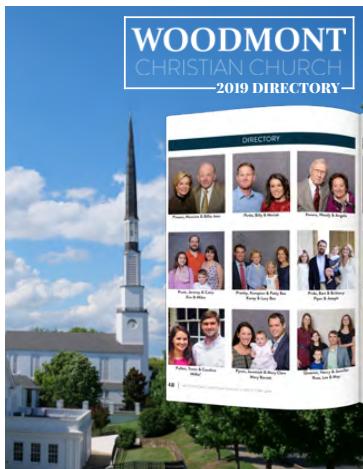
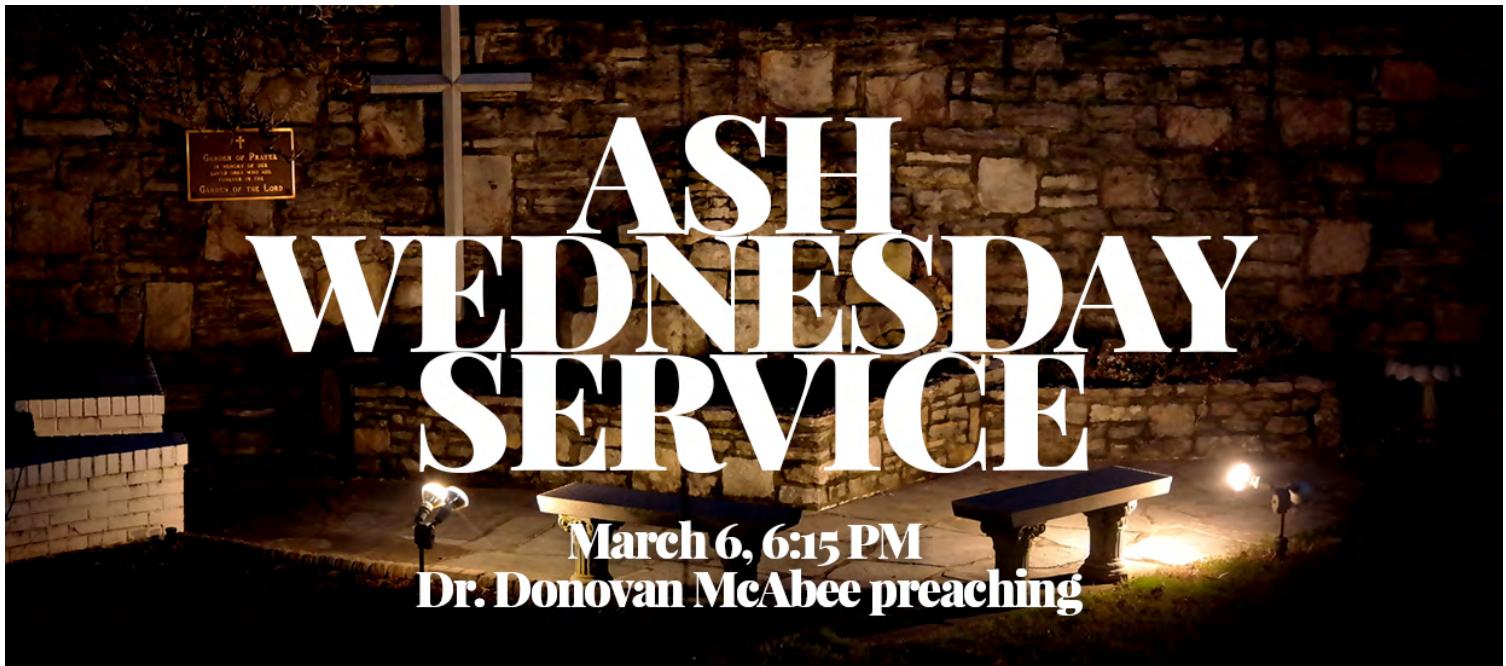


