

# Disciples Digest

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | THE WOODLANDS CHRISTIAN CHURCH | NOVEMBER 2019

## *TWCC Thanksgiving Meal*

*Sunday, November 24 after church*

*It is time again for our congregational meeting and Thanksgiving lunch. We would like everyone to contribute to the wonderful meal we share. We have much to be thankful for. Please sign up at the back of the sanctuary to bring your favorite dish. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us!*

### **Shelter Meal help needed**

We need a group or individual to take charge of the Women's Shelter Meals on November 16 and on December 21. We can help with menu selection and shopping list. A main dish, vegetable, salad and desserts are needed. DWF will reimburse the cost of food. The meal needs to be ready for pick up by the shelter at 1:00 pm.

Contact Susan Mayhall if you can be in charge of either day at 281 794 8322.

*But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. 2 Tim 3:1-5*

It seems that a Christian relief worker in the Middle East was approached by four young men who asked for the opportunity of a private conversation. “We want to become Christians,” they said when alone. “Why do you want to become Christians?” the relief worker asked. “Because we want to be able to sleep with the women and drink alcohol, the way Christians do,” they responded.

I was told this story by a former missionary recently in response to a question that I had asked, “I hear that there are numbers of people coming to Christ in Muslim-majority countries; is this because of the violence that they see in Islam?” I have no way to vouch for the truth of the story he told, but I am afraid that the story doesn’t need to be true to represent accurately the appeal that Christianity has for many people.

When I was growing up in Mexico, we Protestant Christians had a similar view of Catholicism: that in Catholicism you could live any way you wanted to during the week and then go to confession on Sunday and have all your behavior excused. I do not know that our prejudice was justified, but in the 1970’s in Mexico, the motivation to be a Protestant was NOT “grace is so infinite that it will excuse all your sin, so you can live any way you want to.” Instead, we viewed ourselves, and others viewed us, as living lives that were different and more moral than most of society around us.

In the language school where I teach, it is the Muslims who live that kind of life, different and more moral than the lives of the students from “Christian” countries.

For many American Christians, “virtue” is now equated with “social justice.” The fight for morality is a fight for non-discrimination, universal health care, income redistribution, environmental protection, and resistance to oppression generally. In terms of personal conduct, however, the watchwords are “tolerance”, “diversity”, and “grace.” A lot is said about social justice, very little is said about personal righteousness.

The problem, of course, is that without personal righteousness, community becomes unsustainable on any basis but that of the narrowest family or tribal identity. Look through the list of qualities that Paul offers above. I can imagine the people there described as protesting, standing against injustice, expressing their opinions with great skill and forcefulness. I cannot imagine them able to build community, for that would require letting go of self-expression and self-indulgence for the sake of peace, harmony, and the good of all.

In the short run, a religion that offers grace as permissiveness may indeed grow. Over the long run, however, the longing for community will consign such religion to failure. If the competition between Christianity and Islam is a competition between Unlimited Personal Freedom and an Orderly Community, Islam will win.

Biblical Christianity, however, is not a choice between personal righteousness or social justice—it is both. Biblical Christianity offers tolerance to people but not to all behavior, celebrates a diversity of backgrounds but seeks a community of purpose, offers a grace that does not excuse our bad acts and attitudes, but brings about repentance from all kinds of sin—both personal and social.

We will be celebrating Thanksgiving in November. To be genuine, to be the kind that fosters community, Christian Thanksgiving begins with an openness to repentance. Otherwise, our prayers of Thanksgiving become, “Thank you God, that I am not as others are.”

Thanksgiving prayer: Thank you, God, that you enable us to pray ‘Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.’ And I offer you an open door into my life and into the society around me that Thanksgiving may plant seeds of both righteousness and justice. I pray this in the name of Jesus, the one who is righteous and works justice. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor David

**November 7-**  
**YOUNG OF HEARTS**

Join the YOH at Nona's Italian Grill, Thursday Nov. 7 at 11:30am. Located at 3091 College Park Dr. (FM 242), Suite 185, The Woodlands, TX 77384. The restaurant offers authentic Italian Cuisine from pizza and pasta, to veal, chicken and seafood entrees for lunch and dinner. Sign up on the list in the back of the sanctuary. If you have questions, ask the hosts: Carol Montgomery (936-573-2278 or Ann Vandiver (936) 321-0142



**-November 21-**

**Young of Hearts Day Trip**

Join the Young of Hearts when we go to Hemi-Hideout & Brookwood Community.

When entering this beautiful building, you will be transported to your past. Hemi-Hideout is filled with 24 restored cars, over 600 vintage porcelain and neon signs, motorcycles, & memorabilia from years gone by. Lunch at Brookwood Community.

The signup sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please call Carol Montgomery (936) 537-2278 or Susan Mayhall (281) 794-8322.

