



October 18, 2020

Volume XXVIII—Issue 42

Has the Church Failed?

More and more I'm hearing, "The church has failed. Young people are leaving in droves." Some of it is coming from individuals and groups who have done everything within their power to criticize and pull people away from basic moral principles.

When you use every possible means to target a generation with indoctrination that homosexuality, abortion, fluid gender identification and cohabitation is not only acceptable, but desirable, it is incredibly hypocritical to condemn the church for not being successful in persuading them otherwise.

But the real basis of the criticism is that the church has not accepted this "new [im]morality" with open arms! A well-known public figure recently made headlines for saying, "Young people are leaving church because 'Christianity is judgmental and alienating.'" That resonates with today's generation.

Am I sad when I see a young person who grew up with godly parents who taught them biblical morality turns their back on what they have been taught? Of course I am. Incredibly sad. Is the answer for the church to adapt to today's morality? . . . to ignore what the Bible says and accept society's standards? Some religions have. "Come as you are; stay within your comfort zone." They're popular.

I'm really sad about some of the immoral changes that have happened in our country within my lifetime. But is it because the church has failed? The first-century church existed within an extremely immoral climate – the decadence of the Roman world. Did any of the inspired writers of the New Testament blame the church for society's ungodliness? Or did they repeatedly warn those Christians, "Do not conform yourselves to this age . . .?" (Romans 12:2)

I'm not saying that the church has been perfect or that we couldn't do a better job of grounding our young people in faith, but I am saying don't allow **hypocritical criticism** to discourage you. Think of the opposition Noah faced from his generation. It wasn't his fault that "every thought of man's heart was continually wicked."

The church has not failed because society grows more immoral . . . as long as we don't put the light under a bowl. (See Matthew 5:15).

- 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	9:15 AM	Bible Classes
	10:15 AM	Morning Assembly
	6:00 PM	Evening Assembly
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Adult & Youth Bible Classes

October 18, 2020

Elder of the Day Butch Merriman
Communion Leader Glenn Addison

Adult Bible Classes:

"How to Keep Fear From Scaring You to Death"
 by Nathan Ingram & Sam Bradley
 Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.
 Worship Center Auditorium

"Overcoming . . ." by Various Teachers
 Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.
 Worship Center Auditorium

Teen Bible Classes:

"Genesis" (7th –12th) by Jordan Fontenot
 Sundays @ 9:15 a.m.
 Chapel Center Auditorium

"1 & 2 Thessalonians" (7th–12th) by Jordan Fontenot
 Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.
 Worship Center Room A102

*Links for streaming Bible classes and Worship:

<http://woodlandoaks.org/media-center.html> or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3r3Z5p1jFwx1g7rDUclVYA>
 Youth: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCit8ZGyUoQr1EB6iDYyDLIA/>
 Children: Woodland Oaks Children's Ministry Facebook Page

Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:

0–2 years	A105/A106
3–4 years	C103
5 years–3rd grade	Family Life Center
4th–5th grade	A101
6th grade	A102

Woodland Oaks Church of Christ
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Elders

Scott Blake
 Gary Erwin
 Mark Freeman
 Nathan Ingram

Butch Merriman
 Elton Stubblefield
 Raymond Walker

Staff

Pulpit Ken Stegall
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Youth Jordan Fontenot
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Children's Coordinator Jennifer Tolbert
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Office Administrators Karen Ardito
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Jessica Weatherholt
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Last Week's Attendance

Sunday, October 11, 2020

9:15 AM Bible Class	206
10:15 AM Worship	334@ WOCC 411 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	133
Contribution	\$38,521.14

Wednesday, October 14, 2020

7:00 PM Bible Class	81
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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

Deacons

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

Children's Programs Todd Watrous
 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

Information Technology Al Ardito
Involvement Frank Kerze
Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes
Sharing Kyle Gordley
 Bradley Welborn

Reaching Out Gavin Dao
Ushers Tony Bloom

Welcome Center/ Ben Brockman
Visitor Contacts

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

Worship Eric Kirkland
 Bill Malone
 Brant Mathis

Youth Matt Hemphill
 Terence O'Connor

Missions

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

Budget

Actual unrestricted contributions through August 31, 2020 are \$913,494 compared with a budgeted amount of \$954,139 producing a deficit of (\$40,645).

