

## Family Information

Look upon us, O Lord,  
and let all the darkness of our souls  
vanish before the beams of thy brightness.

Fill us with holy love,  
and open to us the treasures of thy wisdom.

All our desire is known unto thee,  
therefore perfect what thou hast begun,  
and what thy Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.

We seek thy face,  
turn thy face unto us and show us thy glory.  
Then shall our longing be satisfied,  
and our peace shall be perfect.

- Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

Prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned  
toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love,  
embracing both trial and joy.

- Thérèse of Lisieux  
(1873-1897)



### 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

**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

### September

22 Fall Begins  
23 Services At Willow Brook

### October

3 Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30am  
7 Combined Worship 9am  
7 Apple Picking  
8 Columbus Day  
14 Single Sister Lunch  
21 Fall Festival  
31 Singing At Willow Brook Village 10:30am

**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
<b>General:</b>	\$5217	\$5241
<b>Designated:</b>	\$145	\$245



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September 16, 2018  
Volume 27, Number 37

## From The Lord Comes ...

### From The Lord Comes The Proper Answer

*To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. - Proverbs 16:1*

Our hearts come up with many plans and many desires and many hopes, yet only God knows what is really best for us. We come up with many ideas and many goals, yet the proper answer comes from God alone. Thus it can sometimes be a puzzle for faithful believers when we look ahead: how far in advance should we plan, should we wait longer before we make a decision, how can we tell when God has given us the answer? There are no simple answers to these questions.

Then, when things don't work out as we hoped, more questions come to mind - did we do something wrong, isn't God with us, what do we do now? So God simply tells us to walk closely with him and let him guide us each step, *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans (Proverbs 16:3)*. When we commit our hearts to God, it makes it easy for God to establish a better path for us. From the Lord comes the proper answer at the proper time. *In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. - Proverbs 16:9*

Being prepared for the future, planning how we'll handle eventualities, is usually a good thing. But deciding what will happen belongs to God alone. Consider what Dwight Eisenhower and Winston Churchill said as they dealt with the perils of the world war. Eisenhower said, 'In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable,' and Churchill also said, 'Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential.'

They both understood that many situations are beyond our control, so planning doesn't mean determining the outcome, rather it means deciding how we will approach things. Likewise, keeping our hearts soft and walking in reverence for God allows him to redirect us and guide us - *Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord evil is avoided. - Proverbs 16:6*

For as J.R.R. Tolkien wrote, 'It does not do to leave a live dragon out of your calculations, if you live near him.' This advice is not only for Tolkien's fantasy stories, for it is also a reminder about the distractions and temptations we all face each day. For there is indeed a dragon near us, the ancient dragon, the devil, who is eager to trip us up, who springs snares on us, so *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death (Proverbs 16:25)*.

Yet we do not need to be afraid, for God is near and his words are near, *How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver (Proverbs 16:16)*, and *blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord (Proverbs 16:20)*. His call is simply to fix our eyes on him and to set our hearts on things above, for God's words are trustworthy and his paths are far higher than ours.

- 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 **Nancy Rynearson**.

**Q:** Hello, Nancy! What scriptures have you been studying?

**Nancy:** I've been reading James, which tells us a lot about perseverance through trials. First, though, this verse struck me - *James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ (James 1:1)*. For a long time, James and Jesus' other brothers didn't understand Jesus, so it reminded me of Joseph and his brothers, a story I've always liked. Joseph told them, *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good . . . the saving of many lives (Genesis 50:20)*. They still lived in fear because they never accepted Joseph's forgiveness. Yet when James believed the truth about Jesus, he knew he had nothing to fear and wanted to serve Him. What was intended to harm Jesus, God intended for good.

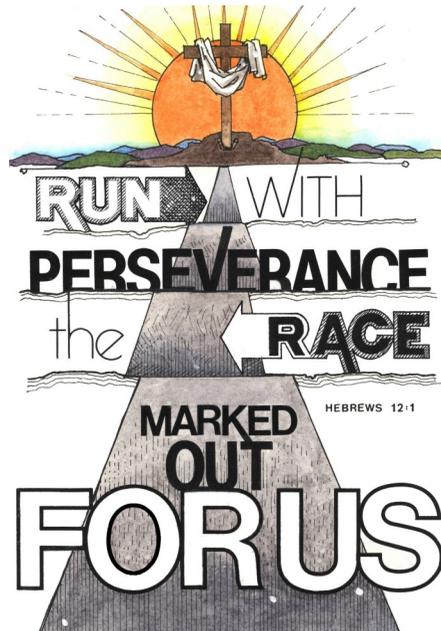
**Q:** An encouraging parallel. How has James also helped you with perseverance?

**Nancy:** One verse has stuck with me, *Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters (James 1:16)*. Just before that, James talks about how giving in to our fleshly desires leads to sin, and then leads to death. As Romans says, *They exchanged the truth about God for a lie (Romans 1:25)*. Following the truth is always better, and perseverance is always worthwhile, so I'm studying some more about how God helps us with this.

**Q:** A very good topic to study - what have you learned about it so far?

**Nancy:** It's been very helpful to think about this verse - *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17)*. God gives us many good things, and each of them is a gift from God. It can be hard to get rid of bad thoughts, yet God gives us many good things to think about. His words are real, they are helpful today, and they always will be.

Thank you, Nancy!  
(Nancy Rynearson with Mark G)



## From The Northland Archives

*This article appeared in the Northland Church of Christ bulletin on November 14, 2010. It was written by Ron Adams, who was Northland's minister from 2004-2015. Ron is currently a minister with a congregation in Wayne, Ohio.*

### Two Examples Of Worship

King Jehoshaphat of Judah was being attacked by three armies simultaneously (2 Chron. 20:1), and he knew he could not save his people. Therefore, he called the nation together, stood before the people, and pleaded with the Lord. ".....we do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you" (2 Chron. 20:12).

In his powerlessness and despair, the king received word from God's prophet. "Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.....you will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you.....Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you" (2 Chron. 20:14-17).

Look at the reaction of all who heard the prophet's words: "Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord" (2 Chron. 20:18). Of course they did! They received an immediate and sure promise that their needs would be met. Isn't that what we have always believed worship to be? Can't we worship in those electric moments of release from our problems? Can't we feel good about what we receive? Of course we can! But Hold on!

Consider the example of Job. He is prosperous. He has a wife and children. He is healthy, and his life is filled with promise. With incredible swiftness, his world came apart at the seams. A series of tragedies bowled him over. And this was Job's response: "At this, Job got up and tore is robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship" (Job 1:20).

King Jehoshaphat had encountered a God beyond his understanding who was doing more than he had dared to expect. In his smallness and powerlessness, he simply worshiped.

Job had no promise of relief. He found himself crushed by the weight of a broken heart and tormented with unanswered questions. Did God allow this to happen? Where is the fairness in this? Job found himself confronted with a God too mysterious for him to figure out. So he too worshipped.

Today, you may be like Jehoshaphat: full of joy seeing the hand of God around you, and excited to worship. Or, today you may be like Job, demoralized by grief, in a daze, having nothing "worshipful" to say to the Lord. Perhaps you can simply look toward God and whisper the reality of exhaustion and confusion before a mysterious God who whispers back to you through worship, "I love you, the story is not finished yet."

- Ron Adams