The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 19, 2019



2019 Church Directory now available!

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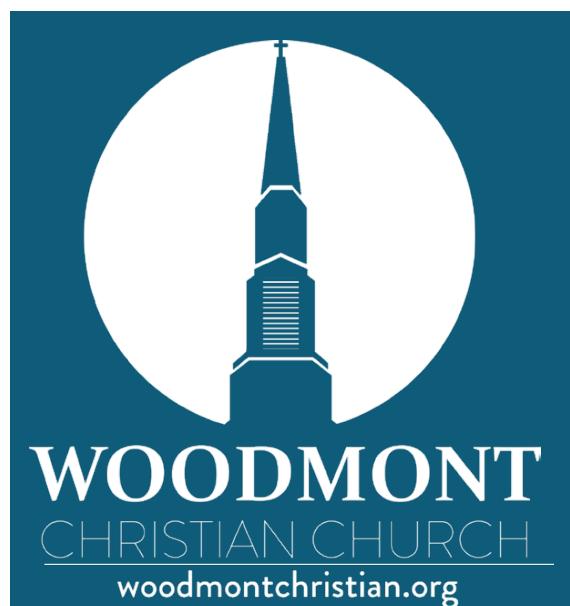


PAUL & GRACE DENT

2019 Youth Ski Retreat

Feb. 8-10 • Perfect North, IN

Photos by Jim Thomas



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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

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Katie Sheridan-Gossage • Assistant Youth Ministry Director

Andra Moran • Creative Director, *The Bridge*

Martha Duff • Preschool Director

Anne-Marie Farmer • Small Groups & Connections Director

Stephen Daniel King • Worship Leader, *The Bridge*

Lauren Lucas Beuerlein • Young Professionals & Couples Director

Steve LaForge • Missions Field Coordinator

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Woodmont Christian Church

3601 Hillsboro Pike

Nashville, Tennessee 37215

615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Do You Really Want to Know the Bible?

by Roy Stauffer

How many times over the years have church members said to me, "I'd really like to know the Bible, but I don't"? Or, "I'm looking for a good Bible Study"? But, when you offer the Bible Study, they don't show up. So, I wonder, do they really want to know the Bible, or just think they do? Do they really want to know the Bible, but only if it's convenient to their schedule which is filled with other (less important) activities?

I also have people often say to me, "I want to read the Bible, but I don't know where to begin." Or, "How do you study the Bible? What's the best approach? Is it best to just read it straight through?" Those are good questions and I definitely have a lot of answers for them.

If we want to know God, we need to read the Bible. If we want to hear God speak to us, we need to read the Bible. If we want to know Jesus, we need to read the Bible. If we want to know God's plan and will for our lives, we need to read the Bible. If we want to know the whole meaning and purpose, nature and destiny of our lives, we need to read the Bible.

Because knowing the Bible is so unquestionably important to the Christian life, we are offering a Bible Study class on Wednesday nights during Lent. Only I'm starting a few weeks before Lent to offer my annual "Introduction to the Bible" now. I strongly believe that before you choose to read any part of the Bible, any book of the Bible, you need to have an understanding of the whole Bible itself, an overview of the Bible. This includes how the New Testament relates to the Old Testament, how the prophets related to the Gospels, how the Psalms relate to the Letters of Paul. This Intro Class will conclude with my giving you a little booklet containing a brief summary of each book in the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, which I hope you will keep for future reference.

In this class we will look at:

- The historical setting in which the story of the Bible takes place
- How the Old Testament came into being – who wrote it? When? Why?
- How the New Testament came into being – who wrote it? When? Why?
- How to study the Bible (there are many different approaches)
- An overview of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation

So, I ask you, do you really want to know the Bible? If you think 'yes,' then I invite you to join us on Wednesday nights (6:15 to 7:15 PM, Room 200). Enjoy dinner around the tables getting to know new people every week. Dinner starts at 5:30 PM. Childcare is available during class time.

Studies show that fewer people (especially young people) are reading the Bible today. At the same time, our society is moving from a predominantly Judeo-Christian point of view to a mostly postmodern, secular worldview. As a result, our morals and values are changing. Our society has become more divided and hostile. People don't treat each other with civility like we used to. Instead of caring for others, we are more interested in what's in it for me. Crime is clearly on the rise, as is divorce and depression. The gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" continues to grow larger. For maybe the first time in history, parents today do not believe that their children will enjoy a better level of living than they have.

