



October 25, 2020

Volume XXVIII—Issue 43

**United We Stand**

While I was at Harding I had the privilege of attending several classes on congregational ministry, church growth, and church conflict. While many of the other Bible majors were focused on biblical history, language, and theory, I would spend my time delving into the numbers and factors that would make a church tick. Whether it was the fact that it was a relatively unexplored area of study as compared to my peers, or because I am simply a “numbers guy”, these fields greatly interested me. I found myself spending hours familiarizing myself with the numbers and statistics of churches that would grow, as well as churches that would split. Many people would say you can’t simplify what grows or splits a church into numbers, and that is certainly true, and finding the truth about growing churches is usually as easy as asking their members. I am not just referring to churches which are growing numerically, but in a greater sense of depth in their relationship with God. When something works, it is often very apparent, and in every case with Christians, true growth comes by adhering to specific biblical truths and principles. It’s easy to see what makes a church grow, the challenge often comes from understanding why churches decline and split.

It’s in these situations that one cannot simply get a straight answer. Everyone has their own opinion about why things don’t work, and it is often difficult to ask those who are not around anymore why it is that they left. All we are left with is to look for the common denominators between churches who have seen splits and declines.

In my quest for a greater understanding of these things, I found myself, as a student at Harding, sitting at a dining table at Harding Place, having a long and memorable conversation with the late Flavil Yeakley, one of the greatest statisticians on congregational growth in our brotherhood. Aside from speaking on research methodology, Dr. Yeakley also mentioned something that stuck with me. He stressed to me that there was a reason Paul spent so much of his time warning against division. He told me that he had been to so many congregations which could have avoided serious turmoil if they had simply prioritized unity over personal opinion. Everyone feels that their issue is doctrinal, but few consider that there is nothing doctrinal about causing strife among believers.

To find the common denominator in failing churches, one simply needs to look at the atmosphere which has been bred there. No congregation can sew both unity and division, and yet our fellowship’s call to the former seems overshadowed by desire for the latter. We are blessed in our congregation to enjoy an atmosphere of unity, but Paul warns that we must always be alert to those who would seek to cause conflict.

In Romans 16:17 Paul states, “I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.”

Let us continue to seek unity, and not lose sight of it as it is both Christ’s calling and prayer for us. There is no reason to focus on another’s error, when it is for our own errors that we require the same grace of Christ which has been extended to all. We are in a time of great division in our country, and while it may be easy to fall into the same divisive mindset that has become so pervasive, it is not fitting to our identity in Christ. This is our opportunity to show an example of true unity to a divided world.

-Jordan Fontenot

**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**

|                  |          |                             |
|------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 9:15 AM  | Bible Classes               |
|                  | 10:15 AM | Morning Assembly            |
|                  | 6:00 PM  | Evening Assembly            |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 7:00 PM  | Adult & Youth Bible Classes |

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**Elder of the Day**                      Scott Blake  
**Communion Leader**                    Doug Dobbs

**Adult Bible Classes:**

**“How to Keep Fear From Scaring You to Death”**  
 by Nathan Ingram & Sam Bradley  
 Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.  
 Worship Center Auditorium

**“Overcoming . . . ”** by Various Teachers  
 Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Worship Center Auditorium

**Teen Bible Classes:**

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

**“1 & 2 Thessalonians”** (7th–12th) by Jordan Fontenot  
 Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Worship Center Room A102

*\*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/UCit8ZGyUoQr1EB6iDYyDLIA/>  
 Children: Woodland Oaks Children’s Ministry Facebook Page

**Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 0–2 years         | A105/A106          |
| 3–4 years         | C103               |
| 5 years—3rd grade | Family Life Center |
| 4th—5th grade     | A101               |
| 6th grade         | A102               |

Woodland Oaks Church of Christ  
 7300 Crownridge Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77382  
 Phone/Voicemail: (936) 273-0010  
 Email: [information@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:information@woodlandoaks.org)  
[www.woodlandoaks.org](http://www.woodlandoaks.org)



