



August Newsletter 2025

MUSINGS OF OUR PASTOR: FIRST THINGS FIRST

Recently, I sent out a call to prayer because of the financial situation of our church. Our expenses have risen, but our income has not. Those 2 things combined do not make for a pretty financial picture. So, your church leadership decided we needed to spend a month seeking God's guidance.

Because of this call to prayer, there were some that wondered if the church was on the verge of closing. I want you to know that this is far from the truth. While we may need to make some adjustments, we are not on the verge of having to cease our ministry as Woodlands Community Church.

I know this is true, because in the past couple of months I have seen God do some amazing things through the ministry of this church. One young adult recently asked me how they could "become a more active member of the church." In other words, they were seeking guidance on how they could begin to live out their faith that had seemed dormant. Along with them, I have been approached by another person seeking baptism as God has been working in their life. These two are just some of those who I have seen moving forward in their faith.

This week we have also been experiencing a wonderful vacation Bible school. As I write this, it is not over yet, but it has been amazing to see both the children present and the number of workers we have had. On Tuesday night, we had 31 kids in attendance to hear the Word of God as we had fun together. That is such a gift from God because of our faithfulness in ministry.

We also are starting a new ministry to the 333 Holly Apartments near the church. On August 1, our first Hispanic Bible study will be conducted there. We have already participated in a pool party for the kids and soon we will be a part of a back-to-school party at the apartments. Each of these are opportunities to meet the residents of the apartments and let them know about our church and the love of God. Rally Point Ministries is partnering with us in this ministry and are looking at making computer training and counseling available. This new area of ministry is full of exciting possibilities.

Now, it is true that some of our folks will soon be leaving us. Among these are Steven O'Connor and Daniel Robbins. We are going to miss both of these young men as they go off to university, but already we have people stepping up to take their place. Liz Hatfield will be taking Steven's place with our youth and Jerry Villegas and Zach Duncan will be helping us on the piano.

Another ministry I am excited about is a new prayer ministry that Julie Hill will be working with me on. I believe this can be a vital part of helping us to be all that we can be as a church. We will be sharing more about this with you soon.

There is so much I can say, but already I have written more than I want to for a newsletter article. But let me close by reminding you of a promise that Jesus made in Matthew 6:33. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,

and all these things will be given to you as well.” As we continue to be faithful in ministry, and as we continue to follow where God leads, we do not need to fear when it comes to finances. God is faithful.

• WCC NEWS AND UPDATES

• NEWS ITEMS:

Summer of Hope: In August we will continue our sermon series Summer of Hope. We are people of faith, but do we have the hope necessary to move forward in that faith? In this series we are looking at factors that will help us increase our capacity for hope and discover the live God has created us for. As we do so, we will look at several stories to give us hope in 1 and 2 Samuel. We will also have a little fun with a segment called Will It Float where we test different objects each week to see if they will float or sink to the bottom. As we test these objects, we will also be asking ourselves if we have the hope it takes to rise above the challenges we face instead of sink down in despair.

New Sermon Series: Pastor Mark is putting together a new sermon series as he takes us all back to school this fall. He needs your help in deciding what subjects to cover. If you have a question that you would like him to answer, you can give these questions to him, fill out a form on the church website or app, or put a question in the box at the church.

Baptism: Pastor Mark is currently speaking to some people about baptism. If you have accepted Christ as your Savior but have not yet been baptized, please speak with Pastor Mark about the possibility of being included in our next baptism service.

Hispanic Bible Study: Frank and Elena Ramos are beginning a new Spanish Bible study at 333 Holly Apartments at 6:00 p.m. on Fridays. See Frank and Elena for more details.

Fellaship: Men’s Fellaship will meet on Saturday, August 2nd, at 8:30 AM. They will meet at the church and share breakfast together and a time of devotion. This is a great time to invite a guy friend to join you and meet the men of WCC.

