



December 24, 2017

Volume XXV—Issue 52

**“Thank God for the Fleas”**

There is a story in Corrie Ten Boom’s book The Hiding Place that illustrates that if you are looking for something for which to be grateful, you can find it . . . regardless of your circumstance.

Corrie and her sister Betsie had been found guilty of hiding Jews in their home in Holland. Now they were incarcerated in the most horrid conditions imaginable – Ravensbrück concentration camp north of Berlin. One hundred thirty thousand women passed through this camp. A small percent survived.

At one point, the two sisters were re-assigned to different barracks – even worse than their last. The barracks were built to hold four hundred; it currently housed fourteen hundred. They quickly learned that it was infested with fleas!

Amazingly, they had managed to conceal a small Bible. They read together each evening and prayed. Their “study group” grew quickly to the point that it had to be divided so that everyone could hear the readings.

On one occasion, following the reading in First Thessalonians, the women were trying to put into practice the admonition “. . . give thanks in all circumstances.” Corrie heard Betsie pray, “Thank you Lord for the fleas.” She thought to herself, “Even God can’t make me thankful for these wretched fleas!”

Some days later it was made obvious that the reason they were able to have their Bible studies without interference from the guards was because the guards refused to enter their barracks because it was so infested with fleas! Corrie then prayed, “Thank you Lord for the fleas.”

“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” – I Thessalonians 5:16-17.

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** 9:00 AM Bible Classes (Offered for All Ages)  
 10:15 AM Morning Worship Assembly  
 6:00 PM Evening Assembly  
**Wednesday** 7:00 PM Bible Class

December 24, 2017

**Elder of the Day** Elton Stubblefield

**Communion Leader** Ron Crawford

**Adult Bible Classes:**

“**Studies in John**” by Dave Short  
 Sundays in Chapel Center Auditorium

“**Come to Jesus’ Meetings**” by Robert Dozier  
 Sundays in Worship Center A101

“**Studies in Matthew**” by Joel Blake  
 Sundays in Worship Center A102 (20s & 30s)

“**A Study of Joshua**” by Scott Logan  
 Wednesdays in Worship Center Auditorium

**Teen Bible Classes:**

“**1 Samuel**” by Scott Simpson  
 Sundays in Chapel Center C203 (9th-12th)

“**1 Samuel**” by Rick Medford  
 Sundays in Chapel Center C201 (7th & 8th)

“**Various Topics**” by Chris Tomberlin  
 Wednesdays in Chapel Center C203 (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.

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**Elders**

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

**Staff**

**Pulpit** Ken Stegall  
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**Deacons**

**Administration** Joel Blake  
**Audio/Visual & Media** Mark Jetton  
 Gary LeMaire  
**Building & Grounds** Ken Purvis  
 Doug Tucker  
**Children’s Programs** Richard Hyde  
**Communication** Anthony Dozier  
**Education** Matt Fitzgerald  
 Quinn Tolbert  
**Family Life Center** Chris Davis  
**Fellowship** Tim Riggs  
**Finance** Jeff Fleming  
 Brandon Smith  
**Foreign Missions** Paul Gidden  
**Involvement** Brian Lee  
**Local Evangelism** Chuck Bryant  
**Sharing** Kyle Gordley  
 Bradley Welborn  
**Ushers** Kermit Brooks  
**Welcome Center** Michael Matheidas  
**Welcome Center/Visitor Contacts** Ben Brockman  
**Worship** Scott Blake  
 Bill Malone  
 Brant Mathis  
**Youth** Matt Hemphill  
 Terence O’Connor

**Servant Minister**

Visitation—Hospital/Shut-Ins Tom Herrick

**Last Week’s Attendance**

Sunday, December 17 2017

9:00 AM Bible Class	376
10:15 AM Worship	590
6:00 PM Worship	173
Contribution	\$28, 874.00

Wednesday, December 20, 2017

7:00 PM Bible Class	256
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**Missions**

For updates regarding the mission efforts supported by WOCC, please visit our church website, [woodlandoaks.org](http://woodlandoaks.org), under Connect, click Ministries and Missions.

**Budget**

Through November 30, 2017, Actual Unrestricted Contributions are \$1,263,701.83 versus Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions of \$1,294,424.16 for a deficit of (\$30,722.33).

**Notes**

December 24 - Evening Assembly - Guest Speaker - Grant Fitzhugh

## Announcements

Congratulations to **Kelsey Watrous**, who was baptized into Christ on Sunday, December 10. Welcome to the family!

**Community Bible Class** will not meet December 28. Class resumes Thursday, January 4 followed by the monthly potluck meal.

The **Church Office** will be closed Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.

**Young Professionals Bible Study** will not meet Tuesday, December 26. The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 2.

Volunteers age 8 and older are invited to sign up at the Welcome Center to **Serve Lunch at Impact Church of Christ** on Sunday, December 31. See Brandon Smith for more information.

**Men's Breakfast** will be Saturday, January 6 at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center.

All ladies are invited to attend **Heart to Home's Pizza, Paint, Praise & Prayer** Tuesday, January 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The cost is \$7. Sign up at the Welcome Center by January 7 if you will attend.

Registration is NOW open for the **Found Faithful WCCC Parenting Seminar** at [wccparentingseminar.weebly.com](http://wccparentingseminar.weebly.com). The seminar will be on March 24-25 and is for parents of children ages birth - 12th grade. Childcare will be provided.

