



September 8, 2024

Volume XXXII—Issue 36

**Baptism: The Work of God**

By: Brandon Hawk

One of the most common objections that I hear regarding the necessity of baptism goes something like this: "Baptism can't be necessary for salvation because that would be an attempt to earn our salvation through works. Paul said in Ephesians 2:8-9 that grace is a gift we receive by faith." Baptism is indeed a work, but it's not the kind of work that people often think about. Consider what the Apostle Paul says about baptism in his letter to the Colossians:

"And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead" (Col. 2:11,12).

Baptism is "the working of God." Notice what God is doing in baptism:

God is performing a circumcision. But he clarifies that it's not a physical circumcision "made with hands." It's a spiritual circumcision; a "circumcision of Christ." He elaborates on this further in verse 13: "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions." Through baptism, God is removing the sin that is counted against us.

God is raising someone from the dead. But again, this is not a physical resurrection, but a spiritual one. When we are baptized, we are both buried and raised with Christ through faith. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that raises us up from spiritual death (Eph. 1:19 - 20).

When someone gets a heart transplant, the patient does not come out and say, "I did such an amazing job giving myself a new heart!" All the patient did was give their consent to the surgeon and allow the surgeon to perform the heart transplant. The surgeon did the work. In like manner, when we are baptized, all we are doing is putting our faith in God and allowing Him to give us a new spiritual life.

Even the physical act of being immersed in water is a passive experience. With that being said, the water itself doesn't contain the power to cleanse us spiritually (1 Peter 3:21). Instead, Jesus' blood is how our sins are washed away, and baptism is the moment God chose for this cleansing to occur. Grace is a gift of God and baptism is how we accept that gift "through faith" (Col. 2:13).

"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3,4).

God loves you and keep reading your Bible!  
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

September 8, 2024

**Elder of the Day** Marty Miller

**Communion Leader** Mike Lucas

**Adult Bible Classes:**

**"A Study of Matthew"**

by Joel Blake—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Auditorium

**"Doers Not Just Hearers: Book of James"**

by Bob Klemm—Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A102

**"One Nation Under God or Man?"** by Mark Freeman

Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Worship Center Room A101

**"What They Believe"** (Young Professionals) by Mike Smith  
Sundays @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel Center Room C106 (Magnolia Rm)

**"Select Verses from the Gospel of John"** by Shan Jackson  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Worship Center Auditorium

**"The Bible Quoting the Psalms"** (Ages 18-25) by Andrew Isherwood & Ross Riggs  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in Worship Center Room A102

**Teen Bible Classes:**

**"Hebrews"** (9th–12th) by Quinn Tolbert  
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

**"Our Identity as Christians and Using Our Talents"** (9th –12th)  
by Bruce & Bryce Caldwell  
Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Center B-107

**"Joshua"** (7th –8th) by Ross Randow/Colten Cavanaugh  
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	A107
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.



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**Elders**

Scott Blake  
Mac Brockman  
Mark Freeman

Butch Merriman  
Marty Miller  
Raymond Walker

**Deacons**

**Administration** Joel Blake  
**Audio/Visual & Media** Mark Jetton  
**Building & Grounds** Scott Green  
John Tolbert  
Sam Washburn  
**Children's Programs** Richard Hyde  
**Education** Matt Fitzgerald  
Mike Arnold  
**Family Life Center** Chris Davis  
**Fellowship** Tim Riggs  
**Finance** Jeff Fleming  
**Foreign Missions** Paul Gidden  
Adam Fracht  
Al Ardito  
**Information Technology** Frank Kerze  
**Involvement** Jeremy Haynes  
**Networks/Special Ministries** Steve Baker  
**Serving Hearts/Hospital Visits** Mike Stevens  
**Sharing** Kyle Gordley  
Bradley Wellborn  
**Reaching Out/Welcome Center** Gavin Dao  
Bryce Caldwell  
**Ushers** Tony Bloom  
**Homebound/Men's Ministry** Robert Shock  
**Worship** Eric Kirkland  
Bill Malone  
Jordan Blake  
**Youth** Brant Mathis  
Todd Watrous  
Daniel Fair  
Trent Tadlock

**Staff**

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

**Youth**

**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, September 1, 2024**

9:00 AM Bible Class	401
10:15 AM Worship	557 @ WOCC 236 Views online
6:00 PM Worship	242
Contribution	\$40,005.07

**Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

7:00 PM Bible Class	312
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**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 July 31, 2024 are \$1,200,035.05 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1,117,309.06 producing a surplus of \$82,725.99.

