

## Prayer Concerns

~Our sincere sympathy to the family of Jan Jordan (**Linda Jones's** sister and **Sherry Gumm's** aunt). Jan passed away last Saturday and was laid to rest Thursday. Please pray for Jim Jordan and all the family.

~**Michael Bryant** was scheduled to have his gallbladder removed Friday. Please pray for his recovery.

~Breathing problems put **Chester Lynd** in the hospital last week, but he has since been released and feels better. Please lift him up in prayer.

~Remember to pray for **Megeste Pierre** and others in Haiti. The gang violence was creating too much fear for them to assemble, so they are working in a house in the neighborhood until they can move back to the compound. They are hoping to start school in October.

~Please keep **Eric Robinson** in your prayers. He is having trouble with the nerves in his arm.

~Continued prayers for Jim Prather, **Shelley Doremus's** dad. He has congestive heart disease.

~Prayers of thanks for the safe, healthy delivery of **Christian and Dalila (Becerra) Rodriguez's** new baby boy. Pray for them as they adjust to being a family of three.

~Prayers are appreciated for **Barbara Carneiro's** aunt, Julie Blasingame. She is dealing with stage IV pancreatic cancer.

~Please pray for these expectant moms:

**Paige (MacDonald) DeFoore**  
**Claire (Longley) Howe**  
**Skyla Krause**

## Those unable to join us:

~Laverne Horn  
~Ethel Gumm

## Ongoing prayer concerns:

~Peggy Allen  
~Deana Frazier  
~Steve Henderson  
~Ron and Geraldine Hill  
~Nell Hopper  
~Bill Jackson  
~Melody Loveland  
~Chester Lynd  
~Dwight Painter  
~Jim Prather  
~Donna Scott  
~Steve Smith  
~Jim and Joyce Waddell  
~Mickey Walker  
~Patsy Williamson

## Missionaries:

~Doug & Marge Reeves—Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX  
~Megeste & Jose Pierre—Christian Family Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

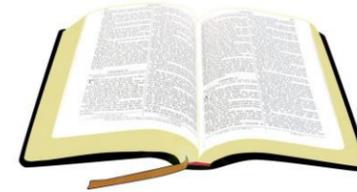
# Westgate Church of Christ Welcome Members and Guests

## Sunday AM Adult Classes

The two options for Sunday morning adult Bible classes are:

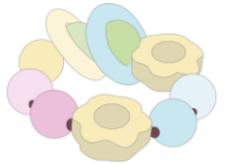
**Brady Horner – fellowship hall:** *One Body, Many Parts:* We will explore what it means to be a member of the Church, but also what it means to be a member of Westgate. Who are we? What are our expectations? Where are we going?

**CJ Chaney – auditorium:** *A Study of the Old Testament*



## Baby Howe Gift Card

Congrats to Reuben and Claire (Longley) Howe! They are expecting Baby Howe in late October. If you would like to give money toward a gift card for the Howes, please give your money to Heather, Lettie, or Clair by **next Sunday, September 17.**



## Christian Homes Dinner

Please join Christian Homes & Family Services for our annual fall dinner as we welcome Kirk Cameron, remembered fondly as Mike Seaver of the '80s sitcom *Growing Pains* and star of inspirational



movies *Fireproof* and *Lifemark*, on **Thursday, Nov. 9,** at the Abilene Convention Center. For more information call Jim or Sherri at 325-677-2205.



SAVE the DATE

Thursday, November 9, 2023  
Abilene Convention Center



## Welcome New Member

Helen Moore

*If you would like Helen's address and phone number, please contact the church office at 325-692-2300.*



## WATS

Save the date for WATS Day, coming October 22!

## Congrats

Welcome to the world Luca! Congrats to Christian and Dalila (Becerra) Rodriguez on their new bundle of joy – he is precious!



**Sermon Title:** Bored to Death

**Scripture:** Acts 20: 7-12

On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.



### Happy Birthday:

**Sept. 15:** Maeleigh Carneiro  
**Sept. 16:** Barrett Lott, Holly Howell



### Our Calendar:

**Sept. 10:** youth group devo 6 – 8 p.m. @ Chaney's house  
**Sept. 20:** Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
**Sept. 24:** Emma Longley bridal shower 2 – 4 p.m.  
**Oct. 4:** Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
**Oct. 9:** Columbus Day  
**Oct. 17:** CarePack for Kids  
**Oct. 18:** Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
**Oct. 22:** Breakfast and WATS Day  
**Oct. 29:** Trunk or Treat  
**Nov. 1:** Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
**Nov. 5:** Daylight Saving Time ends (fall back), Emily Gumm bridal shower  
**Nov. 11:** Veterans Day  
**Nov. 15:** Love Grub 5:45 p.m.  
**Nov. 17 – 19:** youth group Fall Retreat at Solid Rock Camp  
**Nov. 19:** Church Friendsgiving Potluck after services  
**Nov. 22:** no Bible classes  
**Nov. 23:** Thanksgiving Day  
**Nov. 26:** Children's Program Practice  
**Nov. 29:** Brown Bag Fellowship  
**Dec. 2:** Breakfast with Santa  
**Dec. 3:** Church Christmas Party & Program  
**Dec. 6:** Love Grub 5:45 p.m.

