



The Woodland Echoes

SCHEDULE FOR TRANSITION

It may seem as if we've been wandering in the wilderness like the Israelites for quite some time; assured of a promising future, but unsure of when and how that will happen. Luckily, Woodland has a solid group of leadership, both ministerial and lay, that has helped the congregation to navigate through the wilderness known as the interim ministry period. While we will say goodbye to two friends, we will welcome anew Rev. Vasbinder, and continue to give thanks for the ministry and guidance provided by Marsha Charles during her time here at Woodland. With all of these changes, please make sure you are aware of the many activities and dates of departure and arrival. Please don't hesitate to ask a member of the Board if you have questions about this time of transition.

February 22nd will be Dr. Lisa Davison's last Sunday with us. She will preach and immediately after morning worship we will hold a reception in her honor. Lisa's months with us have been a time of peace and cooperation that has given us the opportunity to prepare for the future.

March 1st will be Rev. Laura Phillips' last Sunday with us. She will preach and immediately after morning worship we will hold a reception in her honor. Laura's years with us have been an exciting journey and her recent transition from student to associate minister has been a blessing for our congregation. Laura has done a wonderful job of keeping things moving during our interim period.

Both Lisa and Laura are moving on in several ways. We offer our thanks for their service and our prayers for their futures. Please plan to join us both weeks and offer your own thanks.

On March 3rd, Rev. Dalene Vasbinder will arrive at Woodland and on March 8th she will join us in worship for the first time. We will welcome her in the service and with a potluck luncheon immediately following worship.

Please plan to be with our church family for these times of remembrance, thanksgiving, transition, hope, support and excitement as we journey into the future together.

Lisa's Lines



It is hard to believe that 3 months have passed, since I began my journey with Woodland Christian

Church. The time has gone by fast, as it usually does when you're enjoying what you're doing. It seems like we just started to get acquainted, and now it's time to say "goodbye".

Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for how you have welcomed me into your church and your lives during these past few months. I was a stranger to many of you, yet no one ever treated me as such. Instead you granted me the privilege of being one of your pastors and allowed me to share with you in some joyful and difficult experiences. I am humbled by your trust and confidence.

Of course, the welcome I received at Woodland came as no surprise. Long before I became your Interim Minister, this congregation was dear to my heart and a place that I had recommended to many persons who were seeking hospitality in a world of prejudice and hatred. Over the 13 years I have been in Lexington, I have watched with hope the ministry of Woodland and have kept this congregation in my prayers. You have been a beacon for those who need to know God's unconditional love.

Now, Woodland is poised on the threshold of a new beginning. Rev. Vasbinder will bring new energy, ideas, and leadership, and I trust that you will extend to her the same hospitality and openness that you have given me. I believe that the future is very bright for this church, and I will continue to watch what comes next in the future that God provides for you.

Some of you may already know that I will be leaving Lexington and moving to Lynchburg, VA. I have accepted a call to be Professor of Religious Studies at Lynchburg College, a Disciples-related small liberal arts school and also my alma mater. Michael and I will be moving some time in July of this year. Although this is an amazing opportunity for us, I will miss my friends and new church family at Woodland. My prayer will always be that God will grant you the fullness of God's Shalom.

~Lisa

RETREAT FORWARD

Woodland Winter Retreat members are back, renewed, refreshed and reacquainted. January 23 - 25 there were 15 of us from Woodland who went to the Winter Retreat, held at Cathedral Domain outside Ravenna in Lee County. There were some new to the retreat and some who were repeat participants. Laura Phillips was unable to attend as our leader, as had been planned, due to the loss of a close friend. We missed her but were able to pull things together and have meaningful discussions and work-
became finding in a fragmented world. We watched several videos, had follow-time for reading and plenty of visiting. We ate pretty well too. Friday night we gathered around our traditional campfire and enjoyed the special kind of fellowship that brings. We are already planning for next year! Save January 22 - 24, 2010! For more information please ask any of the participants about their experience. Participants included: Richard and Rita Day, Lee Nimocks and Connie Payne, Bruce Lawrence and Gary Barksdale, Jannine Baker and Craig Locke, Janice James, Jan Cole, Gretchen Wolfe, Cindra Walker, Patrick Thompson, and Tim and Jackie Diachun.



ship. Our theme peace and unity world. We interesting video-up discussions, ing, hiking, knit-

GIVING FROM OUR ABUNDANCE

Stewardship is what we do with what we are given. It is what we do with all we are given - our place on earth, our financial resources, our talents, our time, and our relationships with friends and family. With so much concentration in our culture on the issues of financial solvency and current economic dilemmas we may wonder what we have for which to be stewards. We are blessed and a blessing in all we do.

