

WBC NEWSLETTER

February 2024



**WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH EXISTS TO
GLORIFY GOD THROUGH THE ADVANCEMENT OF
HIS KINGDOM BY TRUSTING IN THE POWER OF
GOD IN THE GOSPEL TO SAVE SOULS AND
TRANSFORM LIVES.**

A WORD FROM OUR ELDERS

Do you approach church more like a marriage or fast-food? There are largely two ways to look at church, the first is very similar to cereals at the grocery store. We want a church that has all the right ingredients for what we need and appreciate. The following is a list of church ingredients, see if these are the ingredients that matter to you: teach the Bible as God's Word, lead people to faithfully share the gospel in their community and around the world, seek to disciple the next generation, provide an opportunity for authentic Christian community, worship music on Sunday that richly communicates the truths of Scripture, and opportunities to serve in meaningful ministries. Would you add anything else to this list? The list sounds so good, and is filled with critical godly attributes, but finding a church that has all these things can still cause us to miss the point. The problem is the Bible's insistence that if you approach church in this manner your heart is probably hardened by sin.

Even if we improve upon the list of ingredients the issue is the same; church is one of the products and services we consume. Take marriage as an example, a young person looking for the right characteristics in a spouse will often site similar things: Christian, you complement each other well, you are good friends, attracted to them, etc. A few years down the road in marriage and the person says, my spouse no longer has the ingredients I am looking for in a husband or wife. At that point do they say, I have fallen out of love and I am no longer happy, so I am going to find someone else? It is at this point (one virtually all marriages come to) when you find out if the couple believes marriage is consumer relationship or an *actual covenant commitment - where the good of the relationship supersedes the good of the individual*.

David Brooks, speaking to Christian college presidents, described the correlation between covenant relationships and the formation of our nature in Christ well.

"For most of us, our inner nature is formed by that kind of covenant, in which the good of the relationship takes place and precedence over the good of the individual. For all of us ... life doesn't come from how well you keep your options open but how well you close them off and realize a higher freedom."

It is in the covenant commitments of marriage - "I'm going to be here through thick and thin" - by which God makes you a better version of yourself. Because it is in this environment that the other person can point out a flaw or give unsolicited advice without chasing you off. And you know that if you are going to value the relationship you will have to address their concern.

This concept of covenant commitment is the basis for Hebrews 3:12-14:

"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."

The key warning in the passage - "leading you to fall away from the living God." We are able to avoid falling away from the living God by the exhortation of one another. To be exhorted is to be urged or challenged by other people to operate in a manner different than you currently behave. Because *deceitful sin will only be addressed by unsolicited advice*. This does not come from a consumer relationship but a covenant one.

For instance, if I love going to Chick-Fila because of their waffle fries, but one day they explain that I should really refrain from the fries and enjoy a fruit cup instead. They go on to tell me I clearly need to watch my diet. I will respond, "how dare you comment on my weight. I am not paying you to be a health instructor, I am paying you to be food choices, either give me the fries (a large please) or I am going somewhere else."

So, although I may need to be challenged or urged to modify my diet, I feel that they have no right to make such a statement to me. I am not going to stick around an establishment that tries to tell me how to live, because they are there to serve me fast food!

Hebrews 3 is premised on the idea that you have a covenant commitment, similar in nature to marriage, to a local church. Where they can get to know you well enough to offer actual exhortation regarding sin and hardening. It is only when we value the relationship with other people in our church more than our own self-interest that we will receive unsolicited advice. It is only when I desire to stay in a committed relationship with a local church, that I will feel the right pressure to consider someone's concern.

Pastor Mitch

WBC PRAYER FOCUS

WBC PRAYER MINISTRY:

“Prayer Matters”

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

Psalm 19:14

February focus for many is the idea of hearts and love. As Christians, we often reflect on two truths from the Bible during February.

1. The truth presented by the sacrificial love of our Redeemer for us demonstrated in the Old Testament (Isaiah 53:5-7) and the New Testament (Romans 5:8).
2. David is spoken of as “a man after God’s own heart” in both the Old Testament (1 Samuel 13:14) and the New Testament (Acts 13:22).

