

Prayer Concerns

~Our sympathy to **Josh Wright** in the passing of his grandfather in Alabama on Monday.

~Please be in prayer for **Skyla Krause**. She will be traveling to North Carolina at the end of this month to see a specialist about a cyst that has not healed properly.

~**Laura Templeton** has foot surgery scheduled for Sept. 24. Please add Laura’s surgery and recovery to your prayer list.

~Please keep **Amy Robertson** in your prayers as she continues her recovery at home after breaking her hip and undergoing surgery to repair it.

~Remember to keep praying for **Eric Robinson** and family.

~Continued prayers for **Megeste and Josette Pierre**.

~Good news! Jacob and Hannah Clute (**Andrew Clute’s** brother and sister-in-law) were able to take baby Olivia home from Cook’s on Wednesday. Thanks for your prayers.

~**Nell Hopper’s** brother-in-law, Glenn Kemp, passed away last week after a long illness. Our condolences to Nell and the Kemp family.

~Thanks to all who have signed up for **Ellen Schoenrock’s** meal train. Some dates remain open if you would still like to help. Continue to pray for Ellen’s recovery.

Those unable to join us:

- ~Barbara Buchanan
- ~Bobby Davis
- ~Ethel Gumm
- ~Ron and Geraldine Hill
- ~Ralph and Margaret Monroe
- ~Dwight Painter
- ~George Woodfin

Ongoing prayer concerns:

- ~Glenn Arnold ~Steve Bibb
- ~Kathryn Boerio
- ~Michael Bryant
- ~Fernando Espinoza
- ~Deana Frazier
- ~Steve Henderson ~Laura Hennan
- ~Aubrey Hilligoss ~Nell Hopper
- ~Linda Jones ~Melody Loveland
- ~Louise Monaghan ~Jim Prather
- ~Eric Robinson
- ~Savanna Smith ~Steve Smith
- ~Steve Templeton
- ~Marty Turentine
- ~Jim and Joyce Waddell
- ~Mickey Walker ~Chris Willerton

Missionaries:

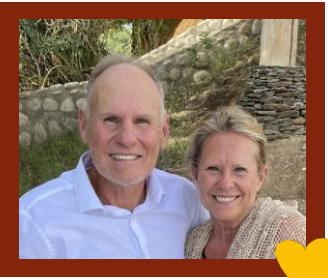
- ~Doug & Marge Reeves—Sunset International Bible Institute
- ~Megeste & Josette Pierre—Christian Family Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti (in Mexico currently)
- ~Keith & Grace Gafner—Eldoret, Kenya
- ~Larry & Hollye Conway—Nairobi, Kenya
- ~Scott & Shirley Raab—Belgium and Maastricht, Netherlands

Westgate Church of Christ  
Welcome Members and Guests



Guest Speaker Today

We are delighted to have missionaries Larry and Hollye Conway here **today**. The Conways have ministered in Nairobi, Kenya, for over 30 years, with the main focus on children who are living on the streets. Larry will be sharing God’s Word with us today through the message “The God Who Sees Me,” drawn from Genesis 16: 13. A very special welcome to the Conways!



Love Grub Wednesday Night

A crowd favorite is on the menu for this week’s Love Grub – taco pile-up with all the fixings, and sopapilla cheesecake for dessert. Join us **this Wednesday (9/17) at 5:45 p.m.** for some great food and fellowship.



Dessert ingredients will be available in the kitchen after services today if you can help with baking. Please donate some money that night to cover the cost of your meal if you can. Lettuce come on out – it’s nacho average church dinner!



WATS Day Coming in October

Mark your calendar for WATS Day on **Sunday, October 19**. If you are unfamiliar, WATS stands for We Are The Sermon, a day for serving the community by working on individual projects at homes or volunteering at various nonprofits. If you know of a good project we could work on, please see Brady or one of the deacons (no guarantee we will be able to do every suggested project).

Anniversary Cards for Monroes

Just a heads-up that Ralph and Margaret Monroe, who were members at Willis for several years and now members at Westgate, are set to celebrate their anniversary on **September 23**. But this isn’t just any anniversary, it’s their 75<sup>th</sup>! According to Google, only about 1,000 couples in America right now have been married 75 years or more. If you’re able, please send the Monroes an anniversary card to wish them well. Contact the church office if you need their address.



