

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



February Sunday AM Adult Bible Classes

Fellowship Hall: "Heresies That Made Us" led by Brady Horner. Since the beginning of the Church there have always been "heretical movements" that went against the grain of "orthodox" teaching. This series will explore various "heresies" throughout the Church's history and how they have impacted who we are today.

Auditorium: "Romans" led by Cody Bob Williams. Romans ... what is it good for? Absolutely everything! We will be taking a look at the first eight chapters of Romans and how Paul's letter to them reaches us today.

Love Grub This Wednesday

Let's kick off February right with some Raising Cane's chicken fingers and sides with ice cream sandwiches for dessert. Come one, come all to Love Grub **Wednesday, February 1st, at 5:45 p.m.**! Gluten free and dairy free options will be available. A donation to cover the cost of your meal is appreciated. As always, stay for Bible class at **6:45**. The 4th and 5th graders will start a new class in the Bible Trails room (across from the parlor) that night.



Marriage Retreat Wraps up Today

With several members in Granbury for the Marriage Retreat, things will look a little different today. CJ Chaney is teaching Bible class in the fellowship hall, and Bob Hailey (Lockhart Church of Christ minister and better known around here as Kari White's dad) will be preaching. May God bless our worship in both Granbury and Abilene this morning.

Sermon Title: The Blessings of Forgiveness

Scripture: Psalm 32

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*
I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Selah*
Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. *Selah*
I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.
Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the Lord.
Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Prayer Concerns

~**Chad Longley** is on the road to recovery after numerous surgeries and procedures. Keep praying for strength for Chad.

~Please continue praying for **Erin Cogburn's** aunt, Trudie Fetterman. She was able to move out of ICU, but is still in the hospital with Covid pneumonia.

~Garrett Davis, the brother of Beau Davis (who led last year's Marriage Retreat) and friend of **Adam Lott**, recently passed away from cancer. His funeral was yesterday in Sugar Land. Please be in prayer for his family.

~The Westgate Marriage Retreat finishes up today in Granbury. Please pray for safe travels home for all the couples involved.

~Continued prayers for **Eric Robinson** and his arm and nerve troubles.

~Please pray for the safety of the 38 children attending classes at **Megeste's** school (see update below).

~Lift up **Melody Loveland** in prayer. She has follicular cell lymphoma.

~Remember **Chester Lynd's** recovery in your prayers. He has been improving daily since his bad fall about 4 months ago.

~Prayers of thanks that **Kathryn Boerio's** mom, Nancy Stewart, received good news from her latest PET scan. It showed a significant decrease in her tumor. She will rest for 2 weeks and then have radiation and chemo Mon. – Fri. for 5 weeks.

~Keep Julie Conly (**Jerry Varnado's** daughter) in your prayers as she deals with metastatic colon cancer.

~Continued prayers for Jackie Lee's grandson, **Logan Cornutt**.

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

Haiti Update

My dear friends,
It's my prayer this email finds you well and hope this new year is full of God's blessings for you all.

While Haiti continues to struggle with political unrest, gang violence, and inflation, we finally had a chance to restart classes back last week after schools were being forced to close their doors due to gangs controlling the streets for four months. This week we have 38 children attending classes. The kids as well as the staff are glad to be back on campus. I'm requesting your prayers because the safety issue remains the same, but that the Lord continue to watch over us.

The congregation continues to meet despite the challenges. Haiti has an ongoing fuel shortage that paralyzes everything, especially transportation. Therefore, it's hard sometimes for people to come to worship because public transportation is limited and becoming more expensive for a ride every day.

The construction project is making some progress. Welding and electricity are done, and now we're working on the floor. Hopefully by the end of the month we will be able to finish putting the ceramic.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. I'm now a married man. I got married on December 24th to Josette (Jose) Toussaint. Please, keep us in your prayers that the Lord blesses our union.

Mèsi,
Megeste





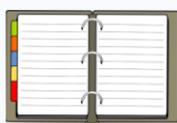
Happy Birthday:

Jan. 30th: Layla Horner
Jan. 31st: Paxton Horner, Clair Arche
Feb. 1st: Al Cogburn
Feb. 4th: Janice Hill, Cara Hill



Happy Anniversary:

Feb. 1st: Larry & Melody Loveland



Our Calendar:

Jan. 27th – 29th: Marriage Retreat
Feb. 1st: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
Feb. 12th: Youth Group hosts Senior Valentine Luncheon after services, Youth Group Super Bowl Party
Feb. 15th: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
Feb. 20th: Presidents Day
Mar. 1st: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
Mar. 12th: Daylight Saving Time begins
Mar. 15th: Game and Movie Night
Mar. 29th: Brown Bag Fellowship 5:45 p.m.
Apr. 1st – 2nd: Family Retreat in Leuders
Apr. 5th: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
Apr. 8th: Easter Egg Hunt at Festival Gardens
Apr. 9th: Easter Sunday

Money and Theology — by Brady Horner

The last article started exploring the ways that outside forces and our inward biases have shaped our interpretation of Scripture. It emphasized that no one can be “right” about everything, and that we have more freedom than we may think. Or if we don’t, we are all doomed! I hate to admit it, but I can see the many ways that money has shaped our theology. By theology I mean more than our interpretation of Scripture, but the way we think about God, what he wants of us, and how we live that in our religious practices.

