

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



Bridal Shower Today

All the ladies of the congregation are invited to come honor Emma Longley and Stefan Truett with a bridal shower here in the fellowship hall at **2 – 4 p.m. today**. Emma is registered at Amazon, Dillard’s, and West Elm. Hostesses are Juanita Stovall, Michelle Chaney, Shelley Doremus, Christie Pruitt, Clair Arche, and Angie Wier. Best wishes to these two as they start married life together in November!



Missions Month Starts Next Sunday

October is Missions Month! This month is about celebrating the missions and outreaches we are involved in, both foreign and local. We will prayerfully seek ways that our congregation can continue to bless and serve others. Mark your calendar for some Missions Month service opportunities! **Tuesday, October 17**, we will pack sacks of food for underprivileged children with CarePack for Kids. Then **Sunday, October 22**, is We Are The Sermon, where we will have breakfast, a short communion service, and then go serve our community.



Trunk or Treat Sign-ups

If you would like to provide a trunk with candy for Trunk or Treat, please sign up on the sheet in the hall. This fun outreach event will be held on **Sunday, October 29**. We hope to have plenty of trunks and meet and greet lots of people from the surrounding neighborhood. We are also starting to collect bags of candy and Little Debbie-type treats in the short hall.

Sermon Title: Celebrating the Good

Scripture: Psalm 77: 1-15

I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked:

“Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?” Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand. I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.”

Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

Prayer Concerns

~Last Monday, **Randy Bibb** slipped and fell. He broke a few ribs and is having some pain. Please pray for him as he recovers over the next several days. Please no visits or calls currently, but prayers are really appreciated.

~**Deana Frazier** is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery this week. Please pray for a successful surgery and smooth recovery.

~Our sympathy to **Kathryn Boerio** and family. Kathryn’s mother, Nancy Stewart, passed away on Wednesday and the Celebration of Life service was Saturday in North Richland Hills.

~Heartfelt condolences go out to **Briana Horner** and family. Briana’s grandmother passed away on Monday, and the funeral was on Friday.

~Please pray for **Chester Lynd’s** son, Curtis, who is battling cancer.

~Please add **Skyla Krause’s** friend Matt Rogers to your prayer list. He was diagnosed with T-cell lymphoblastic leukemia recently and was transported to MD Anderson for 6-8 weeks of treatment.

~**Steve Henderson’s** longtime friend and former co-worker Johnny Newman could use our prayers. He is recovering from heart surgery and doctors found a mass in his throat that they think may be cancer.

~Continued prayers for **Michael Bryant**, recovering from gallbladder surgery at home.

~Prayers are appreciated for **Barbara Carneiro’s** aunt, Julie Blasingame, as she deals with pancreatic cancer.

~Please pray for these expectant moms:

Paige (MacDonald) DeFoore

Claire (Longley) Howe

Skyla Krause

Those unable to join us:

~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
- ~Eric Robinson
- ~Donna Scott
- ~Steve Smith
- ~Jim and Joyce Waddell
- ~Mickey Walker
- ~Patsy Williamson

Missionaries:

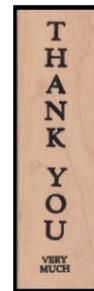
- ~Doug & Marge Reeves—Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX
- ~Megeste & Jose Pierre—Christian Family Center, Port-au-Prince, Haiti

Thank You Note

I thank you for the phone calls, food, cards, and prayers for the family of my sister, Jan Jordan. She peacefully passed after a battle with colon cancer.

I appreciate each of you here at Westgate for encouraging me during her illness.

Linda Jones



Time to Get Candy

Some people Snickered when I said it was time to collect candy and Little Debbie-type snacks for Trunk or Treat, but just beTwixt you and me, **Oct. 29** will be here before you know it. I know all you Smarties and Nerds would like to point out that inflation is at 3.67%, but candy is not 100 Grand (yet 😊), and it’s almost PayDay. I think it’s Mint to be that you go on a shopping Spree and Rolo on over to the store to grab a bag or 2 of candy—you can even Take 5*! That would be Good & Plenty and you would be a Life Saver. The Mounds of candy will be collected in a box in the short hall.

