

I had my kids on Christmas day. I haven't see them since August because of a custody battle with their mom. The day went great! Thank you, God.

Donovan Bailey

Thank you for your prayers and help during my recent illness. God bless you all. Jerry, Marilyn & Alicia House

I feel so blessed by such a loving church family. The gift bag was so thoughtful. All the cards and calls were encouraging. God Bless, Donna Woods

Prayer Requests:

Watkins Family-Melva Williams
Patty Houston-Rex Adams
Vince Monk-His son
Princellar Crews-her foot
Jeanette Burns-sister, Linda
Stolls-Adoption
Louise Bane-Leukemia

Ed & Randi Taylor
PO Box 340412,
Austin, TX 78734

I have 4 John Smith Study Books
1&2 Peter. Fabulous study. \$11/ea
See me or call me 647-3000.
Cherie Walters

Sunday, January 6, 2013

Today's Worship Schedule

Song **578** ***We Will Glorify***
 508 ***A Wonderful Savior***

Call to Worship ***Doug White***

Song **on screen** ***Create In Me***
 197 ***O 'Twas Wonderful Love***

Prayer ***Ken Perry***

Song **313** ***The Old Rugged Cross***

Communion ***Ed Planas***

Song **608** ***He Gave Me a Song***
 (No Children's Worship Today)

Sermon ***Keith Parker***

Song **948** ***I Am Resolved***

Closing Prayer ***Michael Avedikian***

Sunday Evening Services

Keith Parker

VISITORS

Out of Town: Donna Wardle, Fairfax, VA; Randy & Debbie Jacobs, Teresa Eroles, Walnut, CA; Eng Huy, FL; Robert Phillips, Homestead, FL



Local: Crystal Leyba, Heather Doyle-Aguayo, Ryan Hancock, Stephanie Chu, Morgan Barrett

Attendance: AM 704 Class 431 Sunday Night N/A Wednesday Night 238

Weekly Contribution: \$12,477 **Weekly Budget:** \$13,350

ANNOUNCEMENTS

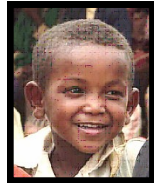
Are You Interested in Learning Greek???

David Law will be teaching a beginning Greek class after the first of the year. If you are interested please let Ray Bowden or Ed Planas know. Thank you



CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

Collection



TODAY

Youth News

Sunday Class: Gabe Bacus & Tyler White
Wednesday Nights: Group Bible Studies

Jan 10th—Evening in Prayer

Winter Camp Retreat January 18-20th

Applications at Welcome Center & on our church website: wpcoc.com

For Questions or information, please see:

**Gabe Bacus, Tim Douglas,
Kevin Hinton or Grady Lane**

*Love, like paint, makes things beautiful if you spread it,
but simply dries up when it isn't used.*

"The time has come, For closing books and long last looks must end"

Last Thursday around 8:30 pm, I flew into Fresno after four weeks in Austin, Texas. It was the end of a long day of flight delays, rushing through airports, hurrying and waiting. It was also the end of four weeks in which I drove from Fresno to Austin, set up our next temporary home, started my new job, and began the next chapter of our lives. Flying into Fresno was ...comforting. Flying in really felt like coming home.

As we approached I looked out the window of the plane and saw a well lit Fresno on a Friday night. The night lights of a city— any city— always mesmerize me from above. I soaked in the view when to my surprise I recognized what I was seeing—the neon lights of Edwards Theater in River Park. I was excited to see something I knew; excited to have my bearings from above.

Knowing where I was, I let my eyes move down Nees Avenue...to Fresno St...to Save Mart at First St...to the isolated lit building on Millbrook. My church.

"But how do you thank someone, who has taken you from crayons to perfume? It isn't easy, but I'll try"

"My church." That was the exact phrase that went through my head—"there's my church". I was excited to see it; excited in ways that continue to surprise me in the depths in which I love this church. My church.

I first came to Woodward Park alone on September 13, 2009. I knew no one; no one knew me. I was a very lost sheep—a believer who chose his own path for 18 years and who was in need of a church home. I had researched many churches before that day and knew the Church of Christ was where I needed to be. I also knew that Woodward Park was where I wanted to be. I couldn't have dreamed what awaited.

