



WILLOW  
MEADOWS

BAPTIST CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

January 2012

“I WILL NEVER  
BREAK MY  
COVENANT  
WITH YOU.”

—Judges 2:1



Covenant Renewal Sunday, January 22

## *Financial Peace University To Be Offered at WMBC*

13-week course, Sundays, 4:00-6:00 p.m.,  
beginning January 15

Cost: \$100 per family unit for the kit

Led by Ginger Hill

You may preview the course on the  
following dates:

Sunday, January 8, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m.



*Financial Peace University is a 13-week, biblically based program  
that teaches you to eliminate debt and leave a lasting legacy!*

*Limited spaces available*

[www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com)



## **BEAT DEBT & LEAVE A LEGACY**

with Dave Ramsey's **Financial Peace University**



### ***"A Tithe of Everything"***

From early childhood, growing up on a farm out of Abilene, Texas, I remember going to church in a buggy. My family moved into Abilene where I attended church and went to Hardin-Simmons University. In all

my growing-up years of going to church the pastors asked for giving.

In the first books of the Bible, the Lord speaks of tithing. In **Leviticus 27:30** the Lord says, "A tithe of everything." Again in **Deuteronomy 14:22** the Lord says, "A tithe of everything."

After World War II, my husband stayed in the military. In 1953 we made another military move, this

time to Topeka, Kansas, where our family attended First Baptist Church, affiliated with American Baptists. We joined a couples class, and our teacher was from Palacios, Texas. She kept teaching tithing and explained why we should tithe. After a few months, we decided to try tithing. This was a big decision, but we jumped in—the tithe was taken out first when the paycheck came. That was a signal for the devil to attack. Everything started breaking, or something always needed to be replaced. This went on for two years. After two years, the devil saw we did not give in.

Still today the tithe always is the first check written. We have never been without, and have been blessed beyond our dreams. Tithing is the only way!

—Rachael McAdoo

*Rachael McAdoo has been a member of Willow Meadows Baptist Church since 1968.*



## FROM THE PASTOR

As we move into the new year, I realize that a lot of people are making changes—we call them resolutions, promises, and the like, but we all seem to know intuitively that it is a time to modify things.

This spring we are going to try a couple of modifications—

First, Wednesday night activities such as Bible Study, Line Dancing, Prime-Time, and Faithweaver Friends are going to begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30. The Wednesday evening meal will continue to be at 5:30 p.m., but the change to activities came about because it seemed that there was considerable lag time between when people were finished with their meals and when activities began. It should also be helpful to parents that their children will arrive home a little bit earlier for bed.

Second, as I mentioned in previous months, we are beginning two new ministry opportunities, the Friendship Team and Financial Peace University.

Finally, we are also exploring the opportunity to invite another congregation to meet on the Willow Meadows campus. I would ask that you all be in prayer as we begin to discuss this opportunity with the congregation as a whole.

I know the New Year brings the same busyness, but thank you all for the way you minister to the world.

Matt V.



## Community Garage Sale at WMBC

Saturday, January 28  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Need to clear out space in your house, or earn some extra cash after the holidays??? Join us for a Community Garage Sale on Saturday, January 28, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., in the church parking lot (in case of inclement weather, the sale will be held in the church gym).

Come and sell clothing, appliances, knick-knacks, or anything legal. No fee to set up your items, and you keep any money you make. Tables will be provided!

Contact us at 713-723-2870 for more info & to reserve a table!

## Interim Chosen to Work with Youth

Amanda Baker, a member of WMBC for almost a year, joined our staff on December 1 as Interim Associate Pastor of Youth.

Amanda is a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, holding a B.A. degree in Christian Studies, and is working on her Master of Social Work at the University of Houston. Currently she is also a social work intern at Burrus Elementary School.



Please welcome Amanda as she serves part-time working with our youth.

## Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Regional Meeting at WMBC, Saturday, January 21

The CBF of Texas Regional Assembly is a time for fellowship Baptists across the state of Texas to gather for worship and fellowship. Watch for more information.