**College Care Boxes**

Each year we collect items to send a care package to our church college students before final exams in December. These are treats and study help items to let them know we are praying for them at a somewhat stressful time. We have 6 college students this year to provide for. College care box item tags are available in the narthex on the schoolhouse poster. Please take a tag, record your name on the list, purchase the item and return it by Nov. 17. Contact Susan Mayhall for more information if needed.

**-November 15 & 16 -**

**Dickens on Cypress Creek**

**Cypress Creek Christian Church  
6823 Cypresswood Dr.  
Spring, TX 77379**

**Come check out this Victorian Christmas Market and don't forget to look for TWCC Piecemaker's booth! Friday and Saturday from 9am-4pm**

**Dickens on Cypress Creek**  
*A Victorian Christmas Market*

Fri, Nov. 15, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Sat, Nov. 16, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Silhouettes of Victorian-era figures, including men in top hats and a woman in a bonnet, standing next to a street lamp decorated with a bow. There are also three Christmas ornaments hanging from a branch.

**DWF Christmas Banquet -Tuesday, December 10 at 6:30pm**

**"The Heart of Christmas"**

**All ladies of the church are invited to join us for our Christmas meal and baby shower for Pregnancy Assistance Center North. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss it.**



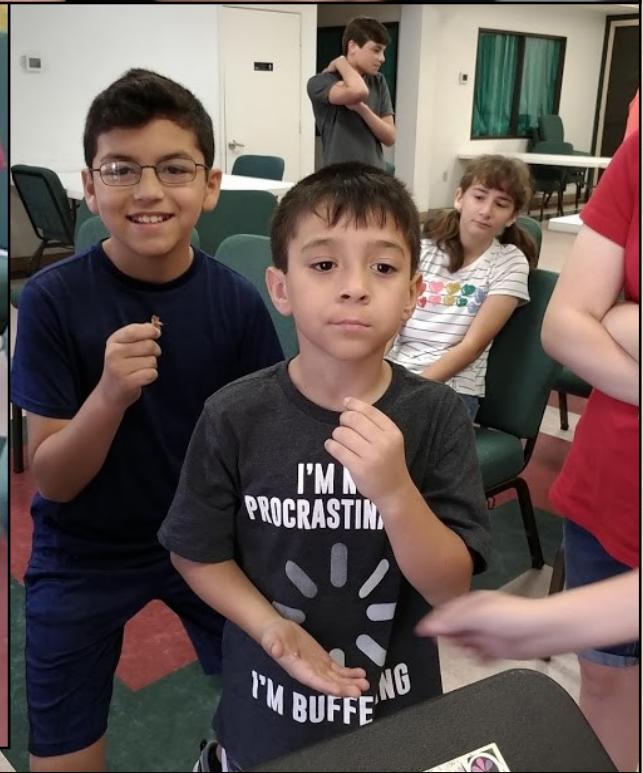
## Minister makes good on Youth Auction Item to dye his hair

In February the Youth had their annual Valentine Fundraiser. The congregation voted to have Rev. Michael Townsend dye his hair the color selected by the buyer. (This is what happens if you don't come for the auction!) Since the entire congregation bid as one he told them he would do rainbow colored hair for a day but it had to be able to wash out. On Sunday Oct 20, 2019, he made good on his promise and dyed his hair 6 different colors. We were a bit worried as it took an extra wash to get the green side burns to wash out! Thanks to all who contributed to help our Youth make their goal. Word to the wise, save the date for next years banquet or you could end up on the auction block!



In Sunday school a few weeks back , Pastor David taught about John the Baptist who ate locusts and honey. Pastor David promised that if he could get some crickets, he would eat them. He was able to order three small boxes (different flavors), and everyone who wanted to sample did! Some couldn't bring themselves to initiate the “John the Baptist Diet” (great for weight loss!)





I never realized how much I take for granted. Get injured, call an ambulance. Car stolen, call the police. House on fire, call the Fire Dept. Sounds easy, right? Well, what if we didn't have people doing those jobs? We see them come and go day by day and often don't think about what really goes on behind the scenes. Last month we started a project to reach out to those we call our "HEROES". Having served on our neighborhood fire department along side my Dad who had worked for over 40 years as a volunteer fire fighter and having 2 brothers that worked Fire and EMS, this project was near and dear to my heart. We wanted to bring a little gift that would bring a smile when they opened it and allow us to get to know our community better. We put together "Survival Kits" (a string for when you are at the end of your rope, a band aid to heal the hurt, a prayer card, etc.). At the time we started working on these I didn't know what impact they would have or what a blessing meeting these brave men and women would be.