How does this relate to reading the Bible? Unless our values and meaning in life comes from God, which means the best possible for everyone, they will come from our own individualized groups, which want "the best possible for me." Human values are subjective and temporary. God's values are fair and eternal. Where else, how else, will we discover God's values if we don't begin with the Bible? I hope to see you Wednesday night.



Make a Love Drop

by Farrell Mason

I am excited to announce a new ministry at Woodmont, "Make a Love Drop!"

Over the last ten years, I have made and delivered my homemade chicken soup and love muffins to so many in our church family in need of a little love and hope. Jesus was so aware of the struggles we face as humans in body and spirit. His ministry here on earth was focused on tending to the body and the soul of us. I can tell you first hand that when you show up at a person's door with a homemade chicken soup and a smile, healing happens! God asks us to take care of one another, to be hope-bearers in the world. It is in this spirit that "Make A Love Drop" was created! I am inviting you to make a chicken soup and some muffins and make a love drop to someone either inside our church family or in the community who could use a little love and hope. I have created "Love Drop" bags and inside you will find everything you need to make a heart-felt Love Drop: a recipe card for chicken soup and my famous banana chocolate chip muffins, a prayer card, and a plastic container to deliver the soup! Recently, I was approached by someone at an event who said, "Do you go to Woodmont Christian Church?" I happily said, "Yes!" She said, "This week, a member of your church delivered chicken soup, muffins and a prayer. I had just buried my husband. The kindness meant a great deal to me. Woodmont must be a very special place!"

You can make a Love Drop to anyone you think could use a little nudge of hope: a friend, a work colleague, a church member.

Jesus was all about feeding bodies and especially hearts! I encourage you to visit the upstairs kitchen and pick up a Love Drop bag. If you are not a dynamo in the kitchen, then take one of the already prepared Love Drop bags in the refrigerator! I also welcome church groups to sign up to cook in the church kitchen and make Love Drop bags to replenish the Faith Freezer. Recently, a group of us and Circle 7 spent a fun Sunday afternoon cooking muffins and putting the Love Drop bags together!

If you would like to help support this ministry with your time and energy, please reach out to me at [farrell@breadandhoneyblog.net!](mailto:farrell@breadandhoneyblog.net)

Let's go make A LOVE DROP!!





Beloved

by Farrell Mason

One of my favorite verses in the Bible comes from the Song of Songs: "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." This is a declaration of love, but even more importantly, it is an avowal of one's identity as belonging to God.

Jogging the tree-embraced paths at Percy Warner this past week, I found myself praying, "I am Yours. You are mine. I am Yours. You are mine." Sometimes when caught in the whirl of life, I have to remember who I am and to Whom I belong. And then try again to live from this beautiful truth.

Whatever happens in my life, whatever I lose or gain, however deep and wide, precious and painful the human experience, however many number of breaths I have accrued or remain for me in The Book of Life, I am both verb and noun, be-loved and a beloved.

This past Christmas, my friend Elisabeth Hasselbeck and her family joined my crew around my kitchen T.V. for an unprecedented "Face Time" Christmas service with this extraordinary collection of boys, of all ages, living at the Danita's Children orphanage in Haiti. We went around the room and introduced ourselves by name and then commenced a medley of Christmas carols, some in English, some in Creole. The energy was electric, holy. But we were not prepared for the final gift, a moving prayer by Daupholy, a thirteen-year old boy with a mile-long smile. It was so clear that he knew, despite his orphan status, that he was a child of God, a beloved of the Beloved.

Daupholy's benediction called to mind God's introduction of Jesus to the world: "This is My Beloved Son, with whom my soul is well-pleased." (Gospel of Matthew). I imagine this is exactly how God would introduce me to you and you to me.

Faith in praxis requires a disciplined remembering that, bone, blood and spirit, broken and whole, I am the beloved of the Beloved. Loved tender, beyond time, boundary, or my deserving. It is because of this extraordinary love that I know how to love from my soul and skin in this world.



