

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 22, 2019



SAVE
- The -
DATE



Walk Thru
Bethlehem
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

This Wednesday
All classes begin at 6:15 PM

HENRI NOUWEN: CRISIS AS OPPORTUNITY FOR TRANSFORMATION



LED BY DR. BEN CURTIS

CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

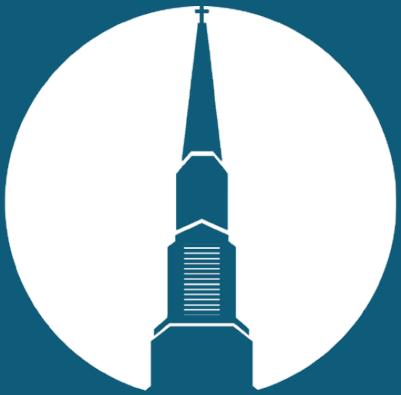
WITH KATHY JOHNSON-WARNER
OF SENIOR HELPERS



DAY STAR



PARENTING SERIES
WITH DAVID THOMAS & SISSY GOFF



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*

Katie Sheridan-Gossage • *Assistant Youth 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*

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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](http://woodmontchristian.org)



Life's Greatest Gift

by Roy Stauffer

After being gone from Memphis now for eleven years, I received a phone call last week from a woman who had been active in our church. She said, "I don't really have anything on my mind. I was thinking about you and just wanted to talk to you. I miss you." After eleven years! WOW! And what a wonderful "catching up" conversation we had.

I told her what I've told so many people that if you have a true friend, you may not see that person, or even talk, for ten years but when you do, it's just like it was yesterday. You pick up right where you left off. And the best place, and the best way to develop great friendships like that is by being active in the life of the church. My best life-long friends have always come in and through the church – the church where I grew up in Florida, the churches I served in Tennessee and Kentucky while a student in college and grad school, the church in Memphis where I served for 35 years, and Woodmont.

I've always said that friendship – true, genuine friendship – is life's greatest gift and blessing. And in a world like ours today where loneliness has become the number one cause of death, such friendship is more important and needed than ever. Facebook, Twitter, and all the other forms of social media do not create such genuine friendships. Only personal presence and personal touch will.

Centuries ago the Greek philosopher Aristotle wrote, "Friendship is indispensable to human life. No one would choose to live without friends, even though he possessed all other blessings... friendship is the bond which holds all life together... what good would anything be if there is no one with whom to share it?"

Now there are different levels of friendship. There are "acquaintances." There are "casual friendships" (people you see in the parking lot when you drop your kids off at school, or the people who sit around you at the football game). There are "close friendships and fellowship,"

which to me is what active participation in the church leads to, especially through small groups or classes. And then there are "deeper, more intimate friends" – the ones who are there for you throughout your life, no matter what.

Years ago I read where one such deep, intimate, and genuine friend in a lifetime is much; two are many; and three are hardly possible. A survey once revealed that 70% of the American people have many "acquaintances," but very few, if any, truly genuine friends. One big reason is because we get so busy doing so many different things that we don't take (or make) the time to develop genuine friendship.

So, what does it take to develop such deep, life-long, genuine friendships? Here are a few thoughts:

1. Get interested in other people, rather than just all wrapped up in yourself. To have friends, you must be a friend. Self-centeredness is a guarantee for loneliness.
2. Smile. A smile is the shortest distance between two people. Smiles are contagious.
3. Don't be a negative person. Nobody wants to be around someone like that.
4. Make time to be with your friends. Lots of time. It's not, "Let's do lunch sometime," but actually do it. And often!
5. Be a good listener.
6. Accept others as they are. Let them be themselves.
7. Make others feel significant.
8. Don't be afraid to show your emotions.
9. Stick with your friends in tough times.
10. Share what is most important ... the deeper joys and purposes of life, not just the superficial.

Like Aristotle said, I can't imagine life without friends.

- Roy



Why Stewardship?

by Anne Arney, Elder

Woodmont Christian Church provides so many opportunities for service and joy that I sometimes forget the most basic blessings I receive from Woodmont. Above all else, for me, it is a place for worship, communion and transformation.

I attend services in a safe and comfortable sanctuary. I hear beautiful music that opens my heart and lessons that challenge me to be a better Christian. Each week I feel my spirit renewed to join with others who are trying to live a life closer to Christ's example. None of this would be possible without the support of a faithful community that is centered by Christ. I am so grateful for all that Woodmont has been given and all that it gives back. I only hope to do my part.



