



Common Ground August 2008

"Pointing People to Jesus through Reaching, Teaching, Celebrating, and Serving."

Jeff Ferguson is a minister, gospel singer, recording artist, songwriter, music publisher and a teacher.

As a minister, Jeff speaks in over 100 church services a year and has been invited as a keynote speaker in conferences in the United States and internationally. Jeff's powerful messages move audiences from laughter to tears as their hearts are lifted in worship. Young children to the eldest seniors enjoy Jeff's refreshing style of speaking. As a gospel singer, Jeff has provided the special music/worship for noted speakers including Bishop T.D. Jakes, Rod Parsley, John Bevere, Jerry Savelle, Mike Murdock and Dr. Lawrence Kennedy. Jeff has performed his music from Pentecostal camp meetings to a full concert at Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral. Jeff's music crosses denominational and racial boundaries and is enjoyed by all ages and church groups. Jeff's musical style is inspirational with gospel and worship influences.

As a recording artist, Jeff has recorded nine albums. Jeff recorded his first album when he was thirteen years old and began performing in concerts across the nation.

As a songwriter, Jeff's songs have been recorded hundreds of times by artists including T.D. Jakes, Beverly Crawford, Cece Winans, Clint Brown, Micah Stampley, Vickie Winans, The Crabb Family, Vicki Yohe, The Prestonwood Choir, The Christ Church Choir, The Greenes, Ernie Haase and Signature Sound, Ivan Parker and Dottie Peoples. As a songwriter, Jeff's music has been nominated for multiple Dove Awards, Stellar Awards and Grammy Awards. Jeff has been nominated for songwriter of the year two times. Many of Jeff's songs are in print in choir books and hymnals and are performed by church choirs around the world every Sunday morning.

Some of Jeff's most popular songs are "Call Upon The Name of the Lord", "I Am Yours", "There is Power in the Name of Jesus", "At Your Feet" and "Woman Thou Art Loosed".

As a music publisher, Jeff owns two publishing companies, Jeff Ferguson Music/BMI and Joshua Creek Music/ASCAP. As a teacher, Jeff teaches songwriting/creative writing and praise and worship at Universities, Bible colleges, church conferences and seminars around the country. Jeff co-owns and co-hosts "You Can Write a Song" with Regi Stone in Nashville, Tennessee.

In all of these things that Jeff does, he has a single goal and that is his mission statement: "To help lead people into the Presence of the Lord".

August 17th
Sunday Night Live
6:00 pm potluck
in the Activity Center
followed by Special
Music Ministry of
Jeff Ferguson
at 7:00 pm

Jeff will also be our
guest in morning worship
on Sunday August 17th.
Invite a friend!



A Message from Pastor

The Gestation of Hatred

I am sure you have heard in the news about the out-of-work truck driver accused of opening fire at a Unitarian church, killing two people. He left behind a note suggesting that he targeted the congregation out of hatred for its liberal policies, including its acceptance of gays. The families of the victim, the members of this church, the news media and all of us ask the question, How did this man get to this point in his life that enabled him to do this horrible thing?

A longtime acquaintance, Carol Smallwood of Alice Texas, told the Knoxville News Sentinel that: "Adkisson was a loner who hates blacks, gays and anyone different from him." It was also said that he was frustrated because he was unable to find work. It has also been reported that he had mental health issues. In his frustration, confusion, and anger he struck out at people that represented what he thought was the evil cause of his difficult circumstances. But somewhere in his past there had to be seeds of hatred planted. Perhaps they were planted by his parents, by his community, and or even by his church. Then the seeds had to be nurtured in order to grow to the level of hatred that prompted his murderous actions.



