



## Words from Woodforest March 2020

### Words from Cassandra:

If the timing of this newsletter seems a little odd, blame it on me. It is too late for February, and too early for March. But the truth is I have had a very hard time sitting down to write this.

As many of you know, I announced my upcoming retirement at our Annual Congregational meeting in January. May 31<sup>st</sup> will be my last day with Woodforest. Fittingly enough, it will be Pentecost and a celebration of the Holy Spirit! I cannot think of a better time for change!

This has been a tremendously difficult decision for me to make. I've always said that deciding to go to seminary was the hardest decision I had ever made. The decision to leave you now has been every bit as difficult.

I have been sooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo blessed to be in ministry with you these 17+ years. You are the most amazing congregation, and you have spoiled me rotten! When I left St. Giles to be with you years ago, I never thought I would find another church family like the one I was leaving behind. I was wrong. I love all of you deeply with the love of Christ. And as my church family, I hate to go.

This is particularly true because Presbyterian polity prevents any ongoing relationship with you that even hints at the pastoral. I will NOT be available to do weddings, baptisms, or funerals. I will not be returning to preach or to participate in worship services. I will not be able to counsel you. For all of these things, you will need to look to your new pastoral leadership.

Facebook? The Institute? If you reach out to me through these things, we can maintain some contact, as long as it does not interfere in any way with the ministry of the church or your new pastoral leaders.

Why am I leaving? It's time. I am no longer doing the quality of work I expect of myself at Woodforest (if indeed I ever have). It is time for the church to have new leadership – leadership that is younger and more energetic, with some of the skills I simply do not possess.

Am I leaving to go to another church? No! There is no way I would want to replace you. But I feel a strong call to other things. It is way past time for the Institute for Civility in Government to get my fuller attention, and I have other ministries I want to participate in as well.

I am working with the church session to insure as smooth a transition as possible. I encourage all of you to maintain and/or even increase your commitment to and involvement with the church during this time of transition. Your Session members are great, but they cannot do this on their own. It will take ALL of you!

The good news is that this can be an exciting time in the life of Woodforest, and a time to grow in your faith journey. Look for opportunities to serve and remember – the Spirit is with you still!

Shalom,  
Cassandra

### Christian Education

The adult Sunday school just finished a study by Adam Hamilton called **Half Truths —God Helps those who help themselves** and other things the Bible doesn't say. This was an interesting and enlightening study.

On February 16 ...Bible Trivia Game! Come and join in the fun!

We will begin He Chose the Cross by Max Lucado this is a Lenten Study that we will begin on February 23. Come and check it out. Even if you have participated in this study before it is a great way to begin the Lenten season.

### Listening to God

You are invited to the Spring Branch Presbyterian Church **Annual Women's Retreat, Saturday, February 22, 2020**, 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Rev. Mary D'Alessio will lead the retreat. Cost. \$15.00. RSVP to Carol Davis by Saturday, February 15. The church is located at 1215 Campbell Rd., Houston.

### Conclaves February 28- March1

We have several youth who are going to conclaves this year at Cho-Yeh Camp.

Joseph Mendoza

Briana Morgan

Kaylee Shockey

Chris Shockey

Blake Baker

MacKenzie Campbell

And chaperones Ryan Cole and Ann Martin

The Conclaves mission project, **Hospital Boxes** will bring joy to kids in the hospitals and provide them fun, well wishes, hope and love during their hospital stay. Items needed include decorative pillow cases, pop culture décor, small blankets, small quilts, decorative shower curtains, bath sets, iTunes gift card, warm socks,

### 2020 Budget

Estimated Income = \$100,423.86

**Faith-Based Challenge = \$0.00**

Total Income = 100,423.86

Estimated Expenses = \$99,030.59

**Added to Reserves = \$1,393.27**



## **Fish Fry 101** **Saturday, March 28th 11am-3 pm**

This is an annual fundraising event. It is a complete day of joy and hard work.

To begin with it is more than just a plate of yummy food.

On **Friday, March 27th**, it is breading day. The fish is prepared to be fried.

All hands on deck.

On **Saturday** we need people to help fry, kitchen servers, bake sale sellers

There is a **Bake Sale** that helps to fund youth activities.

There is a sign up sheet on the back table for baked goods to donate'

Have fun and show off your baking skills.

There is a **Silent Auction**.

Another chance to be involved. We need donations of new items .

There are also letters to take to local merchants to ask for donations.

See Linda Norris or Mary Ellen Baker

We also have **gospel music** singers. Dinner and shopping music.

Tickets are available to sell. See Renee Feltner

Tickets are \$10 and include:

Fish

Fries

Hush puppies

Cole Slaw

Ice Tea

There are sign up sheets on the back table under the bulletin board.



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**February 26th at 7 pm**

Thanks to all who donated poinsettias this Christmas season.

Philip & Julia Prasco

Darlienne Powell

Marlene King-Waggoner

Margaret Hosein

Renee Feltner

JoAnn & Kevin Nichols

Snyder Family

Jacqueline Rosso

Linda Norris

Vicki Wolcik

Allysa, Kaedee & Nathan Holtz

Mary Ellen Baker

JoAnn Blavk

Sandra Horton

### **SAVE THE DATE**

February 26 Ash Wednesday Service

March 28 Fish Fry

April 9 Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Service

April 9 Good Friday Tenebrae Service

April 12 Easter

June 22-25 VBS

June 28 Splash Day & BBQ

October 24 Garage Sale

November 22 Church Celebration

December 19 Live Nativity

December 24 Christmas Eve Service

**Not too late**  
for the Adult Legislative Trip  
On April 25th—May 1st  
Registration is due by March 15

**Time Changes**  
March 8th  
The dreaded spring ahead!

**Women's Circle**  
Wednesday , March 18th at  
10:30  
Chapter 7  
Lunch Bunch to follow at noon.

**Congregational Life**  
Dine Out Dinner on  
Wednesday, March 4th at 6 pm  
Then adult study at 7 pm  
Glory Happening  
by Kaitlin B. Currie.

#### **Prayer Concerns**

For people and place sin conflict, that they might have peace

For the hungry and the homeless

For the sick – including Vicky Wolcik as she continues to recover from her broken leg, and MacKenzie Campbell as she recovers from her broken wrist.

For those with chronic conditions – including our homebound members

For those who are grieving – including Jo Ann Black and her family after the loss of Jo Ann's grandson Timothy, who died of pancreatic cancer.

#### **A last word:**

This is a prayer from the Wednesday night adult book study,  
Glory Happening by Kaitlin B. Currie.

May the God who seeks you find you when you fall.  
May the God who loves you take delight in your living.  
May the God who sends you send you now with joy  
For in your gladness and in your grieving;  
In your brokenness and in your healing;  
In your faithfulness and in your leaving,  
The God who made you and redeemed you  
Is the God who keeps you still.  
Amen.