In previous churches I’ve worked for I remember occasionally being told “we can’t do that” or “someone complained” and “we need to stop”. It was usually small things that few would take issue with, like clapping after a baptism, hosting a mission’s fundraiser, worshipping with the “wrong” church, or having a “Bible Hour.” I could always tell the elders didn’t really have an issue with it, but they didn’t have the heart to stomach a battle with that “someone”; they also didn’t want to lose their tithe. Nine times out of ten that “someone” was a big donor, and usually the same person. Essentially that person was holding the congregation captive to his or her theology, using money. Whether we fully believed it or not, this theology became the exhibited and taught theology, and thus shaped the Church. This is a clear case of our theology, practices, and interpretation of Scripture being shaped by money, rather than an objective reading of Scripture. To be clear, in these cases weak leadership that bends to these whims is just as guilty as the wealthy person who uses money to control. I have loved that Westgate is not a Church that is manipulated behind the scenes by wealthy individuals (as far as I can tell). Anyone who gives in a big way here seems to do so out of love, compassion, and appreciation.

Money also shapes theology at “institutions” like missionary societies and universities. Some missionary societies have found that once they remove the Church of Christ label, they have a much wider umbrella of donors. As society becomes more affirming of the gay community, universities and ministry outreaches feel pressure (often indirect financial pressure) to be more accepting. While on the other hand some have become more affirming, then backed off when it angered donors. Additionally, Christian universities want the financial benefits of accreditation, which often costs a bending and shaping of theology to the whims of culture. So wait! Maybe those grumpy Primitive Baptists and “Non-institutional” guys discussed last week had a point! Once money gets involved we really start messing things up and it shapes our theology and who we are. The temptation to have money shape theology has been an issue since the beginning of the Church. I believe it was for this reason that Paul didn’t accept money from Corinth; he didn’t want to be told what to teach. May we be people who do and believe what God wants, even when it costs.



Senior Valentine Luncheon

Senior members of the congregation are invited to the Senior Valentine Luncheon **two Sundays from today, February 12th**, hosted by the youth group. Lunch and games will be provided in the fellowship hall immediately following our worship service that day.

Children’s Ministry News

- Many of our teachers are attending the Marriage Retreat this weekend, so the youth assisted with classes this morning. Please take a minute and encourage the helpers that enabled our teachers to enrich their marriages. Thank you to each helpful youth for your support, you are appreciated.
- Next week, we begin the curriculum, *Epic Teachings of the Bible*. The lessons begin with a detailed study of the Fruit of the Spirit. This week, children had an overview of the Galatians 5 verses with in-depth studies beginning next week looking at love.
- Summary Verse: **“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” (Galatians 5:22-23)**
- Remember to pray for our Westgate educators, our children, their teachers, and their schools.
- Wednesday PM class will change format on Feb. 1, when 4th and 5th graders will begin a series on “Bullies of the Bible”. Becki Sutton came up with the idea and with the help of others, will explore the topic. Many thanks to Becki (and all her special helpers) for a willingness to find new ways to make the Bible relevant for our children.



Trevor, Paxton, Caleb, and Noah enjoying Braum's on the Mystery Trip!

Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** for class.
Thank you to the Youth Group for helping out with children’s class this morning!
We are excited to host the Senior Valentine Luncheon on **February 12th!** Please stay tuned for more information.
We are also having a Super Bowl party on the evening of **February 12th!** Come hang out for some food and fun!
Please join us for a parent meeting after worship **next Sunday, February 5th.**
Please pray for our students to have a great start to the semester!

Services at Westgate: Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m.,
Worship 10:00 a.m., Wednesdays—Bible Class 6:45 p.m.

Church office: (325)692-2300
westgatecofc@gmail.com

Offering:
January 22nd:
Contribution: \$2,343.20
eGive: \$3,355.00
Total: \$5,698.20
Budget: **\$6,917.00**
Be A Blessing: \$47.18

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903) pbhorner@gmail.com
Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983) sch16a@acu.edu
Children’s Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767)
lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net
Elders: Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, Troy Tom
Deacons: Manny Carneiro, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Nursery Duty:
Jackie Lee

Building Lock-up:
Jan.: Jon Cogburn
Feb.: Eric Gumm

Blessing Box Counting:
Liam Meeks,
Titus Powell