



November 5, 2023

Volume XXXI—Issue 45

Famously Anonymous

As I was reading 2 Corinthians last week, there were a couple of verses that really caught my attention. I've read them before but this time, I wrote them down and had to come back to them, reread them, and then do a little research. In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul discusses the generosity of the churches in Macedonia. In verse 16, Paul commends Titus because he has an earnest care for the Corinthian Church and on his own accord Titus wants to come visit them. Then verse 18 caught my attention. Paul wrote, "With him (Titus) we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel." The word "famous" means "appropriately commended." Other translations uses words like, "praised," "fame," and "highly respected." Paul tells the Corinthian Church he's sending a "celebrity preacher" to them. It's hard to imagine someone more well-known than Paul. This verse raises a couple of questions.

1. Who is this famous brother? We don't know who this brother is. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians during his third missionary journey. During his 3rd missionary journey, Paul had several traveling companions such as, Luke, Timothy, Sopater Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, and Trophimus (Acts 20:4). Some think it could have been Luke, Apollos, Barnabas, Silas, Timothy, or Mark. The famous preacher could have been any of the above but the fact is, we just don't know who it Paul is talking about, but the Corinthians did.
2. Why didn't Paul mention his name? It is strange that Paul didn't mention this brother's name. Paul had no problems mentioning his travel companions. Obviously, the man needed no introduction. Maybe he was instrumental in the lives of the Corinthians. Maybe mentioning his name would have put him at risk. Whatever the reason, we simply don't know who he is and we don't know why Paul left out his name.

We know from 1 Corinthians 1:10-12, the Corinthian Church had a problem with division in Church caused by different people "attaching" themselves to a few different "celebrity preachers." Some were saying, "I follow Paul" or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Paul reminds them, Christ isn't divided, Jesus died for you, and you were immersed in the name of Jesus. Perhaps Paul didn't mention this "famous brother" by name as a tool of humility for both the preacher and the Corinthians. It's easy to let fame and popularity to get in the way of Jesus and the gospel. Remember, Jesus is our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor. 1:30). Let's determine as Paul, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2).

God loves you,

Shawn

Keep up your daily Bible reading! You're getting close to the goal!

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

November 5, 2023

Elder of the Day Scott Blake
Communion Leader Michael Yanochik

Adult Bible Classes:

"Biblical Archaeology Journey: Can You Dig It?" by Marty Miller/Doug Dobbs
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Auditorium

"A Study of Church History" by Steve Baker
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A101

"One Nation Under God or Man?...Christianity in a Culture of Chaos"
by Mark Freeman—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A102

"John, Jesus, & Discipleship" (Young Professionals) by Rocky Rutledge/Mike Stevens
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Room C106 (Magnolia Rm)

"From Milk to Meat (Various Topics for Christian Living)" by David Sparks
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

"1 & 2 Thessalonians" (9th –12th) by Jordan Fontenot
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-107

"Apologetics" (7th –8th) by Bryce Caldwell
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.



Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
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Elders

Scott Blake
 Mac Brockman
 Mark Freeman

Butch Merriman
 Marty Miller
 Raymond Walker

Staff

Pulpit Shawn Montandon
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Youth Jordan Fontenot
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Children's Coordinator Jennifer Tolbert
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Deacons

Administration Joel Blake
Audio/Visual & Media Mark Jetton
Building & Grounds Todd Watrous
Children's Programs Richard Hyde
Education Preschool Matt Fitzgerald
Education Grade KG–2 Steve Baker
Education Grade 3-6 Quinn Tolbert
Family Life Center Chris Davis
Fellowship Tim Riggs
Finance Jeff Fleming
 Brandon Smith
Foreign Missions Paul Gidden
 Adam Fracht
Information Technology Al Ardito
Involvement Frank Kerze
Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes
Sharing Kyle Gordley
 Bradley Welborn
Reaching Out Gavin Dao
Serving Hearts Daniel Fair
Ushers Tony Bloom

Welcome Center/ Visitor Contacts

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

Worship Eric Kirkland
 Bill Malone
 Kevan Taylor
Youth Brant Mathis
 Scott Simpson

Contacts:

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.

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, October 29, 2023

9:00 AM Bible Class	364
10:15 AM Worship	562 @ WOCC
	256 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	249
Contribution	\$31,970.42

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

7:00 PM Bible Class	248
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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 August 31, 2023 are \$1,218,883, compared with a budgeted amount of \$1,114,174 produces a surplus of \$104,709.

Notes

Announcements

Congratulations to **Drake Simpson** and to **Lilian Ojeanor** who were baptized Sunday, October 29! Welcome to the family Drake & Lilian!

Congregational Singing will be TONIGHT during the evening assembly.

Men's Luncheon will be this Tuesday, November 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Crust Pizza at Alden Bridge.

It's time for **College Care Packages!** Please sign up your college/military kids by this Wednesday, November 8 in the foyer. Item donations and letters of encouragement can be placed in the box at the Welcome Center. Monetary donations may be given to John Tolbert, Denise Tolbert, or Kendra Blake or place checks in the offering plate with College Care Package marked in memo line. Please have all notes and donations turned in by Sunday, November 12.

Those who signed up for **Senior Saints—Beauty & the Beast**, we will meet at 4:45 p.m. this Friday, November 10 in the church parking lot. We plan to go out to eat at McKenzies in Conroe. You can find more information at: <https://nationalyouththeater.org/beauty-and-the-beast/>.

