The Season of Lent Begins!
Lent is the beginning of a wonderful journey into the core of who we are. It is a journey that has all of the possibilities of drawing us closer to God. The season begins on Ash Wednesday and leads up to Easter. It is a time of contemplation and preparation.

**Ash Wednesday Service** – 7pm, Feb. 13,
A meditative service of approximately thirty minutes with scripture, music and prayer and ends with receiving a mark of ashes on our forehead or hand.

**Lenten Devotionals** – see page 2 under ‘worship notes’ for more information.

Pastor’s Class for Youth
What does it mean to be a part of the body of Christ? What is baptism all about? Am I ready for such a step? If you are a youth in the fifth grade or older who would like to explore these or other faith questions, you are invited to join Dalene for the upcoming Pastor’s class. The plan is to meet twice a month beginning in February on Saturday mornings through May. Exact dates TBA after the group is defined. The session will include study of Bible, faith and church. Baptisms will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th for those deciding to take that step. If you are interested in learning more, please email Pastor Dalene at dalenekay@msn.com.

Week of Compassion Special Offering
February 10 & 17

“Sharing brings joy to us, to others, to God.” For decades, Week of Compassion has brought joy to so many in our country and in our world. It’s known as the disaster relief and refugee assistance fund but Week of Compassion does so much more. It helps fund sustainable farming practices, water resources, even global mission interns who live and work among some of the poorest of the poor. Please give generously to Week of Compassion.

Looking Toward Summer
Below is a link of the dates for our Region’s 2013 camps. Reminder: Woodland pays ½ of the registration fee for any youth active in our congregation!


Disciples are Orlando bound! Every other year our denomination gathers for its General Assembly, bringing Disciples together from around the country and around the world in worship, fellowship, study and business. This year’s General Assembly is July 13 – 17. Housing goes quickly so if you are thinking about going, act sooner than later.

[www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga)
**WORSHIP NOTES**

**February 10**  
Week of Compassion Sunday  
Sermon: “Listen!”

*Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. Each Sunday in Lent we will focus on our Lenten journey or “road trip” which is a microcosm of our lifelong faith journey that prepares us for the joy of Easter.*

**February 17**  
1st Sunday in Lent  
Sermon: “Traveling Into the Wilderness”

**February 24**  
2nd Sunday in Lent  
Luke 10: 38-42  
Sermon: “Road Trip Agenda”

*“Fellowship of Prayer”  
2013 Lenten Devotionals*  
A tool for assisting us in drawing closer to God is the use of a daily devotional. This year’s Lenten devotional book is written by a collection of young Disciples pastors who are recently ordained, including Rev. Laura Phillips! Laura was a student associate here at Woodland from 2007 to 2009. The books are free (one per family please) and may be picked up as you exit the sanctuary.

**A Note from Dalene**

As Paul sits to write a pastor’s letter to the church at Philippi, he begins with words of gratitude, “I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” (Philippians 1: 3)

I begin this pastor’s letter with the same sentiment, “Thank you, church.”

Thank you for your care, concern, compassion, support, love, prayers during this very difficult but also grace filled year of my mother’s illness and death. From the very beginning last February when we received the diagnosis ‘pancreatic cancer’, through her final days in ICU and then the week following her death while I was with my father, your prayers and love have been so very appreciated.

While I was with her those final days, I spent some time reading out loud to her from Anne Lamott’s new book, “Help, Thanks, Wow: the Three Essential Prayers.” As I began I suggested that we skip the first part and go straight to ‘thanks’. She smiled and nodded in agreement. Oh don’t get me wrong, we were both very sad about this time of good-bye – I still am. I find myself praying words of ‘Help’ during this journey time of grief. At the same time, I recognize and hold on to a sense of gratitude/prayers of thanks. “Thank you, God, for giving me such a loving, supportive mother for fifty years of my life. Thank you for these last four years of living closer to my parents. Thank you for a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas with them. Thank you for my husband and kids being able to come up to Indiana to say and hear “I love you!” to and from their grandma/mother-in-law while she was still coherent. Thank you for a peaceful passing free of fear and pain.”

Added to all of those thanks is “Thank you, God, for my congregation who has been church for me” but not only for me; for my family as well.

Judy Vasbinder loved Woodland Christian Church. (All right, I admit, a part of that was probably because you all finally got her daughter to move closer than Seattle). Part of the gift of being closer is that she and my dad have been able to worship here a number of times in just a short time. She loved getting to know so many of you! She loved Woodland’s commitment to openness and welcoming all. And she was so touched by the cards and prayers from her “church away from home”.

Thank you for being church for me. Thank you for being church for my mom. There is much to be thankful for even in this time of sorrow.