Sermon Title: The God Who Sees Me

Scripture: Genesis 16: 13

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”

Love Grub Helpers Needed

Love Grubs are back in full swing, with the next one **this Wednesday evening at 5:45 p.m.** A sign-up sheet is posted in the hall for volunteers to help with different dates. Spots are available for coming early to prep, cleaning up after the meal, and washing towels at home. You can sign up to help with just one date, or more than one. Thanks!

Candy Collection

As you can tell by the cool breeze in the air 🍃, fall is almost here, and with that comes visions of plastic pumpkins and sacks filled with sweet treats and goodies. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for **Sunday, October 26, from 6 to 8 p.m.** in the Westgate south parking lot. For the weeks leading up to this event, we collect candy in the short hall. If you’re able, please pick up a bag of candy the next time you’re shopping. We see lots of princesses and pirates and superheroes from the neighborhood at Trunk or Treat, so we like to have plenty of candy to welcome them.

Sunday Evening Message  
Childhood of Jesus  
“Was He Really Royalty?”







Happy Birthday:

Sept. 15: Maeleigh Carneiro  
Sept. 16: Barrett Lott, Holly Howell, Bobby Lemons  
Sept. 17: James Malone  
Sept. 18: Kami Winter, Briana Horner, Adam Arche, Marshall Boerio



Our Calendar:

Sept. 17: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Sept. 28: Games @ Youth House  
Oct. 1: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Oct. 5: Youth Group Devo  
Oct. 12: Youth Group HS Hangout  
Oct. 13: Columbus Day (office closed), Youth Group lunch  
Oct. 15: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Oct. 19: Breakfast and WATS  
Oct. 26: Trunk or Treat  
Oct. 29: Brown Bag Fellowship 5:45 p.m.  
Nov. 2: Daylight Saving Time ends  
Nov. 5: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Nov. 11: Veterans Day  
Nov. 19: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Nov. 21 – 23: Youth Group Fall Retreat  
Nov. 23: Church Friendsgiving Potluck  
Nov. 26: no Wed. p.m. services  
Nov. 27: Thanksgiving Day/Thanksgiving Meal Delivery  
Nov. 30: Youth Group HS Hangout  
Dec. 3: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
Dec. 6: Breakfast with Santa  
Dec. 7: Church Christmas Party and Children’s Program



Church Criticism – by Brady Horner

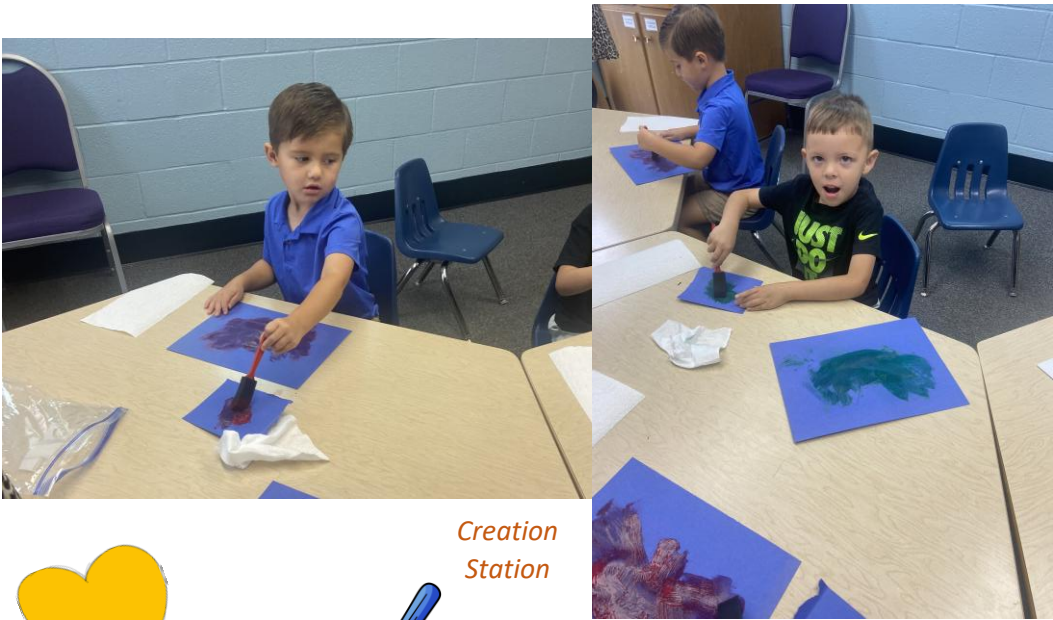
A few years ago, it became more common to see “the Church” or “Christians” be criticized online. I put these terms in quotes because it’s unfair to act as though the 2.4 billion people in the world that claim to be Christians are all alike: with the same behavior, beliefs, and political views. Usually, the criticisms are aimed at the stereotype of Christians. The Church is so wide and diverse that most criticism of it is aimed at certain pockets, streams, and traditions. Sometimes the criticism is aimed at “evangelical Christians”, something that technically the Churches of Christ are not, but we often look like them. Some people are really offended when the Church is criticized, but at the same time, in some way, everyone can be critical of “the Church”, or certain practices or expressions of Christianity. This next article series will explore church criticism.

