



Truth for Today

April 11, 2021

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

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

Equipped To Grow

by Don Hooton

In a news report by Bryan Walsh, he said, "New surveys show Americans' membership in communities of worship has declined sharply in recent years, with less than 50% of the country belonging to a church, synagogue or mosque." And continued, a "Gallup poll released last week found just 47% of Americans reported belonging to a house of worship, down from 50% in 2018 and 70% as recently as 1999... The shift away from organized religion is a 21st century phenomenon. U.S. religious membership was 73% when Gallup first measured it in 1937 and stayed above 70% for the next six decades. Yet, the decline in membership is primarily driven by a sharp rise in the "nones" — Americans who express no religious preference. The percentage of Americans who do not identify with any religion rose from 8% between 1998 and 2000 to 21% over the past three years, while the percentage of nones who do not belong to a house of worship has risen as well."

Still, according to www.pewforum.org, just over 6 of 10 American identify themselves as Protestant or Catholic, down from over 75% just over a decade ago. Many will suggest several causes but as Walsh noted, "The reason: America is becoming more and more secular."

While we cannot stop what is happening culturally, especially if this God giving America over to its lusts (c.f. Romans 1:24-32), we can do something. **We can get Equipped to Grow.** We can do all we can to serve this generation with all we have to give. We may think we have little. We may think we can't do much. But we can inject into the lives of people the thing that will save people: the gospel. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God to salvation" to everyone (Romans 1:16).

So here are some things we want are beginning at the Woodlands to do **to help us all.**

As you noted in recent communications, **our Sunday afternoon meetings will vary each week.**

On the **first Sunday**, we will gather in the auditorium at 5:00 p.m. for singing and prayers.

On the **third weekend**, we are trying to energize the Bible devotional Bible study groups for the Luke 2:52 devo, teen devo, the young adult devo (20-30), the adult devo (30-50) and the golden devo (50+). Ideally, as these groups study from the Bible, you will be able to invite people to these Bible studies. These groups have been encouraged to meet on the second weekend but they will choose a **monthly** date that works best for them.

On the **fourth Sunday**, we want each member to group with a home group that is nearest their home called, North County Home Group, Mid-County Home Group and South County Home Group. These home groups will stay in touch with each other and encourage the people in their

group. The home study group will have Bible devos, or singings, or other edifying parts to their meeting as the elders supply.

And on the rare **fifth Sunday**, the deacons, Barnabas group and any other service groups will meet as needed.

But on the **second Sunday**, we will have *workshops at the building*. For the next several months, we will introduce different approaches in evangelism in studying the Bible with people. It will be a *hands-on class* to model and to practice how to talk Scripture with people. Attendance is voluntary. In future months, we will address the different other aspects of the work in which we all have a share in like song-leading, prayer-leading, communion talks, how to teach public Bible classes, etc, will also be covered. Your input on from what you would benefit is certainly welcome to the elders.

Also, beginning this summer, we will redesign our weekly bulletin into a monthly evangelistic publication called, **Simply Christians**. It will be eight page magazine of around eight to twelve pages of Bible articles for both those who are unbelievers and for believers — as well as advertisements for all of our upcoming events like VBS, Youth Lectures, Gospel Meetings, Women and Men's Day of Bible Study and any scheduled Sermon Series. It's aim is to be a vehicle for teaching for all of us. We will send it monthly to those who remain on our contact list who have visited with us before. However, we would like you to add names and addresses of people that you believe would be interested to learn more about the Bible. So here is what you can do: 1) submit the name(s) and address(es) or people you are sure would benefit to this mailing. 2) pray for its success. 3) volunteer for the publication and mailing processes necessary to get this mailed monthly. Send your interests in this to woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com.

And so, the elders ask you to help us in this work for the Lord by 1) equipping yourself more in first, the blessing of sharing the gospel with others in the course of these several workshops and second, in building each other up with singing, Bible devotional studies and our home-groups and 2) supporting the monthly magazine we will begin called *Simply Christians*.

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Ephesians 4:12-16).

