



November 18, 2018

Volume XXVI—Issue 46

**I Wept At His Funeral**

My dad wasn't a Christian. He and my mother never got along. They separated a number of times when I was very young and separated for the final time when I was twelve. Obviously, I never had the kind of relationship with my father that many children enjoy. I recall how I used to envy my friends who came from homes where their mother and dad stayed together. Through my early years, I longed for . . . a home where I could feel a sense of security . . . for a dad who would take me to a ball game or the amusement park . . . who would encourage me and tell me he loved me. I played football and basketball in high school. Only one time did my dad come to see me play and on that occasion, he was drunk and embarrassed me. I became a rebellious young man. On eight different occasions, I was arrested and put in jail. When my dad died, he did not leave either of his sons one dime. His children were not one of his top priorities.

While attending my dad's funeral in Duluth, Minnesota, I wept. Why? Well, whatever had happened, he was my dad. I had a special feeling for him. Like almost all people, he had many good points. Maybe I wept because of what could have been. I wanted desperately to love my dad, if only he would have let me. I wanted him to love his grand-children and to allow them to bring some happiness into his life; but, he seemed unconcerned. The simple truth is that drinking and having what the world considers to be a good time was more important to my dad than anything else. Consequently, he missed out on the real joys of life. He never enjoyed the love of his sons or grandchildren. He never knew the joys of sharing their accomplishments or the comradery of sympathizing with them over their setbacks. He never knew the thrill of holding his grandchildren in his lap and hearing the words, "granddaddy, I love you very much." He never knew what it was to sit around the Thanksgiving table with his entire family . . . to share in the laughter . . . to feel the closeness that comes from family ties . . . to hold the hand of the mother and grandmother of his offspring and say, "we have been blessed." I guess maybe that is why I wept. Not so much because of what he did not give me, but because of what he himself had missed.

When I became a father I made up my mind to give my children what my dad never gave me. I have been the beneficiary. I have sat at the feet of my son as he preached the gospel. I have felt the pride of my daughters and daughter-in-law bringing my descendants into the world. I know what it is to love and to be loved. Life is short and I know that I will pass from it in the not too distant future. There will be no regrets. I expect my children and grandchildren will weep at my funeral. Hopefully, it will be for different reasons than when I wept at the funeral of my dad.

To every father who reads this, put your family second only to God. They will make mistakes as you make mistakes. Regardless, never stop loving them and let them know that you love them. If you want to be loved, you must love; to be forgiven, you must forgive; to be understood, you must be understanding; to receive you must give. Your family will probably weep when you die. Only you can determine why they will weep!

Gordon Smith  
Gadsden, AL

**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

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**Elder of the Day** Butch Merriman

**Communion Leader** Glenn Addison

**Adult Bible Classes:**

**“Except Ye Be Converted”** by Sam Bradley  
Sundays in Worship Center Auditorium

**“I Don’t Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist”** by Doug Dobbs  
Sundays in Worship Center A101

**“Finding Truth in Past Lives”** by Rick Medford  
Sundays in Worship Center A102  
(20s & 30s)

**Fall Series: “True Happiness”** by Various Teachers  
Wednesdays in Worship Center Auditorium

**Teen Bible Classes:**

**“Evangelism”** by Raymond Walker & Mark Freeman  
Sundays in Education Center B107 (9th-12th)

**“1,2, & 3 John”** by Terence O’Connor  
Sundays in Education Center B106 (7th & 8th)

**“Love Does”** by Terence O’Connor  
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](mailto:information@woodlandoaks.org)  
[www.woodlandoaks.org](http://www.woodlandoaks.org)



