



May 24, 2020

Volume XXVIII—Issue 21

### A Spirit of Unity

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness . . .” I believe it was Mr. Dickens who wrote those lines some time back. I suppose that to some degree that could be said of any given time in history. But to me it seems particularly apropos right now.

The bright side of this virus lockdown is that most of us have had the opportunity to spend much more time with our family than normal. Many also took advantage of the time to accomplish things around the house that we’ve been intending to do. It has been kind of a *sabbatical* . . . a rest – at least from our normal routine.

Now that we are hopefully beginning the road to recovery - gradually coming back together again - hopefully we have gained a renewed appreciation of a number of things. One is a reminder of how quickly our entire world can be thrown into chaos by an event totally beyond our control. We’re reminded that we are not nearly as “in control” as we assume we are. That should lead us to a renewed relationship with the one who IS in control.

There is also a not-so-bright side of this sabbatical time. Namely, some of us have formed some definite and vocal opinions about how it was/was not handled. Some have used social media to express their opinions. Within our family here at WOCC we have quite a diversity of opinions. That’s ok. Everyone has a right to our opinions. Like elbows, we all have a couple of them!

Now it is time for us to be serious about our attitude in expressing those opinions. Every year for the last 12 years I have made a deliberate effort to preach a lesson on Romans 14. If you recall, Romans 14 provides very specific instruction about maintaining unity in the Lord’s body when there are differences of opinion about “disputable matters.”

The specific disputable matters addressed in this text was opinions about whether certain foods could be eaten and whether or not Christians could celebrate certain special days. Regardless of how strongly those involved felt about these issues, Paul reminds them that being belligerent and vocal about their opinion could cause irreparable harm to the unity of the Lord’s church.

There are numerous principles involved in his instructions in this chapter, but I will simply remind us of a few:

“So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.”

“Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.”

“For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

There’s more, but that should be enough. So here’s my request to you - Please realize that there is nothing that happens in this world that is worth causing division or harsh feelings between brethren. Love for the Lord and his church must cause us to be determined to not allow our opinions to be the source of the slightest division.

- 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

<b>Sunday</b>	8:30 AM	Adult Bible Classes - <b>Online Streaming Only</b>
	10:15 AM	Morning Assembly
	6:00 PM	Evening Assembly - <b>TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM	Bible Class - <b>Online Streaming Only</b>

May 24, 2020

**Elder of the Day** Mark Freeman

**Communion Leader** Mac Brockman

### Adult Bible Classes:

“A Study of the Holy Spirit”  
by Dave Short Sundays Online Streaming @ 8:30 a.m.

“Fueled by Christ: Powering Positive Change in a Divided and Distracted World” by David Sparks  
Wednesdays Online Streaming @ 7:00 p.m.

### Teen Bible Classes:

“Hebrews” (7th –12th) by Jordan Fontenot  
Sundays Online Streaming @ 7:00 p.m.

“James” (7th-12th) by Jordan Fontenot  
Wednesdays Online Streaming @ 7:00 p.m.

### 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

Scott Blake  
Gary Erwin  
Mark Freeman  
Nathan Ingram

Butch Merriman  
Elton Stubblefield  
Raymond Walker

### Deacons

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

Ken Purvis  
Todd Watrous

**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

**Information Technology** Al Ardito  
**Involvement** Frank Kerze

**Networks/Special Ministries** Jeremy Haynes  
**Sharing** Kyle Gordley

Bradley Welborn  
Gavin Dao

**Reaching Out** Tony Bloom  
**Ushers** Ben Brockman

**Welcome Center/** Robert Shock  
**Visitor Contacts** Eric Kirkland

**Visitation - Hospital &** Bill Malone  
**Homebound/Men’s Ministry** Brant Mathis

**Worship** Matt Hemphill  
Terence O’Connor

**Youth**

### Staff

**Pulpit** Ken Stegall  
[kstegall@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:kstegall@woodlandoaks.org)

**Youth** Jordan Fontenot  
[jordan.fontenot@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:jordan.fontenot@woodlandoaks.org)

**Children’s** Jennifer Tolbert  
**Coordinator** [jennifer.tolbert@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:jennifer.tolbert@woodlandoaks.org)

**Building** Larry Brabham  
**Manager** [larry.brabham@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:larry.brabham@woodlandoaks.org)

**Office** Karen Ardito  
**Administrators** [karen.ardito@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:karen.ardito@woodlandoaks.org)

Jessica Weatherholt  
[jessica.weatherholt@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:jessica.weatherholt@woodlandoaks.org)

### Last Week’s Attendance

#### Sunday, May 17, 2020

9:00 AM Bible Class	N/A
10:15 AM Worship	717 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	N/A
Contribution	\$18,159.93

#### Wednesday, May 20, 2020

7:00 PM Bible Class	N/A
---------------------	-----

### 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

Actual unrestricted contributions through April 30, 2020 are \$443,329 compared with a budgeted amount of \$463,439 producing a deficit of (\$20,110).

### Notes

## COVID-19 Update from Elders

May 16, 2020

Woodland Oaks Brothers and Sisters,

We want to thank everyone for your continued prayers and compassion during these trying times. By staying home, you have helped slow the spread of this virus and that not only protects our members, but it also helps those in the community that we are trying to serve.

As most of you are aware, the state of Texas has released updated guidelines on reopening, including specific guidance for churches. As a result, we are planning to reopen our building for morning worship services on Sunday, May 24. This will be the first of a phased reopening plan, with subsequent phases addressing the reopening of classes, evening services and fellowship.

