

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



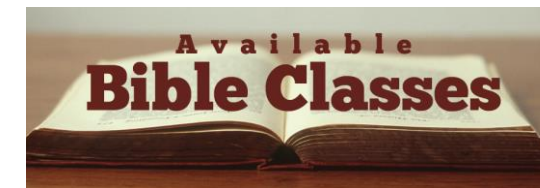
Wednesday Night Meal

This Wednesday night, Feb. 16th, we will have a catered meal at 5:45 p.m. from Cane's. Come on out for some chicken fingers, fries, coleslaw, Texas toast, and Cane's sauce! Then stay for Bible Class at 6:45 p.m.



Two Sunday Morning Classes Next Week

We will have a second Sunday morning adult class option starting Sunday, February 20th. CJ Chaney will be teaching a class on Song of Solomon in the auditorium. Brady will be continuing a series on praying through Scripture in the fellowship hall.



Christian Service Center Collection

The Christian Service Center has reached out to us for assistance with some donations that are in short supply. They would like to work with us in bringing the love of Christ to those in need. They could use:

- men's white T-shirts (M-2XL), men's boxer briefs (M-2XL), shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, deodorant, bar soap, newborn clothing



If you are able to purchase any of these items, please drop them off in the collection box on the table in the short hall.

Sermon Title: A Friend Like Jonathan

Scripture: 1 Samuel 23: 15-18

While David was at Horesh in the Desert of Ziph, he learned that Saul had come out to take his life. And Saul's son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God. "Don't be afraid," he said. "My father Saul will not lay a hand on you. You will be king over Israel, and I will be second to you. Even my father Saul knows this." The two of them made a covenant before the Lord. Then Jonathan went home, but David remained at Horesh.

Prayer Concerns

~**Jack Tarkenton** is in Hendrick South Room 2119. Please remember him in your prayers.

~**Judy Collier** had surgery Tuesday and it went well. It was a trial. If it works, she will have another surgery on the 15th. She would appreciate our prayers.

~Continued prayers for **Freddie Wallace**, who is at home and receiving hospice care.

~Calls and visits are appreciated by **Pat Suba**. She is at Chisholm Place on 1450 EN 10th, and her phone number is 325-232-7064.

~Remember **John Powell's** dad in your prayers, that he remains cancer free and continues to heal from surgery.

~Logan Cornutt, grandson of **Jackie Lee**, is having to undergo radiation treatments for a fast-growing cancerous tumor. Please pray for Logan and his family.

~Update on Ervin Spain (**Clarissa Pyeatt's** mom's husband): "Ervin will start an IV chemotherapy near the end of the month for 18 months. Please pray this goes well."

~**Nell Hopper's** brother-in-law Glenn Kemp is fighting cancer and could use our prayers.

~Please pray that **Ashley Simon's** dad is able to get the treatment he needs soon.

~**Monty Hale (Crystal Collier's** brother-in-law) is undergoing prostate cancer treatments daily. Many prayers for him.

Those unable to join us:

- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm
- ~Pat Suba

Ongoing prayer concerns:

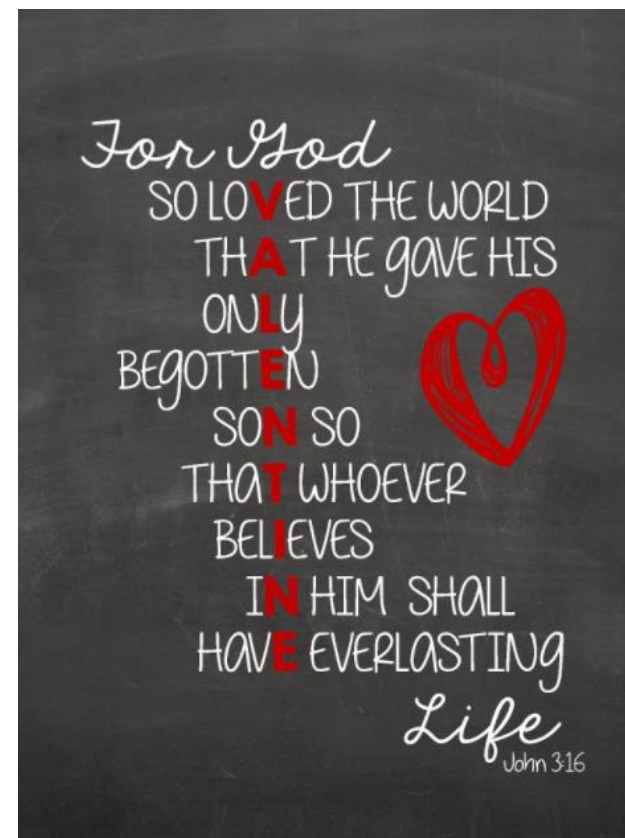
- ~Peggy Allen
- ~Deana Frazier
- ~Bill Jackson
- ~Nell Hopper
- ~Dwight Painter
- ~Lue Gray
- ~Chester Lynd
- ~Melody Loveland
- ~Bradi Williams
- ~Steve Henderson
- ~Donna Scott
- ~Steve Smith
- ~Patsy Williamson
- ~Jim and Joyce Waddell
- ~Mickey Walker

Missionaries:

- ~Doug & Marge Reeves- Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX

Thank You

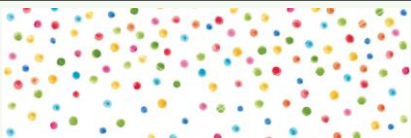
Freddie Wallace called the office on Thursday and wanted to tell everyone how happy she was to have her church family send cards and thoughts and prayers. She said she was very grateful for all the support.



