

Word Of Hope

The Amazing
Grace
Place

FEBRUARY 2011



VACATION BIBLE CAMP AT WORD OF HOPE

The date is set! The theme is "Panda Mania" Where God is Wild About You! We'll have the Luther Road Staff on hand for another incredible week of Day Camp ~ Sunday – Thursday, June 12-17th. It's one of the busiest weeks around WOH – full of fun & energy! We'll be looking for 1 or 2 enthusiastic people willing to serve as co-leaders. Interested? Curious? Contact the church office (272-8515) for details

"WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER"

Our unique, combined "Worship & Annual" congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 23. In the midst of worship we received the annual reports, elected council members, and passed the 2011 budget. We continue to seek the direction God is guiding us and look forward with great anticipation to all that He has in store for this Body of Christ in the coming year. Our THANKS to outgoing church council member: BOB COOK and to those continuing on council: MARJORIE FLORO, CHARLOTTE WONG, JASON LAMBIRTH, GLENDA EARNEST, JANICE ADAMS and BILL STEWART, and WELCOME to new council members: TENA ADAMS & DIANE WARD.

BLOODMOBILE AT WOH

"Nothing Replaces Blood" ~ The Kentucky Blood Center is able to provide lifesaving blood and blood products to nearly 70 Kentucky hospitals and clinics through the generous gifts of thousands of donors in more than 60 counties and Word of Hope has been among those thousands! The Bloodmobile will return to WOH on Sunday, February 20th. Mark your calendar now so that you can "Share the Gift of Life".

CPR CERTIFICATION TRAINING



On Saturday, February 26th Word of Hope will offer a CPR certification training. Two 2 hour sessions will be offered: 8am-10am and 10am-12noon. The training is open to the public with a capacity of 20 per session so invite neighbors, friends and co-workers. The instructor, Aaron Sciascia, will go over the basics and allow each participant to brush up on techniques before taking the "final exam". There is a minimal cost of just \$10. Please remember that in order to be in compliance with our Kid's Safe Policy we need to have adults who have CPR certification.

WOH YARD SALE

It's still a ways off, which means you have plenty of time to gather all those odds and ends and do that spring cleaning! March 26th is the big day! It's a bit earlier this year so mark your calendar and tell your friends, neighbors & co-workers! Contact DARLENE (prwordofhope@cs.com). We'll need plenty of help – the more the merrier!



FROM OUR PASTOR

The building in which we regularly gather as a church is at a pretty busy intersection—busy at least by Lexington standards. I really have no idea how many cars pass by each day: 10,000? Twice that? I suppose that if I was really ambitious I could probably get on some web site for the traffic department of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government and come up with a totally meaningless statistic like _____. Feel free to interpret that blank as an indication that I didn't bother but take my word for it, it's pretty many.

I think of all those thousands of people who pass by. I know there are joys and celebrations among the people who zip by or get caught at the light. They can be going to dates or vacations, promotions or an evening out. Maybe a child has been born. Maybe a favorite loved one or special friend is in town.

But with the hardships I get a glimpse of in peoples' lives, I know there are also plenty of firings and foreclosures, break ups and let downs in those automobiles. Through the years I've tried to be in the habit of stopping for a moment of prayer whenever I hear the sirens blare from the fire station up the street. I pray for those in need and those who are about to put themselves in danger on their behalf. The traffic stops momentarily, but then the flow of humanity rolls on.

We put out banners and signs inviting folks in for a visit. Yeah, I know we're not supposed to say "visit"—it's too impersonal. Inviting someone to be "our guest" is seen as more welcoming, more neighborly. But from my read on reactions, I'm not sure newcomers—or even long time members—generally want to be so quickly drawn into the relationships which that implies. Relationships can get messy. Get in, get out. Catch God on the fly, or see if God can catch us. We're all busy people with lots on our minds and we're not always sure how much energy we have left for anything that doesn't immediately ease the torrential flood of our life stream.

But here is this pile of brick and mortar. The word "church" is somehow attached to the building. Folks know from past experience this has something to do with God. But they have also known times when the "God people" haven't really been all that helpful. Or maybe they've been worse. Maybe much worse. Why should anyone take a chance?

OK, it's time for honesty and input. So why did you take a chance on pulling into the parking lot and make that

long walk across the asphalt to the door? (No, the distance really isn't that great, but it feels that way the first time, doesn't it? Do you remember how it felt?) Can you remember what you told yourself about why you had come? Can you sense something different now?

Whether we come for the coffee and donuts, the raucous music or the serenity of worship; the fellowship, the ritual, the tradition, or the curiosity of "just looking", sooner or later we're probably going to have to admit to ourselves that we've been drawn here by God.

