

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

LEADING THE LARGE CHURCH

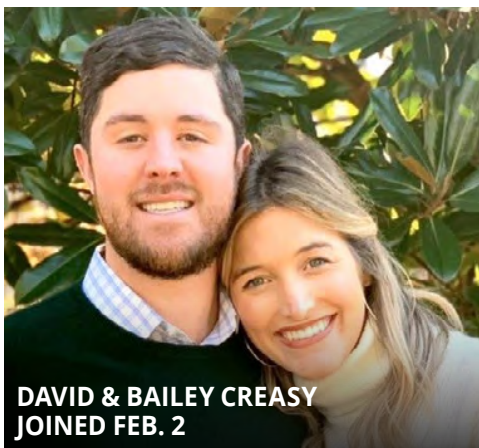
SPRING LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST LED BY DR. SUSAN BEAUMONT
SATURDAY, MARCH 28 [RSVP TO AMBER@WOODMONTCC.ORG](mailto:AMBER@WOODMONTCC.ORG)

**All Woodmont members are welcome; Elders, Board, & Deacons expected to attend
Saturday, March 28 • 9:00 to 10:30 AM in Drowota Hall**

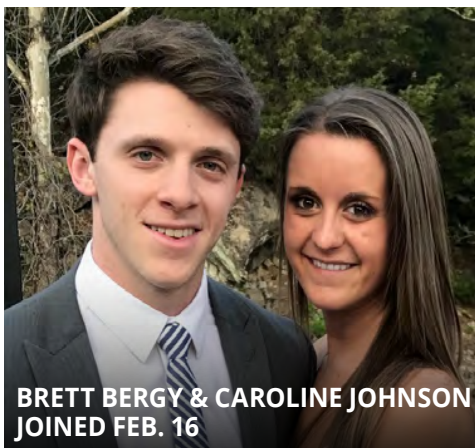


Dr. Susan Beaumont is a consultant, author, coach, and spiritual director. She has consulted with over one hundred congregations and denominational bodies across the United States and in Canada. She is known for her ground-breaking work in the leadership dynamics of large congregations. Before establishing her own practice, Susan worked for nine years as a Senior Consultant with the Alban Institute. She has also served on the faculty of two business schools, teaching graduate level courses in leadership, management and organizational behavior; and she consulted with nonprofit organizations and corporate clients in leadership development and change management. An ordained minister within the American Baptist Churches, USA, she holds an MBA from Northwestern University and a M.Div. from McCormick Theological Seminary. In addition, she is a graduate of the Shalem Institute Spiritual Guidance program.

Welcome new members!

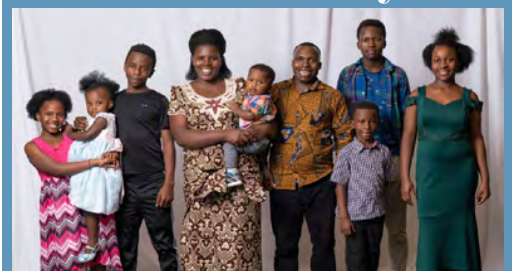


DAVID & BAILEY CREASY
JOINED FEB. 2



BRETT BERGY & CAROLINE JOHNSON
JOINED FEB. 16

This Sunday



**Meet our Habitat family
at Feb. 23's Bridge Brunch in
Drowota Hall at 10:40 AM**

Wednesdays at Woodmont

All classes begin at 6:15 PM



The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus with Dr. Rubel Shelly

Author of over 30 books, Dr. Rubel Shelly is a professor at Lipscomb University and the former president of Rochester College. His work has been largely influential in calling unity to the body of Christ and is widely cited by ministers & scholars across the country.



Ignatian Spirituality Class with Dr. Ben Curtis

Dr. Ben Curtis, recently retired after more than four decades as Professor of Religion, Pastoral Care, and Spiritual Formation at Belmont University, is Woodmont's Spiritual Director in Residence. He is available for individual spiritual direction and leads classes and retreats on spiritual formation.

