

## Family Information

### Prayers

Prepare our hearts LORD for Renewal and Refreshment at the Northland Ladies Retreat, May 4th and 5th.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

### Ladies Retreat

Renew and Refresh Northland Ladies Retreat will be Friday, May 4th 6 p.m. thru Saturday May 5th 1 p.m. at the Heartland Retreat Center, Marengo, OH. \$66 fee covers 3 meals and an overnight stay! Total payment (\$66) due by April 15th. See Lynn Paden or Robbie McVicker for more details.

### Clothing Closet

Prom season is right around the corner. We would like to offer prom-style dresses in the Clothing Closet during this season. The Clothing Closet is asking for/accepting donations of: somewhat-current style dresses, dress shoes, costume jewelry. You may bring these items to the Clothing Closet on Wed. evening or see Pam Culler, Tanya Milnor, Donna Rollie or Robbie McVicker.

### Area Wide Worship

April 29th, 6 p.m. at Northland - It is our turn to host our brothers and sisters for the Area Wide Worship this month! We hope you can join the family worship and fellowship by attending and bringing food to share. Please sign up on the church bulletin board to see how you can help. This is a great opportunity to experience a glimpse of heaven and to bring a friend.

### Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Ghana Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Ghana Worship Service	10:30 am
Sunday Spanish Worship	3:00 pm
Wednesday Evening	7:30 pm

**Evangelist:** Bobby Graham

**Elders:** Roy Estep, Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins

**Deacons:** Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva

**Spanish Ministry:** Elmer Renderos

## Calendar

### April

26	Take Your Son or Daughter To Work Day
27	TGIF Meeting 6:30 pm
27-29	Fort Hill Spring Teen Retreat
29	Services At Willow Brook
29	Area Wide Worship At Northland

### May

2	Singing At Willow Brook Home, 10:30 am
3	National Day of Prayer
4-6	Woman's Retreat
12	Congregational Work Day
13	Mothers Day
13	Single Sisters Lunch

### Church Camp

Church camp registration fee- The price is \$190. If paid by May 15th, you get a \$20 discount, for a total of \$170, camp is July 15-21.

### For The Month of April

**Invitation/ Responses:** Jeff McVicker  
**Foyer Duty:** Jack Evans  
**Greeters:** Perry and Jenny Coate

### Communion Servers

Franklin Agyei	Patrick Boateng
Bill Davis	Yaw Odoom
David Ricketts	Phil Stafa
Yaw Tiekou	Randy Yates

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$5484	\$5384
<b>Designated:</b>	\$265	\$251



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## If By Grace

(Or, To Paraphrase A Sixties Song . . .)

*At the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace. - Romans 11:5-6*

The scriptures reassure us that we are saved by God's grace, and that it is a gift of God's love. Yet at the same time, this raises questions that can be difficult for us to resolve. If it is by grace, and if it isn't based on works, then why do we need to do anything at all? We also know that we need to respond to the good news of Jesus, so isn't this a 'work'?

It may help to consider something that John Lennon once said. Lennon lived during troubled times, times of violence, loudness, confusion - in other words, times much like ours. Instead of arguing or shouting, he simply said, 'Give peace a chance', a refrain he included in a song.

As we try to understand God's ways, and as believers and churches look for the path, we can paraphrase Lennon's saying, and 'Give grace a chance.' When we give grace a chance, when we put our faith in God and his love instead of trying to earn it, then God can begin to transform us inwardly, as his Spirit helps us to understand what God has given us by grace - *The Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone. - Romans 9:30-32*

When Scripture talks about 'works', this does not mean physical actions; rather it means things for which people think they deserve credit or blessing. These things may be good or helpful, yet they do not in themselves make us righteous in God's eyes. When instead we rely on God's grace, God credits us with his own righteousness; he helps us learn to follow Jesus naturally, not because of rules or guilt, and he can teach us what really matters.

Lennon was sad to find out that this world's nations and leaders didn't really want to give peace a chance; instead they gave everything else a chance. Likewise, even believers find it hard to give grace a chance, so God reminds us that - *You, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. - Romans 11:17-18*

We were wild olive shoots, lost and withering in this desert; yet when we turned to him, God grafted us into the nourishing Root of Jesus who supports us each step. We still understand so little, and we can do so little. Giving grace a chance takes humility and patience, yet this lets God teach us to live and serve out of gratefulness and reverence and love.

