

Family Information

Planning Meeting This Afternoon

There will be a planning meeting with the Ghana church this afternoon at 2:15 pm to discuss our next joint worship. We're tentatively planning September 10th as the joint worship at 6:00 pm.

Men's Lunch Today

There is a Northland brothers' lunch today after morning worship (at 11:45 AM). See Jeff for more information.

Wednesday Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Wednesday, August 2, at 6:30 PM (the group is taking July off). The Outreach Team is currently meeting once per month, on the first Wednesday of each month. See Caleb if you have any questions.

Camp Week At Fort Hill

Camp week at Fort Hill is coming up from July 16-22. If you are interested to come as staff, or if you have kids who want to come, please let Josh Evans know.

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.

Sunday Afternoon Class Schedule

The Sunday afternoon Bible class is taking a break for the next couple of weeks. It will resume meeting on Sunday July 16.

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

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 6:30 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. In September, the class will begin a study of 1 Peter, using the workbook "Living Stones" by Casandra Martin. Contact Karen for more details, as well as to request a workbook.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$5812	\$4526
Designated:	\$5000	\$621



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In Jesus, & Jesus In Us

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me . . . Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. - John 17:6-7

When we gave our lives to Jesus, God made us his own children, and he promised us an eternal inheritance. While we are still in this world, the message of Jesus gives us hope and meaning, for we belong to our Father in heaven, and our faith is in him - *I pray for them . . . for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine . . . they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. - John 17:9-11*

As a young woman, writer Lydia Odell Baxter (1809-1874) helped her congregation in various ways; yet when she was in her thirties she was afflicted with the first of several serious health problems, and was bed-ridden for the rest of her life. In spite of her afflictions, over the years she encouraged many others personally as well with her writings.

Late in her life, Baxter wrote a poem (it was later set to music as a hymn) that explained how she kept her faith and her joy in knowing God; her poem begins, "Take the name of Jesus with you, child of sorrow and of woe; it will joy and comfort give you—Take it then where'er you go." To Lydia, taking the name of Jesus with her meant remembering that the Son of God is always near, that he always understands what we all need, and that he cares for us all.

When we put our trust in the name of Jesus and in the good news of God's grace and salvation, our Heavenly Father protects us from the accuser's snares and from this world's false hopes - *Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me. - John 17:11*

Baxter's poem continues, "Take the name of Jesus ever, as a shield from every snare; if temptations round you gather, breathe that holy name in prayer." When we remain close with Jesus, he is a shield against temptations and distractions; when we stay close with God in prayer, he guards our spirits from the accuser's reproaches and from this world's empty ways - *While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. - John 17:12*

Moreover, meditating on God's words and what Jesus has done for us brings peace and hope that transcend this world's circumstances, as Lydia writes, "Oh, the precious name of Jesus! How it thrills our souls with joy, when His loving arms receive us." We are in Jesus, and he lives in us - *May they also be in us . . . that they may be one as we are one - I in them and you in me . . . you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. - John 17:21-23*

The compassion of God is deeper and higher and longer than mere human words can fully describe.

- Mark Garner

Fair The Gleams Of Glory

Oh, fair the gleams of glory,
And bright the scenes of mirth,
That lighten human story
And cheer this weary earth;
But richer far our treasure
With whom the Spirit dwells,
Ours, ours in heav'nly measure
The glory that excels.

The lamplight faintly gleameth
Where shines the noonday ray;
From Jesus' face there beameth
Light of a sevenfold day;
And earth's pale lights, all faded,
The Light from Heav'n dispels;
But shines for aye unshaded
The glory that excels.

No broken cisterns need they
Who drink from living rills;
No other music heed they
Whom God's own music thrills.
Earth's precious things are tasteless,
Its boisterous mirth repels,
Where flows in measure wasteless
The glory that excels.

Since on our life descended
Those beams of light and love,
Our steps have heav'nward tended,
Our eyes have looked above,
Till through the clouds concealing
The home where glory dwells,
Our Jesus comes revealing
The glory that excels.

- *Charles Innes Cameron (1837–1879)*

Scottish writer Charles Cameron went to college in Canada, hoping to prepare for missionary work. Chronic health problems made this impossible, so instead he began writing poems and other works.

Rebuilding The Ruins

As God promised to rebuild the Israelites' ruins (for example, in Isaiah 61 and Amos 9), God can rebuild the ruins in our souls when we humbly turn to him and trust in the message of Jesus. This week, Donna Smith writes about the ways God brings rebuilding, renewal, and restoration to our lives.

God Rebuilds, Restores, & Renews Us

It is not unusual for certain words to appear more frequently in day-to-day conversations, news articles and reports. These words have been termed buzzwords or fashionable words. Me being a person who think word usage is fun, I don't mind the usage of some of these terms. However, I have found buzzwords or fashionable words to have both negative and positive connotations depending on the user. This past weekend I had the privilege of attending a Juneteenth celebration. The area of town where the celebration took place made me think of the buzzwords "regentrification" and gentrification. I have made many visits to the area over a span of forty or so years and saw several changes occurring. I saw urban ruin and devastation become beautiful parks, edifices, and gardens. Some may view the changes as not being very inclusive and leading to displacement. Others may view the changes as a wonderful opportunity to become a part of a new and exciting community. My purpose is not to defend either viewpoint. I simply walked the avenue and observed the beauty. I think both groups would agree that the changes are usually beautiful.

As I walked the avenue, I thought of God and how He makes similar changes. In Isaiah 61:4 the Israelites were promised the rebuilding of the ancient ruins and the renewal of the cities that had been long devastated. In Amos 9:4 we see God's mercy shown and His promise to restore David's fallen shelter and repair its broken walls. The ruins are promised to be restored and built as they used to be. God even had the power to make the ruins, which had been long devastated, as they used to be. In Amos we also see the promise of vineyards and gardens.

However, God's promises are not limited to edifices, gardens, vineyards, and walls. In Isaiah 61:1-3 God promises comfort for those who mourn, a crown of beauty for ashes, release from darkness for prisoners, the oil of joy instead of mourning and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. In the New Testament, we see an entire list of people personifying these promises. Rahab the harlot (beauty for ashes), Mary and Martha (comfort for those who mourn), the widow of Nain (praised God after her son was restored to life), and the list could continue. We could each add our names to the list. We have each experienced freedom and release from strongholds. I know God continues to give me beauty for ashes, oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

- *Donna Smith*