WOODLANDS COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

# October Newsletter 2026

## Musings of Our Pastor: Stoke The Fire

According to the calendar it is now fall, and just in time because we have been getting some cooler weather. Cooler, not colder, and yet my mind is already going to having a fire. As I write this, my wife has been looking at firepits online. I can almost smell the wood smoke now and here the crackling of the fire.

This may sound strange here in south Texas, but I have even been thinking about the old wood stove we had growing up. That is the way we heated our home in the winter. At night as we were about to go to bed, my dad would put a little more wood on the fire and then spin the little part that closed off the airflow to slow down the fire for the night. He left just enough air to keep the fire slowly burning through the night. Then, first thing in the morning, before everyone else was awake, he would open the airflow again and stoke the fire so it would be nice and hot. That way the fire never went out, and the house was nice and toasty warm in the morning.

What made me think of this was the last sermon Rev. Dove preached during our revival. Using the regulations in Leviticus 6 for keeping the fire burning for the burnt offerings in the tabernacle, he reminded us that we also need to do our part to keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in us.

It is like that fire in our wood stove. Getting a fire going in the wood stove was not always easy. It required dry wood, a fire starter of some type, and sometimes a little blowing from the bellows. Even with all of that it would take some time to get enough coals for the fire to really heat up. On days we had no dry wood, it was even harder.

Because my dad took a little time and care in the evening and first thing in the morning, in the coldest parts of the winter, we seldom had to try and get a fire going, we could just put more wood on the fire and soon the fire was roaring again.

It is the same with the fire of the Holy Spirit in us. It is so much easier to keep the fire burning by taking a little time each day to read our Bible, pray, spend time in Godly conversation, and spend time in worship, than trying to come to church on a Sunday morning and expect the fire will easily be reignited. And it is even harder if we come with wet wood, wood that has soaked in things of this world all week, like pride, anger, jealousy, unforgiveness, and lust, just to name a few.

If my rambling has made you think about a fire as we enter this Fall season, may your mind also be drawn to the fire of the Holy Spirit in you. Could it be with just a little effort, you could have a roaring fire continually in your life? That gives we a warm feeling just thinking about it, and I hope it does for you as well.

## ●NEWS ITEMS:

**Men's Bible Study:** Men are invited to come out to the church for a Men's Bible study. They will be meeting on Thursday, October 1st, 15th, and 29th from 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM. We are studying the book of Romans, and all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Women Renewed Bible Study:** Ladies, you are invited to join us for the fall Bible Study, "Missional Essentials, A Journey of Discovering God's Mission in Everyday Life". We will discover how God is already at work around us and learn how to join Him. Move beyond church attendance and live as an everyday missionary who reflects Christ's love in your home, workplace, friendships, and community. The Bible Study will be held at WCC or virtual if needed every other Saturday from 9:00 – 10:30 AM. The dates are Oct 3 with breakfast, Oct 17, Oct 31, and Nov 7 with breakfast. There will be 6 more sessions starting after the New Year. There is a book available but not required to participate in the study. Liz has some books available for $10.00 You may also order them off Amazon. We hope to see ladies of all ages join in this Bible Study as we seek how God wants us to serve in our church, family, community, and world.

**Run for Hope:** There is still time to register for Run for Hope which will take place this Saturday, October 3rd. This event helps foster kids to go to a very special week of camp in the summer. There is a 1-mile fun run, 5k, and 10k.

**Teen Build A Bed:** The youth are planning a day of service for our community on October 3rd. They will be building beds at the Montgomery County Sleep in Heavenly Peace location.

**NDI Council Meeting:** There will be an NDI Council Meeting this Sunday, October 4th after the morning worship service. Lunch will be sandwiches and chips, please reply to the text group as to what you are planning to bring. Also, department leaders should send an email of their report to Jean, Faith, and Pastor.

**Day of Fasting:** The first Wednesday of October is the 7th 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 had a great revival with Rev. Ken Dove.
- We praise God that Tammy Eby continues to improve following hip replacement surgery.
- We celebrated the baptism of Shaquile and Ruth in September.
- Joe is improving greatly following his surgery.