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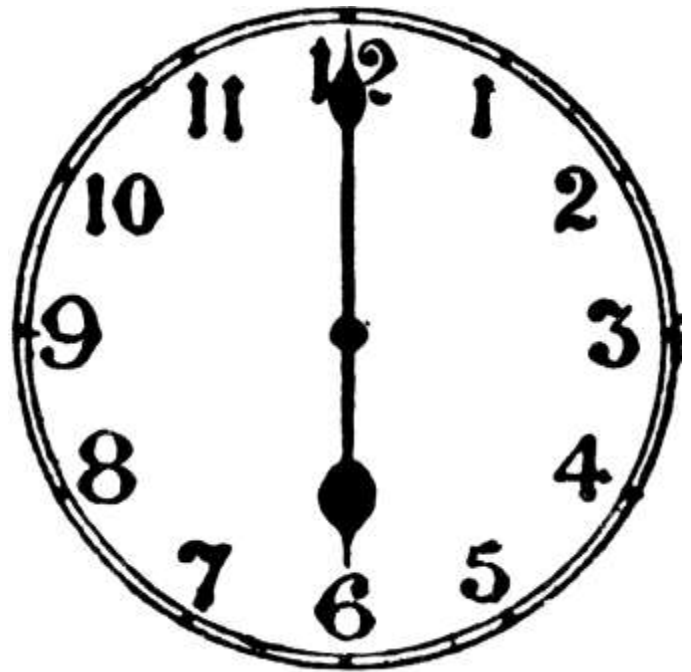
## TIME CHANGE on Wednesday Nights beginning in January

*Wednesday night activities resume on January 11*

5:30 p.m. Dinner (reservations required)  
6:00 p.m. Activities for children, PreK—5th Grades  
PrimeTime for Youth  
For Adults:  
Bible Study, led by Matt Vandagriff  
Line Dancing, led by Bill Sharber

7:00 p.m. Jubilate! Choir Rehearsal

*Please note in the above schedule:  
All activities for children, youth, and adults will begin at 6:00 p.m. and choir rehearsal at 7:00 p.m.  
Dinner remains at 5:30 p.m.*



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## LIBRARY NEWS

### Converting from Judaism to Christianity

The Library of Willow Meadows is honoring Carolyn Kastner, who was a member of the Sunshine Bible Class.

Rachel Ashby (who is now 100) was the inspiration for getting Angie Martin and Carolyn Kastner to attend the weekly Bible Study Class in the Jewish Towers, where they lived. Angie joined the Sunshine Bible Class. Later, talking to our pastor, Gary Long, about becoming a Christian, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and wanted to be baptized. Because of her age and health, she could not be baptized in the baptistery. Pastor Gary had a special service in the Sunshine Bible Class room.



*Carolyn Kastner*

Sometime later, Rachel and Angie invited Carolyn to attend the Sunshine Bible Class. Since she was Jewish, she wondered how she could become a follower of Jesus like Angie. She also talked to Pastor Gary, accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior, and had the same service of baptism as Angie had, sitting in her wheelchair. She was so excited.

**During Carolyn's extended illness, she purchased and read many good books and watched many good DVD's.** At her passing, they were given to the Library.

—Librarian, Sandra Teal

Listed below are some of the books and DVD's that Carolyn left the Library to be checked out by you, the congregation:

#### Adults:

*The Rest of God*, Mark Buchanan  
*Angels*, Billy Graham  
*The Crossings Treasury of American Prayers*, James P. Moore, Jr.  
*Coffee and Conversation*, Ruth Bell Graham & Gigi Graham Tshividjian  
*The Sermon on the Mount*, Emmet Fox  
*The Shack* (in Large Print), William P. Young  
*A Lifetime of Wisdom*, Joni Eareckson Tada  
*Healing Is a Choice*, Stephen Arterburn

#### DVD'S:

*Penney Serenade*  
*Fire in the Dark*  
*Seabiscuit*  
*Where Jesus Walked*  
*The Story of Silent Night*

The Sunshine Bible Class is donating these two books in **Carolyn's memory:**  
*Girl Meets God, a Memoir* and *Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren F. Winner

Library Hours:  
Sundays, 9:00-9:30 a.m. & 10:45-11:45 a.m.

**ATTENTION:** We have a business directory in the library for anyone to put their business card in so our congregation can see whom they can call to get help.