The truth is, we are all a mess. Not just them or some, but there is a mix of a mess in each of us, what we've all gotten ourselves into to some extent. We're all in too much of a hurry. We're all deeply, (rightly?!) skeptical of "folks with all the right answers." We're deeply wounded with hidden doubts and fears, maybe we'd even admit to being crippled. We'd all love to be able to bask and take pride in an endless cascade of success—and just as deeply suspicious that that's not going to happen either. And as these realizations sink in, there is always the possibility that a new reality can open up. A hope and promise that is off the beaten path. Others point the way for us and occasionally we can even hear it for ourselves: God's marvelous invitation to something more out of life.

It is in community that we come to see God in the other. It is in community that we see our own emptiness filled up. It is community that calls me beyond the pinched horizons of my own life, my own country, my own race, and gives me the gifts I do not have within me. - Joan Chittister

I sense that a new spirituality is being born in the church today, flowing from the wounded hearts of the weak and broken who are crying out for friendship. This friendship is also a source of healing for those who answer their cry.- Jean Vanier Spiritual Journeys

We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.- Dorothy Day, The Long Loneliness

Let us remember our own halting steps toward God. And that wondrous discovery of God's outreach to us. Let us remember our own halting steps toward community. And each person's all too human need for connection and understanding. Let us be mindful of opportunities to walk across the street to a neighbor or walk across the room to make the total stranger feel at home.

Is it too much to imagine that one day such a welcome in this place might be able to literally stop traffic at Armstrong Mill and Man O' War? Maybe, maybe not. But we can dream, can't we?!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, purify our minds. Fill our thoughts with that which is noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy. And then, Lord, give us the grace to translate these thoughts into actions. May the goodness in our minds and hearts overflow and pour out into a hurting world. Yours is the glory and honor forever. Amen

"WOH's GOT TALENT" ~ FEBRUARY 12th

It's a night of great entertainment and "WOH's Got Talent" Show! You won't want to miss it! We've brought in some world renowned judges (??) and talent that's sure to go far! So come enjoy an evening in out of the cold ~ a candlelit dinner of pasta, salad and delicious desserts all in the company of friends & neighbors. Bring your favorite bottle of wine (or beverage of your choice) to compliment the evening's festivities. And then stick around for the wonderful after dinner entertainment! Don't miss it – it all begins at 6pm! All proceeds will benefit the WOH Mission Trip 2011 to Norfolk, Virginia.



MEN'S NIGHT – POKER NIGHT



It's that time again – time to pull out those poker chips and get ready for some big winnings (or losses)! WOH's First Men's Poker Night for 2011 is

set for Friday, February 11 from 7-11pm. It's the usual drill: \$20.00 buy-in, last buy in from 7-9pm then it shuts down! BYOB as well as a little something to share - NO CASSEROLES GUYS! Don't play poker?! Not to worry, we're an easy crowd – and lots of fun! Looking forward to seeing ya'll there. Contact BOB COOK (Robertcook3@hotmail.com) for information, suggestions or details. Watch the weekly sheet & clipboards for more information!

T.P. MAN IS ON THE LOOSE!

Yes, the Youth Mission Crew is turning to the TOILET PATROL! We're talking high quality porcelain in YOUR front lawn! (What? You were expecting pink flamingos?) It may be headed to your neighborhood soon! Of course there is a way out of this ordeal but it'll cost you. Talk to any SH Youth or Leader for TP answers or check out the Youth Page for more information and a great picture!



A LENTEN POSSIBILITY

Do you know someone who has been thinking/wondering about the faith and might like to consider Baptism? We will have a special emphasis on that in Lent but now is the time to think about who you might like to invite. Questions?? See Pr Duval.

IN COMMUNITY

We've set aside the month of February to celebrate what it is to be a community – to see the love of God in one another. What better way of doing so than in celebrating the gift of marriage. During our worship on Sunday, February 13th we will have a Renewal of Vows. Whether you've been married 1 year or 51 you're invited to join in this special re-dedication. "But the greatest of these is love"



1 Corinthians 13:13b

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We're looking to have a new member orientation for folks considering membership at WOH as well as those "just looking." It's a time to field questions, provide perspective, listen in on one another's experiences "doing church" and get to know each other a bit better in the process. See Pr Duval if you're interested

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

On the weekend of February 25-27, our confirmands will be on a retreat with other Lexington Lutheran youth at the Aldersgate Retreat Center, Ravenna, KY. This is always a great event. Ask them about it when they return. They are: CASSIE ADAMS, TESS COOK, MITCHELL SLAVIK, MAX MUNSON, HANNAH WARD, KAYLA METZLER, JACOB COTTRELL.



We pour out our miseries,
God just hears a melody
Beautiful the mess we are,
The honest cries of breaking hearts,
Are better than a Hallelujah




THANKS KROGER SHOPPERS!

