



January 5, 2025

Volume XXXIII—Issue 1

**Annual State of the Bible**

For the last 14 years, the American Bible Society has reported on the State of the Bible by investigating American's relationship with God, faith, and the Bible. The report highlights some key trends such as Scripture Engagement among Americans. The report is somewhat of a commentary on the spiritual state of America. For example:

- In 2020, 71 million American's were considered Scripture Engaged<sup>1</sup>.
- In 2024, that number fell to 47 million.

Bible Users are put into 4 categories: Ailing, Unhealthy, Healthy, and Thriving. Bible Users are put in these categories based on a Spiritual Vitality Gauge, which is composed of 9 questions about people's beliefs, spiritual practices, and faith in action. Again, I can't find these questions. Here are American Bible User's motivations for reading their Bibles in 2024.

- 42% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because it brings them closer to God.
- 18% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because it helps them discern God's will for their lives.
- 13% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because they need wisdom for making life decisions.
- 10% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because they need comfort.
- 9% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because it tells them about the nature of God.
- 4% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because it shows them how to treat others.
- 3% of all Bible Users, use the Bible because they know they are supposed to.

Now here's the kicker! **A Bible User is defined as an individual who reads, listens to, or prays with the Bible on their own at least 3-4 times a year, outside of a church service or church event.** I realize there are people who read way more than 3-4 times a year, but that's an absurd definition of a Bible User. No one would consider me a runner if I only ran 3-4 times a year, nor would it be of any benefit. Using the Bible 3-4 times a year will not help anyone gain a better understanding of the LORD, His character, or His will for their lives.

The importance of daily Bible engagement is seen in Psalm 119:97-14.

*"Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way."*

It's vitally important to your relationship with the LORD to be in His word every day and to put into practice what the Bible says.

God loves you!  
Shawn

<sup>1</sup>The Scripture Engagement formula weighs responses to fifteen questions in three areas: Frequency of Bible reading; Impact on one's relationship with God and others; and Centrality of the Bible in decision-making. I could not find a copy of the 15 questions.

**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>	9:00 AM	Bible Classes
	10:15 AM	Morning Assembly
	6:00 PM	Evening Assembly
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 PM	Bible Classes

January 5, 2025

**Elder of the Day** Butch Merriman

**Communion Leader** Shan Jackson

**Adult Bible Classes:**

**"Are You Growing Spiritually?"**  
by Mac Brockman—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A101

**"The Book of Revelation"**  
by Bob Klemm—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A102

**"Extraordinary Part 2 A Study of Acts: 13-28"** by Marty Miller  
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Auditorium

**"One Day It's Really Going to Happen: The Day Christ Comes Again"**  
(Young Professionals) by Kevan Taylor  
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Room C106 (Magnolia Rm)

**"People Watching"** by Scott Logan  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Auditorium

**"Ephesians"** (Ages 18-25) by Raymond Walker  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in Worship Center Room A102

**Teen Bible Classes:**

**"1, 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John"** (9th–12th) by Trent Tadlock  
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-107

**"Life of Christ"** (7th –8th) by Morgan Whatley  
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Education Center B-101

**"Ezra, Nehemiah"** (9th –12th) by Jordan Blake, Cameron Gardner, & Kaleb Steinhauer  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-107

**"United Kingdom"** (7th –8th) by Morgan Hughes  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-101

**Treehouse Kids Bible Classes:**

0–1 year	A103
1 year	A105/A106
2 years	C103
3 years/Pre-K	A108
Kindergarten	B200
1st grade	B202
2nd grade	B203
3rd grade	B207
4th grade	B208
5th grade	B206
6th grade	B209

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.

A **Nursery** is available during Sunday morning worship for children 0-23 months. For children 24 months and up, there is a **Training Room** available at the back of the auditorium, behind the glass windows.

