



Woodstock Presbyterian Church **This Week**

December 7, 2014



The explosive situation in Ferguson, Missouri has shown our country still has troublesome divisions regarding racial relations. Though many barriers have come down largely because of the civil rights movement in the South, obviously there still are many unresolved tensions and biases on all sides.

One of the most thoughtful comments that I have read on this matter was penned Benjamin Watson, a black football player with the New Orleans Saints. Watson posted a comment on Facebook where he told how he carried a wide range of emotions about the Ferguson situation: anger, frustration, embarrassment, sympathy, confusion, hopelessness, and hope. Then he concluded his posting with this comment:

I'M ENCOURAGED, because ultimately the problem is not a SKIN problem, it is a SIN problem. SIN is the reason we rebel against authority. SIN is the reason we abuse our authority. SIN is the reason we are racist, prejudiced and lie to cover for our own. SIN is the reason we riot, loot and burn.

BUT I'M ENCOURAGED because God has provided a solution for sin through the his son Jesus and with it, a transformed heart and mind. One that's capable of looking past the outward and seeing what's truly important in every human being. The cure for the Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice and Eric Garner tragedies is not education or exposure. It's the Gospel. So, finally, I'M ENCOURAGED because the Gospel gives mankind hope.

I say BRAVO to Benjamin Watson for his insightful comments. The article has gone viral on the Internet.

Until next time, Pastor Don Esa

A memorial service for Les Allen, a longtime member of Woodstock church, will be held on Saturday, December 13, 11:00 a.m., in our sanctuary. Reception, light refreshments afterwards.



Joys and Concerns

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."
(Romans 12:15)*

Joys: Judy Haworth's cousin's tests show no cancer after her treatments

Healing: Mike Mumbauer's mother Adeline Mumbauer (brain cancer); Sue Mumbauer's father Bud Aiken (cancer); Pablo Mercado (recovering at home from blood clots in leg); Judy Haworth (continued strength as Judy places her future in God's hands alone); Donna Moore's friend Sharon Gwaltney (recovery from colon cancer surgery); Sharon Shuda's brother Don Goss; Judy Haworth's friend Larry (sepsis infection) and his wife; Richard Cowan (ALS); Rebecca Blackwell and her husband Wayne (Alzheimer's)

God's comfort, help, guidance: Lois Allen in the death of her husband Les; that God would help us see each other as brothers and sisters regardless of color of skin; Chuck Wharton's neighbor's loss from a fire; Sue McConnell's 92-year-old friend Christine; Glenda McCollough's friend Linda (depression); Serenity Shuda (college search); Sharon Shuda, Kim and Jim Galloway in their job searches; Barbara and Bill Stillion's granddaughter Katie and her husband Matt (Liberia deployment to help in Ebola crisis); curbing Ebola around the world; college students Ashley Moore, Jayna Mumbauer; war against ISIS in the Middle East; our military personnel

Homebound: John Graul, James Ray

Woodstock/Trinity Churches, PCUSA: Our Session, Pastor Esa, June Cowan and new music leaders and upcoming cantatas

**Worship
This Week
Second Week of
Advent
9:00 a.m.**



Gifts That Endure: Peace

Isaiah 11:6-9; John 14:27; Philippians 4:4-7

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives." (John 14:27a)



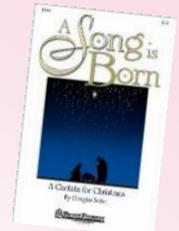
Holy Communion

Open to all who profess belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on December 7 at the conclusion of the worship service to elect an Officers Nominating Committee. Proposed members are Keith Wood, Donna Moore, and Marci Rosa.

Thank you!

Last Sunday evening's cantata was beautifully performed by the Woodstock choir and singers who came as far away as Lawrenceville, GA.



Thank you to all who made it a great success, and especially to Choir Director Glenda McCullough and Pianist June Cowan.



It takes \$1487 each week in contributions to meet the budget at Woodstock Presbyterian Church, including the additional \$393 payment on the loan for the new roof. Recent offerings received:

Nov 9: \$482.88
Nov 16: \$804.00
Nov 23: \$437.37
Nov 30: \$2561.00

The session has asked each giving unit in the church to consider giving an additional \$5 per week over their regular church contribution to meet the loan payment on the new roof. Many have responded. Thank you for your continued support of your church.



Woodstock Presbyterian Church
345 Arnold Mill Road Woodstock, GA 30188
770-926-0074 OurChurch@WoodstockPCUSA.com
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Rev. Don Esa: 770-617-7676; Pastor@WoodstockPCUSA.com
Prayer team leader: Kathy Alston 770-926-6004
Pianist: June Cowan
Choir Director: Glenda McCullough
Administrative Assistant: Dyan Ransom

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