



**Nathan Parker**  
Senior Pastor

## January Series: "The Heart of the Matter: How the Gospel Changes Everything"

Have you ever started something only to realize later that you had made a mistake at the beginning? For example, buttoning up a shirt starting with the wrong button. You don't realize it until you reach the last button. Several years ago we bought our oldest son a bike for Christmas. I should have paid the extra \$20 for assembly, because it took me several hours late into the night to put it together. At one point I realized I had missed a crucial step at the beginning and had to undo much of the work I had done.

The point is that if you get the beginning wrong, everything else will be wrong too. A beautiful building that is built on a shoddy foundation is ultimately worthless. All "progress" built on a faulty foundation is not really progress, but additional error. I will admit that there have been times where I have been lost while driving and instead of stopping, getting directions, and going back the right way, I simply kept driving, getting more and more lost in the process.

So the crucial question for all of us is, "What are we building our lives on?" At some point, everyone has a foundation that is the basis for their lives. As Rick Warren says, "We're all betting our lives on something." If you're

reading this, you would probably answer, "I'm building my life on my faith in God." But what does your faith consist of?

In 2001 the Lilly Endowment helped to fund a massive project called the National Study of Youth and Religion. Sociologists and theologians and other researchers conducted twelve years of interviews, documenting what teenagers across the country professed to believe. What the researchers found was shocking – nearly 3 out of 4 teens claimed to be Christian. And 3 out of 5 said they attended church once a month or more. But when pressed to articulate their faith, the researchers found that these teens were really "almost Christian" (see the book with that title by Kenda Creasy Dean).

Researchers began to define the common beliefs that the youth had espoused. It was a sort of pseudo-Christian religion. Christian Smith, a sociologist from Notre Dame, coined the phrase "moralistic therapeutic deism" to describe it. The teens said that Christianity is about being good and following the rules like God tells us to (moralism), and that God helps them feel better about things (therapeutic), and that God is not really actively involved in their daily lives (deism). As the researchers dove deeper into the study, they found that these youth were merely repeating what they had heard at church and from their parents.

The church in Galatia was also full of pseudo-Christians. They had fallen for a false teaching that reduced Christianity to a system of rules and outward appearances. The apostle Paul desperately pleads with his young church plant to return to what should be the foundation of their faith – the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The word "gospel" is our English version of what the Bible refers to as a "good message." The gospel of Jesus Christ is good news! In fact, it's the best news. Sometimes I look back at a sermon I've written and think, "Is what I'm saying here really good news?" Because if it isn't, I'm missing the foundation of the whole Christian faith – the gospel – and I'm leading others to a form of pseudo-Christianity. True, robust, life-giving Christianity must keep the gospel of Jesus Christ as the firm foundation upon which everything else depends.

**The Heart of the Matter**  
*How the Gospel Changes Everything*

SUNDAY SERIES JANUARY 2022

Jan. 2	Who Gave Himself for our Sins (Gal. 1:1-9)
Jan. 9	Not Man's Gospel (Gal. 1:10-24)
Jan. 16	Justified by Faith in Christ (Gal. 2:1-16)
Jan. 23	By Hearing with Faith (Gal. 2:17-3:5)
Jan. 30	All Who Rely on Works (Gal. 3:6-14)

My prayer is that through the course of these three months in the Letter to the Galatians, we will reinforce the core of our faith. I pray that we will hear Paul's words of correction as sweet and healing as we celebrate the goodness of his message – that the high and holy God has welcomed us into His family by grace through faith in Jesus. That all of our sin and suffering and shame has been overcome. That the work of salvation has already been accomplished, so we don't have to keep spinning our wheels trying to impress God. That God actually knows us and accepts us and even likes us just as we are – flawed and broken as we may be. Let's make sure we aren't making a mess of things by building our lives on any other foundation than this good news.

Grace and peace,

*NATHAN*





## Christmas Offering

**Goal: \$50,000 (by January 16, 2022)**

Please prayerfully consider how you can give to the Woodmont's World Missions Christmas Offering this year.

You may designate your special contribution to either "Lottie Moon offering - IMB" or "Offering for Global Missions CBF" or to both. The default designation is the Lottie Moon offering. Our total goal is \$50,000 - a stretch, but together we can do it! May the Lord use our church and these funds to make disciples of all nations!

**Giving totals through Sunday, Dec. 26:**

Lottie Moon: \$29,574; CBF: \$2,800

## New Year's Devotional

**Thursday, January 20 at 10am**

You are invited to join us for a New Year's devotional with Dr. Bill Sherman, at 10am in the Koinonia Classroom.

We will go out to lunch at 11am and be back by 1:00! Hope to see you there!



## Wednesday Night Schedule

We will resume our Midweek activities and our fellowship meal on January 12th (with proper safety procedures and guidelines)!

Masks are strongly recommended for everyone while indoors.

**Here is the Wednesday night schedule:**

- 5:30-6:30 Fellowship Meal
- 6:00-6:30 Children's Choir Practice
- 6:30-7:30 Midweek Service  
Children / Youth
- 7:00-8:00 Sanctuary Choir Practice

This will be an in-person service in the Sanctuary and it will also be streamed live on our website, and on Facebook.

## WELCOME WOODMONT'S NEWEST MEMBERS!



**Bill & Veta Sherman**



**Bunny Sharpton**

## OUR STAFF

### Nathan Parker

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### Lil Cook, Ministry Assistant / Senior Adults

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## FRONTRUNNERS' JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Dorian Gray
- Betty Wayman
- Chris Phillips
- Tricia Scott
- Nancy Houge
- Mary Ann Pangle
- Sharon Dowdy
- Lou Warner
- Joan Simmons
- Marcia Wainman
- Barbara Costain
- Sue Foster

## PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### Continuing Concerns:

- Cheryl Gentry
- Reta Higgins
- Jan Regen
- Myrtice Owens
- Cora Southern
- Linda Southwick
- Dot White
- Chris Phillips

### Sympathy to:

- Craig Shephard whose step-mother passed away in Florida
- Tom Wainman whose brother-in-law passed away in Michigan

### Congratulations to:

- Jerry and Becky Hickson on the birth of their granddaughter on Dec. 13 in Atlanta

## DECEMBER GIVING

DURING THE WEEK OF:	12/5	12/12	12/19	12/26
<b>Weekly Receipts</b>	\$60,983	\$33,783	\$62,775	\$27,027
<b>Year to Date Budget</b>	\$854,500	\$912,750	\$971,000	\$1,029,250
<b>Year to Date Receipts</b>	\$827,899	\$861,781	\$924,556	\$951,583

## CONNECTING

### General Information

Main Phone: 615.297.5303

WBIS (WBC info service): 615.298.3100

Weekday Preschool: 615.297.2810

**Website:** [woodmontbaptist.com](http://woodmontbaptist.com)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/wbcnashville](https://facebook.com/wbcnashville)

**Weekly eNews:** To receive our eNews, sign up on our website or email Lil Cook.

**Text Alerts:** Text "wbctextalerts" to 781-728-9542 to receive emergency info from us about church closings due to inclement weather.

**Woodmont's Live TV Broadcast**  
Sundays, 10:30am on MYTV30 (Comcast Channel 14)

**Live streaming on Facebook and on our website! You can also view our past services online on our website.**