

THE VISION

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

VOLUME LVII ISSUE NO. 03

JANUARY 31, 2018



Bruce Worley

One of the things that pastors always ask themselves is the question, “What are the expectations that the church has of me?” That is a loaded question and every church is different than other churches as far as their expectations. Western Heights does not provide a list of expectations of the pastor such as: #1 Preach the Gospel. #2 Visit the sick. But we often have expectations of our pastors and our staff. There is nothing wrong with having expectations and they are helpful in performing a respective job or ministry. It is much easier to do something when you know what is expected of you. According to our Bylaws, “The Pastor is responsible for leading the Church to function as a New Testament church.” And then that task is spelled out with these four statements: (1) lead the Church in the achievement of its mission, (2) proclaim the Gospel to believers and unbelievers, (3) care for the church’s members and other persons in the community, and (4) serve as an ex-officio member of all committees. Thus these are the expectations of the pastor. You have every right to expect things from your pastor and staff.

We have been learning these past few Sundays that God has expectations for us as Christ followers. But let me get more specific. As a church member there are expectations placed upon you as well. What are those expectations? Expectation number 1: faithful attendance in the worship services. This expectation should be a no-brainer, but you would be surprised how many people do not think it is important to spiritual growth. You will not find any passage in the Bible that supports the idea of people being absent from worship. So we have the expectation of you being faithful in your attendance.

Expectation number 2: we expect you to be faithful to a small group. At Western Heights small groups primarily meet on Sunday mornings during the Bible Study hour. We have other small groups that meet at other times and we hope to create more in the future. Small groups are essential for spiritual growth. The number one way we can equip people is through the small group Bible study. Now there is more to being a part of a small group than just studying the Bible together, though that is essential. We want our small groups to be about life change. We want to teach the Bible for the purpose of life change. Small group ministry is really about doing life together. It means developing relationships with others and holding one another accountable to Christ and to his church. You study God’s word together, you pray together, you minister together, and you fellowship together.

Expectation number 3: we expect you to be a part of some type of ministry. Ministry may look different than what you think. Ministry could be something done one time a year or several times a year. But we expect everyone to be a part of some type of ministry. What type of ministry could you be a part of? Think outside the box. Think of something you love to do and would enjoy seeing implemented in the church. Ministry may be in the form of children’s ministry or youth ministry. It may be in missions in Waco, or Texas or beyond. It may be in hospitality or in a greeting ministry. You may lead a prayer ministry. Or perhaps it is a ministry of sending birthday cards to people. Maybe it is a nursing home ministry or an apartment ministry. You could be a part of a feeding program or any number of such programs. Or possibly it is a construction ministry where we help around the church and in the community. Ministry is done in the church and outside the church. But we have the expectation that every member will be in some type of ministry.

Expectation number 4: we expect you to contribute financially to the budget of the church. I know you find this hard to believe, but it does take money for a church to operate. Yes, we pay salaries. Yes, we pay utilities. Yes, we buy supplies. Most of our budget is tied up in just running the church and the various ministries. But we also do missions and ministry. When the money does not come in, missions and ministry suffers. Why is that? It is because certain things have to be paid first. We expect every member to be faithfully supporting the ministry of the church with their tithes and offerings.

Are there other expectations? Yes! But I wanted to put these down so that you would understand the minimal expectations that we have of you. You have expectations of your pastor and staff. We have expectations of each church member as well. But ultimately God has Great Expectations of His church. We are to be about our Father’s business. We are to proclaim Christ and Him crucified. Together we can Exalt Christ. Equip the Church. And Engage the Community.

In HIS Name,
Bruce

CHILDREN & EDUCATION

It's time to start working on Operation Christmas Child 2018! If you were in worship this past Sunday, you received our collection schedule. Copies are also available outside my office. I did some digging through my files and calculated that Western Heights has given 5,871 boxes since 2003. To give you a bigger picture, last year 11.4 million gifts were given to children in need around the world, and since 1993 over 146 million gifts have been given. These are staggering and amazing numbers!

The process of giving the gifts is very intentional. Usually there is a church, an orphanage, or some organization that organizes a party. Children in the community are invited to this party. At some point during the event everyone sits down and the gospel is presented in a way that is easy for children to comprehend. Then each child in the gathering receives a gift with a gospel booklet in his or her own language. In some settings children are invited to come back for a class called The Greatest Journey. The Greatest Journey is a twelve-week discipleship class. Children receive booklets and do homework as they study the Bible each week. At the end of a class a graduation ceremony is held. At the ceremony each child receives a certificate and a Bible as family members watch from the audience. What an beautiful ministry!

