

Family Information

Food Pantry

The food Pantry is in need of the following: **jelly**, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pancake mix, pancake syrup, hot cereal, coffee, tea.  
**Welcome Home** - There will be a welcome home celebration for Kevin Taylor in the annex on Friday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. Kevin is returning home from Kosovo and is excited to see some familiar faces. There will be pizza and cake as it will be a great night of fellowship and a great night of showing thanks to Kevin for his service. Everyone is invited! If you have any questions, please direct them to Theresa Taylor or Steve and Rachel Fuller.  
**New Pictorial Directories**—The Pictorial Directories will be available after services in the foyer for those who had their pictures taken by Olan Mills.  
**Congratulations** - Lauren Chivington was baptized Sunday.  
**Sympathy** - We want to express our sympathy to Lora Bradley at the death of her grandfather.  
**Ladies** - Ladies of Northland and friends are invited to our Soup and Salad Luncheon this Sunday, February 27 at the home of Sandy

Arnold from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please bring a salad or soup to share. RSVP to Sandy Arnold or Lora Bradley. We look forward to a great time of food and fellowship.  
**Drivers Needed**—Northland is in need of people willing to obtain their commercial driver's license so we may utilize the bus more. If interested see Tom Barnhardt.  
**Easter Lilies**—On Easter Sunday we will once again have a beautiful display of Memorial Easter Lilies on the stage during Worship. Lilies can be ordered in memory of a loved one for \$6. The names of those who are being memorialized will be in the bulletin that morning. After morning worship on Easter you may take your lily home or give it to another loved one or someone who could use encouragement.  
  
If you would like to order a Lily in memory of a loved one you may do so at the desk in the lobby for the next two weeks. You may also see Tanya Roberts or Diana Morris to place your order. We will not be able to accept any orders after March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Communion Servers For February

Evan Arnold                      Dustin Bates  
Kasey Dunkin                  Robby Freeman  
Bobby Graham Jr.              Christopher Smith  
Justin Yates                      Morgan Yates

For The Month Of February

**Announcements:** Brian Arnold  
**Visitors Table:** Barnhardt  
**Greeter:** Lawrence  
**Foyer Duty:** Art Silva, Tim Mauter

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.
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

<b>Elders:</b> Wilbur Allen Tom Barnhardt Frank Chappell Roy Estep Ray Thorne <b>Evangelists:</b> Ron Adams Tom Barnhardt <b>Youth Minister:</b> Troy Blair	<b>Deacons:</b> Brian Arnold John Bradley Lynn Champney Kevin Chivington Darrell Estep Jack Evans Mike Evans Lou Lawrence John Lindsay Jack Mauersberg Beryl McMasters Mark Morris	<b>Contributions</b>  Last Week                \$5457 Average                   \$6369  Russia                    \$175 Average                   \$268  Youth                     \$155 Average                   \$219  <b>Attendance</b> Sunday Class            161 Sunday Worship        260 Weds                      112 Life Groups              47	<b>March</b> 2 50's Plus Meeting 4 NYM Café 4-5 High School Girls Retreat 6 Spring Classes Begin L. G. Leaders 4:30 pm All Groups at Building at 5:30 pm 9 Spring Wednesday Night Classes Begin 10 Christian Women's Fellowship 11 Welcome Home Celebration For Kevin Taylor, 6:30 pm In The Annex 16 50's Plus Meeting 20 50's Plus "Eat Out Sunday" 24 COCS Grandparent's Day 26 Children's Easter Celebration 27 Easter
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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

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

Jubilee

An invitation arrives in the mail. It's a thick envelope, carefully addressed. The return address simply reads, "Jubilee." Befuddled about what type of celebration this could be, the envelope is opened. It seems a 50th year is about to commence. The benefits -- all credit card debts are cancelled, indentured are set free, family lands revert to original owners. This invitation spells out euphoria!

The imaginary scene resembles the plan in Leviticus 25 where God set in motion the blessings of a Jubilee year. God intended relief at every 50th year, half-century mark -- debts forgiven, servants freed, and farmlands laying fallow.

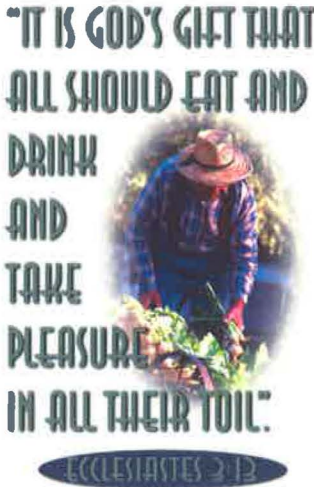
Jubilee spelled rest. For those living under the Mosaic Law, at least two reasons existed for this 50th year celebration. If a family succumbed to misfortune, the year of Jubilee provided opportunity for restructure, leveling the ladder to success. Often the indebted became ordinary servants for fellow Hebrews, assuring the poor of at least shelter and food. However, at the beginning of Jubilee, they were released from the work arrangement.

Also in the fiftieth year, land was not farmed and reverted back to original owners. God wanted his people to remember that "the land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants" (25:23). Occupants only, not owners.

Isaiah prophesied about an anointing, a kingship to bring "good news" to the poor, binding for the brokenhearted, freedom for captives and prisoners. The time of these events was proclaimed as the "year of the Lord's favor" (Isaiah 61:1-2). Near the beginning of Jesus' ministry on a Sabbath day of rest, the Christ (anointed) read from a scroll the words of Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news."

