



MINISTRY GUIDE



westgate
Church of Christ

CREATED IN CHRIST TO SERVE

EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SHEPHERDS:

As Christians we have a wonderful blessing in being part of the church. The Bible uses many phrases to describe the church but one that is helpful is "body of Christ." The church is made up of many members who have different gifts and talents. God has saved us in Jesus Christ and created us in Him for good works and to utilize the talents with which He has gifted us. Part of our mission at Westgate is to help equip our members to serve the Lord and realize their gifts.

We have many wonderful ministries at Westgate and this booklet was designed to share information about those ministries. "Servant Sunday" is a very important day in the life of the congregation at Westgate. On that day we commit to a ministry or ministries for a one-year period. We encourage you to read through this booklet, pray, and discern. In your prayer and discernment, we encourage you to consider which ministries you could plug in to and serve. All of these ministries are important and they help us grow the body and serve Jesus in this community.

*God bless,
The Shepherds of Westgate*

BODY LIFE

SMALL GROUPS

Small groups are the lifeblood of our family here at Westgate. These include share groups, D-groups, our Wednesday night ABC groups, and life groups. As Westgate grows larger in attendance, we want to grow smaller by having our members plug into a small group. They are the quickest way to get plugged into church, and we want them to become a “second family” for our members. You can find a listing of our Life Groups and meeting locations in the bulletin each Sunday morning. We encourage everyone to join at least one of these groups. You can scan the QR code on the small group page in the bulletin to sign up.

Ministry Leader: Greg Wakefield

GREETERS MINISTRY

Studies on church growth have shown that one of the most critical ministries that a church can have is its Greeter Ministry. The first person many visitors will meet is the greeter. At Westgate, we want to encourage our members to be a part of this very important ministry. Greeters are stationed at every entrance to the building and welcome all our members and visitors. They give people the bulletin for the day and greet them with a smile. One of the critical roles of a greeter is to direct visitors to the welcome desk.

Ministry Leader: Connie Nelson

WELCOME DESK MINISTRY

We make the Great Commission a top priority. We want to welcome visitors to Westgate and make them feel at home. This ministry involves someone working the Visitor Center Kiosk. When a visitor comes, we want to collect their contact information and give them a small gift bag with information about Westgate. Also, it is intimidating for a visitor to come in and not know where to attend class. One of the critical roles of a greeter is to help visitors find a class or the auditorium for worship.

Ministry Leader: Rachel Mayes

MARTHA MINISTRY

Our Martha Ministry encompasses many aspects in the life of Westgate. They also help coordinate food for families in the time of funerals and prolonged hospital stays. This ministry is very important to the body here and it allows our church to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Ministry Leaders: Paula Grantham, Caryl Tucker, and Linda Mercier

TELECARE MINISTRY

The Telecare Ministry is a phone ministry that provides support to members of our church family. When members are absent for several weeks, this ministry reaches out to them to get information about any life changes, illness, or to receive assurance that all is well. Callers will not ask for time or money but will simply let them know they care. They may ask how things are going, if there are prayer concerns, or if there are questions or comments to be passed on to the elders.

Ministry Leaders: David Smith and Karen Wakefield

LIBRARY MINISTRY

Believing that the focus of a church library isn't just about books but should be focused around God and His work, the Westgate library is for inspiration, support and training to meet the needs of the ministries of Westgate. It is open on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Ministry Leader: Everlie Bolton

KIT CLUB – ADULTS 55 AND OVER

Our KIT club organizes events and activities for our senior adults. It is rumored that this group has the most fun. KIT Club helps our senior members connect with others and enjoy times of great fellowship and activity.

Ministry Leaders: Ronnie and Rita Lunsford

FAMILY ENRICHMENT SEMINARS

Family seminars and activities are critical to the growth of relationships in our church family. Westgate typically has a seminar centering on growth, fellowship and spiritual development. Each year, we have a different speaker and theme for our seminar.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

FELLOWSHIP MEALS

At Westgate, we love to eat! These meals serve as a time to fellowship with one another while providing a casual environment for guests. This ministry is responsible for setup, decoration, preparation and clean-up of fellowship meals such as Sunrise Service, Westgate Together, etc.

