



January 3, 2020

Volume XXIX—Issue 1

The Long Way Around

I suppose there must be an infinite number of lessons to be learned about God and human nature from the biblical account of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and their journey to Canaan. One such lesson occurs to me at the outset of their journey.

“When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, ‘If they face war, they might change their minds, and return to Egypt.’ So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea.” - Exodus 13:17-18a

If you look at a Bible map of the Exodus, it will be obvious that the route through Philistia would have been MUCH shorter. The Israelites were very aware of the location of the land God had promised Abraham that he would give their descendants.

During those years of wandering in the desert, at every discouraging obstacle they encountered, don't you know they questioned why God did not simply let them take the short route? We have no indication that God ever explained why they didn't take the shortcut. But God had a reason and regardless of any second-guessing on their part, God led them the way they needed to go.

So here's the lesson I see for us: Sometimes God leads us the “The Long Way Around” to avoid circumstances we cannot handle!

Regardless of the road we are traveling, there will be difficulties. It's not unusual that we immediately want to question/blame God for those difficulties. But we do not know what the alternative may have been!

So, as always, everything always comes back to the question, “Do you trust God?” Remember, he did give us this promise – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him . . .” - Romans 8:28

Will you continue to trust God, or will you strike out on your own?

-Ken Stegall

Welcome to Woodland Oaks Church of Christ

We are honored you have chosen to worship with us this morning. Thank you for visiting us today! We look forward to meeting you!

Schedule of Services

Sunday	9:15 AM	Bible Classes
	10:15 AM	Morning Assembly
	6:00 PM	Evening Assembly
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Bible Classes

January 3, 2020

Elder of the Day Scott Blake
Communion Leader Robert Shock

Adult Bible Classes:

“Judges: Is God my god?”
 by Michael Matheidas
 Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Center Auditorium

“Christian Attitudes” by Mac Brockman
 Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.
 Worship Center Auditorium

Teen Bible Classes:

“Revelation” (7th –12th) by Jordan Fontenot
 Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.
 Chapel Center Auditorium

“Gospels” (7th–12th) by Jordan Fontenot
 Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.
 Chapel Center Auditorium

*Links for streaming Bible classes and Worship:

<http://woodlandoaks.org/media-center.html> or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3r3Z5p1jFwx1g7rDUclVYA>
 Youth: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCit8ZGyUoQr1EB61DYyDLiA/>
 Children: Woodland Oaks Children's Ministry Facebook Page

Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:

0–2 years	A105/A106
3–4 years	C103
Kinder–1st grade	C201
2nd–3rd	C106/Magnolia Room
4th–5th grade	A101
6th grade	A102

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www.woodlandoaks.org



Elders

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 Gary Erwin
 Mark Freeman
 Nathan Ingram

Butch Merriman
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Jessica Weatherholt
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Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:15 AM Bible Class	155
10:15 AM Worship	276 @ WOCC 426 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	108
Contribution	\$31,080.11

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

7:00 PM Bible Class	62
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You may give online at:
<https://woodlandoaks.givingfire.com/>

Or mail contributions to our PO Box at:
 Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
 6700 Woodlands Parkway Suite 230-252
 Spring, TX 77382

Deacons

Administration Joel Blake
Audio/Visual & Media Mark Jetton
Building & Grounds Larry Brabham
 Ken Purvis

Children's Programs Todd Watrous
Education Richard Hyde
 Matt Fitzgerald
 Adam Fracht
 Quinn Tolbert

Family Life Center Chris Davis
Fellowship Tim Riggs
Finance Jeff Fleming
 Brandon Smith

Foreign Missions Paul Gidden
 Brian Lee
Information Technology Al Ardito
Involvement Frank Kerze

Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes
Sharing Kyle Gordley
 Bradley Welborn

Reaching Out Gavin Dao
Ushers Tony Bloom
Welcome Center/ Ben Brockman
Visitor Contacts

Visitation - Hospital & Robert Shock
Homebound/Men's Ministry

Worship Eric Kirkland
 Bill Malone
 Brant Mathis

Youth Matt Hemphill
 Terence O'Connor

Missions

For updates regarding the mission efforts supported by WOCC, please visit our church website, woodlandoaks.org, under Connect, click Ministries and Missions.

Budget

Actual unrestricted contributions through October 31, 2020 are \$1,155,005 compared with a budgeted amount of \$1,172,228 producing a deficit of (\$17,223).

Notes

Announcements

Congregational Singing will be **TONIGHT** during the evening assembly.

Community Bible Class resumes this Thursday, January 7 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center.

Men's Breakfast will be this Saturday, January 9 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center.