*Dalene*
Open Circle Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, at 2:00 PM will be our first meeting of 2013. We have a very special guest coming to share with us. Rev. Tanya Tyler who went to China last year with the Disciples’ “Woman to Woman” program will be with us. She will share about the trip she made and about the program in general. If you are available at that day and time, please join us. It should be most interesting and enjoyable. – Jackie Diachun

Parking Permits
Public Parking in the Church parking lot across Kentucky Avenue is now by permit only during the hours 7 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Permits are being sold for spaces in that parking lot as a revenue producer for the Church.

Church members, individuals visiting the Church on business, or people who are picking up their children from school should use the rear lot adjoining the church during the daytime, Monday through Friday. On the weekend, both lots are available without restriction to Church members and individuals visiting the Church on business.

The Trustees appreciate your help with this new process.–

Email: parking@woodlandchristianlex.org. --Craig Locke

Youth Group
"The youth group here at Woodland has been very involved with the community in January. Last week we attended the Martin Luther King Service at Central Christian Church. This was a service for multiple denominations to come together to celebrate and reflect on the work of Dr. Martin Luther King. We also attended our first joint Youth Group at Twin Pines Christian Church. Our youth along with the youth from Twin Pines Christian Church, Providence Christian Church, Arlington Christian Church, and Lafayette Christian

Youth Group
(Continued from previous column)

Church, were able to come together for games, discussion, and worship. It is great that we are getting involved in the community, and we are very excited for things to come this year!"

- Wes Becker

Feb. 3: Regular Youth Group.
Feb. 10: Regular Youth Group.
Feb. 17: Joint Youth Group 5-7, at Providence CC.
Feb. 24: Pancake Breakfast.
**Who's in the Pews!**

Most of us probably feel we know Jimmy Owens and John Forbes because they get to know most of us and pay attention to our needs, birthdays and our place at Woodland. They became partners 16 years ago and settled in Frankfort and are still there.

Jimmy was born in Versailles. Once he completed college at UK, he settled in Lexington. He moved to Louisville when he took a job with Saxco International. He is Product Development Manager/Project Manager for Saxco International, a wine and spirits packaging design firm. He helps new start up distilleries and spirits companies get into the market. He has been there for 16 years. His job is like a decorator for spirits bottles. He helps new clients redesign their brand or get a new brand introduced to with glass, deco, closures, and etc., John is from Elizabethton, TN. The colleges he attended were East Tennessee State and EKU. He took a job at Averitt Express and had an opportunity to move to Lexington, KY as a trainer for a new office. Once here, he decided to make KY his new home and bought a home in Winchester. He later moved to Lexington. He is now the city dispatcher for Lexington, Ashland, Corbin and Eastern, KY. He gets his daily dose of “dramatic fellowship” in drivers yelling, screaming, and whining about the demands that go with the transportation industry. Jimmy grew up in the Church of Christ and was very active. He was encouraged to become a preacher. He considered it at one time but decided differently later. John grew up in the Free will Baptist Church and was also active. He was concerned about churches that claimed women were subservient to men. After coming to Lexington he attended Central Baptist Church.

After becoming partners and since they both had a history of being active in church, they wanted to search for a church community that was inclusive of all families. They knew a couple of members of Woodland and were encouraged to visit. They say thanks to Scott Ackerman and Cliff Millard. They are thankful for our church community for allowing them to hold hands during prayer, to take communion together and feel included as a couple. They feel as a family they are not just tolerated but loved and welcomed.

They are animal lovers and have a Great Dane, Pearly Mae. Previously, John served as President of Franklin County Humane Society. There is a rumor that Pearl “might” be getting a little brother.

They are both very social and love dining and having a good time with friends. They enjoy auctions, gardening, farmers markets, and travel.

At Woodland they serve on the Financial Team. Jimmy is chairperson of the Welcoming Committee, a Deacon and Trustee. John helps with many tasks and serves beside Jimmy in much that they do. Their favorite thing about WCC is how much they feel like being family. They consider the people of Woodland to be an extension of their biological families.

We are glad they are a part of our family. —Jackie Diachun
Welcoming Committee:
As we all dodge Cupid’s arrows and calories from chocolate in February, the Welcoming Committee continues to make Woodland a loving and welcoming place for ALL. We have been busy with projects on our “to do list” and adding more as we go along. We are happy to report that the bike pad has been poured. We will be mounting our bike rack to the pad within the next few days. This will be another way of our reaching out to the community in making Woodland bike friendly.

We are in the process of completing our church info post project. We have installed a post in the landscaping area on the KY Avenue doors. We will be installing a church info brochure box on this post giving a general overview of Woodland. We are hoping to reach out to the walkers in the community that pass by and may be curious about Woodland. This info sheet will give some general info about Woodland. We continue reaching out to our community in welcoming ALL.

