



# THE WESTBURY WORD

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION FOR WESTBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2018

Volume XXXIV, Number 11

*With Hearts,  
and Minds,  
and Voices*



## **Community Thanksgiving Service**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 4 PM, SANCTUARY

Westbury Baptist Church is hosting this year!

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service is sponsored by the Southwest Ministerial Association.

**A reception will follow in the gym.**

All are welcome.



*We are taking precaution so no one can criticize us about this large sum administered by us. For we are making provision for what is right, not only before the Lord, but also before men.*

*2 CORINTHIANS 8:20-21*

## DEACON FELLOWSHIP

*Seeking First the Kingdom of God*

- November 4 – Paul Brown
- November 11 – Ellis Bardin
- November 18 – David Callison
- November 25 – Wayne Colburn

### NEXT MEETING

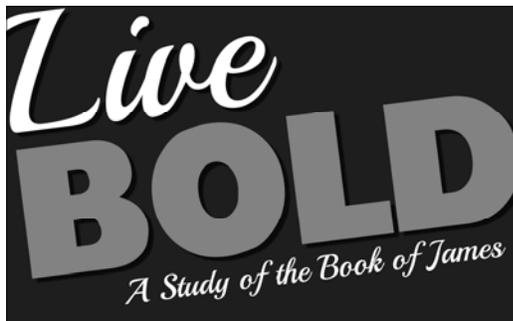
Sunday, November 18, 2 pm, Parlor B



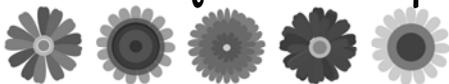
**Don't forget to change your clocks on Sunday, November 4**

Which happens to be WBC's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and date for the next Business Meeting.

## SERMON SERIES FOR NOVEMBER



## Flowers for Worship



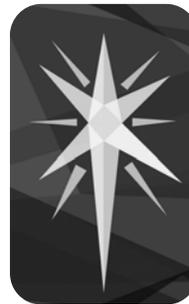
*If you would like to provide flowers for a worship service in celebration, memory, recognition of a person or event in your life—or just because!—remember to sign up on the chart or contact the church office (713.723.6428). **Remaining dates in 2018 are: DECEMBER 9, 30***

*Welcome to Our Church Family!*



## NEW CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Antonio and Beth Castillo  
Freddy and Cara Hinojosa  
Scott and LouAnn Edwards  
Said Castelan



*Christmas Luncheon*  
*The Promise of Christmas*

**Wednesday, December 12**

Entertainment: **Joshua Johnson**

11 am, Room C-109

**Ticket Required (\$12).**

*Tickets will be available on Sundays in the narthex and on Wednesdays through Heart to Hand between November 18 and December 9.*

## FAMILY SKATE NIGHT

**Tuesday, November 6, 6 to 8 pm**  
Family Life Center Gym



Bring your kids to have some fun skating at WBC! Feel free to bring your own skates, or you can use some of ours with a pair of your own socks.

Parents are welcome to skate along or just watch but are asked to stay and supervise their children.

**Look out for this weekly activity to resume in February**

### News from FLC Recreation

*Open Gym Nights and Family Skate Nights will be on hiatus during Youth Basketball League.*

## LESSONS FROM ANOTHER TRIP AROUND THE SUN

I wasn't quite sure what would happen. Would I wake up and feel physically unable to do some of the things I enjoyed the previous day? Would my children recognize me in the morning as I made my way into their rooms to wake them? Would the dog begin growling at me as he snuck out from underneath his blanket? Who could I call to find out what the difference was going to be? I wanted someone to please tell me what 40 years old was going to be like.

I suppose the good news was that nothing really changed. I'm still able to do the things I enjoy, and my children and dog still recognize me. As far as finding someone to tell me what to expect as I enter my 40s, well, plenty of people have offered their perspective. What I have come to understand about another's perspective is that it's all been different. So that means either my 40s are going to be a roller coaster of events, or my experience is going to be uniquely mine.

This month we will celebrate Westbury Baptist Church's 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will be a great opportunity to reflect back on the previous years to celebrate what God has done in the life of our church — and trust me, He has done a lot! In the midst of our celebration and remembrance, we will take the opportunity to look ahead at what He continues to do today and in the days to come.

Perhaps our greatest temptation in this season is to look around at what other churches are doing, or have already done, and try to mimic them. If we fall victim to this great temptation then we will be robbing ourselves of the opportunity to be uniquely us. Instead, we will look at where we are and where we are heading and continue to trust that God is molding us into His church.

So who is Westbury Baptist Church? Our first response may be that Westbury Baptist Church is a multigenerational, multiethnic community of believers who seek to engage, equip and empower any person

who desires to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And if this is our answer, it is a really good answer. But perhaps an even better answer to this question is: you and me. We are Westbury Baptist Church. We believe a church is not a building or an institution, but a group of Christ-followers who worship Him together, love one another, and seek to show His love to our community and world.

