

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 Ladies Class

Ladies Sunday Morning Spring Quarter Class: "God's Gift of the Holy Spirit." Class Begins Sunday March 4th, 9:30 am in room E 31. All women are welcome!

Save the Date!

May 4-5 at the Heartland Retreat Center, Marengo, OH. Please mark your calendars for this Northland Women's Retreat. This will be Friday evening, May 4th thru Saturday, May 5th. More details to follow.

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.

Calendar

February

16-18 Winterfest At Gatlinburg
18 Bobby Graham Jr. Preaching
23 TGIF Meeting 6:30 pm
25 Combined Worship 9:00 am

March

4 Spring Bible Classes Begin
7 Singing At Willow Brook Home, 10:30am
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
11 Single Sisters Lunch

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
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General:	\$7385	\$5414
Designated:	\$194	\$348

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

Faith In The Unseen

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. - Hebrews 11:1-2

By its nature, faith involves belief in unseen things, and it includes hope in what is yet to come. Yet this is not a dictionary definition of faith, rather just a starting point, to help us think about the many aspects of faith. Faith is meant to be personal, a close connection with God, a faith of trust and reverence and gratitude. *By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. - Hebrews 11:3*

By faith we understand that God made the universe, yet this in itself has many layers of meaning. God made the seas and the stars and the mountains, yet his strength and his knowledge are only a couple of his many dimensions. *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? - Psalm 8:3-4*

He also gives us life, and we are called to ponder God's creation, to consider what it tells us about his nature and his understanding and his care for us. Likewise, we are called to realize that this earth and everything in it will soon pass away, and eternal things, better things, will remain. *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. - Hebrews 11:6*

I was quite young when my family first went on an airplane. I was skeptical, so I declined to get on an airplane unless I was convinced of how it worked. So my father explained the scientific principles of 'lift', and showed me how the shape of the wings produces an upward force that lifts the plane when it travels fast enough. These unseen forces made sense to me. So I got on the airplane, and we arrived safely. Yet (as Adrian Monk would say) here's the thing: my brother and sister arrived safely too, and they had no idea how an airplane worked, nor were they even interested; they just enjoyed the experience. They had a different kind of faith; they simply believed that our parents wouldn't have taken us on the plane if it weren't safe.

Neither kind of faith is 'better'. Each kind of faith is helpful in its own way, yet neither by itself can get us through our lifetime walk of faith. Trust without understanding remains a shallow faith that will often let us down. Likewise, a faith based on logic alone will lack reverence and love for God. Instead, these and the other dimensions of faith are meant to work together.

All these people were living by faith when they died (Hebrews 11:13). Each of us also has a lifelong walk of faith, and God has much to teach us about faith and about himself. As we walk by faith and keep our hearts soft and keep our minds open, God can nurture and strengthen our mustard seed of faith, and he can draw us closer to him as we walk in his light.
- Mark Garner



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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 **Dot Duncan**.

Q: Hi Dot; what have you been studying?

Dot: This year, I'm learning about prayer and spiritual discipline, and am praying for God to help me develop good habits. I've also just finished a study of the book of Titus.

Q: What verses in Titus have made an impression on you?

Dot: Two verses recently have given me some things to think about. *This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. (Titus 3:8)* This verse reminded me that we should learn from God about what is good. It also helped me to understand that we can't really do good without God.

Q: That fits in well with your focus for the year. What was the other verse?

Dot: This verse - *The grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say No to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age. (Titus 2:11-12)* encouraged me to think about how God has offered his grace to everyone, and that he gives everyone the chance to know him.

It also tells me that when we appreciate the grace that God gives us, it can help us develop self-control and also helps in other areas of our lives.

Thank you, Dot!
(Dot Duncan with Mark Garner)

Announcements

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

February 25th is our Combined Worship Sunday. We start at 9 a.m. with prayer and singing. Then combined class for everyone from the teen class on up to all adult classes. At 10:30 a.m. worship will start with a song from the Ghana congregation. Please plan to be there.



Friday February 23rd. See Josh Evans for details.

Right & Wrong

We never doubt that there are physical laws of the universe that we must obey. We never doubt that. And so we just don't jump out of airplanes or jump off of high buildings for the fun of it—we don't do that. Because we unconsciously know that there is a final law of gravitation, and if you disobey it you'll suffer the consequences—we know that. Even if we don't know it in its Newtonian formulation, we know it intuitively . . . If we disobey it we'll suffer the consequences.

But I'm not so sure if we know that there are moral laws just as abiding as the physical law. I'm not so sure about that. I'm not so sure if we really believe that there is a law of love in this universe, and that if you disobey it you'll suffer the consequences . . . We have adopted in the modern world a sort of a relativistic ethic. Now I'm not trying to use a big word here; I'm trying to say something very concrete. And that is that we have accepted the attitude that right and wrong are merely relative.

But I'm here to say to you this morning that some things are right and some things are wrong. Eternally so, absolutely so. It's wrong to hate. It always has been wrong and it always will be wrong. It's wrong in America, it's wrong in Germany, it's wrong in Russia, it's wrong in China. It was wrong in 2000 B.C., and it's wrong in 1954 A.D. It always has been wrong, and it always will be wrong.

It's wrong to throw our lives away in riotous living. It's wrong in every age and it's wrong in every nation. Some things are right and some things are wrong, no matter if everybody is doing the contrary. Some things in this universe are absolute. The God of the universe has made it so. And so long as we adopt this relative attitude toward right and wrong, we're revolting against the very laws of God himself.

Now that isn't the only thing that convinces me that we've strayed away from this attitude, (Go ahead) this principle. The other thing is that we have adopted a sort of a pragmatic test for right and wrong—whatever works is right. If it works, it's all right. Nothing is wrong but that which does not work. If you don't get caught, it's right. That's the attitude, isn't it? It's all right to disobey the Ten Commandments, but just don't disobey the eleventh, Thou shall not get caught.

That's the attitude. That's the prevailing attitude in our culture. No matter what you do, just do it with a bit of finesse. You know, a sort of attitude of the survival of the slickest. Not the Darwinian survival of the fittest, but the survival of the slickest—whoever can be the slickest is the one who right.

It's all right to lie, but lie with dignity. It's all right to steal and to rob and extort, but do it with a bit of finesse. It's even all right to hate, but just dress your hate up in the garments of love and make it appear that you are loving when you are actually hating . . . That's the thing that's right according to this new ethic.

My friends, that attitude is destroying the souls of our culture. The thing that we need in the world today is a group of men and women who will stand up for right and to be opposed to wrong, wherever it is. A group of people who have come to see that some things are wrong, whether they're never caught up with. And some things are right, whether nobody sees you doing them or not.

- Martin Luther King, Jr,
excerpts from a sermon, 1954