## HOLIDAY ASSEMBLY/CLASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday, December 24

10:15 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

### Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Bible Class  
9:45 a.m. Coffee/Doughnuts  
10:15 a.m. Morning Worship  
6:00 p.m. Evening Worship

### Wednesday, December 27

5:30 p.m. Potluck Supper  
7:00 p.m. Combined Devotional\*

### Wednesday, January 3

5:30 p.m. Potluck Supper  
7:00 p.m. Combined Devotional\*

\*CR Step Study Bible Class will meet at the normal time. (12/27, 1/3)

## New Members

Joe & Judy Daily

## Bible Reading

There are two sign-up lists at the Welcome Center concerning the yearly Bible reading. The **2017 Bible Readers' Banquet** list is for those who have, or will have, finished reading the Bible by the end of this year. Our celebratory steak supper will be Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel Center. Please sign up by Sunday, January 14 and indicate if you will be able to attend the banquet and if child care is needed. The **2018 Bible Readers'** sign-up list is for those who plan to read our Bibles through in 2018.

## Youth Summer Intern



The Woodland Oaks Youth Ministry Team is pleased to announce that Grant Fitzhugh will be joining Woodland Oaks as the 2018 Youth Ministry Summer Intern. Grant currently attends Harding University and is pursuing a degree in Preaching. He also plays Quarterback for the Harding Bisons football team. He is an outstanding young man of godly character who desires to serve passionately in God's Kingdom. Grant is the grandson of Ken and Janis Stegall.

## Treehouse Kids' News

**Parents of Family Bible Readers:** If your family will complete reading through Hurlbut's Bible Story Book in 2017, please sign up at the Welcome Center or on the Children's Facebook page for our **Family Bible Readers Celebration** to be held on Friday, January 12 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Incredible Pizza. There is also a **2018 Children's Bible Readers' sign-up** at the Welcome Center.

**Little Lambs Play Group** will resume Friday, January 12.

**Bible Builders** resumes Sunday, January 14.

**Sprouts Story & Craft Time** will resume Wednesday, January 17.

## Thank you

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank everyone for all that you did for us during Larry's recent death. You all have truly been a blessing to us and we appreciate deeply all of the prayers, visits, calls, cards, and food. The beautiful flowers we received let us know that life must go forward. Your thoughtfulness meant more than words can ever say.

Paula Shiver

Thank you so much for the college bag full of goodies and the cards. I appreciated it and it helped me get through the finals!!

Thanks again,  
Destiny LeRibeus

Thank you so much for the care package with so many goodies as I studied for my finals. I also appreciate the people who took the time to write encouraging notes. Your love and support for me during these years of college has meant more to me than any words I could express. You are my extended family and I am so blessed to be a part of this church.

Thanks again,  
Hayden Talbott

Thank you so much for the thoughtful care bag that you gave me to have for finals. It was such a treat and I had plenty to share with my Aggie friends. All the sweet notes made me anxious to get home to see everyone. Thank you again for sharing your love with me.

Love,  
Chandler Fleming

## Expectant Families

Cody & Dustin Haney  
Laura & Kevin Sim

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

**DECEMBER DONATION NEEDS:**  
**WOCC Sharing Pantry:** Personal Care Items

## This Week

Today	10:15 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Morning Worship Evening Worship Christmas- Church Office Closed
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Potluck Meal Combined Devotional
Thursday	6:30 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
Friday		
Saturday		

## Upcoming Events

December 31	Serve Impact CofC Meal
January 1	New Year's Day - Church Office Closed
January 2	Men's Luncheon - Jax Burger
January 3	Quilting Group Potluck Meal & Combined Devo - No Bible Classes <i>CR Step Study will meet as scheduled</i>
January 4	Community Bible Class Potluck Luncheon
January 6	Men's Breakfast
January 7	Sign up for Heart to Home's Pizza, Paint, Praise & Prayer Due Congregational Singing Worship Training
January 12	Little Lambs Play Group Resumes Family Bible Readers Celebration
January 12-14	CYC - Challenge Youth Conference
January 14	Bible Builders Resumes
January 16	Heart to Home Pizza, Paint, Praise, & Prayer
January 17	Sprouts Story & Craft Time Resumes
January 19	Impact Truck in Area
January 21	Elder/Deacon Meeting
January 27	Bible Readers Banquet
January 28	Bridal Shower - Alyssa Short
January 31	Young Men Lead Singing
February 1	Community Bible Class Potluck Luncheon
February 3	Men's Breakfast Bridal Shower - Leigh Medford (Mata's Home)
February 16-18	Youth Winter Retreat

## Prayers

- ✚ **Mary Jane Nevels**/foot surgery December 21
- ✚ **Jesse Leal**/friend of Scottie West/large brain tumor/at MD Anderson deciding on treatment.
- ✚ **Kay Thornton**/mother of Lana Chauvin/recent back surgery.
- ✚ Members battling cancer: **Tom Campbell, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Nancy Lee and Steven Talbott.**
- ✚ Friends & family battling cancer: **Shane Albers, Jeff Branton, John Chegin, Mike Ferdinand, JJ Lovoi, Jerry Malone, Marty Pedranzan, Meghan Rudd, Garland Splce and Becky Splawn.**
- ✚ Please remember our members: **Pat Charleston, Wallace Crawley, Ken Coleman, Judy Perry, Denise Tolbert and Howard Yates.**
- ✚ Please remember friends & family: **Azlyne Anderson, Danny Clark, Susan Fulwiler, Harry Hallows, Phyllis Lutz, Johnny Myhnier, John Quinn & family.**

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)