Later this spring we will have a special time for each of us to make a commitment of what we will pledge to the financial budget of Woodland Christian Church. The budget and money will be used for all that we do as a church family with our gifts and resources. For now let us prepare by considering how we use all that we have and be grateful for those gifts and blessings we have received. Let us use them as good stewards.

In a future article as we get closer to our time of pledging there will be more explanation of what we at Woodland hope to do with the money that is

given. For the current fiscal year we had total pledges which were under the amount needed to subscribe the proposed budget. We have been operating anyway with those gifts we do have and with the good use of those gifts. If you would like to make a pledge for the remainder of the year, which ends June 30, please call the office to leave your name and you will be contacted. If you have questions, do the same.

In the meantime please continue doing all that you do and look for opportunities to share your many gifts with our church family and our world.

~Jackie Diachun, Stewardship Chair

GENA SHELLAR RETURNS TO USA

Woodland is happy to hear that Gena Shellar, a graduate of LTS who taught the Hayes Parish class at Woodland while she studied at the Seminary, has returned to the USA! Gena has recently been working in Sudan through the Mennonite Central Committee, working for peace in that part of our world. There was a small group at Woodland that has kept in contact with her and has tried to be of support in prayer and other ways when possible. Please see Gena's letter about her return.

Dear family and friends,

I hope that you are well. I am writing to update you that I finished my three-year term with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in Sudan on 16 January 2009. It was a full three years, with the first half spent working with the New Sudan Council of Churches and the second half spent working with the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek. In both positions, I was working in the area of justice and peace.

Now I am passing through Bosnia at the invitation of the MCC representatives here for a time of rest and reflection before reaching the States. I have enjoyed seeing old friends in western Bosnia and walking through the streets of Sarajevo's old town.

Before reaching home on 31 January, I will also travel through MCC Headquarters in Akron, Pennsylvania, to have final interviews with MCC staff.

After that, my "plan" is to stay with my parents for a few months to rest and recover. I have a lot to think about, and it will take time to integrate myself, to find what exactly is important to me and to decide which way I will turn next.

Peace to you!

Gena

WEEK OF COMPASSION AND SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



We've rescheduled our SOUPER Bowl Sunday and Birthday Celebration Potluck to coincide with Week of Compassion! Week of Compassion, the outreach arm of the Disciples of Christ Church, is a ministry in which local congregations can faithfully and effectively channel their resources and concerns to the humanitarian needs of suffering people in the world. Week of Compassion continues to reach out in the name of Christ to provide help following hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, droughts, civil wars and other natural and human catastrophes. Most recently Week of Compassion has also responded to the needs of many persons throughout Kentucky, as many are still without power and running water. As a way for Woodland to participate and recognize Week of Compassion, we will host our SOUPER Bowl Sunday Luncheon and Birthday Celebration on Sunday, February 15th following worship. Please bring the following according to your last name:



A – L: Medium size pot of soup or chili
M – Z: Finger sandwiches or rolls/bread
Dessert will be provided through our Birthday Celebration!

Don't forget to bring a monetary or non-perishable donation to church on Sunday morning. All proceeds and donations will go to God's Pantry right here in Lexington!



Serve as a Liturgist?

Have you ever thought you might want to serve during Worship as the Liturgist? The Liturgist is the lay person who offers the Call to Worship, the Invocation Prayer and reads Scripture during each Worship Service. We are inviting anyone who is interested in serving during Worship as the Liturgist to contact Anna Gayle Parke at (aparke@shrinenet.org or at 699-3424 please leave message if no answer). A training session will be planned. Also, those who have served in the past and would like to again are welcome. Thank you for considering serving as a leader in Worship.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY FOUNDER PASSES

Habitat for Humanity is deeply saddened by the death of Millard Fuller, the visionary whose ideas and tireless work created Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Fuller led Habitat from its founding in 1976 until his separation from the organization and his founding of the Fuller Center for Housing in 2005. He died February 3rd, following a brief illness. He was 74.

"Mr. Fuller had a tremendous impact on the Lexington Habitat affiliate, inspiring staff and volunteers," said Lexington Habitat Executive Director Rachel Childress. "Those who were privileged to hear him speak left forever marked by his vision and commitment. His 'theology of the hammer' was not an abstract concept. Mr. Fuller lived the gospel he preached. His dreams provided an opportunity for thousands of people in Lexington to help offer a 'hand up, not a hand out'. We are grateful for his leadership which made it possible for over 300 families in our community to have simple, decent, affordable housing. Our prayers are with his family and loved ones. He will be missed."