Are you a Kroger shopper? Do you purchase gas at Kroger? Then you are a candidate for the "re-loadable" Kroger Gift Card! The Gift Card can be purchased for just \$5 and "re-loaded" for whatever amount you wish. For each "re-load" the church receives a 4% rebate. It's an easy "gift" considering we all buy food and gas on a regular basis! If you're not yet a participant in this program stop by the church office for details and please continue to use the "re-loadable" Kroger Gift Cards to help supplement our church income.

WOH WOMEN'S RETREAT

We haven't forgotten! Watch for details and plan to join us for a weekend retreat - coming soon! It will be an opportunity to relax and recharge and reconnect with friends and with the God who brings us through all our days. More information will be shared in the weekly sheet so keep watching! It will be a gift worth giving yourself!

FOR THOSE IN NEED

 You may have noticed the bags of food in the entry. It's an on-going collection we call the Abundance Box. We collect food for our neighbors and it seems the need has never been more urgent. Please help, if you can, by placing non-perishable items in the boxes just inside the entry. Or feel free to grab a bag of groceries for a neighbor or friend who you know is in need of a helping hand. It's our way of reaching out to nourish a needy soul.

GET A BETTER LOOK...

We often include photos of recent WOH events in our newsletter. If you'd like to get a better look at those, check them out at our website: WWW.WORDOFHOPECHURCH.COM and click on "News & Events" where you'll find all the latest Newsletters and Weekly News updates. And find us on Facebook.

PRAYER

Gracious God, I thank you for those people in my life who took the time and had the courage to share their faith with me. Give me boldness with gentleness in my own witness. Help me to share my faith in a way that fits with your unique design of my life. Fill my words and my actions with the power of your Holy Spirit, so that others might see you in me. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

WOH FOLKS



THANK YOU to RICHARD SAUNDERS for taking care of the snow removal this winter – and there's been a LOT of it! Your faithful efforts are greatly appreciated.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to PASTOR DUVAL, SUSAN & THE DUVAL FAMILY at the passing of LORIN DUVAL. Rest eternal grant him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

THANKS to CAITLIN & DERRICK BROWN for their help in cleaning the church prior to Christmas Eve worship. Your extra efforts made the place sparkle! Merci Beaucoup! (French for "thanks very much")

A LETTER OF THANKS ~ Dear Friends, Thank you for the pretty poinsettia, delicious cookies and wonderful fruit basket and candy. This has been a difficult time for our family and these very thoughtful gifts brought comfort as well as being thoughtful and delicious. The joy and comfort your thoughtfulness brought us is greatly appreciated. ~ Marilyn Stewart

THANKS to BOB LIPINSKI for supplying us with coffee creamer! It is greatly appreciated and makes a nice cup of coffee too! Just another of the many nice things you do around here!

CONGRATULATIONS to THE WATSON FAMILY upon the birth of THOMAS COOPER CASE, son of ZAC WATSON & KRISTEN CASE. Thomas was born November 2 weighing 6 pounds 7 ounces and measuring 19¾ inches long. May God pour out his abundant blessings on all as you celebrate this new birth.

OUR THANKS to WAYNE & ANNETTE FRAZIER for their contributions to the projector fund and to the Easter & Pentecost banners. This contribution was made in memory of their brother-in-law and husband of Wayne's sister, Taylor H. Stoddard. Your generous gift is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU to JOHN & KAREN POLNISCH for their help in de-decorating the church after Christmas and to John for getting all the outside decorations stored away. As always, your helpfulness is greatly appreciated.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to DON & COLLEEN BLACK upon the birth their granddaughter, SYDNEY RYANN TIGHE born January 13th. Sydney weighed 8 lbs 13 oz and measured 21 inches long. She was welcomed home by big brother SAM! God's richest blessings upon all as you welcome this new little one into your family.

Jesus commands us to love one another—he calls us into relationships, he calls us into His community.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.

Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

CALLED INTO COMMUNITY

John 13:34-35 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.



In the upper room, at the Last Supper, Jesus gives this new commandment to his disciples, to love one another. They (we) are to love one another “as he has loved” them (us). It is about witness to the world. It is how the world around us will see and know that we are disciples of Jesus. This commandment is about community. It is about the common good. It is about our living as disciples of Jesus. He commands that we follow him together. He commands us to love one another.

These are strange and foreign words in a culture that worships individualism. It is an odd concept in an economy that is based on the premise that the one who dies with the most “things” wins. It is hard to comprehend this commandment in a time where we all seek something more—more house, more car, more status, more power, more “stuff.” In this drive for “more” we find ourselves isolated and feeling alone. We are driven to protect our stuff. So we fear our neighbor, we build higher fences and security systems, we live in fear of losing what we have accumulated.

