

Family Information

Food Pantry

The food Pantry is in need of the following: **jelly**, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pancake mix, pancake syrup, hot cereal, tea, bar soap, canned spaghetti O's and canned pasta.

Bridal Shower

There will be a Bridal Shower for Anna Grafton on April 16th at 2 p.m. in the annex. See Linda Chivington for registry information.

Attention Men

On Sunday, April 14th, the elders are asking all men that take part in our worship service to meet in the auditorium at 9:30 a.m. This will be a time for practical instruction to improve the quality of our services.

Small Group Leaders

Small Group Leaders will meet today at 4 p.m. not 4:30 p.m.

Change In Format For Small Groups

In an effort to increase the continuity and effectiveness of our small groups, the elders and staff have decided to discontinue the first Sunday at the building. We will have special activities for the church once a quarter. The first will be in June (check calendar). The small groups will meet as scheduled tonight.

Special Events

Twice a year we will have a special weekend of spiritual growth. One will be a worship and praise weekend. We will have a guest worship leader to lead us in a praise weekend. Corey Risley from Charlotte, NC will be with us in late spring (date coming soon). In the fall we will have Buddy Bell from Montgomery, AL. He will be with us for a church growth weekend.

Communion Servers For April

Steve Carver	Bill Chavis
Jack Dunkin	Chris Durr
Robby Freeman	Steve Fuller
Cleveland Reed	Lloyd Snyder

For The Month Of April

Announcements: Kevin Chivington
Visitors Table: Chappell
Greeter: McMasters
Foyer Duty: Ingland

Northland Life Groups

Location	Contact Ph.	Leader	Meets
Thorne Home	(614) 818-5454	Ray Thorne	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 6 pm
Butler Home	(614) 890-7721	Tom Barnhardt	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 6 pm.
Coate Home	(614) 885-1988	Perry Coate	Every other Monday at 7:30 pm.
Church Building	(614) 475-0161	Roy Estep	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th Weds 10:30 am.
Church Building	(614) 475-0161	Roy Estep	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 5:30 pm
Smith Home	(614) 898-7987	Billie Thorne	Every other Tuesday at 6:30 pm.
Chivington Home	(614) 823-5596	Kevin Chivington	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 6 pm.
McDaniel Home	(614) 785-1321	Jason McDaniel	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 7 pm.
Various Homes	(614) 523-2258	Troy Blair	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 5:30 pm.
Allen Home	(614) 764-8542	Wilbur Allen	2nd, 3rd, 4th Sunday at 6:00 pm

Elders:

Wilbur Allen
Tom Barnhardt
Frank Chappell
Roy Estep
Ray Thorne

Evangelists:

Ron Adams
Tom Barnhardt

Youth

Minister:
Troy Blair

Deacons:

Brian Arnold
John Bradley
Lynn Champney
Kevin Chivington
Darrell Estep
Jack Evans
Mike Evans
Lou Lawrence
John Lindsay
Jack Mauersberg
Beryl McMasters
Mark Morris

Contributions

Last Week	\$6295
Average	\$6452
Russia	\$691
Average	\$310
Youth	\$270
Average	\$229

Attendance

Sunday Class	151
Sunday Worship	290
Weds	136
Life Groups	-

Services

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Life Group 5:30 p.m.
(Communion Served)
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

northlandchurchofchrist.com

April

- 3 Deacons' Meeting 8:00 am
- 3 L.G. Leaders 4:00 pm
- 3 Day Light Savings Time Begins
- 6 50's Plus Meeting
- 14 Christian Women's Fellowship
- 15 Rochester College Preview Day
- 17 50's Plus Eat Out Sunday"
- 20 50's Plus Meeting
- 24 Honduras Planning Meeting
At Spring Road

N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 14, Number 14

April 3, 2005



4581 Cleveland Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43231
(614) 475-0161

Grace In The Night

"The evening and the morning were the first day" (Genesis 1:5).

Was it so even in the beginning? Did light and darkness divide the realm of time in the first day? Then it is little wonder if I also have changes in my circumstances, from the sunshine of prosperity to the midnight of adversity. It will not always be the blaze of noon, even in my soul concerns. I must expect at seasons to mourn the absence of my former joys, and seek my Beloved in the night. Nor am I alone in this, for all the Lord's beloved ones have had to sing the mingled song of judgment and of mercy, of trial and deliverance, of mourning and of delight.

It is one of the arrangements of divine providence that day and night shall not cease, either in the spiritual or natural creation, till we reach the land of which it is written, *"there is no night there."* What our heavenly Father ordains is wise and good.

What, then, my soul, is it best for you to do? Learn first to be content with this divine order, and be willing, with Job, to receive evil from the hand of the Lord as well as good. Study next to make the outgoings of the morning and the evening to rejoice. Praise the Lord for the sun of joy when it rises, and for the gloom of evening as it falls.

There is beauty both in sunrise and sunset: sing of it, and glorify the Lord. Like the nightingale, pour forth your notes at all hours. Believe that the night is as useful as the day.

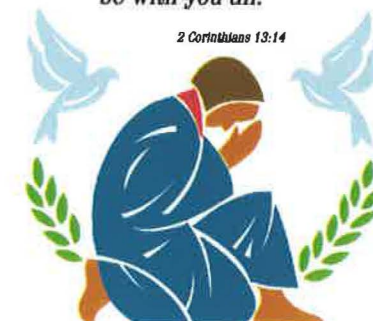
The dews of grace fall heavily in the night of sorrow. The stars of promise shine forth gloriously amid the darkness of grief. Continue your service under all changes.

