

## Prayer Concerns

~**Ron Hill** is scheduled for surgery tomorrow (May 6). Please add Ron and Geraldine to your prayer list this week.

~**Layla Horner** had ACL surgery on Thursday. The surgery went well and there wasn't much damage to the meniscus, which was good news. She was able to go home the same day. Many prayers for Layla's recovery.

~Please remember **Michael Bryant** in prayer. He has had several health struggles recently, including pneumonia.

~**Becki Sutton's** dad, Herschel McDonald, was released from the hospital following a recent stroke. He has some follow-up appointments, but is expected to make a full recovery. Becki is back home. Thanks for your prayers.

~Please add our high school graduates and their parents to your prayer list during this time of transition: **Isabella Becerra** (daughter of **Felipe** and **Ashley**), **Alyssa Chaney** (daughter of **CJ** and **Michelle**), and **Ava Longley** (daughter of **Chad** and **Abby**).

~Continued prayers for former member **Brian Cavitt**, who had a serious motorcycle accident recently. He went home Saturday (4/27), but was readmitted to the hospital Thursday (5/2) for possible MRSA (antibiotic-resistant staph infection) in his leg. He is receiving antibiotics, and his doctors plan to determine next steps once the infection recedes.

~**Skyla Krause's** brother, Kyler Burd, had back surgery recently and is recovering at home. Please continue to pray for his strength and healing.

~Please continue to pray for **Randy Bibb's** brother, Steve Bibb. He is battling acute myeloid leukemia.

## Those unable to join us:

~Ethel Gumm  
~Ron and Geraldine Hill  
~Dwight Painter  
~Bob Hoyle

## Ongoing prayer concerns:

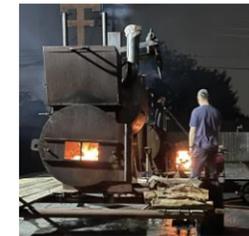
~Peggy Allen  
~Deana Frazier  
~Steve Henderson  
~Nell Hopper  
~Melody Loveland  
~Jim Prather  
~Eric Robinson  
~Matt Rogers  
~Steve Smith  
~Jim and Joyce Waddell  
~Mickey Walker

## Missionaries:

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

# Westgate Church of Christ

## Welcome Members and Guests



### Thank You

(from Clay) Thank you to all who supported our youth ministry through the Auction and Brisket Burn event last Sunday. This tradition is not only a way to raise money for some of our summer activities, but also serves as a way for our students to express their God-given creativity and connect with the church. Please make sure you have paid and collected any items that you won as soon as you can.

## Graduation Celebration Two Weeks Away

Congratulations Class of 2024! Our high school seniors will be honored on **Sunday morning, May 19**, with a slideshow, potluck dinner, and display tables where you can put graduation gifts or cards. For the potluck dinner, each family is asked to bring a main dish and a side. No need to bring dessert, since it will be provided. The seniors this year are Isabella Becerra, Alyssa Chaney, and Ava Longley. We are so proud of you and will be praying you stay firmly grounded in your faith as you take on the world!



## VBS Next Month

Mark your calendar for *What a Mess! VBS!*, scheduled for **June 3 – 5 from 6 to 8 p.m.** Children ages 4 to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited for 3 evenings of learning and messy fun with youth group assistance.

### Items needed:

- \*\*\*A variety of sizes of old t-shirt donations, ones you plan to discard anyway. They will be used to minimize mess and will NOT be returned.
  - \*\*\*3 small plastic pools that will be returned if possible.
- Stay tuned, more opportunities to help may be coming...



## Coming This Summer

Westgate has a great tradition during the summer of having guest speakers on Wednesday nights for adult Bible class. Like always, this year our Summer Speaker Series has a great lineup of guest speakers. Come at **6:45 p.m.** and be blessed by their knowledge of ministry and God's word! →

Some other events to look forward to (if school will finally let out) are:

**Summer Kickoff Party at the Family Life Center: May 30**

**VBS: June 3 – 5**

**Family Fun Nights: June 12, July 10, and August 7**

## SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES

<p>May 29</p>  <p><b>Darrin Cox</b> AIDS Homeless/ Foster Care Liaison</p>	<p>June 19</p>  <p><b>Nathan Burrow</b> Minister at Hillcrest Church of Christ</p>	<p>June 26</p>  <p><b>Robert Oglesby</b> Director of ACU Center for Youth &amp; Family Ministry</p>	<p>July 3</p>  <p><b>Alejandro Ezquerro</b> Bilingual Minister at University Church of Christ</p>
<p>July 17</p>  <p><b>Phil Palmer</b> World Bible School Envoys for East Africa and Zimbabwe</p>	<p>July 24</p>  <p><b>Ian Nickerson</b> Minister at Minda Street Church of Christ</p>	<p>July 31</p>  <p><b>Wes Crawford</b> ACU Professor of Modern and American Church History</p>	<p>Aug. 14</p>  <p><b>Jerry Taylor</b> ACU Professor of Bible, Missions, and Ministry</p>

**Sermon Title:** Hannah: The Patient Mom

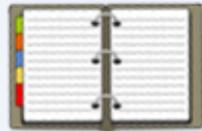
**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 1: 3–8

Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"



### Happy Birthday:

- May 5:** Vivi Arche
- May 7:** Sherry Gumm
- May 8:** Mallory Meeks
- May 11:** Tammy Rose