We have given many gifts in the past, and it is encouraging to look back and realize that. Who knows how many children and families have entered the kingdom as a result of your generosity? But let us adopt the Girls in Action motto: GO FORWARD! God has great expectations for us as we continue to participate in the ministry of Operation Christmas Child. And we know we can expect God to do great things as we give!

One of our challenges each year is collecting enough money to pay for shipping. At \$9 per box we needed \$4,200 dollars for last year's boxes. This year, thanks to a great idea shared by of our volunteers, we are asking each family to give \$9 per month to be used for OCC postage. Special envelopes will be provided in the sanctuary, in the Bible Study classrooms, and outside my office. If we all sacrificed an extra \$9 each month (the cost of my meal at Panda Express, for example), we will be able to reach our postage goal! Please prayerfully consider helping in this way.

Finally, Franklin Graham says that the most important item that goes into a shoebox gift is prayer. Please pray for the children who have received boxes in the past, and the children who will receive them in the future. I believe God is using this ministry to do great things. And THANK YOU for your faithfulness to this ministry during the past fifteen years.



Marcy Smith

YOUTH MINISTRY



Josh Miller

Hello Western Heights Family!

One of my son's favorite things is when I dump water on his head after he washes it. There is the build up to it...and then he gets covered in water. He loves it and it's something he looks forward to every day. I was laughing about this the other day and I remembered my baptism. I began to ponder why I did it: the significance of it and the message it showed to others. I asked myself: "Why don't you remember this every day?" Paul tells us in Romans that we as Christ followers are baptized into His death. We are buried with him, so to speak. Because of the vast and immense grace of God, we are called to put to death our sin. Why wouldn't we want to remember this every day? Wait...it gets better. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, our baptism also confirms that we have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. As we rise up from the waters, we are reminded that Christ has saved us from eternal separation from Him to eternal relationship with Him. We are then called to walk in newness of life. So here's the question yet again: "Why do we not remember this every day?" What a great reminder of how God loved us, and how He continues to love us.

Here are some upcoming events in the student ministry:

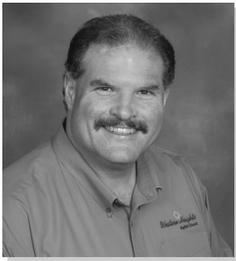
Feb 4: Super Bowl Party: Millers, meet at the church at 5:15

Feb 25: First Camp Meeting 4:30pm

Feb 25: Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

"Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? BY NO MEANS!!! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." —Romans 5.20-6.4

Blessings, Josh



Kip Osborne

CONGREGATIONAL CARE & MUSIC MINISTRY

HARRISON SENIOR CENTER – GAMES AND BROWN BAG LUNCH. The Harrison Center is open Wednesdays from 8AM to 2 PM. Everyone is invited to attend. Let's start impacting this group of seniors as an outreach and ministry of our church. It will be a ministry to others and a blessing to you. It is directly beside the Lion's Club and across the street from Lion's Park. Come increase your sphere of influence. **BRING A LUNCH!** They eat around 11:45 AM each Wednesday. If you enjoy cards, games, and good fellowship, then you will find a great time there.

GOSPEL MUSIC SINGSPARATION – Sunday, Feb. 4th at WHBC @ 6 PM. Sign up if you have a gift of song, instrument, scripture, or poetry to share.

VALENTINE'S DAY BANQUET ON WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14TH in Fellowship Hall at 11 AM. This will be a joint activity between our members and the members of the Harrison Senior Center. Come and enjoy Don's great Valentine meal and LaNell's beautiful decorations while you help us welcome this great group of senior adults as they visit our church. RSVP by calling the church office at 776-2524.!

BRANSON SPRINGTIME JUBILEE – April 23rd to 25th. Preaching, Gospel Music and Christian comedy. \$170 per person double occupancy. Food and non-conference activities on your own, plus a shared gas donation. Sign up by giving a \$50 deposit towards your total fee payment. We had a wonderful trip last year and are looking forward to this great time again!

COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Jeremy Wilson

It may come as a shock to you, but I am a giant Star Wars fan. Who doesn't love a story of light versus dark, good versus evil? For those of you who don't have a clue about the plot or don't care, Luke is our main hero set against our leading antagonist, Darth Vader. In the second movie, which happens to be Episode 5 (weird right?), we find one of the biggest reveals in history. Up until this point, we don't really know who Darth Vader is. He's covered in black machinery and the audience hasn't seen his face. We've been told that Vader betrayed and murdered Luke's father. In the final confrontation of the movie, Darth Vader reveals that he in fact is Luke's father. This shocked everyone in the audience back in those days.

It's pretty hard for us to truly understand, but there was a time when the people of God did not have a full understanding of God. How could they? God is so much deeper than anything you or I could ever comprehend. BUT, God decided to reveal Himself in a very personal way. The Word of God became flesh. Jesus became fully man, just as we are. He experienced thirst and hunger. He felt physical and emotional pain. Jesus dealt with temptation, just as we do. God became a human to fully reveal Himself to us. What would God do in tense situations? Look at Jesus. How does God deal with temptation? Look at Jesus. How would God deal with humanity's sin problem? Look at Jesus.

The faithful to God in the Old Testament lived in hope of this mystery. We are blessed to live in the time where this mystery has been revealed: Jesus, Himself, is God. God abiding with us and in us is our hope. For this reason, we celebrate the Christmas season. For this reason, we celebrate Easter. Because of this, we exist to exalt Christ and proclaim the Gospel to the world.

I will let the text speak for itself. Take a few minutes to read the full passage to yourself. I challenge you to read verses 15 - 23 out loud. Read it like what it really is. It truly is the greatest reveal in history.

God bless, Jeremy

WHBC MINISTERIAL & SUPPORT STAFF

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Sunday Bi-Weekly Financial Report 2018

	Jan 21	Jan 28
Weekly Budget Goal.....	\$9,588.00	\$9,588.00
Weekly Budget Receipts.....	\$4,815.75	\$9,215.62
Budget Receipts..... Month to Date.....	\$29,455.93	\$38,671.55
Budget Expenses.....Month to Date.....	\$38,647.68	\$43,134.28
Designated Receipts.....Month to Date.....	\$4,641.50	\$6,705.50
Budget Goal..... Year to Date.....	\$28,764.00	\$38,352.00
Budget Receipts.....Year to Date.....	\$29,455.93	\$38,671.55
Budget Expenses.....Year to Date.....	\$38,647.68	\$43,134.28
Designated Receipts..... Year to Date.....	\$4641.50	\$6,705.50

Designated Mission Contributions

Lottie Moon

Goal	\$6,000.00
Receipts to Date	\$4,415.20

FAMILY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

February 07

Bake Chicken Fixings

February 14

Pork Loin and Fixings

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

02/04/2018 thru 02/17/2017

Kip Osborne 254-717-6020

Phillip Fields 405-4653

Ricky Berrier 666-9922

Church Phone # 254-776-2524

WESTERN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH VISION CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

February 04, 2018 thru February 17, 2018

Sunday, February 04, 2018

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
5:15 pm Youth Super Bowl Party
5:30 pm Mission Preschool
5:30 pm Bible Buddies/Bible Drill
5:30 pm Gospel Music Singspiration
5:30 pm Small Group Meetings

Monday, February 05

9:00 am Prayer Walkers-Mall
9:30 am With God's Help
6:55 pm BSF Meeting

Tuesday, February 06

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
10:00am Daniel Plan Study
11:00 am Men's Weekly Fellowship Lunch
1:30 pm Ministry Choir
3:45 pm Colonial Kids' Club
6:30 pm College Grow Group

Wednesday, February 07

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:00 am Financial Review
9:30 am Women on Mission
5:15 pm Family Fellowship Meal
6:00 pm Mission Preschool
6:00 pm Children's Choir
6:00 pm Youth Fuel
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm Grow Group Led by Don Deatherage
6:45 pm Team Kid
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 08

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

Friday, February 09

4:30 am BSF Leaders Meeting
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:30 am With God's Help
5:30 pm Kids' Night Out

