

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

APRIL 16, 2019



Easter Changes Everything!

CLAY STAUFFER

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 LUKE 24:1-12

7:00 A.M. SUNRISE
9:30 A.M. TRADITIONAL
9:45 A.M. CONTEMPORARY
11:00 A.M. TRADITIONAL



MAUNDY THURSDAY
LAST SUPPER RE-ENACTMENT
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 6:15 PM



Palm Sunday

April 14, 2019



CHILD DEDICATION
HAVEN MERRILL REYNOLDS, SON OF TIM AND HADLEY REYNOLDS



CHILD DEDICATION
LYDA HAZEN LONG, DAUGHTER OF ADAM AND ROBYN LONG



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

Stephen Daniel King • Worship Leader, *The Bridge*

Lauren Lucas Beuerlein • Young Professionals & Couples Director

Steve LaForge • Missions Field Coordinator

Dr. Ben Curtis • Spiritual Director In Residence

SUPPORT STAFF

Chris Beck • Business Administrator

Alissa Lindemann • A/V Engineer

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



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Leaving Anger, Bitterness, and Resentment Behind

by Clay Stauffer

I was recently conversing with a well-respected marriage and family therapist here in Nashville. He has been in private practice for decades and has counseled numerous couples and families through infidelity, mistrust, suicidal ideations, alcoholism, addiction, financial disaster, and the unwanted challenge of children who decide to not grow up. We were discussing the attitude of the older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) and how he became filled with jealousy and anger, bitterness and resentment when his younger brother returned home and his father threw a massive party. This therapist said something I will not forget: "I am convinced after years of counseling that anger, bitterness, and resentment can lead to an early death."

Why? These emotions are unhealthy, and if we live with them long enough, they have the potential to literally kill us. I'll let the physicians explain the physiology neurology of this process. Sadly, more and more people are living life this way, unable to let go of things from their past. Many have been hurt, betrayed, lied to, disappointed, disrespected, ignored, overlooked, or left behind. All of this hurts.

In this noisy world of constant interruptions, breaking news, polarized politics, and rising fear, tending to our souls has never been more important than it is right now. Jesus knew this which is why he spent significant time alone in prayer. In his teachings, he always asked the deep and profound questions: What does it profit you to gain the whole world but forfeit your soul? What can you get in return for your soul? Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but fail to recognize the log in your own eye? Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? Why are you afraid, you of little faith?

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, the people shouted "Hosanna," which literally means "Save us now." Many become uncomfortable when Christians talk about being saved. It seems trite, superficial, exclusive, and overly pious. The reality is, every human being needs to be saved from something. Every human being is captive to something.

In her new book on Holy Week, Vanderbilt scholar A.J. Levine says, "From what do we seek salvation? From sin, yes. But also from pain, from despair, from loneliness, from poverty, from oppression. We are all in need of some sort of salvation." But we often don't recognize it. Perhaps we can't recognize it. We think we've got everything under control, and then something happens that brings us to our knees and humbles us in way we never saw coming. Cancer. Infidelity. Divorce. Depression. Addiction. Grief. The loss of a child or betrayal of what we thought was a close friend. Suddenly life no longer seems fair. It hurts too much. At that point, we need to be saved from our anger, bitterness, cynicism, and resentment. These emotions take the joy out of living. These emotions are like "drinking poison and waiting for somebody else to die."

Human beings have a hard time letting things go, and often, for a good reason. But we must be reminded that life is about living in the present and looking to the future, not being held captive by the past. As spring continues to bloom all around us and Easter rapidly approaches, it may be time for a resurrection in our own hearts. It might be time to let something go and leave our old self behind.



When Giving Feels Like Receiving

by Lauren Lucas Beuerlein

Christmas used to be my favorite holiday for all of the superficial and materialistic reasons a kid might love Christmas. The lesson of giving was in there somewhere, but let's be honest: I did a lot of receiving. As I got a little older, stockings became my favorite part because I came to realize that some of my most favorite gifts came in tiny boxes!

Truth be told, I still love stockings at Christmastime and even in the midst of my spoiled youth, I did get something right: the best gifts are often the small ones. Though, they likely aren't found crammed down the toe of a sock.

