

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 7, 2020

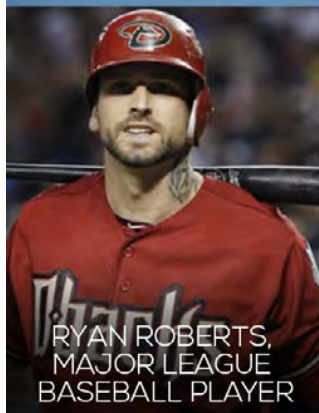


JESUS

THE LIFE OF THE PARTY

NEW SERMON SERIES "GOSPEL OF JOHN: LIGHT & LIFE"
SUNDAY, JAN. 12 • JOHN 2:1-12

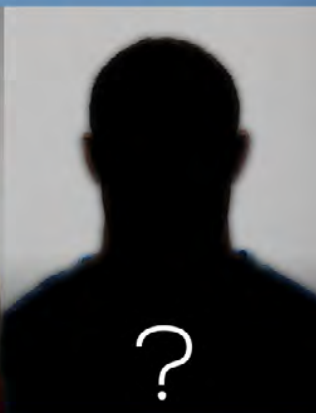
MYSTERY GUEST THIS SUNDAY!



RYAN ROBERTS,
MAJOR LEAGUE
BASEBALL PLAYER



DAPHNE DELOREN,
TELEVISION
JOURNALIST



Woodmont Kids to welcome mystery guest at 9:30 a.m. Children's Moment & Sunday School Hour

This Sunday, Jan. 12, Woodmont Kids welcomes it's next mystery guest!

Who is he? Here are some clues:

#1 At first glance, you may think he's human, but he's also part lion - Nittany Lion, to be exact.

#2 He once played football, and something that made him "special" is that he was a team captain.

#3 Of all the opponents he's ever tackled, the toughest one has been off the field.

WK

SUNDAY, JAN. 12
9:30 AM CHILDREN'S
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Nominate your church leaders now at woodmontchristian.org/nominate

Woodmont believes strongly in the ministry of lay people. Once a year, the congregation is asked to recommend fellow church members to serve in lay leadership positions, and that time of the year is now!

This year, the Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the following leadership positions: 1 Chair Elect, 3 At Large Board Members, 7 Elders, & 30 Deacons.



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.

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Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Nominating Church Leaders for 2020

BY CLAY STAUFFER

Between now and the end of January, we are accepting nominations for church leadership. Here is the link on the website: woodmontchristian.org/nominate. LA Galyon will chair this year's nominating committee which will begin meeting in February. This year, we will receive nominations for **1 Chair Elect of the Board, 3 At Large Board Members, 7 Elders, and 30 Deacons.**

To serve as an elder, you must have been an active member of Woodmont for five years. To serve as a deacon, you must have been an active member of Woodmont for one year.

We always want broad participation and input from the congregation in this process. When considering candidates, I encourage you to ask the following questions:

- Are they present in worship on a regular basis?
- Are they involved in a Sunday School class or small group?
- Are they passionate about the mission and ministries of Woodmont?
- Do they exhibit Christ-like qualities and behaviors?
- Do they exemplify the fruits of the Spirit?
- Do they have a servant's heart?
- Do they have a teachable heart?
- Do they support Woodmont with their time, talent, and treasure?
- Will they help move Woodmont forward into the future?

Paul Chappell once identified "Twenty Characteristics of a Christ-Like Leader." I find this list both accurate and challenging. Christ-like leaders:

- 1) A follower of Jesus Christ
- 2) Willing to deny self
- 3) Open to and filled with the Holy Spirit of God
- 4) Possesses and practices discipline in their life.
- 5) Reads the Word of God and other good books consistently
- 6) Seeks, asks for, and uses God's wisdom
- 7) Is sincere and deeply cares
- 8) Has godly friends and stays accountable
- 9) Knows how to forgive
- 10) Finds acceptance in Christ
- 11) Prays regularly for others
- 12) Helps others succeed
- 13) Knows the difference between ambition and vision
- 14) Is able to articulate vision
- 15) Possesses a sense of urgency for God's work
- 16) Stands on strong convictions
- 17) Is kind
- 18) Has a growing love for Jesus Christ
- 19) Loves their family
- 20) Loves the local church.

