

THE WINDOW

Westbrook

Three Great Campuses... **VENUE**³⁰²
... One Great Vision **VENUE**^{STERLING}



LEARNING TO LIVE LIFE ON PURPOSE

September 2008

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Saturday Schedule

5:00 p.m. Worship Service*

6:30 p.m. Worship Service*

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship Service*

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

11:00 a.m. Worship Service+

6:30 p.m. Youth Alive

*Meets at Venue 302+Meets at Venue Sterling

The Key Point Is This... by Andy Addis

It's amazing what sets them off. Last June when we were on vacation in Texas, I stopped by a Home Depot in the Dallas area so I could have a front door key made. It's not that I needed one, but I really wanted a Dallas Mavericks commemorative Dirk Nowitzki key to open my door as all good fans should.

Something about that moment tripped the trigger of my oldest son, and he has been on a key rampage ever since then!

He not only wanted a key, he needed a key, he must have a key, for his safety and the safety of everyone in our house and neighborhood. A key to our front door must belong to him.

Then, a front door key was not enough... A back door key was also required.

Don't stop there! There's a lock on the garage isn't there? *Well then, why don't I have a key?*

All of this begs the question, *since I have three keys don't I need a cooler key chain? And, what about accessories? Shouldn't I get those little rubber key separators so I can tell all my keys apart? And a coily cord to keep my keys wrapped around my wrist.*

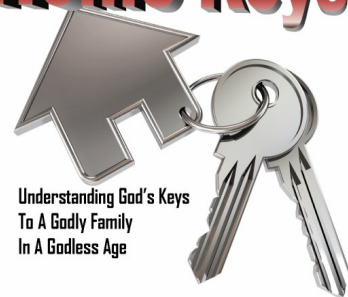
Yes, it's been Keyapalooza around our place lately. A relative Keystock. A trip to Keytopia, mind you.

I just pray he never gets interested in the car keys.

Keys are amazing devices. They are tiny little pieces of metal that grant you access to so much. That's why they stand as the perfect metaphor for our September teaching series: **Home Keys-Understanding God's Keys To A Godly Family In A Godless Age.**

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Home Keys



Letting Go and Holding On . . . by Wayne Pearson

Determined, on-task men armed with water-filled buckets and pots, trotted their splashy, drippy containers into the sanctuary. Crunch-time! Every second counted! Nothing—not even the wild-eyed music-guy frantically waving his arms—halted their advance. No flames licked the walls. No smoke filled the building. Nothing like that. Lack of heat was the problem.

Baptism is a meaningful, pleasant experience unless . . . well, on that particular Sunday morning the water in the baptistery was icy cold. Broken heater. The problem was discovered at 10:35 AM, and the baptism service was scheduled for 11:00 that morning. What to do? Solution: add lots of hot water to the too cool pool. How? Round up some guys and form a bucket brigade from the kitchen sinks to the baptistery. Men were enlisted. Buckets were filled. Off they hurried from the kitchen sinks down the middle aisle and across the platform. Oh, oh! An obstacle. A grand piano against the wall under the baptistery, blocked their way. Undaunted, they passed the dripping containers over the shiny-black, recently purchased (expensive) musical instrument and poured the hot water into the pool. Then the music-guy arrived. Alarmed, he pleaded, Hold it! Move the piano out of the way! Reason. Splashing water onto and into the grand will damage the finish and ruin the internal mechanism. Another reason. It will be faster to pour hot water into the baptistery with the piano out of the way. So, the piano was moved and dried off. And, buckets of hot water warmed the pool enough so that the pastor and those immersed suffered some chill but not hypothermia.

All this happened some years back at Westbrook, and I was the music-guy. Was the grand piano more important than the people baptized? Of course not. People, especially babes in Christ, are precious beyond measure. On the other hand, it was important to safeguard the piano God gave Westbrook. Certainly, generous God-directed Christians who bought the grand for the church, wanted the instrument cared for. Protecting and maintaining equipment used in the Westbrook music ministry was part of my job. To me it was a very important responsibility—maybe too important.