In recent years, Easter has edged out Christmas as my favorite holiday. The most significant gifts in my life correlate with the idea of resurrection. They also correlate with Woodmont. I found my faith at Woodmont. I became a member on Easter Day six years ago. I met my husband here on a blind date at a spaghetti dinner in Drowota Hall. We married in the Garden of Prayer outside the sanctuary windows. I was baptized here. Woodmont has taught me how to believe, how to pray, and how to serve. I've found new friendships, new opportunities, and a ton of support in times of personal loss and fear.

Resurrection has played out over and over in my life since plugging into Woodmont. I know I'm not alone. I bet you also have a story of receiving rich blessings from our church.

I don't know about you but giving back doesn't feel completely sacrificial. It's like that *Friends* episode where Joey tries to convince Phoebe that all good deeds are selfish. Maybe Joey's right: no matter how selfless our intention of giving may be, we'll still be on the receiving end somehow. That's a testament to how generous and communal Woodmont is. That's also the power of resurrection.

Welcome new members!



DEBORAH SANDVIK
JOINED APRIL 14, 2019



ZACH & ALYSON FLYNN WITH ELIZABETH & LILY
JOINED APRIL 7, 2019



Thank you
from Janice Parker

Words are inadequate to express our gratitude for the many prayers, cards, notes, calls and concerns for Charlotte Dukes, my granddaughter. She is blessed to be home in Ridgeland, MS, with her family. Regular trips to St. Jude for lab work indicate evidence of healing.

We praise and give glory to our wonderful God for each and every blessing, for the provision of healing through doctors, medicine and the courageous gift of another person who gave her a second chance at life through her own bone marrow.

Charlotte learned a verse at school and repeated it to Ashley, her mom, from her hospital bed on September 9, 2018, after being diagnosed with aplastic anemia: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you." (Psalm 55:22).

Thank you so much for remembering Charlotte in your prayers.



How Money Can Bring Peace, Joy, & Meaning

by Roy Stauffer

Since we are in the midst of our annual Stewardship Campaign to underwrite the program and mission of Woodmont for another year, maybe it's a good time to do some deeper thinking about money ... and what it has to do with our inner peace, joy and meaning in life.

Even 2000 years ago ... before America even existed or became an extremely money-focused, materialistic culture ... Jesus had more to say about money than any other subject ... including salvation, heaven, and hell. Here are some of the many things Jesus had to say about money:

Luke 12:48: "From everyone to whom much is given, much will be required."

Luke 16:11: "If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"

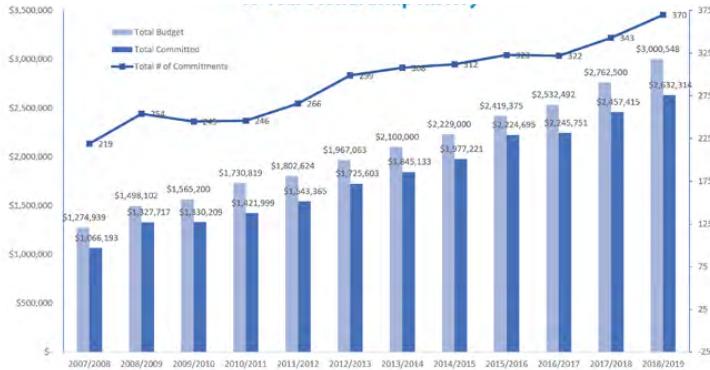
Matthew 6:24: "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 19:24: "It is very hard for a rich person to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God."

Matthew 16:26: "What does it profit you if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul in the process? Is anything worth more than your soul?"

Money can be a blessing or a curse, depending on how you get it and what you do (or don't do) with it. Since we live in a culture that focuses heavily on money and what it can buy or do, we might ask ourselves if our money is bringing us a blessing or a curse. Is the way we deal with money bringing us joy, inner peace, and real meaning to our lives? Or is it just bringing us stress, frustration, greed, and no real lasting meaning?

10-YEAR STEWARDSHIP HISTORY



As you ponder that, and think about what you will pledge to the operating budget of Woodmont for the 2019-2020 church year, let's review what the Bible says about dedicated Christian giving.

1) **First Fruits** – When it comes to the use of our money, we put God's mission first ahead of anything else. (Exodus 22:29-30) We don't give God what is "left over" after everything else, but we make God our first priority.