Simmon’s Baby “Sprinkle”: On Sunday, August 3rd, we will be celebrating the new blessing that will be arriving later in the month. Cody and Katie Simmons are expecting baby Benjamin Wayne Scott Simmons to make an appearance sometime around August 26th. There will be a “Sprinkle” right after church, which means you can drop by the Activity Center that morning after church and bless them with a gift for this new little one. They are especially needing diapers and wipes and gift cards would especially be helpful.

Teen Get Together: Our NYI President, Steven O’Connor, will be leaving on August 9th for University in San Marcos. He will have a get together with the teens after church on Sunday, August 3rd. There will be lunch provided and lots of games and fun as they hang

out together. Make sure your teen knows about the event so we can give Steven a great send off. Thankfully, he will be back at times to visit.

Women Renewed Bible Study: This is an in-depth 10-week Bible Study from the COTN Discipleship Program through the Church of the Nazarene. The Bible study will look at how traditional Christian faith now finds itself in an age of pluralism. People question claims that Christ and the gospel are the ultimate truth for all cultures and all time. You will have a chance to discuss and identify ways to proclaim the good news that Jesus is the Way, the truth and the life in this age of skepticism and pluralism. The study will be online at 7:30 PM on Mondays from August 4 – October 6. There is weekly reading and materials will be available online or a hard copy can be provided upon request. You will need to sign up in order for the study link to be emailed to you. There are also some home locations where you can go to join a friend in participating. Register at bit.ly/wrsignmeup.

Wednesday Night Prayer Service: There is prayer service every Wednesday night at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome. This is a time to corporately give praises for the things God is doing and also to lift up our prayer request. We especially want to lift up our not yet saved loved ones and the needs of our church family and how WCC can see those around us come to know Jesus.

Day of Fasting: The first Wednesday of August is the 6th and this will be our day of prayer and fasting as a church. You are encouraged to fast from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. then join us for prayer at the church at 7:00 p.m. You are welcome to join us for prayer even if you are not able to fast. Below are some things to pray for:

Praises:

- We praise God for how He impacted the lives of our people through teen camp, children's camp, and VBS.
- Praise God that Donna Dossett's surgery was successful.
- Praise God that the pregnancies of Katherine Simmons and Bekka Norwood are going well.

Individual Concerns:

- Jaclyn Maglasang is scheduled for surgery on her adrenal gland in August.
- Faith Edwards broke bones in one of her feet.
- Pray for Steven O'Connor, Olivet Ojajuni, and Daniel Robbins as they go off to university.
- Pray for the Buttrys and their temporary living situation as they look for a new home.
- Eduardo Periera is continuing to deal with issues with his blood pressure and other medical concerns..
- Continue to keep Kathryn Simmons in prayer during her pregnancy. She is having trouble with her liver and is also dealing with placenta previa.
- Continue to keep Jean Altic's daughter and family in prayer as they continue to deal with child custody issues.

Corporate Concerns:

- Pray for our new outreach at the 333 Holly Apartments.
- Pray for our church emphasis on discipleship and holiness, that God would lead and empower us to faithfully follow Him.
- Pray for our Hispanic Bible Study that is starting up at the 333Holly Apartments.
- Join us in prayer for our Hispanic service of worship and the Word on the third Sunday each month at 1:30.
- Pray for our upcoming mission trip to Cuba in February of 2026.
- Pray for our church leaders as they lead our church into the future. Pray God will give them wisdom and faith as they lead.
- Pray that the new families that have visited in our services will choose to make Woodlands Community Church their church home.
- For the Holy Spirit to draw our unsaved family members to salvation, put people in their lives who will encourage them in faith, and guide us on how we might reach out to them.
- That the Holy Spirit will move in a powerful way in our services through worship and the Word.
- That God would place not yet saved people into our lives and that the Holy Spirit would give us the courage to speak and the right words to say.
- That God would give our leaders guidance in addressing the financial situation of the church.