Ministry Leaders: Troy and Becky Newton

JAMES 1:27 MINISTRY (WIDOWS, WIDOWERS & SHUT-INS)

At Westgate, we strive to help our widows, widowers and shut-ins maintain their joy of life by striving to “be there” and lovingly help them address physical, mental or spiritual “distress” barriers. It is important that these individuals be reminded Westgate has a special bond of love for them and is committed to honoring and serving them.

Ministry Leader: Clay Caldwell

TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY

The transportation ministry provides a means of transportation for members in need desiring to come to worship, church events, or appointments around town.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

WESTGATE PRAYER TEAM

The Westgate prayer team is a group of people who are passionate about praying for others, because we believe prayer matters. We understand that prayer offers hope to the hurting, and inspires people to shift their focus to God, who loves them and will walk with them through life’s struggles.

Ministry Leader: Chris Jones

MENTORING PROGRAM – NEW CHRISTIANS

When a person is baptized, our work is only just beginning. The first few weeks and months are vital in establishing their walk with the Lord as they begin to grow and learn how to become disciples. This ministry entails immediate personal contact after their baptism and weekly follow-up – whether in-person or through phone calls or encouraging notes – and helping them connect with a small group.

Ministry Leader: Jerry Mayes

NEW MEMBERS/WESTGATE 101

At Westgate, one aspect of welcoming our new members is Westgate 101, a one-day event in which visitors learn about Westgate and our core doctrines. Westgate 101 occurs every eight weeks. In 101, we have a class and eat a meal together.

Ministry Leader: Cory Driggers

WESTGATE 201

Westgate 201 is a six-week course that we provide to members that want to receive intensive discipleship training. Westgate 201 starts on each Sunday after Westgate 101. Typically, we will have a Westgate 101 meeting every quarter and then start a new round of Westgate 201 classes.

We encourage any Westgate 101 participants, as well as new Christians, to go through this course. Each participant receives a book produced by the ministry staff and the course covers the following: New life in Christ; the centrality of Christ in your life; the Gospel in your life; the book God breathed (how to read the Bible); prayer; and the church. This class meets Sunday mornings in the gym.

Ministry Leaders: Chris Jones and Todd Whaley

ADULT EDUCATION

A major component of our Mission and Vision Statement at Westgate is to "Grow in Faith." Our adult education program is a major part of carrying out this mandate. We have very robust and vibrant classes at Westgate. Typically, our Sunday morning classes compliment and match the sermon topic for the day. Without quality teachers, we would not be able to adequately carry out the task of helping our members grow in their faith and understanding of Sacred Scripture.

Ministry Leaders: Scott Bolton and Philip Dampier

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

At Westgate, we love our children and we want to foster a safe and loving environment where our children learn to follow Jesus. Our children's ministry provides Bible-centered classes and activities. Some of the big events are: VBS, Children's Recognition Sunday, Cookies with Santa, and our annual Fall Funival. *(cont. on next page)*

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Our curriculum is Christ-centered and endeavors to take our kids through the narrative scope of the Bible in a three-year period. All volunteers in our children's ministry are required to complete a background check to help ensure the safety of our children.

Ministry Leaders: Allison Jones and Alex Murphree

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY (GRADES 7-9)

As part of the overall Youth Ministry, the purpose of the Middle School Ministry is to minister to 7th-9th grade students as they transition out of the Children's Ministry. We join the Youth Ministry in the mission of developing faithful, independent, and mature followers of Jesus through worship, community, and service, but at a level that is appropriate for middle schoolers. We focus our classes on building off the foundation that was laid during their years in the Children's Ministry – reinforcing the basics of Christianity, building a faith that will carry them into their adult lives, and encouraging them to share the love of Christ to those around them.

As with any student ministry, the Middle School Ministry is a collaborative effort with parents and volunteers. The best way to volunteer for this ministry is to provide support for major functions and/or join us for class to offer advice and insights. Really, being involved in the ministry in any way shows our students how valued they are as part of our congregation. We have many activities throughout the year – Up, In, & Out Spring Retreat, Encounter Fall Retreat, service projects – as well as camps and Impact during the summer.

