



*A place to call home ...*

# WOODLAND OAKS

CHURCH of CHRIST

FEBRUARY 24, 2008

VOLUME XIII—ISSUE

## Self-Willed Leaders

As I was preparing to teach a class on the concept of a Christian leader not being “self-willed” (Titus 1:7), it occurred to me, having grown up as a preacher’s kid, and now being a preacher myself, that I could recall numerous occasions when churches had been fractured and split because of self-willed leaders.

In the “old days” such splits most often occurred because some self-willed leader “ruled the roost.” He set himself up as the judge, jury and sometimes even executioner of the flock. It was “my way or the highway.” His opinion was law. His interpretation of scripture was infallible. In the “men’s business meetings” the deck was stacked. Those who opposed such a leader might not even be informed that the meeting was taking place! He forced his particular agenda by intimidation. He usually had a very strong personality. If you disagreed with his agenda, you could leave. Many did! ... Such was the self-willed leader of yore.

However, today I’m not hearing so much about this kind of leader. I don’t mean he doesn’t exist anywhere, but smaller, rural churches are not as numerous as in yesteryear. Or maybe they’re just “not making the news.” Maybe, too, we are a generation removed from those who donated the land for the building ...or signed the note to build the building. Our buildings are paid off and his kids have moved across the country.

But there’s a new gunslinger in town. He’s much more sophisticated. He doesn’t use the same bullying tactics. Today’s self-willed leader is not the intimidator; he the liberator. He not Saul; he’s Absalom. He works behind the scenes for months... maybe years, before he makes his move. His agenda is about freedom. He despises authority. He appeals to the younger crowd by criticizing the “traditional church.” He likes to joke about “Church-of-Christians.” He’s not a sourpuss; he’s the friendliest guy in church. He is typically young, professional, financially successful and has a background in the church.

He likes to “push the envelope” as far as possible... and then become indignant when he faces opposition- usually from the elders. At this point he has others who have bought into his agenda and it’s time to start another group. Regardless of how many other congregations may be located nearby, a new one must be started. Everything possible is done to elicit the church’s blessing in some form before the group leaves. This, it is felt, will legitimize their new group.

The irony is- They have now become the very thing they criticized and mocked regarding divisiveness in the “traditional church.” When all the rhetoric has died away, they have split the church. Their particular agenda was more important than the unity of the church. They are no different than those they criticized.

That’s why leaders must not be self-willed. Is it more justifiable and acceptable to the Lord to split the church over legalism or freedom? Both went home justified in their own mind.

May the Lord deliver us from self-willed leaders!

Ken Stegall

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

BIBLE CLASS 9:30 AM  
MORNING WORSHIP 8:20 & 10:30 AM  
EVENING WORSHIP 6:00 PM

### TUESDAY

LADIE’S BIBLE CLASS 9:30 AM

### WEDNESDAY

BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

## WHERE TO FIND US

7300 CROWNDRIDGE DRIVE  
THE WOODLANDS, TX 77382

PHONE/VOICEMAIL: 936-273-0010  
METRO LINE: 936-321-8919  
FAX: 936-273-0012

EMAIL: [INFORMATION@WOODLANDOAKS.ORG](mailto:INFORMATION@WOODLANDOAKS.ORG)

ON THE WEB: [WWW.WOODLANDOAKS.ORG](http://WWW.WOODLANDOAKS.ORG)

JOIN OUR E-PRAYER MINISTRY  
FOR DETAILS VISIT  
[WWW.WOODLANDOAKS.ORG/PRAYER](http://WWW.WOODLANDOAKS.ORG/PRAYER)

**PLEASE  
PASS YOUR  
COMPLETED  
ATTENDANCE CARD  
TO THE  
CENTER AISLE**

Join us at  
**SILVERADO  
ALZHEIMERS  
HOME**  
for services at  
2:00 PM today

## Sunday, February 17, 2008

Sunday 8:20 a.m. Worship	206
Bible Class	289
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship	148
PM Worship	165
Contribution	NC

## Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Bible Class	109
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### LADIES' BIBLE CLASS CONTINUES

*Ladies Bible Class* meets each Tuesday morning for coffee & fellowship at 9:30 a.m. with prayer & class from 9:50 to 11:00 a.m. Excellent childcare is provided. The study this session is Conquering Your Giants.

### EGG HUNT NEWS

This year's Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 8, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the home of the Freeze family (or at the building if the day is rainy). Directions will be available in the foyer.

There are plenty of plastic eggs left over from last year, but all members are asked to donate stuffers like small toys and non-chocolate candy. Every age is welcome to hunt, but all hunters must be registered as the eggs are customized for each child.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the foyer. All donations should be in and all children registered by Sunday, March 2. Please bring finger foods to share.

Update on funds raised for the

*Uganda School of Preaching:*

Amount Needed:	\$300,000
Amount Given So Far:	\$78,977.82

### Mission Trip to Benin/West Africa

Ed Jones, elder of Benton Church of Christ (Benton, KY) with oversight of the Bible Training Center in Benin (West Africa), has some open spots for a mission trip this summer. The trip includes a three day lectureship for students of the school, and a visit to some bush congregations to check on the work in those areas, as well as look at provisions for two satellite schools. The team will leave July 3 and return July 14. The price is expected to be under \$2,500 for all expenses. If you are interested in going, please see Glenn Addison or Paul Gidden, and they will connect you to Ed.