Upcoming Wednesdays

**FEB. 26: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
NO CLASSES**

MARCH 4: Dr. Rubel Shelly

**MARCH 11: Dr. Rubel Shelly
Dr. Ben Curtis**

**MARCH 18: Dr. Rubel Shelly
Dr. Ben Curtis**

**MARCH 25: Dr. Rubel Shelly
Dr. Ben Curtis**

**APRIL 1: Dr. Rubel Shelly
Dr. Ben Curtis**

**APRIL 8: HOLY WEEK
NO CLASSES**



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



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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



The Season of Lent

BY CLAY STAUFFER

The Season of Lent will begin next Wednesday, February 26th. We will have an Ash Wednesday service in our sanctuary at 6:15 PM.

Lent is the forty day period leading up to Easter, reminiscent of the time Jesus spent alone in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry. It is a season of soul searching and spiritual growth.

If we are honest, we might all admit we are very good at identifying what is wrong with other people. We are good at naming the character flaws and shortcomings of others and the way others live their lives.

Criticizing others is neither difficult nor original. It is an easy way to keep the focus off of ourselves. Jesus offers us a more challenging question in the Sermon on the Mount: "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but fail to recognize the log in your own eye? First, remove the log from your own eye and then you can see clearly the speck in your neighbor's eye."

The problem? Sometimes it's hard to come to terms with the log in our

own eye. It takes humility, courage, and a dose of reality. Sometimes, we need help naming our own shortcomings. But we should stop and ask: What do I need to work on? Where do I fall short? How can I become a better person?

Lent is a good time to take a long look in the mirror, not to beat ourselves up over where we fall short but to identify one or two things that we need to work on between now and Easter and then work on it. Perhaps it's anger and a temper; maybe it's worry and fear; maybe it's stress; maybe it's eating too much or drinking too much; maybe it's our marriage or family situation; maybe it's spending more quality time with our children and actually being present; maybe it's being too judgmental and intolerant; maybe it's being overly addicted to social media, spending too much time on our phones; maybe we need to set aside quiet time for prayer and reflection.

In his book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, New York City pastor Peter Scazzero identifies ten specific symptoms of Emotionally Unhealthy

Spirituality. These include:

- Using God to run from God (religious busyness)
- Ignoring the emotions of anger, sadness, and fear
- Dying to the wrong things (living a miserable life)
- Denying the past's impact on the present
- Dividing our lives into "secular" and "sacred"
- Doing for God instead of being with God
- Spiritualizing away conflict
- Covering over brokenness, weakness, and failure
- Living without limits or boundaries
- Judging other people's spiritual journey

Scazzero argues that these things must be replaced with "emotionally healthy spirituality" which involves slowing down, anchoring in God's love, and freeing ourselves from false illusions that do not necessarily align with reality.

Lent is certainly the season to improve our own spiritual lives and we will all do that very differently. There is a strong correlation between spiritual vitality and emotional well-being. We cannot have one without the other. Lent gives us a chance to intentionally work on both.



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CWF Serves

BY MANDY LOWE

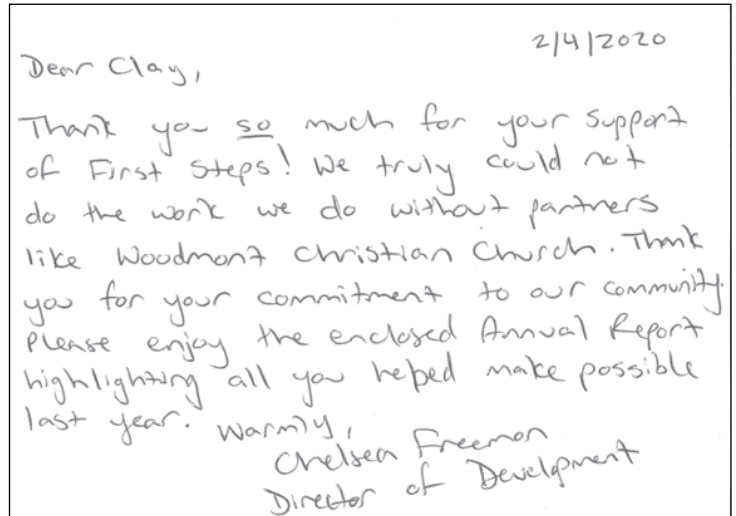
Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF) is the group of women who gather monthly for devotion, fellowship, amazing programs, and lunch. CWF is divided into Circles who also gather monthly, dedicated to providing support and service to a variety of needs within the Nashville community. Many of these projects completed the fourth quarter of 2019 are noted below:

