

## Family Information

### From The Elders

After much thought and prayer, the Northland Church of Christ board of directors has made the decision to close the Northland Church of Christ Childcare. Although it may seem like a sudden decision it only comes after many months of prayer and discussion. This decision was not based on any one specific factor but on the combination of many. This was not an easy decision, but we believe it is in the best interest for the future of all concerned. Anyone who has questions or would like more information please contact one of the elders.

We want to acknowledge all the wonderful work of our directors, teachers, staff, and other supporters over the many years. We are thankful for the opportunities it created to teach the children of the community. We also want to thank all our members serving on the current childcare committee. It is this history of service that makes this a very difficult announcement to make. Continue to pray for our director and staff as they try to adjust to this change over the next several weeks. Pray that God will provide them needed employment. Pray that our parents and children will find suitable care going forward.

### Church Picnic Next Month

The next church picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, September 17 at the Blendon Woods Sycamore Pavilion. More details coming soon.

### New Small Group

If you would be interested in joining a new small group this fall or winter, please see the elders or Caleb.

### Work Day

The work/clean-up day that had been scheduled for Saturday, August 20th was postponed, and a new date will be determined soon. See Mike Evans for information.

### Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Spanish Worship 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Ghana Worship 12:00 PM  
 Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 PM

*For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.*

**Minister:** Caleb Dillinger  
**Elders:** 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:** Luis Valdez

## On Line Bible Studies

### Wednesday Service Meeting Schedule

The next service meeting will be on Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 PM. The first Wednesday of every month will be devoted to children's ministry, including Sunday ministry and our Child Care. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

### Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is in Philippians. Contact Karen for more details.

### Children's Classes

We now have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them will begin after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details.

The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. The classes already have teachers, so this is a good opportunity for training. These positions are staggered so that no one needs to serve for extended periods. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

### Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
<b>General:</b>	\$3552	\$4411
<b>Designated:</b>	\$75	\$42



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## With Jesus Himself As The Cornerstone

*You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household . . . with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. - Ephesians 2:19-20*

Jesus himself is the cornerstone of truth and grace, and in him all things hold together. We were exiles and strangers, sheep without a shepherd, so Jesus came to be our good Shepherd and he laid down his life to bring us reconciliation and redemption. He has brought us near to God - *You were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. - Ephesians 2:1-13*

Jesus is near with everyone who believes in his message, and he has brought us near to our Heavenly Father, who has made us his own children. As British poet Alfred Tennyson (1809-1892, his poems include "The Charge Of The Light Brigade" and "The Lady Of Shalott") writes, "Speak to Him, thou, for He hears, and Spirit with Spirit can meet - Closer is He than breathing, and nearer than hands and feet."

By bringing us near to our Creator, Jesus has brought us priceless blessings; he is our Lord and Savior, he was in very nature God yet he lived as one of us, and without him our lives are without enduring meaning or hope. As Tennyson wrote of Jesus, "In you meet human and divine, the highest, holiest union known. We falsely call our powers our own until our wills with yours combine." When we turn to Jesus, whether we were near or far, he brings us lasting peace - *He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. - Ephesians 2:17*

Our Heavenly Father surrounds us with reminders of his nearness, as Alfred Tennyson also says, "The sun, the moon, the stars, the seas, the hills and the plains - are not these, O soul, the Vision of Him who reigns?" Jesus is our cornerstone of compassion and understanding, and he opens the eyes of our hearts when we walk by faith in him. Alfred said, "Incarnate God, immortal Love, whom we, that have not seen your face, by faith, and faith alone, embrace."

For it is through love and understanding that God gives each of us life and joins together those who seek him with our hearts - *In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. - Ephesians 2:21-22*

There is no one like God, whose grace overflows to those who hold fast to his Son, and who gives us his own Spirit to live within us.

- Mark Garner

## Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilled.

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

- Julia Harriette Johnston, 1849–1919

*Writer and hymnist Julia Johnston published several books and wrote the words for over 300 hymns, as well as coordinating children's Bible classes.*

## O Lord, Thy Works Are All Divine

O Lord, Thy works are all divine;  
In wisdom hast Thou made them all;  
Earth's teeming multitudes are Thine;  
Thine—peopled oceans great and small.

All these on Thee for life depend;  
Thy Spirit speaks, and they are born;  
They gather what Thy bounties send;  
Thy hand of plenty fills the horn.

And Thou, my soul, with pure delight,  
Thy voice to bless thy Maker raise;  
His praise let morning sing to night,  
And night to morn repeat His praise.

- John Quincy Adams, 1767-1848

*In his personal diaries, John Quincy Adams frequently wrote poems about various subjects, including poems of praise to God based on the Psalms. Several were published after his passing; this is an excerpt from a poem based on Psalm 104.*

## Jesus, Our Good Shepherd

*Jesus is often described as our good Shepherd, for all of the ways he cares for us, guides us, and protects us. This week's article is from the Northland archives. It was written by Linda Chivington, and it appeared in the Northland bulletin on July 25, 1999; in it she writes about the way Jesus cleanses his flock. Linda and her family were members at Northland in the 1990s and early 2000s.*

(From The Northland Archives)

## A Portrait Of Goodness

*He who seeks good will finds good will, but evil comes  
to him who searches for it. - Proverbs 11:27*

*Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things.  
- Philippians 4:8*

Though no one is good but God alone, we are promised that a fruit of the Spirit is goodness. There is great beauty in a good heart. *No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart (Luke 6:43-35).*

"The Portrait of Dorian Gray" - Do you remember that movie? The main character "sold his soul" to remain youthful. In exchange for his good appearance, his portrait would age in his place. Not only did it age, but as his character became more evil and warped, his portrait did as well; eventually, his portrait was a grotesque and frightening thing, while he was mysteriously young and vibrant on the outside. All of his friends aged and wondered what was keeping him so good-looking. His heart, however, had lost its goodness, destroying the image in the painting.

Fortunately, for us as Christians, our "portrait" is spotless through the blood of Christ. We may age and change on the outside, but our soul's perfect image won't change! If we remain in Christ's love, God will always see us as good and clean in Jesus' blood, though we fall into sin at times. *Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day (2 Cor 4:16).*

- Linda Chivington (abridged), July 1999