**Elders**

Scott Blake  
 Gary Erwin  
 Mark Freeman  
 Nathan Ingram

Butch Merriman  
 Elton Stubblefield  
 Raymond Walker

**Staff**

**Pulpit**                                      Ken Stegall  
 kstegall@woodlandoaks.org

**Youth**                                        Jordan Fontenot  
 jordan.fontenot@woodlandoaks.org

**Children’s Coordinator**            Jennifer Tolbert  
 jennifer.tolbert@woodlandoaks.org

**Building Manager**                    Larry Brabham  
 larry.brabham@woodlandoaks.org

**Office Administrators**                Karen Ardito  
 karen.ardito@woodlandoaks.org

    Jessica Weatherholt  
 jessica.weatherholt@woodlandoaks.org

**Last Week’s Attendance**

**Sunday, October 18, 2020**

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9:15 AM Bible Class | 244                            |
| 10:15 AM Worship    | 368 @ WOCC<br>417 Views online |
| 6:00 PM Worship     | 160                            |
| Contribution        | \$25,254.02                    |

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| 7:00 PM Bible Class | 100 |
|---------------------|-----|

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  
 Richard Hyde  
**Education** 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  
 Ben Brockman

**Welcome Center/ Visitor Contacts**  
**Visitation - Hospital & Homebound/Men’s Ministry** Robert Shock

**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 August 31, 2020 are \$913,494 compared with a budgeted amount of \$954,139 producing a deficit of (\$40,645).

**Notes**

## Announcements

Please join us for a **Come & Go Baby Shower for Levi James Stegall**, son of Mike & Lizzie Stegall, grandson of Richard & Marty Justice, TODAY from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the WOCC Chapel Center Breezeway. The baby registry is available with BabyList.

There will be an **Elder/Deacon Meeting TODAY** at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel Center.

Join us for a **Congregational Meeting TONIGHT** immediately following the evening assembly.

Don't forget! **Daylight Saving Time Ends** Sunday, November 1!

**Congregational Singing** will be Sunday, November 1 during the evening assembly. Song requests may be listed at the Welcome Center.

Volunteer needed to take **Pictures for the Directory!** No fancy equipment required . . . Just a smartphone with a camera and a desire to meet new people and be the face of WOCC to new members and new Christians. Contact Frank Kerze if you are interested.

There will be a **Turkey Day Golf Tournament** Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, November 8. Contact Robert Shock for more information.

It's time for **College and Military Care Packages!** WOCC has about 40 students and 3 active military personnel who love to get notes. Monetary donations, item donations and notes of encouragement are due November 15. You may donate online by choosing the College Basket Fund under the Give tab on the website. If you are writing a check, you can indicate College Basket Fund on the memo line and send it to the secure PO Box or place it in the basket in the foyer. Glenda Haggard and Kendra Blake will also take monetary donations. Please put notes and item donations in the College Basket container at the Welcome Center. Care Packages will be available for pick up on November 22 at the Welcome Center. If you are a WOCC member in college or have a child in college/actively serving in the military and they are not listed, please contact Denise Tolbert.

Our church will be participating in the **Texas Bible Bowl Program** at Camp Bandina on March 26-28. This program is open to children in the 3rd-12th grade and will replace LTC this year. The topic is Revelation and the 3rd-6th grade classes will begin studying and preparing during their Wednesday night class, beginning November 4. Sign up at the Welcome Center or through the Children's Ministry Facebook. For more information, see Raymond Walker, Richard Hyde, Jordan Fontenot or Jenn Tolbert.

The **Trey & Lea Stronger Marriage Workshop** will be Saturday, December 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is open to anyone in the congregation who is married. Registration will open November 2 at 9:00 a.m. at <https://strongermarriageworkshops.com/upcoming-workshops/>. We will be offering a limited number of childcare spots, on a first-come, first-served basis. If you will need childcare, please reserve your spot by contacting Jenn Tolbert at: [jennifer.tolbert@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:jennifer.tolbert@woodlandoaks.org)

## Youth News

There will be a **Youth Invasion TONIGHT** immediately following the evening assembly.

**Tuesday Bible Study** meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Jetton home.

There will be a **Youth Devo** Sunday, November 1 immediately following the evening assembly in the Chapel Center.

Join us for the **Houston Area Wide Youth Fall Retreat** at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center in Palestine, Texas, November 13-15. Our theme this year is "Among Us", focusing on the unseen spiritual world around us, and gaining victory in it through Christ. The cost is \$50 per person. Registration is now open! Sign-up at: <https://rb.gy/g0cpjp>.

