



August 25, 2019

Volume XXVII—Issue 34

Focus on Heaven

“Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.” Colossians 3:1-4

I remember my dad teaching me how to make a straight row in the garden. Sometimes my rows tended to meander here and there. Dad said to focus on a point way out at the end of the row and not to concentrate on the ground right in front of you. He would lay out his rows with a hoe handle, measuring with his hands the width he wanted his rows apart. Then he would put a stake in the ground. He would walk to the other end and measure, then take up his plow and focus on the stake at the end of the row. Dad made straight rows and always had a good garden.

There is a spiritual lesson in this story, and it relates to what Paul tells the Colossians in his letter to them. Some translations say, “...seek those things which are above...” (NKJV); “...now set your heart on what is in heaven...” (CEV); “...set your hearts on things above...” (NIV).

One of the keys to living a successful Christian life is our focus. Daily we are filling our hearts with something. What do we use for filling? Is it our hobbies, our job, our entertainment, our vacations, our sports and recreation? All these things have their place and they are good unless they become our focus. When our own entertainment is the thing with which we fill our hearts, we may make a jolly companion for our friends, but our Christian commitment and witness will suffer.

Demas seems to be a man who lost his focus. We meet Demas in Colossians 4:14, “Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.” Demas is mentioned along with Luke in this passage as a companion and helper for Paul. He was with Paul in his imprisonment and was, no doubt, useful to Paul. However, in 2 Timothy 4:10 Paul indicates a new focus in the life of Demas, “...for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica...” We are not told what attracted Demas to Thessalonica, but Paul’s assessment of the situation indicates it was his love for this present world. Demas was no longer focused on heaven; his heart was set on this world. He exchanged the eternal for the temporary. He was no longer useful for Paul or for the work of the church; his heart was wrapped up in this present world.

What caused Demas to lose his focus? We don’t know for certain. He was one who put his hand to the plow and then turned back (Lk. 9:62). In Luke’s account someone said, “Lord, I will follow you, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” Jesus replied to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Demas looked back. Instead of keeping his focus on things above he began to concentrate on the things around him. Let us learn from Demas that we must keep our sights on the realities of heaven. We must fill our hearts with God’s word and with his love.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves in heaven...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matt 6:19-21

Scott Gage

South Hill Church of Christ
Fayetteville, Arkansas

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 (Offered for All Ages)
10:15 AM Morning Worship Assembly
6:00 PM Evening Assembly
Wednesday 7:00 PM Bible Class

August 25, 2019

Elder of the Day Nathan Ingram

Communion Leader Brandon Smith

Adult Bible Classes:

“I Don’t Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist”
by Doug Dobbs Sundays in Chapel Center Auditorium

“Truth or Consequences” (Mid 60 Letters from Peter, Paul & Jude)
by Chris Wright
Sundays in Worship Center A101

“Acts of the Apostles” by Marty Miller
Sundays in Worship Center A102 (20s, 30s, & others)

“Read Through the Bible Discussion Class”
by Rick Medford & Gary Tannahill Sundays in the Magnolia Room (C106)

“Encouraging Text Messages From Our Father” by Various
Wednesdays in Worship Center Auditorium

Teen Bible Classes:

“Apologetics” by Bryce Caldwell
Sundays in Education Center B107 (9th-12th)

“Daniel” by Joshua Watrous & Jordan Fontenot
Sundays in Education Center B106 (7th & 8th)

“Bible Study 101” by Jordan Fontenot
Wednesdays in Education Center B107 (7th-12th)

Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:

0-1 years A103	1st grade B202
1 year-olds A105/106	2nd grade B203
2 year-olds A107	3rd grade B206
3 year-olds A108	4th grade B208
Pre-K A109	5th-6th grade B209
Kindergarten B200	

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.

Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
7300 Crownridge Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77382
Phone/Voicemail: (936) 273-0010

Email: information@woodlandoaks.org
www.woodlandoaks.org



Elders

Gary Erwin John Rowe
Mark Freeman Elton Stubblefield
Nathan Ingram Raymond Walker
Butch Merriman

Staff

Pulpit Ken Stegall
kstegall@woodlandoaks.org

Youth Jordan Fontenot
jordan.fontenot@woodlandoaks.org

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

Office Administrator Karen Ardito
karen.ardito@woodlandoaks.org

Deacons

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

Children’s Programs 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
Involvement Frank Kerze
Sharing Kyle Gordley
Bradley Welborn

Special Ministries
Ushers Kermit Brooks
Welcome Center/Visitor Contacts Ben Brockman

Visitation - Hospital & Shut-Ins/Men’s Ministry Robert Shock

Worship Scott Blake
Bill Malone
Brant Mathis
Matt Hemphill
Terence O’Connor

Last Week’s Attendance

Sunday, August 18, 2019

9:00 AM Bible Class	345
10:15 AM Worship	570
6:00 PM Worship	225
Contribution	\$21,856.00

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

7:00 PM Bible Class	227
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Missions

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

Budget

Through June 30, 2019, Actual Unrestricted Contributions are \$693,222 versus Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions of \$732,487 for a deficit of (\$39,265).

Notes

August 25

Announcements

Just a reminder: NO FOOD OR DRINKS (except water) ARE ALLOWED IN THE AUDITORIUM AND FOYER. Your assistance helping keep the building clean is greatly appreciated!

Pick up a **Smile for a Child Box** and instructions at the table in the foyer. Return your filled box and place \$5 in the envelope for shipping by September 15. Donations are also accepted. \$40 will fill a box. See Glenda Haggard for more information.

Office Administrator Position—WOCC is now seeking a dedicated individual to join the staff as an Office Administrator. If you have any interest in this role, please contact Joel Blake (joelablake@gmail.com).

Ladies Bible Class will resume Tuesday, September 10. Please join us as we begin our fast-paced exciting study of the book of Mark. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Come join the fellowship!

Heart to Home groups are set to resume in October. If you were in a Heart to Home group last year and plan to continue this year, you may either 1) sign up at the welcome desk or 2) let one of your Heart Moms know so that they can register your whole group together. If you were not in a Heart to Home group last year, we would love to have you join us! Heart to Home consists of small groups of women meeting monthly for fellowship, dinner, Bible study, and prayer in homes. In the spirit of Titus 2, older women “moms” prepare and teach the younger “sisters”. It is a great opportunity to get to know your sisters on a deeper level and we’d love for everyone who can to be a part. If you have questions, please contact Janis Stegall.

WE SAVED YOU A SEAT: This Fall, the ladies’ of the congregation are invited to a Wednesday night class exploring friendship in light of the example of Jesus. Various teachers will be sharing and we hope you’ll join us! If you have any questions, please contact Lorie Addison.

Letter from the Elders

Dear Brethren,

As a reminder, our nomination process to select additional elders/deacons for the congregation is underway and will conclude on September 8th. Additional Nomination Forms and a Process Description Sheet are available in the foyer at a table between the main access doors. The collection box for completed forms is at the same location.

Your prayerful consideration and participation for this process is needed and appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Your Elders

Expectant Families

Alyssa & Keith Nix

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

AUGUST DONATION NEEDS:

**WOCC Sharing Pantry: Jell-O, Pudding Packs & Mixes, Seasoning & Gravy Envelopes, Condiments (Mustard, Catchup, Mayonnaise)
Sunny Glen Children’s Home: Assorted Pastas, Mac & Cheese
Arms of Hope: Paper Towels, Baby Wipes, Toilet Paper**

Youth News

There will be a **Youth Invasion TONIGHT** immediately following the evening assembly at Raising Cane’s (6730 FM 1488 Road, Magnolia, TX 77354).

Youth Weekly Bible Study meets each Tuesday 7:00 p.m. at the Fontenot home.

There will be a **Youth Devo** Sunday, September 1 immediately following the evening assembly in the Chapel Center. Please bring \$3 for food.

There will be a **Combined Girls/Guys Night Out** Friday, September 6. Meet at The Lock (26797 Hanna Rd #6, Oak Ridge North, TX 77385) at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person.