**Elders**

Gary Erwin  
Mark Freeman  
Nathan Ingram  
Flo Mata

Butch Merriman  
John Rowe  
Elton Stubblefield  
Raymond Walker

**Deacons**

**Administration/Communications** Joel Blake  
**Audio/Visual & Media** Mark Jetton  
 Gary LeMaire  
**Building & Grounds** Larry Brabham  
 Ken Purvis  
 Doug Tucker  
**Children’s Programs Education** Richard Hyde  
 Matt Fitzgerald  
 Adam Fracht  
 Quinn Tolbert  
**Family Life Center Fellowship** Chris Davis  
 Tim Riggs  
**Finance** Jeff Fleming  
 Brandon Smith  
**Foreign Missions** Paul Gidden  
 Brian Lee  
**Involvement Sharing** Frank Kerze  
 Kyle Gordley  
 Bradley Welborn  
**Special Ministries**  
**Ushers** Kermit Brooks  
**Welcome Center** Michael Matheidas  
 Ben Brockman  
**Welcome Center/Visitor Contacts**  
**Visitation - Hospital & Shut-Ins/Men’s Ministry** Robert Shock  
**Worship** Scott Blake  
 Bill Malone  
 Brant Mathis  
**Youth** Matt Hemphill  
 Terence O’Connor

**Staff**

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

**Youth**

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

**Office Administrators** Gina Talbott  
gina.talbott@woodlandoaks.org

Karen Ardito  
karen.ardito@woodlandoaks.org

**Last Week’s Attendance**

**Sunday, November 11, 2018**

9:00 AM Bible Class	367
10:15 AM Worship	538
6:00 PM Worship	199
Contribution	\$29,040.69

**Wednesday, November 14 2018**

7:00 PM Bible Class	244
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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 September 30, 2018, Actual Unrestricted Contributions are \$1,027,614 versus Budgeted Unrestricted Contributions of \$1,083,753 for a deficit of (\$56,139).

**Notes**

November 18 - PM Assembly - Marty Miller

## Announcements

**College Care Packages** are ready for pick up TODAY at the Welcome Center.

**Servants needed!** If you can help with the **Baptistery Maintenance**, please call or email John Rowe. You may also contact the office @ 936-273-0010 or information@woodlandoaks.org.

**Men's Luncheon** will be this Tuesday, November 20 at 11:30 a.m. at Mia's Table.

There will be **No Ladies Bible Class** this Tuesday, November 20. Class will resume Tuesday, November 27.

The **Church Office will be Closed** on November 22 & 23. Please have bulletin submissions turned in by Tuesday, November 20 at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a **Combined Devotional** in the Worship Center Auditorium Wednesday evening, November 22. **NO** children's classes will meet. There will be **NO** meal.

There will be **No Community Bible Class** this Thursday, November 22. Class will resume Thursday, November 29.

The **Treehouse Kids** are collecting **old adult sized blue jeans** for a service project. We will be re-purposing them to make shoes for children in Uganda. Please leave donations at the Welcome Center by Friday, November 30.

**Men's Breakfast** will be Saturday, December 1 at 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center.

**Adopt A Family** wrapped and labeled gifts are due by Sunday, December 2 in the Family Life Center.

The elders ask that each family verify and **Update Your Directory Information**. If your contact information has changed (address, email, or phone numbers), please contact the church office and provide us with current details at information@woodlandoaks.org or 936-273-0010. Some members may not have a photo in the directory at all. Other members may want to update their picture. New or updated photos can be arranged through B. Jack Wilson. He typically is available on Sundays and Wednesdays for pictures.

## Sympathy

Heartfelt sympathy to Judy Bollman at the loss of her mother, **Earlene Coffman** Friday, November 9. The graveside service was held November 15 at Brookside Funeral Home.

## Expectant Families

Brandi & Adam Barscewski  
Kendra & Joel Blake  
Rachel & Reuben Bloom  
Elise & Daniel Fair

Keri & Kyle Knox  
Cortney & Scott Simpson  
Sarah & Frank Zapata

## Youth News

**Checkpoint Youth Conference** is a youth conference for our teens to dig into the scriptures, re-connect with friends, and lean on one another as we examine our walk with the Lord over the last six months. Group lessons will be lead by various adult leaders from Bandina and promises to bring a little Summer to December. The conference will be Saturday, December 1 at Lake Houston Church of Christ. The van will leave WOCC at 8:00 a.m. and return at 6:30 p.m. Sign up at the Welcome Center by Wednesday, November 28.

The **Youth Christmas Party** will be Sunday, December 2. Time to be determined soon. Wear your ugliest Christmas sweater, bring a \$1-\$5 gift to exchange, and a festive finger food to share.

