

JUNE 2025



WOODLAWN FORREST
CHURCH OF CHRIST
1515 N. Barack Obama Blvd
P.O. Box 1651
Valdosta, GA 31603-1651

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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".

1930 - 2025 ♦ 95th Anniversary & Homecoming ♦ August 26th—31st.

Special Edition



*I wish above all things that thou mayest
Prosper and be in health, even as
thy soul prospereth (3 John 1:2).*

Our **Annual Health Fair** sponsored by the Wellness Ministry is happening this weekend and I felt this would be a good time to remind you of why this event is taking place.

At Woodlawn we seek to serve this congregation and this community holistically. God wants us to be whole in every aspect of our being so in our various ministries we try and focus on the whole person. The Bible teaches that we are a trichotomy consisting of body, (soma), soul and spirit. All three of these components are mentioned in Genesis 2:7:

"...God formed man (Adam) from the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul."

When God first formed Adam, he was merely a lifeless "manikin" of flesh and bone. It was only after He "Breathed into his nostrils the breath (**n^eshâmâh: actuating principle**) of life" that Adam "became a living soul" (**nephesh** - A fully functioning human being).

In the Old Testament the terms "*spirit*" and "*soul*" are frequently used interchangeably to refer to the inner, spiritual dimension of a person but in the New Testament there is a distinction made between the two. Even though the bible does not detail the differences between them it does affirm that there is a distinction.

In **1 Thessalonians 5:23** the bible says, "*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Paul prayed that God would sanctify and preserve the saints in every aspect of their being. We too should pray for our own spiritual and physical health as well as that of our brothers and sisters in Christ. However, prayer alone is not enough. We all have individual responsibility to sanctify and preserve our own spiritual health through worship, prayer and attention to the word of God. We also have an obligation to sanctify and preserve our bodies through physical exercise, proper diet and regular medical care.

The Wellness Ministry is here to assist us in the latter of the two. Make sure you avail yourselves to the critical information and the valuable services that will be disseminated **this weekend, June 7th**, at our main campus from 8:30 AM until 3:00 PM. (see back cover) ♦

A Call to Action

Le Roy Butler, Jr., Pastor, Teacher

*³¹ Then Hezekiah said, "You have now dedicated yourselves to the LORD. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the LORD." So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and all whose hearts were willing brought burnt offerings. **2 Chronicles 29:31 (NIV)***

If you own a home, you know there is more involved than just paying the mortgage. It involves other costs such as real estate taxes and insurance. Then there are repairs and upkeep. In a few years you're going to need to repaint the house, replace some appliances and fix the plumbing. Those are some of the hidden costs of home ownership. If you are not putting something aside every paycheck to cover those costs you are going to be unprepared to deal with them when they occur. Using credit cards and loans to meet such expenses can be costly in terms of the amount of interest you pay. In some cases, you will pay double the amount you borrowed.

We have been in our current location and in this building for almost 26 years and during that time we have had to replace or upgrade various systems and equipment. Our A/C units have been replaced, and a new roof has been installed. The house across the street on our west campus has been completely rehabilitated and refurbished.

Thanks to the generosity of faithful givers over the years and proactive planning on the part of leadership we have been able to do all of that without borrowing from the bank or major fundraising. I and the other shepherds want to make sure you are aware of three major projects that are currently pending or underway.

1. New upgrades to our Audio-Visual system which include new monitors and cameras.
2. Replacing our old, outdated sign with a new, modern electronic sign. The old sign was damaged by hurricane Helene. Inspection of the sign revealed outdated lighting fixtures and a severely corroded and rusted framework on the inside. The new sign features a full-color LED display that can be programmed from a laptop or tablet. We have completed the zoning and permitting process and the installer will begin work in the next few weeks.
3. Refitting our baptistry. The design is old, and the components are worn out. We need to upgrade or replace those components or replace the entire system with a more modern and efficient system. We have a vendor looking into what that is going to entail.

In addition to making you aware of these projects we also want to encourage you to make sure you are regularly contributing to our **Building Fund**. There is a space on the contribution envelope where you can designate an additional amount for the building fund. You can also use Push Pay and Cash App to contribute.