It is easy after this assessment to begin to point fingers at those individuals and organizations in our society that planted and nurtured such hatred. I can make a list rather quickly and so can you. It is that radio personality's fault. It is that politician's or TV evangelist's fault. It is their fault. They are to blame. A strong case can be made that the rhetoric coming from such individuals and organizations could have very well planted and nurtured the hatred in this man. However, I must remind myself that the same gestation process can occur in me. I can also experience the seeds of hatred growing in me. I can have them nurtured by the people I listened to in my life. I can also blame an individual or group for the difficult circumstances that I must deal with in my life. I also can brand them as evil. I also have the capacity in me to strike out against them.

In order to not go down this same path, I must cling to the radical teaching of Jesus, to love. I wonder what would have happened in the life of Mr. Adkisson if he had been taught and nurtured in the inclusive love of Jesus Christ? I wonder what might have occurred in his life if a loving community of faith had reached out to him in his loneliness and despair and embraced him? I wonder how different his life would have been if someone had not only patiently answered his questions about the Bible, (he is quoted as having said that the Bible is full of contradictions), but lived out its Truths for him to see and embrace?

In reflecting upon this horrible incident, I don't find myself making excuses for this man nor do I find myself hating him, but I find myself praying for the grieving families, and church members. I also find myself praying for this man and also for those who sow and nurture hatred in the name of Jesus and the church. I find myself challenged to search my own heart in terms of the seeds of hatred planted and nurtured in me. I am also challenged to reach out to those who are lonely and to those who are different from me with the love of Jesus. What about you?

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August 3, 2008

Romans 9:14-21
"Why? Why? Why?"

Dr. James P. Walker

August 10, 2008

Romans 10:5-15
"Are You Saved?"

Dr. James P. Walker

August 17, 2008

Romans 11:33-36
"Praising the Mystery"

Dr. James P. Walker

August 24, 2008

Romans 12:1-8
"Be Transformed"

Dr. James P. Walker

August 31, 2008

Romans 12:9-21
"Heaping Coals of Fire"

Pastor
Douglas Shaffer

SECOND QUARTER FINANCIAL RESULTS **

I am pleased to share with you the financial results of our operations during the second quarter of 2008.

Total income for the quarter was \$XX**. Our income budget for the same period was \$XX**. That means we were below our income goal by \$XX**. This shortfall is a result of our weekly tithes and offerings not meeting the budgeted needs.

Please remember that our budget for this year included the need to increase total giving from tithes and offerings by at least 5% over the amounts given last year. If you have not yet made your commitment to increase your giving, I pray that you will do so, as we are behind our budgeted needs from tithes and offerings.

And, if you are currently not tithing, I pray that your heart will be touched to do so and that you will see the magnificent benefits and reap the bountiful rewards that will result once you joyfully give to God just one-tenth of the income He provides for you.

Total operating expenses for the quarter were \$XX**, while our expense budget was \$XX**. Actual expenses were less than our budgeted expense projections by \$XX**, as a result of the hard work of church staff and volunteers diligently working to maintain and reduce expenses. Even though our expenses were less than budget during the quarter, they still exceeded our income by more than \$XX**.

Also, please remember that our expenses occur every week whether you attend services or not. For many reasons—travel, illness, work schedules or other personal commitments—you may be unable to attend services every week. Although you may not be at church every Sunday, we still need your financial support. I encourage you to make sure your weekly offering is given whether you are in attendance or not.

Once again I pray that each of you will commit to the continuing financial support of our church through your generous giving.

If you have any questions about these financial results, please let me know.

David Gibbons
Church Treasurer



CONSIDER
TITHING



Women's Ministry will be taking a "Road Trip" to Austin on September 5th and 6th for TGRA's 25th anniversary. Details to follow.



Education Committee

The Education Committee decided to increase the number of Children's classes due to the increased number of children. The breakdown is as follows:

- 0-2 Toddlers/Nursery
- 3-4 Pre Kindergarten
- Kindergarten-Second Grade
- Third Grade—Fifth Grade
- Sixth Grade and up

The increased number of classes means we will need an increased number of teachers, especially for the elementary grades. Please prayerfully consider being part of our children's lives and guiding them in the way of the LORD.

