



**WESTVIEW**  
BOYS' HOME

**BULLETIN**

Published for the friends of the young men at Westview

# Making room at the table . . .



Every time family and friends gather around a table, it is a celebration—a celebration of cherished relationships, a celebration of God's providence and presence. Every time I sit at a table, I take a moment before the blessing to recognize the joy that this realization brings.

In that same moment, the young men at Westview Boys' Home come to my mind. For these young men, the table is a solemn reminder of what is missing from their lives and what they really need. In over twenty years at Westview, one thing remains obvious to me. **Every young man that comes to Westview needs our welcome.** Every one of them needs a safe place. Each one is in search of hope. From first to last, they thirst for real, authentic relationships. Our work is to help them build healthy and sustainable relationships.

**Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.**

**Mark 9:37**

As you gather around tables with your family and friends this holiday season, please take time to remember the children—like those at Westview Boys' Home—who need that loving welcome to a table. Please pray for them and then, as you are able, help us provide the very welcome that Jesus called us to give to them: a welcome that builds relationships, a welcome that nurtures their health, a welcome that opens up their futures, a welcome that

makes possible a saving encounter with God.

Westview Boys' Home is a conduit of your love and your resources to young men who need both. We thank all the friends of our young men who see the infinite value of each of these young lives and give from the heart to build a table at which they find real and godly welcome.

Grace and peace to you and yours,

Ron Bruner and the Westview Family



Richard, Sarah, and Maisie

# A life to celebrate . . .

*Richard Morpew, a Westview alumnus, recently sent this extraordinary letter to us and we share it with his permission.*

Sometimes in the midst of your work you may never realize the impact that you might have on someone. Who I am, what I have accomplished, and where I am at now is due to the care of the Westview Boys' Home staff, and their supporters.

Westview raised me as a child to be a hard worker, to take pride in what I do, to be a leader by example in what I say and do, to be respectful and patient, and to not give up when things become difficult.

It took me nine years and six changes to my major before I graduated from Oklahoma Christian University, with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Bible.

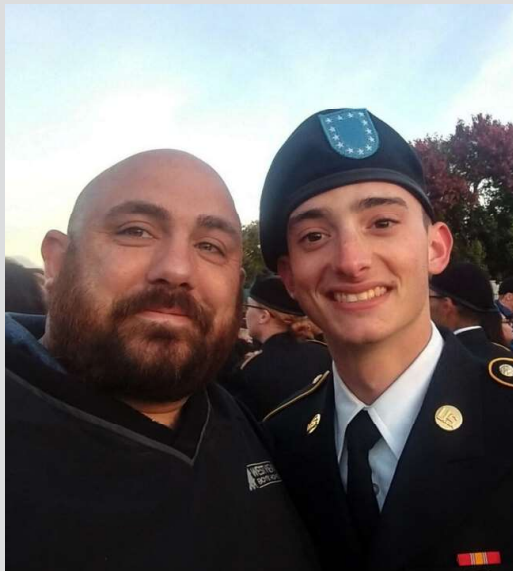
It was during my time at OC that I met my wife, Sarah Elizabeth Russell Morpew. We have now been married for more than fifteen years. We have now been blessed with our own bundle of joy, Maisie Elizabeth Amethyst Iris Morpew,

who was born in September.

While I was a student at OC, I was blessed with the opportunity to work for a non-profit organization, Partners for Christian Education, who helped start and support Christian schools all around the world.

I now work for Oklahoma Department of Human Services, as a Child Welfare worker. In November, I will have worked for OKDHS for six years. It took me becoming a Child Welfare worker to have a better understanding of the impact that Westview Boys Home has had on me, because in this job I use everything that was taught to me as a boy. I believe that things happen for a reason, and I believe that God sent me to Westview in preparation for the work I would be doing as an adult.

So, for everything that Westview has done for me, I would like to say thank you, and let you know that what you do can and does make a difference in people's lives. **W**



Josh celebrates with Ethan

## Ethan successfully completes basic training

Giving back to your family, community and country is a lesson we try to instill in all of our young men. One of our recent graduates from Westview, Ethan Lamb, has truly embraced that lesson. He is now a soldier in the United States Army.

Ethan graduated from his basic training on October 25, 2018, at Fort Leonard Wood. After nine weeks of intense training, rifle qualifications, team building, and combative strategies, Ethan has met all his requirements and earned the title of United States Soldier.

It was an honor for one of our staff, Joshua Birney, to be able to attend his graduation. Joshua and Julia Birney were Ethan's care givers during his time at Westview.

Private Lamb has come a long way in his journey, but now a new adventure is beginning. Ethan will spend the next seven weeks in training at Fort Leonard Wood for his military job in military transport.