Think about it this way: Westbury Baptist Church is a "community of believers," but if you and I (u-n-i) are not actively a part of it, then that community is incomplete (comm \_\_\_ \_\_ ty). Instead, it is you and I that make up the central part of this community. Therefore, it is our responsibility to be active participants in the Kingdom work to which God has called us.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17 the apostle Paul writes, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, and look, new things have come." Paul refers to the continuous, ongoing process of sanctification that occurs in one's life upon entering into a personal relationship with Christ. If we consider that Paul is talking about individuals and that the church is actually made up of individuals, then we understand that if we remain in Christ, then we, through the Holy Spirit, are in a continuous, ongoing process of being made into the image of Christ.

As we move forward into this next year in the life of WBC, we do not place our programming or budget or attendance numbers above our worship of God. Instead, we must continue to be faithful in our worship, allowing Him to bless us and provide for us, that we may be used for His purposes.

**Grace & Peace,**  
Brandon



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>NOVEMBER</h1>				1 7:00 pm Basketball Evaluations	2 7:00 pm Basketball Evaluations 6:30 pm Friday Night Hangout (Youth)	3 8:00 am Basketball Evaluations
4 <b>WBC's 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b> 9:15 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship 12:15 pm Business Mtg 12:15 pm Youth Choir & Band 5:15 pm The Well 	5 6:45 pm Open Gym: Men's Basketball	6 10:30 am Prime Timer Bible Study 12:00 pm Prime Timer Council Mtg 6:00 pm Family Skate Night  ELECTION DAY	7 9:30 am Heart to Hand, C-109 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choirs, Children's Bldg 6:00 pm Open Gym: Co-ed Volleyball 6:15 pm Overflow: Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live (Youth) 7:00 pm Children's TeamKIDs & Bible Drill 7:00 pm Christmas Singers Rehearsal 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	8 10:30 am Good News Class	9	10
11 <b>Veterans Day</b> 9:15 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship 12:15 pm Youth Choir & Band 5:15 pm The Well  Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due	12	13	14 9:30 am Heart to Hand, C-109 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choirs, Children's Bldg 6:15 pm Overflow: Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live (Youth) 7:00 pm TeamKIDs, Children's Bldg 7:00 pm Christmas Singers Rehearsal 8:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	15	16	17
18 9:15 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship 2:00 pm Deacons Meeting 4:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service	19	20	21 <i>Closed in observance of Thanksgiving</i>	22 <i>Closed in observance of Thanksgiving</i>  HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	23	24
25 9:15 am Bible Study 10:45 am Worship 12:15 pm Youth Choir & Band 5:15 pm The Well	26	27	28 5:00 pm Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm Children's Choirs, Children's Bldg 6:15 pm Overflow: Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Wednesday Night Live (Youth) 7:00 pm TeamKIDs, Children's Bldg 7:00 pm Christmas Singers Rehearsal	29	30	

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, ESV.**



## YOUTH FALL RETREAT REPORT

For the students involved in The Branch, two events are anticipated the most every year: Summer Camp and Fall Retreat. If you could see all the smiling faces throughout the trip, you would understand why. We departed from WBC with mixed emotions of excitement and reservation. The students were excited to have a weekend away, but quite a few of them were reserved in their emotions because Stoney Creek Ranch was new territory for us all. All reservations quickly vanished as the weekend began with s'mores around a campfire and an opening devotion from Matthew Mitchell. The devotion set the stage for the weekend. The charge was to embrace anew the One who has claimed them with His blood, and it resounded throughout each message of the weekend. We all need reminders to regard the claim God has placed on our hearts and lives, and that was the point of this weekend. In Christ, we are NEW creations. We need to embrace the NEW. Let His NEW you shine! Many thanks to all those who contributed to sending students to Fall Retreat!

C #T GR Q T V#Q P #VJ G##  
H ` kk#T d sqd ` s#en q#VJ G #Y GNN#

Fall Retreat used to be a regular occurrence for the college and young adults ministry. That is, until a couple of years ago. Nine young adults joined us for Fall Retreat this year, and there was much excitement. For many of them college classes were weighing them down, and a refreshing break was much needed. We jumped right into refocusing on God's claim on our lives with a reminder of God's willingness to make us NEW from Mark 1:40-42. Jesus cleansed a leper, who believed that He was capable but forgot just how willing He is to restore. Sometimes, a prayer request goes unanswered for so long that we may forget how willing God is to answer us. May this reminder inspire you to continue to seek His renewal and restoration, as it did for the young adults of The Well. His will is for us all to be made NEW! Many thanks to those who contributed to sending young adults to Fall Retreat for a much-needed recharge!

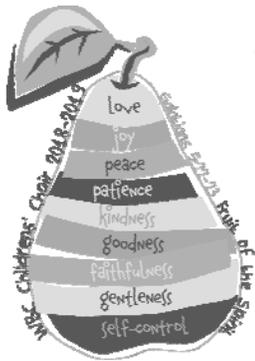


### Operation Christmas Child Boxes Due on Sunday, November 11

Each year, WBC has collected shoe boxes filled with gifts for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child to deliver to children in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for a boy or girl to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the Gospel. Many who receive a shoebox also enroll in Samaritan's Purse discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. More information at: [samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://samaritanspurse.org/occ)

#### How are we collecting the \$9 per shoebox shipping donation?

Print box label, attach to box, and follow your box by donating directly through [Samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://Samaritanspurse.org/occ) website or donate to Westbury Baptist Church *specifying* Operation Christmas Child.