**Just kidding, one bag is great*



please join us for a
BRIDAL SHOWER
honoring bride-to-be
Emma Langley
September 24th 2023
from 2:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon
Westgate Church of Christ
Registered at Amazon, Dillards & West Elm



Happy Birthday:

Sept. 24: Ashley Becerra

Sept. 25: Cassidy Lott,
Brandon Davis

Sept. 27: Emma Longley,
Jax Longley

Sept. 28: Jamie Dye,
Clarissa Pyeatt

Sept. 29: Darah Waldrip,
Ashley Simon



Happy Anniversary:

Sept. 24: Roger & Marja Swart

Sept. 30: Jim & Kelly MacDonald



Our Calendar:

Sept. 24: Emma Longley bridal shower 2 – 4 p.m.

Oct. 4: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.

Oct. 8: Youth Devo @ the Crockett's house

Oct. 9: Columbus Day, youth group lunch

Oct. 17: CarePack for Kids 6 p.m.

Oct. 18: Love Grub 5:45 p.m.

Oct. 22: Breakfast and WATS Day

Oct. 29: Trunk or Treat 6 p.m.

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

Everything Will Be Okay – by Clay Howell

One of my favorite books, written by one of my favorite authors, is *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis. (It's not even too long so give it a try!) The title refers to Lewis' exploration of the theme of separation between heaven and hell. He paints a story that demonstrates the difference between choosing to live in the presence of God, and choosing to reject Him (living in sin).

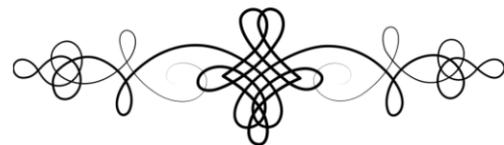
While this story is rich with theological truth and striking imagery, one passage has always stood out to me above all the rest. Lewis writes:

“That is what mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it' not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory.”

Let's think about what this could mean. We have all had moments when we are convinced that our suffering just isn't worth the cost of going through it. Something to know about me is that I used to be a fast runner. I would still consider myself a runner, but I wanted to let everyone know that I used to be fast. When I am feeling extra tired or worn down on a run, I often think of how proud I will be of myself when I finish in order to find the motivation to keep going. But I have also had plenty of runs where I think that this experience is so awful, that nothing can make up for it. That no amount of pride is worth the muscle stiffness, soreness, and burning in my lungs. On a more serious note, we do this with our lives and with our suffering. On our worst days, we believe that heartache, divorce, addiction, abuse, and trauma make life something not worth going through.

The beauty of this quote reflects a fundamental truth in the Bible. The power of Christ's redemption is strong enough to make even the worst things good. Christ reversed the sting of death, and the shame of the cross, making His sacrifice a blessing to us. Heaven is not only a place we go after we die to look forward to, but a force that works in reverse as well, turning agony into glory.

I believe this is what Paul was thinking when he wrote the famous passage in Romans 8:28: **“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”** God never promises that our lives will be easy, or that we won't suffer. God does promise us that everything will work out for His glory in ways we can't even comprehend yet.



Children's Ministry News

- In Psalm 23, David writes that our shepherd, God, lets us rest in green meadows and leads us beside peaceful streams, renewing our strength. Jesus makes a similar promise when He invites us to take our heavy burdens to Him and find rest.
- Summary Verse for the next few weeks: **“The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need”** (Psalm 23:1).
- Remember to ask God to be with our Westgate educators, our children, and their teachers. Psalm 37:23: **“The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in Him.”**
- Thank you to Kari for teaching important info on the “Doxology” last Wednesday. Briana will guide the group with a song to explore this week. Thanks to Caroline and Chandra for volunteering for the final spot in October.

These 2nd and 3rd graders found and read Psalm 23 in their Bibles during a discussion on Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Hayley emphasizes bringing Bibles to class as children learn to “handle accurately the word of truth”.

Youth Ministry News

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

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 join us this Wednesday for class as we continue to plan for our Youth Group Trunk or Treat theme!

Join us at the Crockett's house for a Youth Devo on **Sunday, October 8!**

We will also have lunch together on **Monday, October 9.** (No school!)

Please pray for all our students this school year!

Enjoy this throwback picture of Youth students at Freddy's during one of our many stops on the road this past summer!

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 17:
Contribution: \$4,221.40
eGive: \$3,110.00
Total: \$7,331.40
Budget: **\$6,917.00**
Be A Blessing: \$31.65

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:

Jackie Lee &
Kennedy Boerio

Building Lock-up:

Sept.: Adam Lott
Oct.: Chris Meeks

Blessing Box

Counting:

Wyatt Cogburn
Liam Meeks