Best Wishes

Melanie Tate (daughter of Jill & Anthony Tate) is getting married on April 15th in California. We will be sending a gift card to Melanie and her fiancé Connor Schenck. If you would like to contribute, please give money to Lettie Morrow.





Happy Birthday:

- Feb. 13th: Judy Collier
- Feb. 14th: Liam Meeks, Freddie Wallace
- Feb. 15th: Melody Loveland
- Feb. 16th: Ava Longley
- Feb. 19th: Hays Arche



Our Calendar:

- Feb. 16th: Cane's catered meal before class **5:45 p.m.**
- Feb. 21st: Presidents Day
- Mar 2nd: Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**
- Mar. 13th: Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar. 14th–18th: Spring Break
- Mar. 26th–27th: All-Church Retreat
- Apr. 10th: Easter Egg Hunt at Festival Gardens
- Apr. 15th: Good Friday
- Apr. 17th: Easter Sunday
- Apr. 24th: Brisket Burn/Youth Auction
- May 1st: Bridal Shower for Lauren Gumm **2:00 p.m.**
- May 8th: Mother's Day
- May 22nd: Graduation Celebration
- May 30th: Memorial Day

Sinking Churches—by Brady Horner

I was troubled to hear that Highland Oaks Church of Christ is selling its building. Highland Oaks has been a big and influential church in the DFW area for a long time. Westgate has had several members here that were nurtured there. The Christian Chronicle recently shared an article about Highland Oaks and another big influential church in Michigan selling their buildings. We are seeing this happen everywhere; the large Montgomery Church of Christ in Albuquerque did the same as has Woodlawn here in Abilene. These churches haven't officially closed, but they are greatly downsizing.

Declining church membership isn't just a Church of Christ problem, but it is happening faster than some of the other declining mainline denominations. It's the non-denominational churches that are growing...fortunately, Highland Oaks' old building is being bought by one. There are a wide variety of factors causing the decline, but I found the reasons given for the decline of these two churches in the Christian Chronicle interesting. Essentially the two churches both gave the same reasons, the more "conservative" members left to more traditional churches of Christ while the more "progressive" ones left for "community churches". You can see this trend happening in Abilene as Oldham Lane Church of Christ and Beltway Church grow with many former members of area churches of Christ.

So, given that information, what is a "middle of the road", not too conservative, not too progressive church like Westgate to do? (I'll admit our unofficial "middle of the road" stance is debatable/relative.) It seems like walking a moderate line never works, you've got to commit right? We've just seen an example of two seemingly moderate churches greatly decline! It is important to consider church growth, I love Westgate and think what we have here is worth growing and spreading. However, if the decline of these churches is only from members going to other churches, it's not a real Kingdom loss, souls are not being lost. Moves to prevent that kind of loss are more about preserving the institution than the Kingdom. So, while it's important to ask, "How can we grow Westgate?" We really need to ask, "How can we grow the Kingdom"? I want us to make decisions based on what is right and best for the Kingdom, not what will appease people, keep them happy, and grow my kingdom.

Westgate Facebook Group

The Westgate Family Facebook group is a private group for Westgate members. We use it as a safe place for members to share encouragements, prayer requests, announcements, and any communications that we may not want the entire Facebook world to see. Please contact the office if you would like the QR code to join.

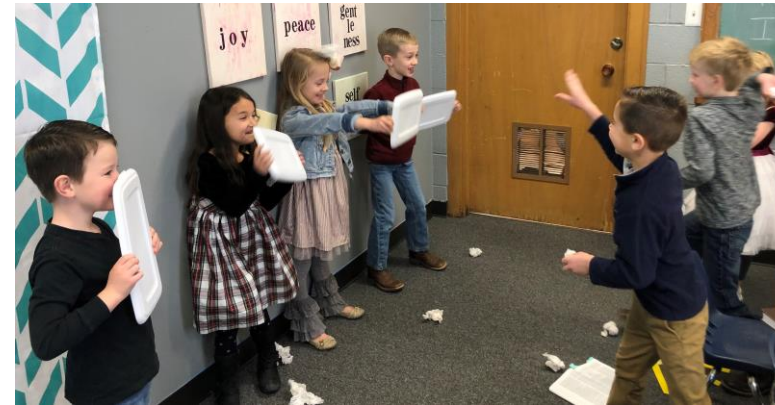


Children's Ministry News

The children's lesson today is found in 1 Samuel 3. Samuel is a young boy who lives in the Tabernacle. One night, he wakes up to someone calling his name. He thinks it's Eli, the priest, but it's not. The third time Samuel hears his name, Eli realizes it's God. Samuel listens to God's message and passes it along. God speaks, so we listen for Him.

New Summary Verse: "So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows." (Matthew 10:31)

Prayer emphasis for Westgate educators for February: "Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)



This Sunday AM class discussed the day Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still. God defended the Israelites and children explored the meaning of "defend" with the pictured activity. Many thanks to Skyla and Cathrine for guiding this group of active learners.

Youth Ministry News

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

We will be joining the church in moving Wednesday night class start time **from 7 to 6:45.**

Join us for the Super Bowl party tonight at **5 p.m.!** Guys bring appetizers and girls bring desserts!

We will have dinner in the youth house before class on **Wednesday, February 23rd.**

Please pray for our students as they work hard this semester!



Westgate Youth Group girls at the Senior Valentine Lunch!

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

Feb. 6th:
Contribution: \$2,053.90
eGive: \$3,765.35
Total: \$5,819.25
Budget: **\$6,341.00**
Be A Blessing: \$294.19

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903) **email:** pbhorner@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983) **email:** sch16a@acu.edu

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

email: lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net

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:

Feb. Don Bell

Mar. Manny Carneiro