- Prepared and donated eight themed gift baskets to benefit Morgan Scott at their annual fundraiser in Ruby, TN
- Donated food for weekend backpacks and yard sale items for Fall-Hamilton Elementary students
- Prepared and served meals to Walk Thru Bethlehem workers and setup volunteers
- Donated miscellaneous items and prepared meals for Room In The Inn
- Visited The Nashville Food Project and donated many of their most needed items
- Donated children's books for the Faith Family Medical Clinic waiting room and for Fall-Hamilton students
- On a monthly basis, collected items for the Women's Prison Ministry, tabs, and money for calendars and journals for The Ronald McDonald House
- Collected seasonal items for the Harvest Hands Christmas Store
- Collected items for the Second Harvest Food Bank and made "goodies" for Woodmont's youth leaders and youth sponsors
- Hosted Hanging of the Greens Tasting Party

CWF invites you to join these women and share your talents and your loving hearts in the many opportunities for spiritual and personal growth in our ongoing missions!

Thank you from First Steps Nashville

OUTREACH RECIPIENT



Thank you from BrightStone

OUTREACH RECIPIENT

Dear Woodmont,

Just a quick note to say thank you for the generous check we received and for supporting BrightStone again. We are grateful to you and all the missions outreach team involved in approving our request for support of our scholarship fund. Your gift makes it possible for students just like Kate, Allysa, and Alea (pictured below) to receive job training, continuing education, and enjoy the very best life possible.

May God continue to bless all you do to share the love of Christ in our community. Thank you again for your kindness and generous hearts.

With love and appreciation,

Randy Elliott, Director of Advancement





Love Letter

BY JUSTIN GUNG

Amongst the music, merriment, food, and frivolity of New Orleans stands a serious house that holds serious lessons: *The National World War II Museum*. *The National World War II Museum* opened its doors on June 6, 2000. It was founded upon the belief that all who live in democracy should understand the price of freedom.

Few things can impress lessons upon a nation as powerfully as war, and few wars have as much to teach as World War II. In Germany in the 1930s, the rule of law was exchanged for *Fuehrerprinzip*, the principle that Der Fuehrer's word was above all written law and that the purpose of government was to serve the will of Der Fuehrer. In short, the rule of law was exchanged for blind loyalty to a party leader. When those in position to check Der Fuehrer's power failed to do so, Nazi Germany became a fascist state and an existential threat to civilized society.

At the same time that this was happening, the Christian church in Germany abdicated its prophetic ministry. It simply went along with the status quo, no matter how alarming it was. It followed suit without critique or opposition, even when rumors of death camps swirled in the air. It was at this point that the Christian church lost all credibility in German society. Sixty years have passed and the Christian church still has not regained its credibility.

These and other valuable lessons are preserved in *The National World War II Museum*. I commend a trip to anyone. The United States of America has paid for this education with the highest possible tuition:

the spilt blood of its young men and women. To ignore these lessons, for which we have already paid, would be simple, willful ignorance.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of *The National World War II Museum* is the enduring power of love. One exhibit features something that kept many soldiers dreaming of home: Love letters. Indeed, thinking of a sweetheart in North Carolina got many a paratrooper through a sleepless night. Receiving mail was the highlight of any sailor's week. On the eve of battle, love letters were given to someone who could safely deliver them, just in case their authors did not survive the day. Sometimes, used parachutes were taken from the battlefield and shipped home. Parachutes were made of silk. Believe it or not, more than one silk wedding dress was sewn from a wartime parachute. Love letters, like the ones on display at *The National World War II Museum*, sustained soldiers in the harsh conditions of war.

