

Prayer Concerns

~**Chad Longley** is now recuperating at home after having multiple surgeries and procedures on his esophagus in Dallas. Please pray for Chad and his family as they learn about dietary changes that will be necessary and focus on recovery. They really appreciate all the prayers.

~**Eric Robinson** has been having problems with the nerves in his arm and welcomes our prayers.

~Continued prayers for **Melody Loveland**. She has follicular cell lymphoma.

~**Chester Lynd** is doing better. Please remember to pray that his shoulder heals properly.

~Please continue to pray for **Kathryn Boerio's** mom and dad, Myron and Nancy Stewart.

The following prayer by Henri Nouwen was shared by Adam Lott last Sunday:

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.  
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.  
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.  
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.  
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.  
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.  
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

—Henri J.M. Nouwen

Those unable to join us:

~Laverne Horn  
~Ethel Gumm

Ongoing prayer concerns:

~Peggy Allen  
~Deana Frazier  
~Bill Jackson  
~Nell Hopper  
~Dwight Painter  
~Chester Lynd  
~Melody Loveland  
~Steve Henderson  
~Donna Scott  
~Steve Smith  
~Patsy Williamson  
~Jim and Joyce Waddell  
~Mickey Walker  
~Ron and Geraldine Hill

Missionaries:

~Doug & Marge Reeves—Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX  
~Megeste Pierre—Christian Family Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

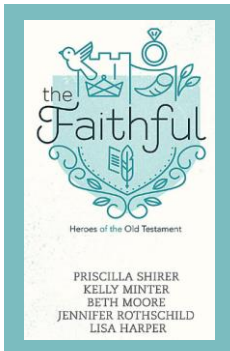
New Address

A new address is available for the Boyds. Contact the office if you would like it. (Stephen's temporary address is on the bulletin board in the hall.)



Ladies Bible Class Winter Break

Ladies Bible Class meets in the fellowship hall **Tuesday mornings at 10:00**. We have been working through the study book *The Faithful*, an interesting take on heroes of the Old Testament. The final class in December was last week. We will be taking a short break for the Christmas holidays, and then start back up on **Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**. Friends, fun, and fellowship await.



Extra Books

There are some extra books from the Christmas program in the short hall. If you have grandkids or neighbors with children or relatives that you think would appreciate a book, feel free to take as many as you need.

Bonham Encouragement

Bonham Elementary was appreciative of Westgate's contribution to their "12 Days of Christmas" encouragement for teachers and staff. Many thanks to all who sent baked goods to share.



Calendars

January/February calendars are available to be picked up in the short hall!

Westgatecofc.com

December 18, 2022

# Westgate Church of Christ

## Welcome Members and Guests



Christmas Candlelight Service Tonight

Make plans to meet back up at the building **tonight at 6:00 p.m.** for the annual Christmas Candlelight Service. Feel free to invite your friends and family to this special night of worship.



Holiday Schedule

The next two Sundays (**Christmas Day and New Year's Day**), we will have regular services at **10:00 a.m.**, but will not have Bible classes. We will not have services the next two **Wednesday nights, December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**. Wednesday night services will resume **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. The church office follows the Abilene ISD calendar, so during the two weeks during Christmas break, we will have limited office hours. If you have a non-emergency prayer request or announcement, please email it to westgatecofc@gmail.com. You can call a deacon or elder for emergency prayer requests or announcements to be sent out right away.

Marriage Retreat Registration

Envelopes are available in the short hall to register for the Marriage Retreat coming **January 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>** in Granbury. The cost of \$200 covers a two-night hotel stay, Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, entertainment, and some great content by our resident Marriage and Family Therapist Jonathan Cogburn. Register by **Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**, to reserve your spot.



**Sermon Title:** Accepting the Indescribable Gift

**Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9: 11-15

You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!





Happy Birthday:

Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: Kailyn Clements,  
Troy MacDonald, Lydia Lyon  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: AJ Bell  
Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>: Steve Henderson



Happy Anniversary:

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: Kevin & Christie  
Pruitt, Marshall & Kathryn  
Boerio  
Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>: Al & Jan Cogburn



Our Calendar:

Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>: Christmas  
Candlelight Service 6:00 p.m.  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>: No services  
Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Day  
(no Bible classes, worship @  
10:00 a.m.)  
Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>: No services  
Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: New Year’s Day (no  
Bible classes, worship @  
10:00 a.m.)  
Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group  
Mystery Trip  
Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>: MLK Day  
Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: Marriage  
Retreat  
Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>: Youth Group hosts  
Senior Valentine Lunch  
Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>: Presidents Day

It’s Okay if You Don’t Cry at Church Camp– by Clay Howell

A few weeks ago, the Westgate youth group headed out to Eastland for our annual Fall Retreat. We had lots of fun playing human foosball, ping pong, scatterball, and more, but those are not the moments that will stick with me. On Saturday night, our students had the opportunity to spend a lot of time in prayer, and I saw them taking that seriously. I saw deep heart-to-heart conversations, prayer between students, and I saw tears flowing. I was, and am, proud of the spiritual depth I saw in our students that night. However, I turned to our adult sponsors on the trip and remarked, “I wasn’t even trying to make them cry!”