## A Note from the Children's Choir Coordinator

It was inevitable that I would be forced to think about patience. It is one of the “fruit of the spirit,” which is our theme for children's choirs this year. Patience is certainly not something most of us have in excess, especially when we get

busy. The children’s Christmas program this year is about Advent. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation for Jesus’ birth—the first coming of Jesus. Advent is a reminder that we’re in such a season of waiting for the second coming of Jesus. I don’t know how the traditional Advent themes for the four weeks leading to Christmas came to be, but I had an “ah ha” moment: I wonder if the “fruit of the spirit,” as listed by the Apostle Paul, might have been part of the thought process.

Imagine that the fruit of the spirit listed in Galatians 5 are in some sort of meaningful order. The first four listed are

“love, joy, peace, patience,” – which is almost EXACTLY the OPPOSITE of the advent week order “hope (=patience?), peace, joy, love!” It’s as if Advent is a “fruit-of-the-spirit-inspired countdown” to Jesus’ birth! We begin with HOPE (patience) based on prophecies of a coming Messiah. Then we experience the PEACE of knowing that God is faithful to keep His promises. We experience the JOY with the shepherds who received the angelic message that the Messiah had come. Then, we recognize that this birth was all because of God’s LOVE for all of us, which can motivate us to share His love with all around us. Enjoy your “countdown to Christmas” as you celebrate the Advent season!

Join us on **December 2 at 5:30 for the Children’s Christmas Program** to hear more about the weeks of Advent and how we can prepare for Christ’s coming in our lives!

*Tronie Gunn*

## FROM BRAES INTERFAITH MINISTRIES

Braes Interfaith Ministries is anticipating a busy holiday season with increased family requests for food already beginning. We will be working with the Houston Food Bank for turkey/chicken distribution this Thanksgiving. We recognize that the holidays bring a level of stress for families in need and we are working hard to support them through this time.

Our School Supply Program was a big success with approximately 720 packets distributed, in comparison to 514 last year. Thank you to all who supported this mission.

The Braes Resale Shop is doing very well with some of our manager Ryan Kreibe’s innovations, including a new Point of Sale system and the Clothing Voucher system. Christmas items are now available! So it is a good time to get a start on decorating and gift ideas.

In 2019, Braes Interfaith Ministries will celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!! Watch for an announcement of activities in next month’s Westbury Word. *Kristy Davidson*

## *Deck WBC with Poinsettias!*

You have an opportunity to help us “deck the halls” by purchasing a poinsettia in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one or a friend. A list of those being honored or remembered along with the names of those making the contributions will be printed in the Sunday morning worship guide on Sunday, December 16.

If you or your Bible Study class, committee, or another group would like to contribute \$20 toward a poinsettia and other decorations, please complete the form that will be available in the worship guides beginning on November 11. **The deadline will be Sunday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.** at the Jingle and Mingle fellowship.

It is traditional for Westbury Baptist to decorate the sanctuary with poinsettias. At the conclusion of the 5:30 and 7 p.m. Christmas Eve services, you may take your poinsettia(s) home in appreciation of your contribution toward the poinsettias and other decorations.

## The Westbury WORD

The Westbury Word (USPS 003-067) is published monthly,  
12 times a year by Westbury Baptist Church, 10425 Hillcroft Street,  
Houston, Texas, 77096-4798

Periodicals Postage Paid at Houston, Texas.  
And additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
The Westbury WORD  
10425 Hillcroft Street  
Houston, Texas 77096-4703

WESTBURY BAPTIST CHURCH  
10425 Hillcroft Street  
Houston, Texas 77096-4703

### Address Service Requested

## THE CHURCH ENGAGED

On **November 3, 1963**,  
Westbury Baptist Church became  
a fully constituted church  
of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The church began with:  
**653** charter members  
A budget of **\$127,000**

On **November 4, 2018**, WBC will  
celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Today the church has:  
**7** charter members  
**916** Church members  
A budget of **\$1,573,979**

If there's been one thing  
that has remained true  
about Westbury Baptist Church,  
it is that at the core of who we are  
is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Church Office: (713) 723-6428  
Church Fax: (713) 723-6819  
[www.wbchouston.org](http://www.wbchouston.org)

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### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 am Bible Study  
10:45 am Worship

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

5:00 pm Wed. Night Supper  
6:15 pm Overflow: Adult Bible  
Study

See complete schedule inside.

SUBMIT  
**YOUR**  
ARTICLES  
for **DECEMBER**

WHO?  
WHAT? WHERE?  
WHEN? HOW?

BY  
TUESDAY,  
**Nov. 6!**

Submit to:  
[dianaweiss@wbchouston.org](mailto:dianaweiss@wbchouston.org)