Woodland Oaks Church of Christ  
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Phone/Voicemail: (936) 273-0010

Email: [information@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:information@woodlandoaks.org)

[www.woodlandoaks.org](http://www.woodlandoaks.org)



**Elders**

Scott Blake  
Mac Brockman  
Mark Freeman

Butch Merriman  
Marty Miller  
Raymond Walker

**Deacons**

Administration Joel Blake  
Audio/Visual & Media Mark Jetton  
Building & Grounds John Tolbert  
Sam Washburn

Children's Programs Richard Hyde  
Education Matt Fitzgerald

Family Life Center Mike Arnold  
Fellowship Chris Davis

Finance Tim Riggs  
Foreign Missions Jeff Fleming

Paul Gidden  
Adam Fracht

Information Technology Al Ardito  
Involvement Frank Kerze

Networks/Special Ministries Jeremy Haynes  
Serving Hearts/Hospital Visits Steve Baker

Mike Stevens  
Sharing Kyle Gordley

Bradley Welborn  
Reaching Out/Welcome Center Gavin Dao  
Bryce Caldwell

Ushers  
Homebound/Men's Ministry Robert Shock

Worship Eric Kirkland  
Bill Malone

Jordan Blake  
Youth Brant Mathis

Todd Watrous  
Daniel Fair

Trent Tadlock

**Contacts:**

**Faithful Fathers:** Chuck Bryant  
**Celebrate Recovery:** Tom Kernan

**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 October 31, 2024 were \$1,642,594.34 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1,596,155.80 producing a surplus of \$46,438.54.

**Notes**

**Staff**

Pulpit Shawn Montandon  
[shawn.montandon@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:shawn.montandon@woodlandoaks.org)

Youth Aaron Trent  
[aaron.trent@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:aaron.trent@woodlandoaks.org)

Children's Coordinator Janna Wilkerson  
[janna.wilkerson@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:janna.wilkerson@woodlandoaks.org)

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

**Last Week's Attendance**

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

9:00 AM Bible Class	333
10:15 AM Worship	581 @ WOCC 240 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	194
Contribution (12/22 & 12/29)	\$93,239.54

**Wednesday, January 1, 2025**

7:00 PM Bible Class	165
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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

## Announcements

Congratulations to **Brooklyn Christopher** who was baptized Saturday, December 28. Welcome to the family Brooklyn!

There will be a **Blood Drive** TODAY from 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. Please sign up at: <https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive/schedule/395790>.

**Congregational Singing** will be TONIGHT during the evening assembly.

**Men's Luncheon** will be this Tuesday, January 7 at 11:30 a.m. at Mia's Table.

For the month of January, **Quilting Group** will meet January 8 & 22.

**Community Bible Class** will resume this Thursday, January 9 at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a brief **Camp Blue Haven Meeting** Sunday, January 12 at 9:50 a.m. in room A102 for anyone interested in sending their kids to camp.

**Ladies Bible Class** will resume Tuesday, January 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel Center. We will have an introduction to our study and receive books.

Sign up to **Read Through the Bible in 2025!** Sign up at the table in the foyer.

Save the date! Those who have completed their 2024 Bible reading, the **2024 Bible Readers' Banquet** will be Saturday, February 1 at 5:30 p.m.! Please sign up individually in the foyer and indicate whether you will attend.

The **2025 Men's Advance** will be January 24 and 25. Nathan Ingram will be guest speaker. Please see Robert Shock at the table in the foyer to sign up and for more information.

## Prayers

✚ **Barbara Dickinson**/moved to rehab for physical therapy.

✚ **Lana Webster**/biopsy rescheduled for January 14.

✚ Please remember our members: **Janet Foreman, Nell Love, Valerie Lowry, Laurie Riggs, Becky Stephens, Gina Talbott, Denise Tolbert.**

✚ Please remember our friends & family: **Ryan Bates, Mary Collins, Steve Harding, Lacy Hunter.**

✚ Members battling cancer: **Bill Blumenshine, Tania Cantu, Cynthia Haney, Cynthia Lockwood, Terri Lowry, Erica Lunn, Roger McDonald, Bob McDougal, Marsha Owens, Jeanne Riggs, Janice Tadlock.**

✚ Friends & family battling cancer: **Glenda Coyle, Lisa Geerman, Ella Kasinger, D'Ann Norwood, Erika Phillips, John Singletary, Sabrie Stamper.**

## Thank You

To the Woodland Oaks Family,  
Thank you so much for all your prayers and visitations during Ryan's hospitalization. God has truly answered prayers and know that your prayers made a difference. Ryan is home and recovering and we pray you all have a blessed holiday this season. God has given us both salvation and a new life.

Randy Bates

Dear WOCC,

I want to thank everyone who contributed to my college care package. It was very thoughtful and encouraging to receive. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers!

Love, Rachel Flournoy

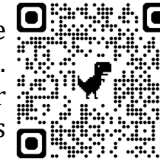
## Youth News

The next **High School Devo** will be TONIGHT following the evening assembly.

