

Family Information

Prayer and Fasting

To petition the Lord for guidance and help in the selection of our new evangelist the Elders request the church participate in a time of prayer and fasting beginning on September 27. If you are able, please join us as we ask for God's help.

School Supply Drive

We are collecting donations of school supplies at this time. We are especially in need of: Binders, ear buds, pencils, packs of paper, high lighters, and expo markers. There will be a collection bin this Wednesday night at church. It will be there until the end of October. See Rebecca Evans if you have any questions. Thanks

Fall Festival

Sunday, October 21st will be our Fall Festival from 5:30-7:00. There will be candy, games and food. Volunteers and candy donations are needed. See Josh or Emily Kruse for more information or if you can help.



Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!



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

October

3	Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30am
8	Columbus Day
13	Bonfire 4:30pm At The Silva's 4:30pm
14	Single Sister Lunch
21	Fall Festival
31	Singing At Willow Brook Village 10:30am

For The Month of October
Invitation/ Responses: Jeff McVicker
Foyer Duty: Michael Evans
Greeters: Frank and Nancy Rynearson

Communion Servers

Frank Agyei	Patrick Boateng
Lynn Champney	Bill Chavis
Isaac Kyeremateng	Phil Stafa
Yaw Teiki	Randy Yates

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$6595	\$5285
Designated:	\$155	\$243



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Hard Pressed, But Not Crushed

(The Tuatara's Tail)

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. - 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

We are often hard-pressed by the world's loudness and its unkindness, yet Jesus lives within our fragile bodies to keep our hearts and spirits from being crushed. We are often perplexed by the world's empty ways, yet the Spirit dwells in us, and helps us understand God's words and reminds us that God is near, so that we will not despair.

Within our mortal bodies, we carry both the memory of the death of Jesus and the awareness of the treasure of his life; we carry both the reverence for Jesus and what he endured for us, and also the peace his eternal blessings bring us - *We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. - 2 Corinthians 4:10*

The tuatara is an unusual reptile that lives only in remote places in New Zealand. Tuataras (they resemble lizards) are usually about one and a half feet long, and they face a variety of predators. They have long tails that seem easy to grab hold of, so God equipped the tuatara with an unusual feature - when a predator takes hold of its tail, that part of it simply snaps off, leaving the predator puzzled, and the tuatara free to escape and live.

Likewise, if the world grabs your 'tail', if it strikes down your hopes or your plans, Jesus still lives within you; the world cannot destroy our souls and spirits, and these are what matter most to God. If the world is unkind or rejects us, God has not abandoned us, for they can never snatch us out of God's hands. The world may strike us down, but God raises us to his side - *We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. - 2 Corinthians 4:14*

God also gave the tuatara the remarkable ability to grow its tail back. So when the world takes away our 'tail', God will grow something new, he can lead us to a better path, and he reassures us of the eternal things we have. Moreover, when a tuatara's tail regenerates itself, its new tail often looks quite different. Likewise, God works in unexpected ways in our walk with him - *Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day . . . 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, 4:18*

Truly God's ways are far higher than ours; when we set aside our earthly preconceptions and our human expectations, God can show us better things, eternal things, and he can help us understand the depths of his understanding and his splendor and his compassion for us
 - 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 **Steve Carver**.

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

Steve: I've been reading a lot of Psalms; many of them talk about finding respite and the comfort God gives us when we turn to him - *you who save those who take refuge in you . . . hide me in the shadow of your wings (Psalm 17:7-8)*. Many of the Psalms also help me to develop an awe for God, a sense of wonder - *My heart is not proud, Lord . . . I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have calmed and quieted myself . . . put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore (Psalm 131:1-3)*

