



# Truth for Today

February 7, 2021

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

## What Can I Do To Help This Church Grow?

by Paul White

In the title, I have mentioned a term that is both misused and misunderstood today in so many religious circles. I fully acknowledge that what some imply by use of the term “grow” or “church growth” may not necessarily fit God’s meaning or measure of growth. So, let me state in the beginning that when I speak of growth in this article, I have in mind both numerical and spiritual growth while fully acknowledging that both are sourced in God. God both enables and empowers us to grow spiritually but we must avail ourselves of His help. And God alone gives the increase. So when we speak of numerical and/or spiritual growth we must rely on God and give Him, and Him alone the glory for all good growth.

But my title suggests that there is something each Christian can do to help bring about growth. Regardless of your age or how long you have been a Christian, there are some specific things each can do to help this local church grow. So rather than talking about, thinking about, theorizing about what can’t be done, it’s time to consider what each can and must be doing to help this church grow.

### **First, every member should set a righteous example.**

Peter admonishes us, “Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY” (1 Pet.1:13-16). Living lives of holiness says we’ve risen above sin and that we have consecrated ourselves to God and His service. Peter says we are to be holy *in all our conduct*. Each is to be a righteous example. When you struggle with the issue of a right example, just ask yourself the question, “What would Jesus do?” Think about it...would Jesus use such language? Would Jesus treat others this way? Would Jesus put pride before principle? If we’ll be honest, we know how Jesus would have us live before others. We just need to do a better job at times letting our light shine before men. We perhaps need to take more seriously our responsibility in the area of influencing others for good and not evil (Matt.5:13-16). People need to see the fruit of the Spirit

(love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control), and not the carnality of our own stubborn will. We can “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (Tit.2:10). Each can let the beauty of Jesus be seen. This is something every member can and must do...set a righteous example.

**Secondly, every member can be more positive.** More positive in our conversations with others about the God we serve and trust. More positive in our conversations about our Bible classes; leadership; our worship assemblies, and about those men who take an active part in leading us in worship. Now, don’t misunderstand me. I’m not recommending that we ignore those areas where improvement is needed. Nor am I suggesting that every comment being made must be positive. However, what should be present in every member is a readiness to encourage the good, commend the effort, and praise the noble heart, before we seek to correct or criticize. Otherwise, the needed criticism offered at times fails to be constructive. We must not dwell on the few areas of mediocrity, while ignoring the many things that are done really well. Let us look first at what’s being done right before we complain about or criticize what we think is being done wrong. Each member should be more positive, and exercise patience in those areas where improvement is needed.

**Finally, every member must remain focused.** Jesus said it this way, “The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth” (Matt. 6:22-24). Simply put, we must give ourselves in full surrender to Christ. So that when He tells us to seek the lost, we will commit ourselves to doing just that. And when He tells us to be controlled by His word and not by greed, we will set our affections on things above, and not on the material things of this life (Col. 3:1-3). And when He tells us to put the interests of others ahead of ourselves, we will find it easier to swallow our pride, and yield ourselves for the good of others.

You see, these are things we ALL can do, and must be doing if we desire growth in the kingdom. What will YOU do?

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Imogene Hodges** had a successful procedure last Thursday to stabilize her heart rhythm.
- **Nathan and Christy Shows** are recovering from an upper respiratory infection and feeling lousy – but COVID negative in testing. Boys have fevers.
- **Tonya Clark's** mother **Alberta Hurn ("Burt")** is undergoing radiation treatments for her cancer and more tests to determine if the cancer is contained.
- **Christy Show's** mother, **Christina Robson**, is in Methodist Woodlands, in ICU, due to COVID complications. Currently, she has improved her O2 levels but had an Afib episode early Tuesday morning. She was intubated and had to be completely sedated on Wednesday due to low Oxygen, but levels improved.
- **Mark Birdwell** was released from the hospital on Tuesday. He is recovering from Pneumonia and complications of COPD at home and appreciates our prayers.
- **Willie Ray's** brother, Lonnie Ray has been moved from the VA to MD Anderson with diagnosis of CoVID and Cancer. He is very weak. Please pray.
- **Stacie Bohanan's** brother, Patrick had emergency surgery on Thursday to replace a brain shunt. Diagnosis was diverticulitis and short bowel obstruction.
- **MOMs-to-be: Reagan Reed** (due April 12) and **Alix Randow** (due April 23).

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | TBA.
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | 2/7 6:30 at the Davis'
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA.
- **YOUNG ADULTS HOME STUDY** | TBA
- **ADULTS HOME STUDY** [30/40] | TBA.
- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** | 2/7, 4:00 pm
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with *Ed Brand* | TBD
- **VBS** | 6/22-25\* (\*Tue-Fri)
- **YOUTH LECTURES** with *Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison* | 8/7-8
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with *Mike Wilson* | 9/26-29
- **WOMEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 10/9
- **MEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 11/6

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Brian Clark if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.
- **WORKDAY/WORKWEEK** | February 25-27 | We need people who could climb scaffolding, ladders, repair dry-wall and ceiling paint, and help with tasks on the floor. Each day's tasks will

be different so check in with George Chapman if you can help either Thursday, Friday and/or Saturday and the times that you can help.

- **A SPECIAL NEED** has been set up by Hailey Boniche for friends of her family, the Garcia family, who have experienced substantial loss over the last year. She has set up a GoFundMe if you are willing and able to help. See the link in the Enews.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.

## THROUGH THE NT IN 2021

### FEBRUARY

- 1 | Acts 5
- 2 | Acts 6
- 3 | Acts 7
- 4 | Acts 8
- 5 | Acts 9
- 6 | Pray and reflect
- 7 | Pray and reflect

Attendance	In Person Average Last Month	Virtual Average Last Month	In Person Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Classes	70	24	60	20
Sunday Worship	98	51	85	30
Tuesday Adult Class	6	12	6	6
Wednesday Classes	58	25	61	8

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM - 2/7	10:00 AM-2/14	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Adam Bohanan	Craig Preuss	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	T.C. French	Leo Betancourt	Keith Arrants   936.499.2812
Song Leading	Dwight Osteen	Alan Stilts	George Chapman   832.764.2151
1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer	Hayden Clark	Harvey Goble	Norman Davis   832.326.2966
Scripture	Nathan Shows	Paden Reed	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Proverbs 3:1-12	Acts 13:43-52	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion Lead	Brian Clark	Jay Dulin	Adam Bohanan   281.798.1093
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark   281.513.0706
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer	Troy French	Les Cockrell	Gary LeBlanc   281.292.0262
Announcements	Jay Dulin	Barrett Blankenship	Craig Preuss   832.477.0578
Sanitize-Bathrooms After	N/A	N/A	<i>Evangelists</i>
Sanitize-Pews After	N/A	N/A	Don Hooton   936.443.6230
Building Open/Lockup	Hooton	Haas	<i>Website</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	www.woodlandschurhofchrist.org
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	Keith Arrants –Nathan Shows	Norman Davis-Willie Ray	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM - 2/10	7:00 PM-2/17	<i>Church Email</i>
Song Leading	Ross Randow	Leo Betancourt	woodlandschurhofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Jeremy Crump	Dwight Haas	
Prayer	Al Suarez	Timothy Chandler	
Announcements	Keith Arrants	Norman Davis	