

Prayer Concerns

~ Please be in prayer for **Kevin Pruitt**. He was activated to go help with the hurricane recovery efforts in Louisiana. It is a stressful situation, and he is likely going to be there 2-4 weeks.

~**Sarah Hall** had her appendix out recently. She is at home, but is not able to work for a few more weeks. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

~Please keep **Janice Hill** in your prayers, as she has been dealing with acute colitis and is experiencing leg swelling and weight loss.

~Continue to pray for **Chester Lynd** and his health struggles.

~Let's all keep **Mickey Walker** and his family in our prayers as he battles what could be the reoccurrence of prostate cancer.

~Linda Stokes, mother of **Christie Pruitt**, is recovering well after a recent surgery. She is doing well and getting stronger every day. Please pray that she continues to improve.

~Please be in prayer for John and Maryann Greenlee, **Larry Loveland's** sister and brother-in-law as they recover from Covid.

~**Melissa Bell's** brother, Michael Martinez, had surgery to repair a perforation in his intestine. Please continue to pray for his full recovery and that he continues to open his heart to God.

~Please be in prayer for Julie Conly, **Jerry Varnado's** daughter. The signet ring cell carcinoma is back and she started chemo again. The chemo has been effective and the cancer has shown signs of shrinking.

~Continued prayers for **Kelly MacDonald's** mom, Diana Flanagan, who is undergoing lung cancer treatments.

~Prayers for **Nell Hopper's** brother, Ricky, as he heals from a recent surgery.

Continued prayers for **Eric Robinson's** brother-in-law, Ben, as he fights papillary thyroid cancer.

Those unable to join us:

~Laverne Horn
~Ethel Gumm
~Pat Suba

Ongoing prayer concerns:

~Peggy Allen
~Deana Frazier
~Bill Jackson
~Doris Wells
~Nell Hopper
~Dwight Painter
~Lue Gray
~Chester Lynd
~Melody Loveland
~Larry Loveland
~Hope Hodges
~Jerry Herttenberger
~Bradi Williams
~Steve Henderson
~Donna Scott
~Frances Welch
~Steve Smith
~Susan Tolle
~Patsy Williamson
~Jim and Joyce Waddell

Missionaries:

~Doug & Marge Reeves- Sunset School of Preaching, Lubbock, TX

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests

Bonham Elementary Support

As you shop for your kids or grandkids or nieces or nephews, pick up an extra pack of underwear (especially sizes 4-5T and 6-8) or kids' socks if you can. We are going to help our nearby school, Bonham Elementary, with these items. We will have a box in the short hall for collecting these. This is a great opportunity to show love to our neighborhood.



Baby Blessing

Please make plans to join us Sunday, **September 19th** for the Baby Blessing. We will welcome the precious new arrivals to our congregation and pray for their families.

Wednesday Night

It's back to normal for Wednesday night! We have concluded the Summer Series speakers, and the construction should be complete, or at least to a point where we are able to meet. Brady will teach Bible class in the Fellowship Hall. Come up here at 7:00 p.m. if you are able!

Sermon Title: Who Are You Following?

Scripture: John 10: 1-15

"Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Thank you note:

Dear Westgate Family,
Thank you for the plant you sent for our mother's funeral. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and prayers.
Randy and Julie Bibb, Jill Dennis, and the Carol Posey family

Lookin' Good!

Old photos from the directory wall are available to be picked up in the short hall.

New Address:

Call the office for info on a new address for Ethel Gumm.





Bible Class—by Brady Horner

Of all the “Church Extras,” as I have been calling them, I am a big believer in Bible Class. My parents taught me a lot, and I learned plenty from my own study. Church Bible class is where I learned basic truths about God and his people. Some have legitimate concerns about Bible Class. Some feel it is the parents’ job to teach kids about God and the Bible. It’s true we shouldn’t outsource all spiritual training to the Church and ministers. However, I’m glad I had ministers, loved ones, and friends, teach and invest in me in ways that my parents couldn’t. They filled gaps and showed me things that my parents missed (and I know ministers and friends here have done the same for my kids). Also, what about the kids who don’t have parents teaching them!? At many times throughout my youth ministry a quarter of the students were from unchurched families; I don’t want them to slip through the cracks. I also know some are concerned about division based on age and they want to be “intergenerational”. This is an important concern as well, but I believe there are ways to address this issue without throwing out the baby with the bathwater.