Mr. Fuller was instrumental in several Lexington Habitat initiatives including the 1991 Blitz Build.

"Millard Fuller was like a force of nature driving everyone around him to help in the cause of building decent, affordable homes for people in need all over the world," said Lyle Hanna, past Vice Chair of the Habitat for Humanity International Board of Directors. "Millard helped make Habitat for Humanity a household word in the United States and 90 other countries. He touched the lives of millions of people around the world including right here in Lexington. He often stated that 'we should make no small plans, only big plans have the power to kindle people's imagination and inspire greatness.' He inspired me to dedicate a large part of my life to Habitat. He inspired Lexington Habitat to build 15 houses in a week in 1991 when we had only built 4 houses in several years prior to that time. Lexington Habitat was the first Affiliate to build that many houses in a week. Millard was also fond of saying 'we should never underestimate the power of one small group of people to change the world, this is the way changes always begins.' Millard changed the world we live in and made it better for all those he encountered!"

Thank You

Thank you to all my Woodland friends and family for your continued support over the last month. It was such a joyous occasion to be able to be ordained at my home church and I'm glad that you could be there with me in spirit. It was quickly contrasted by a time of grief and loss at the passing of my friend Brooke. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for both times in my life and the constant support you provide to this community.

Laura

Dear Woodland Family,
Thank you so much the kind concern shown for me during my recent hospital stay. Your cards, letters, phone calls and most especially your prayers were most treasured. Your love and thoughtfulness will help to sustain me through my recovery. I miss you all dearly
Love,
Laura Clark

PRIZES FOR KNOWING YOUR BIBLE!

How well do you know the Bible? As a Disciples church we are not only spiritually, but also historically connected to knowing our Bible. Just as our founders, seated in crude frontier meetinghouses and gathered in forest clearings, dedicated themselves to hearing, reading, and studying scripture we to have the opportunity to study scripture right in the comfort of our own homes with the help of this issue of "The Woodland Echoes." Look for the "Do You Know Your Bible?" prepared by Rev. Lisa Davison our own resident scholar and test your own knowledge! You can submit your answers to the church office. Correct answers can be provided to you AFTER you submit your own. Each quarter (every three months) we will draw a name from those who have submitted correct answers to the church office! If you would like the answers, but do not want to participate in the "contest" you are also welcome to get the answers from the church office. We look forward to your answers and good luck!

YOUTH YAK!



There's lots going on in the next few months—so put these dates on your calendars and we look forward to seeing you!

✧ Sunday, February 15th—6th—12th Grade—Dinner and Youth Group at the Church, 6:00 P.M.—7:30 P.M.

✧ Friday, February 20th—4th—12th Grade—Bowling and Lock-In at the Church. Please meet at the church at 7:00 P.M. to drop off our things and do gather as a group. We will then head to the bowling alley on Southland Drive and have some fun! We will return to the church for snacks, games and fun! Parents can pick up youth on Saturday morning at 9:00 A.M. Youth are welcome to invite a friend if they would like, but their friend needs to make sure and bring \$10 for snacks and bowling. PLEASE EAT DINNER BEFORE 7:00 P.M. on Friday. Snacks for the evening and breakfast Saturday will be provided.

✧ Sunday, February 22nd—6th—12th Grade—Dinner and youth Group at JACKIE DIACHUN'S HOUSE, 6:00 P.M.—7:30 P.M.

✧ Camp Registration Information is available from Laura or on the camp website at www.ccinky.net

✧ Lumberjack Weekend @ WKDH—March 20—22 for 6th—12th grade and their sponsors—a weekend of clean up, tree removal, painting, repairs, power washing, singing, worship and connecting to camp friends before the summer!



✧ Junior Weekend @ WKDH—May 2—3, Theme: Running the Good Race, an overnight for youth in grades 4—5. Activities, worship, singing and meeting new friends before summer camp!

ANNUAL HABITAT RECOGNITION DINNER

Thursday, February 19, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Harrodsburg Road

EVERYONE IS INVITED

Please RSVP to
rsvp@lexhabitat.org

DO YOU KNOW YOUR BIBLE?

Exodus: February 2009 “Book of the Month”

Helpful Information About Exodus

Exodus picks-up the story of Genesis a few generations after Joseph and his brothers moved to Egypt. While Joseph had enjoyed the ruler of Egypt's favor (for saving the land from a famine), things have now changed. The new Pharaoh does not remember this story, and the descendants of Sarah and Abraham are now slaves, called “Hebrews” by the Egyptians.