It is with a heavy heart that I have been closely following the recent reports coming out of Haiti this week with the civil unrest, street riots, and a growing death toll. The country is in crisis. The U.S. State Department and Canadian Embassy have elevated Haiti to a Red level 4 and have ordered all U.S. citizens to leave the country. The Haitian people are in dire survival mode, schools have closed, and food, fuel and water sources are scarce. I ask that you would include Danita's Children orphanage and the people of Haiti in your prayers.

Inspired by the words of Deuteronomy 11:8, "You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand," I created a "remember bracelet" with the word, *beloved*, engraved in a smooth piece of leather. All the proceeds from every sale will go to danitaschildren.org for fuel and food during this crisis. You can visit breadandhoneyblog.net to purchase a bracelet!

To be a beloved is to see the beloved in another!

VISIT FARRELL'S BLOG TO PURCHASE A BRACELET! breadandhoneyblog.net



The Joy That A Child Brings

by Steve LaForge

This week we were blessed with the arrival of our first grandchild! A precious little girl named Harpeth Ann! As I held her, I started recalling the wonderful times that I spent raising her mother Leslie. I can't recall a time when I didn't treasure every minute that I got to spend with all my children. Yes, there were challenges, but I never ever once experienced even the slightest regret. They are all the greatest treasures! God-given treasures!

In the month's leading up to my granddaughter's birth I prayed for the health of both the mother and the baby, and to thank God for this glorious gift! But while I am doing so, I can't help but to think about the times that I could have done so much more, and that I could have followed more closely in Christ's footsteps.

So today's prayers are for God's love for my new granddaughter, for all of my children, for my wife, and for all of my family and friends. And I pray that for everyone I will have the same never-ending love and patience and kindness and forgiving that God has so graciously bestowed upon me!

And I pray too that we as God's children can give God the same joy that our precious treasures bring to us!

Small Group Spotlight: Sit & Stitch



The Sit and Stitch group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at 10 AM in the Gathering Hall. The group's next meeting is March 14 and all are welcome. The group members bring whatever project is currently in their knit, crochet, or needlework bag and chat a lot when they get together. Advice or commiseration is always available. For more information on Sit & Stitch, contact Jeanie Taylor at jmtandjrt@comcast.net or (615) 298-5322.

Calendar

Sunday, Feb. 24

9:30 a.m. Informal Worship, Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. The Bridge Worship, Drowota Hall
11:00 a.m. Bridge Brunch, Drowota Hall
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
5:00 p.m. Jubilation Rehearsal, Choir Room
5:45 p.m. Youth Group, Youth Wing

Monday, Feb. 25

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

Tuesday, Feb. 26

9:00 a.m. Women's Prayer Group, Campbell Stone
12:00 p.m. G.E.M.S. Luncheon, Room 105
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal, Choir Room
6:30 p.m. Relay of Truth Proverbs Study, Rm. 200

Wednesday, Feb. 27

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
5:30 p.m. Wednesday Fellowship Dinner, D.H.
MENU: Haitian Chicken with adobo rice and beans
VEGETARIAN: Haitian Legume Beregene Melange
KIDS: Chicken, tomato, broccoli, with buttered rice
6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
6:15 p.m. Holy Yoga, Room 100
6:15 p.m. DivorceCare, Bay Room
6:15 p.m. Chess Club, Youth Lounge
6:15 p.m. "Intro to the Bible: Overview of Old and New Testaments" with Roy Stauffer, Rm. 200
6:15 p.m. Personal Self-Protection Class, Rm. 105

Thursday, Feb. 28

6:00 p.m. Youth Basketball Practice, Drowota Hall

Friday, March 1

Youth Group Spring Retreat, Bethany Hills
Room In The Inn, South Hall

Saturday, March 2

Youth Group Spring Retreat, Bethany Hills

Thank you
from Judy Davis

In May 2018, Everett had a knee replacement on his right knee. Around Nov. 1, he could not put any weight on his right leg or knee. He had severe chills. We took him to the emergency room. They immediately did surgery and placed a filler in his knee. He had to take antibiotics for 6 weeks. He came home, then went back for the second replacement on his right knee on February 8. He is home now and healing nicely.

