

## Family Information

**Belated Celebration for Hilary and Hugo**  
We will be having a party to celebrate the arrival of baby Hugo Johnson on Saturday, February 3rd at 3 p.m. at the Chivington's home. All ladies are welcome to attend. If you plan on attending or have any questions, please contact Courtney Brown at 301-693-8654.

### Jesus Loves The Little Children

In our loving and serving body here at Northland, we have many beautiful opportunities to care for the children God has given us. One way is to support our children's Bible classes, by sharing in teaching needs, preparing class materials, and serving on planning teams. We are embarking on a new curriculum for our children and hope to have help to provide a God-filled experience. Please see Art Silva if you can help in any of these areas for our children's classes.

Another great opportunity is with our Child Care ministry. Northland chose to minister to God's children through this work. Lately, the body has been interacting more with this mission, and there will be new ways to serve. Please see Jeff McVicker or Tara Bell for more information on these plans and to participate in a Child Care support team.

### Contribution Statements

The contribution statements for 2017 are available in the church office.

### Prayer Requests

Clyde Rollie is at Wexner Heritage Village Rehab, 1151 College Ave., Room 29. Please continue to pray for him.

John Lindsay requests prayers for his sister, Mona Wood. She is suffering from vertigo and needs our prayers.

### 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:** Steve Carver, 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

31	50's Plus at Willow Brook Village
<b>February</b>	
2	TGIF Child Care, Movie Night, 6:30 pm
4	Congregational Devo 9:00 am
	Combined Classes
7	Singing At Willow Brook Home, 10:30 am
11	Services At Willow Brook
11	Single Sisters Lunch
16-18	Winterfest At Gatlinburg
23	TGIF Meeting 6:30 pm
25	Combined Worship 9:00 am

### Russia Mission Review 2017

Vlad Osinovsky has sent us some news and thoughts from Barnaul, Russia. See his article on page 3 of this week's bulletin.

#### For The Month of January

**Invitation/ Responses:** Jeff McVicker

**Foyer Duty:** Jack Evans

**Greeters:** Art and Kythrie Silva

#### Communion Servers

Patrick Boateng	Perry Coate
Jimi Foster	James Milnor
Yaw Odoom	Phil Stafa
Yaw Tieku	Randy Yates

### Contribution

Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b> \$5478	\$5389
<b>Designated:</b> \$200	\$416

*Northland*  
Church of Christ



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## The Message Of Jesus...

**The Message Of Jesus Is True & Reasonable**  
(& As Casey Stengel Used To Say, You Could Look It Up)

*At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. You are out of your mind, Paul! he shouted. Your great learning is driving you insane. I am not insane, most excellent Festus, Paul replied. What I am saying is true and reasonable. - Acts 26:24-25*

As Paul talks about Jesus, governor Festus assumes that Paul must be insane. The message of the cross and the empty tomb is unbelievable to worldly minds, yet it brings life to those who turn to Jesus. The message of Jesus is true and reasonable; and it gives light to our spirits - *Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.* - Acts 26:17-18

Longtime baseball manager Casey Stengel had an encyclopedic knowledge about baseball history, and he would often tell colorful anecdotes or quote remarkable baseball statistics. Most of these were perfectly true, yet many were exaggerated for comic effect. Stengel would often conclude by saying, 'and you could look it up.'

Stengel meant that anyone could find an almanac or a record book to verify what was true, and what was fanciful. Likewise, with the message of Jesus, it doesn't matter what someone says or what we have 'heard' or even what we think; what matters is that we seek the truth.

Each of us has sinned, and none of us can save ourselves. This is true, and we can look it up - *All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).* Yet Jesus redeems us freely and forgives those who turn to him. This is reasonable, and you could look it up - *all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:24).*

*I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen—that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles. - Acts 26:22-23*

Jesus suffered on the cross to atone for our sins, afterwards he raised from the dead, and the prophets told us this would happen. This is true and reasonable, and we can look it up - *After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53:11*

Yet there was an even deeper point to Stengel's sayings. He didn't want people to 'look it up' just to verify facts; rather he wanted people to learn about the game he enjoyed. Likewise, we shouldn't 'look things up' as mere facts; instead we should ponder the scriptures, ask God to help us understand them more deeply. Each of us still has just a dim grasp of the message of Jesus, and each of us has much more to understand and meditate on - and you could look it up.

- Mark Garner

## *Be Continually In Prayer For ...*

**Ellen Ward** who lives with multiple sclerosis every day.

**Joan Mauersberg**

**Patricia Stevens**

**Tammy Chatfield**

## *Announcements*

There will be Sunday night Bible study (Bible Study 2:42) tonight in room E41

**February 2nd** - Movie Night for Northland and Northland Child Care. Starts at 6:30 p.m.

**February 4th** - Combined morning Bible study and prayer time. Starting at 9 a.m. in the auditorium.

This is all classes from Youth Group up to Seniors.