Exodus recounts the story of how God rescued God's people from bondage and led them to a new land, just as God had promised Sarah and Abraham. In order to do this, God called three liberators: Moses, Miriam, and Aaron

The final compilation of the book of Exodus probably took place during the Exile (6th century BCE), but many of the stories contained in the book are much older.

Exodus also includes stories of: God' making a covenant with Israel at Mt. Sinai (“I will be your God and you will be my people”; the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites as they made their way to the Promised Land; and legal materials about how God expected Israel to live in covenant with God and with each other.

Famous Texts in Exodus

Call of Moses – Ex 3

The Plagues – Ex 7-12

The Crossing of the Sea of Reeds – Ex 14-15

The Ten Commandments – Ex 20

Things to Think About When Reading Exodus

What does it imply that in Genesis, most of the matriarchs seem to be barren, but in Exodus, infertility does not seem to be a problem?

How are the actions of Moses' birth mother (Jochebed) and those of his adoptive mother (Jochebed) similar? Are they carrying out acts of civil disobedience?

Note that the answer God gives to Moses' request to know God's name is a riddle (I am Who I am, I was Who I was, etc.). what does this tell us about the nature of God?

What do the 10 Commandments tell us about living in covenant relationship with God and neighbor?

What do the stories of how the Israelites complained in the wilderness, even though they were no longer slaves tell us about human nature and the risk of freedom?

Learning about the Faith in Exodus (for children)

Turn to chapter 3 of Exodus and see if you can answer these questions.

On what mountain was Moses tending the flocks of his father-in-law?

What strange thing did Moses see?

What did God tell Moses to do first?

What big thing did God want Moses to do?

When Moses asked what God's name was, what did God say?

Depend on God and each other through prayer and fellowship.

Need the gifts and vision of others to join with our own

Act to better God's world

Love, celebrate and nurture God's children

communion

Deepen our faith in Jesus Christ through worship, study and

Overcome our human imperfections to spread God's love

Open our hearts and minds to God's direction for us

Welcome all

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Woodland Members in our Continued Concern

Sara Allison, Sarah Anderson, Beulah Bell, Isabelle Brumfield, Lydia Brumfield, Sara Bushnell, Gertrude Cole, Lucille Cox, Ednagrace Cranfill, Oscar Drury, Sandy Duncan, Blake Eames, Lee Garner, Ken and Mabel Gould, Mary Haney, Anna Lee Hopkins, L.G. Osborne, Ken McCullough and Dalene Vasbinder family, Ethel McQueary, Hallie Meyers, Harris Parke, Bonnie Phillips, Kim Roarke-Trumble, Robert Rountree, Willis Spears, Mary Stephens, Louise Thompson, Martha Vimont, Marilyn Hartman and John Forbes.

Other Friends in Our Concern

Reed and Vernell Albertson (grandparents of Trish Stover), Jeri Barnes (mother of Dan Barnes), Brian Boone (nephew of Phyllis Crume), Leslie Boyd (daughter-in-law of Jeanette Boyd), Sally Brown (sister of Jennifer Brown), Mary Charles, Vicki Clarke (friend of Deb James), Harvard and Marilyn Coon, (parents of Steve Coon), Sidney Cranfill (brother of Ednagrace Cranfill), Dottie Dunlap (friend of Janet Brumfield), Ronnie Goodwin (father of Sandy Holbert), Katy Gorta (aunt of Dianne Chiles), Linda Hampton (cousin of Pat Dugger), Lucille Heaton (neighbor of Clifford Millard and Dave Woods), Joy Heines (friend of Anna Gayle Parke), Ray Ishmael (father of Jeffrey Ishmael), Deborah Jennings (friend of Harris Parke), Judy LeForce (friend of Lee Ball), Lora Kay Lucas (daughter-in-law of Jeannette Lucas), The family of Mattie McClean (sister-in-law of Mary Haney), Sue Patterson (friend of Cliff Millard), Leta Poore (mother of Sherry Poore), Preslie Leathers (niece of Linda Halter), Justin Rawlings (nephew of Missy Rawlings), Bette Shelley (mother of Janice James), William T. Smith, Fred Stocker (father of Scott Stocker), Martha Stocker (mother of Scott Stocker), Rose Stogsdill (friend of Norma Crockett and Jackie Ricard), Roselle Stubber (sister of Sam Halter), Alma Vitatoe (grandmother of Sherry Poore), the families of Mary Jane and Donny Williams and Cindy Schneitman. LTS faculty staff and community.

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www.woodlandchristianchurch.org