Ministry Leader: David McLean

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY (GRADES 10-12)

The Westgate Youth Ministry's mission is to work in partnership with parents and members to develop faithful, independent, and mature followers of Jesus through worship, intergenerational community, and service. The youth ministry is a team effort that depends on parent and member volunteers. *(cont. on next page)*

At Westgate, we like to utilize the gifts God has given our congregation by having members teach the youth, cook meals for fellowships, and provide support for major functions. The youth ministry is focused on classes that encourage growth in the student's relationship with Jesus. We participate in many activities such as IMPACT, Up, In & Out, retreats, Camp Wiregrass, and service projects.

Ministry Leader: Devin Morris

CARE MINISTRIES

FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is a shining light of benevolent service in the city of Dothan. On the third Tuesday of each month, more than 50 people are given boxes of food from our pantry. Our volunteers work hard to provide food in a very compassionate way, sharing the love of Jesus.

They build relationships with and pray for the people they help, all while showing them the love of Jesus. Volunteers can help prepare boxes and carry them to the cars of our visitors on our pantry days.

Ministry Leaders: John and Susan Brolund

CHILDREN'S HOMES MINISTRY

Westgate is involved in carrying out the James 1:27 mandate by helping out various children's homes. We support these homes financially and through our prayers. These homes provide a safe, Christian environment for orphaned children to grow and mature. Also, our Children's Home ministry helps single-parent families by supporting them in their very difficult situation.

Ministry Leader: Gene Kearley

WIREGRASS HOPE GROUP

The Wiregrass Hope Group is a resource for extending hope and healing to individuals and families by offering practical assistance, addressing emotional needs and encouraging spiritual growth. This group wants to help pregnant mothers see the value of life and the gift of children. *(cont. on next page)*

The group also works to help strengthen these families and positively impact families in the Wiregrass area. Volunteers are needed in the counseling services, working in the office, helping pack and organize care packages for young families, and Bible study leaders.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

CLOTHING CLOSET

Our clothing closet works in conjunction with our food pantry. We collect clothing items from our members to give out to those who are in need. We typically give out clothing on the third Tuesday of each month while the pantry is open, but we also give clothing to people when they come to the church building in need.

Ministry Leaders: Marvetta Childs and Barb Hopkins

STRONG BACKS MINISTRY

The Strong Backs ministry consists of male and female volunteers who will help our members when they are moving. This ministry also helps welcome and assist new families moving to the Dothan area who want to make Westgate their church home.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

EMERGENCY EVACUATION SHELTER MINISTRY

Westgate works in conjunction with the local EMA to act as an evacuation shelter for people fleeing storms. In the event of a weather event that displaces people from their homes, we act as a temporary shelter for evacuees. We depend on many of our members to volunteer to run our shelter. We want to show complete strangers the love and compassion of our Lord by giving them a place to stay until they can return to their homes or find another permanent place to live.

Ministry Leaders: John and Susan Brolund

EXTENDICARE

On Monday mornings (except most holidays), Westgate hosts a time of worship and praise at Extendicare Health and Rehabilitation Center. We also spend time visiting with and encouraging the residents, who very much appreciate and enjoy the time we spend with them.

Ministry Leaders: Mike Murphree and Rayford Wheeler

WESTGATE BENEVOLENCE

Many times, people experience terrible financial hardships within our church body. It is at times like this the body at Westgate is able to help our brothers and sisters get through tough situations through financial assistance.

Ministry Leader: Jeremy Mayes

COUNSELING MINISTRY

The counseling ministry exists to provide Christian-based counseling to members of Westgate and our surrounding community. The goal of this ministry is to help individuals and couples find the healing and support needed when problems and issues arise.

This ministry is offered by a licensed professional counselor to the congregation at no fee for pre-marital and marital counseling, as well as individual and group therapy sessions. Westgate is dedicated to the restoration of marital intimacy, maturing character, and helping individuals on the journey to fulfilling our God-created purpose.

