



WESTLAKE NEWS

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JANUARY

2018

The Joy of Being a Kingdom Builder

We tend to focus on growing churches and getting more members; Jesus' focus, however, was on building the kingdom by making disciples that would in turn make disciples. In fact, in the gospels, Jesus only mentions the church *twice*, and never talks at all about membership. Both times that he mentions the church are in the Gospel of Matthew. In Matthew 16, after Peter's profound profession that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Jesus boldly proclaimed that ***HE would build the church***. (The second time he mentions the church was in Matthew 18 when He shares how we are to resolve conflict).

In contrast to the church only being mentioned 2 times in the gospels,
the *Kingdom of God* is used 54 times in the gospels
the *Kingdom of Heaven*: 32 times in the gospels
and *Disciple* **268 times** in the gospels!

If Jesus was so consumed with the Kingdom of God and making disciples, would it not make sense for followers of Christ to have the same concern and emphasis? Are we more concerned at WPC with growing the church or growing the kingdom, getting more members, or making more disciples. Mike Breen in his book, *Building a Discipleship Culture* noted that "*Effective discipleship builds the church, not the other way around. We need to understand the church as the **effect** of discipleship and not the **cause**. If you set out to build the church, there is no guarantee you will make disciples. It is far more likely that you will create consumers who depend on the spiritual services that religious professional provide.*" (p.5)

Breen goes on to say: "*If you know how to disciple people well, you will always get mission. Always.*" "*If you know how to actually make disciples, you'll reach people who don't know Jesus. Because that's simply what disciples do.*" (p. 6)

We will take a fresh look at scripture with respect to this critical issue during the first part of 2018, as we focus on "*The Joy of Being Kingdom Builders.*" It will have huge implications for the future of WPC.

Don't miss this exciting study!
Blessings for an amazing 2018!

Pastor Roger

Mission & Communication

Update

Every year we budget \$1,000 to be used for local missions. In 2017, we donated \$250 to each of four local missions: Charitable Union, Lakeview Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, and Safe Place. These organizations were chosen because they supply clients with four essential human needs: clothing, food, shelter, and safety.

Our December FEC dinner was a big success. The children and their parents enjoyed tacos while they participated in FEC Christmas party activities. There was even a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Remember to take pictures of Westlake activities and send them to the mission committee so that we can post them on our website. Check the website frequently to see what's happening at Westlake.

News from the Deacons

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Praise to our great God for bringing us all into another year of service to Him! The Deacons would like to extend to everyone a heartfelt THANK YOU for once again pouring out your love and support of our mission projects during the Christmas season. Joyous noise was made ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, many gifts were placed under the tree for the Family Enrichment Center Christmas gift collection, over twenty gift bags were stuffed full and delivered to our homebound church family members and our great staff and more joyful noise was made Christmas Caroling. Thank you all for being Jesus's hands and feet to one another and our community.

Love, Kerri

We wish to thank all who have pledged your offering for 2018. We promise to use the funds wisely. If you have not already pledged and wish to do so, there are pledge cards available in the church office. May God bless each of you in this new year.

The Session

January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 7 Paul Reid
- 14 Madalyn Trumblee
- 16 Kyle Korten
- 18 Thera Good
- 21 Leah Tharp
- 24 Camille Hood
- Joe Goss
- 27 Annelise Comai
- 31 Truman Smyth

Anniversary

- 19 Paul & Carol Reid

WESTLAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY

November 30, 2017

OPERATING BUDGET

	MONTH	YTD	BUDGET
INCOME	10,722	151,247	134,121
EXPENSES	11,570	142,509	181,195
INCOME VS EXPENSES	(848)	8,738	



PW is so proud of our women at Westlake always being ready to help when needed.

THANK YOU!

Our mission for January is to encourage anyone who can to VOLUNTEER someplace during 2018.

Places that would welcome your time:

Charitable Union, soup kitchen, food pantries (they are located throughout the city), Marian Burch Facility, Binder Park Zoo, The Kool Family Center, Willard Library, Volunteer Bureau, Bronson & Oaklawn Hospitals, and many other agencies.

If you need help finding something to fit your schedule, contact the PW Board.

During the year, our recycling missions (stamps, tabs, card fronts, educational coupons, Family Fare receipts) will continue.

These items can be put in the canisters located on the bench in the foyer.

We also plan to continue to have the coat drive, collect supplies for the Haven of Rest and SAFE Place, make dresses for our foreign mission areas, sew blankets for our local children's development agencies throughout the year. There is always a need for the items we request, and they may be brought to the church at any time.

We are always in need of extra help for our projects each month. If you can help, please contact a PW Board member or come to our Board meetings. We need your input.

Remember to wear orange on the 25th day of each month. This symbolizes that we are supporting the victims of human trafficking.

Thank You!

Dear Westlake,

What a nice thing it was to have some ladies from Westlake come and sing Christmas carols. It really gave joy to hear the singing. We so appreciate that they came by.

Thanks also to the Deacons for the bag of treats-many different goodies.

Also want to thank Pastor Roger for his visits. We have enjoyed the time he spends with us.

Sincerely,

The Dyers

Dear Westlake,

Thank you to Jean Smith and the carolers that visited my Dad, Earl Ball. It was much appreciated and he is still talking about it.

Sincerely,

Beth Clark

The American Sewing Guild extends its appreciation for the use of our fellowship hall for its meetings.

We also received notes of appreciation from the missions we support throughout the year. These include:

Safe Place

The Salvation Army

Lakeview Food Pantry

Habitat for Humanity

Lots of thanks to the Deacons and everyone that donated items for the staff Christmas baskets. Your thoughtfulness is truly appreciated.

The Westlake Staff