



**WOODLAWN FORREST
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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Ministering Evangelist:
LeRoy Butler, Jr.

Elders:

Alfonso Breeden
LeRoy Butler, Jr.
Steve A. Myers, Sr.
James C. Shearry, Sr.

Deacons:

Charlie Black
Willie C. Ferrebee
Harry L. Howell, Sr.
Marcus J. Pride

**Associate Minister &
Minister of Maturity:**

Andre R. Norwood

Ladies Ministry:

Gloria A. Butler

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30am Radio Program
WHLJ 97.5 FM
11:00am Live Worship
4:00pm Sunday School
(Virtual)

WEDNESDAY

7:00pm Live Bible Study

SERVICES OFFERED:

- In-Home Bible Studies
- Private Open Bible Studies at the church building
- Bible Correspondence Courses
- Transportation to and from the services.
- Counseling (*marital and personal*)

THE HERALD

Theme: "Go and Thrive in 2025".

Special Edition



We have just experienced three exciting days of edification in our first annual Excellence in Ministry Conference, Workshop and Revival. We were all able to witness a wonderful experience of fellowship and cooperation between Valdosta area congregations. Ten local churches of Christ pooled their resources to enlist the services of two great men of God to exhort and inspire us toward greater service in the kingdom. The James H. Rainwater Conference Center was the site selected as it afforded ample room for assembling and accommodations for breakout sessions.

Brothers, John Davis Marshall and Marrisus Ellis were our facilitators and both did a fantastic job with the assignments they were given. As the keynote speaker, brother Marshall encouraged us each night to practice "Daily Discipleship" as he shared scriptural evidence to support his views. Luke records in his gospel how Jesus set the conditions for "coming after" Him or being a part of His movement. All who followed Him were to *deny themselves, take up their crosses daily* and follow Him (Luke 9:23).



VALDOSTA AREA CHURCHES OF CHRIST
PRESENTS

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY WORKSHOP

- EVANGELISM STRATEGIES
- MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 27-29, 2025
6:30 PM NIGHTLY

RAINWATER CONFERENCE CENTER
1 MEETING PLACE
VALDOSTA, GA 31601

Marshall elucidated on several principles to follow in our efforts to convert the lost to Christ:

Make contact with impact. This is what Jesus did. So much so that he was called a *friend of sinners* (Luke 7:40). Marshall noted that Jesus was able to provide *communication without contamination*. He could be with sinners, touch and be touched by sinners and yet not be contaminated by their sin. This is also our goal in evangelizing the lost in our midst. The goal of our communications with those who are lost is to teach them: how to *believe*, how to *think*, how to *feel*, and how to *behave*.

Other insightful principles were shared over the three nights, Monday through Wednesday. He emphasized that *true religion* must go beyond the walls of our church buildings. From James chapter one brother Marshall extracted the principle that daily discipleship involves *face to face, voice to voice, pen to paper, and hand to hand* engagements.

On Wednesday night Marshall emphasized the importance of vision in the success of the *Daily Disciple*. Using 2 Chronicles 26 and Isaiah 6 as support he asserted that one must catch a vision of the **holiness of God** before he or she is ready to admonish and teach others the ways of God. The impact of seeing the LORD "High and lifted up" caused Isaiah to recognize his own wretchedness and need for salvation. Once he recognized this, God dispatched an angel with a burning coal to purge him of his sin and uncleanness. With this he recognized the **handiwork of God** in restoring ruined people which included himself and those among whom he dwelt.

Members of Woodlawn should have been able to recognize the similarity of these principles to those that have been stressed repeatedly at the Forrest. Especially the correlation between Marshall's understanding that followers of Christ are called to *Daily Discipleship*. Our Love Connection Program is all about developing mature disciples who inculcate the core values of Jesus Christ into their daily lives. Jesus was the consummate, quintessential soul winner and we will never truly be like Him if we don't share his love and concern for the lost sinners in our midst. *If we mobilize to evangelize, we will surely thrive in twenty, twenty-five!*

Evangelist LeRoy Butler, Jr. - Minister



Go ye therefore, and
teach all nations,
baptizing them in the
name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the
Holy Ghost: Teaching
them to observe all things
whatsoever I have
commanded you: and, lo,
I am with you always,
even unto the end of the
world. Amen.
Matthew 28:19-20 KJV