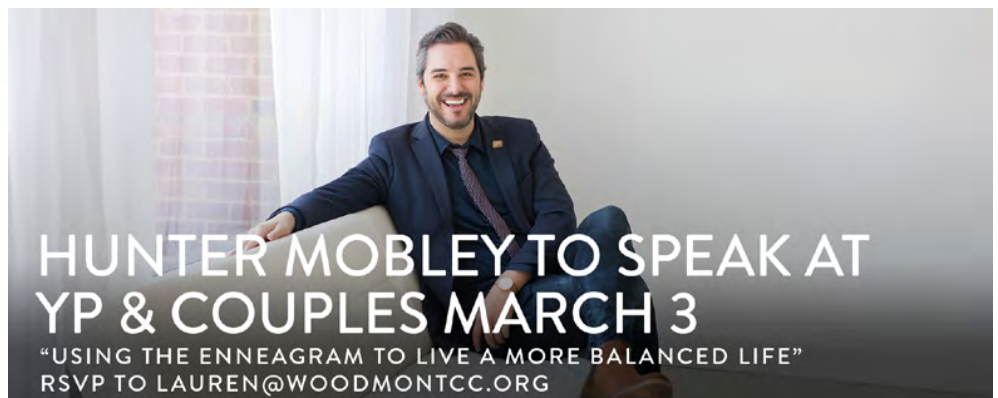
For thousands of years, Christians have had a sort of love letter, too. Reading it has sustained Christians in the harsh realities of life. That love letter is none other than the Bible. The Bible is the most important valentine that one can receive, for

it attests to a love more fervent and faithful than any upon the earth. It is the love that flows from the heart of the divine to every human being.

A woman once wrote to Billy Graham, the great evangelist: "Dr. Graham, I know I ought to read my Bible, but every time I try to read it, I just end up getting confused. Is the Bible really that important? What am I doing wrong?"

With the graciousness that was his hallmark, Billy Graham wrote: "Did you ever get a letter from your husband-to-be and decide you wouldn't bother reading it because his handwriting was poor, or you were too busy, or perhaps some other reason? I doubt it. And yet that's what many of us do with the Bible. The Bible is God's 'love letter' to us, telling us not only that He loves us, but showing us what He has done to demonstrate His love. The Bible is God's word, given to us so that we can know Him and love Him."

If you received a love letter from a soldier in the European theater, or perhaps a pilot in the Pacific theater, I dare say you would read it. Indeed, you would pore over its words and hold it dear. Why not, then, the Bible, God's love letter to the world?





The Door Builder

BY ANDRA MORAN

I was turning the key in the lock to the door of my house, arms full of groceries, school books and all the carrying that comes with having a young child when my three-year-old daughter made an announcement: “Mom, I know what I want to be when I grow up.” This isn’t something she has shared with me before, but in her preschool class, they’ve been discussing “community helpers” — roles that people play in a community. “Oh,” I said, “Please tell me—what do you want to be when you grow up?” She paused dramatically, then threw out her arms for emphasis: “A door builder!”

This was not an answer I had expected, but it intrigued me. “What do you mean?” I asked. “Well,” she explained patiently, (as if it were a very obvious answer), “Look around! Lots of people build walls. Every where you go there are walls! But walls put people apart. And you have to have a door to get through to get to people so you can hug them and be together. So, I’m going to be a door builder when I grow up.” Then she skipped sunnily through the open door of our little house and started to work on her Lego project.

Now, I know it’s cliché for parents to think their children are geniuses, but I can’t help it. A door builder! What aspiration! What inspiration!

I think I want to be a door builder when I grow up too... and you know Jesus of Nazareth? He built “doors” better than anyone I can think of. That line from Isaiah 11 rang in my head all afternoon, “...And a little child shall lead them.”



WOODMONT YOUTH SKI RETREAT
FEB. 7- 9, PERFECT NORTH, IN

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

- 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
- 6:00 PM CWF Circle #7 Self Defense Class, D.H.

MONDAY, FEB. 24

- 3:00 PM “Geezers,” Boardroom

TUESDAY, FEB. 25

- 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, FEB. 26

ASH WEDNESDAY

- 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: Citrus Marinated Chicken with rosemary beurre blanc • Two Potato Hash with mustard aioli • Candied Green Beans • Spinach Salad with cranberry, red onion, feta, croutons, balsamic honey.*
- VEGETARIAN: Rosemary Butter and Squash Gnocchi. KIDS: Chicken Tenders and Potato Wedges*

- 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 6:15 PM Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEB. 27