Notes

Letter from the Elder

October 12, 2020

Woodland Oaks Brothers and Sisters,

After much prayer and discussion, we will begin relaxing some of our seating restrictions in our auditorium assemblies. Beginning Oct 18, we will open all rows and remove the seating restrictions in the auditorium section closest to the Family Life Center. The seating in the two center sections, as well as the far right section (closest to the sound booth), will remain as is with every other row remaining closed and non-families being encouraged to safely space on each row as appropriate.

While we recognize that the COVID-19 virus remains active and potentially serious to those in high risk categories, we feel this additional action is now warranted. To date, there have been no reported instances of the virus transmission in our facilities and our Governor's latest Executive Order (GA-30) has removed the prior occupancy limits in churches. We are relaxing the seating restrictions in this one section only and we encourage those members that are comfortable with relaxed safety protocols to sit in this section of the auditorium. All other previous safety protocols remain in place and we encourage everyone to remain diligent in minimizing the spread of this virus.

As you may have noticed, the Lord continues to bless us with more and more families and visitors being willing to return to our assemblies. While we rejoice with this good news, we are also challenged in finding seating for everyone. Going to multiple services is our remaining option, but our desire to have everyone assemble and worship together has led us to this decision.

If you will be joining us onsite for worship or classes, we ask that you continue to self-screen before coming to the assembly. If you are running a fever or showing any potential symptoms (cough, chills, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, etc.), please stay home and stream services. If you are one of those in the high risk categories, we encourage you to continue to join us via our streaming options at <http://woodlandoaks.org/media-center.html> or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3r3Z5p1jFwx1g7rDUcIVYA>

We thank everyone for your ongoing cooperation, encouragement and prayers.

Your elders

Youth News

There will be a **Youth Devo TONIGHT** immediately following the evening assembly in the Chapel Center.

Tuesday Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Jetton home.

There will be a **Youth Invasion** Sunday, October 25 immediately following the evening assembly.

Treehouse Kids

Wednesday THK Virtual Bible Class-6:30 p.m.-WOCC Children's Facebook Page

New Members

Pam Sharp

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

OCTOBER DONATION NEEDS:

WOCC Sharing Pantry: Canned Meats

Announcements

Congratulations to **Pam Sharp** who was baptized into Christ Sunday, October 11. Welcome to the family Pam!

Join us for a drive by **Bridal Shower for Katy Justice**, the daughter of Marty & Richard Justice, at the home of Joyce Pieper TODAY from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Since Katy lives in Dallas, she will be unable to attend. Marty will be there to greet you at the party. Gift cards from Amazon or Crate & Barrel are requested or a money tree will be provided. Your thanks will be a gift bag of homemade cookies.

The WOCC Faithful Fathers Ministry is proud to announce a new small groups ministry called **Battle Buddies**. If you are interested in being a part of Battle Buddies, please list your information on sign up sheets at the Welcome Center or contact one of the WOCC Faithful Fathers Core Group members by October 21, 2020.

Please join us for a **Come & Go Baby Shower for Levi James Stegall**, son of Mike & Lizzie Stegall, grandson of Richard & Marty Justice Sunday, October 25 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the WOCC Chapel Center Breezeway. The baby registry is available with BabyList.

Save the date! There will be a **Turkey Day Golf Tournament** Saturday, November 14 at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, November 8. Contact Robert Shock for more information.