Excellence In Ministry Workshop

**Review by A.R. Norwood
Associate Minister**

I am excited to share with you the wonderful experience that was shared by so many from our local congregations of Churches of Christ here in the city of Valdosta, Georgia. The First Annual Excellence in Ministry Conference Workshop and Revival was held at the James H. Rainwater Center, and it was a rousing success. The opportunity for not only ministers of the gospel to work together in this area, but for members at large to come together in fellowship and cooperation was phenomenal and it is exactly what the Lord envisioned when he brought us all together in one body, even in separate locations. I am excited to see what fruit comes out of this venture.



We solicited the services of Brother John Davis Marshall and Brother Marricus Ellis to be the presenters for our workshop and both of them did a magnificent job with their assignments. I attended the youth portion of the workshop which was facilitated by Brother Marricus Ellis who serves as the Senior Minister of the Bouldercrest Church of Christ in the city of Atlanta, Georgia. Brother Ellis previously served as the Youth Minister at the same location and came qualified to manage the task.

Brother Ellis was charged with facilitating a youth ministry, youth workers workshop. He broke his presentation down into three (3) nightly sessions. The first two nights, he focused on the Spiritual Basis For Discipling Youth and on the third night, his presentation focused on The “How To’s” in organizing an effective youth discipling ministry.

On the first night, Bro. Ellis shared a PowerPoint presentation that dealt with the “spiritual health of the generations.” This installment was essentially about defining terms such as generations, helping those in attendance understand how the word is used in various context, secularly as well as in the scriptures. His stated objective was to

1. Explore from a biblical perspective the importance of God in every generation.
2. To encourage generations to embrace their uniqueness in Christ and
3. To explore how generations can “stand out when others won’t stand up”.

On the second night of the workshop, Bro. Ellis shared a PowerPoint presentation which covered “Excellence in Youth Ministry.” This installment was geared towards helping attendees understand how to develop a youth ministry plan.



The topics covered on the second night were “The Ministry of Reconciliation,” “A Comprehensive Guide to Developing a Youth Ministry Plan,” “The Foundations of Developing a Youth Ministry,” “Identifying Your Target Audience,” “Ministry Analysis,” “Marketing,” “Financial “Projections” and “SWOT “Analysis.” Brother Ellis shared examples of various aspects of the process in developing an effective youth ministry such as: identifying local partnerships, call to action, a five-year outline example, and Objective and Key Results analysis.

On the third and final night of the workshop, Bro. Ellis’ PowerPoint was “A practical guide for effective youth ministry.” He covered five areas that are essential components of an effective youth ministry.

1. The Gospel
2. Discipleship
3. Authenticity
4. Intentionality
5. Community

Brother Ellis also shared information concerning a class that he taught called Parental Discipleship. This class was designed to equip parents with practical strategies to nurture their children’s spiritual growth. He also talked about having youth church twice a month.

Those members of Woodlawn who attended the youth portion of the Workshop undoubtedly heard familiar language and biblical concepts being shared. Brother Ellis spoke often about the importance of being disciples and that even youth need to see themselves as disciples of Jesus Christ. The need for interaction with a core group of believers sounded remarkably familiar to our concept of small group fellowships and work groups (2nd base). He mentioned children’s church in which young believers have an opportunity to experience God in an intimate way (1st base) and he also emphasized the need for community partnerships which all of our small group ministries participate in. This also was an opportunity for the young disciples to interact with other youth in their communities who may not know Jesus as their savior and have an opportunity to share the gospel with them (3rd base).

The year 2025 is going to be an exciting time to be a member of the Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ! This year we have determined to emphasize the 3rd base competencies which means each member making a concerted effort to reach the lost in “their world” with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have already seen an increase in visitors in our worship as well as bible studies being taught and non-Christians coming to Christ. The call to mobilize to evangelize has been heard and is being responded to in a mighty way. I for one, am excited to see what the Lord does in 2025. ■

Matthew 28:19-20

Our limerick: “If we mobilize to evangelize, we will surely thrive in 2025”.