

## Family Information

### Food Pantry

The food Pantry is in need of the following: **jelly**, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pancake mix, pancake syrup, powdered milk (in 1 qt packages), hot cereal.

### Area Wide Worship

It's that time again! The chance for all of us to get together to encourage one another and praise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and God the Father! Please spread the word to your friends and announce in your home congregations about the combined worship of central Ohio churches of Christ this Sunday evening, January 30, 2005. This event will be eagerly hosted by the Alum Creek Church in Lewis Center and will begin at 6:00 pm. A time of fellowship will be enjoyed afterwards and refreshments will be served. The congregation at Alum Creek looks forward to having you all over to 'our house' for a wonderful evening of fellowship,

praise and encouragement!

The Alum Creek congregation is located at:  
6256 South Old State Road  
Lewis Center, Ohio 43035

### Elder's Prayer

Tom Barnhardt will be leading the Elder's Prayer during the month of February. Please call your prayer requests into the office or give them to Tom on a 3 x 5 card before the beginning of services next Sunday.

### Hospitalized

Ivana Osei-Sarpong is in Children's Hospital.  
Jack Mauersberg is in Riverside Hospital.  
John Lindsay is in Riverside Hospital.

### Communion Servers For January

John Appiah	James Asiedu
Jonas Bosompen	Steve Carver
Steve Fuller	Alex Apoku
Agabus Poku	Stephen Simms

### For The Month Of January

**Announcements:** Barnhardt  
**Visitors Table:** Adams  
**Greeter:** Lindsay  
**Foyer Duty:** J Evans

## 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.
Brown 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.
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	\$5233
Average	\$6474

Russia	\$195
Average	\$252

Youth	\$260
Average	\$226

### Attendance

Sunday Class	129
Sunday Worship	193
Weds	112
Life Groups	48

### Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening	5:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening	7:00 p.m.

northlandchurchofchrist.com

# N O R T H L A N D Messenger

Volume 14, Number 5

January 30, 2005

Northland Church of Christ  
4581 Cleveland Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43231  
(614) 475-0161

## Ex Drunkard...

### EX-DRUNKARD ANSWERS AGNOSTIC

A good many years ago now, Sam Jones walked out on a platform in Brooklyn before 7,000 people to answer the famous doubter of God's existence, Bob Ingersoll.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "I have this answer to give to Mr. Ingersoll. A few years ago I was kicked out of the back door of a saloon, and I lay all night in the alley, reeking with filth.

"I had drunk the clothes off of my children's backs, the food out of their mouths, and the roof from over their heads. I had drunk the bloom out of my wife's cheeks, and the light of heaven out of her eyes, and the hope out of her life. I was a miserable derelict.

"One day, as I staggered along, I saw a group of people wearing red hat-bands and beating tambourines. I listened and heard them singing the gospel songs. This old drunkard fell on his face and a good woman, whose name I did not know, began to pray.

"Something happened to Sam Jones, the drunkard. It put me on my feet and made me live like a man. It bought my wife a little home and gave my children food and clothes. It put me in tabernacles to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.

"Mr. Ingersoll," asked Evangelist Sam Jones, "can you tell me what got into old Sam Jones that day?"

The agnostic had the courage to say, "You've got me. I don't know what it was."

Sam Jones replied, "I'll tell you what it was. Jesus Christ came and got hold of my soul, and changed the old drunkard - that's what it was."

Sparks

"Thy word is a  
lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto  
my path."

Psalm 119:105



NOTHING BUT LEAVES

One of the most unusual stories in the New Testament is that of the cursing of the fig tree found in Mark 11:12-33. It seems, on first reading, so out of character for our Lord to curse a fig tree for the simple reason given in verse 13, *“he found nothing but leaves.”*

First, we read in verse 12, *“He was hungry.”* This demonstrates His humanity and implies His humility. We must remember that Jesus is fully man as well as fully God. He is the “God-Man.”

He expected fruit, particularly figs. Nothing satisfies hunger like a ripe fig picked straight from the tree. Matthew 21:19 reminds us that this tree was beside the road, which implies it was public property.

What did Jesus find? *“He found nothing but leaves...”* (v. 13). It is breathtaking to see the foliage in the fall, but these leaves were green, not golden brown. The late evangelist Ron Dunn shares, “The fig tree bore two crops of fruit...: One before the leaves, one with leaves. This tree was sporting leaves, so Jesus had every right to expect fruit. By its external signs it claimed to be fulfilling its God-given function.”