## Children's Bible Class Schedule

Below is our plan for Bible classes beginning Sunday, November 1. Sunday & Wednesday Virtual Children's Bible Class will continue on the Woodland Oaks Children's Ministry Facebook page.

| Dates      | Age           | Teachers                     | Location                      |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sundays    | 0-2 years     | Lynette Salazar; Parent & Me | A105/A106                     |
| Sundays    | 3-4 years     | Margie Dugan/Suzu Gidden     | C103 (Bible Builders)         |
| Sundays    | Kinder - 1st  | Lou & Jaime Faulkner         | C201 (Upstairs Chapel Center) |
| Sundays    | 2nd-3rd       | Brant & Jami Mathis          | C203 (Upstairs Chapel Center) |
| Sundays    | 4th-5th       | Richard Hyde/Madison Hyde    | A101                          |
| Sundays    | 6th           | Sheri Butler                 | A102                          |
| Wednesdays | 0-2 years     | Anne Jetton; Parent & Me     | A105/A106                     |
| Wednesdays | 3 years - 2nd | Jane Anne Fleming (Lead)     | C103 (Bible Builders)         |
| Wednesdays | 3rd-4th       | Chuck Bryant                 | A101                          |
| Wednesdays | 5th-6th       | Raymond Walker               | A102                          |

## Expectant Families

Cecilia & Tony Bloom  
Candice & Matt Fitzgerald  
Hannah & Kolt Phillips  
Jessica & Daniel Weatherholt

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

**OCTOBER DONATION NEEDS:  
WOCC Sharing Pantry: Canned Meats**

## This Week

|           |            |  |
|-----------|------------|--|
| Today     | 9:15 a.m.  | Impact CofC Meal                             |
|           | 10:15 a.m. | Bible Class                                  |
|           | 3:00 p.m.  | Worship                                      |
|           | 4:30 p.m.  | Come & Go Baby Shower for Levi Stegall       |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Elder/Deacon Meeting                         |
|           | 7:00 p.m.  | Evening Worship                              |
| Tuesday   | 7:00 p.m.  | Congregational Meeting                       |
|           | 7:00 p.m.  | Youth Invasion                               |
|           | 7:00 p.m.  | Youth Bible Study @ Jetton Home              |
| Wednesday | 6:30 p.m.  | Virtual Children's Bible Class               |
|           | 7:00 p.m.  | Bible Class: Worry & Pessimism by Joel Blake |
| Thursday  | 6:15 a.m.  | Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Denny's on 1488     |
|           | 10:00 a.m. | Community Bible Class                        |
|           | 6:30 p.m.  | Celebrate Recovery                           |

## Upcoming Events

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| November 1     | Daylight Saving Time Ends<br>Congregational Singing<br>Youth Devo |
| November 2     | Sign up for Stronger Marriage Workshop Begins                     |
| November 7     | Men's Breakfast   |
| November 8     | Sign up for Golf Tournament Due<br>Youth Invasion                 |
| November 14    | Turkey Day Golf Tournament  |
| November 13-15 | Youth Fall Retreat  |
| November 15    | College & Military Care Package Donations Due<br>Youth Devo       |
| November 22    | College & Military Care Package Pick-up<br>Youth Invasion         |
| November 25    | Combined Devo - No Children's Classes                             |
| November 26-27 | Church Offices Closed   |
| December 5     | Men's Breakfast<br>Trey & Lea Morgan's Stronger Marriage Workshop |

## Prayers

- ✚ **Skip Foreman**/released from rehab October 21 and is back home.
- ✚ **Jennifer Watrous**/heart ablation procedure October 22.
- ✚ **Kathy Boyer**/admitted to the hospital with diabetic complications.
- ✚ Members battling cancer: **Chuck Birt, Tom Campbell, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Bob McDougal, Joanie Roberts, Nancy Stucky.**
- ✚ Friends & family battling cancer: **Jennifer Woodward Banks, David Bass, Paola Bejaran, Fred Conrad, Joe Guidry, Mike Howard, Jordan Love, JJ Lovoi, Jerry Malone, Andrea Finley Nelson, Malu Oliveira, Meghan Rudd, Tara Slusser, Jerry Smith, Rose Talbott, Marla West.**
- ✚ Please remember our members: **John Charleston, Ken Coleman, Teresa Dastmalchi, Rebecca Osborn, Danyce Rundell, Angie Short, Wally Westbrook, Betty Yovanovich.**
- ✚ Please remember friends & family: **Debra Mooreland, Leilani Palmer, Randy Sparks.**

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