



Woodstock Presbyterian Church *This Week*

December 14, 2014



Hannah Barg, a junior environmental science major at Goshen College in Indiana, shared these thoughts recently in an online Advent devotional:

“Waiting in anticipation is something we often associate with the holiday season. Whether it’s waiting in line for the perfect present for a family member, waiting for friends to arrive at your house to begin festivities, waiting for cookies to bake in the oven, or waiting in holiday traffic, it is tempting to get impatient, anxious or angry with others as we wait. Perhaps it is not the consumerist culture surrounding Christmas time that steers the central message away from Christ. Instead, maybe it is in our attitudes and how we respond to situations of anticipation that we lose the true meaning of the Advent season.

“As a community of believers, we should treat being in a time of waiting as a spiritual practice. It certainly takes discipline and conscious effort to respond peacefully in a time of waiting when there are many messages and activities promoting stress and busyness.

“In many ways, John the Baptist was able to maintain such a positive and hopeful vision for the future because he took time to simply “be” as he awaited Christ’s coming, withdrawing from society and living in the wilderness. To some degree, I believe God calls us to follow this model. Even if we can only spare a moment or two each day, taking time to just “be” in the presence of God and anticipation of the Advent season can be quite rewarding.”

Have you found some quiet time in this busy season to just “be” in the presence of God?

Until next time, Pastor Don Esa



Joys and Concerns

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

Joys: Barbara and Bill Stillions’ new great granddaughter Audrey Claire
Healing: Mike Mumbauer’s mother Adeline Mumbauer (brain cancer); Sue Mumbauer’s father Bud Aiken (cancer); Pablo and Carmen Mercado (leg); Judy Haworth (continued strength as Judy places her future in God’s hands alone); Donna Moore’s dad Phil Harris and friend Sharon Gwaltney (recovery from colon cancer surgery); Hortense (chemo therapy); 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; Donna Moore’s friends the Hollin family in the loss of Bill; that God would help us see each other as brothers and sisters regardless of color of skin; Sue McConnell’s 92-year-old friend Christine; 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
Third Week of Advent
9:00 a.m.



Gifts That Endure: Love

1 John 3:11, 16-18; 1 John 4:7-15, 19

“Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:11)

The session has called a Congregational Meeting immediately following the worship service on December 21, 2014, for the election of two people to fill upcoming vacancies on the session.

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.

Christmas Eve
8:00 p.m.
Holy Communion
Candle Lighting



Gifts That Endure: Jesus

Matthew 1:18-24; John 3:16

“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.” (John 3:16a)



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 16:	\$804.00
Nov 23:	\$437.37
Nov 30:	\$2561.00
Dec 7:	\$3238.00

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
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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 [Unsubscribe](#)