

THE VISION

Exalting Christ . . . Equipping the Church . . . Engaging the Community

VOLUME MMXIX ISSUE NO. 03

JANUARY 30, 2019



Bruce Worley

God has given me a vision for this church and I have been consistent in trying to communicate that vision to the church. I have not wavered in what I believe is the vision that God has given for this church. “What is that vision?” you might ask. The vision is to revitalize this church to reach the lost and the unchurched and impact our community with the gospel. That is the vision. It is pretty simple to say, but difficult to implement.

Western Heights has been stuck for many years in a rut and cannot seem to get back on track with the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. We know them, but we have a problem implementing them. So as I considered this vision I found myself asking three important questions. 1. Why do we exist as a church? 2. Where are we going? 3. How do we get there? Often times the church will jump to how to accomplish something without focusing on why.

“How do we revitalize our congregation?” This is the question I am constantly asking. Obviously I am only one person and cannot do it on my own. It takes a group of committed followers of Jesus who have embraced the vision and are willing to do whatever it takes to see it come to fruition. There are four things that are necessary to implement the vision.

First, we must turn the focus from inward to outward. One of the key factors in churches that are stuck in a rut is that they are inwardly focused. It is the natural pull. So to combat against this tendency we must refresh our strategy to reach those outside the church and outside the faith. When we turn our focus outward we are basically answering the first two questions as to why we exist and where are we going. It is imperative that the leaders of the church embrace the idea that we are here for others and not ourselves. I think I read that in the Bible somewhere!

Second, we must move from programs to discipleship. We have tried to encapsulate this idea with the second part of our vision statement: Equip the Church. We cannot let programs drive the church. We must evaluate each program and activity. We must ask, “How is this program, how is this activity helping us develop disciples?” We cannot say “Let’s start a program!” Instead we must ask “How can we develop disciples? How can we Equip the Church?” It may seem a small change, but by so doing we are allowing the purpose to define the program instead of the program becoming the purpose. Instead of all our programs competing for time we put our attention and resources on a path to disciple people and equip them to engage the community. It might be that we have to say no to a good program, because it basically just occupies time and serves no purpose. This idea ties in well with the next thought.

Third, we reduce ministry complexity and refocus our time and energy. When we have a lot of events, programs, and meetings, we lose sight of our mission, vision, and focus because we are doing too much. A complex ministry rarely helps people take the next steps of discipleship. To us a win is when we just get people to show up for a meeting. Hey, I’m guilty of always wanting a head count. Numbers are not bad, but they cannot be the end result. We do want to see more people involved in ministry, but we must avoid the warm body mentality. Instead we need to gauge success by how many people show up for ministry. I have talked about this idea before; it is a process. We move people through worship, to discipleship, and then send them out to minister and bring more people to worship, and the cycle starts over again.

Fourth, we move from meetings to ministry. The job of the pastoral team is to equip the church for the work of the ministry (Ephesian 4:12). One of the key indicators that a church is stuck is people spend more time talking about how to do ministry than actually doing it. Sitting in meetings will not lead people to Christ. We must equip and empower the church to be more engaged in the ministry of the church. I have challenged all of our groups before, but it often falls on deaf ears. What ministry is your small group engaged in currently? Is your small group gathering for Bible Study? Is your small group gathering for fellowship? GREAT! What about the third aspect? Is your small group gathering for ministry? Without this third approach you are not engaging the community. Everything you are doing points to you and not to others. You need to be working to engage the community to bring them to your small group where you can teach them, love them, challenge them, and send them out to do ministry as well.

I believe the vision God has for this church will revitalize this church. It will change our DNA! It is not about following a preacher, or even an individual. It is about following the Master’s Plan to serve our community with the gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray that you can get on board, for I would hate to see anyone left behind. God is preparing His church for something great and I am excited about where he is leading us.

