



Words from Woodforest

December 2020

Faith News: One Second

⁸ *But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. 2 Peter 3:8*

Whenever I talk to a sales person, or a technical support person, or a receptionist at someone's office and they have to put me on hold or connect me to someone else they say, "one second." Before they can put me on hold I say, "times up."

I'm on a mission to cure people of saying "one second," especially when the time that I am put on hold is more like minutes, loooong minutes. (By the way why do we call the recording of what is said in meetings "minutes," when what was said took hours?)

It reminds me of the story of a man who asked God, "What does a billion dollars mean to you who are all powerful?"

God said, "Hardly a penny."

Then the man asked God, "And what are a thousand centuries to you?" God answered "Hardly a second!!"

Thinking he had God backed into a corner, the man then said, "Then if that's the case, O Lord, give me a penny!"

"Sure," God replied, "In just a minute."

Time is precious. Time is fleeting. Time is the gift that everyone has the same amount of. As we approach a new year each of us will have exactly the same number of seconds, minutes, hours and days and months as everyone else. What we do with that gift will determine what we will say at the end of 2021.



Jesus said, "Be anxious for nothing. In all things give thanks. Through prayer and supplication make your request made known to God." Jesus said, "Be not anxious about tomorrow, it will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift, that's why they call it the present."

In this New Year I hope you will work diligently, love extravagantly, reflect regularly, plan intentionally, follow through methodically, risk bravely, and strive to make the most of every moment.

Today I was successful in my mission. I managed to train one salesperson to say, "one moment," even if it was after catching her for the third time of saying, "one second."

Rev. Jim Gill

Treasurer's Near-Year-End Report as of Nov 30, 2020

Sooooooo.... How in the world are we doing as we near the end of 2020??? As we all know, it has been a roller-coaster or a year. Here is how we stand on a line-item basis:

Offerings – Many thanks to our steadfast members, who are “hanging tough” during this pandemic. Our offerings are running about 92% of 2019.

Rent Income – Our rent check from Blackrock Commons was received in January, as normal.

Fundraising Income – None. All events such as the Fish Fry, Garage Sale, etc. were canceled.

Paycheck Protection Program – We received a \$12,300 grant from the Paycheck Protection Program. The “cushion” provided by this grant has been all used up.

Property Committee – The property committee took it on the chin twice this year. The first issue was a 28% increase in our property insurance. The second issue was the failure of the A/C unit in our front hall, which cost \$6,600 to replace.

Worship Committee – The worship committee also had two issues. First, it was necessary to fill our pulpit between Cassandra’s exit and Jim’s entrance (\$2,074.27). The second was the purchase of a new broadcast system for our sanctuary (\$4,387.38). Good news! The Presbytery approved our \$6,085 grant application to make our broadcast system more professional. Income and expenses for this upgrade will be reflected on our 2021 books.

Congregational Life Committee – Since we are not meeting in person, this committee had very few expenses. Dinners, BBQ picnic, etc. were all canceled.

Education Committee – The education committee sent our kids to their annual retreat at Camp Cho-Yeh in February, but then all subsequent activities (such as VBS) were canceled. For Advent, however, we have piloted a children’s online devotional study.

Mission Committee – Expenditures in the mission area are running about half of last year, although we are getting back on track recently with our holiday food baskets and seafarers boxes.

Commitment Committee – In lieu of a Church Celebration dinner, the commitment committee purchased faith journals for all members. Watch your mailbox if you have not picked one up at the church!

Outreach Committee – Most outreach activities were canceled, including scouts and the Live Nativity. Next year, however, we will be printing new banners to reflect our new way of worshipping.

So some things were up and some were down. How did it all wash out? As of November 30, 2020, we were slightly in the red at <\$1,249.83> for the year. It is my hope and belief that we can overcome that in December. Our budget for the year has us \$1,393.27 in the black, and I think we can do it! Thank you for your generous hearts!

Ann Martin

The following people were elected from the **Congregational Meeting on December 6th**

1) Renee Feltner and Julia Prasco to the Session Class of 2023

2) Ryan Cole, Alice Drennon, Ollie Garrett, Darlene McAlexander, Susan Maxwell and Courtney Shockey to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

3) Alice Drennon as Trustee class of 2023

Outreach and Mission

Unfortunately, our traditional Live Nativity program has been cancelled due to current pandemic but we are confident that it will be held in 2021.

Seafarers Gift Boxes

Twenty-seven gift boxes were donated and thanks to Johnny Gaskill were delivered to the Seafarers Center at the Port of Houston.

Eight **Thanksgiving angel baskets** were prepared and given to families that are experiencing difficult times during this crisis period. Linda Norris

Prayer Concerns

We keep those who we are distanced from in our prayers.....
Prayers for those who are battling cancer... for Glenda Leggett, Darlennie Powell
For those who are dealing with pain ...Krista, Sandra, Julia, Patricia.
For those who grieve;...the Black family, the Prasco family, the Dahnke family
For Joey, the fiancé of Kathleen Watson's niece who lost both legs in a farming accident.
For Vicki Wojcik as she continues to recover from surgery;
For Mary Ellen Baker who is recovering from a minor car accident.
For the caretakers.
For all those suffering during the pandemic.
For the medical personal, first responders, store employees, teachers, delivery people, and those who put themselves at risk to help others.
For those who are separated from loved ones.
For Our Church that we can continue to be a light to others



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 7 PM

We will be broadcasting on Facebook Live so you can remain safe

Be sure to check out the Advent Messages on the Facebook page. They are especially for children but all will enjoy. Great job Courtney Ann and Laurie!

If you are not receiving the order of worship and you would like to.. Please send your email address to secretary@woodforestpc.org

If you would like to save postage and trees and are able to receive the newsletter electronically. Please let me know and that will happen and as a bonus you will be able to see the pictures and photos in color. Renee Feltner

Last Word

**A thousand times in history a baby becomes a king
but only once in history did a King become a baby.**

