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May 2015 "The Voice" WCC Newsletter

The Voice

MAY 2015

woodland
christian church

Woodland Christian Church is a an Open & Affirming church comprised of all God's people of differing races, cultures, abilities, gender identities, sexual orientations and stages of life and health. We celebrate the gifts and the faith perspectives that come with our varied life experiences and welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our congregation. It is our belief that to live and minister together in this broad community helps us to know the wideness of God's love and mercy.

Bring on the Rain *by Pastor Robert*

April showers bring…May showers! Are you wet yet? Are you feeling stuck? We have had quite a bit of rain and stormy weather lately. This certainly isn't the weather pattern we've been accustomed to here in East Texas. But then again, is there any other pattern besides the unexpected that we should be accustomed to around here?! It reminds me that sometimes life does not happen the way you expect it to happen. Actually, if we are honest, life rarely happens the way you expect it. Did you really ever expect to have the life that you have now? Years ago, did you pick out the job you've got? Are you living in the house you had planned to live in? Are you living in the same city? Did you fall in love with the person or even the kind of person you'd planned on falling in love with? Does your family look the way you expected them to look? For the majority of us, we may be able to say yes to one or two of those things but the majority of our life is really found in the unexpected. I'd say that's where we find God as well…in the unexpected places, passages and journeys of our lives.

We all come with our plans and expectations. We approach every part of our life with those things. We think that the best thing that could happen would be for things to turn out the way we expect or plan. But after years of experience, I've come to believe that the best thing that could happen is when nothing turns out the way we planned. I can tell you that I never planned to be where I am right now, doing what I am doing. I can also tell you that I've never been at more peace with myself, with God and with the world around me than I am right now. Why? Because things didn't work out the way I planned!

So, what does that mean? Do we stop planning altogether? Absolutely not! It means we plan but we ask God to make us ready for the unexpected. And whether the unexpected comes in a trial, in sadness, in joy or in a thunderstorm, we ask God to help us embrace the unexpected and open our eyes to see how He is at work. Are you ready for the unexpected to happen in your life? Are you ready for the unexpected thing to happen at work? Are you ready for the unexpected thing to happen at home? What about church? Are you ready for the unexpected thing to happen at Woodland?

There are some exciting things being planned at Woodland for the coming months. I hope that you will be there to be a part of all of the fun. But most of all, I hope you'll be there to be a part of the unexpected things that are going to happen. That's where we really see God working! So…bring on the rain!