



December 17, 2023

Volume XXXI—Issue 51

Characteristics of Faith From Hebrews 11

By Eddie Parrish

While no characteristic that God desires for us is unimportant, one could make a strong case that faith is among the most important. It is fundamental, foundational, and central. Jesus placed it among the “weightier” matters of the law (Matt. 23:23). Its usage in the New Testament bears witness to its preeminence. It sometimes describes the whole of New Testament doctrine (Jude 3; Acts 6:7; 1 Tim. 4:1). It is that which begins and undergirds all of gospel obedience (Rom. 1:16; Heb. 11:6; Acts 16:30-34), and it is at the heart of Christian living (Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 5:7).

The writer of Hebrews, in his tremendous chapter on faith (chapter 11), reveals no less than 14 characteristics of faith. Consider:

1. It assures us of our future hope (1).
2. It furnishes us with firm convictions regarding things we do not yet see (1).
3. It enhances one’s reputation, and rightly so (2, 4, 5, 39).
4. It goes hand-in-hand with rational thought (3).
5. It expresses itself in action (4-34).
6. It is required for one who would approach and please God (6).
7. It condemns ungodliness (7, 38).
8. It serves as the foundation of justification (7).
9. It takes God at his word, regardless of the consequences (8-9, 17, 24-27, 35-38).
10. It assesses life from an eternal perspective (10, 13-16, 26).
11. It accepts God’s word, regardless of how unbelievable it might seem (11-12).
12. It looks beyond this life to the next (10, 13, 16).
13. It conquers fear (23, 27).
14. It connects the Christian to saints of the past (39-40).

With so much to gain by having it, and so much to lose without it, our daily prayer should be, “Lord, increase our faith” (Luke 17:5).

God loves you,
Shawn

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

December 17, 2023

Elder of the Day Scott Blake
Communion Leader Frank Kerze

Adult Bible Classes:

- “**Be Careful**” by Scott Blake
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Auditorium
- “**David: A Man After God’s Own Heart**” by Randy Sparks
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A101
- “**Daniel—God’s Sovereignty**” by Dave Short
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A102
- “**Handling Money God’s Way**” by Gary Tannahill & Dennis Chrisco
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center Room B204 Library
- “**Fruit of the Spirit**” (Young Professionals) by Tony Bloom & Doug Peak
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Room C106 (Magnolia Rm)
- “**Amos—The Boldness of Faith**” by Scott Logan
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Auditorium
- “**Young Adults**” (Ages 18-25) by Andrew Isherwood & Ross Riggs
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in Room A102

Teen Bible Classes:

- “**Romans**” (9th–12th) by Jordan Fontenot
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-107
- “**Genesis**” (7th–8th) by Brant Mathis
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-101
- “**Judges**” (9th–12th) by Jordan Fontenot
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-107
- “**JR High Class**” (7th–8th) by Daniel Fair
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-101

Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:

0–1 year	A103
1 year	A105/A106
2 years	A107
3 years/Pre-K	A108
Kindergarten	B200
1st grade	B202
2nd grade	B203
3rd grade	B207
4th grade	B208
5th grade	B206
6th grade	B209

A **Facility Map** and other information is available at the Welcome Center.

A **Secure Check-in System** is active for children ages 0 to 4 years.

A **Nursery** is available during Sunday morning worship for children 0-23 months. For children 24 months and up, there is a **Training Room** available at the back of the auditorium, behind the glass windows.



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Elders

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Building & Grounds Scott Green
John Tolbert
Sam Washburn

Children’s Programs Richard Hyde
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Fellowship Tim Riggs
Finance Jeff Fleming
Foreign Missions Paul Gidden
Adam Fracht

Information Technology Al Ardito
Involvement Frank Kerze
Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes
Serving Hearts Steve Baker
Mike Stevens

Sharing Kyle Gordley
Bradley Welborn

Reaching Out Gavin Dao
Bryce Caldwell

Ushers Tony Bloom
Homebound/Men’s Ministry Robert Shock
Worship Eric Kirkland
Bill Malone
Kevan Taylor
Jordan Blake

Youth Brant Mathis
Todd Watrous
Daniel Fair
Trent Tadlock

Faithful Fathers: Chuck Bryant
Celebrate Recovery: Nathan Ingram

Missions

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

Contacts:

Last Week’s Attendance

Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:00 AM Bible Class	417
10:15 AM Worship	557 @ WOCC
	236 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	193
Contribution	\$39,344.02

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

7:00 PM Bible Class	261
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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

Budget

Actual unrestricted contributions through September 30, 2023 are \$1,368,178, compared with a budgeted amount of \$1,241,508 produces a surplus of \$126,670.

Notes

Announcements

There will be a **Blood Drive** TODAY from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. Please sign up at: <https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive-schedule/377443>.

The **Young Adults** will be playing **Board Games** in room A101 this Monday, December 18 from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Anyone 18-39 is encouraged to come!

Men's Luncheon will be this Tuesday, December 19 at 11:30 a.m. at House of Pies.

We are now accepting resumes for the **Building and Grounds Facilitator**. At this time we are only looking within our congregation to fill this vacancy. If you are interested or would like more information about the position, please contact John Tolbert, Sam Washburn or Scott Green. Please submit resumes by December 22.

If you are interested in singing **Christmas Carols** to the homebound members, please get in touch with Robert Shock. We are looking for all ages.

The **Church Offices will be Closed** December 22-26.

There will be **No Evening Worship** next Sunday, December 24. Communion will be available at 6:00 p.m. in room A101.