If in the day your watchword be "labor," at night exchange it for "watch." Every hour has its duty, so continue in your calling as the Lord's servant until He shall suddenly appear in His glory. My soul, your evening of old age and death is drawing near, dread it not, for it is part of the day; and the Lord has said, *"I will cover him all the day long."*

Charles H. Spurgeon
From *Morning and Evening*

*May the grace of the
Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of
God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*

2 Corinthians 13:14



HE'S GOING TO DUST ME!

A little while back Mason our great nephew and Christopher our grandson were playing. Both are three and one half years old. Christopher had a feather duster and was messing around with it and Mason came running in hollering, "Help, he's going to dust me!" Now Mason really wasn't afraid of the duster, he was just being silly or wanting some attention.

That incident however made me start thinking about human nature. You really don't have to be very smart to figure out that people sometimes choose that of which they want to be afraid (or not) to suit them. The things of which people choose to be afraid don't have to make sense; they don't even have to be any real threat. But sometimes those things mask deeper fears they may have.

How many times throughout the years have you heard someone say, "If I walked into a church the roof would fall in"? I have never taken that statement seriously from anyone who has said it to me. What they are saying most of the time is, "I don't want to go there, I might be convicted and have to change my life in some way". Or they might be saying, "I don't want to be around all of those people who know what kind of person I really am". There could be a multitude of reasons behind that particular question couldn't there?

There are lots of people who are truly afraid! Sometimes they are afraid to step out of their "comfort zone". So much so that sometimes it's easier to be miserable and complain rather than to take a chance and try to change something about their life. And of course I am concerned more with your relationship to God and finding strength in Him!

So, of what are you afraid? Is it a real fear or only one you set in place to avoid doing something you just don't want to do or don't feel comfortable doing? Come on now, you're more mature than a three year old aren't you? Surely you can face up to the reality of what God asks from you is not to give up your life, but to receive a better life than the one to which your are holding so desperately?

Jesus said in John 10:9-10, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly". One translation of this verse has Jesus saying, " My purpose is to give life in all its fullness". In Romans 8:14-15 the apostle Paul reminds us, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. So you should not be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family, calling him "Father, dear Father."

So how about it, what is it of which you are really afraid? Is there anything from which God can't protect you if you are his? Of course not! So, how about stepping out in faith and do something beyond your wildest dreams for God!

- Russ Lawson,
Greenville (Ohio) Church of Christ

Youth Announcements

F.O.G. tonight is at the Yates residence. The bus is leaving Northland at 5 p.m.

Thanks to all who helped make the Resurrection Celebration a great time for the children.

Thanks to those who participated in the 30 Hour Famine: Stephanie Maynard, Kasey Dunkin, Amanda Evans, Kirstin Evans, Evan Arnold, Adrian Fisch, Corneshea Fudge. Over \$500 was sent to World Vision to help with Tsunami relief.

THE ALPHA & THE OMEGA
AN INTRODUCTION TO REVELATION

Week Six: Return to Your First Love (Revelation 2:1-7)

The first of the seven churches that John addresses is the one in Ephesus. He praises them for their hard work, for their endurance, and for many other things, yet in the end he must deliver a strong warning to them about their spiritual condition, because they have forsaken their first love. For all of their activity and accomplishments, it was not God himself that they loved.

It is important to note that these seven letters to different congregations are an integral part of Revelation's plan and purpose. They are by no means a mere preface to the visions that follow, but rather are the reason for those visions. Each of the seven congregations is at a different point in their spiritual journey, but in each case it is one that is common to many believers and many churches in any age. Several were experiencing spiritual disorders, problems that could best be addressed by understanding the spiritual importance of the visions that followed. Others needed to be ready to endure persecution or to take advantage of important opportunities, and so they too needed the strong exhortations that John would provide, to maintain a godly and eternal perspective.

The church in Ephesus is certainly typical of many individual Christians as well as many congregations (2:1-7). They had no problem getting involved in ministry, enduring problems, and dealing with divisions. In fact, they are praised for these and for other things as well. But, in their hearts, what they really loved best was not God. They loved the work, they loved themselves, and they loved each other, more than they loved God – and that is where their problem was.

God describes their problem with a significant phrase, saying that they "have forsaken their first love." As God's people have known for centuries, the greatest command is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Love for God is the beginning of everything that is spiritually worthwhile. In the midst of our activities, ministries, and daily lives, it is crucial to our spiritual well-being that we take time to nurture and strengthen our love for God.

In the case of the Ephesian congregation, God warns them that they might even lose their "lampstand", that is, their identity as a people of God. This could happen in spite of their many good works, and in spite of their sound teachings and their resistance to false teachers such as the Nicolaitans (whose specific teachings are not now known, but who are known to have caused many disruptions to the church).

The Ephesians thus are urgently called to listen and to repent, with the kind of phrase so often used by Jesus, "he who has an ear, let him hear". Let us likewise learn this lesson. It is all too easy for us to evaluate ourselves and our ministries by human, earthly standards. It is all too easy to view Christianity as if it consisted of all the actions that we perform. But let us use our ears to hear this reminder that nothing else matters if we do not love the Lord our God.

- Mark Garner

Be Continually In Prayer

- Jodi Bridges** - Please keep her in your prayers.
Danielle Clark - Pray for her as she undergoes treatment for a growth in her breast.
Debra Clark - Pray for her Aunt, Gloria Cole. She is experiencing health problems.
Kristin & Dave Maynard - Please pray for Kristin's sister, Jamie Payne. She is in Riverside Hospital with cellulitis in her leg. Also pray for peace for Kristin's mother, Judy Payne, and that Kristin can be a spiritual and emotional support to both of them.
Judy Graham - Please pray for 2 co-workers who are having health problems.
Stephanie Carver - Please pray for Keith Barnett's Grandmother Mary. She has leukemia and is not doing well.
Andrew Ricard - Please continue to pray for him. He is in the Ross Heart Hospital.