Christian leadership is grounded in service and humility. Christ calls us to "deny self, take of our cross, and follow him." Henri Nouwen says: "In

our world of loneliness and despair, there is an enormous need for men and women who know the heart of God, a heart that forgives, cares, reaches out, and wants to heal. In that heart, there is no suspicion, no vindictiveness, no resentment, and not a tinge of hatred. It is a heart that wants only to give love and receive love in response. It is a heart that suffers immensely because it sees the magnitude of human pain and the great resistance to trusting the heart of God who wants to offer consolation and hope."

Woodmont's 2020 Focus Areas

BY CLAY STAUFFER

INVITING – Inviting others to come be a part of the Woodmont community. Inviting others to join small groups and classes.

CONNECTING – Connecting through small groups, classes, and life groups. If you want to lead or join a life group, please reach out to Anne Marie Farmer annemarie@woodmontcc.org

GROWING – Growing in our faith, spirituality, and relationships.

SERVING – Using our gifts to serve others and spread the love of Christ to a hurting world.

*Also this year, we will see the construction and completion of our new building addition by late summer. Thank you for the ongoing generosity that is making this possible!



A Prayer, A Poem, & Thoughts for the New Year

BY ROY STAUFFER

PRAYER

May God make your year a happy one!
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

- Author Unknown

POEM: "The Way to a Happy New Year"

To leave the old with a burst of song;
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;
To forget the things that bind you fast
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;
To have the strength to let go your hold
Of the not worthwhile of the days grown old;

To dare go forth with a purpose true
To the unknown task of the year that's new;
To help your brother along the road;
To do his work and life his load;
To add your gift to the world's good cheer;
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.

- Author Unknown

THOUGHTS

"An optimist stayed up until midnight to see the New Year in... a pessimist stayed up to make sure the old year left."

"May all your troubles in the coming year be as short as your New Year's resolutions." - *An Irish saying*

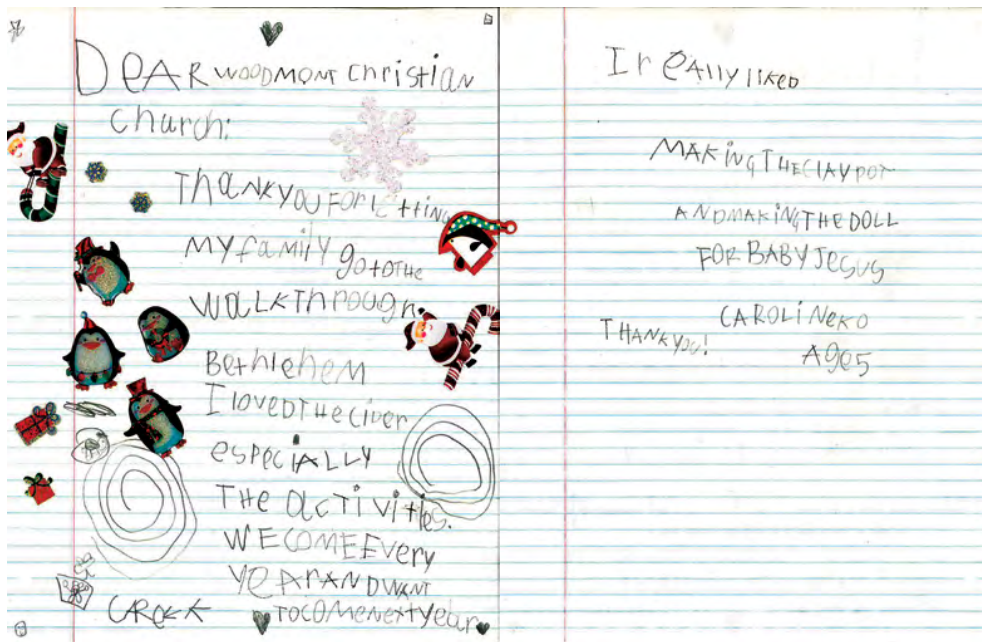
"I have never heard anything about the resolutions of the apostles, but I have heard a great deal about the acts of the apostles." - *Horace Mann*

"Those who prepare for this life and take no thought of eternity are wise for a moment, but fools forever."

"In the New Year take time to be holy. Let the world rush on."

"Don't let your neighbors set your standards, be yourself."

A Walk Thru Bethlehem Thank You



Shortly after this year's Walk Thru Bethlehem, we received a special note from a five-year-old visitor. This wasn't her first time in the village, but it has already become a joyful part of

her Christmas season. She reminds us of the traditions that we create with this special gift to our community. We bring the magic of Jesus's birth and the glory of his love to everyone.