At Westbrook, church folks are encouraged to take ownership of some ministry. Doing this, hopefully, fosters in them consistent, trustworthy church service. This type of ownership is good unless the owner decides a ministry is a personal possession rather than God's domain. I knew a woman at another church who adopted this selfish attitude. She was a disgruntled nursery coordinator who quit her church. When she left, she took with her all the nursery furniture she'd donated over the years. The church discovered her gifts were not gifts at all—only loans.

There is a time determined by God for us to release our grip on a church ministry and pass on that responsibility to another person. Letting go can be difficult for those who love and own their work. Certainly, it was hard for me to turn loose and hand over the worship pastor position to someone else. Yet, I'm convinced that, for a long list of reasons, God wanted me to let go. So, I retired my Westbrook position after a decade of fulfilling, challenging, and exciting work.

Then, I looked at my empty hands and held them up to heaven. *Lord, is there anything I can hold?* I asked. And the Heavenly Father smiled and answered, *Yes, Wayne. Hold on to the sweet memories of those who love you. Remember the good times—the smiles, the laughs, the handshakes and hugs. Don't forget those who encouraged you, who stood by you, who served with you, who supported you. Through them, I blessed Ruth Ann and you.*

By the way, Wayne, the Lord continued, Hold on to me. Don't forget me. Know that leaving Westbrook is a graduation. A commencement. I have more for you to do.

THANK YOU!!!

For Ruth Ann and me the retirement reception was FANTASTIC! Music, flowers, cake and punch, cards and gifts (lots of volunteers to go with us to Alaska)—all WONDERFUL! Best of all—family and friends. God's precious gift. We love you and always will. Thanks again for the memories. Wayne and Ruth Ann.

New time and new location---Adult Bible Study "Surge" will meet at WBC each Wednesday Night at 7:30 PM

WBC/Venue Opportunities

Celebrate Recovery
Tuesday (new day), September 16

6:30 PM at Venue 302

This program helps people with bad habits, hurts and hang ups. Come find the support you need.

AWANA

Wednesday, September 17

Meal at 6:15 PM

AWANA at 7:00 PM

*The kitchen will ask for a \$1.00 donation to help with the food cost.

WESTBROOK/Venues
Quarterly
Business Meeting

Sunday, September 21

5:00 PM

at the Westbrook Campus

Senior Adult
VIP Lucheon

Monday, September 22

Bring a food dish and a friend to join in the fellowship and fun!

This month's program will feature Worship Pastor Daniel Munden



Connecting Young Men & Women
to Church for Life

*Men of Honor and Women of Virtue Seminar
and Rites of Passage Ceremony*

September 27 & 28

Youth and adults combined meetings:

Sat., September 27, 1-3 PM at Venue 302

Sun., September 28, 1:30-3:30 PM Sterling College

Rites of Passage Ceremony

Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. at WBC
(childcare provided for ceremony only)

**Everyone in the Westbrook and Venue family is
encouraged to come and celebrate
at this special event.**

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What are some key elements to a Godly family: spirituality, communication, family roles, etc.

When each of us in the family -- moms, dads, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, grandmas, grandpas, and even close friends -- know and use the keys God has given us for the family from His word, then the right doors are bound to open. For too long we have been trying to knock down doors and pry open windows when God has had a full set of home keys for us from the beginning.

My child, listen to me and do as I say,
and you will have a long, good life.

I will teach you wisdom's ways
and lead you in straight paths.

When you walk, you won't be held back;
when you run, you won't stumble.

Take hold of my instructions; don't let them go.

Guard them, for they are the key to life.

Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). Holy Bible : New Living Translation. Text edition --Spine. (2nd ed.) (Pr 4:10-13). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.



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FACTS AND FIGURE

WEEKEND WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

August	3	1,063
August	10	1,052
August	17	1,200
August	24	1,083
August	31	NA