In HIS Service . . . Bruce

CHILDREN & EDUCATION MINISTRY

We have a very important ministry that takes place every Sunday, but you may not know about it. This ministry is Worship Care. Worship Care Volunteers help our preschool teachers with our littlest ones every Sunday during worship! These volunteers get to hold babies, play with preschoolers and assist our teachers as they share the Bible story of the day. It is a great way to serve the Lord and to bless the families of our church. Worship Care volunteers serve about one time every three months. If you enjoy spending time with precious preschoolers this is the opportunity for you! For more information or to join our team, give me a call!



Marcy Smith

The Annual Care Net Baby Bottle Campaign is in full swing! Make sure you pick up a Baby Bottle from a baby bag around the building, fill it with money or a check made out to Care Net, then return it to the office or place in in the baby bed in the Sanctuary by Sunday, February 24. Thanks for your support for this great ministry in our community!

Kids' Night Out will be Friday, February 15 from 5:30-9:30. KNO is for children ages 6 weeks - sixth grade, and there is no cost to attend. Each child will be placed in a class based on his or her age, and these classes meet in the preschool wing of our church. We serve pizza for dinner, or you may send a sack meal for your child if you prefer. Children ages 6 weeks - Kindergarten will enjoy several activities including art, games, music, a Bible story, and more. Children in our school age class will have a Bible story, and then take a field trip to the Eagle Christian Academy Gym for some fun and games. **Reservations are required to participate; the deadline to reserve a spot for your child is Tuesday, February 12.** You will find the 2019 Medical Release Form at whbcwaco.org/resources/forms. Paper copies of the forms are available on the bulletin board at the rear of the sanctuary. You may make a KNO reservation by calling the office, or you may register online at whbcwaco.org/connect/events. **Please note: you will need to complete a release form AND make a KNO reservation.**

We offer text message reminders for our children and youth ministries. To join the children's remind group text this message: @whbckid to this number: 81010. We had received information that Verizon customers would no longer receive text messages from Remind. I am happy to report that Verizon has changed their policy, and now Verizon customers will again receive text messages from Remind. If you have questions, I'll be glad to help.

YOUTH MINISTRY

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Our party will be at the home of Robert and Marilyn Borchgardt

Sunday, February 3

Be at the church at 5:00pm sharp

Bring a friend, and bring a snack to share.

CHILI COOK-OFF

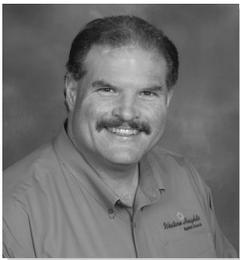
Church Family - The annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser will be February 10 at 5:30 pm. We will also have a dessert auction during the event to support our students' cost for camp. You can help us raise money by donating chili, donating a dessert, and by joining us for the event! Sign up sheets are in the Bible Study classrooms. It only costs \$10 to enter a chili - what a bargain! If you have any questions about the chili cook-off, please contact Cynthia Ellison.

Youth - you will need to bring a dessert to the auction and arrive at 4:30 to help set up.

YOUTH CAMP

Youth camp will be July 8-12 at Highland Lakes encampment in Spicewood, Texas. We are going to M3 Camp and the camp pastor is Chad Poe (who was our camp pastor this past year at Generate Camp).

The \$50 camp deposit is due. If you have not turned in your deposit, please see Cynthia.



Kip Osborne

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & MUSIC MINISTRY

MINISTRY CHOIR will meet Monday afternoons at 4:30 PM on the second floor of St Catherine's for Hymn Singing with residents. Please note this is a change from Tuesday to Monday each week.

SPRING JUBILEE CONFERENCE IN BRANSON, MISSOURI - If you would like to attend this "Singing, Laughing and Preaching" conference from April 10th through April 12th, please call the church office to sign up. We must have a large enough group to attend, so your commitment is vital. The cost is \$189 per person and includes all concerts, programs, and two nights lodging (double occupancy). You may stay in a single room; however, it will increase your trip cost. The Gather Vocal Band, Dino, Pastor Johnny Hunt, and many others will be ministering to us during this great event. Sign up ASAP. Our meals will be Dutch treat and donations for gasoline will be added to the cost.

