

November 30, 2025

West Hill

Church of Christ

Walk and Work Together in the Light

A True Story

By Steve Higgibotham

I once was asked by a preacher friend to go with him to visit a man who had become unfaithful to the Lord. We arrived at his little run-down shack, where he was staying, and he invited us in. As we opened the door, cigarette smoke literally billowed out the door. As we entered the tiny shack, the smoke was so heavy in the air that it was difficult to breathe. The man was sitting in a chair, holding a beer, and the woman he was living with, outside of marriage, was lying on a make-shift cot in the same room.

The entire time we tried to talk to him about his soul, he listened quietly while continuing to drink his beer. What I didn't tell you is that the man we went to visit that day used to be a faithful gospel preacher. He came from a Christian family, graduated from a Christian University, preached for several congregations, but was most known for the books and biblical tracts he had written.

But things went tragically wrong in this man's life. He began a life of drinking and womanizing destroyed his marriage, his usefulness in the church, and his relationship with God.

After turning his heart away from God for a season, he sat in a small, dark, smoke-filled room, drinking his beer, his life in shambles. In the corner of that small room were boxes that reached to the ceiling, containing the books and tracts that he had written. They stood almost as a monument of his prior usefulness, and a final vestige of the man he used to be.

The last time I saw this man, we were sitting on the front pew of the church building where I preached. He was drunk, thick-tongued, and his speech was slurred. As we sat there, he openly wept aloud over his wasted life and expressed hope that God would understand. Not too long after this meeting, he died from complications of his drinking.

I share this story with you as a warning. Don't deceive yourself into thinking these things couldn't happen to you. A wasted life is always just one decision away. Yes, we can always return to God in repentance, and He will receive us back. But returning to God does not undo the damage to our bodies, our health, our families, our reputations, and the church.

His life was a tragic waste, but he will ever serve to remind me of what can happen to anyone, even faithful gospel preachers, who choose to walk in the paths of sinners. May we so choose to live so that when we reach the end of our lives, we do not have to lament in sorrow and regret.

Sunday: Worship 10:30am & Class 5:00pm

Tuesday: Benevolence 9:00-10:00am & Young at Heart Class 10:30am

Wednesday: Class 6:30pm

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Wise as Serpents & Harmless as Doves

Text: Matthew 10:16-26

What I Am: _____

Context of Passage: Matt.10:1 – Jesus sends out the disciples.

Jesus uses similes...

- We are _____ in the midst of _____.
- Be wise as _____ & harmless as _____.

Jesus calls us to come follow Him and then he sends us out to the world to make _____.

How to Be Wise as Serpents When Engaging the World:

1. Know your _____ (v.17)
 - a. Paul – Acts 13 & 17
 - b. Jesus Matt. 8:5 - “Great _____.” Matt. 23:27
- _____.
 - c. Who are you _____ to?
2. Thoughtful _____ (v. 19)
 - a. Prov. 15:1 - A _____ answer vs _____ word.
 - b. Use _____
 - c. Speak _____ in _____ (Eph. 4:15)
 - d. _____ Conversations (Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:29)
3. Close _____ (21-26)
 - a. “ _____, _____,
& _____”

Balance It

<u>Wise as Serpents</u>	<u>Harmless as Doves</u>
Strategic	_____
Discerning	_____
Strong Boundaries	_____
Truth	_____
Bold	_____

Sabios como serpientes e inofensivos como palomas

Texto: Mateo 10:16-26

Lo que soy: _____

Contexto del pasaje: Mateo 10:1 – Jesús envía a los discípulos.

Jesús usa símiles ...

- Estamos _____ en medio de _____.
- Sé sabio tan _____ e inofensivo como _____.

Jesús nos llama a venir a seguirlo y luego nos envía al mundo para hacer _____.

Cómo ser sabios como serpientes al interactuar con el mundo:

1. Conoce tu _____ (v.17)
 - a. Pablo – Hechos 13 y 17
 - b. Jesús Mateo 8:5 - “Gran _____.” Mateo 23:27 - _____.
 - c. ¿A quién le estás _____?
2. Pensativo _____ (v. 19)
 - a. Prov. 15:1 - Una respuesta _____ versus una palabra _____.
 - b. Usar _____
 - c. Habla _____ en _____ (Efesios 4:15)
 - d. _____ Conversaciones (Col. 4:6; Efe. 4:29)
3. Cerrar _____ (21-26)
 - a. “ _____, _____ y _____”

Equilibrarlo

<u>Sabios como serpientes</u>	<u>Inofensivos como las palomas</u>
Estratégico	_____
Discernimiento	_____
Límites fuertes	_____
Verdad	_____
Atrevido	_____



Winter Retreat is for
grades 6th-12 and will be
Jan. 16-18, 2026.
Register by Dec. 21, 2025



W I N T E R R E T R E A T
January 16-18, 2026

T3 (Teach the Truth) is
geared for high school
age youth.