### The Death and Rebirth of a Church – by Brady Horner

The Christian Chronicle recently posted an article that had many people up in arms. It was about Mayfair Church of Christ in Oklahoma City becoming a fifth campus for the 9,000 member Crossings Community Church. Mayfair Church of Christ had dwindled in numbers significantly (from 900 in the 1980's to less than 100) and was prayerfully thinking of a new way forward when this opportunity came up. The article called Mayfair a "flagship" church in Oklahoma City. Some in the comments took issue with that "non-biblical" term (it's got to be exhausting picking apart churches for "non-biblical" terms, especially when you discover we ourselves do this). By "flagship" church I suppose it means a big, influential, and long-standing church; perhaps like Highland in Abilene, or the Hills in DFW. Let's be honest, to see a big influential church like this enveloped by a different church is sad and alarming.

I was surprised and disappointed with how many grumblers there were in the comments. People were blasting the church for "compromising doctrine because of dwindling numbers", thinking "money is more important than biblical truth", and "wanting to serve the community rather than Jesus" (as if doing the former isn't doing the latter). Perhaps most of these comments were representative of the more extreme thinking within Churches of Christ. It's likely that those following the Christian Chronicle are more traditional, and typically those who post angry comments on social media represent the extreme. I doubt many of the grumblers know anything about the Crossings Community Church other than they are not Church of Christ (so they assume it's wrong and evil), I also gather that some didn't even read the article. It seems like a lot of people are content to die on the cross of "rightness" rather than adapt, adjust traditions that aren't connecting with the world anymore, and be a light to their community.

Not all the reactions were negative. Some offered encouragement to a Church that had to make hard decisions. Others applauded the willingness to adjust to reach people in a new way. I believe this will not be the only "flagship" church to go down in the next 10 years. Churches tend to have a 70ish year life cycle. They tend to die unless there is some major rebirth. A sign that Mayfair church was old was that it became a "commuter church", few members lived in the neighborhood. While it is sad, and uncomfortable for many people, this may be the rebirth that will keep the Kingdom moving in a neighborhood that the former church was no longer reaching. I'm sure churches have plenty to learn from the story of the Mayfair Church.

**TONIGHT**  
**6 – 8 PM**  
**CHANEYS' HOUSE**  
**DINNER PROVIDED**

**YOUTH DEVO**

### Children's Ministry News

- In Ephesians 6:10-12, 14 and Acts 5:17-42, Paul talks about the spiritual battle we're fighting against evil. He tells us to put on God's armor which includes the belt of truth. In Acts, Peter and John put on the belt of truth when they spread the truth about Jesus despite being arrested and beaten. Children's classes today stressed that we fight evil with truth.
- Summary Verse for the next week: "Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm" (Ephesians 6:13).
- Please continue to pray for our Westgate educators, our children, their schools, and the beginning school challenges each of them are facing.
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have learned about "Father Abraham" (thank you Wade) and "Amazing Grace" (thanks to Kami). Becki plans to teach the song "Pierce my Ear" this Wednesday. Check the sign-up sheet for open dates. Please choose a song to teach about, and help children understand how and why we praise God in song.



Children used cups to explore working together as a team.



Annie visited Melissa's Wednesday PM class as they discussed the importance of body parts.



### Youth Ministry News

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

Please join us for a Youth Devo **tonight** at the Chaney's house from **6 – 8!** Dinner will be provided.

Our verse of the month for September is 1 John 4: 9-11:

"This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

Please pray for all our students this school year!



We've got a lot of fast runners in the Youth Group! It was great getting to see them represent Christ at the cross country meet last Saturday!

**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:**  
**September 3:**  
Contribution: \$2,561.00  
eGive: \$3,730.00  
Total: \$6,291.00  
Budget: \$6,917.00  
Be A Blessing: \$17.06

**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:**  
Clair Arche

**Building Lock-up:**  
**Sept.:** Adam Lott  
**Oct.:** Chris Meeks

**Blessing Box Counting:**  
Titus Powell  
Beckett Williams