Is it ok to criticize the Church? In many cases it is needed. Much of the New Testament is Paul criticizing local church practices and behavior. He calls out Corinth for leaving people out during communion saying, “Your meetings do more harm than good” (1 Corinthians 11: 17), he tells them they do things even pagans would be disgusted by (1 Corinthians 5: 1), and he challenges Peter and the men from James for distancing themselves from Gentile Christians in Antioch (Galatians 2: 11-14). In the gospels, Jesus had many run-ins and criticisms of the religious ruling elite. So, there is space to criticize when the goal is better practice, better behavior, growth, and addressing sin.

Much of the criticism of the church today seems so harsh, that I wonder about the goal. Some criticism feels more like an angry rant than a desire to fix a problem. In some cases, the goal of the criticizer looks like an attempt to distance themselves from a group of Christians of whom they disapprove. In the worst cases I begin to wonder if the person criticizing the Church is even rooting for the Church at all. As if they are so mad they are ready to leave or want to see the Church fail. So, it is important to start this topic with the reminder that the goal of healthy church criticism is to help shape the Bride of Christ into who God calls it to be. If the criticism is tearing down, shaming, or humiliating the Church or its members, it’s not a healthy criticism.



Hey kids, how many yellow hearts are in the bulletin today? \_\_\_\_\_



Creation Station

Youth Ministry News

You can pick up a schedule for our fall events in the folder on the bulletin board by Clay’s office.

On **September 28**, students are invited to join us for a Game Night at the Youth House! We will eat dinner together and have time to play some organized group games.

Our next Youth Devo will be on **Sunday, October 5**.

Please mark your calendars for our youth group Fall Retreat, which will be **November 21 – 23**!



The youth group using Play-Doh to create something that describes themselves!



<b>Ways to Give:</b> check: 402 S. Pioneer, 79605 eGive: westgatecofc.com text-to-give: 325-379-8222	
<b>Services at Westgate:</b> Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m., 5 p.m. Tuesdays—Ladies Bible Class 10 a.m. Wednesdays—Bible Class 6:45 p.m. <b>Church office:</b> (325)692-2300 westgatecofc@gmail.com	
<b>Offering</b> <b>September 7:</b> Contribution: \$5,061.00 eGive: \$4,259.86 Total: \$9,320.86 Budget: \$8,393.30 Be a Blessing: \$28.78	<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> Emily Clute (325-269-9806) eclute123@gmail.com <b>Elders:</b> Eric Gumm, Jim MacDonald, John Powell, Steve Stovall, Troy Tom, Aaron Winter <b>Deacons:</b> Manny Carneiro, Jon Cogburn, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip
<b>Nursery Duty:</b> <b>9/14:</b> Jamie Dye <b>9/21:</b> Connie McSherry <b>Building Lock-up:</b> <b>Sept.:</b> Matt Waldrip <b>Oct.:</b> Manny Carneiro	