

Family Information

Open House & Potluck This Coming Weekend
Northland's Open House will be this coming Saturday, April 29th, from 2:00-4:00 PM. This will be an opportunity for anyone who is looking for a church to see the Northland building and meet some of its members.

To welcome and meet the guests who come by the Open House on Saturday, there will be a Church Potluck next Sunday April 30th, immediately following services in the E41-42 Fellowship Room. Sign up is available on the Church Bulletin Board, or just bring plenty to share!

Spring Picnic Next Month

The next church picnic has been scheduled for Saturday, May 20 at Blendon Woods Metro Park, from 4:30-9:00 PM. The location will be the Sycamore Picnic Area (our usual spot).

Group Trip On May 6

The TGIF group, along with anyone who wants to join us, is going to go to the Ark Encounter on Saturday May 6. We will leave the church at 8:30 in the morning. If you are coming, you can either meet us then and follow us, or you can meet us at the Ark at 11:00. Price per adult is \$59.95, and there are discounts for youths and seniors. See Mike or Leisha Evans for more details.

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Team Meeting will be on Wednesday May 3rd. The team will coordinate in the meantime through emails and phone calls.

Puzzle Pieces

On the bulletin board next to Caleb's office you will find a collection of puzzle pieces. Please write your name on one of the pieces. This symbolizes the connection of our spiritual family.

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

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.

Room Reservations

While Ashley is on Maternity Leave, if you have any need to reserve a room in the church building while she is out, please fill out one of the reservation forms in the hallway (or e-mail Caleb for the form) and give it to an elder, and they will update the reservation list.

Current On-Line Studies

First and third Friday of each month at 6:30 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him or Leisha for details and updates.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$2674	\$4494
Designated:	\$0	\$10



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Jesus Was In Very Nature God...

Jesus Was In Very Nature God . . .

. . . *Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage. - Philippians 2:5-6*

Jesus was in very nature God, the fullness of God dwelled in him, yet he came to live in human form among us. This basic truth of Jesus' nature speaks to our spirits about God's unfailing love for us and his boundless understanding of our deepest needs - *Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. - Philippians 2:7*

English writer Emily Elliott (1836-1897; her aunt Charlotte Elliott wrote many hymns, including "Just As I Am") regularly taught children's Bible classes. She wrote a poem for her class, "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne", to help the children understand who Jesus was; when others in the church also read it, it was set to music and became a popular hymn.

Emily Elliott's poem begins, "Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown, when Thou camest to earth for me; but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room for Thy holy nativity" and it continues, "O come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee." For when we open our hearts to Jesus and open our minds to his message, God helps us understand what his Son has done for us. And Jesus not only lived like one of us, he also laid down his life for us - *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross. - Philippians 2:8*

As Elliott's poem says, "Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word, that should set Thy people free; but with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn, they bore Thee to Calvary." Truly Jesus came to set us free from sin and spiritual death, yet he faced hardened hearts and harsh minds. The Lamb of God came to bring us redemption and lasting hope and eternal life, and he patiently calls each of us to reach out for him and find him.

Jesus welcomes everyone who believes in him and follows him; as Emily writes, "When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing, at Thy coming to victory, let Thy voice call me home, saying Yet there is room, there is room at My side for thee." Our Heavenly Father has room for everyone who seeks him with our hearts and walks humbly in the light of his Son.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. - Philippians 2:9-11

Jesus brings good news that brings enduring hope and peace to those who hold fast to him.

- Mark Garner

God Of Creation

God of creation, all-powerful, all-wise,
Lord of the universe, rich with surprise,
Maker, Sustainer, and Ruler of all,
We are your children—you hear when we call.

God of the ages, through time's troubled years,
You are the one in whom history coheres;
Nations and empires your purpose fulfill,
Moving in freedom, yet working your will.

God of redemption, who wrought our rebirth,
Called out your church from the ends of the earth,
Still you are Savior, put darkness to flight;
Overcome sin by salvation's pure light.

God of your people, your Word still stands fast;
Do for us now as you've done in the past!
Yours is the kingdom, your triumph we claim,
Challenging evil in Jesus' strong name.

God of our now, all our trust is in you,
Covenant God, ever faithful and true;
Sovereign Creator, Redeemer, and Lord,
Now and forever your name be adored!

- E. Margaret Clarkson, 1915-2008

Canadian writer and schoolteacher Margaret Clarkson had her first poem published at age 10, as part of a contest. Besides writing poetry, she wrote the words to numerous hymns, as well as writing several children's books.

Come, O My Soul

Come, O my soul, my every power awakening,
Look unto Him whose goodness crowns thy days;
While into song angelic choirs are breaking,
O let their voice its thankful tribute bring.

Think, O my soul, how patiently He sought thee,
Far, far away on the mountain steep;
Then in His arms how tenderly He brought thee,
Home to His fold, a weary, wandering sheep.

- Frances Jane Crosby, 1820-1915

Rebuilding The Ruins

As God promises to rebuild the Israelites' ruins (in Scriptures like Isaiah 61 and Amos 9), God can rebuild the ruins in our hearts and souls when we humbly turn to him and trust in the message of Jesus. This week, Don Milnor writes about how God shows us his care when we turn to him.

God Can Rebuild Your Life

God can build amazing things from nothing. In Genesis 1, he does exactly that. There isn't even any raw material to work with, and he creates the whole universe, plants, animals, and other life, from nothing. He doesn't even have anyone's ideas he can steal; he has to come up with all the ideas...from nothing. ...*the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.* -Romans 4:17

But something else God can do, which in some ways may be more amazing than creating something out of nothing: He can take something bad and turn it into good. I'd say this is a little like starting in a situation owing money vs. just having no money; owing money is even worse! He did that with the situation which Joseph was in. Joseph said to his brothers, just after their father's death: *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.* -Genesis 50:20

To me, one of the best examples of someone whose life was really messed up was the prodigal son in Luke 15. He was certainly undeserving, as he grew up knowing the father, having everything he needed and far more. Then when the son asked, before the father even died, he gave him his inheritance, which he promptly squandered. (I wonder if this is sometimes why he doesn't give us what we think we want.)

It appears that the son was selfish, impatient, didn't trust his father's judgement, and made very poor use of his inheritance. What did he have going for him? Pretty much only two things that I can think of: He was a son of the father, and he had enough sense to go back to the father and ask him for help, when he had messed up everything about as bad as he could have on his own. Thankfully he greatly underestimated the father's love for him. Once he came back, the father quickly took care of his problems:

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." -Luke 15:20-24

Note: God doesn't always do this for us; he may have things to teach us or other reasons not to do what we want, when we want, how we want. But let us remember he has taken care of the only problem we had which really mattered: our sin. Bring your messed up life to him. You don't have to have anything to offer, other than your heart, your faith in him, and your willingness to let him have his way with you.

- Don Milnor