Saturday February 10

8:00 am Prayer Group Meeting

Sunday, February 11

8:45 am Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am Bible Study
10:30 am Church Library Open
11:15 am Contemporary Worship Service
3:30 pm Mission/Development Comm. Mtg.
4:00 pm Preschool/Children's Comm. Mtg.
5:30 pm Mission Preschool
5:30 pm Bible Buddies/Bible Drill
5:30 pm Adult Bible Study w/Pastor
5:30 pm Small Group Meetings
5:30 pm Youth Sunday Night Live

Monday, February 12

9:00 am Prayer Walkers-Mall
9:30 am With God's Help
6:55 pm BSF Meeting

Tuesday, February 13

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
10:00 am Daniel Plan Study
11:00 am Men's Weekly Fellowship Lunch
1:30 pm Ministry Choir
3:45 pm Colonial Kids' Club
6:30 pm College Grow Group

Wednesday, February 14

9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:00 am Financial Review
11:00 am Valentine Day Luncheon
2:00 pm Vision Folders
4:00 pm Sandy Patty Concert
5:15 pm Family Fellowship Meal
6:00 pm Mission Preschool
6:00 pm Children's Choir
6:00 pm Youth Fuel
6:30 pm Prayer Meeting
6:30 pm Grow Group Led by Don Deatherage
7:30 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, February 15

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

Friday, February 16

4:30 am BSF Leaders Meeting
9:00 am Prayer Walkers/Mall
9:30 am With God's Help

Saturday, February 17

8:00 am Prayer Group Meeting

WELCOME VISITORS

January 21, 2018

Jase Denton, Katavia Cloud, Korben Ellis, Nalizah Mathews, Susan Gillentine

January 28

Susan Gillentine, Jane Bostick, Sam Toback

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY, JANUARY

Out of the Ashes by Tracie Peterson

Guideposts books:

Stealing Santa by Elizabeth Adams

A Monumental Mystery by Amy Woods

Large print books:

The Pieces of Summer by Wanda Brunstetter

The Hawaiian Quilt by Wanda Brunstetter

A Sensible Arrangement by Tracie Peterson

A Tapestry of Hope by Tracie Peterson

A Moment in Time by Tracie Peterson

A Love Woven True by Tracie Peterson

The Pattern of Her Heart by Tracie Peterson

A Matter of Heart by Tracie Peterson

The Promise of Dawn by Lauraine Snelling

A gift from Julia Bowden:

Sugarcreek Amish Mysteries [Guidepost series, 25 vols.]

YOUTH MINISTRY CHILI COOK-OFF

The Chili Cook-Off will be Sunday, February 25 at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. This annual fundraiser supports our students who are attending youth camp. Everyone is invited to submit a chili for the contest. And everyone is invited to taste the recipes that are entered! There will also be a dessert auction, so feel free to submit your favorite dessert. There will be prizes for the top 3 dishes. To submit a chili or dessert, please contact Josh Miller at (254) 776-2524 or josh@whbcwaco.org.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle is a group of seniors (55+) that meet together once a month, on the last Tuesday evening of the month from 6PM to 8PM, in the GARDEN ROOM. Please enter through the sliding glass doors. Please plan to arrive before 6PM, as the sliding glass doors will be locked at 6PM. The doors are locked for safety reasons. This is a time for fellowship, sharing a potluck meal and table games. For more information please contact Mary Ann or Dan Bailey (254) 751-7979.

SECRET CHURCH - SATURDAY, APRIL 21, NOON-6:00

Secret Church is our version of "house church" where we meet for an intense time of Bible study—lasting 6+ hours—including a time of prayer for our brothers and sisters across the globe who are facing persecution and for those who still have not heard the gospel. Please note: this event is open to youth and adults of all ages!

This year's topic is "Cults and Counterfeit Gospels." For the good of our souls and for the sake of the church's mission, followers of Christ need to ask, "What false gospels are being taught today?" and "How can I recognize the true gospel among so many counterfeits?" Answering these questions will be the aim of Secret Church 18, "Cults and Counterfeit Gospels."

To register for this event, or for more information, please contact Jeremy Wilson at (931) 315-0147 or jeremy@whbcwaco.org.

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

Kids' Night Out will be Friday, February 9 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 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 6. A medical release form is also required for each child. You may make a reservation by calling the office, or you may register online at <http://whbcwaco.org/ministries-events/events>. Kids' Night Out is open to the community, so please tell your friends! If you have any questions, please contact in the office at 776-2524, or via email at marcy@whbcwaco.org.