Some have heard my story before— my first day there was a memorable one the church. Jim Gardner gave a wonderful lesson on family and responsibility and taking care of ones parents and...tendered his resignation. Day one and the preacher quits. This really shouldn't be the affirming entry into a new home, and yet what I saw as a church body that was unified in purpose, dedicated to why they exist and greater than the voice on Sunday morning. Over the next months, from when Jim left and before Tim arrived, I saw the church thrive and grow. A church that would continue to grow. A church that has a solidity of faith, stability of leadership and certainty of purpose. A church of which I am proud to be a part.

"The time has come, For closing books and long last looks must end, And as I leave, I know that I am leaving my best friend"

I started this journey alone, but soon I had my traveling companion on my journey— my son. It was easy to come on my own; when I brought Ian I became committed to a much more important journey, I became committed to his education and conviction. There was nothing harder on my journey than leaving my son in class— him sitting there not knowing anyone. But he was never alone. In class he was embraced, loved and taught by some of the most wonderful women I have ever known.

I cannot stress this point enough— without the love and affection shown by the teachers in his class when he started coming, we would not be here today.

They didn't minister to only him— they ministered to me as well. To paraphrase scripture— the actions that were done for my little boy were done for me. I vividly remember the day Shelley Lane brought Ian out of class crying because he forgot to give me a hug. Such a simple gesture, but yet one that means the world to me years later. This church family has cared for my family, nurtured them and welcomed us without reservations.

When I showed up I knew no one. As I leave for new frontiers I leave a multitude of people that I love dearly. People who have lifted me in fellowship, strengthened me in faith and redefined me in purpose. I'm a better man for knowing all of you. I'm a blessed man for learning from and worshipping with you. I'm a grateful man that our lives have crossed. Ed Taylor



Elder Candidate

Gabe Bacus

Wife—Erin

**Children—
Trent, Julia
& Emma**

I have worked in food manufacturing for the past 13 years. I currently hold the position of a Business Unit Leader at Kraft Foods. Erin has been a stay at home mother, homemaker, and is currently home-schools 1 of our 3 children. Trenton is our oldest and currently attends Fresno State. Julia is 13 and is currently home schooled, while Emma, 10 attends Baird.

We have had the opportunity to work closely with various ministries including God Squad and the Youth Group. Our goal and hope for 2013 is to continue to serve in whatever capacity we are able to. We believe the WPCOC has been blessed with exceptional leadership, group diversity, and faithful families that are committed to serve and love one another, even when it's difficult to do. We are grateful to be apart of this body of believers and look forward to serving along side our brothers and sisters in Christ.

For his Glory..



Elder Candidate

Ken Perry

Wife—Jamie

**Children—
Chris, Megan
& Ashlyn**

By profession, I am a self-employed real estate broker; Jamie works in school finance at the Fresno County Office of Education. We view our secular work, however, as simply a means to help support service to our Lord.

As 2013 begins, WPCOC is in a time of transition and change, but not uncertainty. Change is a sign of a vibrancy and life, and with prayerful attention to God's leading, the outcome is sure to be advancement of His kingdom in Fresno and everywhere our congregation serves. I look forward to serving with you as we seek His will.



Elder Candidate

Doug White

**Wife—
Cynthia**

**Children—
Mason &
Tyler (not
pictured)**

I have been employed in the food ingredient industry for the past 15 years. My wife, Cynthia, works as a teacher for the visually impaired in Clovis Unified School District. Our oldest son, Tyler is a sophomore Bible major at Freed-Hardeman University and our younger son, Mason, is a sophomore at Buchanan High School. We feel blessed to worship and serve here at Woodward Park. It's exciting to work with a church that loves the Lord and wants to evangelize the world. It is our prayer that we continue to grow as a church in faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ.



Elder Candidate

Loren Lee

**Wife—
Cristie**

**Children—
Megan &
Garrett**

My career is in the lumber business and as a result, we have lived in many parts of the state. Cristie is a teacher, and Megan and Garrett are both students, at Freed-Hardeman University and Liberty High School respectively. We have never found a church home as diverse and welcoming as Woodward Park, and it is my desire to see the family here continue to grow in love for each other, and especially in love for our Lord.