



January 19, 2025

Volume XXXIII—Issue 3

### Empty-hearted

By: Sage Bridges

If we are paying attention, we can tell a lot about what others are thinking by their body language. Our eye contact (or lack thereof), facial expressions, gestures, posture, leg positions, and many other visuals are outward manifestations of our thoughts – which can make them a dead giveaway. But, we do have the ability to hide what is happening on the inside.

Matthew 6 refers to hypocrites as those who are putting on an outward show. What they appear to be doing is not truly displaying what is happening on the inside – thus concealing their true intentions. Instead of being genuinely benevolent, hypocrites sound a trumpet before themselves (6:2). Instead of praying about what is important, Gentiles hypocritically heap up empty phrases (6:7). Instead of fasting out of devotion to God and spiritual discipline, hypocrites intentionally look gloomy to be seen by others (6:16). Hypocrites appear to be doing something that seeks God’s approval, but the text repetitiously reminds us that they are secretly in pursuit of being seen by men.

God is not like us. He does not depend on body language to know our thoughts (Matthew 9:4), which means He knows those who are pure in heart (5:8). We need to consider this concept, specifically in connection to our prayer life. Jesus says, “so do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him” (6:8). Praying about what we “need” is vastly different than heaping up “empty phrases” using “many words”. He knows whether we are entrusting Him with the *needs* of our life when we pray, or whether we are essentially making spiritual small talk. God sees no value in empty-hearted prayers.

Jesus’s teaching brings to light that our Father in Heaven is paying attention, but not as one who seeks to accuse. His intentions are to reward us for practicing righteousness; however, God cannot ignore the fact that He sees through those who are pretending. The question becomes, how do I know if that is me? First, a good indication for us is to consider what we do in secret – when no one else is watching. Second, do I pray to Him about the things that matter? He knows the way something should be, He knows what is lacking, and He knows our needs even before we ask Him. If we bring to Him the important spiritual, physical, and kingdom-related parts of our life, then that is an indication that our hearts are in the right place. Let us practice righteousness as a manifestation of our hearts.

God loves you!  
Shawn

## 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 19, 2025

**Elder of the Day** Mark Freeman

**Communion Leader** Kyle Gordley

### 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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[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

Information Technology Paul Gidden  
Involvement Adam Fracht

Networks/Special Ministries Al Ardito  
Serving Hearts/Hospital Visits Frank Kerze

Sharing Jeremy Haynes  
Steve Baker

Reaching Out/Welcome Center Mike Stevens  
Gavin Dao  
Bryce Caldwell

Ushers Robert Shock  
Homebound/Men’s Ministry Eric Kirkland

Worship 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 December 31, 2024 are \$1,982,001.02 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1,915,387.00 producing a surplus of \$66,614.02.

### 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, January 12, 2025

9:00 AM Bible Class	474
10:15 AM Worship	641 @ WOCC 263 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	293
Contribution	\$46,539.18

#### Wednesday, January 15, 2025

7:00 PM Bible Class	306
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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 **Dylan Farrington** who was baptized Sunday, January 12. Welcome to the family Dylan!

The Elders are **Seeking an Additional Shepherd and Additional Deacons** to serve our congregation. Each member is requested to submit the separate Elder and Deacon Nomination forms using the box in the foyer by Sunday, February 2. Forms are available at the Welcome Center. Contact the church office if you need to electronically receive and submit forms.

**Teachers Needed!** If interested in teaching in the spring quarter or any other upcoming quarters, please contact Matt Fitzgerald or Mike Arnold.

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

There will be an **Elder Deacon Meeting** TODAY at 4:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Room.

**Men's Luncheon** will be this Tuesday, January 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Black Walnut Café.

The **Quilting Group** will meet Wednesday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m.

The **2025 Men's Advance** will be this Friday & Saturday, 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.

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 by this Wednesday, January 22!

**GriefShare** begins Wednesday, January 29! Meet in room A101 at 4:00 p.m.

Hip hip HOORAY! **VBS** is coming! If you are interested in serving at VBS in any way, please let Janna Wilkerson know. We have some fun changes coming this year, and we need all hands on deck to make this a success for our kiddos!

There will be a **VBS Meeting** Sunday, February 16 from 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. in the Chapel Center. Anyone interested in helping with our 2025 VBS is asked to attend this meeting.

