

Family Information

Wednesday Outreach Meeting This Week

There will be a Wednesday Outreach Meeting this week, on February 1 at 6:30 PM. See Jeff or Caleb if you have any questions.

Contribution Statements For 2022 Available

Contribution statements for 2022 are available in the church office for anyone who used offering envelopes or gave online. See Ashley Dillinger or Glenn Culler to pick up your statement. Call or email the church office if you would like your statement mailed to you.

Faith-Based Book Club Beginning In February

Caleb is putting together a faith-based book club that is open to the church and the community. The first book up for discussion is "Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense" by N.T. Wright. The book club will meet in the fellowship room (E41-42) on Saturday, February 11, from 1:30-3:00 PM.

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.

On Line Bible Studies

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 Acts. Contact Karen for more details.

New Web Site

Northland's new web site (ncocfamily.com) has now replaced the old site (ncocfamily.org). If you enter the old site address, you will be automatically redirected to the new one. Some of the material from the old web site needs to be re-uploaded, and the process will be completed in the near future. See Jack Evans if you have any questions.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$1653	\$4735
Designated:	\$0	\$17

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

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

The Lord Our Maker Comforts Us

The heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment . . . But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail. - Isaiah 51:6

Someday this world and its appearances will vanish like a mist, yet God and his words will last forever. This world's circumstances change constantly, yet our Heavenly Father's compassion never fails, and his truths and the purposes of his heart remain the same.

British physicist and space scientist Robert Lewis Fullarton Boyd (1922-2004, he started one of the earliest space science laboratories and later helped start the European Space Agency) also often spoke and wrote articles and poems about the message of Jesus. Boyd was awed both by the vastness and detail of God's creation and also by God's mindfulness of each of us.

Robert writes of God's eternal nature, "Beyond all time . . . And all that is and all that ever was And all that yet will be . . . In the beginning was the Word of God", and he writes of how we see God's wisdom and care in his creations, "The Word of God; Reason, Design and Form, Intelligence, Whose workshop spans the stars, Expressed within the Cosmos and alike In what seems chaos."

For it is indeed the Lord our Creator who made the skies and the stars and the earth and everything in it, and who also gives us peace and hope and spiritual comfort amidst this world's chaos—I, even I, am he who comforts you . . . the Lord your Maker, who stretches out the heavens and who lays the foundations of the earth. - Isaiah 51:12-13

Robert Boyd was also moved by God's desire for each of us to have the chance to know him, and how he makes that possible. He wrote, "Who is this God and can this God be known within the confines of a human skull . . . Can man know God eternally enthroned throughout all space and in the great beyond?" Our Heavenly Father knows each of us by name and he gives the choicest spiritual blessings to those who walk by faith in Jesus—*For I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar. . . I have put my words in your mouth and covered you with the shadow of my hand.* - Isaiah 55:15-16

In his unfailing compassion the Son of God came to live among us, and to bring us the good news of salvation. As Robert writes, "Jesus comes to those who seek for God and still He answers as He did of old, I've been with you so long . . . When you've met Me you've seen the eternal God, met Him as Father too, as He who cares and loves and longs for (you) . . . God has come."

I who set the heavens in place, who laid the foundations of the earth, and who say to Zion, You are my people. - Isaiah 51:16

Our Savior has come to live among us, and God has made us his own children.

- Mark Garner



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Not So In Haste My Heart

Not so in haste my heart!
Have faith in God, and wait;
Although He linger long,
He never comes too late.

He never cometh late;
He knoweth what is best;
Vex not thyself in vain;
Until He cometh, rest.

Until He cometh, rest,
Nor grudge the hours that roll;
The feet that wait for God
Are soonest at the goal.

Are soonest at the goal
That is not gained with speed;
Then hold thee still, my heart,
For I shall wait His lead.

- Bradford Torrey, 1843-1912

Writer and editor Bradford Torrey was best known for writing several books about birds.

God's Holy Book, The Bible

What light is this whose constant ray
Reveals to travelers lost the way
To mansions of eternal day?
God's holy book, the Bible.

What faithful chart on life's rough sea,
What compass true where'er we be,
What anchor for eternity?
God's holy book, the Bible.

- Martha Mills Newton, 1861-1947

This is an excerpt from one of several dozen hymns written by poet and music teacher Martha Newton.

A New Heart & A New Spirit

In Ezekiel 36, God tells us that he will give us a new heart and a new spirit when we realize our need for him and turn to him humbly. This week, Dot Duncan writes about God's promise to make us new creations through Jesus.

Behold, You are a New Creation in Christ

Have you ever traded an old car in for a newer model? What were your feelings as you sat in the office with the salesperson? Were they a mixture of excitement and fear; excitement because you were getting a new car, and fear because you were not sure if you were getting the best deal. I would like to liken our new relationship with God to the trade-in of an old car for a new one. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 anyone who is in Christ is described as a new creation.

Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ . . . he is a new creation . . . the old . . . has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself . . . and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation . . . It was God . . . in Christ, reconciling . . . the world to favor with Himself, not counting up . . . their trespasses . . . and committing to us the message of reconciliation . . . So we are Christ's ambassadors . . . We . . . beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor . . . and be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Christ to be sin Who knew no sin, so that . . . through Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Firstly, we'll never need to concern ourselves with whether we got the better deal with God or not, for He exchanged His best for us (His First-born Son).

Secondly, God promised us that every person in Christ, is a new creation; the old moral and spiritual condition has passed and a new refreshing one has emerged. This is the inner working of God. We cannot do this within ourselves! God has given those in Christ His righteousness, holiness, grace, etc. The old car has been replaced!

Thirdly, the new car has more features than the old one (probably more than you will ever use LOL). But how will you learn which features you have and how to use them? The Owner's Manual! As you read the manual, you may discover, there are features that you were unaware of- "I didn't know the car could . . ." The Bible is the manual for "those who are in Christ". As we study the Scriptures, God reveals more of Himself and His will for our lives. For example, "I didn't know that God promised . . ." We are always discovering new and exciting things about God.

The car's owner manual has very little value if we leave it in our glove compartment, never read it and/or depend on others to show us the features. The manual is filled with information and illustrations of the features that are waiting to be discovered. The Bible is filled with exciting stories about God. Additionally, it is a guide for everyday living. These things are awaiting our discovery!

Fourthly, we usually share the news about our new car. God has entrusted us with His Ministry of Reconciliation so that we might bring others into harmony with Him through our actions and His words. God is making His appeal through us to share the favor He has shown us. We have traded our old life for a new one in Christ. We will never get a better deal in life than what God has given us in Christ.

- Dot Duncan