

Family Information

Church Secretary Search

The elders are looking for one of the members of our congregation to be a part-time church secretary (for an average of 10 hours per week). If you are interested, give a resumé and cover letter to one of the elders in the next 2 weeks.

Wednesday Service Meeting This Week

There will be a service meeting this Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 PM. For September, the Children's Ministry and Outreach meetings will be combined (on Wednesday September 7 and Wednesday September 21). See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

Preview Of New Web Site

In the near future, Northland's new web site will be at ncocfamily.com, which will replace the current site, ncocfamily.org, in a few weeks. You can get a preview of the new site at ncocfamily.com, as Jack Evans and Becca Strawser continue transferring material from the old site. If you see any errors, broken links, or misinformation, please notify Jack @ (jevans@ncocfamily.org).

Church Picnic On September 17

The next church picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, September 17 at the Blendon Woods Sycamore Pavilion, beginning at 4:30 PM.

Potluck For Pam & Daryl Estep

Please mark your calendars for Sunday November 6th, for a Potluck immediately following services in the fellowship hall (rooms E41 & E42). We will be gathering to honor Pam and Daryl Estep for the many years they have served our congregation.

New Small Group

If you would be interested in joining a new small group (either being part of one or hosting one) this fall or winter, please see the elders or Caleb.

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

Work Day On September 24

There will be a church work/clean-up day on Saturday, September 24, beginning at 9:00 AM. More details will be coming soon; see Mike Evans for further information.

What's The Point Of 2 Kings?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb Dillinger and Mark Garner have each written one page on "What's The Point Of 2 Kings?"

Children's Classes

We currently have children's classes for ages 2-10 during worship (each of them begins after the Lord's Supper). See Mike Evans for further details. The children's education program needs helpers for all age groups. See Lynn Paden or Emily Graham if you can help.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5561	\$4405
Designated:	\$75	\$43



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Water Gushing Forth ...

Water Gushing Forth In The Burning Sands

Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, Be strong, do not fear; your God will come. - Isaiah 35:3-4

Our hands and our knees often give way, yet God will always come to steady us and reassure us of his nearness. This world's noise and coldness often makes our hearts fearful, yet our Heavenly Father will come whenever we call on him in truth; when we seek him humbly he will open the eyes and ears of our hearts as he carries us through this world's storms and trials - *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. - Isaiah 35:5*

In 2010, National Geographic ran a collection of articles about water, the importance of water, and how some areas were dealing with water shortages. One was about several towns in Peru that were continually cloaked with fog, yet they had scarce rainfalls and no other water source, so they had to have water shipped in by trucks. Then some scientists came up with a solution.

They began hanging cloths and rags outdoors, then used multi-layered sheets, to filter water out of the air and funnel it into receptacles. As they developed the process, it provided for their daily needs and also enabled them to plant new trees that will help for the future. They called this process "harvesting fog", and it is now used in similar places as well.

Similarly, though we must endure this world's deserts of harshness and futility, when we ponder God's words and the many ways he shows us his compassion and care, God makes the living water of Jesus gush forth to reassure us and to nourish our souls - *Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. - Isaiah 35:6*

When poet Luci Shaw (1928-present) read about "harvesting fog", she used it as theme for a poem. She writes "Lord, as I wait, let your thoughts, like doves from a dovecote, fly through some orifice into my heart." For when we trust in God instead of in this world's thinking and outward appearances, he can transform this world's burning sands into springs of the water of life - *The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. - Isaiah 35:7*

Of this world's spiritual drought, Luci Shaw wrote, "How to re-hydrate the drying world? Might the vapor of prayer contain enough moisture to dampen the deserts? . . . How to be so soaked in the mist of Spirit." God alone can 're-hydrate' our souls, and when we stay close with him in prayer and put our trust in the message of Jesus, he will show us his highway of truth and grace - *And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. - Isaiah 35:8*

This world is full of false hopes and false promises, yet God continually renews us, and his highway leads us to eternal life with him.

- Mark Garner

A Word Of Prayer

A word of prayer when the day begins
Brings a day of blessing sure;
A word of prayer when the twilight dims
Brings a night of rest secure.

A word of prayer when the heart is sad
Brings you comfort, peace and rest;
A word of prayer when the days are glad
Adds a joy to hours most blest.

A word of prayer when the heart is lone
Brings a Friend to understand;
A word of prayer when your strength is gone
Brings the clasp of a mighty hand.

- Frances Sara McKinnon Morton, 1869-1950

Writer and poet Frances Morton wrote books and poetry for both children and adults. She also wrote a weekly column for local newspapers.

O Thou, To Whom All Creatures Bow

O Thou, to whom all creatures bow
Within this earthly frame,
Thro' all the world, how great art Thou!
How glorious is Thy name!

When Heav'n, Thy beauteous work on high,
Employs my wondering sight;
The moon that nightly rules the sky,
With stars of feebler light;
Lord, what is man, that Thou shouldst deign
To bear him in Thy mind!

- Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

Irish poet and playwright Nahum Tate is best known for his adaptation of William Shakespeare's "King Lear", and he was named poet laureate in 1692. This poem is based on Psalm 8; it is part of a series of poems based on the Psalms.

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, Paula Robbins writes about how we can recognize our Shepherd's voice.

The Sheep Know His Voice

He who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep . . . The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. - John 10:2-4 (ESV)

Jesus describes the scene of a shepherd arriving to a communal sheep pen, calling to his sheep. His sheep eagerly respond and follow him because they recognize their shepherd's voice. Several of our recent articles have noted that sheep are not the brightest creatures. How do they recognize the shepherd's voice with such certainty? How can they have such a trusting relationship with their shepherd?

One way is by constant exposure. They spend most of their time in the presence of their shepherd; they "do life" with him. We learn to recognize our Shepherd's voice in the same way. That doesn't mean that our Bible study must be confined to the "red letters" of the four Gospels nor only to other writings of the Apostles and early disciples. We are told Jesus participated with God the Father in the creation (Colossians 1:16) and that he shares God's exact nature (John 14:9; Philippians 2:5-6). Everything we learn of God's nature and heart from Genesis to Malachi reflects the nature of our Shepherd and helps us recognize his voice.

The sheep grow in their recognition of the shepherd's voice and confidence in his care as they follow him. True recognition and trust are always accompanied by action. We are assured that our Shepherd is leading us and has personally experienced everything that we will experience in this life as well as our promised resurrection from the dead (Hebrews 4:15; 1 Corinthians 15:20). We are also taught that being part of God's flock involves obedience to God's direction and doing the things that he asks of us (Ephesians 2:10; James 1:23-27; 2:14-19).

The shepherd calls his sheep by name. God doesn't love us only as part of a collective flock, but individually. He responds to our love for him with very personal knowledge of us (1 Corinthians 8:3). He responds to our individual limitations with patience and tender care (Psalm 103:13-14; Isaiah 40:11). He not only knows us, but "he will exult over you with loud singing" (Zephaniah 3:17). It would be crazy to resist such exuberant love, but sometimes we do.

Which makes me really appreciate the shepherd that Jesus describes in Luke 15:4-7. He is a shepherd who is fiercely determined to come for us when we stray. It doesn't matter if our absence from the flock is because of fatigue, illness, injury, distraction, or stubborn rebellion, he is going to come for us. And when we submit to him and allow him to return us to his flock, we will be met with rejoicing rather than reprimand and punishment. His forgiveness and restoration are as lavish as every other manifestation of his love for us.

There are so many voices in our lives that are trying to influence us and gain our loyalty. None of these can offer us what our Good Shepherd will give us. Let's commit our hearts to his voice.

- Paula Robbins