NEWS & NOTES

UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **LouAnn Chapman** has had difficulty managing blood pressure. Prayers for improvement.
- **Conrad Kaston** is much better
- **Helen West** was diagnosed last week with congestive heart failure that is to be treated with medications.
- **Gail Winfield** is still hurting and would appreciate cards, calls and hugs. Her tests showed no clots but arthritis was the diagnosis.
- **Mickey Chandler's** mother Judy, in Arizona, has a mass on and in her kidney and will have surgery on Monday at 12:30 p.m.
- **Bobby & Lauri Cleek's son, Zack**, had back surgery last Wednesday and is doing a little better.
- **Pat Brand** was admitted to the hospital Tuesday with bleeding.
- MOMS-to-be: Reagen Reed (due April 12) and Alix Randow (due April 23).

MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class | 4/11, 4:00 p.m. (auditorium)
- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | Bible Class on First Sundays | TBA
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA .
- **YOUNG ADULTS HOME STUDY** | TBA
- **ADULTS HOME STUDY** [30/40] | TBA
- **GOSPEL MEETING** with Ed Brand | AND HE PREACHED JESUS TO HIM | 3/28-31
- **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

GATHERINGS ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS BEGIN IN MAY

- 1st Sundays | 5:00 pm | Prayer and Singing | Auditorium
- 2nd Sundays | 5:00 pm | May Workshop on Evangelism | Classroom 5
- 3rd Sundays | TBD | Devos for Teens, 20-30s, 30-50s, 50+ in homes.
- 4th Sundays | After AM Worship | Home Groups | Monthly meetings will consist of prayer, study, and mutual edification/concerns to be met. The groups are:
 - *Central County* (reside near building, between 1488 and Woodlands Pkwy)
 - *North County* (reside North of 1488)
 - *South County* (reside South of Woodlands Pkwy into Harris County)

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 Summer classes. **Please contact Brian Clark if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about the Barnabus group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members. Contact them if you can help.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.
- WELCOME to Kyle & Christina Kaston who have placed membership with us. Their children are Adelyn, Beckett, and Conrad.

ON APPOINTING DEACONS:

- 3/21-3/31 | Consideration and Verification. Once the study concludes, please speak with those you plan to recommend so that you can verify with them that they would agree. Deadline to submit your recommendations in writing only or by email is Sunday, 3/31. PLEASE SUBMIT the form even if you don't know any to nominate or do not find anyone qualified. The elders want to hear from everyone!
- 4/4 | Announcement and Evaluation of Recommended Candidates. If any have concerns about a candidate's qualifications, speak first to the candidate about your concerns and hopefully resolve your concerns. If not, please contact the elders. Please have all concerns resolved by Wednesday, April 14.
- 4/18 | Appointment of Additional Deacons. Deacons who have been tested will then be appointed in the Sunday service.

THROUGH THE NT IN 2021

APRIL

- 12 Matthew 3
- 13 Matthew 4
- 14 Matthew 5
- 15 Matthew 6
- 16 Matthew 7
- 17 Pray and reflect
- 18 Pray and reflect

Attendance	In Person Average Last Month	Virtual Average Last Month	In Person Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Classes	72	14	109	10
Sunday Worship	113	46	143	23
Tuesday Adult Class			10	6
Wednesday Classes	69	12	69	6

SUNDAYS	10:00 AM - 4/11	10:00 AM - 4/18	CONTACT INFORMATION
Foyer 1-Welcome	Craig Preuss	Al Suarez	<i>Elders</i>
Foyer 2-Ushering	Stuart Jones	Dwight Haas	Keith Arrants 936.499.2812
Song Leading	Adam Bohanan	Norman Davis	George Chapman 832.764.2151
1 st Prayer	Mitch Harvey	Mickey Chandler	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Scripture	Timothy Chandler	Ethan Dulin	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Psalms 70	2Peter 3:1-13	<i>Deacons</i>
Communion Lead	Harvey Goble	Jeremy Crump	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Preaching	Hayden Clark	Don Hooton	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
2 nd Prayer	Michael Henss	Stuart Jones	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Announcements	George Chapman	Don Hooton	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Building Open/Lockup	Haas	Bohanan	<i>Evangelist</i>
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Communion Prep	G&L Chapman	G&L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>
Counting Contribution	Norman Davis & Michael Henss	George Chapman & Al Suarez	281.367.2099
WEDNESDAYS	7:00 PM-4/14	7:00 PM-4/21	Church Email
Song Leading	Hayden Clark	Alan Stilts	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com
Invitation/Talk	Barrett Blankenship	Adam Bohanan	<i>Website</i>
Prayer	Gerald Hodges	Al Suarez	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org
Announcements	Brian Clark	Keith Arrants	