It's time for **College and Military Care Packages** again! WOCC has about 40 students and 3 active military personnel who love to get notes of encouragement. Monetary donations, item donations and notes of encouragement are due November 15. You may donate online by choosing the College Basket Fund under the Give tab on the website. If you are writing a check, you can indicate College Basket Fund on the memo line and send it to the secure PO Box or place it in the basket in the foyer. Glenda Haggard and Kendra Blake are also willing to take monetary donations. Please put notes of encouragement and item donations in the College Basket container at the Welcome Center. The Care Packages will be available for pick up on Sunday, November 22 at the Welcome Center. If you are a WOCC member in college or have a child in college/actively serving in the military and are not on the attached list, please contact Denise Tolbert.

If you wish to order **Audio Copies of Sermon CDs**, sign up at the Welcome Center or call/email the office (information@woodlandoaks.org) with the name or date of the sermon and the number of copies needed. We are currently transitioning to new equipment, so there may be a delay. You will be notified when your order is ready and how to claim them.

Thank you

Thank you on behalf of my mother, my brother, and myself for the many kindnesses you showed to us when my daddy passed away. I received an amazing amount of cards, phone calls, texts and other acts of love. I love the basket of plants that you sent to honor Daddy. Your outpouring of love helped soothe our hearts! I love & appreciate you more than words can say!

In Christ, Janet Logan

Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Joyce Roll at the loss of her husband, and our brother, **Richard (Lucky) Roll** on Thursday, October 8. The service was held October 16. Please keep Joyce and the family in your prayers.

Deepest sympathy to Betty Fowler at the loss of her twin sister, **Patty Baldwin** on Sunday, October 11. Please keep Betty and the family in your prayers.

This Week

Today	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	1:00 p.m.	Bridal Shower for Katy Justice
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Devo
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Bible Study @ Jetton Home
Wednesday		Battle Buddies Sign-Up Due
	6:30 p.m.	Virtual Children's Bible Class
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class: Fear by Kyle Gordley
Thursday	6:15 a.m.	Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Denny's on 1488
	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	6:30 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery

Upcoming Events

October 25	Impact CofC Meal
	Come & Go Baby Shower for Levi James Stegall
	Elder/Deacon Meeting
	Congregational Meeting
	Youth Invasion
November 1	Daylight Saving Time Ends
	Congregational Singing
November 7	Men's Breakfast
November 8	Sign-up for Golf Tournament Due
November 14	Turkey Day Golf Tournament
November 15	College & Military Care Package Donations Due
November 22	College & Military Care Package Pick-up
November 26-27	Church Offices Closed

Prayers

- ✚ **Wally Westbrook**/remains in Methodist Hospital at the Medical Center critical care unit.
- ✚ **John Charleston**/hospitalized October 9 at St. Luke's Hospital with high blood pressure.
- ✚ **Teresa Dastmalchi**/tests October 15 at MD Anderson.
- ✚ **Jordan Love**/son of Leslie McCracken/undergoing treatments for leukemia.
- ✚ **Debra Mooreland**/sister of Robert Shock/COVID-19.
- ✚ **Jennifer Watrous**/upcoming heart ablation procedure October 22 at Methodist Hospital Downtown.
- ✚ Members battling cancer: **Chuck Birt, Tom Campbell, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Bob McDougal, Joanie Roberts, Nancy Stucky.**
- ✚ Friends & family battling cancer: **Jennifer Woodward Banks, David Bass, Paola Bejaran, Fred Conrad, Joe Guidry, Mike Howard, Jordan Love, JJ Lovoi, Jerry Malone, Andrea Finley Nelson, Malu Oliveira, Meghan Rudd, Tara Slusser, Jerry Smith, Rose Talbott, Marla West.**
- ✚ Please remember our members: **Ken Coleman, Skip Foreman, Andrew Gidden, Rebecca Osborn, Danyce Rundell, Angie Short, Betty Yovanovich.**
- ✚ Please remember friends & family: **Leilani Palmer, Randy Sparks.**

Expectant Families

Cecilia & Tony Bloom
Candice & Matt Fitzgerald
Hannah & Kolt Phillips
Jessica & Daniel Weatherholt

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