

From the Pastor

By the time you read this newsletter, Ash Wednesday will have happened and Lent will have begun. Lent is that very special time of the church year when we prepare to travel with Christ to the cross. I cringe sometimes when I think how much easier it is for us to do this in Spirit than it was for Him to do it in life.

Lent is a time to confess our faults and our sins, and to come to the cross in humility. But it is not only a time of repentance. It is also a time to reflect on who God calls us to be and what God calls us to do – as individuals and as a church.

Your Session is trying particularly hard right now to discern how God is calling us to be the church in this corner of northeast Houston. We are trying to discern how best to grow and reach out and nurture and serve and witness. We are praying about building a playground, a social space outside and a meditation garden out behind our current sanctuary/fellowship hall. It would all be fenced and safe and allow us additional space for fellowship, for reflection and for play. It would be wonderful, particularly for our younger families. And yes – it will cost money. But the need is great, and some of the cost can be covered by a grant we have received from the presbytery. The grant will cover only a small portion – but it is a gift we are grateful for.

Your Session is also searching for the right person to hire as a part-time Director of Family Ministries. This will mean expanding some of our ministry and activities, and it will be wonderful, particularly for our younger families. And yes – it will cost money. But the need is great!

This Lent, please pray for your Session even as you listen for God's still small voice to you. Please pray for our church even as you consider all Jesus calls us to do and to be. Please pray for discernment, for guidance, and for blessing – for the church even as you seek it for yourself.

But most of all pray thanksgiving. We are a wonderful church not because of who we are – but because of who God is – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us journey to the cross together.....

Shalom,
Cassandra

Words from Woodforest

Available monthly on the last Sunday each month. Or be the first in the know and receive yours electronically.

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- 3. Pictures come in color!*
- 4. The church saves money on postage, paper, toner, and time.*
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Treasurer's Report

Most of you have heard by now that our income was off significantly last year compared to prior years, and we ran in the hole at year end. This year's Session faced a difficult choice - to consider this a fluke and base our 2012 budget on prior years? Or to cut critical programs to fit our known 2011 income. At the January Annual Meeting, our congregation voted in a "faith-based" budget. In effect, we decided to forge ahead with the faith that we can find the funds necessary to carry on the work of the church.

Our shortfall sounds like a big number at first - \$5,500.00. However, that breaks down to a little over \$100.00 a week. So once again, Mary Ellen has challenged the rest of us. If we each chip in an extra \$2.00 a week (or \$10.00 a month, if you prefer) we should easily plug our cashflow hole. Now THAT doesn't sound impossible, does it?

And the indications are that the challenge is working! Here are the numbers for January (ignoring our annual land lease payment from the shopping center next door) ...

Total Income, January 2012 = \$9,034.57

Total Expenses, January 2012 = \$8,287.68

Net Income, January 2012 = \$746.89

As a result, the balance in our General Fund has begun to creep back up. Thank you Woodforest... and please keep it up!

Christian Education

We have a new "Intermediate" Sunday School class starting for students in third grade through seventh grade. We hope these youngsters can join us for an Indoor Picnic on Feb. 26th during the Potluck lunch. We would like to hear what they would like to do in the near future. Hope to have some fun things to do while we are exploring our Faith Journey. Evelyn Jogie is going to be the teacher of this class.

Also on Feb. 26, the Adult One class begins a new study of 1 & 2 Samuel.

And..... Please put the third week in June (18-22) on your calendar for Vacation Bible School.

Thanks
- Julia



Holy week, a time of remembrance and proclamation of the atoning, suffering, and death of Jesus Christ.

Services will be held on Maundy Thursday-Soup Supper @ 7 pm. Also there will be a service on Good Friday @ 7 pm.

Easter Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection and the season of rejoicing. There will be the flowering of the cross. If anyone would like to purchase an Easter Lily, there will be an insert in the weekly bulletin.

