



September Newsletter 2025

MUSINGS OF OUR PASTOR: BACK TO SCHOOL

When we hear the phrase “back to school”, we have many different reactions. For parents, it might be the relief that a summer of trying to keep up with kids is over. For kids, it may be the fact that they will now get to be back with their friends and involved in some of the fun activities that go along with school. Then there is another group. These are those who really get excited about school because it means a chance to learn.

As we begin this new sermon series titled “Back to School”, I hope you will be excited about being with your friends at church each Sunday. I also hope that if you’re a parent of younger kids, that you look forward to them being in Children’s Church while you get a break and can just soak in the service. Most important, however, I hope you will come excited about the opportunity to learn.

This sermon series is based on the questions that you have submitted. What a broad range of questions you came up with. Some of these questions you may not even understand like, why as protestant Christians do we not use the Septuagint? Other questions you might think are really not important, like where did Cain find a wife? Then there are other questions that you may truly be interested in, like what can we do to help our kids keep the faith after they grow up?

Here is what you need to know as we look at the answers to these questions and many others. At the end of this series, you will have gained knowledge. For instance, you should know what the Septuagint is. However, knowledge is not our focus.

The focus of this series is finding truth as we gain knowledge. While knowledge may make a difference in our lives, finding truth in God’s Word is all about life transformation. When you really discover truth, you cannot help but be changed.

We will not be seeking truth on our own in this series. I am not an expert in truth, but we have One who is. In John 16:13a we read, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.” My prayer is that throughout this series, that the Holy Spirit will truly guide us into the life transforming truth he has for us.

This series began on Sunday, August 31. Yes, this was a holiday weekend and you might have missed it, but the sermon is available online if you missed it. Remember, however, to bring your textbook with you when you come each Sunday. If you are not sure what that is, check out the syllabus through this [link](#). Not only will you discover what the textbook

is but can see some of the questions that will be answered and also a hint at the truth that we will be learning together.

I am so excited about this series. Are you ready to join me as we learn together and are transformed as we discover the truth found in God's Word.

• WCC NEWS AND UPDATES

• NEWS ITEMS:

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.

Prayer Ministry: WCC is revamping their prayer ministry under the leadership of Julie Hill. Beginning on Sunday, Aug. 31, there will be tables at each side of the front of the sanctuary. You will be able to submit prayer requests before, during, or after the service.

We are also putting together a prayer team. If you are on this team you will get more emails and texts than the rest of the church concerning prayer requests and praises. Please contact Julie Hill at prayer@wccnaz.org if you wish to be a part of the prayer team.

We will also be getting the prayer room back operational here at the church. When it is ready, you will be able to pray there before, during, or after church, and even during the week when the office is open. There will be prayer requests posted there for you to pray for.

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.

Crafty Ladies: Our group of crafty ladies meet on the first and third Tuesday of September and October 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 September, they will meet on the 2nd and the 16th.

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 September is the 3rd 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:

- Emily Morrison accepted Christ as her Savior on Aug. 17.
- We praise God that Katie and baby Benjamin had a successful birth and mom and baby are doing well after a slight rough start.
- Praise God that Donna Dossett is doing well after her surgery.
- Praise God that the pregnancy of Bekka Norwood continues to go well.
- We praise God that Lori White's foot surgery went well.
- Praise God that Cheri Webb has joined us on piano for our worship in music.
- We praise God that our church finances are back on the positive side for the church year.

Individual Concerns:

- Melinda Fisher will be having surgery on Sept. 10.
- Josh Cobb's neighbor from New Hampshire, Kevin Gray, passed away on Saturday from a heart attack.
- Hubert McMinn (Mac) will have a biopsy on a lump on his throat on Sept. 3.
- Pray for the safety of Don Kentch and those with him as he is on a cross-country motorcycle ride to Canada until Sept. 8.
- A Nazarene Pastor from West Texas, Kevin Welch, is in MD Anderson in Houston in critical condition.
- Sarah Quinn has been missing since May and they have issued an Amber alert.
- Jaclyn Maglasang is still waiting for surgery.
- Faith Edwards continues to heal from the broken bones in her foot.
- Continue to lift our new college students: Steven O'Connor, Olivet Ojajuni, and Daniel Robbins, up in prayer.
- 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 Jean Altic's daughter and family in prayer as they continue to deal with child custody issues and will be back in court this month.

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.

- Join us in prayer as we look for God's new direction for our Hispanic ministries including at 333 Holly Apartments.
- 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. In September, the Bible study will meet on Thursday the 4th, Tuesday the 9th and Tuesday the 30th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. We are studying the book of Romans and all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Fellaship: Men's Fellaship will meet on Saturday, September 6th, 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. This month we will work together on pressure washing the parking lot after breakfast. For more information about the work project contact Bob Altic.

Missionary Speaker: On Sunday, September 7th, 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.

Grandparent's Day: Inviting all grandparents to worship with us on Sunday, September 7th, as we celebrate you. We will be recognizing our grandparents during the morning worship service. After the service grandparents and grandchildren are invited to enjoy some ice cream together.

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 September 11th, bring a snack to share, and join in the fun.

Women Renewed Breakfast: On Saturday, September 13th, 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. Please let Jeannette Kentch know if you are attending so enough food can be prepared.

NDI Council Meeting: Our NDI Council will be meeting on Sunday, September 14th, after the morning worship service. Jean Altic will be contacting the members to plan lunch. All department heads are requested to have a report ready to share about what God is doing in their area and the plans they have for upcoming events.