I have been to very many church camps and retreats in my life. I’ve been as a kid too young to even be a camper, as a student for many years with multiple congregations growing up, as a camp counselor, as an intern, and as a youth minister. Camp is fun! It can be silly and light-hearted. But it can also be emotional. In youth ministry, there is a (usually) unspoken adage that “If you didn’t cry you didn’t really go to camp.” So often, ministers and students alike have relegated just a few nights of the year to truly feel the Holy Spirit. I look back on my youth group and camp experiences, especially in high school, extremely fondly. I had that warm, fuzzy, Holy Spirit feeling, and I could never wait to see how it would be topped the next year. I wish I could tell you that that feeling lasts forever, but it doesn’t. To be completely honest, when I go to camp nowadays, I’m more focused on counting students, planning devotionals, and loading up trailers than I am on that warm, fuzzy, feeling I sometimes get during worship. But does that mean the Holy Spirit isn’t active during those other moments? Am I doing something wrong?

The Holy Spirit of God is powerful. Paul tells us that the Spirit we have in us is the same Spirit who raised Jesus Christ from the dead (Romans 6). The Spirit breaks down walls, destroys barriers, and sometimes, produces tears. But the Holy Spirit is so much bigger than the same emotional reaction we have at a concert, or while watching a sad movie. I believe God moves in us even when we don’t want Him to. When we would rather be doing anything else. I can guarantee you that our students are not feeling warm and fuzzy while struggling to feed a special needs camper. You might have felt close to tears while scrubbing floors during WATS, but I don’t think they were the same kind. But God is just as present in these moments. Everything we do in life, even mundane routines and chores, is Holy because everything is created by God to serve His Kingdom and His goodness.

So if you cried at camp, that’s great! I hope and pray that you continue to let God shape you in every moment of your life. But if you didn’t, don’t feel bad, because God is so much bigger than that.

**Hope Haven Christmas Gift Help**

Manny passed along the following request for help:

Abilene Hope Haven is working with the homeless in our community, and the Abilene community has been very generous in providing toys for our homeless children. The problem is that we have many teenagers that are homeless but we don’t have gifts for them. If you could find it in your heart and budget to pick up an extra item or two it would be greatly appreciated.

We have 6 males (3 17-year-olds & 3 13-year-olds) and 4 females (1 17-year-old, 2 15-year-olds and 1 13-year-old).

You can drop them off at the Hope Haven shelter, or bring them to the Candlelight service! Thank you so much and God bless!

Children’s Ministry News

We paused *Digging into the Heart of God* curriculum to use their holiday lesson today. Children studied Luke 2:1-7 and discussed humility. Despite being the king of the universe, Jesus comes to earth in the most humble form, a baby. He’s not born in a palace or fancy home; he’s born in a stable to lower-class parents. Jesus is humble, and he shows it in his humble birth.

Summary Verse for this week: “He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.” (Philippians 2:7)

Check out the Westgate educators’ board and find an educator to pray for over the Christmas break. Please pray that educators will be able to rest, renew energy to encourage, and return to students motivated to meet needs.



Children reviewed Paul’s shipwreck story. They brainstormed ways to encourage family and friends. We added sprinkles to ice-cream as we discussed ways to sprinkle our world with patience and kindness.

Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** for class.

Thank you to all the youth students and parents for making 2022 a wonderful year. We have been so blessed to see students' lives transformed by Christ and great relationships taking shape!

We are having a Mystery Trip **January 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**! Please let me know if you are going by **Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**. The cost for this event is \$35.

Our next youth class will be **Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**. Have a great Christmas and New Year’s!

Youth group students enjoying a wonderful dinner at the Lee's house!



<b>Services at Westgate:</b> Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m., Wednesdays—Bible Class 6:45 p.m.		<b>Church office:</b> (325)692-2300 westgatecofc@gmail.com
<b>Offering:</b> <b>December 11<sup>th</sup>:</b> Contribution: \$1,784.29 eGive: \$3,805.00 Total: \$5,589.29 Budget: <b>\$6,341.00</b> Be A Blessing: \$17.11	<b>Lead Minister:</b> Brady Horner (325-260-1903) pbhorner@gmail.com <b>Youth Minister:</b> Clay Howell (615-879-0983) sch16a@acu.edu <b>Children’s Education Coordinator:</b> Jackie Lee (325-518-4767) lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net <b>Elders:</b> Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, Troy Tom <b>Deacons:</b> Don Bell, Manny Carneiro, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip	

**Nursery Duty:**  
Kami & Emory Winter  
**Building Lock-up:**  
Dec.: Jon Cogburn  
Jan.: Eric Gumm  
**Blessing Box**  
**Counting:**  
Issacc Carneiro,  
Wyatt Cogburn