A.M. THE BRIDGE &
LIVESTREAM**

11:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL

GIVING

NOV. 13: \$42,213

NOV. 20: \$102,316

NOV. 27: \$67,304

DEC. 4: \$130,539

**OUR ELDERS ASK YOU
TO JOIN THEM IN
PRAYER FOR:**

Pray for the glorious success of Walk Thru Bethlehem, our most historic outreach program. May our church members, volunteers, visitors and our community be transformed during this special occasion, drawing each of us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us embody the powerful impact of this servant & spiritual event and share God's love with others throughout this week.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

• Richie White and Brittany Love on the birth of their daughter, Raegan Harper White, on Nov. 19. Proud grandparents are Betty and Mike White.

SYMPATHY TO:

• Linda VanKeuren and family on the death of her father, Daniel Ortone, on Nov. 27 in FL.
• Scottye and Jerry Crook on the death of Scottye's brother, Ray Clark, on November 23, 2022. Private family service.
• Cyril Stewart and family on the death of his brother, Dan Stewart.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

• Mark Clymer - recovering at home from shoulder surgery, rotator cuff on Nov. 20
• Cass Meeks - www.caringbridge.org/visit/cassmeeks
• Billy Pirtle
• Mike Stewart
• Walter White
• Cathy Williams - knee replacement surgery on Nov. 28 - at home

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

• Martha Duff's son, Will Daly, trigeminal neuralgia



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

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The Spire



Walk Thru Bethlehem

SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 1-7 PM