Facilitator training for teachers will be held during the 9:00 Sunday School Hour on Sunday, August 3 by Pastor Douglas. Please contact Pastor Douglas for more information.

douglas@whiterockchurch.org

The change in class structure will take place the Sunday after Labor Day. In Sunday Morning Worship on September 7th, we will have recognition of teachers and present advancement certificates to the youth.



BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

Ticket sales have begun! Please see the sign-up sheet in the parlor for advance ticket sales.

As beneficiaries, we will need to sell a minimum of 4 tables for the event on November 22, 2008. Tickets are \$300.00 to this premier event of the year.

We will also be selling raffle tickets for a 2008 BMW 128i convertible. Raffle tickets are \$100.00 and can be obtained from Pastor Douglas or any Friends board member.

We will also need TONS OF VOLUNTEER HOURS! - both throughout the months ahead, and the weekend of the Dinner in November. If you can be "on-call" to assist with stuffing envelopes for a mailing, or would like more information about the variety of volunteer opportunities available, please e-mail or call Pastor Douglas (douglas@whiterockchurch.org or 214-320-0043 ext 29) for further details.

Please remember, every ticket sold to the event or the raffle, every hour of volunteer time have a direct impact on the amount of funding White Rock Friends will receive after the event. So please start saving your money and making your time available to participate in this exciting event.



**** See note below**

- Aug. 1 David F
- Aug. 2 Angie H
- Aug. 9 Barbara M
- Aug. 13 Patti J
- Aug. 13 Carlos M
- Aug. 17 Sandra H
- Aug. 17 Jerry R
- Aug. 22 Cody M
- Aug. 22 Laura D
- Aug. 26 David R
- Aug. 27 Matt L
- Aug. 29 Max N
- Aug. 29 David W

Prayer Ministry

Please remember our Committee groups for August's prayer focus:



- ◆ Education
- ◆ Renovations
- ◆ Nominations
- ◆ Deacons

The Prayer Committee has created a colorful bookmark for the month of August that includes a prayer for all of these committees and ministries. If you didn't receive a bookmark in morning worship, you can pick one up in the parlor. This Month's bookmark includes a photo of artist Kelly Barrow's gift to our congregation. Please take a moment to look at it in the parlor.

**** Complete last names removed to abide by WRCC Policies.**

Saturday August 2nd
Missions Workday at the
**Legacy Founders
Cottage...** meet here at the
church at 8:00 am

The Legacy Founders Cottage is a residential home selected by our Missions committee to be one of the organizations we support with our resources: money, time, skills and love! Founded in 1996 by the Legacy Counseling Center, its mission is "to provide comfort and care to individuals critically ill due to conditions related to AIDS in a home-like, loving setting."

" Pointing People to
Jesus through...
REACHING & SERVING!



Here are
Harry
and Max
at our
last
work
day!

We are meeting at the church at 8:00 am then caravanning from there, lunch, water and some type of gatorade/poweraid will be available to help keep us refreshed, however since it will be so hot we will not have any carbonated sodas SO if you need some bring your own, In an effort to get a head count, please contact Max Nunez at 214-282-2437 (djhouzboi@hotmail.com) or Marie Hewlett at (214) 437-8815 (marie.wrcc@sbcglobal.net).

For more details information on either of these Missions activities please contact Renee Gannon at 214-263-5108 or e-mail her at nayg@sbcglobal.net or contact pastor Douglas at douglas@whiterockchurch.org

If you cannot join us on Saturday, you can still participate by supporting the improvement projects through the donation of gift cards to Lowe's or Home Depot for these and other on-going repairs You can give these to Pastor Douglas or the church office!



HELP!!!
The shelves are bare in our emergency food closet. During August, we are concentrating on collecting pasta and sauce. Of course, other donations are always welcome. Donations may be left in the kitchen down the hall from the parlor.

