

## Family Information

### Today's Sermon Title

*Put God First*

### Theme Passage

*Mark 12:28-30*

### Toddler Class

Thank you to all those who have offered to serve and teach in the toddler class on Sunday mornings! There will be a schedule up outside the classroom, please feel free to add your name to any remaining open spots.

### Contribution Statements

The contribution statements for 2018 are available in the church office. Please see Pam Estep or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement.

### Intimacy With God Thru The Psalms

Come explore the closeness of our God in this Spring Sunday morning Ladies Bible Class starting March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. in Room E31. All participants are welcome to share their favorite Psalm that assures us our God is near! Various women from the Body will facilitate the 13-week class. All are welcome to facilitate and join the class. See Karen Susenna or Robbie McVicker for further details.

### Women's Retreat Vision Setting and Planning

The second annual ladies retreat is scheduled for May 3-4h at the Heartland Retreat Center. Last year was a real highpoint of fellowship and learning and sharing for the ladies at Northland. Would you like to help set a vision and a direction for this year's Retreat? Come to Karen Susenna's house on Saturday, Feb. 16th from 10 a.m. to noon to brainstorm and kickoff Retreat planning. All are welcome! See Karen for more details.

### 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

## Calendar

### February

10 Single Sisters Lunch  
 15 TGIF 6:30pm  
 23 Snow Tubing At Mad River Mountain

### March

1 TGIF 6:30pm  
 6 Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30 am  
 10 Single Sisters Lunch  
 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins

### Thank You

Thank you to everyone who wrote to comfort us about the passing of my father, and to everyone who has been praying for us. It has been very comforting to know that many of you are praying and thinking of us. Thank you also for the thoughtful planter that the church sent to us.

- Mark & Linda Garner

### For The Month of February

**Invitation/ Responses:** Jim Robbins

**Foyer Duty:** Jack Evans

**Greeters:** Jeff and Robbie McVicker

### Communion Servers

Jake Bowman	Perry Coate
Jack Evans	Joshua Evans
Michael Evans	Mike Evans
John Lindsay	Paul Silva

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$6818	\$4941
<b>Designated:</b>	\$220	\$180



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## The Lord Looks At the Heart

*I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, I have chosen one of his sons to be king . . . When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord. - 1 Samuel 16: 1, 16:6*

As God sends the faithful priest Samuel to anoint Israel's next king, he shows him Jesse's sons one-by-one to reassure Samuel that God looks past height, strength, and earthly talents - *But the Lord said to Samuel, Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart. - 1 Samuel 16:7*

God looks at our hearts instead of outward appearances; our Father in heaven accepts us with all of our weaknesses and limitations and flaws. God knew the heart of David, Jesse's youngest - *Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, The Lord has not chosen these. So he asked Jesse, Are these all the sons you have? There is still the youngest, Jesse answered. He is tending the sheep. - 1 Samuel 16:10-11*

Jane Seabrook has published several books of her watercolors in her "Furry Logic" series. Each of her paintings is a detailed depiction of an animal (some furry, some feathery, and more) with a hint of a human expression, accompanied by a saying. Each one is a thoughtful look at the problems, fears, and simple joys of life. In one, a friendly blue-footed booby (a colorful, rather awkward-looking bird) is pictured with the caption, 'Be yourself. No one is better qualified.'

Human nature tries to look important and successful; yet God calls us instead to accept who we are, and to walk in the grace and love of Jesus. God loves each of us just for ourselves, and he asks us to give him the living offering of our hearts and minds, *Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God . . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12:1-2)*. God transforms each of us in his own way when we trust in him instead of in ourselves.

So there is no need to compare ourselves with one another, as another of Seabrook's paintings illustrates: a cute, rather unkempt-looking rockhopper penguin is shown with the saying, 'Always remember you are unique . . . ' - and on the next page the quote continues, 'just like everyone else', with an assortment of likeable rockhopper penguins. Though outwardly we may look quite different from one another, God considers each of us unique, special, and irreplaceable.

When David came before Samuel, *The Lord said, Rise and anoint him . . . and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully on David (1 Samuel 16:12-13)*. Likewise, God rejoices in everyone who turns to Jesus, so when we open our hearts to him, God 'anooints' us, he gives us his Spirit to live in us, and he prepares a place for each of us in his heavenly dwelling.

- 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. This week, we are talking with **Bobby Graham, Jr.**

**Q:** Hello Bobby; what scriptures have you been reading?

**Bobby:** I've been learning about atonement, and I started by reading through Exodus and Leviticus, to see what they say. This scripture stood out to me - *The life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life (Leviticus 17:11)*. The idea that 'the life is in the blood' reminded me of how Jesus shed his blood and died so that we could have life. We needed something a lot stronger than the Levitical sacrifices for complete atonement. It's humbling to realize that we couldn't have done this by ourselves, and it's encouraging to think about how Jesus himself made this possible.

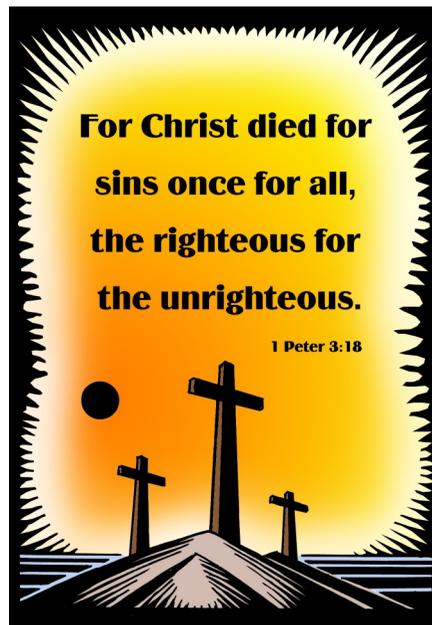
**Q:** Very true, it is both humbling and encouraging. What other scriptures have been helpful?

**Bobby:** I'm starting to look at New Testament verses about atonement, and how the gift of the Spirit fits in - *You, however are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you . . . If Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness (Romans 8:9-10)*, and it is amazing that God gives us his Spirit to live in us. I'm also starting to see how the Holy Spirit is more powerful than I've realized.

**Q:** More good thoughts. How would you summarize what you've learned from your recent studies?

**Bobby:** So far, they've helped me appreciate Jesus even more - *all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus (Romans 3:23-24)*. We could never have done this by ourselves, yet Jesus is the solution to everything.

Thank you, Bobby!  
(Bobby Graham, Jr. with Mark G.)



## The Pure In Heart Shall See God

*Blessed are the pure in heart:  
for they shall see God. - Matthew 5:8*

They shall see Him in the crimson flush  
Of morning's early light,  
In the drapery of sunset,  
Around the couch of night.

When the clouds drop down their fatness,  
In late and early rain,  
They shall see His glorious footprints  
On valley, hill and plain.

They shall see Him when the cyclone  
Breathes terror through the land;  
They shall see Him 'mid the murmurs  
Of zephyrs soft and bland . . .

They shall see Him when the trembling earth  
Is rocking to and fro;  
They shall see Him in the order  
The seasons come and go . . .

They shall see Him in the city  
Of gems and pearls of light,  
They shall see Him in his beauty,  
And walk with Him in white.

To living founts their feet shall tend,  
And Christ shall be their guide,  
Beloved of God, their rest shall be  
In safety by His side.

*- Frances Ellen Watkins Harper  
(excerpts), (1825-1911)*