



# The Woodland Echoes

## STAFF NEWS

When Marsha Charles began as our student intern last fall, the time of her contract was to end this May, with the possibility of extending to another year. After much discernment, Marsha has decided to not renew her contract, but to instead have time in her third and final year of seminary to both explore her call and rest. During these last few months, she held a vital role in ministering to the congregation through transition, while juggling her family business and school at the same time. Marsha has a pastor's heart. Just as she has nurtured us, let us continue to nurture her ministry by affirming her decision and holding her in prayer. Woodland will continue to be her sponsoring congregation for ordination.

~DALENE

Marsha's letter with her decision can be read by either obtaining a copy from the church office or accessing it on the staff page of the website.

### Save the dates:

- ◆ Disciples Habitat build begins  
Saturday, May 23. More info to follow.
- ◆ Pentecost Sunday and Church Picnic,  
Sunday, May 31.

We unintentionally failed to mention in our bulletins that the flowers that graced our sanctuary on Sunday, April 26 were given by Debbie Rickerd in memory of her parents, Ernest and Wanda Rickerd and on Sunday, April 19 were given by Bernice Coleman in memory of her husband, John Coleman. We apologize for this oversight.



## The Pastor's Pen

So much of my life these last four months has been future focused. My thoughts have swirled in the tense of tomorrow – ‘when I arrive in Lexington,’ ‘when the family gets here,’ ‘when we find a house,’ ‘when the moving van arrives’...etc. Although I realize that this state of being is very normal and often necessary during times of transition, I’m also becoming more aware of how tiring it can be, and how spiritually draining.

On the wall right beside my computer screen are quotes I’ve put up to catch my eye and my heart. Each quote reminds me of the present, of today, of the gift of now.

From Hafiz, “This place where you are right now God circled on a map for you.”

From Lorde, “This is my life. Each hour is a possibility not to be banked.”

From Kalidasa, “Look to this day, for it is life, the very life of life.”

Psalm 46, “Be still, and know that I am God.”

As we walk in this season of Eastertide, can we claim the daily resurrections in our lives? Ah, what a gift to slow down in body and mind, to sit in the wonder of surroundings, to give thanks for the moment, to be aware of the Holy in the present!

### THE COMPLETE CIRCLE PRESENTS TRAVELS TO HAITI WITH JANICE JAMES

On Wednesday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. the Complete Circle will host a program presented by Janice James, along with providing a light supper.

Janice joined a group from Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville to travel to their sister parish in Parish (Cathedral St. Louis) in Jeremie, Haiti, in March 2009. Janice will provide a slide show that documents her travels from Port Au Prince to Jeremie. There will be discussion regarding the daily challenges of the Haiti people to survive and thrive.

# Christian Education News

Last month, a group of Woodland folk interested in our Christian Education program met to discuss and begin planning the future of Sunday School at Woodland. We discovered at the gathering that a great deal of energy and excitement exists in our congregation for a traditional, relevant, bible-based Sunday School curriculum, blended with opportunities for inter-generational programs that will nurture our life as a community of faith.

To that end much planning is underway. Our strategy is to roll-out our new program around the beginning of the Fayette County '09-'10 academic year and have our Sunday School follow that calendar. This approach makes scheduling for families with school children much more efficient. Therefore, Sunday School at Woodland for the Seekers and Shapers, High School, Middle School, and Kids Care will be suspended after Sunday, May 31 and will start back up in late August. The nursery will still be available during worship.

Other plans include a summer congregational education program the week of July 12. Our vision is to create a Vacation Bible School for all ages. We will be looking at our denomination's Overseas Ministries and the people our church is serving around the world through Disciple outreach initiatives. This program will not only be educational, but we plan to fellowship and share a meal each day. More information will follow soon.

Our education planning is at a very preliminary stage, there is plenty of time and space for you to get involved. Contact Dave Carr with any questions or ideas. We need your help. We want your input. We pray for your covenant of support.

~DAVE CARR

## WORSHIP NEWS

Following Worship on May 24<sup>th</sup>, all who are interested in serving as Liturgist are invited to attend a training session. The steps of the process and the role of the liturgist as a leader in worship will be reviewed. This is a vital ministry at Woodland and we hope you will join us and explore this area of service. Anyone presently serving as Liturgist is welcome to join us and learn Dalene's ideas in this area. Please join us May 24<sup>th</sup> after Worship and get on the schedule! If you have any questions please contact, Anna Gayle Parke, Chair of Worship (aparke@shrine.net).