**Notes**

## Announcements

**HELP WANTED: Celebrate Recovery is in need of an additional child care provider on Thursdays, from 7:00—9:00 p.m. This is a paid position. Please see Teresa Hermann for more details.**

**Smile for a Child:** Mision Para Cristo needs our help turning shoe boxes into smiles. Empty boxes with information about how you can give a needy child in Nicaragua a smile this Christmas are available to pick up in the foyer beginning TODAY. Don't forget the \$5 for shipping and handling! Filled boxes are due Wednesday, September 25.

**World Bible School** information and training meeting will be held TODAY from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in Room A102. Anyone wanting to learn about various WBS courses, and how to be a study helper in those courses, is invited to come. If you need help setting up your account on the World Bible School website, please arrive at 3:30 p.m. and bring your devices with you.

A **New Ladies Celebrate Recovery Step Study Class** begins this Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in room C203 (upstairs in Chapel Center). For questions or to register interest, please send an email to: [celebraterecovery@woodlandoaks.org](mailto:celebraterecovery@woodlandoaks.org).

Please join us for a **Bridal Shower honoring Kylie McLeod**, bride elect of Caleb Myers, this Saturday, September 14 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel Center. Kylie (Ky) and Caleb are registered at myregistry.com.

Save the date! The **Faithful Fathers Father Daughter Retreat** will be October 18-20 at Frontier Camp Retreat Center in Grapeland, TX. Fathers and one daughter, ages 7 – high school seniors, are invited to attend. The cost is \$100 for each father-daughter pair. A table in the foyer is coming soon to sign up and find more information!

## Prayers

- ✚ **Tania Cantu**/diagnosed with breast cancer.
- ✚ **Cleve McMillion**/in Memorial Herman, Texas Medical Center undergoing tests & procedures for heart and lung issues to determine the cause & treatment/he is expected to be hospitalized until at least September 9.
- ✚ **Raymond Walker**/outpatient foot surgery September 6.
- ✚ **Larry Voorhees**/in nursing home in Liberty/showing great improvement and hoping to come home soon.
- ✚ **Jim Hughes**/had some complications with Afib & his hemoglobin levels dropped causing him to need a blood transfusion after heart surgery/he is doing better and was released from the hospital.
- ✚ Please remember our members: **Barbara Conaway, Dennis Chrisco, Neil Gist, Joyce Pieper, Laurie Riggs, Denise Tolbert.**
- ✚ Please remember our friends & family: **Billy Dearing, Erika Phillips, Don Tucker.**
- ✚ Members battling cancer: **Bill Blumenshine, Pharis Fowler, Lisa Geerman, Cynthia Haney, Cynthia Lockwood, Terri Lowry, Erica Lunn, Bob McDougal, Marsha Owens, Jeanne Riggs, Janice Tadlock.**
- ✚ Friends & family battling cancer: **David Bloh, Patricia Franklin, Camellia Jackson, Ella Kasinger, D'Ann Norwood, Barbara Starr.**

## Expectant Family

Maria & John Moehlenbrock

## Youth News

The next **Youth Invasion** will be TONIGHT immediately following the evening assembly at Raising Cane's on Research Forest.

There will be a **Youth Bible Study** this Tuesday, September 10 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Watrous home.

There will be a **Junior High School Devo** Sunday, September 15 from 7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. Join us for fellowship, fun, food and a time of Bible Study.

**Youth Service:** The Youth Group will be going to Ron Crawford's house to help with cleaning up some brush Saturday, September 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please RSVP on the Youth Website: [Basicyouthministry.com](http://Basicyouthministry.com)

Mark your calendars for the **September Girls Dinner Devo** on Thursday, September 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the FLC Kitchen. Bring your Bible and an apron (optional)! Please RSVP on [basicyouthministry.com](http://basicyouthministry.com).