David lived before Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was made visible, however, he knew scripture and talked with God often. He is thought to have written many of the Psalms himself. David was a devoted follower of God. He wrote often of his love for scripture, its benefits, guidance, and truths for living. Psalm 103 is filled with praise and awe and thanksgiving to the Lord. It appears to be written out of a heart which must love God deeply. Perhaps, revealing the writer, David, to be “a man after God’s own heart.”

In Psalm 19:14, we see part of David’s heart revealed in his desire that his words and meditations (thoughts and reflections) be acceptable to God. David’s path for being that “man after God’s own heart” came through him spending time building a relationship with God and his desire to know and to do as God instructed – including living in faith that God was faithful and true to the promises David learned from the scripture he studied and truths learned about God’s character from scriptures of God’s steadfast love, mercies, forgiveness, etc. These truths from scripture and David’s many times of pursuit of God in both times of adoration or struggle, grew him to be a man who believed God in faith and sought God as his Lord. .and his Rock and Redeemer. David’s desire for pleasing God was his love for God revealed through his pursuit of relationship with God because of his belief in God’s love for him. Scripture teaches us of God’s steadfast love – David believed it. And, Christ proved it, on the cross.

As we regularly read scripture and think about God’s love, we see even more how worthy HE is of our praise! It will fuel our prayer lives for one another and others, affect our daily words and meditations, and likely deepen our heart relationship with our Lord and with others!

“The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”

Luke 6:45

PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY



PRAYERS FOR SALVATION:

Kayla, Emilee, Stephen, Joshua,
James, Josh, Jessie, Robert

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING:

Family of Joe Schrader, Joyce
Beatty, Michael and Dianah
Minges, Robert Willard, Terry
Collins' daughter Marsha,



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

STRENGTHENING & BUILDING OUR
Community
THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER

Community Prayer
Gathering
First Saturday of Each Month
February 3
9:30-10:30am
WBC Sanctuary

Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ
from area churches to pray and believe that
God's Word in 2 Chronicles 7:14 is true for today



HOW CAN WE
PRAY
FOR YOU?

To initiate a prayer, call the
church office or visit
wbclowell.com/connect/prayer

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

♥ **HAPPY**
Valentine's
DAY ♥

we ♥
Volunteers

*If you have a heart
to serve as part of our
Woodlawn Kids Ministry Team
(Elementary or Preschool),
we would love to serve with you!*

*If interested, please contact
Crystal Watkins in the church
office or Linda Barnhill
(Preschool) or Melissa Botts
(K-5th). Volunteers must be church
members and pass a
background check.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

***K-5th Valentine's Day Celebration**
Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7pm

***Kids Ministry Vision Luncheon** for all Parents,
Volunteers, and Interested Volunteers on
Sunday, Feb 25 at 12:15 in the gym