Serving Those Who Serve

by Lauren Lucas-Beuerlein

Veteran's Day is just around the corner. On Tuesday November 5, the Young Professionals & Couples ministry is honoring our Woodmont military veterans and first responders with a dinner followed by a discussion hour. The event is at Campbell West from 6 to 8 PM.

We are excited to honor you and learn from your experience of service! Mission BBQ will be our caterer. Not only is their food absolutely delicious, their mission is to honor those who serve our country. If you haven't visited their location in Opry Mills, take a trip down there sometime. They close down the kitchen to play the national anthem over the restaurant speakers at noon every single day and their walls are lined with uniforms, patches, bomber jackets and memories of service.

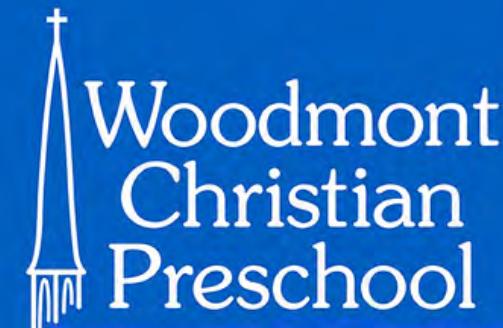
We've worked with Jan Anderson to identify our Woodmont veterans and we sent out an email invitation to you a few weeks ago. We've been thrilled with the response from veterans in our congregation who plan to attend! If you are a veteran or first responder and you did not

WOODMONT KIDS

October birthdays:

Thomas Lyles 10/2	Helen Steele 10/21
Griffin Johnson 10/3	Ansley Rudolph 10/23
Brooks Baxley 10/6	Stella Piedmonte 10/25
Ann Baker Daniel 10/6	Beckett Toomey 10/25
Noah Jobe 10/7	Piper Pride 10/25
Marilyn Smith 10/7	Eleanor Dieckhaus 10/25
River Kolakowski 10/8	Ida Louise Simmons 10/26
Larkin Reynolds 10/9	Houston Alexander 10/27
Mary Katherine Kidd 10/10	Miles Pratt 10/28
Senna Shaffer 10/14	Cutler Smith 10/28
Riley Turner 10/15	Anne Hayden Holt 10/28
Walker Dovan 10/16	Laura Beasley 10/29
Jack Van Dyke 10/20	Finn Hill 10/30

Preschool application deadline for in-house families is Oct. 25



Currently enrolled WCPS families have until Oct. 25 to apply in order to maintain priority status. Contracts will be mailed by Nov. 8 and must be signed and returned to the preschool office by Dec. 13 along with a 15% deposit. You may either pay by check or mark approval to use Tuition Express.

receive the email invitation by mistake — or if you are a young professional or couple wanting to participate in the YP & Couples group — please RSVP at woodmontchristian.org/veterans or contact the church office (615-297-8563) by Friday, Nov. 1 and let Chris Beck or Jan Anderson know that you plan to attend. Childcare and dinner are provided at no cost as long as you RSVP.

We can't wait to see you and honor you on November 5!



Who Takes the Lead?

by Farrell Mason

We have a menagerie of animals at our house, almost a Noah's Arkful! Our most recent addition is a brother/sister pair of huskies. I confess a moment of Christmas parental weakness. Who wouldn't want a couple of cute puppies around the tree? What were we thinking? Huskies have a lot of energy and need to constantly move. Many afternoons, the kids and I will take them for a long trek around the neighborhood. Inevitably, one pulls forward and takes the lead. I find this a great metaphor for how we humans walk in the world. In any given moment, encounter, relationship, who takes the lead? The selfish ego or the generous soul? In my quest to live a meaningful life, one rich, deep and full, I have to regularly check myself, especially as the world constantly

rewards ego performance. Soulfulness demands courage, vulnerability and sacrifice. More than I would like to admit, my ego will slyly slip into the lead. So much is missed, or lost, when I allow this. I let people down, especially myself. But when I dare to approach the world from the gentle, intuitive, vulnerable, I dare say, the divine in me, the experience is exponentially different. Suddenly, I view the world through the kind eyes of God and it becomes a canvas brimming with goodness, beauty and crazy possibilities! I desire to operate from this higher version of myself, good for me, and also for every person who crosses my path.