Prime Time Dinner: If you are 55 or older, you are invited to join other prime timers for lunch on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 11:30, at Kioku Supreme Buffet located at 2020 Interstate 45 North in Conroe. Enjoy some delicious Chinese food and great fellowship together.

Run For Hope: Love Fosters Hope will have their annual run on Saturday, September 20th. This is a fundraiser to help with the cost of camp for foster children in the area. You still have time to register for a 1K, 5K, or 10K run. Pastor Mark will be giving the invocation for the start of the run.

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 September, they will be meeting on Saturday the 20th at 7:00 PM. Please see Kathy or Alan for more details.

Experiencing God Study: On Sunday, Sept. 21, we will begin a new emphasis in our adult Sunday school classes. We will be studying together "Experiencing God" by Henry Blackaby. This is a 12-week class that will meet each week at 9:30 a.m. but also at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in the evening class, please let Pastor Mark know. The study guides are \$17 and can be purchased at the church. You do not have to have a study guide, but each guide comes with access to the video lessons so you can catch up if you miss a lesson. Please let Pastor Mark know if you would like a book but cannot afford to purchase it at full price.

Alabaster Offering: Twice a year, the Church of the Nazarene receives an offering called Alabaster. The next collection will be on Sept. 21. 100% of this offering goes for building projects in an area where the people can not afford to build. The money might go to help a congregation build a church or a parsonage. It may also go to help build a missionary house or school or hospital. These building projects are usually outside the United States but not always. We encourage you to have a container where you can save money and give your offering in September and February. It is amazing to see how much we collect for these projects by just saving a few dollars a week (maybe give up a coffee run or coke run and save that money once a week).

Church Board: Our church board will meet on Tuesday, September 23rd, 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.

District Pastor's Retreat: Pastor Mark and Tammy will be joining other pastors and spouses from the district at District Retreat. The retreat is in Fredricksburg from September 25-27. Please be in prayer for all our pastors as they travel and take time to refresh their souls and bodies.

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.

Veterans Celebration: Rally Point Ministries, in conjunction with WCC, is putting together a special Veterans' Celebration on November 15 at the church. This is open to all veterans and their families and will run from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for us to serve some very special people. We will need workers to help with parking, food service, and prayer, as well as many other areas. See Pastor Richard or Liz Hatfield for more information and to volunteer.

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.

Winter Retreat: Registration is now open for Winter Retreat for those in 6th thru 12th grade. It will be at Camp Trinity Pines from January 17th-19th. The cost is \$150.00 per camper. If your teen is interested, please see Liz Hatfield or Tammy Eby for more details.

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, through VBS and other gifts, we have raised \$1,089.22 toward this goal. You can contribute online, through Zelle, or in person at the church to help us reach our goal.

Mortgage Fund: We appreciate everyone who has participated in the Future Fund Campaign since April of 2023. Through this fund we raised \$122,530. Half of this went to

the principle of our mortgage and half of it went into a savings account for a future building project. During this time, our mortgage went from \$600,000 to \$416,330 and we put \$62,943 into savings for a future building project. Thanks for being faithful in your giving.

In order to focus on our present financial needs, the church board has suspended the Future Fund Campaign and is encouraging the church to participate in a Mortgage Fund. Everything given to this fund will go to the mortgage payment up to \$3,000 each month. Anything received over this will be applied to the principle. Please be in prayer as to how God would have you participate in this fund.

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

Sept. 1: Labor Day	Sept. 15: Ladies' Bible Study
Sept. 2: Crafty Ladies	Sept. 15-16: SNU Forum
Sept. 3: Prayer and Fasting	Sept. 16: Crafty Ladies
Sept. 4: Men's Bible Study	Sept. 17: Prayer Service
Sept. 6: Fellowship	Sept. 18: Prime Time Lunch
Sept. 7: Missionary Speaker	Sept. 20: Run for Hope
Sept. 7: Grandparent's Day	Sept. 20: Young Adult Journey Group
Sept. 8: Ladies' Bible Study	Sept. 21: Experiencing God Study Begins
Sept. 9: Men's Bible Study	Sept. 21: Alabaster Offering
Sept. 10: Prayer Service	Sept. 22: Ladies' Bible Study
Sept. 11: Family Game Night (by Prime Time)	Sept. 23: Board Meeting
Sept. 13: Women Renewed Breakfast	Sept. 24: Prayer Service
Sept. 14: NDI Council Meeting	Sept. 25-27: District Pastor's Retreat
	Sept. 29: Ladies' Bible Study

Sept. 30: Men's Bible Study

Dec. 13: Christmas Dinner

Nov. 7-9: STX Man Camp

Jan. 17-19: Winter Retreat

Nov. 15: Veterans Celebration

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 AUGUST STATISTICS

• FINANCES:

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

Needed Monthly: \$23,000

Income for August: \$25,071 (This figure includes general tithes and offerings only. It does not include Future Fund or items not budgeted like ticket sales.)

Income YTD: \$128,346

Faith Promise Goal: \$22,000

Faith Promise YTD: \$5,384

Mortgage Fund:

Mortgage Fund Received in August: \$1,875

Mortgage Remaining: \$412,836

• AUGUST ATTENDANCE:

Sunday School and Discipleship

Sunday School: 41

Discipleship: 43

Total: 64 (Average Unique Participants Each Week)

Participants: 135 (Unique Participants in August)

Worship

WCC In-Person Worship: 72

Estimate Worshippers Online: 9

Total: 81