2) **Proportionate Giving** – You give according to what you have received, according to your "ability" to give. It's not the size of your gift that is most important, but its proportion in relationship to what you have received. "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside according to the way the Lord has prospered you." (I Corinthians 16:2)

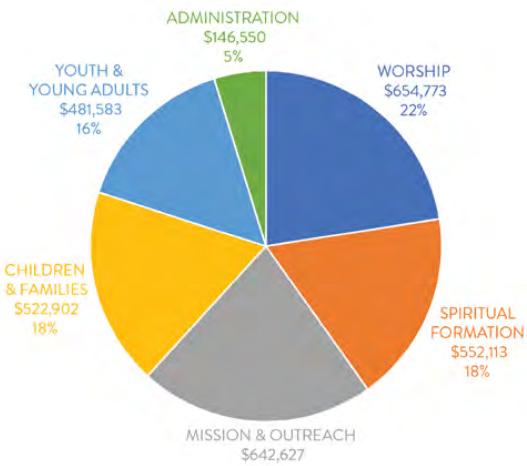
3) **Tithing** – This is the age-old Biblical guideline for what proportion to give. "Honor the Lord with the first tenth of your wealth." (Deut. 14:22, 23; Malachi 3:10) This levels the giving field making everyone's giving equal and fair.

4) **Sacrificial Giving** - If the tithe is what is expected of us, anything we give beyond the tithe is known as sacrificial giving. As King David said, "I will not give the Lord that which costs me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24) Is what we give to the Lord worth much if it is not worth much to us?

5) **Grateful giving in response to God's love** – We give because God first loved and gave to us. (I John 4:19) As long as God is there for us, we want to be there for God.

As you prayerfully consider what you will pledge and give to next year's budget, as well as in all areas of your life, may these Biblical principles ... or what I call "God Guided Giving" bring you joy, peace, and deep meaning.

WOODMONT'S CURRENT OPERATING BUDGET



WOODMONT KIDS

April 16th-30th Birthdays:

Louisa Harris 4/16
Poppy Duke 4/16
Baron Pride 4/17
Loretta Witherow 4/18
Henry Green 4/21
Hank Smith 4/23
Austin Ribas 4/24

Millie James Taylor 4/25
Elle Steele 4/27
Wilks Whittington 4/27
Virginia Mansfield 4/29
Magnolia Bates 4/30
Anna Thomas 4/30



THIS WEEK

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

7:00 AM Sunrise Service, Outdoor Chapel
9:30 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:45 AM The Bridge Worship Service, D.H.
11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
5:45 PM Youth Group, Youth Wing

MONDAY, APRIL 22

10:00 AM The Baby Bunch, Nursery
3:00 PM Geezers, Boardroom

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

12:00 PM G.E.M.S. Luncheon, Room 105
6:00 PM Handbell Rehearsal, Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

6:15 AM Men's Small Group, Room 100
7:00 AM "Original" Men's Bible Study, Rm. 105
7:00 AM Younger Men's Bible Study, Boardroom
5:30 PM Grace Notes, Kids Commons
6:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room
5:30 PM Marriage & Couples Enrichment Series with Dr. Kevin Roberts, Room 200



Building Expansion Update - April 2019

by Tom Gormley

We are pleased to report continuing progress on our new chapel and classrooms. We have received approval from the Metro Stormwater and expect approval from Water Services very soon on our site plans. Centric Architecture has received preliminary approval on the floor plans from the Building Dept. and they will submit final plans on May 13 for a building permit. We anticipate 12 weeks for this process due to the Code Depart. being so busy given the growth in Nashville.

While the plans are being reviewed, Batten and Shaw, our construction manager, will obtain bids from local subcontractors for the work. We should have the final cost estimate in mid-June. Our design and construction team are working closely and exploring options to stay in budget given the construction boom here and the 40 additional new parking spaces included. Batten and Shaw will have their offices in South Hall to reduce cost and so trailers will not be required

on our campus. They will provide a site logistics plan showing temporary parking, drives to be closed, construction areas and fire lanes. This will be posted in the church for all to see prior to the start of construction.

We continue to believe that we will be close to the budget and ready to start construction in mid to late July. We will let everyone know the date for the planned ground breaking ceremony. We appreciate everyone's support and please pray for good subcontractor pricing!



**BUILDING
FOR
FUTURE**



Anne Mitchell joins Woodmont Staff

Anne Mitchell will join the Woodmont staff part-time on May 1st as our Parish Visitor.