GAITHER VOCAL BAND CONCERT is in Waco on Saturday, February 9th at First Woodway on Highway 84 at 6 PM. The price is \$25 for Senior Tickets! Tickets are available to purchase individually at 1-855-484-1991. If you want to ride together from the church at 5:00 PM, call the office and get your name on the list. Remember that YOU are responsible for purchasing your own tickets through the phone number above!

SATURDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST - Come join other senior adults for a fellowship breakfast after the 8 AM prayer meeting in the partner's Room.

COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

"And the Lord said, 'You pity the plant, for which you did not labor, nor did you make it grow, which came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?'"

Jonah 4:10-11



Jeremy Wilson

Now we draw the story of our friend Jonah to a somewhat abrupt close. The book closes with God asking Jonah a rhetorical question. Essentially, do we have a right to be angry when God takes pity on His creation? Leading in to this question, we see Nineveh repent before God, and God refrain from wiping the city off of the map. Jonah angrily leaves the city still hoping that God will rain down fire and brimstone from heaven on these heathen. He finds a spot on a hill, and makes a little shelter to sit under while he waits for God's wrath to unfold before him. Then, God does a small miracle in growing a plant to give Jonah shade in less than a day and then allowing the plant to die the next. When the plant gave him shade, Jonah was a happy boy. As the plant dies and Jonah experiences a hot wind blowing in from the desert, Jonah throws himself a pity party and wishes to die. He kinda sounds like me when I was 15 and girls weren't noticing me. Then God asks the big question.

Whether we like to admit it or not, we all love to buy into the concept of karma: good things happen to good people, and bad things happen to bad people. We tend to merge this concept with our own idea of justice. However, justice to God looks very different. In God's sight we aren't good or bad. We're dead. Good things and bad things don't matter to dead people. They're just dead. The good news is that God gives grace in the place of justice to us. He justifies us Himself through the precious life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As we look at Jonah's end, we see someone who mirrors ourselves at times. These people are bad and deserve bad things. Praise God for His great love for us. Love that was willing to sacrifice His perfect Son in order to give us grace. We don't know how Jonah responded to God's question, but I pray that we can respond in humility and praise God that we don't get what we deserve. We get Grace.

God bless, Jeremy

**WHBC
MINISTERIAL
& SUPPORT STAFF**

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Pastor

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Marcy Smith

Minister of Children & Education

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George Livingston

Minister of Administration/Finance

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Jeremy Wilson

*Associate Pastor for College & Young Adults/
Interim Contemporary Worship Leader*

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MaryAnn Bailey

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Rachel Ellison

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Don Deatherage

Building Superintendent/Custodian

don.deatherage@yahoo.com

2019

	Jan 20	Jan. 27
Weekly Budget Goal.....	\$9094.00	9,094.00
Weekly Budget Receipts.....	\$6,255.36	\$7,516.80
Budget Receipts..... Month to Date.....	\$22,275.46	\$29,792.26
Budget Expenses..... Month to Date.....	\$11,742.02	\$27,354.63
Designated Receipts..... Month to Date.....	\$5,241.74	\$5,966.74
Budget Goal..... Year to Date.....	\$27,282.00	\$36,376.00
Budget Receipts..... Year to Date.....	\$22,275.46	\$29,792.26
Budget Expenses..... Year to Date.....	\$11,742.02	\$27,354.63
Designated Receipts..... Year to Date.....	\$5,241.74	\$5,966.74

Designated Mission Contributions

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Goal	\$5,000.00
Receipts To Date	\$4,779.96

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
MEALS**

The meals are on hold until
further notice.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

8:00 am-12:00 noon

1:00 pm-4:30 pm

The offices are closed

and telephones are not answered
between 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm, and
after 4:30 pm.