There will be a **Senior Saint Progressive Dinner** on Friday, December 29. We will meet in the Chapel parking lot at 4:45 p.m. Please sign up at in the foyer by Wednesday, December 27 if you will attend.

There is a **2024 Bible Readers' Sign up** in the foyer for those who plan to read through the Bible in 2024.

Community Bible Class will resume Thursday, January 11.

The Prestoncrest congregation in Plano will be hosting a **Conference on Evangelism** and church growth on February 23-25, 2024. For those interested in attending, you can register and find more information at Prestoncrest.org/story.

Camp Red Oak Springs has inquired about WOCC anchoring a new week of camp. If you have any interest in helping or learning more, then please fill out the short survey in the link [here](#). The potential new week of camp will be the week of July 14, 2024.

Thank you

Dear WOCC,
Thank you so much for the college care package you sent to me! It was extremely thoughtful of everyone involved in the process. My semester has gone smoothly so far, and now I'm on the home stretch with my finals. Once again thank you so much!

Luc LeMaire

Dear WOCC Church Family,
Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts for the meals, texts, calls, and most importantly, prayers while Janna was in the hospital. We are so thankful to be part of such an incredible congregation and for you praying for Janna and baby Eleanor. We appreciate every single one of you.

All of our love, Kevin and Janna Wilkerson

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, and meals prepared for us during my recuperation from a broken foot. We have been blessed beyond measure and appreciate all of you. God is good. All the time.

Marion & Bob Marlow

Youth News

There will be a **Youth Invasion** TONIGHT immediately following the evening assembly at Cava on Woodlands Parkway.

There will be **NO Tuesday Bible Study** for the remainder of the year.

The Youth Group has a **Service Opportunity** this Thursday, December 21. Meet at WOCC at 9:30 a.m. Please RSVP on the youth website if you will attend. We will be singing with the Senior Residents at Heritage Oaks in Conroe. Singing Hymns and Christmas Songs are a great upliftment to the residents! Contact Randy Sparks for more information.

The **Youth Progressive Dinner** will be Saturday, December 30. Please meet at WOCC at 5:00 p.m. and bring a \$10 gift to exchange. RSVP by this Wednesday, December 20 on the youth website: <https://www.basicyouthministry.com/>.

Harding University will host an **Area Wide Youth Devo** Sunday, December 31 immediately following the evening assembly in the Family Life Center. Dinner will be served. All families, prospective students, and alumni are invited to attend.

Treehouse Kids

There will be a **3rd-6th Grade Boys Lock-In** on December 20-21 from 9:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. For more information, please see Brant Mathis.

The next **Dorcas Class** (for girls K- 6th grade) will be Saturday, January 6. Meet in the Chapel Center from 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. For more information, please see Jane-Ann Fleming.

Texas Bible Bowl

Bible Bowl Practice meets Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Grades 3rd—6th will meet in the Magnolia Room C106. Grades 7th—12th will meet in the Chapel Center Auditorium.

Prayers

✠ **Dan Fayrweather**/friend of Ken & Perry Cornett and former elder at Bammel CoC/passed away last week/service will be December 29 @11 a.m. at Bammel Chapel.

✠ Please remember our members: **Betty Fowler, Harry Davis, Don Raney, Laurie Riggs, Angel Salas.**

✠ Please remember our friends & family: **Dean "Jr" Guyton, Ernie Landry**

✠ Members battling cancer: **Tony Bloom, Bill Blumenshine, Pharis Fowler, Don Gilbert, Cynthia Haney, Cynthia Lockwood, Erica Lunn, Bob McDougal, Marsha Owens, Joanie Roberts, Charles Smithson, Janice Tadlock.**

✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **Paul Melton, Mary Aldaz, Darren Brooks, Dorcas Dillard, Paul Hendrickson.**

Expectant Family

Janna & Kevin Wilkerson

A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.
The **WOCC Sharing Pantry** is in need of personal care products (shampoo, liquid & bar soap, toothpaste, hygiene products, baby care items).

This Week

Today	7:30 a.m.	Blood Drive
	9:00 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship Bible Bowl Practice
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Invasion—Cava
	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball—Women
	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced Young Adult Game Night
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	Men's Luncheon—House of Pies
Wednesday		Sign up for Youth Progressive Dinner Due
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	5:45 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class
Thursday	9:00 p.m.	3rd-6th Grade Boys Lock-In
	6:15 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's on 1488)
	9:30 a.m.	Youth Service
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery Basketball
Friday		Church Offices Closed

Upcoming Events

December 22-26	Church Offices Closed
December 24	No Evening Worship (Communion available @ 6 pm)
December 27	Sign up for Senior Saints Progressive Dinner Due Combined Devo—No Meal/No Children's Bible Classes
December 29	Senior Saints Progressive Dinner
December 30	Youth Progressive Dinner
December 31	Area Wide Youth Devo hosted by Harding
January 1	Church Offices Closed
January 2	Men's Luncheon
January 6	Men's Breakfast Dorcas Class
January 7	Congregational Singing
January 10	GriefShare
January 12	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck
January 18	Youth Girls Dinner Devo—Lindsey Thomas' Home
January 20	Youth Service
January 28	Parent Workshop
February 2-9	AIM Challenge Week
February 3	Men's Breakfast Dorcas Class
February 4	Congregational Singing
February 5	Youth Girls Dinner Devo—Montandon Home
February 9-11	Youth Winter Retreat
February 12	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck

New Members

Diana Turner

Jason and Kendra Bullock
Brooke, Emma, Claire

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