March 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Dine-Out Dinner Adult Study	8	9	10
11 Dutch Treat Lunch	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Women's Bible Study Lunch Bunch	22	23	24 Fish Fry and Silent Auction
25 Potluck Sunday	26	27	28	29	30	31

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- *Mar 4 - Full Sack Sunday*
- *Mar 7 - Dine-Out Dinner, 6pm*
- *Mar 7 - Adult Study, 7:15pm*
- *Mar 11 - Dutch Treat Lunch;
Baytown Seafood*
- *Mar 21 - Women's Bible Study,
10:30am*
- *Mar 21 - Lunch Bunch,
12:15pm*
- *Mar 24 - Annual Fish Fry and
Silent Auction*
- *Mar 25 - Potluck Sunday*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am—Choir Rehearsal

10:00am—Worship

11:00am—Coffee and Fellowship

11:15am—Sunday School

*Communion is celebrated the
1st Sunday of each month.*

Congregational Life

Dine-Out Dinner will be held on Mar 7 at 6:00pm. The menu is soup and salad for \$5/person. Kids 12 and under eat free. Please call Judy to make your reservation.

The Adult Study will meet on Mar 7 at 7:15pm, discussing *Practicing Our Faith* by Dorothy Bass, Chapter 5, "Saying Yes and Saying No."

Women's Bible Study will be held on Mar 21 at 10:30am, followed by Lunch Bunch at 12:15pm.

Our annual Fish Fry will be held on Saturday, Mar 24, from 12-3:00pm. Cost of tickets is \$8.00. We will need a lot of help in the kitchen, please sign up. We have tickets to sell, and will also need silent auction items. Thank you!

Potluck is on Mar 25 at 12:15pm. Please bring a covered dish.

-Judy Maharajh

Scout Sunday - 2012

Thank you to all the members, parents, leaders and scouts who made our 2012 Scout Sunday such a success. (It is always a great day when we fill that overflow parking lot!) This year, we had representatives from all the BSUSA programs - Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, as well as Venture Crew Scouts. And of course, our own church girls represented the Girl Scouts. This year we asked all past and present scouts to join together in repeating the Boy Scout Oath and the Girl Scout Promise. As you can see in this photo, it was an impressive moment!



Mission Committee

Hello from mission. We are so grateful for such a supportive church family. Thank you for all you do & give.

In March, we will be doing a sing-a-long one Sunday which will be announced soon, and we will be extending our 'table' to the community during the Fish Fry to 25 folks who are in need.

Thanks again everyone.

Mark Your Calendar for our Annual Fish Fry and Silent Auction

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

12 - 3:00PM



PRESBYTERIAN - A CONNECTIONAL CHURCH

Some people wonder what being Presbyterian is all about. Well, it's about many things, but one thing it is about is being a connectional church. We are more than a single congregation. We are part of a much larger denomination that is also part of the much larger church universal.

That connectionalism serves us particularly well when we join in mission together, in educational activities, in youth ministry (such as Conclave and Triennium), or in crisis. For example, our church was helped by the gifts of many, many people when Presbyterian Disaster Assistance stepped in and paid for our roof to be repaired after Hurricane Ike. That is a blessing none of us will soon forget.

Being a connectional church has also blessed us in other ways. We received a gift of stackable orange

chairs from Atascocita Presbyterian church several years ago, and now we have received a gift of blue hymnals from First Presbyterian Church in La Marque, Texas. While that congregation has had to close its doors, its gift of ministry will continue through us and many others. Conversely, our church has reached out to support other churches in crisis (most recently Heritage Presbyterian), and has shared what we are able, when we are able.

For a small church like Woodforest, being connectional has made a big difference in providing us a few necessities that are beyond what our budget can afford. It is God's continuing provision....and it happens when people seek to be faithful together. Thanks be to God for connecting us, one to another!

Words from Woodforest

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**WOODFOREST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH INVITES YOU
TO JOIN IN THE FOLLOWING FELLOWSHIP AND
WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

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- *Mar 7 - Adult Study, 7:15pm*
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