It is also worth noting that we appreciate and understand that there are many different opinions on the severity of COVID-19. There are many things about this virus that we do not understand. One thing we do know is that not everyone who is infected reacts the same. Many only suffer minimal health concerns and recover quickly. Others need significant medical treatments, extensive hospitalization and it can even become life-threatening. Regardless of your personal view of the virus and its impact, we all need to be respectful that the views, concerns and sensitivities of others may be different from our own.

That said, there are some factors that we want to highlight as you decide what is the best course of action for you and your family:

- Services will continue to be streamed <http://woodlandoaks.org/media-center.html> or <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3r3Z5p1jFwx1g7rDUclVYA>
- Those in high risk categories for infection are strongly encouraged to stay home and continue to stream our worship services for your safety. This includes those older than 65, diabetics, those with chronic heart or lung disease, those with immune deficiencies and some pregnant women. Parents with small children may want to consider staying home and streaming as well.
- For those planning to join us for our reopening assembly, we encourage you to read the attached "What to Expect" document. You need to be aware that there will be some logistical modifications in our assembly to protect our members. This includes some auditorium capacity restrictions and how we plan to handle any attendance overflow.

Finally, if you plan to attend on May 24, we ask you 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.

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

The Elders

<[What to Expect - Reopening Services](#)>

## Announcements

Congratulations to **Bill Pieper** who was baptized into Christ Monday, May 18. Welcome to the family Bill!

Congratulations to **Butch & Linda Merriman** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 23.

Congratulations to **Sonny & Barbara Taylor** who celebrated 65 years of marriage May 20.

**Sunday Bible Class will now be live streamed at 8:30 a.m.**

The **Church Offices will be Closed** Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day.

**Members Needing Assistance** or members who would like to help those needing assistance, please contact Jeremy Haynes.

**Impact Houston Church of Christ Donations** are temporarily suspended. We will not collect donations at the church building until further notice.

There will be a **Blood Drive** Sunday, June 7 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the motor-coach as usual. Sign up online: <https://bit.ly/3ebbg7l>

## Youth News

There will be **Youth Virtual Bible Class** Sunday evenings at **7:00 p.m.**, Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. You can watch on the BASIC YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCit8ZGyUoQr1EB61DYyDLiA/>. Contact Jordan Fontenot for more information.

**TREK** will be June 26-July 4. Those who would like to attend, sign up at: <https://bit.ly/2YiLGZi>. The second payment of \$75 is due May 31. The total balance of \$300 may be paid at any time. Please mail payments to the WOCC PO Box address.

**Camp Wyldewood** will have 3 sessions this summer. Session 1: July 5 - July 10 Session 2: July 12 - July 17 Session 3: July 19 - July 24. You can register and find more information on their website: [campwyldewood.org](http://campwyldewood.org).

## Treehouse Kids' News

There will be a **Virtual Children's Bible Class** with Mrs. Jenn Sunday mornings at **9:00 a.m.** and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Watch live on the Woodland Oaks Children's Ministry Facebook page.

## Sympathy

Deepest sympathy to Beth Brockman at the loss of her mother, and our sister, **Nancy Palmer**, Saturday, May 2. The memorial service will be Saturday, May 30 at 11:00 a.m. at WOCC. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Raintree Village Children's and Family Services or In Search of the Lord's Way.

Heartfelt condolences to Lindsey Peak at the loss of her grandfather, **Leon Taylor**, May 1 and her uncle, **Gary Johnson**, who lost his battle with cancer May 18. Please keep Lindsey and the family in your prayers.

## This Week

Today	8:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Class-Online Streaming Only
	9:00 a.m.	Virtual Children's Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Virtual Bible Class
Monday		Church Offices Closed
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Virtual Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Virtual Children's Bible Class
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Virtual Bible Class
		Bible Class with David Sparks-Online Only
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Memorial Service for Nancy Palmer

## Upcoming Events

May 31	2nd TREK Payment Due
June 6	Senior Banquet - Students & Families Only
June 7	Blood Drive
June 26	3rd TREK Payment Due
June 26-July 4	Trek
July 19-24	Camp Wyldewood
July 19	4th TREK Payment Due
	Elder/Deacon Meeting
July 29-August 2	Camp Awesome

## Prayers

- ✠ **Rodney Burke**/back surgery scheduled for May 27/St. Luke's Lakeside/ he is expected to stay in hospital for 2 days.
- ✠ **Pharis Fowler**/admitted to Memorial Hermann with blood infection.
- ✠ **Robert Shock**/vocal cord surgery went well/he is at home recovering.
- ✠ **Mary Gambill**/has become non-responsive/please keep Mary and her family in your prayers.
- ✠ Members battling cancer: **Chuck Birt, Tom Campbell, Cynthia Haney, Terry Hopper, Bob McDougal, Joanie Roberts, Nancy Stucky.**
- ✠ Friends & family battling cancer: **Jennifer Woodward Banks, Teri Barker, David Bass, Paola Bejaran, Fred Conrad, Emily Cottle, Joe Guidry, Doris Higginbottom, Mike Howard, Jordan Love, JJ Lovoi, Jerry Malone, F.R. Mitchell, Malu Oliveira, Gerald Pereiro, Meghan Rudd, Tara Slusser, Marla West.**
- ✠ Please remember our members: **Kobby Ayensu, Ken Coleman, Roxie Granger, Kaye Shock, Elton Stubblefield.**
- ✠ Please remember friends & family: **Greg Clayton, Hillary de Bruin, Leilani Palmer, Isaac Robinson, Margie Rushing.**

## Expectant Families

Lizzie & Mike Stegall  
Jessica & Trey Polvado

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

**MAY DONATION NEEDS:**  
**WOCC Sharing Pantry: Canned Fruits & Vegetables, Beans**  
**The Children's Home of Lubbock: Paper Towels**

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)