Men's Bible Study: Men are invited to come out to the church for a Men's Bible study every other Thursday evening. In August, the Bible study will meet on the 7th and the 21st from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. We are studying the book of Romans and all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Prayer For Students and School Workers: Another school year is upon us and our kids and workers are soon headed back to school. On Sunday, August 10th, we will have a special time of prayer over all those who will be starting a new school year. This will include teachers, crossing guards, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, K – 12th graders, and college students. Please invite those starting the new school year so they can be prayed over.

WCC KIDS Back to School Party: For most of our kids, school starts back in two weeks and we want to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. On Sunday, August 17th, after the morning worship service, kids are invited to stay and have lunch together and then play games. Don't wear those new school clothes because we might get messy and wet. The party will end at 2:30 PM so you can get to bed early (or not).

Crafty Ladies: Our group of crafty ladies meet on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1 PM. This is a fun, relaxed group of ladies that enjoy crafting together and are always on the look-out for new crafters. In August, they will meet on the 12th and the 26th.

Family Game Night: The Prime-Time group may host it, but game night is for the entire family. Some people like traditional games and some like more modern games. No matter your preference, someone will be willing to try it with you. Come out at 6:30 p.m. on August 14th, bring a snack to share, and join in the fun.

Women Renewed Breakfast: On Saturday, August 16th, there will be a free ladies' breakfast to fellowship and be able to have in person discussion on how the Bible study is going. The breakfast will start at 9:00 AM.

Young Adult Journey Group: All young adults are invited to Alan and Kathy Edward's home the third Saturday of each month. You can expect a night of fun, food, and fellowship. In August, they will be meeting on Saturday the 16th at 7:00 PM. Please see Kathy or Alan for more details.

Servicio de Alabanza: Our next Servicio de Alabanza will be on August 17th and begins at 1:30 p.m. It will be directed by Frank and Elena Ramos and will be completely in Spanish, but even if you are not a Spanish speaker this is a great opportunity to support our brothers and sisters in Christ (google translate works fairly well also).

Church Board: Our church board will meet on Tuesday, August 19th, at 6:30 PM. Please keep them in prayer as they discuss business matters pertaining to the church and also ministry items to reach our community.

Primetime Dinner: If you are 55 and older, you are invited to join us on August 28, at 6:00 p.m. at the Black Bear Dinner for food and fellowship. The restaurant is located at 8821 Metropark Dr. in Shenandoah, TX. Let Tina Catron know if you plan to attend so that table space may be reserved.

Norwood Baby Shower: There will be a baby shower for Bekka Norwood and Baby Rowan on Saturday, August 30th, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. It will be hosted by Jessie Eaton here in the Activity Center. Please RSVP with Jessie by 8/16 (see Tammy Eby for Cell number). Bekka is registered at my.babylist.com/baby-reg-rebekka-norwood. You can also bring a box of diapers or package of wipes to be entered into a raffle.

Missionary Speaker: On September 7 we will welcome Rev. Vidal and Marie Cole as guest speakers. They are serving in Nigeria as the regional director of the West Africa Anglophone (English Speaking) Field with the Church of the Nazarene. They are partnering with the South Texas District to reach West Africans living in Texas. We will receive a deputation offering for them at the end of the service.

Man Camp: Men, you will not want to miss this year's man camp. The dates are November 7-9 at Camp Buckner, Burnet, TX. There will be amazing Food, great speakers, discipleship opportunities, friendly competitions, and MEAT, lots and lots of MEAT! Activities include skeet shooting, sausage, archery tag, bacon, human foosball, brisket,

disc golf, BBQ, fishing, golf, off road adventure, mountain biking, hiking and much more. You can register through this [link](#). There are a limited number of camper sites on a first come basis. The minimum age is 15, but there is no maximum age. Early bird price is \$145.

Christmas Dinner: We are making plans for a special Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 13. The plan is for people to be able to sponsor a table and decorate it similar to Girls and Pearls. We are also putting together a planning committee for this dinner. If you wish to be on this committee, let Pastor Mark or Tammy know.

