

Family Information

VBS

There will be a post VBS meeting July 21st immediately after services. Lunch will be provided. -Josh Evans

Family fun Night

Family Fun Night with the Daycare, Friday July 26th at the church from 6:30 to 7:30. See Josh Evans for further details.

Church Camp

Church camp at Fort Hill is next week. Please keep the campers and staff in your prayers. Caleb will be at camp next week. Phil Stafa will be preaching this Sunday and Jeff McVicker will be preaching on July 21st.



Calendar

July

- 14 Single Sisters Lunch
- 14-20 Camp Week At Fort Hill
- 21 Post VBS Meeting, After Services
- 26 Family Fun Night With The Daycare
- 31 Singing At Willow Brook Village 10:30 am

August

- 2 TGIF At Building
- 2 Teen Nerf War At Church
- 7 Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30am
- 11 Single Sisters Lunch
- 16 TGIF At Building
- 25 Canoeing at Trapper Johns After Church

For The Month of July
Invitation/ Responses: Jeff McVicker
Foyer Duty: Jack Evans
Greeters: Bobby and Emily Graham
Announcements: Glenn Culler

Communion Servers

Frank Agyei	Patrick Boateng
Lynn Champney	Isaac Kyeremateng
James Milnor	Yaw Odoom
Phil Stafa	Randy Yates

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3873	\$5222
Designated:	\$30	\$174

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

Minister: Caleb Dillinger
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

Holding Firmly To The Word Of Life

(We Missed First Base, Yet . . .)

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.
 - Philippians 2:14-16

Jesus has brought near the Word of life, a trustworthy message we can hold firm to, the good news of God's salvation and overflowing grace, an anchor for our souls amidst the world's confusion and arguing. God pours out his spiritual blessings on us, his Spirit lives in the hearts of those who hold firmly to Jesus, and he gently calls us to walk by faith with a soft and thankful heart - *My dear friends . . . continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.* - Philippians 2:12-13

In a 1962 game, New York Mets first baseman Marv Throneberry hit the ball far; he ran around the bases and wound up on third base, with an apparent triple. Yet the other team's shortstop called for the baseball, stepped on second base, and told the umpire he thought that Throneberry hadn't touched second base. The umpire agreed, so the batter was ruled out, and the triple didn't count.

When the Mets' manager came out to protest, the umpire told him, 'Don't complain or argue - he missed first base too.' We too missed first base, for we couldn't ever have found the way to God with human effort or human reasoning. Yet when we seek God in truth, he welcomes us and he gives our spirits *the peace of God, which transcends all understanding* (Philippians 4:7).

The Mets' manager was Casey Stengel, who was known for his sense of humor. So he jokingly asked whether his player could get credit for at least going one-out-of-three. The umpire laughed, but Casey's player was still out. Likewise, when we want to get credit for our talents and our actions, these cannot save us, and they in themselves cannot draw us closer with God - *If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: . . . a Hebrew of Hebrews . . . as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.* - Philippians 3:4-7

Yet when we humbly turn to Jesus and acknowledge our need for him to wash away our sins, God credits us with his righteousness, so that we may *be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ* (Philippians 3:9).

It is God who gives us life and breath and who gives us the gift of *the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord* (Philippians 3:8) when we hold firmly to him.

- Mark Garner



4581 Cleveland Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43231
(614) 410-5860

Website
 ncofamily.org

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Song To The Creator

You, all-accomplishing
Word of the Father
are the light of primordial
daybreak over the spheres.
You, the foreknowing
mind of divinity,
foresaw all your works
as you willed them,
your prescience hidden
in the heart of your power,
your power like a wheel around the world,
whose circling never began
and never slides to an end.

- Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179)



*He is your praise;
he is your God,
who performed for you those
great and awesome wonders....*

Deuteronomy 10:21

In God's Wisdom He Made Them All

This summer, some of Northland's members will be writing about things that God created, and what they tell us about our Heavenly Father and about our walk with him. This week, Steve Carver writes about a wooded scene and what it tells him about God.

A Peaceful Scene

I am looking at a picture of a peaceful and serene wooded area with a brook running through it and shafts of sunlight dancing on the water and forest floor. There are a few dead branches along the creek bank. In this picture I see God's unmatched power, knowledge, and wisdom in creating and sustaining the setting ... and it draws me closer to him.

For me, this image represents the incredible beauty that he wants to and does make of my life as I surrender and live for Him. This beauty, though, coexists with death and decay. The loss and decomposition of plants (flora) and animals (fauna) can have a positive effect on the life of the forest. In nature, the resulting recycling of the basic ingredients of life is critical for the health of the forest. So too, the death and disappearance of worldly thoughts and habits through personal decisions and the power of the Holy Spirit he planted in me are essential for my continued spiritual health and relationship with Him. Problems, persecutions, and especially personal failings disrupt my peace and sense of closeness to Him, as they can for all of us. Perhaps He is allowing them to help us reflect on our thoughts, priorities, and actions ... and on who is the true arborist of our lives.

Psalms 66:8-12; 68:19-20

Praise our God, all peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance ... Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.

In Revelation 21, John tells us that there is a new heaven and earth coming. Perhaps that new earth will include the kinds of scenery that now draw us close to him, whether it be a forest with a babbling brook, or the majesty of a mountain range or of blue-green ocean waves lapping playfully on the shore. If so, we will be able to say with characters from C.S. Lewis' *The Final Battle*, "That had a beginning and an end. It was only a shadow or a copy of the real Narnia which has always been here and always will be here: just as our own world, England and all, is only a shadow or copy of something in Aslan's real world ... I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this."

- Steve Carver