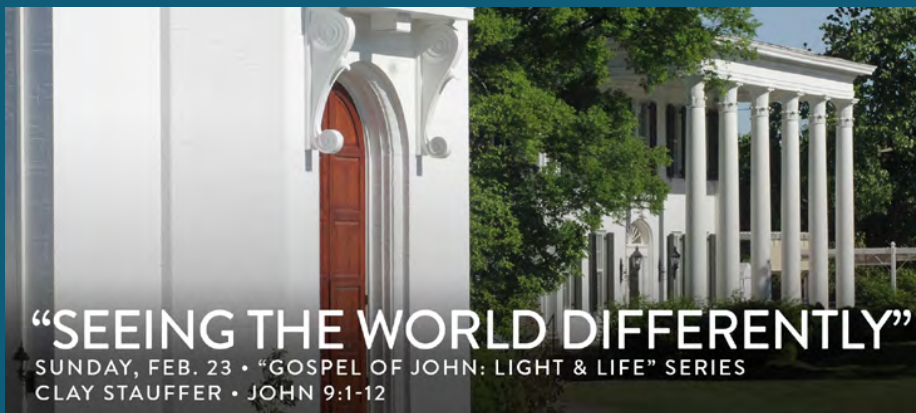
- 6:30 PM Youth Basketball Practice, D.H.

FRIDAY, FEB. 28

- Room In The Inn, South Hall

SATURDAY, FEB. 29

- Habitat Build, Day 1



PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

• Victoria & Jacob Liggett on the birth of their son, Oliver King Liggett, on Jan. 31 in Nashville. Big sister is Madeline and grandparents are Terri and Doug King.

• Elizabeth King & Jason Stuart on the birth of their son, Asher Righ Stuart, on Feb. 12 in Lexington, KY. Big brother is Maxwell and grandparents are Terri and Doug King.

IN THE HOSPITAL:

• Jane Dyer - St. Thomas West
• Richard Lowe - moving to Richland Place
• John Weldon - moving to Woodcrest

NEW CONCERNS:

• Tate Rogers
• David Todd - bypass surgery Feb. 18
• Julia Tanner - Vanderbilt surgery Feb. 27

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

• Betty Brent - Belmont Village #203
• Elner Hamner
• Hale Hooper
• Ava McGuinty - at home
• Sarah Peay
• George Shreeve
• Gary Thompson

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

• Brad Gioa - stem cell treatment at Sara Cannon
• Bob Goodrich, friend of Allen McDonald - cancer
• Glenn Hammonds, brother of Susan Hammonds-White, Berkeley, CA
• Mike Neeley, friend of Jonathan Farmer - stage 4 cancer
• Norma Warren, mother of Thomas Warren - Vanderbilt

PRAYERS FROM OUR ELDERS

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

1. Our church family members who are sick or in the hospital. May they know Your healing presence.
2. Our church staff and their families. May they feel our appreciation and your tender care.
3. Our Young Professionals and Couples ministry. May this ministry grow and reach people in this challenging period of their life.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: TOTAL ATTENDANCE: OPERATING:

JAN. 26:	411	981	\$33,103
FEB. 2:	357	888	\$138,964
FEB. 9:	394	951	\$32,288
FEB. 16:	368	939	\$49,717

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Now open! Puzzle exchange in Room 105



For those who enjoy puzzles, a Woodmont member has set up a puzzle exchange in Room 105. Stop by the room any time during the week or on Sunday to trade in your old, finished puzzles for new ones shared by other Woodmont members.

Feb. 25: GEMS to feature presentation on China



Dara Howe will be presenting on "China: Connections & Contrast" at our February GEMS meeting. Recently returned from China, Dara gained a new appreciation for Chinese history, culture, and modernity. She will share images from Shanghai, Nanjing, and Beijing, along with her impressions of the people she encountered at the next

GEMS luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 25, at noon in Room 105. 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 Feb. 21 and can be made with the church office or on our Realm church app.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Woodmont, for your calls, cards, food, flowers & visits during my ongoing heart recovery. I am so grateful for all your support. Keep those prayers coming. Blessings to all of you as well.
- David Weatherman



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The Spire



SIGN UP FOR HABITAT BUILD
Feb. 29 & March 1, 7, & 8
Sign up at woodmontchristian.org/habitat