Cuba Mission Trip: On February 23 – March 2, 2026, 14 members of WCC will be traveling to Cuba. During the week they will be doing light construction or repair at the churches or pastor's homes they will visit and conducting VBS for children at various churches. The South Texas District has donated \$5,000 that we will send for ministry needs and we are raising an additional \$5,000. As of the printing of this newsletter, VBS has raised \$543.00 toward this cost. You can contribute online, through Zelle, or in person at the church to help us reach our goal.

Future Fund: We are excited about the progress we have made with our Future Fund. We have now received \$121,580 in this fund and it has helped us bring our mortgage down to \$416,330 from \$600,000 since April of 2023. Not only have we paid extra toward our mortgage, but we have also been able to put money aside for a future building project. Thanks for being faithful in your giving.

Of course, there is still a long way to go to pay off our mortgage. If you would like to make a pledge, you may do so through our website, wccnaz.org. Just click on the links to the Future Fund. You may also give through the links you find there or through one of our regular means of giving.

Church App: We have a new church app. You may access this newsletter, our church bulletin, the prayer journal, our calendar and much more through our church app. Click on this [link](#) to access it and then download it to your home screen based on your phone's setup procedure. If you need help, see Sidney Arel or Pastor Mark.

Church Calendar: You can add the churches google calendar to your own device with this [link](#). It is updated frequently with information on church events.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aug 1: Last Day VBS

Aug 3: Teen Get Together

Aug 1: Spanish Bible Study at 333 Holly

Aug 4: Ladies' Bible Study

Aug 2: Fellowship

Aug 6: Prayer and Fasting

Aug 3: Simmon's Baby "Sprinkle"

Aug 7: Men's Bible Study

Woodlands Community Church
5401 Rush Haven Drive • The Woodlands, Texas 77381 • 281-364-1000
www.wccnaz.org • info@wccnaz.org

Aug 10: Back to School Prayer

Aug 11: Ladies' Bible Study

Aug 12: Crafty Ladies

Aug 13: Prayer Service

Aug 14: Family Game Night (By Prime Time)

Aug 16: Women Renewed Breakfast

Aug 16: Young Adult Journey Group

Aug 17: Servicio de Alabanza

Aug 17: WCC NAZ KIDS Back to School Party

Aug 18: Ladies' Bible Study

Aug 19: Board Meeting

Aug 20: Prayer Service

Aug 21: Men's Bible Study

Aug 25: Ladies' Bible Study

Aug 26: Crafty Ladies

Aug 27: Prayer Meeting

Aug 28: Prime Time Dinner

Aug 30: Norwood Baby Shower

Sept 1: Labor Day

Sept 7: Missionary Speaker

Sept 20: Run for Hope

Nov 7-9: STX Man Camp

Dec. 13: Christmas Dinner

Feb 23-March 2: Cuba Mission Trip

A calendar with updated event information can be found at wccnaz.org or on the church app.

• WCC JULY STATISTICS

• FINANCES:

Fully Funded Budget March 2025 - Feb. 2026: \$271,550

Needed Monthly: \$23,000

Income for July: \$25,129 (This figure includes general tithes and offerings only. It does not include Future Fund or items not budgeted like ticket sales.)

Income YTD: \$89,489

Faith Promise Goal: \$22,000

Faith Promise YTD: \$4,374

Future Fund:

Woodlands Community Church
5401 Rush Haven Drive • The Woodlands, Texas 77381 • 281-364-1000
www.wccnaz.org • info@wccnaz.org

Future Fund Received: \$121,580

Mortgage Remaining: \$416,330

•**JULY ATTENDANCE:**

Sunday School and Discipleship

Sunday School:50

Discipleship:41

Total:67 (Average Unique Participants Each Week)

Participants:117 (Unique Participants in July)

Worship

WCC In-Person Worship:86

Estimate Worshippers Online:9

Total:95