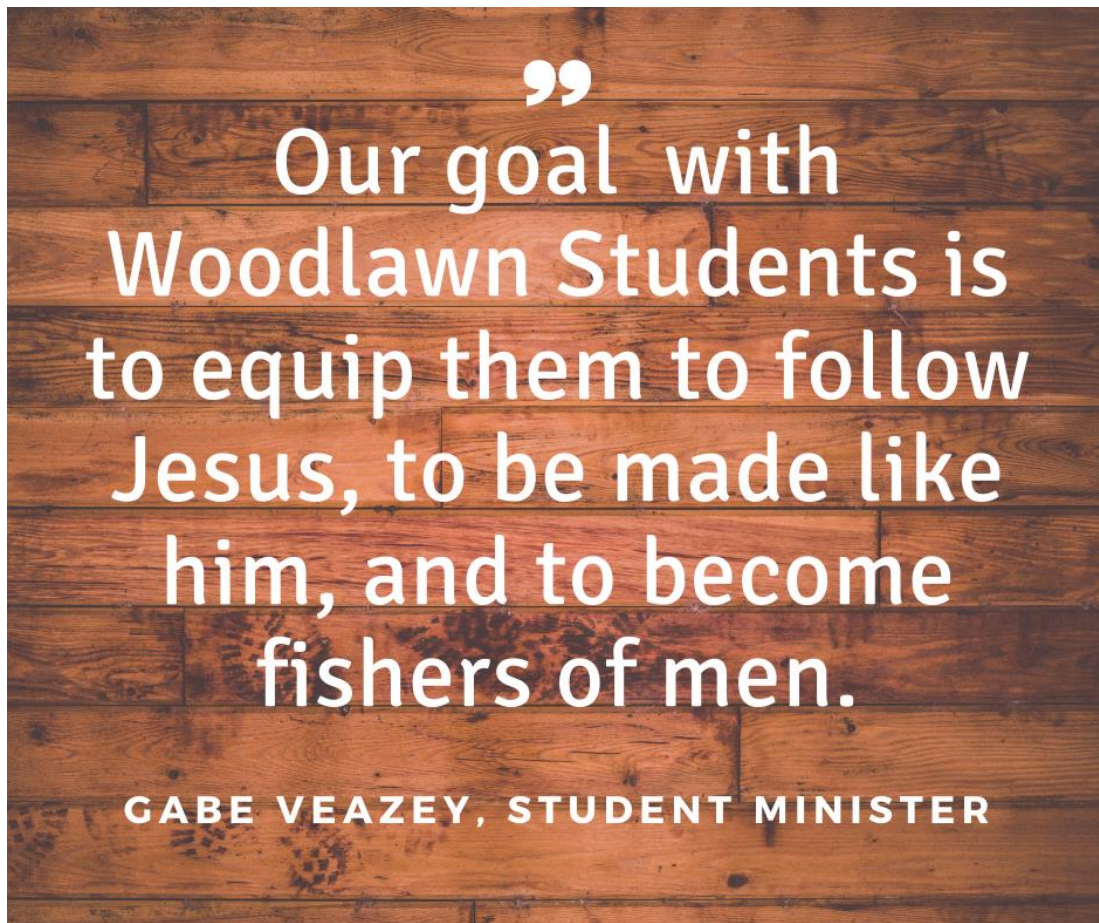
*Serve One Another
in Love*




Weekly Ministries

Sundays 9:45am Sunday School
11:00am Kids Worship(K-3rd),
Preschool Worship
Wednesdays 7:00pm KidsROC
(Kids Rely on Christ)

STUDENTS



ADULTS

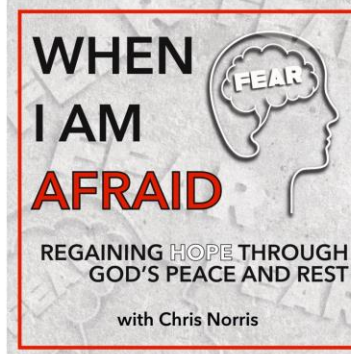
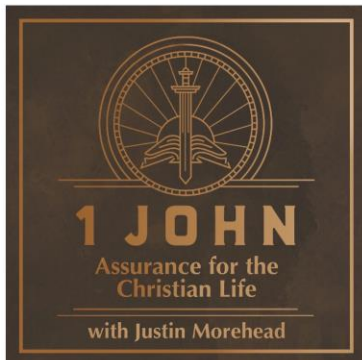
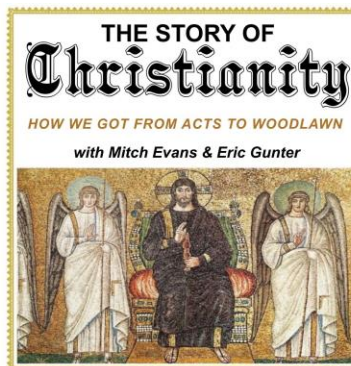


Women's Ministry
Coffee & Conversation
February 20.
6pm
Floyd and Blackies, Cramerton
All women are invited to join us for
coffee and fellowship