Ethan is not sure where his path will take him after his training is complete but it looks as though he will be stationed in Germany or South Korea.

We are proud of Ethan and his accomplishments and humbled by his service to his country. Please lift up this man and his family in your prayers. **W**



*Burl and Y'Vonne at the retirement party*

## Honoring Burl and Y'Vonne

On October 14, 2018, Burl Butler retired after 51 years of service to Westview Boys' Home.

In August 1967, Burl and Y'Vonne Butler started their work with Westview. Burl had been working at the GM plant in Arlington, Texas, when friends of theirs, Ray and Nancy Stowe, stopped to visit the Butlers on their way back to Hollis. They invited Burl and Y'Vonne to follow them and spend that weekend with them at Westview. During that visit, Westview's superintendent asked the Butlers to come work as houseparents. They accepted and started caring for boys at Sweetwater House on August 10, 1967, their tenth wedding anniversary.

Burl and Y'Vonne worked for ten years as houseparents. When they arrived at Westview, they had two children of their own, Burl Ray and Kim. Their youngest son, Rhett, was born while they

were houseparents at Sweetwater.

Eventually, their roles changed. Y'Vonne became the secretary for Hollis High School and Burl held several positions at Westview. Through the years Burl was the Farm Manager, Campus Manager, and Director of Church Relations. Following her retirement from Hollis Public Schools, Y'Vonne joined Burl on many of his trips representing the Home. Over the years, Burl has driven over a million miles visiting congregations and donors. During one year, Burl and Y'Vonne went to every town in Oklahoma where there was

a Church of Christ and visited someone there or left material about the Home.

Burl's fondest memories of Westview include trips with the boys to Yellowstone Bible Camp in Montana and a fundraising trip he took with another Westview team member. On the latter of those two trips, Burl visited congregations throughout eastern Kansas, southern Nebraska, and

*The service of Burl and Y'Vonne Butler has been "a long obedience in the same direction."*

*- Ron Bruner*

western Iowa. During that week-long trip, Burl was invited to speak at three congregations about Westview and its work with at-risk youth.

On Saturday, October 13, 2018, Westview hosted a reception for the Butlers at its offices in Hollis, Oklahoma. We thank the family and many friends who came and honored them. **W**



*Derek proudly poses with a bull*



*Micah works on halter breaking his calf*



*Eli gets to know his new friend*



*Josh and his new responsibility*



Jase watches the judge as he walks his calf at a show

Projects we're working on at Westview:


- Replacing two vans on campus
- Remodeling laundry rooms
- Reworking driveways
- Computer lab for our young men
- Adding a second walk-in freezer in commissary

## You have to have water

The Westview Foundation provides funding to strengthen Westview's farm and ranch operations. This includes adding resources that make it possible to more wisely use the land that is in the stewardship of the Home.

Over the years, the Foundation has had a particular interest in drilling new wells that give our farm and ranch access to much-needed water in this dry part of the world. Currently we are preparing to drill wells that will replace poorly-producing wells with wells that will better supply the pivot that allows us to raise enough hay to keep our herd size larger and more profitable.

Donors interested in providing funding or resources to strengthen our farm or ranch should contact the Westview Foundation to discuss ways to make this possible.

**The Westview Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 714**  
**Hollis, OK 73550**  
**(580) 688-3608** 

## BIRTHDAYS

Tristan Watkins . . . . .	12/5
Eli Turner . . . . .	12/5
Joshua Reed . . . . .	1/5
Keelan Coit . . . . .	1/10
Dareis Blomgren . . . . .	1/15
Christian Fincher . . . . .	2/7
Bradly Roberts . . . . .	2/18
Noah Meyer . . . . .	3/1
Derek Chapin . . . . .	3/2
Patrick Miller . . . . .	3/24



*Westview is supported by its many friends and local congregations of the Churches of Christ*



## A MESSAGE FROM HOME

God is busy at Westview Boys' Home. Whether in the lives of our young men, in the hands of our godly and compassionate team, or in the hearts of friends who make this work possible, God is present and at work.

God is blessing our young men in college. They are hard at work on their studies and are building relationships that will last a lifetime.

God is encouraging the young men on the ranch to do well, whether with their livestock projects, their sports, or their school work. Among our godly caregivers, they are learning the joy of a life well-lived.

God is empowering the Westview team to be the hospitable servants of God our young men need. From when they get up in the morning until they lie down at night, they care for our young men. Only God knows all of the good they do.

God is touching the hearts of godly people who understand the words of Jesus about welcoming children and who are serious about putting them into action. Their stewardship serves both God and young people in a loving and compassionate way.

We thank God for being present and generous at Westview, and we thank everyone else connected with Westview for choosing to work alongside God.

May God bless you and yours,



Ron Bruner  
 Executive Director