Amen.

A Walkabout

Always we are given the choice of who we will take out for the day's walkabout! Who will you choose today?

Dear God,

*Today I took my ego out for a walk.
At a fast clip, I could barely keep ahold of her.
She blindly barreled through the endless motions
and minutia of the hour.
She missed the hummingbird's benediction at the
window,
And the tug of a little hand on her sleeve.
Her glory was measured in tasks accomplished and
she relished the world's acclaim of worth.
No wonder she is always out of breath, bone-weary.
Fear has her ear, and can make her life feel very
small.
She naively believes she holds the reins.
I never hear my ego speak of God and sacred things.
At the close of the day, my ego leaves me wondering
what's the point of it all.*

Dear God,

*Today I took my soul out for a walk.
She moves so slowly, not to miss a petal, a whisper, a touch.
She talks to the trees, smiles at the grocery clerk, and
brings empathy to every encounter.
You won't find her chasing status or over-stocking barns.
These leave her feeling empty and wanting more.
She is hungry for beauty and love and holiness.
So she follows her intuition (why not use a
superpower if you have one)
And it leads her deep beneath the surface,
Where the Truth is.
In these moments she can feel the light drop into
every cell of her being.
She is convinced the Almighty Plan is good and can
be trusted.
Tonight she will dream about all the possibilities
around the next corner.
Amen.*

Help Wanted for Woodmont's Room In The Inn Ministry

Scheduling Coordinator - an individual or couple to help with scheduling our regular Friday night hosting duties; to include food and overnight hosts. Will work as back-up this season to take over these duties next season.

Laundry Duties - an individual or a group of individuals willing to do laundry on Saturday after our scheduled Friday nights. Laundry can be done in South Hall or taken home to do.

If you are interested or need further details, contact Deb LaForge at (615) 496-8183 or divegirldj@yahoo.com.

Woodmont's Room In The Inn season begins Nov. 8. To sign up, visit woodmontchristian.org and use the menu navigation to go to "Ministries," then "Outreach," and click "Room In The Inn."

stephen MINISTRY®

DEATH OF A LOVED ONE • CHILDBIRTH • AGING
SERIOUS ILLNESS • DISCOURAGEMENT • JOB LOSS
DIVORCE • DIFFICULTIES • HOLIDAY BLUES

Here For Life's Tough Times

When an event shakes up your world, you can either let it hurt you or help you. If you would like help in turning a life crisis into an opportunity of growth and faith, a Stephen Minister is ready to help you.

A Stephen Minister is:

- A trained lay volunteer
- A good listener
- Trained in confidentiality
- Supervised for quality care
- Ready to offer God's love through a Christian caring relationship on a one-to-one basis.

For more information contact Sara Kate Hooper at (615) 364-5406 or allsk@aol.com or speak with one of our ministers.

Stephen Ministry is a free service open to all church members.



MEET WOODMONT'S STEPHEN MINISTERS: FRONT ROW (L-R): LIZ ANNE ALLEN, MILLY MOORE, TERRI MCCONNELL, KATHY PAROLINI, ELISA CLARK, ANNE ARNEY. BACK ROW (L-R): BETTE CHRISTOFERSEN, SARA KATE HOOPER, ROSIE BRUCE, JACK DERRYBERRY, BILL MEADOR, LAURIE HESTER, DOUG KING, JULIE TANNER, LAURA CRENSHAW, ANNE MITCHELL. NOT PICTURED: CHRISTY BROWN, MARYANNE MCWHIRTER, CHIP PHINIZY, ROSEMARY WELDON.

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 TRUNK OR TREAT

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, Bay Room
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
11:00 AM Bridge Brunch, Drowota Hall
4:00 PM Trunk or Treat, Parking Lot
5:00 PM Jubilation Rehearsal, Choir Room
5:45 PM Youth Group, Youth Wing

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

3:00 PM "Geezers," Boardroom

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group, C.S.
6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

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: Lemon/tomato braised chicken •
Sweet potato au gratin with bleu cheese
crumble topping • Roasted root vegetable
salad with brussels, mushrooms, shaved
carrot, cranberry, feta, balsamic honey •
Yeast rolls