**EVERYONE
WELCOME**

BEYOND
THE BASICS

**February 4, 25,
March 3, 10, 24**



**BEGINNING
FEBRUARY 21,
7PM**

Age 50 and older

Young at Heart
SENIOR MINISTRY



Multi-Purpose Room
Tuesday February 6, 6pm
Bring a covered dish and a dollar for the kitty

MEN'S BREAKFAST
1ST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH
FEBRUARY 1, 6:30AM

SHORT STUDY/DEVOTION
CALL THE CHURCH
OFFICE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
OR VISIT THE WEBSITE



LOWELL CRISIS MINISTRY



**FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY
WE WILL BE COLLECTING:**

CANOLA OIL AND BOXED LIQUID MILK

**THE FOOD PANTRY IS NOW OPEN ON
WEDNESDAYS FROM 9AM-NOON**

Woodlawn Food Pantry is Reaching Our Community.

Since we first opened our doors and introduced food for our fellow citizens in Lowell our vision was to feed the immediate problem of hunger. Since this time of humble beginnings, and over the following years, we expanded and began the intentionality of introducing the Gospel as a vital means of response to the immediate problem. Without the Gospel there is no real change and no real reason for meeting any need. Without God's truth, reason is not reached in the life of an individual because the immediate reason is based on a temporal outcome without God's love.

As a Gospel centered "Food Pantry" we are reaching our community in ways that are far beyond bodily needs, we are reaching people with God's Word. In other words, we are feeding our community with real food that transforms a person by introducing them to the true God of the Bible, the Creator Himself.

Woodlawn Baptist Church will address and minister to the social issue of hunger by providing nourishing food items to families within our congregation and surrounding community trusting in the Lord to expand our program as the need increases.

Our "Food Pantry" is here to serve those who come to our pantry, with compassion and respect and with a Christ-like servant attitude. We remain open to listening and working diligently to meet the needs of the individuals and families in our community.

As the body of Christ, we encourage all members to help us reach this specific need in our community through giving, prayer, and reaching those in need by letting us know who may benefit from this assistance ministry so that we as a church may proclaim the gospel, feed the hungry, by planting and watering that God may give growth.

"So, neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. (1 Corinthians 3:7-9)

How Can You Help? ... Volunteer! ... Donate! ... Give!

The "Food Pantry" depends on the help of the congregation and the community to continue this valuable service for those that need assistance. **Please Help!**

To Volunteer - please contact the church office at (704) 824-4261 or text Tom Robb (deacon) (330) 412-9699.

To Donate Food - to the "Food Pantry" stop by on Wednesdays from 9am-noon or during church office hours of operation. Particular needs will be listed in the Church bulletin each week. Please check expiration dates of items donated; we only accept items that are not expired.

To Give a Monetary Donation - please stop by during church office hours of operations, give online or send a check to Woodlawn Baptist Church (Food Pantry in the memo line), We use your monetary donations to purchase food and for pantry operational costs

MEN'S MINISTRY

Woodlawn Men's Ministry



Friendships

One of the things I find interesting and yet also dispiriting is the fact that most men have many acquaintances but very few if any real friends. Their conversations are superficial, brief, and without real meaning. For the most part men are spiritually fed, but relationally bankrupt. This is regretful and can be counter-intuitive by not serving a useful function within the body as few men have close friendships in the church.

One thing that is expressed over and over again through survey's, mens questionnaires, and groups dealing with men's fellowship is that the greatest need of men today is close friendships among men. This need for close, trusted relationships with other men proves to be a compelling need amongst most men, regardless of race or culture. Men are looking for brothers in the spiritual sense that will become real, true and long time best friend relationships.

In spite of what is believed about men, there is a great need among brothers who will come alongside to encourage, exhort, and love them. By this each one through this Godly, Biblical relationship will see hope in their own lives and the innate need to turn to that relationship for help in times of difficulty. This is what Jesus meant when he spoke these words: "34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." **(John 13:34-35)**

Encouragement, exhortation, and love kindle hope. Mature men labor together in God's kingdom by taking this hope to his family, his friends, and this world.