To create this special event, it takes all of our Woodmont community working in concert. We offer the deepest and heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers who built and then deconstructed the village and to the hundreds that worked in and out of costume to make Bethlehem Sunday come alive. It takes all of us to make the magic for a five-year-old and for the thousands of others who came to visit us.

Here's a heartfelt thanks to everyone from the Walk Thru Bethlehem Committee! We hope to see you once again for WTB 2020.

Steve LaForge
Richard Lowe
Abby McClean
Park Owen
David Reynolds
Rich Sanderson
Mart Sesler
Steve Smith
Beth Sowell
Keith Walker

“SUPER-GUS”

BY JUSTIN GUNG



In the summer of 2016, a boy named Gus Stranch was rushed to Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital on suspicion that he had leukemia. When I received the news, I dashed to the hospital and met Gus and his family when they arrived. Before long, we were in an exam room. As doctors and nurses fluttered about, our nervousness built. Though we tried to hide it, there was no getting around the fact that we stood before an unknown future.

During a lull in the action, I asked aloud: “Should we pray together?” Everyone readily agreed—everyone, that is, but Gus. Gus was willing to pray, of course, but he seemed to want to say something. Piping up, he said, “It’s fine if we pray, but I’m going to be okay.” I didn’t take his announcement as an act of bravado. I took it as a declaration in faith. I took it as his way of reassuring the anxious people around him. It

turned out the coolest customer in the room was the patient himself.

Later, the diagnosis was confirmed. Gus did indeed have leukemia. But Gus didn’t just become a patient that day; he also became a prophet. By the grace of God, Gus’ words proved true. He would be okay.

Over the course of the next three years, Gus underwent aggressive treatment. He’d make countless trips to the hospital. He’d endure blood transfusions, spinal taps, and chemotherapy. He’d spend endless hours in the clinic, yet still keep up with schoolwork. He’d lose his hair, but maintain his fighting spirit.

While undergoing treatment, Gus even managed to take the Disciples Class and be baptized! In his statement of faith, he wrote: “God gave us his Son’s life, so we should dedicate ours to Jesus’ teachings.”

Doesn’t the book of Isaiah say that “a little child shall lead them”?

Through it all, Gus’ mother Patty was right by his side. His adoring brother was ever present, too. His aunt, uncle, and cousins were a constant source of support. Finally, the church covered them in prayer as with a blanket.

On Monday, October 14, 2019, Gus received his last cancer treatment. Though he’ll go to the doctor for routine check-ups, Gus is now cancer-free. Praise the Lord!

Shortly thereafter, family and friends gathered at Soundwaves, the new water park at Opryland, to celebrate. I spent time with Gus that day, watching as he chased his cousins and sped down waterslides. As he splashed in the water, I couldn’t help but think of his baptism just a few months prior. And I couldn’t help but think of Romans 6:4, which says: “For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may have new life.” Indeed.

Every year, on Superhero Sunday, kids come to church dressed as superheroes. Before our eyes are heroes like Captain Marvel, Black Panther, Moana, and Finn. But some kids don’t have to wear costumes in order to be heroes. Some are heroes just as they are. Gus is the chief example. For his perseverance and bravery, for his endurance and faith, Gus is my hero. I really mean that. He’s shorter than I am, but I very much look up to him.



Groups at Woodmont

BY ANNE MARIE FARMER

For many of us, a new year means new plans and new goals. Do your goals include deeper friendships and spiritual growth? Then I hope you'll consider life groups and other small groups at church.

If you're looking to connect with a new group, start by checking out the basic information on some of our men's groups, women's groups, and interest groups online at woodmontchristian.org/groups. If one of these looks intriguing to you, I'd be delighted to introduce you to the group leader and help you get involved.

I'd also like to introduce a new approach to life groups. Life groups are groups of folks at a similar stage of life who meet once or twice a month to enjoy friendship, discussion or study, sharing of prayer concerns, and maybe a meal or snacks. Some life groups meet in homes, some at Campbell West, and some at coffee shops. While we've offered open sign-ups for life groups for some time at form.jotform.com/82286645570161, and this is still an option, consider another avenue for life groups – forming your own, with support from the church, and inviting your friends to participate.