As Woodmont has grown, so have our pastoral care needs. Anne will assist with visitation, communication, and be a liaison to the elders.

	SUNDAY	ATTENDANCE:	OPERATING:
MARCH 24:	407	937	\$28,784
MARCH 31:	457	1059	\$31,131
APRIL 7:	437	1014	\$62,287
APRIL 14:	484	1089	\$53,177

UPCOMING EVENTS

An opportunity to SERVE

We are going to resume volunteering at Project Cure on the first Thursday of each month. Project Cure collects medical donations from hospitals and medical facilities across the country. They are then sorted and distributed. Since its inception in 1995 they have shipped nearly 3000 tons of medical supplies and equipment to more than 31 countries around the world. Our job will be to sort the donations into their proper bins, according to their use. You don't have to understand the use for these items as there is plenty of support there. Our first session will be at 9 AM on May 2, and we will work until about noon. Please contact Susan Batson

[\(subatson@gmail.com\)](mailto:(subatson@gmail.com)) if you would like to participate or be placed on a volunteer list. We can also leave as a group from the church if there is interest in doing so. This is a great chance to get to know fellow members and to be of service to others. If you have the desire to drive a forklift you might even be able to convince Jack Derryberry to share!

April 23 G.E.M.S to discuss Nashville's Tree Programs and the Emerald Ash Borer Epidemic

Our city's urban forest is decreasing through development, the Emerald Ash Borer(EAB) Epidemic and old age. Come hear Woodmont member Jennifer Mathews Smith highlight efforts in the city to increase Nashville's tree canopy and learn how you can make a difference. Jennifer is the city's horticulturist with the Metro Landscape Coordination program and coordinator of the Metro Tree Advisory Committee. G.E.M.S. (Greet Eat Meet Socialize) is open to all. We gather at noon in Room 105 and partake in the buffet catered by Barley to Rise. Reservations are needed by Friday, April 19. Cost is \$10.

Lost hearing aid?

An expensive Unitron T Moxi hearing aid was recently found in the Sanctuary. We believe it was lost during a recent funeral. If you know of anyone looking for a lost hearing aid, contact jan@woodmontcc.org.

Calling all veterans!

Have you served in our armed forces? If so, we would like to identify and honor you on Memorial Day! Please contact jan@woodmontcc.org.

Prayers for our church family:

SYMPATHY TO:

Phil Shirley on the death of his father on April 11.

NEW CONCERNS:

Penny Stelling - pulled hamstring

Charlotte Berry (wife of Woodmont's former Senior Minister, Clair Berry) - aorta valve replacement surgery on April 23.

David McDowell, Susan and Bob McDowell's son, spinal surgery last week in Florida.

IN THE HOSPITAL

Elizabeth Regen - St. Thomas West

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Isse Waddey
JoAnn Patterson
Nick Small
Gary Thompson
Walter White

FAMILY OF MEMBERS - CONCERNS:

Polly Keith's sister, Kathy Reynolds, in Duke University Hospital

Steve Lowry's mother, Nita Lowry, in Lexington, KY

Gayle Cherry's son, Hugh Crawford,

Susan Hammonds-White's brother, Glenn Hammonds - California - at home

Mike Miller's Dad, Ron Miller, surgery April 12 at Centennial Hospital

Pam Groom's father, Gary Jones - in Louisville, KY - now at home

The elders invite you to join them in prayer:

- That by our lives we may mold society into closer conformity to the will of God,

- Inviting God into every aspect of our lives, every nook and cranny,

- Trusting in God's care with all of our hearts,

- Rejoicing at His constant presence, and

- Remembering that the Kingdom of Heaven is near.



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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The Spire



**COME-AND-GO INTERGENERATIONAL
GOOD FRIDAY EXPERIENCE**

FROM 11 AM TO 2 PM, A FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE WILL BE OFFERED IN DROWOTA HALL. THIS SELF-GUIDED TOUR INCLUDES PRAYER SPACES WHICH OFFER A HANDS-ON WAY TO PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, AND A CANDLE-LIT LABYRINTH FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION. THIS EXPERIENCE IS DESIGNED FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AGES 5 AND UP. COME ANYTIME DURING THIS WINDOW. NURSERY CARE FOR CHILDREN 4 AND UNDER WILL BE OFFERED FROM 11 AM TO 2 PM.