

BEACON

Woodland Baptist Church
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'Tis the Season for Change

I enjoy traveling. I have been on Mission trips to Atlanta, Connecticut, New York, Louisiana, Panama, Bahamas, Austria, and Italy. Each experience is special and just the mentioning of each place brings back great memories. But I have always looked forward to returning home to our state of Virginia. One of the main reasons for my love of our home state is our change of seasons. I look forward to the change of each season with great anticipation. I realize each season brings about its own challenges. In winter, I have to shovel snow and be more careful traveling on potentially hazardous roads. In the spring, my entire family deals with allergies. Summer results in grass needing to be mowed and weariness of sunburns. Fall means having to rake leaves. I don't always enjoy these tasks, but I would not trade them because they result in...

sleigh riding, and snow skiing,...

new life, budding of trees and blossoming of flowers,...

swimming and beach trips,...

radiant mountain colors that change almost daily.

Change is not usually easy, but it can bring great reward. Change is in the air at Woodland.

• New faces

In the past 3 months we have had a half a dozen new families visit. We enjoy having first time guests almost every Sunday. Having said that, I am going to ask you to make a change. Parking is becoming more challenging. I am requesting that those of us who can, please park farther away from the church to free up closer space for guests, elderly, and parents with young children.

• Marriages

One of the current programs going on at Woodland is a Marriage Enrichment Seminar held each Sunday immediately following worship. Each week, couples have conversation and come up with a plan for their relationship that promises to result in an extraordinary marriage. We are building relationships and having a wonderful time. This sounds great and something every couple would desire, but it too has its challenges. Spouses have to be willing to have conversation, make themselves vulnerable, and deal with topics they have not shared heart to heart in a long time. After just two sessions we are seeing changes, things couples have never experienced before in their marriages.

• Youth Group

Our youth group is growing. They are on a ski retreat this weekend. Besides fun on the slope, they are experiencing praise and worship and a Biblical message. But in our midst, the youth program is experiencing a change. Chrystal Akershoek has had to step down as our youth leader due to changes in her schedule. She will continue to be involved with our youth and serve on the Youth Committee. We are in immediate need of someone to serve as the Youth Leader of Woodland Baptist Church. Parents, Youth, Leaders and several other church members met recently to talk about how to address this transition. While it was challenging, it was also exciting to pray together and discuss what God might have in store for this ministry.

• Children.

They are coming out of the woodwork! One of our children's Sunday School classes has had 13 the past two Sundays (11 of them boys!). One Sunday we had a total of 40 children 5th grade and younger. The new energy is wonderful, but this means we are now asking for more adults to change their Sunday morning routine in order to provide quality Bible teaching.

Things at Woodland are changing. Please pray about how God would have you be a part of these exciting changes. But beware it could result in your being changed as well!

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Rom. 8:28

*God Bless,
Greg*

MARCH 2011 IN THIS ISSUE

- 'Tis the Season for Change
- Focus In & Out
 - March Calendar
 - Birthdays
 - Special Events



CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 1, 2011
6:30pm - 7:30pm Griefshare

Sunday, March 6, 2011
8:30am - 9:30am Pastor Relations Committee
12pm - 1:30pm Marriage Enrichment
6pm Contemporary

Tuesday, March 8, 2011
7pm - 8pm Griefshare

Wednesday, March 9, 2011
6pm - 7pm Church Council

Sunday, March 13, 2011
Daylight Saving Time Begins
12pm - 1pm Finance Committee Meeting
12pm - Youth Lunch and Drama
12pm - 1:30pm Marriage Enrichment

Tuesday, March 15, 2011
7pm - 8pm Griefshare

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
6pm - 7pm Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2011
3:30pm - 4:30pm Regional Meeting w/ John Upton

Sunday, March 20, 2011
8:30am - 9:30am Sunday School Council
12pm - 1:30pm Marriage Enrichment
6pm Youth On Fire

Monday, March 21, 2011
7pm - 8pm Deacon's Meeting

Tuesday, March 22, 2011
7pm - 8pm Griefshare

Sunday, March 27, 2011
12pm - 1:30pm Marriage Enrichment
6pm Youth On Fire

Tuesday, March 29, 2011
7pm - 8pm Griefshare

Weekly Activities

- Wednesday @ 7:00pm Choir Practice
- Sunday School @ 9:30am for all ages
- Children's Choir Practice during SS

EASTER EGG HUNT
 Sunday, April 17

Spring is coming and Woodland is gearing up for the Easter Egg Hunt. We need candy and trinket donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. There will be a box in the Social Hall to place the donations. Thanks for your support.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

"Griefshare" beginning Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. This program is being provided by Gentle Shepherd Hospice. This is a Christ centered program that will run for 13 weeks. There is no cost. This open to anyone in the community. Please call Melissa Morris at 434-220-6002 or 434-987-1509 if you have any questions or to pre-register. Pre-registration is not required but will assist in letting us know how many workbooks to order.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

	Debbie Terry	3/5	
	Joey Wright	3/9	
	Scott Withers	3/10	
	Curt Walton	3/10	
	Joseph Purvis	3/12	
	Misti Ramsey	3/13	
	Kevin Akershoek	3/17	
	Kailey Stratton	3/19	
	Julie Perkins	3/19	
	Wanda Ponton	3/25	
	Sandi Cash	3/25	
	Ryan Crickenberger	3/26	
	Tim Burnett	3/26	
	Larry Jennings	3/27	
	Reagan Thompson	3/29	
	Hunter Ray	3/30	

Finance Update:

Given the challenging economic environment, the finance committee has been meeting each month since the beginning of our fiscal year (October 1, 2010) to review income and expenses. For the first four months of this year (October through January), expenses have exceeded income by about \$5,000. Some of that was projected as there were some expected expenses occurring in that period which will not continue for the rest of the year. However, not surprisingly, we are running over budget on fuel oil and gas. (The old part of the church is heated with oil and the new part with gas.) We also had some plumbing and heating issues causing the Repairs and Maintenance line item to be in excess of budget.

Four Month Statistics:

Income	\$63,778.30
Expenses	\$68,772.50
Shortage	\$ 4,994.20

Undesignated cash on hand equals about \$4,000 at the end of January. So, in sum, we are at an about break even position. Detailed reports are available, and questions are always welcomed.