**Individual Concerns:**

- Bob Altic needs our prayer as he continues his recovery from having 3 procedures on his knee and is currently in the hospital.

- Liz Hatfield will have surgery on October 5.
- Kathy Edwards' father passed away.
- Marilyn Stephens had a fall and is a little banged up.
- Amara Ojajuni is returning from Nigeria this weekend.
- Thomas Morrison is returning from Iceland this weekend.
- Bobbi Jean's dad continues to deal with UTIs
- Nancy Snedecor is in a nursing home and is not doing well.
- Continue to keep Ruth Henshaw in prayer.
- Richard Hatfield continues to have a lot of pain in his shoulder.
- Continue to keep Jaclyn Maglasang in your prayers.
- Pray for baby Juliana (11 months old) who continues to be hospitalized after heart surgery. Doctors are waiting for her lungs to be strong enough to send her home.
- Jeannette and Don Kentch are continuing in the process of selling their home as they move to Corpus Christi.
- Two young men associated with WCC have received mobilization orders from the military.

**Corporate Concerns:**

- Pray for our outreach efforts and Bible studies at 333 Holly.
- Pray for the serious situations across our world including Venezuela, Iran, and the Ukraine.
- Pray for the people of Nigeria, especially those who are Christians, as they face persecution.
- Pray for the people of Cuba, especially the fuel shortage and political situation.
- Pray for our Hispanic ministry under the leadership of Hector Vazquez.
- Pray for our Rally Point ministry under Pastor Richard Hatfield as we seek to serve the veterans of our community.
- Pray for our church leaders that God will give them wisdom and strength 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.

**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 what your preference of game style, someone will be willing to try it with you. Come out at 6:30 p.m. on October 8th, bring a snack to share, and join in the fun.

**Sewing/Craft Classes:** Our group of crafty ladies will be meeting on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1:00 PM. Their main focus will be on sewing; including giving sewing lessons for beginners and those that want to improve their current sewing skills. You may also bring a project of any type that you are currently working on. All are welcome to come and join in the fellowship. They will meet on October 9th and 23rd.

**Fellaship:** Men's Fellaship will meet on Saturday, October 10th, at 8:30 AM, at WCC. This is a great time to invite a guy friend to join you and meet the men of WCC and enjoy a great breakfast together and a short devotional. Pastor Richard is preparing something special for us.

**Board Meeting:** Our church board will meet on Tuesday, October 13th, at 6:30 PM. Please keep them in prayer as they discuss business matters pertaining to the church and ministry items to reach our community.

**Wednesday Night Prayer Service:** There is a 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 requests. 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. We end our prayer time each week with communion.

**Women Renewed Craft Workshop:** There will be a craft workshop on Thursday, October 15th, from 6:30-8:00 PM. Various crafts will be available to work on, especially Christmas crafts for the Montgomery County Nutcracker Market in November. If you are working on something at home and you would like to bring that, feel free to do so. It will be a great time of fun and fellowship, and you will not want to miss out!

**Bonfire and Hayride:** On Sunday, October 18th, there will be an All-Church Bonfire and Hayride from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM. This is a great time to just hang out with your church family and invite friends to get to know your church family. There will be a sign-up sheet for hot dogs, chips, and drinks. You are welcome to come and stay for the whole time or come and go as needed. The farm is located at 13163 Nicholson Rd. in Conroe.

**Prime Time Lunch:** The Prime Time Group will be meeting for lunch on Tuesday, October 20th, at Los Cucos at 11:30 AM. Los Cucos is located at 4775 W-Panther Creek Drive, Unit 200, The Woodlands.

**Hispanic Heritage Day:** October is Spanish Heritage month, and we are planning a special day of celebration on Sunday, October 25. During the morning service, some of those in our church of Hispanic heritage will be participating in our service. Then in the afternoon, there will be a special service in Spanish. Make plans to support our Hispanic brothers and sisters. We are one family united in Christ Jesus.

**333 Holly Ministry Meeting:** After the morning worship service on Sunday, October 25th, there will be an organizational meeting for the Fall Festival at the apartments. This meeting is for everyone who would like to volunteer to help with this outreach event. The event will be a Fall Festival held at 333 Holly Apartments on Friday, October 30th.