### **Pray for the teen group going to Winterfest - February 16-18**

Why read the Bible? Why wake up 15 minutes early each day? Why go to all that trouble? After all, sleeping is better than reading, right? Before you close the book on God's book, here are 10 reasons to read the Bible:

**1. Reading the Bible shows us God's character. The Bible is our definitive source for the answers to our questions about God.** "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" ([Hebrews 1:1-3](#)).

**2. Reading the Bible teaches us to imitate God.**

"Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children" ([Ephesians 5:1](#)).

**3. Reading the Bible helps us discover our next step.**

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" ([Psalm 119:105](#)).

**4. Reading the Bible keeps us from sin.**

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" ([Psalm 119:11](#)).

**5. Reading the Bible helps us to renew our minds so we can know God's will.**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" ([Romans 12:1-2](#)).

**6. Reading the Bible allows us to be certain of what God said. The Bible is our final authority.**

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth" ([John 17:17](#)).

**7. Reading the Bible allows us to receive the desires of our heart.** "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you" ([John 15:7](#)).

**8. Reading the Bible is how we learn about the gospel.** "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life" ([John 5:39-40](#)).

**9. Reading the Bible gives us courage.** "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" ([Joshua 1:8-9](#)).

**10. Reading the Bible helps us to be fruitful.** "... but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers" ([Psalm 1:2-3](#)).

## **Russia Mission News: Review Of 2017**

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!

Looking back to 2017, there were many ups and downs. Sometimes we had struggles and doubts, offences and fear, but God was always near, and the following Bible truths are good reminders of this:

### *You Say*

I can't figure it out.

I'm too tired.

It's impossible.

Nobody loves me.

I can't forgive myself.

It's not worth it.

I'm not smart enough.

I'm not able.

I can't go on.

I can't do it.

I can't manage.

I'm afraid.

I feel all alone.

### *God Says*

I will direct your steps.

I will give you rest.

All things are possible.

I love you.

I forgive you.

It will be worth it.

I will give you wisdom.

I am able.

My grace is sufficient.

You can do all things.

I will supply all you needs.

I have not given you fear.

I will never leave you.

### *Bible Verses*

**Proverbs 3:5-6**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

**Luke 18:27**

**John 3:16**

**Romans 8:1**

**Romans 8:28**

**I Corinthians 1:30**

**II Corinthians 9:8**

**II Corinthians 12:9**

**Philippians 4:13**

**Philippians 4:19**

**II Timothy 1:7**

**Hebrews 13:5**

It was a fruitful year for our church and ministry. God helped us with many big or little things that took place. We had the 25th anniversary of the Barnaul Church of Christ. Two speakers from USA made a great job encouraging our church and staying for Easter. I was able to go to Come before Winter renewal for men in Austria, Vienna in May with visiting local churches, EEM leadership and evangelizing to refugees. Our youth group had a chance to go to Kazakhstan for teen's retreat in winter after which one of our boys (Misha) decided to be baptized. Later in May there was another retreat with participation of the Tomsk group. Christian summer camp had over 60 children from different places and there were two baptisms afterwards (Mason and Lilya). We had Christians for vacation visiting our church and my family who were a part of our Christian family for years but left to other places for good: from France (Rita with her daughter), Israel (Misha and his family who led 4 great Sunday sermons and Wednesday classes while being here), Saint Petersburg (Alex, who helped me a lot in my ministry for villages), Tomsk teen leaders and few others. The main theme for Sunday sermons during 2017 was chosen the book of Acts. It's not just a historical book, - it's a guidance for our present life: how the first church lived and what they believed. This book clearly showed me a few main lessons and without this spirit this book should not be read: The first Christians were fully guided by God and Holy Spirit, Prayers and fasting played a great role in their daily life. The prayed in the first chapter, later went to the temple to pray and gathered with group and prayed. When they were prohibit to preach the Gospel, they didn't pray to get rid of persecution or solve family or money issues but prayed for more strength to be able to evangelize resulting shaking of ground after their prayer. When Peter was in jail, Christians prayed all this time. Before Peter went to the house of Cornelius, they both prayed. When Christians were chosen by the Holy Spirit to go to other regions to share the Gospel in Acts 15, they prayed and fast and continued this, and on and on. They were not separated when troubles came but were united. Spreading the Gospel was their main focus in everything they did and anywhere they went.

May God bless you in the coming year and grant you strong faith and fruitful works for the Glory of our King!

- With much love to you, Vlad Osinovsky