We are in need of more **Golf Cart Drivers**. Drivers must be a member of WOCC and at least 21 years of age. If you are interested, please contact Philip Leonardos.

## Thank You

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

A simple "thank you" just hardly seems adequate to express our thanks for all the prayers and support we received and are receiving as a result of Rodney's recent surgery. We have a long, uncertain road ahead, but will travel it knowing we are glorifying our Savior every step of the way.

We are so blessed to be a part of Woodland Oaks.

In His Name, Rodney & Myra Burke

We are so thankful for your generosity this past Christmas season. Not only did you provide gifts for 50 children, but your VBS toy drive allowed even more children to receive gifts at our Christmas Shop. Your example reminds us how far and wide the love of God reaches, and we are so thankful!

In Him, Caroline Morales, Impact Children's Minister

## Youth News

There will be a **Junior High Devo** TONIGHT following the evening assembly.

The **Youth Winter Retreat** sign up is 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.

The next **Youth Invasion** will be Sunday, January 26 immediately following the evening assembly at MOD Pizza.

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

## Treehouse Kids

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

If your son is planning to read scripture or lead a song for our **5th Wednesday assembly** on January 29, please let Kevin Wilkerson know as soon as possible. Thank you!

The **Memory Verse Challenge** will be Sunday, January 26. Our January Bible Verse will be Genesis 9:13.

There will be a **Rainbow Social** held on Sunday, January 26 from 5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. in the FLC.

**Dorcas Bible Class** (for girls K- 6th grade) will be Saturday, February 8. Meet in the room A101 from 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. For more information, please see JaneAnn Fleming.

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

## Prayers

- ✠ **Rodney Burke**/released from hospital January 13.
- ✠ **Wayne Yates**/surgery on January 16 went well/now at home resting.
- ✠ **Erika Phillips**/daughter of Victor & Graciella Martinez/successful surgery January 16.
- ✠ **Odilia Hoople**/granddaughter of Steve and Ann Glenn/at home after being hospitalized with pneumonia.
- ✠ **Debbie Dobbs**/hospitalized and undergoing tests.
- ✠ **Debi Hix**/continuing to have health issues.
- ✠ Please remember our members: **Barbara Dickinson, Janet Foreman, Nell Love, Valerie Lowry, Laurie Riggs, Lana Webster.**
- ✠ Please remember our friends & family: **Mary Collins, Steve Harding, Lacey Hunter, Nathan Jones, Doug Lowe.**
- ✠ 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.**

**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.

## This Week

Today	9:00 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:15 a.m.	Worship
	4:30 p.m.	Elder Deacon Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship
		TX Bible Bowl Practice
	6:15 p.m.	Bible Builders
	7:00 p.m.	Junior High Youth Devo
Monday	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Women
	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Class
	11:30 a.m.	Men's Luncheon—Black Walnut Café
Wednesday		Sign up for 2024 Bible Readers Banquet Due
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting Group
	10:00 a.m.	Sprouts Story Time Resumes
	5:30 p.m.	Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Class
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery
		Basketball
Friday	6:00 p.m.	Men's Advance
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Men's Advance

## Upcoming Events

January 26	THK Memory Verse Check In THK Rainbow Social Youth Invasion—Mod Pizza
January 27	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
January 28	Men's Prayer Breakfast
January 29	GriefShare Begins 5th Wednesday—No Fellowship Meal—THK Boys Lead Assembly
January 31	Deadline to Sign Up for Youth Winter Retreat
February 1	2024 Bible Readers' Banquet
February 2	Elder/Deacon Nomination Forms Due Congregational Singing Congregational Meeting Combined Youth Devo
February 4-10	AIM Challenge Week
February 7-9	Youth Winter Retreat
February 8	Dorcas Class
February 15	Sweetheart Banquet
February 16	VBS Meeting
February 17	Church Offices Closed Youth Girls Dinner Devo
February 21-23	Youth Rally-Enterprise Blvd CoC, Lake Charles, LA
February 21	THK Mother-Son Date Night—Bowling

## New Members

**Karen Enders**

**Dylan Farrington**

## Expectant Families

Lindsey & Doug Peak

Whitney & Jeremiah White

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)