We knew dropping these off during working hours might mean not seeing anyone at all. They get a call and they head out the door! This is just what our first delivery crew came across. We introduced ourselves and the bell went off. We got to tour several different fire stations, find out about how a 24 hour shift works, see new improvements made, learn about when and what equipment each station has and how it is kept up. They shared personal stories and allowed us to see what things are like "LIVING" at the station. Many made meals ahead of time, some in crock pots, or sometimes one person is left behind to cook if possible. One member said the fire house was like their home, another said it wasn't the station that was home but the truck itself as they were a mobile part of the community and belong out in it. Our Wednesday delivery was met by Station 5 who had just returned from a devastating medical call. We left our kits and offered them our prayers. Another part of the job they face each day! When asked what we could do as a community to help them out, we were told to **make sure that your address on your home is visible from the street!** They often have to hunt by flashlight costing them valuable time. Also **stay on the line with 911, be sure and give the city and state you are calling from.** The Woodlands doesn't have its own 911 system and calls are often bounced off towers in different areas which can make it difficult to locate you.

While visiting the Precinct 3 Constable's Dept. we got an opportunity to meet Ryan Gable and all 17 heads of each department. Each serving the community in a different manner, but working with one common goal to protect our community. It was fun watching the officers gather around the table to pick up the kits we had for them. It was like watching children at Christmas, lots of smiles and laughs. To help our Constables out, we were told if you see something **REPORT IT** while it is happening, they would rather it be a false alarm than allow someone to get away with a crime.

Our EMS stations were a bit of a challenge. One was gone when we arrived, another had been relocated, then taking a chance we were sent out to EMS 20 in Harper's Landing. This was a day when we had a few of our kids helping us. They got to go into an ambulance see how things were stocked and told about how each unit is set up the same allowing Medics to transfer between stations when needed. They explained the different types of shifts and how some do transport while others handle 911 calls. Gracen and Hope Anna even got to try on a bullet proof vest. Something I never thought about our ambulances having to equip themselves with. An eye opening moment as they explained how all the different agencies (Fire, EMS, Police) train together to handle mass causality events such as shootings. The moment was lightened as Hope Ann teetered back and forth under the weight of this 50 pound vest. At the main administration building we met Ashton Herring, who had set up our EMS visits. She showed us a wall of photos of all the heart patients they had saved, along with a wall of babies they had delivered. Hope Anna noticed a CPR class and asked about the dolls on the floor. While we explained this, Ashton shared with William about a career as a paramedic. Our Paramedics shared that **something as small as a piece of candy can make such a difference in their day**, it can bring out a smile, ease the stress, and help boost low blood sugar in a pinch. Many of these crews often get back to back calls without a break in between.

In just over a week we delivered to 9 fire stations (8 in the Woodlands and Timber Lakes Volunteer fire Dept), 4 EMS stations, 1 Constable's Office, with South County Fire Dept. to be delivered at a later date as they have relocated, along with extra sent up to Ella Cram and her Corrections Officers and even a few to Willis First Responders. We even gave one out last week to the Sheriff's Dept. who was sitting in our parking lot making sure we got to our cars safely for a total of **380 bags!** Thank you for helping us say thank you to our Heroes! Special Thank you to our delivery crews for helping make these days extra special and unique! To all our First Responders thank you for all that you do, and we will continue to pray for you!

Karen Townsend

The Woodlands Christian Church Outreach Team Member  
[2littletime@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2littletime@sbcglobal.net) 936-828-7566 (cell)



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

We are still accepting donations to help cover the backpacks for the 2019 and 2020 school year (We pre-purchased at a better price than we can order them in 2020). Please place cash in envelope and mark with Backpack fund on the outside or the memo line of a check. These can be placed in the offering tray or to the office. We greatly appreciate the support!!

## WOMEN'S CENTER

We are in need of misc. items for our Women's Toiletry kits. These can include: nail polish, makeup, lipstick, hand sanitizer, hair clips, ties or bands, Purse size Kleenex, small memo pads, etc. **ITEMS MUST BE NEW AND UNOPENED!!** As holiday items come in you can find makeup kits with several packages of eye shadows etc. in them. As long as the items have a closed container we can split these up to use for many bags. If you have questions contact Karen Townsend.

**FIRST FRUITS INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY** - We collected 96 lbs. of food for October. They were starting to restock shelves from the large number of pick ups they had early this week. Keep up the good work and remember with the holidays coming the need will increase!

### Items we are collecting for November:

Canned meat

Oatmeal

Cereal

Stuffing Mix

Cornbread Mix

Canned Vegetables

Canned Cranberries

1 LB Rice

1 LB Beans

Soups (cream of mushroom, chicken, etc)

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Condensed Milk

Juice

Napkins

Dish Soap



## HAAS (Hug and a Smile)

Don't forget to bring in your NEW Teddy Bears, Dinosaurs, Fish, Unicorn, or any other soft stuffed animal for the kid's at Texas Children's Hospital. The hospital has requested **Squishmallows** for their acute care unit, as these are SUPER SOFT! These can be dropped off in the library. Tom Evans and his crew will be delivering our next load of stuffed animals on Dec 19th.



