



## Words from Woodforest June 2019

### Words from Cassandra:

As I sit down to write this, my experiences in Guatemala are a week behind me, but the impressions it left on my heart and mind are still very fresh. The first thing I want to do is thank all of you for your support which helped make this trip possible for me in so many ways. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it.

Many of you remember that Tomás and I went to Guatemala seven years ago. That was a surgical trip. This time we were on a village trip, and it was an entirely different experience. While we stayed in Retalhuleu, we worked in two different villages, spending two days in each one. One was Samayac, and the other was Pueblo Nuevo. These villages are about four hours west of Guatemala City. In each village we were given the use of the local elementary school in which to work. Each classroom was converted into a clinic or other work area. The common area was used as a waiting space.

Faith in Practice (the hosting organization) has been working in Guatemala for 25 years, and it shows. They have this work down to a fine art, and everything works efficiently and well. Over the years they have established excellent relationships, so we had plenty of local volunteers and members of the armed forces at each site to help us with our work. We could not have done it without them! From loading and unloading our supplies from the trucks to keeping order, to guiding the patients from one station to the next, they were all the best!

I was assigned to the pharmacy where I worked with two other volunteers. Craig Walker is a member of Pines Presbyterian Church and is a former pharmacist and retired lawyer. Luisa Portugal is a licensed pharmacist. Together they guided me through the maze of medications and patiently answered all my questions, and together the three of us filled approximately 6,000 prescriptions over the course of the four days. These included everything from simple over the counter medications to much more complicated medications, some of which Luisa had to mix herself. Most had been prepackaged for us by volunteers on previous trips.

We started our days at 5:45 each morning with devotions and announcements. Then we had a quick breakfast before boarding the bus at 7:00 for an hour ride to our destinations. At each town the people we were serving began lining up outside the school at 6:00 am, and were ready and waiting for us with smiles and waves when we arrived at 8:00. We finished each day around 4:00 pm and then headed back to the hotel for showers, dinner, and an early bedtime before starting all over the next day.

Below is the numerical summary of our work, but this doesn't begin to tell the story of the people we met and the difficulty of the lives they lead or the health problems they face. Seeing the extreme poverty is a true reality check. There is soooooo much we take for granted where we live. It is easy to forget how very, very privileged we are.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Total
General Med.	139	169	123	172	603
Pediatrics	98	92	81	72	343
Gynecology	50	35	64	49	198
VIA	61	34	49	46	190
Cryo	1	1	2	2	6
Biopsies	0	1	2	1	4
Dental	58	52	65	67	242
Extractions	75	98	114	148	435
Wheelchair patients	24	27	19	32	102
Wheelchairs	21	19	17	25	82
Referrals	113	62	95	81	351
Totals	485	471	496	519	1971

Funds raised to support our patients: \$ 5,622!

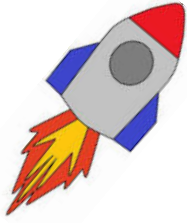
One of the doctors on the trip expressed frustration early on in the trip in that the drugs we are able to supply will run out, but the problems the people have will continue. With the exception of those who receive wheelchairs and those who are referred for surgery, any help we are able to provide is but a very small bandaid on a very big problem. But as the week went by, the doctor came to understand that the medicine and treatments were only one small part of the story. The real grace is in the human connection that is made, the listening ear, the shared prayer. The real encouragement and support the people receive that lasts much longer than any medicine is knowing that somebody cares and is doing what they can.

My thanks again for what YOU have made possible. For more information about our trip, you can visit the blog at [www.faithinpractice.org](http://www.faithinpractice.org). We are trip #625. And please keep the people of Guatemala, and so many other places of need, in your prayers.

God's peace,

*Cassandra*

Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!  
Ephesians 3:20



## To Mars and Beyond

Vacation Bible School  
June 24-27 6-8 pm  
Ages 5 –Teens



Bible Stories

Games

Snacks

Arts and Crafts

Music

There are sign up sheets on the bulletin board for all the fun and rewarding tasks and donations.



Splash Day and  
Fellowship Potluck  
Sunday, June 30th following  
10 am worship

### Compassion Program

About a month ago, I had the pleasure of going to a Casting Crowns concert. This band is a Christian rock band based out of Florida, and was created by youth pastor Mark Hill. Their songs range from rock anthems and thoughtful ballads, and I highly recommend giving this band a listen. While at this concert, I was introduced to a program called Compassion. This program is a sponsorship with children in third-world countries who need healthcare and school supplies that they don't have access to. This program has been responsible for entire villages being built up from the ground, and being able to sustain itself just from the generosity of people like us who care. Families who cannot provide for their children are thankful for this program, but it's not just a sponsorship that this program provides. Every person who sponsors a child receives letters and pictures, and may even get the chance to visit the child. For \$38 per month, you could give the whole world to a child. I thought this was a wonderful opportunity, but also something I could do to help a child who doesn't have the opportunities that I had growing up. Yet, as a full-time student, I don't have the resources to do this for long. So, I thought that I could share this program with my home church, so that if I can't do it, I could let you guys know about it. If you would love to help a child, please give this program a look at [Compassion.com](http://Compassion.com).