Ministry Leader: Krista Smith

JOURNEYING THROUGH GRIEF MINISTRY

Journeying Through Grief is a simple, powerful way to care for people who are grieving. This ministry involves sending a set of four short books to people at four crucial times during the first year after the loss of a loved one.

Ministry Leaders: Krista Smith

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY

At Westgate, we want to share the saving love of God in Jesus to those who have been incarcerated. Our jail ministry primarily ministers to the Houston County Jail. We help provide worship services for the prisoners as well as Bible studies. We also have several mentors from our congregation that sponsor prisoners from community corrections.
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Some of these prisoners are allowed to attend services here at Westgate. This ministry needs volunteers to visit the jails as well as receive training to be mentors.

Ministry Leader: John Brolund

WESTGATE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (WCS)

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6)

The mission of Westgate Christian School is to help students love the Lord with all their minds by educating them in the light of the Gospel. Not only do we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus to students six-weeks-old through the fourth grade, but also to their families and to each other. Our aim is to make WCS a place that shows the love of God to all who enter our doors.

Ministry Leaders: Nita Kelley and Robert Flatt

GLOBAL MISSIONS

In the Great Commission, we are told to take the Gospel into all the world. At Westgate, we take that mandate seriously. We are involved in several foreign missions: K.G. Kumar in India, Brett and Christie Harrison in Tanzania, David Essuman in Ghana, Bill Ramsey and Sang Yang in South Korea, Mision Para Cristo in Nicaragua, and 21st Century Global Missions. *(cont. on next page)*

Westgate also participates in various domestic and international short-term mission efforts. We depend on our membership to help support these ministries financially with their offering, as well as through prayer and attendance on short-term mission trips.

Ministry Leaders: Steve Girton & John Brolund

TRANSFORM CENTRAL / RE:GENERATION

Transform Central is a transitional home for men who were formerly incarcerated. The goal of Transform Central is to be a positive resource to the individual and community by offering individual residents an opportunity to be responsible citizens who will care for themselves and those they love. *(cont. on next page)*

The Re:Generation program and Transformational Ministry are focused on helping individuals in all walks of life struggling with addiction and substance abuse. The goal is to help this individuals overcome these temptations by turning to God and allowing Him to transform them.

Ministry Leader: Jason Johnson

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL (WBS)

WBS offers a core set of lesson booklets and online lessons known as the Master Series. Westgate members can serve as study helpers to exchange lessons, review lesson answers, give feedback, help find Scriptures to answer personal questions, and be available as a prayer partner for those in the program.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Weekly communion is something very important to the life of Westgate. We remember the sacrifice of Jesus and proclaim His death until He comes when we partake of the Table. We have families that volunteer for the preparation of the bread and grape juice each Sunday.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

MUSIC MINISTRY

An important time in our Sunday assemblies is the time of singing. We sing praises together to our God as our great Creator and Redeemer. Vocal music is our sacrifice of praise that we bring to God. We are blessed to have many good singers and people that love vocal music. We depend on members to volunteer to help out on the praise team. We also have times throughout the year when we will come together on a Sunday evening to sing and learn new songs.

Ministry Leaders: Greg and Sandi Wakefield, Nick Gwin, Krista Smith, and David McLean

AUDIO/VISUAL

Our assemblies are times of great multi-sensory engagement. Part of this experience is the audio/visual ministry with which we have been blessed. From sound, video capabilities and slide presentations, the audio/visual ministry is an important part of our assemblies. We have members that volunteer to be trained and serve in this ministry.

Ministry Leaders: Jon Beeson & Brian Smith

LEADING IN WORSHIP

One of the Greek words translated as worship in the New Testament is "latreia." Latreia can be translated as "the work of the people." Our assemblies are led by many volunteers that are willing to read Scripture, serve at the Lord's Table, and lead the congregation in prayer. We truly want our services to be "the work of the people," honoring our great and wonderful God.

Ministry Leader: Church Office

BAPTISM ASSISTANCE

There is no greater decision a person can make than to submit his/her life to Christ in baptism. The baptism ministry provides care for the physical elements involved in baptism.

Ministry Leaders: Larry and Ann Turnage



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**SIGN UP
TODAY!**