



# Column Echoes

## Woodland Presbyterian Church

*celebrating 150 years . 1858–2008*  
211 North 11th Street, Nashville, TN 37206  
[www.woodlandpresbyterian-nashville.org](http://www.woodlandpresbyterian-nashville.org)

### **"Fat Sunday", Ash Wednesday, and Lent**

Next Sunday, March 6, is the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. For some years now, we at Woodland have called that day "Fat Sunday", in a takeoff on "Mardi Gras" ("Fat Tuesday"), the day before Ash Wednesday—which in predominantly Catholic areas is celebrated with significant partying which actually begins several weeks, and in some places even months, before Ash Wednesday, originally in anticipation of the traditional fasting and penitence of the Lenten season.

While we have come to have a significantly different approach to Lent, we enjoy having a potluck dinner after worship on "Fat Sunday" with Mardi Gras-themed decorations and foods—especially "king cake" for dessert.

We observe Ash Wednesday (March 9 this year) with an evening service in which we make the sign of the cross on one another's foreheads while repeating the traditional phrase "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This symbolic act, which remains very powerful, reminds us that our lives are indeed finite—that our days will inevitably come to an end. But instead of being prompted to focus on sins for which we must seek forgiveness before we die, we nowadays hear this phrase more positively as prompting us to appreciate every day that is given to our lives and to live each day more fully, more faithfully, more thankfully.

As part of the Ash Wednesday service, we read Isaiah 58:1-8(a) & 9, in which the prophet quotes the people of Israel making this complaint to God:

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"

Speaking for the HOLY ONE in response, Isaiah replies:

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see them naked, to clothe them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

What Lent is most properly about, I believe, is an effort to become more aware of everything that keeps us from living most faithfully the life God desires of us—and the effort to find new ways to live such a life more fully, following the example of Jesus, strengthened by the reminder that we are all, like Jesus, God's Beloved.

I hope everyone will plan to attend worship and the potluck dinner on "Fat Sunday", the evening service on Ash Wednesday, and the simple supper and service each Thursday evening in Lent, beginning March 17, where, through discussion around the supper table, we seek to deepen our understanding of what it means to follow the way of Jesus in today's world.

John

**Remember in our prayers:**

**Julie Bailey and Family**

**Kenneth Lewis**

**Hallie and Phil Armstrong and Charles**

**Andy McClendon**

**Mary Taylor**

**Carolyn Cole**

**Elise Hicks**

**Julie Bailey is expecting the arrival of the new member to the family in the next couple of weeks.**

**Kenneth Lewis has had several falls in the last couple of weeks which have been attributed to side effects of medication he has been taking for several years. The medication has been stopped to see if his condition improves.**

**Andy McClendon spent a couple of days in the hospital with pneumonia and a severe ear infection. He is all better now and back in school.**

**Hallie, Phil and Charles had extensive damage done to their home during the recent storms. All of the furnishings in the house were placed in storage and they will be living in an extended stay location until the repairs are made.**



## **IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME! DON'T DISCARD.....PLEASE DONATE!\***

- The HomeStore is in need of household furniture, including chairs, dining room tables, and sofas, as well as building materials, doors, windows, cabinets, and hardware.

TO SCHEDULE A DONATION PICK-UP  
FOR EITHER STORE LOCATION, CALL (615)254-4663 ext. 563  
Donations to the Habitat HomeStore are tax deductible, and proceeds  
are used to build homes for purchase by hardworking families.

**Second Harvest Food Bank's** most needed items are canned fruits, vegetables, and meat; macaroni and cheese and other pastas; and peanut butter. Please do your part and pick up an extra food item on your next trip to the grocery store and place it in the boxes outside the sanctuary doors.

**Last opportunity to help with Room in the Inn for this winter season is March 18. Speak to Ben Chiles if you would like to help.**

# March 2011

## WOODLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

\*Denotes birthdays

		1	2	3	4	5
		*Teddy Benningfield *Kayla Beck			*Janice Osborne	
<b>6</b> 9:30 Church School 10:30 Worship  "FAT SUNDAY" Pot Luck Dinner  *Janice Simington	<b>7</b> 7:00 Weeknight Discussion	<b>8</b> 6:00 Finance Committee  *Megan Morton	<b>9</b>  6:00 Ash Wednesday Service	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  *Annie Long	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 Church School 10:30 Worship  Session Meeting	<b>14</b> 7:00 Weeknight Discussion	<b>15</b>  *Ben Stephenson	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  6:00 Lenten Supper and Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  ROOM IN THE INN
<b>20</b> 9:30 Church School 10:30 Worship  *Ben Morton	<b>21</b> 7:00 Weeknight Discussion	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  *Jennifer Bolinger	<b>24</b>  6:00 Lenten Supper and Service	<b>25</b>  *Bobby Ralston	<b>26</b>  *Donna Stephenson
<b>27</b> 9:30 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>28</b> 7:00 Weeknight Discussion	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  6:00 Lenten Supper and Service		

Liturgist	<b>March 6</b> Don Bailey	<b>March 13</b> Donna Stephenson	<b>March 20</b> Tim Russell	<b>March 27</b> Erin Borzak
Lighting Candles	Luke Long	Gillian Morton	Matthew Russell	Juniper Morton
Juice and Pastry	J & J Taylor	Julie Bailey	Megan Morton	Malissa Gwaltney
Offering	----- Michele Lutz and Ben Chiles -----			
Communion Bread	Mary Taylor			

Liturgist	<b>April 3</b> James Garman	<b>April 10</b> Megan Morton	<b>April 17</b> Tom Eldridge	<b>April 24</b> Kelsey Mahaffey
Lighting Candles	Jack Long	Molly Mahaffey	Baron Patterson	Annie Long
Juice and Pastry	Kelsey Mahaffey	Carey Ott	Mary McCullough	(Easter Brunch)
Offering	----- Juanita Taylor and Ben Morton -----			
Communion Bread				Grace Lewis

**JUST A REMINDER: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13!**

**Woodland Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith  
seeking to share God's love for all Creation,  
welcoming everyone into full and equal participation in the church,  
promoting deep concern for the ecology of the earth,  
working for greater justice, compassion, and peace for people everywhere,  
seeking to embody in our lives  
the love of God embodied in Christ Jesus**