



Words from Woodforest December 2019

Words from Cassandra:

Okay, I've got to say it. I might as well confess! I am so excited to be a part of Woodforest's 60th anniversary celebration. I feel so honored to be a part of the journey and to be here for this landmark occasion. And I can't wait to see what comes next.

So many people have been a part of this church. Some for years and years. Others just for awhile. But each has contributed in some way, and I trust has found something added to their faith journey as well.

I'm glad I have been here long enough to remember many of the names and faces of those who have gone before us. We are indeed surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, and I have no doubt that they are celebrating with us.

The way has not always been easy or clear. It is important for us to remember that. Our church has never been particularly large or wealthy in terms of money. But in the past and in the present day we are blessed with a wealth of talent, skill, and commitment.

The one constant through all of the ups and downs though has been God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Sometimes in ways wonderful to see, but more often in ways we simply have to trust. I am quite sure Woodforest has been a blessing to people in ways we know and in ways we do not.

I don't know how the founding of the church came to be so close to Christ the King Sunday – the culmination of the Christian liturgical calendar. But I am glad that it did. I can think of nothing more appropriate than to celebrate the primacy of Christ in our lives with the establishment and celebration of a particular congregation. And along with you, I look forward to the beginning of a new year – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.....and all of the blessings (and work!) of ministry yet to come.....

Shalom,
Cassandra

Prayer concerns:

For people and places in conflict – in the world, in the nation, and at home.....
For the sick or in chronic pain
For the caregivers
For the homebound
For the grieving
For those who have not yet found their faith



Church Garage Sale

This sale raised over \$2,000. Thanks to the helping hands of many people.

Christian Education

The **adult Sunday school class** just began a study by **Max Lucado “Because of Bethlehem.** This is a great study to put the focus where it belongs during the Advent and Christmas season. Come check it out! It is not too late!

Then in January we will begin a 5 week study by Adam Hamilton called **Half Truths —God Helps those who help themselves** and other things the Bible doesn't say.

The Children's Christmas program **Super Christmas** will be **December 15** . You will not want to miss this.. Thanks to Ollie and Courtney for all their hard work.

Field Trip

There was a field trip on Thursday, November 7, 2019 to the Tanger Outlet Stores. We first stopped at Buckee's to shop or to get some treats to eat. We then went to the outlet stores. Some of us got some bargains and had fun shopping and visiting. We then went to Shrimp & Stuff in Galveston for seafood. The food was good. The weather stayed pleasant until we were on the way home. We got caught in the rain but the bus driver did a good job getting us home. It was a good day.



**Live Nativity
December 14th
6 pm. –8 Pm**

It is the special time of year when we share with the community why we show up at this little church every Sunday. There are costumes for all those who wish to [participate in the scene in Bethlehem and to experience the live animals.

This is a very meaningful event. It does require many hands but there is all types of help needed. Those to assist folk into their angel and shepherd. costumes, those to play the part of Mary and Joseph, we need cookies and kitchen helpers. We need people to help guide visitors around the church.

There is to be a stable build on December 7th at 9 am.

Christmas Eve Service Candles and Carols December 24th at 7 pm

Come and join in **Worship and Brunch on Christmas Morning at 10 am**
We will gather for an informal worship service and enjoy a brunch with good friends and family. Bring in a brunch food to share and

Mission:

Thanksgiving Angel Baskets are rapidly reaching needs. We will also be putting together Christmas Baskets

Seafarers gift boxes are growing in numbers each week. There is a list of items to be included are on the back table. Please have you Christmas boxes to the church by Dec. 15th.

The gloves, caps, socks, and blankets/bedrolls for the homeless have filled two baskets and is still growing

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to these causes. They will be a true blessing to all who receive them.

Outreach:

There are sign up sheets ready for the Live Nativity event. Please be sure to sign up for those areas where you can be of service.

We need everyone who is able to help make this community event as successful as in the past. The entire North Shore area looks forward to this event each year

The date is December 14th 6-8 p.m.

The Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

This special offering will be received on December 22.

Congregational Life

Thanksgiving Once Again has come and gone, but before we Hang up the holiday apron let us all share in one last tasty Dinner with roasted turkey and sides on Wednesday, Dec. 4th at 6pm.

Entrée is going to be home made turkey potpies, tossed salad, Baked dinner rolls, beverages and a surprise dessert. This recipe is also very good using roasted chicken. If anyone is interested in A recipe copy let me know and I can give it to you

Hope everyone enjoys this as much as My family does.....,Shar



Sunday Schedule

9:00 am— Choir
Rehearsal

10:00 am—Worship

11:00 am—Coffee and
Fellowship

11:15 am—Sunday
School

Communion is celebrated
the 1st Sunday of each
month.

December 2019

Week 1

SUN.	Dec. 1	10 am	Worship , Communion
WED.	Dec 4	6 pm	Dine Out Dinner
		7 pm	Adult Study

Week 2

SUN.	Dec. 8	10 am	Worship, Dutch Treat, Caroling
SAT.	Dec. 14	6-8 pm	Live Nativity

Week 3

SUN.	Dec. 15	10 am	Worship Christmas Program
WED.	Dec. 18	10:30 am 12 Noon	Women's Circle Lunch Bunch

Week 4

SUN.	Dec 22	10 am	Worship
TUE.	Dec. 24	7 pm	Christmas Eve Service
WED.	Dec. 25	10 am	Christmas Morning Brunch

Week 5

SUN.	Dec. 29	10 am	Worship, Fellowship Potluck
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Congratulations

**Report from the Presbytery
Meeting:
Retirement of
Rev. Tomas Spath
official 12/31/19!**



Christmas Caroling December 8th

Following Dutch Treat Lunch
Come join in as we spread the joy of
Christmas to those who are unable to
attend worship.



Help prepare the sanctuary for the
Advent and Christmas Season by
donating a poinsettia. They are \$10 and
forms are available on the back table

Session Meeting December 15th Noon

**Women's Circle Wed. Dec. 18h @ 10:30
Lunch Bunch @ Noon**

**Adult Legislative Seminar
Washington, DC April 25 to May 1, 2020**

Have you ever been in your Senator's or Representative's DC office? Have you spoken directly with either your elected official or their chief of staff on an issue that is important to you? Well, here is a chance to do all these things and much, much more by participating in the "**Adult Legislative Seminar**" led by Cassandra Dahnke and Tomas Spath, co-founders of the "Institute for Civility in Government".

Prior to departing for DC, the group will decide on up to three issues to be discussed with elected officials. Once in DC and guided by these issues you will attend informative seminars led by experts in these areas. Based on this information, presentations will be developed and shared with your elected officials when you meet with them in their office. This experience will give you a deeper understanding of who these officials are, a glimpse of what their day is like, and an appreciation for how they get things done.

But the Adult Legislative Seminars allow for much more. Whether you have ever been to DC or not, there is always much to see and do, all of which provides for a deeper understanding of our nation's capital and our history. Of course there are monuments and memorials. There are museums galore, including the Holocaust, the Newseum, and the new African American Museum of History and Culture. There is culture to be found at the Kennedy Center, and meals to be shared at a wide array of restaurants. There are opportunities for worship at historical churches, including New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (where Lincoln attended) and Old Presbyterian Meeting House, whose history dates back to the colonial period. Sightseeing is on your own, but there is plenty of help and guidance along the way.

Save the date and make plans now to take advantage of this wonderful and unique opportunity. For more information, call Cassandra Dahnke at 713-444-1254 or email info@instituteforcivility.org.



There are Christmas Letters available on the back table in the church. This is a great way to invite some one to join in the Christmas and Advent activities at Woodforest PC.

A last word:

We are blessed to be a blessing.
Go out into the world with confidence to love and serve
in ways large and small,