VEGETARIAN: Lemon/Tomato Rice
Cakes

KIDS: Roasted Tomato Chicken with
Penne

6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
6:15 PM Henri Nouwen class with Dr. Ben
Curtis, Room 105
6:15 PM "Caring for the Elderly," Bay Room
6:15 PM Daystar "Modern Parents, Vintage
Values" with David Thomas and Sissy
Goff, Drowota Hall

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Youth Fall Retreat, Bethany Hills

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Youth Fall Retreat, Bethany Hills

Q1 Outreach Grants Awarded

Woodmont's outreach grants committee met Oct. 10 for their first quarter meeting of the new fiscal year and awarded grants to the following:

Disciples Divinity House
Fifty Forward
Harvest Hands
The Next Door

Safe Haven Family Shelter
Unbound
Minister's Discretionary Fund

	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
SEPT. 29:	376	788	\$40,933
OCT. 6:	333	790	\$54,770
OCT. 13:	362	882	\$60,470
OCT. 20:	329	769	\$42,432

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Oct. 27: Seekers begins new study on I & II Peter & Jude

The Seekers Bible Study invites anyone who would like to study the books of I Peter, II Peter, and Jude to join them on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 8:30 AM in Room 105. The group will learn why Martin Luther called I Peter "one of the grandest of the New Testament books" and why early church fathers were inspired by its consoling, hopeful words. Coffee is hot at 8:15 AM and the discussion begins at 8:30 AM.

Nov. 5: Author Tony Turnbow to speak at CWF



Tony Turnbow is the author of *Hardened to Hickory: The Missing Chapter in Andrew Jackson's Life*, a biography that reveals new details of Jackson's first military expedition down the Mississippi River and Natchez Trace. The story reveals a more human side of Jackson than is often portrayed explaining events that transformed him into the man who became general and president. It also tells about two ministers who were involved in his life. CWF meets Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 11:00 AM in Room 105 with lunch to follow at noon. Lunch reservations can be made with the church office (615) 297-8563 or on our Realm church app.

Save the Date! Walk Thru Bethlehem is Sunday, Dec. 8

Reserve the date on your calendars! Even with construction of our new space underway, we will be having this year's Walk Thru Bethlehem. Plan to spend the day at this 36-year Woodmont community outreach tradition! Watch The Spire, Sunday bulletins, and your email for upcoming volunteer sign up! Remember, it takes a village to create "the village"!



BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE: ELEVATOR PIT IS COMPLETE (ABOVE) AS HOE RAMMING AND EXCAVATING FOR TRENCHES AND FOOTINGS CONTINUES

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Mary Clare & Jeremiah Pyron on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Clare Pyron, on Oct. 13.
- Wade & Pat Daniel on the birth of Graham Kenneth Daniel, on Oct. 2.
- Angie & Kyle Simmons on the birth of their son, Chappell William Simmons, on Sept. 28.

SYMPATHY TO:

- Betty & Bill Johnson & family on the death of Betty's brother, Dr. John H. Coles, on Oct. 17.

IN THE HOSPITAL:

- Gayle Cherry's son, Hugh Crawford

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

- Everett Davis
- Heather Dwyer
- John Hobby - at home
- Mary Holwolt
- Hale Hooper - Richland Place, 202
- Sarah Peay
- Patricia Taylor
- Gary Thompson
- Isse Waddey
- Rosemary Weldon
- Walter White

FAMILY/FRIENDS CONCERNS:

- Dara Howe's brother, Randy Greenwood, surgery on Oct. 17.
- Ingrid Regen, daughter of Lilo and David Regen - recent surgery
- Karen Wedgworth, mother of Davis Wedgworth - ICU in Birmingham

OUR ELDERS INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM IN PRAYER FOR:

WOODMONT MEMBERS WHO ARE GOING TO GUATAMALA

1. We pray they will have a safe and meaningful trip.
2. May they enrich the lives of the Guatamalan people through acts of kindness and good deeds.
3. Help us to remember that God's love is broad enough to embrace the whole world and may we realize that unity with people all across the world is a gift from God.

Father, thank you that your love knows no boundaries. Help us be ambassadors of your care to those around us. Amen.



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

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The Spire

Under Construction: Becoming More Christ-like

BEGINS SUNDAY, OCT. 27



COMPANION BOOK FOR NEW SERMON SERIES:
"ENNEAGRAM AND THE WAY OF JESUS" BY A.J. SHERRILL
AVAILABLE IN WOODMONT'S BOOKSTORE