Love, Taylor

**Mission:**

North Channel Assistance Ministries is now able to sponsor food fairs. Dates to be determined).  
Pavers to be installed at NCAM approximately by the end of June (per Rodney Redford)  
NCAM reports that they will become independent and self-sufficient in very near future.  
School Supply drive will begin in July.  
It's time to assemble Food Bags for the Homeless.

**Outreach:**

A greater effort in following up with visitors will be made by calls and/or cards.  
We're working on signage or restructuring verbiage on the permanent marquee passer-by attention.  
The Fajita Dinner fund raiser scheduled for August 8 has been cancelled.  
The Church Directory is nearing completion.



**Pentecost Offering, Sunday, June 9**

Receive the Pentecost Offering that supports children at risk, youth ministries and Young Adult Volunteers. 40% stays with the congregation wanting to impact the lives of young people and 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**Property Committee**

A single step handrail has been installed on the step in front of the alter.  
It is meant to assist In traveling to and from alter.



**Keep in prayer:**

- For people and places in conflict.....
  - For the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed.....
  - For those suffering chronic pain, including Krista Bartel and Ruth Flick....
  - For those who are ill and/or who are recuperating, including Timothy Black, Sandra Horton, Lindsey, and Kathleen Watson...
  - For care givers.....
  - For those who are grieving.....
  - For those needs that God knows and we do not.....
- Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers.....

## **Hello from Commitment/Stewardship Committee,**

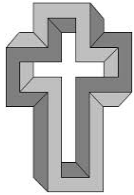
I want to start out by saying THANK YOU CHURCH FAMILY!!!! Thank you to all the session members, elders, church members, volunteers, and congregation. Thank you to all that cook such wonderful dishes, those who work the kitchen, teach the bible studies, prepare all that is needed for the church services. What an awesome church family.

Here we are beginning the month of June, half way through the year, where has the time gone? It seems that the older I get the quicker the time goes by and lately I feel like I am in hyper-drive. When I was assigned to this committee at the beginning of the year I was truly humbled to share in it's responsibility and eager with ideas. Many of you know that part of this committee is to plan the Church Celebration which this year will mark our 60th Anniversary. Definitely as cause for special celebration that would include monthly bios from some of our wonderful long time members and their memories over the years and their commitment to this wonderful church family and the community. So far that hasn't happened. We were also going to have a Chicken Fajita Dinner in August, that has been canceled. I also said that I would be more committed to submitting an article for the monthly newsletter and this is my first one. What happened to my commitment?

I can say that it has been a rough year so far, filled with monthly, if not weekly, issues in my world. The kind of issues that keep me in daily conversations with God. Thanking him for all his blessings, giving him all the glory and knowing that through his grace I will survive this latest disruption in my world. My world not the church's world. Although I keep all church family in my prayers, prayers are not enough. Commitment is not only my personal commitment in my heart it is also commitment to the church, church family and the community. Commitment to God to carry his word through the world and to be as a disciple in a world of many who are lost. As I began to tackle the rest of the year that is left I am making a commitment to commit, too get my personal world in tune with the world of God and the church and the community. I am so glad to be part of a supporting, loving church family who have on numerous occasions demonstrated true faith and commitment. I invite any who would like to share their stories of their faith journey at Woodforest Presbytery Church please contact me so we can chat.

THANKS AGAIN!!!! HAPPY 60th ANNIVERSARY !!!





### 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.

## June 2019

**Week 1**  
**SUN. June 2**      **10 am**    Worship , Communion

**Week 2**  
**SUN. June 9**      **10 am**    Worship,  
Dutch Treat Lunch  
Hymn Sing

**Week 3**  
**SUN. June 16**      **10 am**    Worship    Fathers Day  
**WED. June 19**      **10:30 am** Women's Circle  
**Noon**                Lunch Bunch at  
Wolf's Hamburgers

**Week 4**  
**SUN. June 23**      **10 am**    Worship  
**MON.– THUR.**      **6 pm-8 pm** **Vacation Bible School**

**Week 5**  
**SUN.. June 30th**      **10 am**    Worship  
Splash Day  
Potluck Fellowship Dinner

### Clerks Report

Average Attendance : 38

Active Members:        69

Welcome new members Jo Ann Nickels, Tom Waggoner and Marlene King-Waggoner!



**We have openings for:**  
**Worship Assistants**  
**Ushers**  
**Greeters**  
**Be apart of the**  
**worship service.**  
**Try it you will like it.**  
**Talk to Ryan Cole or**  
**Cassandra.**

**June 24-27**      **Vacation Bible School**  
**October 26**      **Garage Sale**  
**November 24**      **Church Celebration**  
**December 14**      **Live Nativity**  
**December 24**      **Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 25**      **Christmas Worship**  
**and Brunch**

**A last word...**  
**I can do all things through Christ**  
**who strengthens me.**  
**Philippians 4:13**