# November 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 8:00p NA group (C12/C13)	<b>2</b> 7:30a DMF Bible Study 9:00a SA group (C12/C13) 9:00a Chrismon Workshop
<b>3</b> <b>1st Fruit Offerings for Interfaith</b> Elder: Kathee Bauman Lay Leader: Irene Carter Counters: Teresa & Gayla <b>11:30a Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>4</b> 12:30p Women's Bible Study 7:00p SA group (C12/C13)	<b>5</b> 9:00a Piecemakers 6:30p NA(C12/C13)& SA(C15) groups <b>6:30p Sea Scouts</b> 7:00p DWF Exec. Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:30p SHoP 7:00p Choir	<b>7</b> 11:30am <b>YOH Luncheon</b> <b>Nona's Italian Grill</b>	<b>8</b> 8:00p NA group (C12/C13)	<b>9</b> 7:30a DMF Bible Study 9:00a SA group (C12/C13)
<b>10</b> Elder: Billy Shaw Lay Leader: Lanny Low Counters: Peggy & Paul <b>6:00p Comedy Night w/ Susan O'Donnell (\$5)</b>	<b>11</b> 12:30p Women's Bible Study 7:00p SA group (C12/C13)	<b>12</b> 9:00a Piecemakers 6:30p NA(C12/C13)& SA(C15) groups	<b>13</b> 6:30p SHoP 7:00p Choir	<b>14</b> <b>7:00p Board Meeting</b>	<b>15</b> 8:00p NA group (C12/C13)  <b>9:00a Dickens Craft Sale</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30a DMF Bible Study 9:00a SA group (C12/C13)  <b>9:00a Dickens Craft Sale</b>
<b>17</b> Elder: Jeff Kenline Lay Leader: Peggy Brittan Counters: Luke, Wayne & Rob	<b>18</b> 12:30p Women's Bible Study 7:00p SA group (C12/C13)	<b>19</b> 9:00a Piecemakers 6:30p NA(C12/C13)& SA(C15) groups <b>6:30p Sea Scouts</b> 7:00P DWF -Power Hour Bible Study	<b>20</b> 6:30p SHoP 7:00p Choir	<b>21</b> <b>YOH Day Trip</b>	<b>22</b> 8:00p NA group (C12/C13)	<b>23</b> 7:30a DMF Bible Study 9:00a SA group (C12/C13)
<b>24</b> Elder: Tom Evans Lay Leader: Steve Randolph Counters: Ed & Jeff <b>11:30 Congregational Meeting &amp; Thanksgiving Luncheon</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00p SA group (C12/C13)	<b>26</b> 6:30p NA(C12/C13)& SA(C15) groups	<b>27</b> 6:30p SHoP 7:00p Choir	<b>28</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>29</b> 8:00p NA group (C12/C13)	<b>30</b> 7:30a DMF Bible Study 9:00a SA group (C12/C13)

## Birthdays

**11/01 Nell Newsome  
11/02 Ordie Cherry  
11/03 Myrna Beaver  
11/05 Peggy Brittan  
11/06 Dennis Cram  
11/06 William Cram  
11/13 Jon English  
11/15 Deni Ehrman  
11/17 Shanna Perez  
11/22 Jan Price  
11/24 Ed Winton  
11/25 Karen Townsend  
11/28 Carolyn Simpson  
11/29 Sylvia Wilson**

## Anniversaries

**11/05 Joe & Jimmye Saldivar  
11/19 Donnelly & Gayla Shanks  
11/24 Paul & Ruth Cameron  
11/27 John & Kathee Bauman  
11/29 Robert & Loraine Sanders**

# Celebrate!

*And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

*Micah 6:8 NIV*

**Sunday Morning Bible Study @ 9:30am  
Sunday Morning Service @ 10:30am  
Sunday Handbell Practice @ 1:30pm  
Sunday Youth @ 4:30pm**

**Office Hours:  
Mon-Fri 9am-2:30pm**

**God's Kids Preschool:  
Tue-Fri 9am-2pm**

**1202 N Millbend Dr .  
The Woodlands, TX 77380  
(281) 367-7139  
• www.twcc.org • office@twcc.org •**

## Weekly Events

- Women's Bible Study: Mondays 12:30pm
- Piecemakers: Tuesdays 9:00am
- SHoP: Wednesdays 6:30pm
- Choir: Wednesdays 7:00pm
- DMF Bible Study: Saturdays at 7:30am

**Monday: SA group: 7:00pm  
Tuesday: SA and NA groups: 6:30pm  
Friday: NA Group 8:00pm  
Saturday: SA Group 9:00am**