~ANNA GYALE PARKE

## SEEKERS AND SHAPERS MAY SCHEDULE

As we conclude our class before taking a break for the summer, we invite everyone to participate in the final month of scheduling. The theme for May will be "From the Seminary Halls." Except for the last session, the class will be led each week by Marsha Charles. Come join us! We meet in the library each Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

May 3<sup>rd</sup> -How *Scripture* forms our Faith

May 10<sup>th</sup> -How Tradition forms our Faith

May 17<sup>th</sup> -How Experience forms our Faith

May 24<sup>th</sup> -Special Presentation:  
An Oral History of the Open and Affirming Process of First Congregational Church, San Jose, CA - from Marsha's internship last summer  
**Note:** class will begin this Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

May 31<sup>st</sup> -Practicing Theology - by request, a final session led by Dr. Emily Askew

### GREEN TEAM

Is a movement to incorporate creation care into ministry and mission of local congregations. A Green Team:

- ♦ Forms a 5-7 member team to steer the congregation.
- ♦ Sends 2 people to CCKY retreat
- ♦ Makes a 2 yr. commitment
- ♦ Recruits other congregations to join in

What does a Green Team do?

- ♦ Uses "homemade" bread for Communion
- ♦ Does an energy audit
- ♦ Visit the website
  - ♦ <http://www.ccinky.net/SCTG/stewardshipofcreation.htm>
- ♦ Recycle
- ♦ Teach the children
- ♦ Start a community garden

# Youth Yak

As the summer approaches, the Youth are certainly not slowing down! We had a wonderful movie night last Sunday, and we will be learning and talking about fair trade and social justice issues in the upcoming weeks. The youth group is going to be getting involved in the sale of fair trade coffee this summer as well as serving our community in other ways. While we cannot take a long mission trip this summer, we will be working in places around Lexington once a month. We are also very excited to invite the congregation to an End-of-Year Cook Out sponsored by the Youth of Woodland! Come join us on May 31<sup>st</sup> after church for food, fun, and fellowship!

~KATHRYN WELCH

**REMINDER:** Youth group in May on Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (**NO YOUTH GROUP ON MOTHER'S DAY**).

**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!

**CAMP REGISTRATION** Information is available from Kathryn, or is on the camp website at [www.ccinky.net/outdoormin](http://www.ccinky.net/outdoormin)

*The Graduating Class  
The Trustees and the Faculty  
of  
Lexington Theological Seminary  
request the honor of your presence  
at the  
One hundred and forty-third  
Commencement  
Friday morning, May fifteenth  
Two Thousand and Nine  
at ten o'clock.*

**(Our own Laura Phillips  
will be graduating at this time.)**

*Mission Story from Global Ministries partners  
The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
and The United Church of Christ.*

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9)*

In a country of division and strife, the churches of South and North Korea meet together regularly each year to pray and plan joint mission priorities. This in itself is remarkable, but the growing confidence and strength in their shared faith and vigilant attention to human rights is gaining influence on governmental practices and humanitarian treatment.

Last year the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK) and the Korea Christian Federation (KCF) in the North agreed to use a common prayer in all of the churches of South and North Korea on Easter Sunday. They ask all of us to join in their prayer journey for healing and reconciliation. The prayer reads in part:

O God, Lord of our history as well as of our nation!

Today we praise you, Lord, who have risen as Eternal Life through the struggle for righteousness, between lies and truth, at the fork of the path of dying or living....

O Lord, who is still alive and is with us! As the one day of resurrection has brought a new day continuing through all eternity, and as you accomplish the salvation of all humankind and all creation through the risen One, Free us from the reality of war and conflict and from the world of antagonism and jealousy through your mercy and grace. ...

O Lord!

Help us, churches of North and South, sisters and brothers of North and South, to achieve resurrection itself with one accord.

Help us to enjoy a life of peace through our belief and action.

Help us to be reborn as one nation wearing white clothes, a new nation of white and cleanness.

Help us to build a kingdom of peace serving our neighbors, to open a new day of reunification standing firmly as light for the world.

Amen.

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

At Woodland, we

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## 2009 GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wednesday, July 29 - Sunday, August 2

At the Indiana Convention Center

Indianapolis, Indiana

**Worship    Mission    Fellowship**

**Learning Opportunities**

Register on Line at [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)

or pick up a Registration form

on the table outside the Church Office!



### HOW TO CONTACT US:

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visit our webpage at:

[www.woodlandchristianchurch.org](http://www.woodlandchristianchurch.org)