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

02/03/2019 thru 02/16/2019

Bruce Worley	254-716-0748
Eugene Garner	214-918-2480
Scott Day	717-9036
Church Phone	254-776-2524

WESTERN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH
VISION CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNI-
TIES

February 03, 2019 through February 16, 2019

Sunday, February 03

8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Bible Study
10:30 am Church Library Open
11:15 am Contemporary Worship Service
4:00 pm Deacons' Meeting
5:30 pm Bible Study with the Pastor
5:30 pm Mission Preschool
5:30 pm Bible Buddies/Bible Drill
5:30 pm Youth Sunday Night Live

Monday, Feb. 04

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:30 am With God's Help
4:30 pm Ministry Choir
5:30 pm BSF Class Meetings

Tuesday, Feb. 05

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
11:00 am Men's Weekly Fellowship
Lunch
4:00 pm Colonial Kids' Club
6:30 pm College Grow Group

Wednesday Feb. 06

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:00 am Financial Review
9:30 am Women on Mission
6:00 pm Children's Choir
6:00 pm Mission Preschool
6:00 pm Youth Fuel
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:45 pm TeamKid
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Feb. 07

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
11:00 am Merry Widows and Friends
7:00 pm Contemporary Worship Re-
hearsal

Friday, Feb. 08

5:30 am BSF Leaders Meeting
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:30 am With God's Help

Saturday, Feb. 09

8:00 am Prayer Group Meeting
9:00 am Senior Adult Fellowship Break-
fast

Sunday, February 10, 2019

8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Bible Study
10:30 am Church Library Open
11:15 am Contemporary Worship Service
4:00 pm Preschool & Children's Com-
mittee
Meeting
5:30 pm Youth Chili Cook-Off Fund-
raiser

Monday, Feb. 11

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:30 am With God's Help
4:30 pm Ministry Choir
5:30 pm BSF Class Meetings

Tuesday, Feb 12

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
11:00 am Men's Weekly Fellowship
Lunch
4:00 pm Colonial Kids' Club
6:30 pm College Grow Group
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, Feb. 13

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:00 am Financial Review
1:00 pm Vision Folders
6:00 pm Mission Preschool
6:00 pm Children's Choir
6:00 pm Youth Fuel
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:45 pm TeamKid
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, Feb. 14

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
11:00 am Merry Widows and Friends
7:00 pm Contemporary Worship Re-
hearsal

Friday, Feb. 15

5:30 am BSF Leaders Meeting
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:30 am With God's Help
5:30 pm Kids' Night Out

Saturday, Feb. 16

8:00 am Prayer Group Meeting
9:00 am Senior Adult Fellowship Break-
fast

WELCOME VISITORS

Jan 20, 2019

Wesley Graybill, Damian Maldonado, Paulette Greer, Darrah Sowders, Deborah & Ronnie Dean

Jan. 27, 2019

Annabella Deese

CHURCH FAMILY

As you attend church meetings and go about God's work in the church facilities, if you see something that needs attention, please let the office know. You may put a note in the rack next to the office door, or give us a call Monday-Friday at 776-2524. Your suggestions will be considered and addressed so that we may do our best to keep God's house in good working order for His glory. Thank you.

TEXT MESSAGE REMINDERS

We offer text message reminders for our children and youth ministries. It is easy to subscribe! To join the children's remind group text this message: @whbckid to this number: 81010. To join the youth remind group text this message: @whbcyouth to this number: 81010. **Please note:** we had received information that Verizon customers would no longer receive text messages from Remind. We are happy to report that Verizon has changed their policy, and now Verizon customers will again receive text messages from Remind. If you have questions, contact Marcy Smith at 776-2524 or marcy@whbcwaco.org.

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COLONIAL KIDS' CLUB

Our Colonial Kids' Club meets at The Edmond (formerly Colonial Arms Apartments) from 4:00-5:15 every Tuesday. This ministry is reaching children and families who do not go to church on a regular basis. Some of them have even participated in activities here at Western Heights. We have

a great team of volunteers, but would love to have a few more. If you would like to help us out please give Marcy a call in the office.

CARENET BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

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