

Family Information

"Happy 50th to Northland! We are praising God for his faithfulness! Our Gratitude and Praise will build as we discover more about our history. Thank you to those who have shared old bulletins, photos and other documents. Keep sharing with us! Many have been working the last few months! Bob Graham has been coordinating the speakers and activities. The 50th Anniversary T-shirt and the beautiful banner were designed by Emily Graham. Jack and Barbara Evans have been instrumental in our Facebook and Website efforts. Thanks to all! The Historical Team: Vicki Cowans and Robbie McVicker"

New Phone Number

Marie McMasters has moved to room 203 at Willow Brook. Her new phone number is 614-896-3463.

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.

Calendar

February

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
18	Bobby Graham Jr. Preaching
23	TGIF Meeting 6:30 pm
25	Combined Worship 9:00 am

Contribution Statements

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

For The Month of February

Invitation/ Responses: Jim Robbins
Foyer Duty: Michael Evans
Greeters: Jeff and Robbie McVicker

Communion Servers

Jake Bowman	Jack Evans
Joshua Evans	Michael Evans
Mike Evans	Jesse Foster
John Lindsay	Paul Silva

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$4874	\$5260
Designated:	\$285	\$383

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	7:00 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



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God Set A Certain Day

God Set A Certain Day, Calling It Today (Have Jam With The Queen Tomorrow, But Have Some Time With God Today)

God again set a certain day, calling it Today. This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. - Hebrews 4:7

God set a certain day, calling it Today; he speaks to each of us Today, and he asks us to listen to his voice with a soft heart Today. We have many plans and distractions and responsibilities, yet God asks us to set them aside so we can take some time Today - just you and God - to read his words and take them to heart.

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. - Hebrews 4:8-10

Under Joshua, God led the Israelites to Canaan, yet this gave them only temporary rest; it did not give them rest for their souls. There remains, then, God's Sabbath-rest for those who believe in Jesus - not a day of the week, rather a Sabbath-rest that is there any time. For now God calls every day Today. Today we can be with God and can read his words and can find rest for our souls, even amidst the turmoil and noise. Every day is Today, when we can pour out our hearts to God and can have the peace of knowing that he hears us and he cares about us. In Alice's conversation with the Queen in Lewis Carroll's "Through The Looking Glass", the Queen says, 'The rule is, jam to-morrow and jam yesterday - but never jam to-day.' The Queen was implying that there may be time enough later for eating jam, yet today there are worthwhile things to consider and think about.

Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. - Hebrews 3:13

Many things can harden our hearts, and many things distract us from sitting quietly by ourselves with Jesus and learning from him; yet we can encourage one another by reassuring one another that it is God's Today. Alice and the Queen have some advice if we become restless -

'It must come sometimes to jam to-day', Alice objected. 'No, it can't,' said the Queen. 'It's jam every other day: to-day isn't any other day, you know.'

Today isn't any other day; God wants to be with you Today, he wants to speak to you with his own words. God simply calls us to set aside the distractions around us, to tune out all of the loud voices, and listen to him - *As has just been said: Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. - Hebrews 3:15*

As God patiently reminds us, be still before the Lord, read his words, talk with him, and open our hearts Today so that he may give us rest for our souls. Today isn't any other day, you know. - 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 **Norma Stafa**.

Q: Hello Norma; what have you been studying?

Norma: I've been studying the book of Joel. It's a book that I've wanted to learn more about. It talks a lot about God's judgment, yet it also talks a lot about God's mercy. At times it can be perplexing, so I'm reading it over and over.

Q: What verses have made an impression on you?

Norma: This verse gave me a lot to think about -

Then the Lord was jealous for his land and took pity on his people. - Joel 2:18

It talks about God's desire for people to know him, and how he wants to forgive us. When I look at the world around us, I can only imagine how much God wants people to turn to him. I've felt that God is telling me how he feels.

Q: How far are you in your study of Joel?

Norma: I'm studying more of chapter 2. I've not yet gotten to Joel 2:28-32, a scripture that I also like.

I'm looking forward to studying it some more.

Thank you, Norma!

(Mark Garner)

Announcements

There will be Sunday night Bible study (Bible Study 2:42) tonight in room E41. Today we finish with 2 Timothy. Next week we will start the study of the book of John. If you are not currently in a small group Bible study we ask you to consider attending Sunday night at the building from 6:30 p.m. till 7:30 p.m.