MOLDOVA  
2012  
MISSION TRIP  
June 29 - July 7



**Are you willing...**

- To be used by God to share his love with the children of Moldova?
- To work outside your comfort zone?
- To have your world expanded?
- To be changed to help change the world for others?

**Costs...**

- In country (room, board, transportation, translator fees) - covered by mission gifts
- Air fare - approximately \$1,800-\$2,000 (team member's responsibility)

**Contact...**

Trey Harper, Elaine Butler, or Toni Kennedy

*...and you shall be  
my witnesses  
in Jerusalem and in  
all Judea and  
Samaria  
and to the end of  
the earth.  
(Acts 1:8 RSV)*



A gnawing feeling in the stomach, light-headedness, dizziness, headaches, lethargy or weakness, inability to concentrate, a craving for food, and pain—all of these are associated with hunger. Most of us can end the temporary experience of hunger but unfortunately, according to a recent survey, one in four families in Houston have trouble buying groceries. And every day in Texas, an estimated 53,000 people (up from 35,000 last year) are **truly defined as "hungry," men and women of all ages, and children, wrestle with these unwanted symptoms.** Food insecurity is not knowing if you will have food tomorrow.

Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. In 2011, more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$9.5 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. That's a total of more than \$81 million collected since the movement began in 1990! This year's goal is to empower 275,000 young people to collect \$11 million for charities in their communities.

On Super Bowl Sunday (February 5), our young people will take up a collection asking for a donation for people in need. They give 100% of the donation directly to Braes Interfaith Ministries where \$1 can buy \$27 worth of food from the Houston Food Bank.

Help us grow this movement and tackle hunger in our community!

Blood Drive

Where: Willow Meadows Baptist Church  
Upstairs Conference Room

When: Sunday, January 29, 2012

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Contact: Judy Terry

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE



November Recycling Report

During the month of November, we recycled 7.85 tons of paper, saving 24.49 cubic yards of landfill space, and earning \$117.46 for the church.

Thanks for recycling. Keep up the good work.



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## Faithweaver Friends

Building friendships with God  
and each other!

Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.

Starting January 11

PreK-5th grade in the

**Children's Wing on the 2nd floor**

## Jonah and the Big Fish

We'll learn that God is always in control  
as we explore the story of Jonah through  
cooking, art, movie, and science.



Sundays mornings @ 10:45 a.m.

**in the Children's Wing on**

the 2nd floor



## Journey JAM

Jesus And Me on His Path

## All-Family Bowling!

Join us for an exciting afternoon of  
bowling with the entire family!

Sunday, January 22, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Palace Lanes

4191 Bellaire Blvd.

(Between Stella Link and Newcastle)

\$7 a person

\$25 max per family



## Talent Show & Spaghetti Dinner

Join us for a spaghetti dinner benefiting the  
youth and an all-church talent show.

Friday, February 10

6:00-9:00 p.m. @ WMBC

\$5 per person

Screenings will be held on

Friday, January 27

Sign up with Trey at [tharper@wmbc.org](mailto:tharper@wmbc.org)

## Talent Show & Spaghetti Dinner

Got a talent? Here's your chance to show it off! Join us for a spaghetti dinner benefiting the youth and an all-church talent show.

Friday, February 10

6:00-9:00pm @ WMBC

\$5 per person

\*Screenings will be held Friday, January 27\*



### Paintball!

Saturday,  
January 21  
Urban Warzone  
Paintball  
Meet at WMBC  
@ 12:00 p.m.  
\$25 per person

Sign up at [wmbc.org](http://wmbc.org) by  
Tuesday, January 17



### Small Groups

Starting Sunday, January 15,  
from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

#### Guys' Small Group

@ the Loft

Join us as we find out what it means  
to be a guy who follows Jesus.

#### Girls' Small Group

@ place to be announced

We'll explore what it means to be a  
Christian girl today.

## Youth Benefit Night

Bring your family and friends for a fun dinner out that supports the youth!  
Simply give a flyer to your server when you pay and Los Tios will  
donate 20% of your check to the youth. It's that easy!

Tuesday, January 10

4:00-10:00 p.m. @ Los Tios in Meyerland





## UPCOMING OTRA EVENTS

### ("On the Road Again")

Thursday, January 26:

"Bring It On" at TUTS and eat at Cleburne Cafeteria; meet at Hobby Lobby at 5:00 p.m. to ride the bus leaving at 5:15.