## Treehouse Kids

**Bible Builders** begins TONIGHT. Children ages 2 yrs-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.

**Dorcas Bible Class** (for girls K- 6th grade) resumes this Saturday, September 14. Meet in the room A101 from 9:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. For more information, please see Jane-Ann Fleming.

If you are interested in hosting the **3rd to 6th Grade Monthly Boys Dinner and a Devo** please see Janna Wilkerson. We need one host per month, from September 2024 to May 2025. They can take place at your home, the park, FLC, etc. Duties include: preparing dinner for 3rd to 6th Grade Boys, giving a devo, prayer and song time, and having a fun activity for them to participate in.

**Sprouts Storytime** will resume September 25 at 10:00 a.m. This program is for children ages 0-Prek4. We will meet together for sensory play, songs, story time, a craft, and fun with friends!

**September Memory Verse Check In:** Our September Memory Verse is 1 Corinthians 10:31. Our Memory Verse check in will take place in between Bible Class and Worship September 29 in the foyer.

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



## Sympathy

Heartfelt condolences to Janet Foreman at the loss of her sister-in-law, **Ginny (Virginia) Titlow**, Friday, August 30. Arrangements are pending. Please keep Janet and the family in your prayers.

**Blake Horn**, son of Debbie Horn, had a heart attack on Sunday night, September 1 and did not survive. Blake was 32 years old, leaving his wife Megan and two children. Our heart goes out to this family and our prayers.

## This Week

Day	Time	Event	
Today		Sunny Glen Donations Due	
		Pick Up Smile for a Child Boxes	
	9:00 a.m.	Bible Class	
	10:15 a.m.	Worship	
	3:30 p.m.	World Bible School Account Set Up Help	
	4:30 p.m.	World Bible School Info & Training Meeting	
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Evening Worship	
		TX Bible Bowl Practice	
		Bible Builders	
	7:15 p.m.	Youth Invasion—Raising Cane's on Research Forest	
	4:00 p.m.	Pickleball-Women	
	6:00 p.m.	Pickleball	
	Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Ladies Bible Class
		7:00 p.m.	Youth Bible Study—Watrous Home
	Wednesday	4:00 p.m.	GriefShare
		5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meal
7:00 p.m.		Bible Classes	
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Community Bible Class	
	7:00 p.m.	Celebrate Recovery	
Saturday		Basketball	
	9:30 a.m.	Dorcas Class	
	11:00 a.m.	Bridal Shower for Kylie McLeod—bride elect of Caleb Myers	

## Upcoming Events

September 15	JR High Devo
September 17	Men's Luncheon
September 21	Youth Service
September 22	Youth Invasion
September 23	Senior Saints Game Night & Potluck Supper
September 25	Smile for a Child Boxes Due
	Sprouts Storytime Resumes
September 26	Youth Girls Dinner Devo
September 27	Southern Sudan Banquet
September 28	Youth SNL Devo
September 29	September Memory Verse Check In
	THK Service
October 5	Men's Breakfast
	Faithful Fathers Serve @ Camp Hope
October 6	Congregational Singing
	Combined Devo
October 13	Youth Invasion
October 18-20	Faithful Fathers Father/Daughter Retreat
October 19	Dorcas Class
	Youth Service
October 20	Bridal Shower for Rya Welborn—Bride elect of Mitchell Knox
	Elder/Deacon Meeting
	Congregational Meeting
October 24	Youth Girls Dinner Devo—Alicia Lucas' Home

## Thank You

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the love you have shown during my illness, surgery, and as I recover. Your prayers, cards, calls, food, and visits are comforting and encouraging.

Love, Joyce Pieper

**A cart for all donations is in the Worship Center foyer.**  
**The WOCC Sharing Pantry** is in need of Rice, Beans, Boxed Potatoes  
**Sunny Glen Children's Home:** Pancake Mix, Paper Towels/Napkins,  
Body Wash, BBQ Sauce

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)