There will be a **Blood Drive** Sunday, January 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please sign up at: <https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/323159>.

There is a **2021 Bible Readers' Sign-Up** at the Welcome Center for those who plan to read through the Bible in 2021.

Save the date! The **2020 Bible Readers' Banquet** will be Saturday, February 20 at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up individually at the Welcome Center by February 7 and indicate whether you will attend.

Thank You

To the family at Woodland Oaks,

Thank you for the cards, plant, kind thoughts, and prayers during this difficult time. I appreciate my family away from home. Thanks again for all the support during the death of my mom.

Mary Ann Western

Dear Woodland Oaks Church,

Thank you for your prayers and kind expressions of sympathy during the loss of our mother. Your thoughtfulness and kindness have been a comfort. We are so grateful to have church family and friends like you.

The family of Esther Brooks
Kermit and Delesicca Brooks

Expectant Families

Cecilia & Tony Bloom
Allison & Ben Brockman
Candice & Matt Fitzgerald
Erica & Jeremy Lunn
Lindsey & Doug Peak
Hannah & Kolt Phillips
Chelsea & David Sparks
Jessica & Daniel Weatherholt

Youth News

There will be a **Youth Devo TONIGHT** immediately following the evening assembly in the Chapel Center.

Tuesday Bible Study resumes this Tuesday, January 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jetton home.

Guys/Girls Night Out will be this Friday, January 8. More details coming soon!

The next **Youth Invasion** will be Sunday, January 10 immediately following the evening assembly.

The **Youth Winter Retreat** will be February 12-14 at Hensel Camp, located outside of Marble Falls, TX. This event is open to students 7th-12th grade. The cost is \$30 per person. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, February 7. If you are interested in chaperoning please contact Jordan Fontenot.

Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Shelley Bennett at the loss of her brother, **Tom Rogers**, Saturday, December 26. The visitation will be Monday, January 4 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Addison Funeral Home and Tuesday, January 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at The Woodlands United Methodist Church with the funeral to follow at 10:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. You can read the obituary and find more information at: <https://www.addisonfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Thomas-Rogers-22/#!/Obituary>.

Deepest sympathy to Doug Craft at the loss of his father, **Mike Craft**, Monday, December 28. The service was held January 2 in Ruston, LA. You can read the obituary and find more information at: <https://www.kilpatrickfuneralhomes.com/obituary/michael-eugene-craft/>.

Prayers

- ✠ Members battling cancer: **Chuck Birt, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Bob McDougal, Joanie Roberts, Nancy Stucky.**
- ✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **Mary Aldaz, Jennifer Woodward Banks, David Bass, Paola Bejaran, Barbara Conrad, Fred Conrad, Joe Guidry, Jacob Harter, Mike Howard, JJ Lovoi, Jerry Malone, Susan May, Andrea Finley Nelson, Malu Oliveira, Meghan Rudd, Tara Slusser, Jerry Smith, Rose Talbott, Mary Titlow, Marla West.**
- ✠ Please remember our members: **Ken Coleman, John O'Connor, Elton Stubblefield.**
- ✠ Please remember friends & family: **Caleb Bloom, Estefany Bloom, Santiago Bloom, Susan Bloom, Leilani Palmer.**

This Week

Today	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship—Congregational Singing
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Devo
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Tuesday Bible Study
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class
	6:15 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast—Denny's on 1488
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	6:30 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
Friday		Youth Guys/Girls Night Out
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Breakfast

Upcoming Events

January 10	Blood Drive
	Youth Invasion
January 17	Youth Devo
January 23	Baby Shower for Jessica Weatherholt
January 24	Youth Invasion
February 6	Men's Breakfast
February 7	Sign-Up for 2020 Bible Readers' Banquet Due
	Sign-Up for Youth Winter Retreat Due
	Congregational Singing
	Youth Devo
February 12-14	Youth Winter Retreat
February 14	Youth Invasion
February 20	Bible Readers' Banquet
February 21	Youth Devo
February 28	Youth Invasion
March 6	Men's Breakfast
March 7	Spring Quarter Begins
	Congregational Singing
	Youth Devo
March 14	Youth Invasion
March 21	Youth Devo
March 26-28	Texas Bible Bowl Program
March 28	Youth Invasion
April 3	Men's Breakfast

A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.

JANUARY DONATION NEEDS:

WOCC Sharing Pantry: Breakfast Items: Cereal (dry and cooked), Jelly, Breakfast Bars, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Canned Fruit, Juice Packs

If you could use meals during times of need, please contact the church office at 936-273-0010 or information@woodlandoaks.org