If you are interested in being part of the Welcoming committee, please see Jimmy Owens. We meet on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Anyone is welcome to be part of our committee.
-Jimmy Owens

Save the Dates!
Welcoming Committee and Green Chalice invite young and old to participate in this year’s hand-made Easter Crosses Project. The paper-making will take place on these dates: Sunday, Feb. 17th after church, and Saturday, Feb. 23rd, 10am-noon.
Everyone is asked to start collecting scrap computer and construction paper. More information will be posted at church and in the e-minder.

Green Chalice News
First, a big ‘THANK YOU’ for all your efforts to reduce, re-use, and recycle in 2012. Special thanks to Gerry Hann, Allen Williams, Mark Barker, and Conley Salyer for getting our recyclables to the retail stores for further recycling. Another mission of Green Chalice is to support fair-trade farmers by using fair trade products. We appreciate all who purchased fair trade products in December. “Extra thanks” to Jannine Baker and Craig Locke for taking the lead on this project. How about those new ‘Woodland Church’ shopping bags! Please see Craig if you would like to purchase a bag ($2.00 each). Kudos to Keisa Bennett for coordinating with the Welcome Committee and Trustees on the bike rack pad across from the church on Kentucky Avenue. To start the New Year off, here is a re-cap of the items we can accept in the Recycle Bin (only items that fit in the bins, please)…

- PLASTIC LIDS (4 pounds collected in December & January!)
- SMALL BATTERIES
- SMALL INK JET CARTRIDGES (NO TONER CARTRIDGES)
- #5 PLASTIC CONTAINERS (7 pounds collected in December & January!)

You may take CFL light bulbs to Home Depot and Lowes. Staples accepts toner cartridges.
Last, but not least, many thanks to the Trustees for their on-going projects, many of which result in a greener Woodland!
If you have new ideas or would like to join the team, please see June Salyer.

HAPPY “GREEN” 2013 from the Woodland Creation Care Team!
A Note from the Trustees:
2013 has started out very productive for the Trustees. We have been scheduling monthly work day. We have been picking ONE Saturday each month to get the “to do list” down. For January, several accomplishments were made with the help of 14 volunteers. Now that the front porch renovation is complete, we were able to move items back into Fellowship Hall storage rooms (under steps), replace damaged ceiling tiles in Fellowship Hall, clean/organize space on 3rd floor classroom areas, haul away surplus electronics to recycling, repaired/replaced fasteners as needed on pews in Sanctuary, repaired door threshold on elevator, cleaned kitchen to name a few. We also put up disabled and other parking signs in the back lot.

A BIG thank you goes to everyone who came out and pitched in. This is a GREAT opportunity to get involved and enjoy the fellowship and fun. The Trustees meet monthly on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the Library. If you want to know more, please feel free to attend one of our monthly meetings or simply show up on a scheduled work-day. No skills or tools necessary just a willingness to help out and enjoy the fun & fellowship. - Jimmy Owens

Winter Retreat a lot closer to home.
We had a change of location for our recent Woodland Winter Retreat but not a change of heart. Friday was to be the start at Cathedral Domain outside of Irvine and Ravenna. The storm that came through brought more ice there than we got in Lexington so we were encouraged to cancel our stay there. We did, regrouped and had a mini retreat in the Woodland Fellowship Hall. We had a change of location for our recent We missed being in the remote setting, having time to explore and hike the area and our traditional bonfire on Saturday night. But, we still had the (Continued on the next column)

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wonderful fellowship, thoughtful discussion, and sharing of meals. Friday night we started with a dinner of fondue and all the fun and fellowship that brought. Then we moved on to a thoughtful discussion of our theme, “When is not enough too much”. Our facilitator was Tim Diachun. We discussed how we handle and relate to abundance or lack. It brought up comments on current and past types of communication, what is too much and what is not enough. Also how and when we use our time such as taking time for Sabbath time, not just on Sunday but when do we stop to refresh and take time for meditation, slowing down, just breathing. Tim introduced the topic of using a labyrinth as a mediation tool. Our space wasn’t big enough to set up the portable one we had for our use but Tim provided smaller individual “finger” labyrinths so we could get the idea of how it might work. We closed with communion before going each to our own home for the night.

Connie Payne was our facilitator as we gathered Saturday afternoon. Some started a little earlier with a session of yoga. Our discussion for the afternoon was sparked by questions we each wrote and put in a basket to be drawn out one at a time. We each wrote various theological questions we have. It was a lively afternoon with lots of sharing around questions of the nature of God, what is life about, why are we here, where are we, are there other places like ours, is God involved with each detail of our life or are we on our own, and much more.

We finished our retreat with our traditional turkey/roasted vegetable meal with most of the ingredients coming from local farms and businesses. It was good.

We will return to Cathedral Domain for our next Winter Retreat January 24 -26, 2014. - The Mother Hen