Verse 14 records Jesus’ curse upon this fruitless fig tree: *“(He) said to it, ‘Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.’”*

After this drastic action against the tree, we read in verses 15 through 19 that Jesus then drove the merchandisers and moneychangers out of the Temple – also known as “the House of Prayer.” Sadly, commerce had crowded out communion and communication with God and these Israelites had become unfruitful, like the fig tree. In verses 27-33 we discover that many “religious” leaders questioned Jesus’ authority to do such a thing. But Jesus stood firm in His resolve to please His Father.

Finally, in verses 20-26, Jesus explained the meaning of his actions, teaching about faith (22-24) and forgiveness (25-26). Both faith and forgiveness are absolutely necessary for us to have a fruitful Christian life.

Lucy E. Akerman (1816-1874) has written: “Nothing but leaves! The Spirit grieves o’er years of wasted life; o’er sins indulged while conscience slept, o’er vows and promises unkept, And reaps, from years of strife – nothing but leaves! Nothing but leaves!”

May it never be said of us: “nothing but leaves”!

Franklin L. Kirksey  
(Tibbie, Alabama)

Youth Announcements

There will be a Super Bowl party and devotional at the Yates residence on 2/6/05 from 4-9 p.m. Guys bring soda, gals bring a snack.

The next NYM Café is scheduled for 2/4/05 from 8:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.

High School Hang Out is on 1/30/05. Parents should pick up their students after Area Wide Worship at Alum Creek.

No F.O.G. tonight. Everyone is encouraged to attend the Area Wide Worship at Alum Creek.

MOUNT ZION & MOUNT ESAU:  
THE BOOK OF OBADIAH

Week Five: The Certainty of Judgment (Obadiah 1:5-9)

Obadiah next stresses the certainty of God's judgment (1:5-9). Not only will there be no escape for the Edomites, but the fall of Edom will be worse than if mere thieves had attacked them. The prophet foresees a thorough ransacking of Edom, with less remaining to them than there is in a field that has just been harvested. In its pride, Edom thought that it was completely secure, and the Edomites felt that they were safe to do as they pleased without worrying about retribution. They thought that their neighbors could do little, if anything, to harm them - yet the prophet tells them that in fact the whole nation can be eliminated in a moment, if and when it is God's will to do so.

Moreover, Edom will be betrayed by those it had considered friends and allies. Edom's leaders had enjoyed currying favor with other pagan nations, thinking that this gained them additional safety, but in the end Edom would be destroyed by these nations. Israel itself had learned this harsh lesson a number of times in its own history. The temptation to develop closeness with and dependence on powerful pagan nations often overcame Israel's better judgment. In most cases, it led to some small gains in the short term, but later on proved to be severely damaging.

Worldly friendships are just not the same as those based on a mutual belief and faith in God. Yet many Christians are exactly like the ancient Edomites and Israelites, in seeking the favor of the worldly who live around them. Because there have always been more unbelievers than believers, there is always a temptation to please the majority, and to do so can often give us a false sense of security. Yet the Scriptures repeatedly emphasize that we are not to be friends with the world, and we are not to be like the world. Their opinion of us only matters insofar as we ought not to do anything that brings disrepute on the church of Jesus Christ. Beyond that, it should not concern us whether the world likes either us, our church, or the ways that we serve God.

For, as the prophet warned Edom, God's judgment is certain. The things of this world will pass away, and each of us will be judged. There is a heaven for the faithful and a hell for the ungodly. The worldly do not believe these things, and they live their lives accordingly. Thus their influence on us can only be to draw us away from eternal, spiritual things. To seek to please the world will inevitably mean that we seek things of this world - whether possessions, entertainment, or renown - rather than devoting ourselves to seeking the things of God.

We ought therefore to renounce not only worldly ways, but also worldly perspectives. The Edomites viewed the world as a place to exploit for their own advantage, and they were destroyed as a result. We ought instead to view the world as a lost and dying planet, in which we, if we set the right example, can be a source of light and eternal hope.

- Mark Garner, January 2005

Be Continually In Prayer

- Rose Fudge - Please continue to pray for Jodi Bridges.
- Antwon Fudge - Pray for my Aunt Jackie that she comes closer to God.
- Corneshea Fudge - Pray that I stop putting myself in front of God.
- Roy Estep - One of our brothers in Christ, Lyle Shakelford, is Captain of HHD 57th Transportation Battalion in Iraq. He and his men will be delivering voting machines to many of the cities in Iraq this week. He has requested prayers for their safety. Also pray for the elections in Iraq