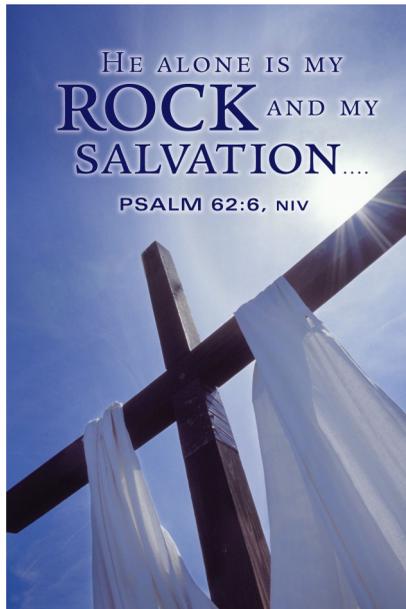
Q: Very true, how the Psalms often remind us of God's vastness and his care for us.

Steve: One Psalm I keep coming back to is Psalm 139. It addresses many of the themes that I've been thinking about, and every time I read it, something new makes me want to praise God. As David wrote, *You have searched me, Lord, and you know me . . . Such knowledge is too wonderful for me (Psalm 139:1, 139:8)*, and the Psalm comforts me that God's presence can fill the 'void' inside us that we often feel.

Q: Very good thoughts. Are there a couple of verses in Psalm 139 that especially stand out?

Steve: I think about this a lot - *If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast (Psalm 139:8-10)*. It really is 'too wonderful' to think that God is always with me, no matter what happens, no matter where I go.

Thank you, Steve!
(Steve Carver with Mark G.)



From The Northland Archives

This article was written by Emily Graham, and it appeared in the Northland bulletin on March 9, 2014. Emily came to Northland with her parents Mary Ellen and Mike Gale in the late 1980s, and Emily was baptized in 1998. Since then Emily's faithfulness has been an encouragement to us in many ways.

Discovering The Hero Without

Everyone wants a hero. Today's culture teaches us to look for the hero within. Believe in yourself. Have self-confidence. Love yourself. These half-truths sound lovely to our hearts and egos. God of course holds the whole truth. A friend recently shared something she heard from a preacher on-line, that hit me in a profound way. She said that we tend to want to relate to and be the main character in the movie. Instead, the main character in our lives should be Jesus and we are the side characters.

I realized that I have totally fallen for this lie. In order to have "self-esteem" I convinced myself that I was someone important to God and that He was going to write an important story revolving around me. After all God loves me enough to die for me! Jesus came to earth to die for me! If I was the only one that ever accepted Him, He still would have died for me! Right?

Yet somehow my belief in Jesus' love for me doesn't seem to build me up to where I think I should be. I struggle to believe in such a deep love for me. I have resolved at times, that it's simply because I need time for God to grow me into believing it more. The more time I spend with God the more time He'll have to tell me He loves me and I'll increasingly believe it. This may very well be true, but I wondered if I was missing something still . . . Something, or Someone triggered a thought.

Maybe, instead of telling myself how great God made me, I need to dwell on His greatness. If the main character of life is, powerful, noble, trustworthy, strong, wise, loves passionately those he's fighting for, and can kick the enemy's behind, that's the kind of guy I'll look up to. Then I'll be like, "Yeah, I'm with Him...I know that guy...".

Knowing the hero makes you very cool. Especially if the hero picked you to be his partner...to fight the enemy along side Him. Who knows maybe He'll even give you some of His power! In contrast, if my hero is not impressive, then if I'm his sidekick, I'm nobody. If I don't dwell on how great God is, then similarly I don't know what he's capable of doing in my life.

So instead of worrying about me feeling loved, what if I spent more time loving God? What if I praised Him from the heart and dwelt on His awesomeness. One awesome thing about God is that when we do what He asks us, we are always blessed. But the point is not to feel loved as much as it is to love God. He's the One who deserves all of our love.

"Sing to Him, sing praise to Him; tell of all His wonderful acts. Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. ... Remember the wonders He has done,..." Ps. 105:2,3,5a "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:30

- Emily Graham,
March 2014