REACHING TEACHING CELEBRATING SERVING

Deacon Nominations are being accepted until August 17th.

If you know someone who has a heart for the people of the community and you think would make a great addition to this group of servant leaders please fill out a nomination sheet in the parlor and give it to Lourdes or Pastor Douglas!

Renovation update

Revelations 21:5— "Behold I am making all things new"

Have you noticed the new handicapped signage? Have you noticed the new parking lot striping? Have you noticed the new exits signs? Have you noticed the new emergency lighting? Have you noticed the exposed wiring is covered? Have you noticed the electrical outlet plates replaced? Have you noticed the new furniture in some areas? Have you noticed there's no longer a broken organ blocking the hall outside the choir room? Have you noticed that three industrial sized dumpsters full of trash have been hauled off?

Have you noticed how God is using His people as He makes all things new?

To steal a phrase, "you ain't seen nothing yet".

We've only begun to see the unfolding of the Lord's plan for this work. We've only begun to see how He will make all things new, both in the facilities here at Garland Road and in each and every one of His people here at WRCC.

Master plan development update



Accomplishments	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Completed fire sprinkler repairs ◆ Completed front lawn sprinkler repairs ◆ Cleared all debris cited in the Fire Marshal report ◆ Repaired all exit signage ◆ Installed new emergency lighting ◆ Cleared all exit blockages as cited in the Fire Marshal report ◆ Restriped parking lot and handicapped signage ◆ Completed several successful work-days 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Begin basement renovations ◆ Begin Activity Center and Office HVAC replacement ◆ Begin additional electrical repairs ◆ Complete Congregational survey report ◆ Prioritize maintenance , repair and upgrade projects ◆ Develop "vision" concepts ◆ Finalize master plan





9353 Garland Road
Dallas, Texas 75218

www.whiterockchurch.org

Church Office Hours
10 AM to 4 PM
Monday through Thursday

Main Phone
214-320-0043

Fax
214-320-0098

Worship and Study Schedule

Sunday Bible Studies 9:00 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM
Children's Worship 10:45 AM
Wednesday Bible Studies
10:00 AM
7:30 PM
Friday Night Home Bible Study
2nd & 4th Fridays at 7:00 PM

Sunday Night Live!

All church Potluck and innovative
Worship Program;
3rd Sundays at 6:00 PM

Pasta with the Pastors
1st Sundays after church

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays 7:30 PM

*For more details on any of the
events listed please call the
church office.*



White Rock Friends

214-324-1193

General Store Open
1st, 2nd, 3rd Tuesdays & Saturdays

10 AM to 2 PM

Lunch Served

1st, 2nd, 3rd Saturdays

10 AM to 2 PM

Clothes Closet

1st & 3rd Saturdays

11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

August Dates and Information

August 2 Facilities Meeting
August 2 Worship Committee Meeting
August 2 Outreach Committee Meeting
August 3 Pasta with the Pastors
August 6 Policies and Procedures Meeting
August 10 Education Committee Meeting
August 10 Mission Committee Meeting
August 10 Nominating Committee Meeting
August 10 Women's Ministries Meeting
August 10 Couples Planning Meeting
August 16 Friends Board Meeting
August 17 Prayer Committee Meeting
August 17 Sunday Night Live
August 18 Finance Committee Meeting
August 20 Church Council Meeting
August 21 Communications Meeting
August 27 Deacon's Meeting
August 27 Personnel Meeting

Note: Meetings are subject to change. Please check with your committee chair if there is a question.

Senior Pastor	Dr. James P. Walker
Associate Pastor WRF Administrator	Douglas Shaffer
Pastor Emeritus	Dean Bishop
Assistant Pastor	Marianne Munde
Assistant Pastor	Vivian Davis
Administrator	Shawn Casaba
Pianist & Choir Accompanist	Antoine Spencer
Interim Choir Director	Ken Dover
Sound Technician	Lori Martin
Webmaster	Laura Doscher