In 2021 we paid off the mortgage for our 17-acre, main campus. Praise be to God! However, as faithful stewards we must provide ongoing maintenance and upkeep to preserve what the Lord has blessed us with.

The total expense for all three of these projects is expected to be around \$50,000. There may be some individual whose heart the Lord has touched that will write a check for the entire amount ... you never know. It has happened in the past. I have learned you can never underestimate the love and generosity of God's people.

If you decide to participate in this effort, I'd like to challenge you to consider an amount that goes beyond what you **think** you can afford to give. When you do that, you invite God into the equation, and you venture into the realm of **faith-giving**. That's the realm in which what you are "**able**" to give is governed by what you are **willing** to give.

Here is what I mean by that: If a person is not willing to give 500 dollars it doesn't matter if that person has 500 dollars or not, they are not going to give it. If a person doesn't have 500 dollars but is willing to give that amount, their desire and willingness creates the motivation in their mind and heart that drives them to do two things: First, to pray to God for the wherewithal to do it and secondly, they actively pursue avenues, means and methods to accomplish it.

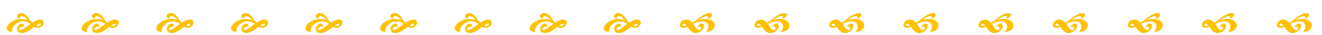
There is also a spiritual dimension that makes all the difference. If a person's delight is in the Lord and the things that advance the kingdom, the Lord will give that person the desires of their heart. The Bible says, "*Delight thyself in the Lord and He will give thee the desires of thine heart*" (Psalm 37:4, KJV). The Bible also says, "*We ask and don't have because we ask amiss...*" In other words, we ask for the wrong reason. What is the wrong reason? James says, "... *So that you can spend it on your own pleasures*" (4:3). In the case above that is not the case. So, there is every reason to expect that God will make a way for one's earnest desire to support and advance His kingdom and His cause to be fulfilled.

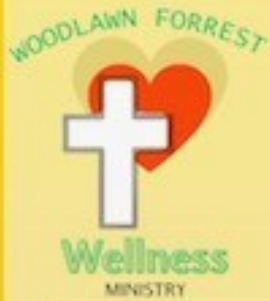
An Example of this principle is the case of the Macedonians (2 Corinthians 8) who were earnestly desirous of contributing to the support of poor saints in Jerusalem because they knew it would please and glorify God. This is why, at the end of the day, they not only *gave as much as they were able but even beyond* what their perceived abilities were.

The Bible says, ³ *For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own...* ⁵ *And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God* (2 Corinthians 8:3, 5 - NIV). It is possible to give above and beyond what your financial status says you ought to be able to give if you first give yourself to the Lord. When your delight is in Him and your earnest desire and prayer is to support and advance His kingdom, He will provide the resources for you to do so. The Bible says, "*Now He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness*" (2 Corinthians 9:10 NIV).

Clearly, what you are "**able**" to give is mainly controlled by what you are willing to give. The only question that remains is, are you willing? I pray that you are.

... *Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the temple of the LORD! (2 Chronicles 29:31)*





SPEAKERS: Dr. Mandy Lucas, SGMC Family Medicine
Anna Scott, MS, RDN, LD, SGMC Dietitian

SCREENINGS OFFERED:

- * Cholesterol & Blood Sugar Screenings (Lowndes County Health Dept.)
- * Vision Screening (Wilson Eye Center)
- * Blood Pressure/Weight Checks (Wellness Ministry)
- * Shingles & Pneumococcal Vaccine Sign-Up

- ✓ Medical Give-Aways
- ✓ Door Prizes
- ✓ FREE Take-Away Lunch

PRE-REGISTRATION
IS OPEN!



KIDS ACTIVITIES

- ★ Bounce House
- ★ Water Bounce House
- !!Bring a towel
- ★ Games

ANNUAL Health Fair

SATURDAY
JUNE 7TH, 2025

8:30AM to 1:30 PM



Woodlawn Forrest Church of Christ
1515 North Barack Obama Blvd
Valdosta, GA 31601

THEME:

" A Step In The Healthier
Direction "