

Family Information

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 form 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.

2nd Annual Ladies Renew & Refresh Retreat Friday May 3rd 7:00 p.m. - Saturday May 4th

Heartland Retreat Center, Marengo, Ohio. Cost is \$70 for the Retreat overnight stay and 3 meals. The first \$35 is due by March 24th. The final \$35 payment is due by April 14th. God makes us stronger and more beautiful in our broken places. Ladies are invited to join this 2 day retreat to grow closer to God and to each other. Please be praying that this retreat brings Glory to our Lord and Savior. Please make checks payable to Northland Church of Christ. Please give you payments to Vicki Cowans or Robbie McVicker

Spring Sunday AM Class

This Spring, the Sunday morning adult class will be "The One Who Calls Us Is Faithful", a study of 1 Thessalonians. The class is open to everyone, and it will be taught by several teachers. The Spring class begins on March 3, and it will meet in E41/42.

Calendar

March

1	TGIF 6:30pm
6	Singing At Willow Brook Home 10:30 am
10	Single Sisters Lunch
10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
15	Movie Night
22	Teen Game Night
31	Area Wide Worship At Spring Road

Hospitalized

Glenn Culler is in Dublin Methodist Hospital, room 3301. He had surgery last Tuesday and has requested no visitors at this time. Please continue to pray for his recovery .

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
General:	\$4953	\$5062
Designated:	\$250	\$184

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

Open Our Eyes, Lord

(With Thoughts On Acorns & "Plato's Cave")

When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. Oh no, my lord! What shall we do? the servant asked. Don't be afraid, the prophet answered. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them. - 2 Kings 6:15-16

We too may often feel surrounded by the world's meaningless ways, by its daily weariness and sorrows, and by the accuser's snares; yet God is near, his words teach us of unseen, eternal things, and he protects us with his unseen armor. Our Father in heaven patiently calls us to walk by faith in Jesus, so he may help us see what is real and true, and that he may give us what we really need.

Acorns at first look plain, lifeless, insignificant; yet inside is a seed that gives new life, along with the nourishment it will need to produce a trunk, leaves, and roots. God caringly packs all this into a small acorn that can produce a majestic oak tree. Likewise, within each of us God has planted a seed of faith, and he gives us the spiritual nourishment we need. God asks us to let him open the eyes of our hearts so that we may see his understanding and his splendor and his compassion - *And Elisha prayed, Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see. Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. - 2 Kings 6:17*

Centuries ago, the philosopher Plato gave an analogy that came to be known as "Plato's Cave". Plato said to imagine a group of people who live in a cave and who all of their lives have faced only the rear wall. All they have seen are shadows of people, animals, and objects, so they think that these shadows are reality. What they call a person is in fact a mere shadow of a person; what they call a cat is really a mere shadow of a cat. Likewise, the things our earthly eyes can see are just temporary appearances, scenery that quickly changes, mere shadows of reality - *the reality, however, is found in Christ (Colossians 2:17)*. Earthly possessions and earthly accomplishments quickly fade, so God calls us to *set your hearts on things above, where Christ is (Colossians 3:1)*.

Plato's analogy continues with one of the people from the cave going outside, then coming back to try to describe to the others what reality really looks like. Some of them don't believe him, while others want to know more.

Yet in a deeper and greater way, Jesus tells us about God and his nature, and he tells us truths too profound for human minds to have thought of. So our Heavenly Father reminds us - *Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him (Colossians 2:6-7)*. And when we let God open our eyes, he tells us of unseen, eternal things that comfort our spirits.

- 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. This week, we are talking with **Vicki Cowans**.

Q: Hello, Vicki! What scriptures have you been reading?

Vicki: I've been reading scriptures about prayer, and this spoke strongly to me - *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened (Matthew 7:7-8)* and it is helping me develop a new perspective on prayer. It's also encouraging that, *If you, then . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him (Matthew 7:11)*. If we can manage to be good to each other, how much more God wants to give us what is good.

Q: Very true, and encouraging to think about. What has it meant to you to ask, seek, and knock?

Vicki: God wants us to ask him because it is good for us to keep coming to him. It's not just pushing a button. Seeking reminds me of this scripture - *If my people . . . will humble themselves and pray and seek my face . . . then I will hear from heaven, and I will hear and will heal their land (2 Chronicles 7:14)*. And to me, knocking means wanting what is on the other side of the door - it means wanting more of God.

Q: More very good thoughts. Have any other scriptures especially helped you with prayer?

Vicki: It can be a constant battle to put myself completely in God's hands, yet this - *I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father will be glorified in the Son . . . If you love me, keep my commands (John 14:13-15)* reminds me that God wants us to love. God is helping me see something of God in everyone; and the more you love God, the more joyful it is to come to him.

Thank you, Vicki!
(Vicki Cowans with Mark G)



The Bread & The Cup Of The Lord

Over the past few weeks, some of Northland's members have been writing about what the Lord's Supper means to them, and about their thoughts as we take it together. This week, Isaac Kyeremateng shares his thoughts.

Eternally Significant Moments

What does the Lord's supper mean to me? The depths of its eternal value and substance has been barely scratched by my limited thinking and comprehension. However, as I have pondered the Lord's supper many times, the subject has taken on a very personal and meaningful note for me. In fact, the subject is personal because it reminds me of my mother.

Why my mother? Like Jesus, there was a particular encounter my mother and I had the night before her passing. This encounter was a prayer time. It was the last I had with her, never to behold her again. I do not remember the content of her prayer or the sound of her voice because I was only a preteen, but I remember her white dress, compassion for others, and strong belief and practice of prayer. Since this event, there have been some difficult times in my life where I believe the knowledge and power of my mother's prayers strengthened and carried me through. There have also been times where I have demonstrated some attributes that in retrospect are flowers now blooming because of the seeds of tender moments sowed by being with the person of my mother. Essentially, she lives in me by what she nurtured in me.

Like my mother's last prayer, the Lord's supper takes on a similar significance in my spiritual life. In this memorable supper of our Lord, Jesus, like my mother, shares His life with me; the very purpose for which He came to this earth as God incarnate to nurture and give me the life that I could never have birthed on my own. The invitation to commune with God with the knowledge and power of this memorial becomes my shield and my rampart against sin and many foes. Meeting Christ at the table gives me the inner strength to press on in this life. At the table, I am granted understanding into my past alienation, my current identity in Christ and whom I belong. Through this understanding, my life in the present becomes meaningfully infused with purpose. I am anchored in my being and in my soul because now I see the foreshadow of the bright future ahead.

Unlike Jesus however, my mother remains physically dead, but here, the Lord's supper takes on its full import to me because I am reminded that for this very purpose, God through Christ established His new covenant where sin's work of death is undone, the sting of death loses its paralyzing blow, and love through hope brings resurrection victory – that is what the Lord's supper means to me; understanding of my past, anchor for my present, hope and victory for my future.

“So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that . . . we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf . . .” Hebrews 6:17-20
Lifted up was He to die, “It is finished!” was His cry; Now in heaven exalted high; Hallelujah! what a Savior!

- Isaac Kyeremateng