

### Prayer Concerns

~It was great to see **Chad Longley** back at church last Sunday. Continue to pray for strength for Chad.

~Please add **Erin Cogburn's** aunt, Trudie Fetterman, to your prayer list. She is in the hospital with Covid pneumonia for the third time since around Thanksgiving, and has been placed in ICU because her lung issues are now straining her heart.

~Garrett Davis, the brother of Beau Davis (who led last year's Marriage Retreat) and friend of **Adam Lott**, recently passed away from cancer. Many are mourning the loss of this friend, husband, son, and father. Please be in prayer for his family.

~Remember our service members deployed all over the world and those back at home holding down the fort, particularly Westgate members **Stephen and Randi Boyd**.

~Continue to pray for the Westgate Marriage Retreat January 27 – 29, that couples grow closer to each other and closer to God.

~Some of our members are home with Covid. Please remember them in your prayers.

~Email from **Megeste Pierre**:

"I'm now a married man. I got married on December 24<sup>th</sup> to Josette (Jose) Toussaint. Please, keep us in your prayers that the Lord blesses our union."



### 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

# Westgate Church of Christ

## Welcome Members and Guests



Sunday  
January 29  
2023

### Next Sunday

With so many out of town for the Marriage Retreat, services on **Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>** will be different, but exciting. CJ Chaney will teach a combined adult class in the fellowship hall and the youth group will be helping teach the children's ministry classes. Additionally, Bob Hailey, the minister at Lockhart Church of Christ and Kari White's dad, will be preaching that morning. Bible class and worship times will be normal, 9:00 and 10:00. If you are going to be in town and are able to attend, come out and support these guys and encourage each other.

### Ladies Committee Sign-Ups

Sign-up sheets for the Ladies Committees are up in the hallway across from the kitchen. Ladies, please look over these and prayerfully consider signing up for some committees. There's something for everyone: Visitors/New Members, Nursery, Breakfast with Santa, Encouragement, Ladies Day, and more. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller



### New Members



Jarrod and Kayla Crockett  
Lily, Ben, and Nathan

Please contact the office for their address and phone numbers.

Bob Hoyle

Please contact the office if you would like his address and phone number.

### Love Grub Survey

Please scan the QR code to complete the Love Grub menu survey if you haven't had a chance.



### Tax Letters

It's tax time again! Email the office at westgatecofc@gmail.com if you would like a letter showing your total 2022 contribution amount.

u r cute

# Coming Soon

be mine

xoxo

I ♥ you

### Senior Valentine Luncheon

Three weeks from today, **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, the youth group will host the Senior Valentine Luncheon after services. Mark your calendar for this fun event and watch for details coming soon!

**Sermon Title:** Reforming Your Spiritual Life

**Scripture:** Colossians 3: 12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.



### Happy Birthday:

Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>: Anthony Tate  
Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: Steve Templeton



### Happy Anniversary:

Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>: Jeff & Hayley Webb

# 2023

### Our Calendar:

- 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 Luncheon
- Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>: Super Bowl Sunday
- Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>: Presidents Day
- Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- Mar. 12<sup>th</sup>: Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>: Game and Movie Night
- Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>: Brown Bag Fellowship 5:45 p.m.
- Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>: Family Retreat in Leuders
- Apr. 5<sup>th</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- Apr. 8<sup>th</sup>: Easter Egg Hunt at Festival Gardens
- Apr. 9<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday
- Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.
- Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>: Brisket Burn/Youth Auction after services
- May 14<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day
- May 21<sup>st</sup>: Graduation Celebration

## Objective Reading of Scripture? — by Brady Horner

“Churches of Christ only do what the Bible says.” I remember how offended my Baptist friend was when I condescendingly spoke those words to him. Apparently, a ton of Christian groups only go by the Bible! We just differ in interpretation, how it is applied, and what Scriptures are favored and hold the most weight. I love how we (Churches of Christ) hold Scripture in such a high regard and use it as a binding constant that transcends the whims of culture and the power of man-made leadership. I love that our secondary founder, Alexander Campbell, wanted to objectively read Scripture as if he had never picked up a Bible. That is a noble thing to attempt, but we must admit, we can't completely do that. We are conditioned by our culture, our history, and our personal experiences. We will always read Scripture through a subjective lens, and thus come to different conclusions.