**Young Adult Game Time:** The young adults will be meeting at the church on Sunday, October 25th, at 1:00 PM, to play board games. You are welcome to come and stay as long as you want. Bring a friend and join in the fun.

**Fall Festival 333 Holly Apartments:** Rally Point Ministries and WCC will be helping to impact our community as they join in the Fall Festival at 333 Holly. It will be from 4:00 to 7:00 on Friday, October 30. Join us in using this opportunity to share the love of Jesus.

**Mercy Me Concert:** Teens and Young Adults are welcome to join us on Oct. 31 for the Mercy Me Concert at the Cynthia B. Woods Pavilion. We are planning to sit on the lawn together. The concert begins at 7:00 p.m. Order your tickets soon before they sell out.

**Man Camp:** It will not be long until it is time for bacon, bacon, and more bacon. That is because Man Camp is coming November 6-8 at Camp Buckner. Once again men from all over South Texas will gather for good food, manly fun, and a chance to go deeper in our faith. There is still time to register. Use this link to register.

**Membership Class:** Pastor Mark is putting together a class for those who want to know more about Woodlands Community Church and the Church of the Nazarene. This class is for those who desire to become official members of the church but is also open to anyone who wants to know more about our church.

**Mortgage Fund:** In September, **$1,280** was given toward our mortgage payment freeing up that same amount for ministry. You are invited to join us as we continue to faithfully seek God's guidance in our finances.

**Prayer Ministry:** Our prayer ministry is under the leadership of Julie Hill. There are tables at each side of the front of the sanctuary where you can submit prayer requests before, during, or after the service, as well as the names of unsaved loved ones you would like the prayer team to pray for.

We have a prayer team but would love to add more prayer warriors. 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.

The prayer room is open and available for use at any time. You are welcome 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 and a box for you to add any prayer request that you may have.

**Church App:** We have a church app. You may access this newsletter, our church bulletin, 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 church's google calendar to your own device with this link. It is updated frequently with information on church events.

## •Upcoming Events:

Oct 1: Men's Bible Study

Oct 3: Run for Hope

Oct 3: Women's Bible Study

Oct 3: Teen's at Build A Bed

Oct 4: NDI Council Meeting

Oct 7: Prayer and Fasting

Oct 8: Game Night (by Prime Time)

Oct 9: Sewing/Craft Classes

Oct 10: Fellaship

Oct 13: Board Meeting

Oct 14: Prayer Service

Oct 15: WR Craft Workshop

Oct 15: Men's Bible Study

Oct 17: Women's Bible Study

Oct 18: Bonfire and Hayride

Oct 20: Prime Time Lunch

Oct 21: Prayer Service

Oct 22: Texas Road School

Oct 23: Sewing/Craft Classes

Oct 25: Hispanic Heritage Days

Oct 25: 333 Holly Apt Ministry Meeting

Oct 25: Young Adult Game Time

Oct 28: Prayer Service

Oct 29: Men's Bible Study

Oct 30: 333 Holly Apt Fall Festival

Oct 31: Women's Bible Study

Oct 31: Mercy Me Concert

Nov 6-8: Man Camp

Nov 12-14: REAL Retreat

Nov 13-14: Montgomery Co Nutcracker

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

## • WCC September Statistics

### •Finances:

**Fully Funded Budget March 2026 - Feb. 2027: $261,343**

Needed Monthly: $22,000

Income for September: $13,882 (This figure includes general tithes and offerings only. It does not include Future Fund or items not budgeted like ticket sales.)

Income YTD: $155,340

**Faith Promise Goal: $22,000**

Faith Promise YTD: $5,245

**Mortgage Fund:**

Mortgage Fund Received in September: $1,280
Mortgage Remaining: $358,432

## •September ATTENDANCE:

**Sunday School and Discipleship**
Sunday School:45
Discipleship:36
Total:59 (Average Unique Participants Each Week)
Participants:113 (Unique Participants in September)

**Worship**
WCC In-Person Worship:78
Estimate Worshippers Online: 9
Total:87