## Treehouse Kids' News

**Bible Builders** last meeting before the holiday break will be **TONIGHT** during the evening assembly. Bible Builders will resume in January 2019.

**Sprouts Story & Craft Time** will NOT meet this Wednesday, November 21. We will resume meetings Wednesday, November 28.

Join us for a family service night! There will be a **Sole Hope Shoe Party** to make shoes for children in Uganda on Friday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Please bring a finger food to share.

## Thank you

The loss of our dear Kristin has been heartbreaking. The support shown to our family has been overwhelming. Words can never express how our hearts have been touched. Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, plant and the wonderful meal provided for our family.

In Christian Love,  
The Lindell Trout &  
Dion Zimmerman Families

## Prayers

- ✚ **Romelle Evans**/surgery November 14 went well/she is recovering at home.
- ✚ **Larry Hall**/friend of Sam & Jill Bradley/is in MD Anderson receiving cancer treatment and has an infection.
- ✚ **Rose Talbott**/mother of Steven Talbott/ hospitalized for gallbladder and colon tumor/surgery November 12 went well/she remains in hospital recovering.
- ✚ **Allen Roberts**/friend of Tony Bloom/stroke.
- ✚ **Wayland Riggs**/home recovering after hospitalization due to fall.
- ✚ Members battling cancer: **Tom Campbell, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Bob McDougal, Joanie Roberts, and Nancy Stucky.**
- ✚ Friends & family battling cancer: **Paola Bejaran, Brian Blake, Jeff Branton, Fred Conrad, Donna Dunham, Mike Ferdinand, Shawna Holland, Mike Howard, Mike Knappier, JJ Lovoi, Jack Lowry, Jerry Malone, Marty Pedranzan, Gerald Pereiro, Tony Ross, Meghan Rudd, Garland Spelce and Becky Splawn.**
- ✚ Please remember our members: **Chuck Birt, Ken Coleman, Rudy Henss, Debi Hix, Texas Stevens, Austin Stockwell, Barbara Taylor and Ella Westbrook.**
- ✚ Please remember friends & family: **Caleb Bloom, Chris Coffman, Helen Fanning, Leilani Palmer, Billy & Joyce Smith, and Andrea Wolf.**

## This Week

Today	6:15 p.m.	College Care Package Pick up Bible Builders
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	Men's Luncheon - Mia's Table
	6:45 p.m.	Young Professionals Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Indoor Soccer
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Quilting Group
	7:00 p.m.	Combined Devo/No Meal/No Children's classes
Thursday		Church Offices Closed
Friday		Church Offices Closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Non-competitive Pickleball

## Upcoming Events

November 30	THK Sole Hope Shoe Party
December 1	Men's Breakfast Check Point Youth Conference
December 2	Winter Quarter Begins Adopt A Family Gifts Due Youth Christmas Party Congregational Singing
December 6	Community Bible Class Holiday Meal
December 16	New Member Party - Medford Home
December 24-25	Church Offices Closed
December 26	No Meal/No Children's Classes/Combined Devo
January 1	Church Offices Closed
January 2	No Meal/No Children's Classes/Combined Devo
January 5	Men's Breakfast Youth Battlefield Houston Tactical Laser Tag
January 11	Elders' Retreat
January 15	Heart to Home Paint and Bubbles
January 16	Impact Truck in Area
January 25-26	2019 Men's Retreat
January 27	Impact Church of Christ Meal
January 30	Youngest Men Lead Singing
February 2	2018 Bible Readers' Banquet
February 15-17	Youth Winter Retreat
March 31	Impact Church of Christ Meal
April 19-21	Leadership Training for Christ (Dallas, TX)
April 27	Golf Tournament
May 27	Church Offices Closed
May 29	Youngest Men Lead Singing
June 21-23	Family Camp
July 4	Church Offices Closed
September 2	Church Offices Closed
October 27	Impact Church of Christ Meal
October 30	Youngest Men Lead Singing

**A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.**  
**NOVEMBER DONATION NEEDS:**  
**WOCC Sharing Pantry: Brownie & Cookie Mixes**