Men struggle with this role in leadership despite the clear mandate to "love one another," most men have a difficult time having genuine relationships in the church. And yet when quizzed many would say that they would love to have friends with whom they can count - brothers that truly matter! A response by Pat Morley, in his book "Man in the Mirror, is helpful and offers a list of questions that are practical and timely in our quest for the definition of a quality man-to-man relationship.

1. When things go badly, to whom do you talk?
2. With whom can you be totally honest?
3. Who will listen to you?
4. From whom would you take advice?

5. When you fail, who will stand by you?
6. With whom do you face life's struggles?
7. Who is your confidant?
8. Who holds you accountable?

If men are to become successful in ministry they must develop a system that will guide them in making lasting and significant friendships. Without this men are fated to continue feeling lonely, isolated and without hope. If we are to build a biblical ministry to men we must focus our time in relationships that matter and not just the program and their ministry involvement.

(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

A Biblical “Men’s Ministry” is developed by God’s Word, lived through the Word of God, and cultivated within the people of God.

Stephen Abbott

MUSIC MINISTRY

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

God has created music as a means of worshiping him! We have all experienced music's ability to enhance and stir our passions. I believe that music is intentionally designed in this way. When we attach the truths of Scripture to the songs we sing we can see very clearly why God has designed music this way! I pray that our love for the Lord would continue to deepen as a result of singing together each week.

Rehearsal for Singers!

- * If you are interested in helping us lead our congregation in worship through music, please join us for our weekly rehearsal on Wednesday evenings 6-7pm!**

Instrumentalists!

- * If you play an instrument and would like to talk about serving the church through music please reach out via email!**

justin@woodlawnbaptist-lowell.com

WHAT'S GOING ON AT WOODLAWN?

Sunday morning services:

**Sunday school for all ages
9:45am**

**Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00am**

**Sunday morning worship
live at 11:00am
www.wbclowell.com**

**Services are archived on our
website for your viewing
convenience.**

Wednesday Evening

At Woodlawn 7-8pm

**Adults-Prayer and Bible
Study - Gym**

**Preschoolers – Preschool
Department-Ed Bldg.**

**Children – Children's
Department-Ed Bldg.**

**Students
Student Room-Ed Bldg.**



**Sunday,
February 18
11am**

The
Lord's
Supper



Micha Mueller

**Jeff and Ashley Moon
and their son Owen**

SPECIAL OCCASIONS - FEBRUARY 2024

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1 Landon Hammons
5 Justin Morehead
7 Lydia Riley
14 Jeremy Eastburn
21 Emily Swindell
26 Rick Fowler
26 Michael Watkins

2 Elizabeth Clements
6 Jordan Crowl
12 April Bowden
19 Elias Veazey
24 Eddie Calvert
26 Lauren Gunter

2 Larry Simonds
7 Judah Demaree
13 Chris Crowl
21 Evie Grant
24 Sheila Langley
26 Russ Sprinkles

Happy Anniversary

14

Jim and Jeanne Maricle

14

James and Jessica Sears

Bible reading plan

- ❖ Read through the Bible in a year
- ❖ Read through the New Testament
- ❖ Read through the Bible Chronologically
- ❖ Read through Mark

Call the church office if you would like to have a copy of one of these reading plans.

WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH **STAFF**

Lead Pastor: Mitch Evans
mitch@wbclowell.com

Music and Discipleship Pastor
Justin Morehead
justin@wbclowell.com

Student Minister – Gabe Veazey
gabe@wbclowell.com

Volunteer Elder – Chris Norris

Volunteer Elder – Don Trapp

Ministry Assistant: Crystal Watkins
admin@wbclowell.com

The WBC Newsletter is a monthly
publication for Woodlawn Baptist
Church
1101 N. Main St.
Lowell, NC 28098
Phone: 704-824-4261