### Our Calendar:

- May 5:** Youth Group Devo **12 – 2:30 p.m.** at Winters' house, re|engage **5:30 – 7 p.m.**
- May 12:** Mother's Day, re|engage **5:30 – 7 p.m.**
- May 15:** Love Grub **5:45 p.m.**
- May 17:** TLCA Graduation
- May 19:** Graduation Celebration, re|engage **5:30 – 7 p.m.**
- May 24:** Abilene High Graduation
- May 27:** Memorial Day
- May 29:** Brown Bag Fellowship **5:45 p.m.**, Summer Speaker Series – Darrin Cox **6:45 p.m.**
- May 30:** Summer Kickoff Party – Family Life Center **6 – 8 p.m.**
- June 3 – 5:** VBS **6 – 8 p.m.**
- June 12:** Family Fun Night
- June 16:** Father's Day
- June 19:** Summer Speaker Series – Nathan Burrow **6:45 p.m.**
- June 23:** Bridal Shower for Jessica Touchstone **2 – 3:30 p.m.** at the home of Shelley Doremus
- June 26:** Summer Speaker Series – Robert Oglesby **6:45 p.m.**
- July 3:** Summer Speaker Series – Alejandro Ezquerra **6:45 p.m.**
- July 9 – 13:** Youth Group @ Camp Beloved and Beyond
- July 10:** Family Fun Night

### The State of Christian Education for Kids – by Brady Horner

I gained a lot of my Bible knowledge and appreciation at a private elementary school. I regret to admit that it was my school, not the church, that instilled much of my Bible knowledge in me as a kid. Unlike church, the school gave me a daily lesson (rather than just Sunday and Wednesday). School also gave me grades, consistency, and accountability. This isn't to say that my Bible classes at church weren't valuable, but they lacked some things a school could provide.

In my churches growing up we typically had some nice volunteer teachers who made their own lessons, set their own agendas, and had longevity as the teacher in that class. Now as our culture has become busier and less committed to Church involvement/attendance, this has changed. It is difficult to get teacher volunteers, many people teach for short stints, and few are preparing their own lessons. I'm not complaining. I'm grateful for our volunteer teachers that teach and invest in our kids. Jackie works hard to make teaching easy, and what goes on in our classrooms is very important. However, these Church class changes will require changes elsewhere.

The parents are the first Bible teachers. Letting the kids watch Veggie Tales doesn't count! Parents have outsourced too much of their training to the church, media, and ministers (although I think these are all great resources). Interestingly, most churches are using "non-denominational" class materials. Any Church of Christ doctrine is passed down through slight curriculum changes, subtly communicated practices in church, and parents. As a youth minister I noticed that it was parents instilling Church of Christ doctrine/values more than any teaching of the church. I'm not sure what all needs to change in Christian education for kids, but I hope we are putting our best foot forward; first at the home as we invest in our kids, but second in Bible class. It is an honor to invest in kids and teach them the basic truths of our faith. I hope we can view that as a privilege, not a chore.



### Summer Kickoff Party

Mark your calendar for a fun family event you won't want to miss – we have reserved the Family Life Center downtown for **Thursday, May 30, from 6 to 8 p.m.** for a Summer Kickoff Party! Everyone is invited to come enjoy the bowling, skating, and game room. Feel free to invite your family and friends as well. Even if you don't want to bowl or skate, you can still come out and enjoy being with your Westgate family.

### Children's Ministry News

- Children's classes cover the life of Joseph this week. In Genesis 37–50, Joseph has a lot of ups and downs. His brothers throw him into a well and then sell him into slavery. He works his way up to be a respected servant in Egypt, only to be lied about and thrown in jail. He earns respect there, only to be forgotten. Finally, Pharaoh asks Joseph to interpret a dream and then puts him in charge of collecting food to feed the whole country. God has a big picture through Joseph's life of ups and downs.
- Summary Verse: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them" (Romans 8:28).



Wednesday night activities as children review the book of Genesis

- Appreciation to Emory, Alyssa, Kailyn, and Mackenzie for their help with classes last Sunday and to Clay and the youth group for hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Thank you to Kami for teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for the month of May. She will be leading discussions in relationship building as students gain skills to be successful in the youth group.
- Eric has agreed to teach the Boys Leadership class again this summer. The class will begin on **June 19**. Please thank Eric for his willingness to invest in our boys.

### Youth Ministry News

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

Thank you for all your hard work on the Youth Auction/Brisket Burn!

Please join us for a youth group devo **today** at the Winters' house following church **from 12 to 2:30!** Please bring a change of clothes to run around in, as well as a lawn chair!

If you are going to Camp Bandina, please fill out the registration form as soon as you can! The cost is \$215. Ask Clay if you have any questions.

Join us on **Sunday, May 19**, to celebrate our awesome seniors at our Graduation Celebration!

Please pray for all our students as they finish up the school year!

Mallory helping us get ready for the Brisket meal last week!



**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:**  
**April 28:**  
Contribution: \$2,368.12  
eGive: \$2,031.00  
Total: \$4,399.12  
Budget: **\$7,169.00**  
Be A Blessing: \$25.96

**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:**  
Cathrine Clements

**Building Lock-up:**  
**May:** Matt Waldrip  
**June:** Manny Carneiro

**B. Box Counting:**  
Luke McFarlen  
Beckett Williams