Please pray for our teens and adults going to Winterfest. We leave on Friday February 16th and return on Sunday February 18th. On Sunday February 18th Bobby Graham Jr. will be preaching.

Service or Serve Us

Joyce Potter writes: "One of the questions asked on our company's employee application form is: 'Did you receive any training in the U. S. Armed Forces that is relevant to the position applied for?' An applicant answered, 'To wake up early and go to work' " (12/2000 Reader's Digest, p 148). It is no accident that we often refer to those in the military as being in the "service." The first lesson learned in boot camp is that you are not there to be pleased or petted or served. It doesn't matter if you like the food, the bed, the drill sergeant, or the time you have to get up. You are there to learn to submit to authority, to obey orders, to work with others as a unit/team, and to learn that it is not all about you. You are there, in a word, to learn how to serve. At this moment, around the globe, 100's of 1000's of men and women in our military services are waking up early and going to work. They are sacrificing things which range from comfort to convenience to close proximity to family and loved ones. And yes, in Iraq some are presently making the supreme sacrifice made by so many in the past: in the service of America and freedom, some are giving their very lives. As they serve us, these brave men and women deserve our prayers and support.

Many modern day Christians ought to take a lesson from those in the armed services: wake up and go to work. The apostles James and John learned this lesson from Jesus Himself long ago in Mark 10:35ff. They came to Jesus with a bold and brash request: "We want you to do for us whatever we ask," and what they asked for basically was to wear a crown by sitting at Jesus' right and left hand in His kingdom. Study the context carefully and you learn James and John misunderstood the true nature of the Messiah, His kingdom, and His mission. Jesus didn't come to climb and claw His way to the top and wear a crown. He came, as He makes clear in verses 32-34, to embrace a cross. Furthermore, He states unequivocally in verses 43-44 that in His kingdom, service will not be spelled "s-e-r-v-e-u-s." Rather, "whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all." It's not just "ministers" who ought to minister. Every member ought to be a minister. Jesus is not looking for critics who demand of preachers and elders, "Do for us whatever we ask." Nor is He looking for spectators who view church as a place to be entertained or worship as a place where leaders ought to please me. Many positions of greatness are open in the church. To fill them requires us to do only one thing: take up the cross and learn how to serve. Jesus just won't let us spell service "s-e-r-v-e-u-s."

Remaining Awake

I am sure that most of you have read that arresting little story from the pen of Washington Irving entitled "Rip Van Winkle." The one thing that we usually remember about the story is that Rip Van Winkle slept twenty years . . .

When Rip Van Winkle went up into the mountain, the sign had a picture of King George the Third of England. When he came down twenty years later the sign had a picture of George Washington, the first president of the United States. When Rip Van Winkle looked up at the picture of George Washington—and looking at the picture he was amazed—he was completely lost. He knew not who he was.

And this reveals to us that the most striking thing about the story of Rip Van Winkle is not merely that Rip slept twenty years, but that he slept through a revolution. While he was peacefully snoring up in the mountain a revolution was taking place that at points would change the course of history—and Rip knew nothing about it. He was asleep. Yes, he slept through a revolution . . .

There can be no gainsaying of the fact that a great revolution is taking place in the world today. In a sense it is a triple revolution: that is, a technological revolution, with the impact of automation and cybernation; then there is a revolution in weaponry, with the emergence of atomic and nuclear weapons of warfare; then there is a human rights revolution, with the freedom explosion that is taking place all over the world. Yes, we do live in a period where changes are taking place. And there is still the voice crying through the vista of time saying, "Behold, I make all things new; former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:5)

Now whenever anything new comes into history it brings with it new challenges and new opportunities. And I would like to deal with the challenges that we face today as a result of this triple revolution that is taking place in the world today.

First, we are challenged to develop a world perspective. No individual can live alone, no nation can live alone, and anyone who feels that he can live alone is sleeping through a revolution. The world in which we live is geographically one. The challenge that we face today is to make it one in terms of brotherhood . . .

Through our scientific and technological genius, we have made of this world a neighborhood and yet we have not had the ethical commitment to make of it a brotherhood. But somehow, and in some way, we have got to do this. We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will all perish together as fools.

We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be. This is the way God's universe is made; this is the way it is structured.

John Donne caught it years ago and placed it in graphic terms: "No man is an island entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." And he goes on toward the end to say, "Any man's death diminishes me because I am involved in mankind; therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee." We must see this, believe this, and live by it if we are to remain awake through a great revolution.

*- Martin Luther King, Jr.,
excerpts from a sermon,
March 1968*