1 CORINTHIANS 9:24-27
DISCIPLINED
T3 FEBRUARY 13-15, 2026

Church Leadership & Westhill Works

Deacons

David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645
Casey Hendrix - 817.307.2127
Michael Jones - 430.236.2244
Matt Newman - 972.935.5789
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457
David Shastid - 903.257.6464
Jose Sosa - 903.872.0535
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052
Mike Wylie - 214.837.3848
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

Shepherds

Scott Barham - 903.641.0133
Percell Milton - 214.803.2644
Rusty Owens - 903.229.3650
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464

Ministers

Anthony Warnes - 430.775.0196 (Pulpit)
Brandon Watson - 903.771.6359 (Family)
Samuel Ramirez 325.436.1051 (Spanish)

Staff

Jay Mahoney - 903.467.9093 (Office)

Community Outreach

Addiction [Recovery](#) Counseling
Benevolence Program

Food for Fitness

Forever His
Wed. Night Focus Groups
Spanish ESL Classes

Local Missions

Apologetics Press - Jeremy Pate
Bear Valley - Wayne Jones
Cherokee Children's Home
Disaster Relief
The Jenkins Institute
Memphis School of Preaching
WVBS school.wvbs.org

U.S. Mission Points

Tilton, NH & Mesa, AZ

Foreign Missions

Cameroon Preacher Training
India Preacher Training

Prayer Needs:

Cam Haden recovering from back surgery.

Tanya Rowden preparing for knee replacement surgery 12/3.

Steve Gaines heart surgery on 12/5 to repair a heart defect.

Ruth Ann Watson began dialysis.

Patty Williams is recovering from pneumonia at home.

Tanya Rowden's daughter, Tiffany Smith, recovering from heart bypass surgery in Longview, TX.

Continue to remember: Bronny & Ruth Watson, Dan & Rita Dominy, Eula Henry, John Braly, Louie & Patty Williams, Nick Tooley, Bill & Beverly Abercrombie, Beverly Heathcote, David Mahoney, Millard & Martha Dowdle, Carol Barham, Judi Olsen, & Joseph Haden

This Week's Birthdays

November 30 - Jackson Aldama, Cynthia Baumgartner, & Becky Newman

December 1 - Patty Williams

December 3 - Otis Perryman

December 4 - Grant Ecord

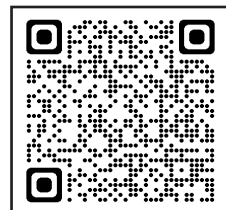
Records for November 16, 2025

AM Worship..... 271

Contribution \$7,060

Visitor Form

Thank you for joining us for worship! We would love to follow-up with you...



Announcements:

5th Sunday Format - Everyone is invited to stay for a fellowship lunch immediately following morning service. Food theme will be sandwich, finger foods, and complimentary desserts. We will reconvene at around 1pm for a service led by our young men to aid in their leadership training.

Cherokee Christmas Kids gifts are due by today.

Save the Date! Join us for the WOW Ladies' Retreat — Jan. 30–31, 2026! Theme: "You Can Do Hard Things" with our own Lindsay Olsen. Registration Open.

English Second Language Classes (ESL) - 3rd & 4th Wed. Nights of each month @6:30pm.

Spanish Bible Classes Sun & Wed. Night.

Young at Heart Class meets on Tues. @ 10:30am.

Westhill ARC (Addiction Recovery Counseling) meets weekly - contact Jay Mahoney

Staffed nursery available for babies up to 2 yr old.
Nursery Attendant this week: **Josie Horn**

Privileged to Serve

AM Song Leader

Zach Drain

AM Opening Prayer

Scott Barham

Scripture Reading

David Shastid

Communion Leader

Casey Hendrix

Communion Servers

Brent Stewart

Listan Ellis

Mike Wylie

James Olsen

Eli Haden

Joel Haden

Isaac Haden

Clay Jackson

Robby Thomas

Dillan Parrish

AM Closing Prayer

Paul Stewart

PM 5th Sunday Format

Young Men

Wed. Song Leader

Marcus Dancer

Wed. Invitation

Cash Hendrix

Nov. Worship Coord.

Michael Jones / J. Mahoney

Nov. Elder of Month

Percell Milton