We are still needing 9 more **Teachers for the Winter Quarter**. Please sign up at the board in the foyer if you can help!

The Young Professionals will have a **Game Night** this Friday, November 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in Room A101. Anyone 18-39 is encouraged to come! For additional questions, please see Andrew Isherwood.

Friends Day

Be praying for **Friends Day**, which will be Sunday, November 12. You should have received a letter in the mail about the activities planned for the day.

Everyone is encouraged to invite at least three friends to Friends Day. There will be a **Fellowship Luncheon** immediately following the morning assembly. Each family is asked to please bring a dessert. Please bring your dessert in a disposable container and pre-cut your pies and cakes into small size portions.

Reminder: There will NOT be an evening assembly on Sunday, November 12.

Prayers

✠ **Denise Tolbert**/surgery November 3 went well/she is at home recovering.

✠ **Lewis Tadlock**/scheduled to have surgery this Tuesday, November 7 at MD Anderson to have brain tumor removed.

✠ Please remember our members: **Pam Garner, Debi Hix, Tom Kernan, Marion Marlow, Mary Jane Nevels, Linda Reeve, Laurie Riggs, Danyce Rundell, Charles Smithson, Barbara Taylor, Debra Thompson.**

✠ Please remember our friends & family: **Elmo Collins, Barbara Conaway, Steve Harding, J. Paul Spelce.**

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

✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **Mary Aldaz, Darren Brooks, Tesa Cornett, Dorcas Dillard, Dan Fayweather, Paul Hendrickson, Melissa Hightower, Phil Martinez, D'Ann Norwood, Jerry Smith, Rose Talbott, Suetta Williamson.**

Youth News

Tuesday Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at Market Street.

The next **Youth Girls Dinner Devo** will be this Thursday, November 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Jennifer Tolbert's home. Please RSVP to Elise Fair or Jennifer Tolbert.

Youth Group Service: The Youth Group will meet at the building this Saturday, November 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a service day. We will work around the building to get it ready for Friends Day. Lunch will be provided. Please also mark you calendars for the upcoming Youth Service dates: December 21, January 20, & February 3!

There will be a **High School Night @ Main Event** on Friday, November 17 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$20—includes a night of bowling, laser tag, and arcade with dinner provided. Please RSVP at: <https://bit.ly/WOCCHSMaInEvent>.

There is now a **Youth Group Website** with information on upcoming events and links to RSVP. Check it out at: <https://www.basicyouthministry.com/>.

Treehouse Kids

Bible Builders: Children ages 2yrs-Kinder will be dismissed at Sunday evening assembly to go "through the Bible in a year" and learn how God has interacted with His people throughout the ages.

Sprout's Craft Time meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for science, craft and playtime! Preschoolers and homeschoolers welcome! Meet in the Worship Center Foyer. Pack a lunch and stay a while!

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

Those who signed up for the **THK—Beauty and the Beast**, we will depart WOCC on Sunday, November 12 after Friends Day lunch.

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.

Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Ruthie Grushkowsky at the loss of her nephew, **Davey Olson**, who was killed in a motorcycle accident in California. Please keep Ruthie and the family in your prayers.

Expectant Families

Lindy & Jeremy Haynes
Angel & Matt Houser

Janna & Kevin Wilkerson

This Week

Day	Time	Event
Today	9:00 a.m.	Installation of New Deacons Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship—Congregational Singing Bible Bowl Bible Builders
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball—Women
Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Beginners/Intermediate/Advanced
	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Class—Optional Homebound Visitation
Wednesday	11:30 a.m.	Men's Luncheon—Crust Pizza
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Tuesday Bible Study Sign Up for College Care Packages Due
	10:00 a.m.	Sprouts Craft Time
Thursday	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class
	6:15 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Denny's on 1488)
Friday	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	6:30 p.m.	Girls Dinner Devo @ Jennifer Tolbert's Home
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery Basketball
Saturday	4:45 p.m.	Senior Saints—Beauty & the Beast
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Youth Group Service Project—WOCC
	9:30 a.m.	Dorcas Class

Upcoming Events

November 12	Friends Day Donations/Notes for College Care Packages Due THK—Beauty & the Beast
November 13	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
November 14	Ladies Bible Class—Thanksgiving Luncheon
November 15	Sprouts Thanksgiving Feast
November 17	High School Night
November 19	Pick Up College Care Packages Youth Invasion
November 21	Men's Luncheon
November 22	Combined Devo—No Meal/No Children's Bible Classes
November 23-24	Church Offices Closed
November 26	Youth Invasion
December 1	Ladies Ornament Exchange Bible Bowl Study Group—Hooks Home
December 2	Men's Breakfast Dorcas Class
December 3	Winter Quarter Begins Bridal Shower for Olivia Baker Sunday Social: Cookies & Cocoa Congregational Singing Youth Devo
December 8	Junior High Night
December 10	Impact CoC Meal Youth Invasion
December 12	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck
December 22-26	Church Offices Closed
December 24	No Evening Worship (Communion available @ 6 pm)
December 27	Combined Devo—No Meal/No Children's Bible Classes
December 30	Youth Progressive Dinner
January 1	Church Offices Closed
January 2	Men's Luncheon

A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.
The **WOCC Sharing Pantry** is in need of toilet paper and soap.

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