

Family Information

50th Anniversary

The elders would like to express many thanks to all that worked so selflessly to help make the 50th anniversary such a great event. It was great to share the time with so many whose lives have been changed because of the work God has done through the Northland family. God blessed us with a vision of how rich Northland can be. Let's work to keep the vision alive as we follow God to make Northland all it can be.

Fall Picnic Correction

The Congregational Picnic Next Saturday, September 8th at 4:00pm is at the Dogwood Shelter. The Dogwood Shelter is the first picnic area on the right past the Nature Center.

Thank You

Judy and I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful send off party you put together last Sunday. I have always known that the family here is very loving and very giving, and you showed these qualities once again. Our time here was filled with many memorable events. Thanks for your love and support. We are praying for our Northland family. May God continue to bless you and watch over you.

Our new address is:

Bob and Judy Graham
1203 S. Shank St.
Portland, Indiana 47371

The church address is:

1209 S. Shank St.
Portland, Indiana 47371

We look forward to seeing some of you in Indiana.

Calendar

September

3	Labor Day
5	Singing At Willow Brook Home 5:30
7	TGIF Movie Night
8	Congregational Fall Picnic Blendon Woods, Dogwood Shelter 4pm
9	Autumn Bible Classes Begin
9	Single Sisters Lunch
9	Grandparents Day
21-22	Happy Hills Camping
22	Fall Begins
23	Services At Willow Brook

For The Month of September
Invitation/ Responses: Mike Evans
Foyer Duty: Jack Evans
Greeters: Darrell and Pam Estep

Communion Servers	
James Allison	John Allison
Glenn Culler	David Estep
William Nixon	Leon Norwood
Frank Rynearson	Art Silva

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3405	\$5236
Designated:	\$145	\$251

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

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



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Worship God

(With More Observations From Yogi Berra)

I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!
 - Revelation 22:8-9

Human nature can be so weak that even the faithful apostle John lost sight of where he was, and began to worship an angel. The angel reminds John that God alone is worthy of worship and honor and glory. God alone is our First and our Last, Jesus alone is our Beginning and our End, God alone gives us life and breath, and he alone gives us the gift of eternal life with him - *Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.* - Revelation 22:12-14

Baseball player Yogi Berra was once asked about a local restaurant where he used to eat. Yogi responded, 'Nobody goes there anymore, because it's too crowded.' While this may at first sound nonsensical, Yogi brought out a subtle truth. Berra started going to this restaurant for its good home style food and its friendly, efficient service. Yet when people found out that Berra and other athletes went there, the restaurant became a fad.

This family restaurant was bought by new management, and the food and service quickly deteriorated. Yet people still went to this restaurant, not for the food, instead just to be seen there and to say that they had been there. Thus Berra was right - although it was crowded, no one went there anymore for the right reasons.

We come together to worship God, to praise him instead of talking about worldly things, to ponder his vastness and his splendor and his compassion, to think of eternal things. Our minds may wander, and we may get false security from numbers or appearances, so God patiently reminds us to worship him with reverence so he may renew us inwardly - *The Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let the one who hears say, Come! Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.* - Revelation 22:17

Another time, Yogi Berra said: 'Why buy expensive luggage, you only use it when you travel.' We are all travelers in this temporary world, looking for a better place. So God asks us to set aside the baggage of this world's empty ways, *throw off everything that hinders . . . fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2).* And Jesus promises us: *He who testifies to these things says, Yes, I am coming soon (22:20).* It is good to worship God all day long.

- Mark Garner

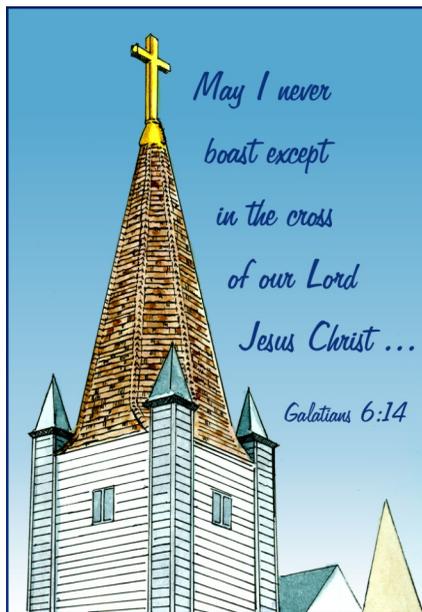
Pressing On

This last month the church had our 50th Anniversary Reunion. I think I can safely say that it was an outstanding success. The messages were inspiring, the singing wonderful, and the fellowship sweet. Many told me that they were encouraged and delighted to visit and renew old friendships.