Jesus commands us to love one another—he calls us into relationships, he calls us into his community. His command is to love one another “as he has loved us!” In this community we move into relationship with Jesus and one another.

This truly is a radical command—in our culture of individualism, none of us has enough. We all are driven to get more. But in this community of Jesus’ disciples, we begin to see that God provides us with more than enough!

PRAISE BAND

Praise Band meets Wednesday evenings at 6pm for a one hour practice session. New members are always welcome! If you play an instrument or would like to join in the singing you are most welcome! See Dawn Webb or talk to any of the Praise Band members for more information!

SIMPLY GIVING

If you haven’t done so already, please consider starting Simply Giving to set up an automated giving schedule. It’s easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available simply by contacting COLLEEN BLACK.

A MISSION TRIP EXPERIENCE

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

As in past years we expect great things from our youth mission trips and I believe this year will be no different. We’ve experienced numerous natural disasters with the hurricanes in the Gulf and the tornadoes and floods in Iowa. However, never before have we dealt firsthand with military families and the stresses and realities that come from living with having a loved serving on active duty away from home. As we make preparations over the next few months, we’ll spend a great deal of time talking about what it’s like for these families – really preparing our youth for the week we’ll spend in Norfolk. We’re looking forward to getting to know some of these families, to learn their stories and to share those stories with you when we return.

I’m happy to announce that we have an absolutely amazing group of young people going on this trip and ask that you would keep each and every one of them in prayer as we make these preparations: DANIEL ADAMS, AUSTIN BLACK, JOSH HOWARD, CASSIE ADAMS, JOE McMULLEN, KAYLA METZLER, KATELYN SLAVIK, RYAN VANNOY, CRISTINA WALKER, HANNAH WARD, MARY WEBB, BEN MUNSON, PAIGE GRAY as well as our leaders: DAVE & GLENDA EARNEST, STEVE ADAMS and DARLENE TAYLOR. As you know there is MUCH planning and preparation that goes into each mission trip and with such a large group it is good to know that we have the support of this congregation behind us! This could not be done without YOU!

I’m sure there were names you did not recognize in the list above – be sure to watch for those new faces as you see them in worship and at youth functions. These are the young people who are friends of WOH, those who expressed an interest in joining in this mission experience. What better way to ‘Share the love of Jesus’.

As we move forward and learn more about our mission work in the area of Norfolk we will share those plans and needs with you. If there are ways in which the congregation can help we will certainly be calling on you to.

We will also have the joy of sharing this mission experience with the congregation where John & Sherry Popp worship as we journey home. We’ll worship with them on Sunday, June 12th and share Joy, Junk & Jesus as a way of sharing some of the highlights of our week – and that will most certainly be a highlight of our week as well.

It is a blessing to have this congregation and this group of incredible young people. ~ Darlene

WOHLY-WORD OF HOPE LUTHERAN YOUTH



SUNDAY MORNINGS ~ TRUE NORTH!! Don't miss this opportunity to join in some conversation and get-to-know-you time! It all STARTS AT 9:30am!! (Did I mention donuts??)

COMING UP:

- SUPER BOWL SUNDAY ~ SUNDAY, FEB, 6th
Wear your favorite TEAM colors to TN(Be careful WHAT colors you choose or be ready to defend your team!!)
- SETUP & REHEARSAL/SPAGHETTI DINNER & TALENT SHOW ~ FEB, 12th 3pm. Be sure to bring dark pants and black WOH Youth t-shirt for the dinner (if you don't have one we'll get one to you that day). The dinner begins at 6pm!
- YOUTH TO LUNCH ~SUNDAY, FEB, 20th The usual stuff! We'll get together for some lunch and conversation – a chance to talk about some mission trip details and catch up on other stuff too.

ANNOUNCING: THE TOILET PATROL

Always PLUNGING to new depths to fill the TANK for missions, the Sr. High Youth are turning to TP! Pink Flamingos in your yard? How yesterday! We're talking about high quality porcelain dropped on your front lawn to show your neighbors, that hey, here is someone who cares about bodily hygiene... a lover of cleanliness and purity... in public. OK, it's a toilet in your yard. You put a positive spin on it! Or better yet. Make sure it doesn't happen to you!! Details: The youth will be dropping this pearly white goodie in your yard sometime soon.

TP – Toilet Purge \$15: You were selected. (Congrats!)

Call the experts to get rid of the toilet!

TP – Toilet Placement \$10: After your Toilet Purge, for a small fee, YOU get to choose the next target!!

TP – Toilet Protection \$25:Take your yard off the drop list. Immunity for the duration of the fundraiser.



1st RECIPIENT OF THE T.P. – Pr Duval