Some of our senior members likely remember going through the “Missionary Societies Controversy” within the Churches of Christ. Most of us are shocked that anyone would ever have an issue with a missionary group. From what I gather there were a few issues at hand. Some argued that they weren't authorized and were thus man-made additions. They also felt that it was a “waste” of funds. On top of that was a suspicion of any man-made institutions like colleges. Ultimately all this came down to a fear of a centralized power that would trump local church authority. The Baptists went through a similar controversy! Today's Missionary Baptists were the “liberals” okay with Missionary Societies and Temperance groups, while the Primitive Baptists are not involved with any of those. In fact, Primitive Baptists might play nice with our “Non-Institutional” Churches of Christ. Both groups are a cappella only, don't have Bible class, have minister apprenticeships rather than seminary, and do not participate with missionary societies. The Primitive Baptists had the same concern of the non-institutional churches. They wanted to preserve local church autonomy. They, like many Americans, were afraid of a strong central authority, like a pope or a king, telling them what to do.

I view these controversies as a good example of churches being shaped more by their history and environment than an objective reading of Scripture. While I believe local church autonomy is good, and there are some scriptural arguments for it, there are also plenty of examples of early Church cooperation and centralized authority (The Council of Jerusalem and the Edict of James in Acts 15, multiple Churches sent money to Jerusalem in Romans 15:26, the Pastoral Letters set the example of non-local evangelists appointing elders). I can't believe all these people upset about “man-made additions” never criticized our “unbiblical”, historically and environmentally formed, popular election of elders. I'm not suggesting we change any of our “unbiblical” practices, but I am suggesting that we acknowledge we aren't as Bible accurate as we think. We need to stop condemning people who interpret things differently, and appreciate that there is more freedom in Christ than we think.



## Children's Ministry News

This is the last week of our current study, “Digging into the Heart of God.” The final lesson is found in Revelation 21. In this passage, the Bible describes what heaven is like. It's a beautiful, golden city full of light from God Himself! There isn't any pain, sadness, or dying. And best of all, we'll live forever with Jesus! As we close our study of the characteristics and nature of God, we are reminded that God is eternal, and He promises us eternity with Him.

Next week is the Marriage Retreat weekend. With many teachers away, the youth will assist with classes. Birth to three will meet in their regular classrooms. The west hallway children will have combined classes with activities led by our teens.



Summary Verse: **“A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.” (Ephesians 6:10)**

Add to your prayers this week a request that God be with our Westgate educators, our children's teachers, and their schools. I Chronicles 16:11: “Look to the LORD and His strength; seek His face always.”

*Thanks to Larry for teaching this eager group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders. They played a game moving cups in a race to the bottom. The activity focused on the fact that Jesus deserves a place at the top, but He lowered Himself to show His amazing love.*

## Youth Ministry News

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

On **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will have dinner in the youth house before class!

The Youth Group will be helping with the children's classes on **Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**.

We are excited to host the Senior Valentine Luncheon on **February 12<sup>th</sup>!** Please stay tuned for more information.

Please pray for our students to have a great start to the semester!



*Paxton and Trevor facing off at Air Hockey during the Mystery Trip!*

**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 15<sup>th</sup>:  
Contribution: \$2,207.00  
eGive: \$2,562.00  
Total: \$4,769.00  
Budget: **\$6,917.00**  
Be A Blessing: \$38.12

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

**Nursery Duty:**  
Emory & Kami Winter

### Building Lock-up:

Jan.: Jon Cogburn  
Feb.: Eric Gumm

### Blessing Box Counting:

Lane Colburn,  
Luke McFarlen