One thing I personally found most gratifying was something most folk may have missed. Over the years, many have passed through our doors and we constantly try to help everyone grow in their faith and equip them for works of service in God's kingdom. However, our own weaknesses and faults are ever before us as we strive to lift others up, and we wonder, sometimes, how effective we are in our efforts. Over the weekend, I kept hearing story after story from those who had gone on to serve the Lord in other locations: an elder shepherding a church, a couple leading a small group, teachers, ministers, missionaries, and others serving God where they now live. I am sure all those I talked to would agree that they also have to contend with their own weaknesses and faults. Nevertheless, they continue to press on in faith in the hope that God will continue to use them in service to others.

You see, that is the fact that we all must come to grips with. All of us have weaknesses, faults, and sins that Satan will use to beat us up and constantly point out in order to discourage us. However, our faith is not in our own abilities but in a God who is stronger than our weaknesses, wiser than our foolishness, holier than our sin, and in control of history. Sure, we should always seek to grow in our knowledge and faith, but God is not limited by our inabilities and failures. We need to keep in mind that we serve a God who could work through a drunken sailor (Gen. 9:20ff), a timid liar (Gen. 12:10-20 & 20), and a philandering murderer (2Samuel 11-12) to work His plan of redemption for all of humanity. The work done in this congregation over the years will continue on throughout the world and have an eternal impact we cannot imagine. For those of us who may doubt what God can do through us I would like to say that there is no greater feeling than to realize that God has chosen to use our flawed and feeble efforts to advance His kingdom. Just what can He do with you?

- James Robbins,
September 2018



From The Northland Archives

This article appeared in the Northland Church of Christ bulletin on October 1, 2000. It was written by Jennifer Cvelbar; Jennifer and her husband Doug were members at Northland during the 1990s and early 2000s. This spring, we also printed one of Jennifer's poems.

Butterfly Summer

For me, this has been a butterfly summer. It all started through my love of pansies. I love the way the flowers look like the faces of lions and the brilliant shades of purple they come in (purple being my favorite color). Anyway, one afternoon I was checking one of my pots of pansies and discovered a little fellow on one of the stems. He was reddish-brown with white stripes and dark tines, which would turn into an iridescent blue in the sunlight . . . after much searching I discovered I had found the caterpillar of a Variegated Fritillary butterfly . . .

For about a week or so, I fed him fresh leaves from my pot of pansies (an easy task as I had four pots of them). Then he attached himself to the nylon I had placed over the top of the jar as a lid, and in about a day he was in his cocoon. A beautiful cocoon. It was silver-gray green with black splotches on the side. But the most wondrous thing about it was the tiny gold tines, which ran vertically along one side of it. "Not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these" (Matthew 6:29). It only took a little over a week for him to emerge as a beautiful black and amber winged creature, which flew over the top of our neighbor's house and then was gone.

The whole experience was so awesome, such a testimony to God's power, goodness and glory, that I didn't have the heart to throw out the one thing he left behind: the empty shell of his cocoon. For a while it set out in the garage, still inside the jar I had kept him in. Then one day, Doug and I were cleaning out the garage and I came across it. I knew it was impractical to keep it and I decided to throw it away. But before I did I couldn't help but reach inside the jar and take the shell out, just to touch it and what it was like.

I had expected, for some strange reason, for it to be tougher than it actually was. It was so light and thin the wind blew it out of my hand. It made me think about how our bodies are like this thin little thing that I had held in my hand for only a moment . . . How often do we get so caught up with appearances we forget that the most amazing thing about ourselves isn't the outer package but the inner one: the transformation that is going on inside. We forget that our bodies and outer pleasures are transient; they don't last. They are like the grass of the field "which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire" (Luke 12:28). "For, all men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall" (1 Peter 1:24) . . .

Like the butterfly in the cocoon, we are all being transformed . . . "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

- Jennifer Cvelbar,
October 2000 (abridged)