There will be a **Girls Dinner Devo** on this Thursday, January 9 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Whatley's home. Please RSVP at [basicyouthministry.com](http://basicyouthministry.com).

**Youth Bible Study** will be Tuesday from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Watrous Home.

The **Youth Winter Retreat** sign up is now open! The retreat will be February 7-9 at Hensel Camp, located outside of Marble Falls, TX. This event is open to students 7th—12th grade. The cost is \$30 per person. Please click/scan the QR code to sign up. Registration closes January 31.



Save the date! The **2025 Senior Banquet** will be May 3!

## Treehouse Kids

There will be a **3rd—6th Grade Boys Lock In** TONIGHT from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. See Kevin Wilkerson for more information.

There will be a **3rd—6th Grade Boys Devo** this Friday, January 10 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fleming Home. If you need transportation, please meet at WOCC at 5:10 p.m. The van will leave promptly at 5:15 p.m. and return at about 8:30 p.m.

**Dorcas Bible Class** (for girls K- 6th grade) resumes this January 11. Meet in the room A101 from 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. For more information, please see JaneAnn Fleming.

**Bible Builders Resumes** Sunday, January 12. Children ages 2yrs-Kinder will be dismissed at Sunday evening assembly to go "through the Bible in a year" and learn about how God has interacted with His people throughout the ages.

**Sprouts Storytime** resumes January 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Be sure to check out the **January News Letter** to stay updated and find more details on all upcoming events!



## Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences at the loss of our brother in Christ, **Bill (William) Malone (TN)**, on Tuesday, December 31. Funeral service is scheduled for Monday, January 6 at the Cashner Funeral Home, 801 Teas Rd, Conroe, TX. Family will receive visitors from 1:00 p.m. with the service beginning at 2:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be given to the Woodland Oaks church of Christ or the Lupus foundation of America. You can read the obituary and find more info [here](#). Please keep the family in your prayers.

Deepest sympathy to Sheri Butler at the loss of her sister, **Dani Kendrick**, on Wednesday, January 1. Arrangements are pending. Please keep Sheri and the family in your prayers.

Heartfelt condolences to Steve Baker at the loss of his parents, **Bruce (12/25) & Carolyn (12/26) Baker**. Please keep Steve and the family in your prayers.

Deepest sympathy to Betty Fowler at the loss of her husband and our brother in Christ, **Pharis Fowler**, on December 22. A graveside service will be held at a later date in Unionville, Missouri. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to Devotion Hospice of Conroe, Texas, or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, a cause close to Pharis' heart. You can read the obituary and find more information [here](#). Please keep Mrs. Betty and the family in your prayers.

## This Week

Today	7:30 a.m.	Blood Drive
	9:00 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship—Congregational Singing TX Bible Bowl Practice
	7:00 p.m.	High School Devo 3rd—6th Grade Boys Lock-In
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Women
	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball
Tuesday	11:30 a.m.	Men's Luncheon—Mia's Table
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	5:30 p.m.	Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class Resumes
	6:30 p.m.	Youth Girls Dinner Devo—Whatley Home
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery Basketball
Friday	6:00 p.m.	3rd—6th Grade Boys Devo @ Fleming Home
Saturday	9:30 a.m.	Dorcas Class

## Upcoming Events

January 12	Camp Blue Haven Meeting THK Memory Verse Challenge Snowcone Party Bible Builders Resumes Youth Invasion
January 14	Men's Prayer Breakfast Ladies Bible Class Resumes Youth Bible Study—Watrous Home
January 19	Junior High Devo
January 22	Quilting Group Sprouts Storytime Resumes
January 24-25	Men's Advance
January 26	Youth Invasion
January 27	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
January 29	GriefShare Begins 5th Wednesday—No Fellowship Meal
February 1	Men's Breakfast 2024 Bible Readers' Banquet
February 2	Congregational Singing Combined Devo
February 7-9	Youth Winter Retreat
February 8	Dorcas Class
February 15	Sweetheart Banquet
February 17	Church Offices Closed
February 21-23	Youth Rally-Enterprise Blvd CoC, Lake Charles, LA
February 24	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper

## Mission Updates

Before the holidays, **Kristen McKearin** was baptized in Vermont.

## Expectant Families

Lindsey & Doug Peak

Whitney & Jeremiah White

**A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.**  
The WOCC Sharing Pantry is in need of Personal Care Items: shampoo, liquid & bar soap, toothpaste, hygiene products, baby care items.

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)