Over the next few weeks, you'll see some more announcements and information about life groups, and I hope you'll consider heading one up. Email me at annemarie@woodmontcc.org to let me know if you'd like to learn more. I can help provide logistical support and guidance if you're willing to reach out to some people and invite them to a few regular gatherings to get to know each other better and offer each other support. Nothing too complicated or burdensome involved.

Finally, an exciting announcement! A new group is taking shape for single parents, blended families, and any other family that doesn't fit the traditional mold. If this is something of interest to you, email me and I'll keep you posted on developments.



THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

- 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
Campbell Child Dedication
- 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
McWhirter & Graves Child Dedications
- 12:15 PM Intro to Woodmont, Boardroom
- 5:30 PM CWF Circle #7, Bay Room
- 5:45 PM Youth Group, Youth Wing

MONDAY, JAN. 13

- 3:00 PM "Geezers," Boardroom

TUESDAY, JAN. 14

- 9:00 AM Women's Prayer Group, C.S.
- 10:00 AM CWF Circle #1, Bay Room
- 10:30 AM CWF Circle # 2, Room 105
- 10:30 AM CWF Circle #4, Campbell West
- 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal, Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15

- 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: Herb Roasted Tomato Pesto Chicken • Rosemary Roasted Potatoes • Field Green and Arugula Salad with gorgonzola, cranberry, red onion, croutons, basil vinaigrette • Garlic Yeast Rolls • Chocolate Cake
VEGETARIAN: Israeli CousCous Stuffed Bell Peppers
KIDS: Grilled Chicken Tenders and Roasted Potatoes
- 6:00 PM DivorceCare, The Bay Room
- 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
- 6:15 PM Holy Yoga, Room 200
- 6:15 PM Deeper Bible Study, Room 105
- 6:15 PM Spiritual Formation Class, Boardroom

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 17 ROOM IN THE INN SOUTH HALL



	SUNDAY SCHOOL:	TOTAL ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
DEC. 15:	409	1066	\$104,756
DEC. 22:	332	966	\$84,250
DEC. 29:	114	566	\$91,457
JAN. 5:	443	1082	\$147,255

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Jan. 8: Deeper Bible Study begins study on Marcus Borg's "Evolution of the Word"

The Deeper Bible Study, which meets Wednesday evenings at 6:15 PM in Room 105, is a drop-in Bible study with optional preparation 'homework.' This winter, each week's scripture passage will be drawn from the current study in the Points of View Sunday School Class on Marcus Borg's book *Evolution of the Word*. The group will explore the books of the New Testament in the order they were written and connect these foundational passages with our lives today. This week, the group will be engaging with Galatians 3:26-29. If you are looking to grow in your knowledge of scripture, Deeper Bible Study is a safe, non-judgmental place to start your journey. Questions? Contact Beth Pattillo at bethpattillo@gmail.com

Jan. 21: Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study returns

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study, which meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 AM, is back and will be studying *Be Alive: Getting to Know the Living Savior, A Study of the Book of John*, by Warren Wiersbe. The groups meets in Room 200 and childcare is available upon request. Questions? Contact Martha Galyon at mwgalyon@me.com or 615-390-9313.

Jan. 21: Book Club's first meeting of the new year

The Book Club is beginning the new year with Tara Westover's book, *Educated*, and will meet Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 10:30 AM in Room 107 with discussion led by Doris Dark.

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.

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

IN THE HOSPITAL:

- Elner Hamner - Centennial - knee surgery
- Norma Bowman, Sheila Mathias' mother - moving back to Sheila's house with hospice
- Joel Pepper's mother, Marjorie Cassell - Intensive Care

NEW CONCERNS:

- Christine Reed

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

- Jim Easter - at home
- Hale Hooper
- Julie Howell - at home
- Sarah Peay
- George Shreeve
- Gary Thompson

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

- Will David Coleman's father, Ronnie Coleman - Vanderbilt ICU
- Glenn Hammonds, brother of Susan Hammonds-White, in Berkeley, CA
- Jeff Kinman's father, Kirby Kinman, in Mobile, AL

PRAYERS FROM OUR ELDERS

Lord, in this new year, we pray for:

1. All who are struggling to see a way forward.
2. Those who are celebrating new beginnings.
3. The wisdom and courage to do as you would have us do.



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
3601 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville, TN 37215

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The Spire

FROM 1943

INTRO TO WOODMONT

LUNCHEON

SUNDAY, JAN. 12, 12:15 PM