His message arrived for the bankrupt, those in bondage to sin, and the spiritually blind. Further, Jesus said to them, "Today, this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:16-21). Jesus is our Jubilee! Matthew Henry writes that "jubilee" or "jobel" signifies a particular sound of the trumpet, "distinguishable from any other." This sound went forth at the end of the Day of Atonement when God reconciled with man. I the Savior a continuous jubilee is celebrated. Because through Jesus, God spelled out "peace to men on whom his favor rests."

- Cathy Messecar





**LOSING JONAH  
A PARABLE**

As a young man prepared to leave home to study the Bible at college, his father said to him, "Son, whatever happens don't let them take Jonah out of your Bible!" The father's concern was that the son would be told that the story of Jonah is nothing but a myth. The son might then treat the Bible as if parts of it could not be trusted. A common fear is that people who go off to get educated about the Bible usually end up losing their faith and their respect for scripture.

After three years the son returned home from the "far country." Upon his arrival the father asked him, "Well, do you still have Jonah in your Bible?"

"Father," the son smiled and replied, "Jonah is not even in your Bible!" Not amused by the son at all, the father went to the shelf to retrieve his Bible and prove his son wrong. After a few minutes of diligent search and failing to find Jonah, the son explained, "Before I left for college I cut Jonah from your Bible. You have not missed this story for three years because you did not read your Bible." Jonah can be "lost" from one's Bible if it is treated as a myth, but it can also be "lost" by not reading it at all. Which one is really worse?

The son's point is painfully clear. Our greatest enemy is not our intelligence but complacency. For complacency can substitute an informed faith with a pretentious faith. A pretentious faith says, "I know what the Bible says and that is what I believe. I do not need to read and study it." Undoubtedly, those who arrive at such a conclusion fail to see that without a regular habit of reading the Bible we can lose its authority in our lives. Such faith, while carrying the pretense of devoutness, takes the Word of God for granted and lives on the memory (and we know how faulty that can be!) of what the Bible says rather than on what it actually does say. Informed faith, on the other hand, belongs to those who read their Bible, not merely as an academic textbook, but as God's guide for healthy and happy living.

The father's plea was a good one, but it would have been better if only he was not in the process of losing the Bible from his own life. Like the father, we must hearken to the son's warning and resist a lazy attitude towards Bible reading; Genesis to Revelation we cannot afford losing the Word of God.

- Bobby Valentine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

***Youth Announcements***

**Teens** - All monies for the 30 Hour Famine must be turned in to Troy on 2/27/05 for prize qualification. All students who raise \$100 for the 30 Hour Famine will be invited to a special Famine Lock In next month hosted by OVC.

**F.O.G.** for 2/27/05 has been moved to the Blair's home.

**There** will be no F.O.G. on 3/6/05. We will be at the building for First Sunday Celebration.

**High School** girls please RSVP to Lisa for the retreat ASAP so plans may continue.

**The** next NYM Café is 3/4/05 from 8:30 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

**THE ALPHA & THE OMEGA  
AN INTRODUCTION TO REVELATION**

**Week One: Basic Perspectives**

To a great many readers of the Bible, the book of Revelation is either an intimidating and obscure book, which they are afraid to study, or else it is an intriguing opportunity to satisfy their curiosity about future events and/or the "end times". In truth, Revelation is meant to be neither of these things. Like every other book of the Bible, it was written for the average believer, and it conveys an important spiritual message.

The very title "Revelation" means "uncovering", and this is what the book was meant to be - not a message hidden in code, or a secret prophecy requiring extensive knowledge to unravel, but an uncovering, a revealing, an opening up of some important truths from God. The Greek title of the book is the same as our English word "apocalypse", and it too means an unveiling or a revealing. The word "apocalypse" is often used in casual speech to mean an extraordinary upheaval or disaster, but this too is inaccurate. The proper meaning of an "apocalypse" is simply a prophetic disclosure or uncovering. The widespread erroneous use of it to refer to cataclysmic events comes in large part from the common misunderstanding that Revelation, the "Apocalypse", was written primarily to tell us secrets about the end of the world.

There are a few general perspectives that are commonly encountered in studies of Revelation. Many commentaries will explain some or all of these in more detail, which we shall not do here. One very common view of the book is the futurist viewpoint, in which much or most of the book is seen as referring to the "end times". This view often incorporates some kind of theory about the "Antichrist" - a term which, as careful readers will note, never appears in Revelation.

There is also a perspective known as the historicist viewpoint, in which the book is seen primarily as a broad prediction of the course of many centuries of church history. Those who hold this view often see in it a vindication of their particular denomination, and a condemnation of rival groups. Then there is the "preterist" (or "past history") viewpoint, which sees the book as referring to some very specific events that took place in John's lifetime and/or during the era of the Roman Empire. In this theory, most or all of the book has already taken place long ago.

There are also, of course, many variants of these general perspectives, as well as some other, less common theories. All of the many theories about Revelation seem correct to their adherents because Revelation is so full of complex imagery that with enough effort these images can be made to seem as if they predicted or referred to almost anything. Just as one example, the single detail of the significance of the numeral 666 in Revelation 13:18 has been claimed at some point to apply to an extraordinary number of specific individuals, through the creative use of letters, arithmetic, and various details about the lives of famous persons.

The real message of Revelation is simpler, yet much more important, than any of these kinds of games. It provides us with an emphatic statement that God is the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, who must and shall always prevail in the end. The images and symbols in the book are not meant to obscure meaning, but rather to reinforce the basic lessons of the book by making them more vivid and memorable.

- Mark Garner

***Be Continually In Prayer***

**Lloyd Snyder** will be having surgery tomorrow at Grant Hospital. Please keep him in your prayers.

**Dave & Kristin Maynard** - Please pray for Dave's dad, Archie Maynard. He is in Riverside Hospital with the flu. Also pray for his wife Fay and daughter Teresa who care for him.