Like all the other “Church Extras” Bible class attendance is going down, not just at Westgate but everywhere. This was an issue before Covid, but it has now significantly worsened. Teacher shortages (better willing teacher shortages) are increasing in many churches; they have the talent and the human capital, people just don’t want to do it. Biblical literacy and spiritual education is way down, and media consumption is through the roof! We as Christians must do something. If you have kids that you aren’t sending to Bible class, I sure hope you are working to teach them and spiritually form them. I hope that you utilize this great youth ministry that we have and know that sending kids there after 11 years of not going to class will be very difficult.

The purpose of Bible class changes with age. Many youth ministry graduates have said in the children’s ministry they learn about God, in the youth ministry they experience Him. Bible class is more than a place to gain knowledge; it is a place to build relationships, grow, fellowship, and encounter God in new ways that you would not be able to experience by yourself. Perhaps some of us need to rethink how we view Bible class (and maybe the leadership needs to rethink how we do it). I am open to new and creative means of spiritually forming/training kids and adults even in place of Bible class if we must. But the learning, fellowship, and formation that (ideally) happens in the Bible class space is extremely important. If you are giving it up, I hope you will reconsider.

Happy Birthday:

- Sept. 5:** Dorothy Emerson
- Sept. 7:** Jackie Lee, Alycia Espinoza
- Sept. 9:** Sheryl Tarkenton



Our Calendar:

- Sept. 5th:** Deacon Dunk at 5:00 p.m.
- Sept. 6th:** Labor Day (office closed)
- Youth Group at Red Bud Park 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Sept. 15th:** Youth Group dinner at 6:45 p.m.
- Sept. 19th:** Baby Blessing
- Sept. 26th:** Fishing Derby, Youth Group devotional

Deacon Dunk

Deacons and their families are invited to Steve and Juanita Stovall’s house **TODAY at 5:00 p.m.** For swimming, hot dogs, and hamburgers.



Fishing Derby

We will have a Fishing Derby **Sept. 26th** at the **MacDonalds**. This will be a great outdoor activity to enjoy together! Watch for details coming soon!



Children’s Ministry News

This morning children studied Matthew 5:33-37. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus takes the complexity out of making vows or promises. Often, we add qualifiers to our promises, such as “I swear by heaven!” or “I really mean it.” But Jesus makes promises much simpler: If you always do what you say, then yes or no is all you need to say. God wants us to do what we say.

Summary verse: “In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father” (Matthew 5:16).

All bookmarks for Westgate educators were picked up last Sunday, thank you. If you did not get a specific name, please pray for all our teachers who are making a difference. For the month of September, pray this verse for our educators. “May the Lord give strength to His people! May the Lord bless His people with peace” Psalm 29:11.

Wednesday PM class for ages 4 to 5th grade is moving to the west hallway. We met in the fellowship hall during Covid to social distance but are moving to Toolshed and the children’s hallway beginning Wednesday Sept. 8. Watch for signs.

This group of girls and many more assisted with Wednesday PM Bible class this summer. Many thanks to all who worked with young children to learn songs, Bible verses, complete simple crafts and more. Appreciation to Melissa Bell for coordinating activities and modeling God’s love. Also, thank you to Melissa for volunteering to assist on Wednesdays after a long teaching day. Children are blessed by her commitment.



Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m.** and **Wednesdays at 7 p.m.** for class.

Join us **tomorrow** (Labor Day) at Red Bud Park from **10 a.m.–12 p.m.** to hang out and play some games!

Future events:

Wednesday 9/15: We will provide dinner for students before class on that Wednesday night. Hope to see you there at **6:45 p.m.**

Sunday 9/26: Join us for a devotional at the Waldrips’ house from **7–9 p.m.**

Please pray for our students as they begin a new school year!



Lucy Waldrip is a Jenga expert.

Services at Westgate: Sundays—Bible Class 9:00 a.m., Worship 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays—Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

By the Numbers

Aug. 29th:
Contribution: \$2,903.00
eGive: \$1,870.00
Total: \$4,773.00
Budget: **\$6,076.00**
Be A Blessing: \$136.63

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903)

Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983)

Children’s Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767)

Elders: Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, **Troy Tom**

Deacons: **Don Bell**, Manny Carneiro, CJ Chaney, Jon Cogburn, Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Building Lock-up:

Sept. Jon Cogburn

Oct. Eric Gumm