- Mark Garner

## Studying Scriptures With . . .

From time to time, we're talking with some of our brothers and sisters about the scriptures they've been reading. Today, we are talking with **Tanya Milnor**.

Q: Hello Tanya; what scriptures have you been studying?

**Tanya M:** I recently started studying James, and am in chapter 1. I've been going through some trials, and it's seemed as if God guided me to study James.

Q: Yes, James talks about the trials we have to undergo. What verses have helped you?

**Tanya M:** As James says, *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance (James 1:2-3)*. Thinking about this and praying about it has helped me to understand what perseverance means. God allows these trials to happen; so instead of running from them, we should face them, with the awareness that God will be with us. The phrase *pure joy* also made an impression on me; so I've been praying for God to help me understand it some more, since it means a different kind of joy, not fun or earthly happiness, something better.

Q: Those are very good thoughts. You said that there were some other verses that spoke to you?

**Tanya M:** Yes, continuing with the thought of perseverance, *Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him (James 1:12)*. It goes on to talk about temptations, and this verse encouraged me by reminding me that our 'crown' is far better than anything in this world. Also, this reminds me of how we can always ask God for wisdom (James 1:5, 1:22, and 1:25). God is the Word, *the perfect law that gives freedom (verse 25)*, a truth that gives me hope and comfort.

Thank you, Tanya!  
(Tanya Milnor with Mark G.)

## GRADUATION SUNDAY



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN -  
JOIN US ON SUNDAY, JUNE 10TH TO HONOR OUR GRADUATES  
We need at least 15-20 pictures for H.S. and 2 for college graduates  
All pictures are due by May 20th.



COMING SOON...  
VBS WEEK - June 18 - 20th  
Camp Week - July 15 - 21



## From The Northland Archives

This article appeared in the Northland Church Of Christ bulletin on May 26, 1985. It was written by Todd Priestley, who was an assistant minister at Northland for several years in the mid-1980's.

## Renewing Your Mind

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind". In Romans 12:2, the apostle Paul tells us that the mind of a Christian is the key area in transforming his life into the image of Jesus. The bottle for our minds is so important because the mind is the base of operations for the rest of the body. The mind is much like a computer, whatever is fed into it, beginning at birth (it's simply amazing how much information babies pick up), forms what could be called a 'database' that forms the foundation for that person's perceptions of life.

Our minds have incredible potential. They have the power to imagine and create all sorts of things. When a person has a solid 'database' his mind can be focused and directed in ways that will enable him to do great things. Obviously, when the 'database' is not founded on the right things, the results in that person's life will reflect it. God wants our minds to be renewed by filling them with the truth of the Scriptures. "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Satan is very aware of the role that our minds play in the life of the kingdom. They are again from the time of our birth he is trying to form a bad 'database' in our minds. This is what Paul is referring to when he says "the pattern of this world." He does this by a very simple method - lying to us. In John 8:44 Jesus calls him "the father of lies" and rightly so. This is the weapon he uses on us more than any other. When Satan is allowed to set up a 'database' founded upon his lies and half-truths rather than on the word of God, he will have that person trapped in very bad patterns.

In every Christian's life there are aspects of the old 'database' or patterns that must be destroyed and replaced by a new one based on the word of God. This is the "renewing of your mind." Here are some helpful suggestions:

- 1) Find a close brother or sister who can help you consistently identify the old patterns (i.e. the old ways of thinking and reacting). Have that person help you formulate the new patterns based on the truth.
- 2) Learn to reason with yourself about the Scriptures. Often, we simply 'react' to the scriptures rather than using our mind to develop convictions about them.
- 3) Don't try to be perfect (not to be confused with 'striving for excellence' - they are two different things). You can know you have this attitude if you are overly problem-centered. Read Ecclesiastes 7:15-16.
- 4) Most important is this: "Finally, brothers whatever is true (notice how this is first on the list?), whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things". Philippians 4:8

- Todd Priestley,  
May 1985