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY
THRU
THURSDAY
8AM – 4PM**

FINANCIAL DIGEST **AS OF DECEMBER 2023**

INCOME YEAR TO DATE

\$449,834.85

OFFERING DECEMBER 2023

\$53,817.50

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2022-105

DECEMBER 2023 - 101

WORSHIP

DECEMBER 2022- 146

DECEMBER 2023 - 141

**Woodlawn Baptist Church is
happy to allow members to
use our facilities.**

We just ask that you complete a
“Facilities Use Form” and give it to the
Ministry Assistant so she can be sure
there are no scheduling conflicts and
can add your event to the church
calendar. The “Facilities Use Forms”
are available in the church office or
workroom.

MISSIONS



Factors to consider for Missionary Homes Part One

Just like everyone else missionaries must consider the type of housing they will live in. A large variety of personal choices go into selecting a home.

Some missionaries I have met have

lived in housing that is maybe too nice to live in compared to those they are trying to reach. Others go hardcore and live in dirt floor huts and eat bugs. Even the locals would frown upon it. After some time on the mission field, it is usually best to let the missionary struggle with this balance as they get to know the people they will reach. The picture above was the headquarters for our missions board in the capital Edinburgh. The top floor was where the local missionary/director lived. The middle floor had several rooms where missionaries would stay for short visits. For longer visits or new missionaries, they would stay on the ground floor. The ground floor had a kitchen. The new missionaries would stay there until they decided where they would serve. We stayed there quite often. The front of the ground floor was a film studio. The coolest thing about this house was the mahogany staircase with long banisters. I always wanted to slide down the banisters but was never allowed. For our own family choices, we lived in three different houses over our 11-year career. During our first term, we rented a house across the street from the missionaries we were replacing. In our second term, we rented what is called a council house. Our rent went to the town council. It is similar but a little bit more upscale than what we would call the projects. Both of these houses were in the same town as our work and only a few miles from the church. In our third term, we bought a house for several reasons. One reason is that we had moved from Hawick to Glasgow which is more centrally located. My dad's focus had changed from church planting to becoming a fill-in missionary. He filled in for other missionaries when they needed to go home as he was now an experienced missionary. This was needed as several works had fallen into disarray when the missionary left for a period of time. From Glasgow, he oversaw the works in Sterling, Paisley, and Bishopbriggs. Picking a home is important to enable you to reach the locals with the gospel.



Pates in Brazil

Pates in Brazil Brian has the opportunity to teach church leaders in Jacareacanga. Say that 5x fast. “During the day, we fished with the men down river. At night, we taught basic Christian doctrine. Please pray God will strengthen these churches to reach isolated regions with the gospel.”



German Interns

Please continue to pray for our interns as they study and bring the gospel back to their churches.

Missions Geography 101 / Belgium

People Groups/Unreached: 95/29 Capital: Brussels Distance from Lowell: 4263 miles Primary Religion: Christianity 64.4% Population/Unreached: 11,659,,000/916,000 Evangelical: 1.48% Scripture: Complete Bible



2023-2024 Deacon Family and Ministry Assignments

VICE CHAIRMAN - Ross Bradley – A – Bea
Bereavement, Fellowship

Jeremy Eastburn – Beb – Cal
Counseling, Benevolence

CHAIRMAN - George Gates – Cam - Eva
Finance, Missions

Stephen Abbott – Evb - F
Decorations, Men's Ministry

Tom Robb – G-Ham
Women's Ministry, Food Pantry

SECRETARY - Tom Botts – Han - J
Audio Visual, Website

Buddy Herndon – K-McG
Building and Grounds, Young at Heart

Tony Watkins – McH - Pat
Security, Children, Baptism

Sean Moore - Pau - Re
Recreation

Gabe Veazey – Rf – Sc
Recreation, Students

Buddy Barnhill – Sd – Sut
Prayer, Greeters, Children

Chris Rodgers – Suu – Z
Bus, Building and Grounds

**YOUR DEACONS ON DUTY FOR
FEBRUARY
SEAN MOORE AND BUDDY BARNHILL**