We really appreciate all of the prayers, cards, calls, visits, food and support from our Woodmont Family!

Prayers for our church family:

SYMPATHY TO:

Paul Hardin and family, on the death of Paul's father, Grady Hardin, on Feb. 18. Services are in the planning stages.

Jerry Johnson and family, on the death of Jerry's mother, Sydney Johnson, on Feb. 18 in Hickory, NC.

John Hartong and family, on the death of John's mother, Elizabeth Hartong, on Feb. 11 in Chicago, IL.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Steve and Deb DeForge on the birth of granddaughter Harpeth Ann Barber, born Feb. 12 in Greenville, SC. Everyone is doing well! Parents are Michael and Leslie Barber (Steve's daughter).

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Everett Davis - at home
Jan Goans
Greg Guilfoy - at home
Sheila Mathias
Cindy Million
JoAnn Patterson
Maurice Pinson
Robbie Richardson
Mary Lynn Skinner
Gary Thompson
Isse Waddey

FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

Kristen Holscher's father
Charlotte Dukes, Janice Parker's granddaughter - at HOME
Ann Luther's father, Rhuel Patterson (96) in Gainsville, Ga - at home
Jamie Wellman's father, Charles Schmeal -- in Owensboro, KY
Lauren Beurlein's mother, Debbie Lucas

The elders invite you to join them in prayer:

- Recalling that Jesus was a stumbling stone to those who did not recognize him as the long-awaited Messiah,
- May we open our eyes to see the stones in our paths, recognizing those that are evil, to reject them, but also seeing those that are good that we might embrace them.
- "See, I set before you today life & good, death & evil... choose life" (Deut. 30:15 & 19).

March CWF meeting to feature former congressman Bob Clement

Our March CWF speaker will be Bob Clement who is a former congressman. His father was Frank Clement who was governor at the age of 32

All are welcome. Please make lunch reservations with the church office by Friday, March 1. The meeting begins at 11 AM with lunch to follow at noon.

Kindness & Compassion Go A Long Way!

Sunday, Feb. 24 • Clay Stauffer • John 8:1-11 & Ephesians 4:25-32

SUNDAY SCHOOL:	ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
JANUARY 27:	462	\$35,853
FEBRUARY 3:	400	\$49,110
FEBRUARY 10:	398	\$22,554
FEBRUARY 17:	381	\$49,293



SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 12:15 PM



Self-protection class

Wednesdays, Feb. 20 & 27 • 6:15 PM in Room 105

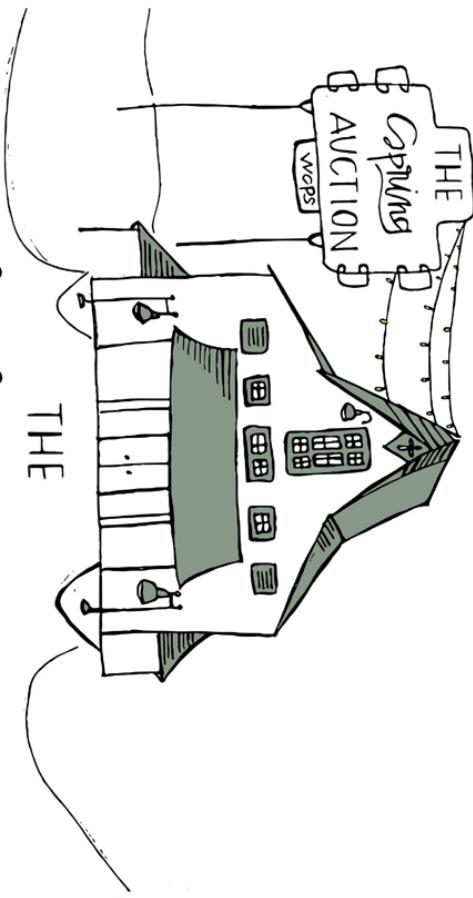


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