## OUR PRAYER LIST

- **MARY KOSMITIS** is recovering at home from surgery.
- **Christina Davis' Dad** is in the hospital in Chile with bacterial meningitis.
- **LISA KNOWLES**, friend of former members **Jack & Kelly Clark**, is in the hospital and not expected to recover.
- **MARGARET LEBLEU**, 82 year old aunt of **Jennet Gray**, had part of her lung removed last Wednesday.
- **STACEY KNOX** has had viral pneumonia this week.
- **ERIC JOINER**, friend of **Dave & Joanie Roberts**, may need a pacemaker which would jeopardize his career as a pilot.
- **LOIS FISHER**, the mother of a friend of **Wade Addison**, has many health problems due to multiple cysts throughout her body.
- **FREDA BOLTON**, grandmother of **BethAnn Roth**, is having surgery Wednesday to remove a tumor from her jaw. Mrs. Bolton is 91 years old.
- **JAMES CROSS**, a friend of **Ladana Iglar** had triple bypass surgery on Friday.

**Please Continue to Remember:** Randy Bates, Stan Birkhead, Pat Blake, Jay Bradley, The Conaways, Caleb Cox, Diane Duncum, Jill Duncum, Betty Ellis, Melanie Helm, Debi Hix, Diana Lege, Hermina Lollar, Donna Malone, Daniel Marshall, The McDougle Family, Landon McWhirter, Ethel Miller, Missionaries, Bill Pieper, Larry Proctor, Josh Smith, Joey Thacker, Louise Stubblefield, Don Underwood, Nic Whitacre, Jack & Dee White, J. Frank & Joyce Woodard

**Those Battling Cancer:** Mary Collins, Beverly Emmons, Diane Green, Terry Hayes, Carolyn Hobbs, Jack Hopkins, Dan Kaldor, Vicky Land, Lowell Montgomery, Jody Davis Page, Sheryl Rainwater, Vickie Ross, Jim Rushing, Beth Taylor, Curt Taylor, Hank Walters

**Those Away From Home:** Nick Hall, Patrick Clark

**Expectant Families:** Cindi & Logan Ingram

### CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Since renovation of the foyer begin, the staff offices are upstairs. Information for the office staff can be placed in the boxes on the wall by the kitchen.

## 2008 PERU MISSION TRIP

This summer we will be taking our 4th annual visit to the orphanage in Lima, Peru to do VBS. The dates for the trip this year are July 19 through July 27th. If you are interested in a side trip to Cusco/Machu Picchu the return date will be July 30th. The fees are not definite yet but you should plan on \$2,000 and an additional \$500 with the side trip. Fuel costs are fluctuating right now. Please let Patricia Osborn know by February 24 in you are interested in this year's trip. We need at least 10-12 people to go from Woodland Oaks. It is truly an experience you will never forget.

**Please remember to check the church calendar before scheduling an event that will impact the congregation. A quick call to the church office can ensure there are no conflicts.**

### ATTENTION LADIES

*Sign up sheets will be posted on the WINGS board through Friday in hopes of gaining insight into what activities WOCC ladies are interested in pursuing in the coming year. Please let us know in which areas you are interested in serving!*

### BABY SHOWER



Target.

A shower to celebrate the upcoming arrival of Carley Rae Ingram, daughter of Logan & Cindy Ingram, will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 2-4 p.m. at the home of Marty Justice. Cindi is registered at Babies-R-Us &

### Pregnancy Assistance Center North's (PACN) Summer Volunteer Training Seminar

February 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM  
Crossroads Baptist Church

6565 Research Forest Drive, The Woodlands

Training: How to handle crisis intervention, effectively share the Gospel with clients, use proven counseling techniques, etc.

For More Information: Call 936-441-7755 or email [pacn@pacn.org](mailto:pacn@pacn.org)

Help make a difference in the lives of many!

(PACN is a non-profit 501(c)3 Christ-centered organization)

## ADULT BIBLE CLASSES SPRING QUARTER

Sunday classes will begin March 2nd and conclude May 25th.

SUBJECTS	TEACHERS	LOCATION
Jeremiah	Dave Short	Auditorium
I & II Thessalonians	Marty Miller	Magnolia Room

Wednesday evening classes will be March 5th through May 28th. The first Wednesday of each month will be devoted to congregational singing with no adult classes. Chris Freeze will coordinate.

SUBJECT	TEACHERS	LOCATION
Singing, prayers & scripture readings.	Gary Erwin	Auditorium

Teaching materials for elementary classes are now available in the workroom.

### LTC PRACTICE

Every Sunday

#### Elementary (Grades 3-6)

Chorus: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Puppets: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

#### JH/HS Teams

Puppets: 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Chorus: 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Drama: 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Bible Quiz: 5:00-6:00 p.m.

### 2ND SATURDAY DINNER/DEVO

The next Young Professionals home devotional will be held at the home of Craig & Stephanie Cox on March 8. This is a time to bring your favorite snack food and enjoy fellowship and God's word in a home setting. All are welcome.

### Men's Softball Underway!



The 8:30 p.m. game last week was a nice win with cool temperatures, but by the 10:30 p.m. game the cold temps must have caught up to us (or maybe it was the inactivity over the last three months that caught up to us).

Now that the arms and legs should be getting under us again, we continue the fun sport of softball with two early games tomorrow, February 25, at 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining us for an evening of fellowship and playing a fun sport, please let me (Paul Gidden) know. We can always use more players.