Contact Carol Simmons, 713-669-8562, 713-249-2884, or rtsimmons@aol.com for info.



### Worship Schedule for Sunday, January 1

10:30 a.m.

Combined Worship Service  
in the Sanctuary

*No Bible Study classes that day.*



### Staff Recognition

The Personnel Committee invites you to join them in expressing appreciation to Felix Quinteros for 19 years of service as custodian this month, and in wishing a happy birthday to Kay White on January 1.



### Shearn Elementary School

9802 Stella Link Rd.  
Houston, Texas 77025  
Telephone: (713) 295-5236  
Mr. Clifford W. "Bill" Buck, Principal

November 22, 2011

Willow Meadows Baptist Church  
Reverend Matthew Vandagriff, Senior Pastor  
4300 W. Belfort Street  
Houston, Texas 77035


Dear Pastor Vandagriff and Congregation:

It is with great pleasure that we compose this letter to express our appreciation for your donation of support of the students and faculty at Charles P. Shearn Elementary School.

We are very appreciative of your donations of school uniforms for students through the devoted work of the Women's Mission Union under Ms. Lila Slavens' direction. Thank you for making a difference in our students' lives.

We applaud your community concern and your spirit of conviviality towards children and their education.

With children in mind,

  
C. W. "Bill" Buck  
Principal



### Sanctuary Flowers for 2012

If you would like to give the Sunday Sanctuary flowers in 2012 in memory or honor of someone, please contact Sandra in the church office.

The following dates are available:

Jan 8 22 Feb 5 Apr 8 (3 arrangements—Easter 2 & 3 still available) 22 29 May 6 13 20 27 July 8 15 29 Aug 12  
Sept 16 23 Oct 14 21 Nov 4  
(no flowers during Lent or Advent)

The cost is \$65.

# Meadows Preschool

Cyndi Wehmeyer, Associate Pastor  
Weekday Preschool Education  
cwehmeyer@wmbc.org



...a ministry of Willow Meadows Baptist Church



...the little  
school with a  
BIG heart!



Mark your calendars - **It's time to register for the next session of Meadows Preschool—**  
August 2012—May 2013!

- Monday, January 23: Currently Enrolled Families
- Wednesday, January 25: Families on the Waiting List
- Thursday, January 26: Open to Public

At Meadows Preschool you will find Early Preschool for babies born by February 2012 through two years of age. And, Preschool classes are for children 2 ½ years – fabulous PreK. The teaching staff is professional, nurturing, and ready for a year of exciting, creative, DAP (developmentally appropriate practice) learning experiences.

Early care is at 8:00 a.m., classes from 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., and Kids Club from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

*Contact Cyndi Wehmeyer for a tour or more details.*

## lifeline



Tuesday, January 10  
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Wednesday, January 11  
6:00 p.m.  
in the Welcome Center

MINISTRY TO EXPECTING &  
PRESCHOOL MOMS

The mission of lifeline is to encourage moms from all walks of life to grow as mothers and connect in meaningful ways with other moms through friendship, fun, support, faith, and coffee. lifeline moms group is open to all moms in the community, regardless of religious or church affiliation. If you know a mom who might be interested, please let her know about this group!

For more information,  
email [lifelinemom@gmail.com](mailto:lifelinemom@gmail.com) or  
call Susan at 713-272-2000.

# THE MESSENGER

Willow Meadows Baptist Church  
4300 W. Bellfort St.  
Houston, TX 77035-3602



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ORGANIZATION  
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HOUSTON, TX

Return Service Requested



Church Phone: 713-723-2870  
Church Fax: 713-723-0640

Prayer Line:  
713-255-7057

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## JANUARY 2012

Monday, January 2 - Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 11 - Activities for  
Children, Youth, & Adults resume—*note time  
change - (see p. 4)*

Saturday, January 21 - CBF Regional meeting at  
WMBC (*see p. 3*)

Saturday, January 28 - Community Garage Sale  
(*see p. 3*)



### Sunday Schedule:

9:30 a.m. Jubilate! Worship - Sanctuary  
10:45 a.m. Bible Study for All Ages  
12:00 p.m. Overflow Worship - Chapel