Treehouse Kids’ News

A **Heart of God Celebration** for all those who participated will be **TODAY** at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Snow cones will be served.

Join us for a **Grandparent Potluck** on Sunday, September 8 immediately following the morning assembly as we honor our grandparents (both in our own family and in our church family!). Please bring a dish or dessert that is a favorite in your family to share. Find more info on the WOCC Children’s Facebook Page.

Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Tom and Margaret Campbell at the loss of Tom’s brother, **Doug Campbell** on August 20. Please pray for the family and Doug’s wife Nola who has just been put on Hospice Care. Arrangements are pending.

2019 Fall Quarter Adult Bible Classes

Sunday classes will begin September 1 and conclude November 24. Wednesday evening classes will begin September 4 and continue through November 20.

Dates	Subjects	Teachers	Location
Sundays	A Study of Romans Chapters 1-8	Ken Stegall	Chapel Center Auditorium
	How to Keep Fear From Scaring You to Death	Nathan Ingram	Worship Center Room A101
	Getting to Know the Apostles (20s & 30s)	James Parker	Worship Center Room A102
	Read Through the Bible	Rick Medford & Gary Tannahill	Chapel Center Magnolia Room C106
Wednesdays	Traits of Christian Discipleship	Various Teachers	Worship Center Auditorium
	Women Aren’t Hungry for Perfection: They’re Hungry for Connection (Ladies Class)	Lorie Addison	Worship Center A101

This Week

Today	5:00 p.m.	Heart of God Celebration
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Invasion - Cane’s
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Women’s Pickleball
	6:00 p.m.	Advanced Men’s Pickleball
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Weekly Bible Study Soccer
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	Bible Classes (Adult: James Lindeman)
Thursday	6:00 a.m.	Men’s Prayer Breakfast @ Denny’s on 1488
	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	6:30 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
Friday		
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Advanced Men’s & Women’s Pickleball
	10:00 a.m.	Beginners Men’s & Women’s Pickleball

Upcoming Events

September 1	Fall Quarter Begins Youth Devo
September 2	Church Offices Closed
September 3	Men’s Luncheon - Lupe Tortilla
September 4	Quilting Group Sprouts Story & Craft Time Resumes
September 5	Community Bible Class Potluck
September 6	Youth Guys/Girls Night Out
September 7	Men’s Breakfast
September 8	Sunny Glen Donations Due: Pastas and Mac & Cheese THK Grandparents Day Congregational Singing Youth Invasion
September 10	Ladies Bible Class Resumes
September 14	SNL Devo - Bryant Home

Prayers

- ✠ **Dean Hurlbert**/outpatient surgery to remove tube from lung August 19.
- ✠ **Don Gilbert**/eye surgery August 21.
- ✠ **Ryan Waters**/nephew of Jimmy McClung/has been experiencing dizziness and lack of equilibrium for the last week/please pray that upcoming test reveal the cause and an effective solution can be found.
- ✠ Members battling cancer: **Tom Campbell, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Dean Hurlbert, Bob McDougal, Joanie Roberts, and Nancy Stucky.**
- ✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **Teri Barker, Paola Bejaran, Brian Blake, Jeff Branton, Fred Conrad, Mike Ferdinand, Larry Hall, Randy Hicks, Shawna Holland, Mike Howard, Kathy Kaaiohelo, Jordan Love, JJ Lovoi, JerryMalone, Mallory Mitchen, Marty Pedranzan, Gerald Pereiro, Meghan Rudd, Garland Spelce, Becky Splawn, and Leon Taylor.**
- ✠ Please remember our members: **Kathy Boyer, Bob Burright, Ken Coleman, Bobbie Fellabaum, Rae Franks, Ann Glenn, Mark Haney, Peggy Kirby, Cherene Mcdonald, Bill Morrison, Tyrone Mynhier, Nancy Palmer, Laurie Riggsand Danna Stevens**
- ✠ Please remember friends & family: **Keaton Bale, Anika Matheidas, Leilani Palmer, Brenda Tanner, and Patti Vanhook.**

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