

Family Information

Carols & Cookies This Evening

The Christmas Carols & Cookies event is this evening, from 6:00-7:30 PM.

What's The Point Of Daniel?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb and Mark have each written one page on "What's The Point Of Daniel?" The entire series is being posted to Northland's web site (ncocfamily.com) - under "Resources" there is a link that will take you to the series.

Scripture Reading On December 16

On Saturday December 16, everyone is welcome to join us from 6:30-7:30 PM as we read the book of Hebrews from beginning to end. You will also have the chance to read part of the letter if you'd like to. See Caleb for more details.

Outreach Meeting Schedule

The next Outreach Meeting will be on Wednesday January 3, from 6:30-7:30 PM. The Outreach Team will now meet on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning in January. See Caleb if you have any questions.

Clothing Closet - Current Needs

The closet clothing now needs winter coats (of all sizes), gloves, winter hats, and scarves. Thank you for anything you can donate.

Clothing Closet Schedule

The Clothing Closet is now open once per month, by appointment only, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. It will next be open on December 13 (due to the holiday); for appointments call 614-918-7925 from 5:30-8:00 PM Monday. We are also looking for helpers to sort and hang clothes on Wednesdays when the Clothing Closet is closed.

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, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva
Spanish Ministry: Luis Valdez

On Line Bible Studies

Current Mid-Week Studies

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

Mondays at 6:30 PM (On-Line) - 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 (On-Line) - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is on 1 Peter, using the workbook "Living Stones" by Casandra Martin. Contact Karen for more details.

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.

Contribution

	Last Week	Average YTD
General:	\$3502	\$4361
Designated:	\$110	\$275



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He Is The One Who Was To Come

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else? - Matthew 11:2-3

Like John the Baptist, when we face difficult times, we can ask Jesus for reassurance. Jesus reassures John about the things the Lamb of God has done, just as God's words comfort our spirits during troubled times, as they tell us not only of Jesus' physical miracles of compassion but also the priceless grace and forgiveness and salvation he brings to those who have faith in him - *Jesus replied, Go back and report to John what you hear and see. - Matthew 11:4*

Baseball player Lou Gehrig (1903-1941) was known as "The Iron Horse", as he played over 2,000 consecutive games, never missing a game for over 13 years in spite of frequent injuries and illnesses. Gehrig also set numerous batting records, many of which still stand, yet he took the most satisfaction from simply being there each day for his team and its fans.

Lou said, "I love to win, but I love to lose almost as much. I love the thrill of victory, and I also love the challenge of defeat . . . There is no such thing as a bad day when you're at the ballpark." Every day holds victories and defeats, so our Heavenly Father reassures us that he still opens our spiritual eyes and renews us each day when we walk humbly by faith in Jesus - *The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised . . . - Matthew 11:5*

In 1939, Gehrig suddenly found himself unable to do routine tasks, and he was diagnosed with an incurable disease. His team held a day in his honor at a game; Lou was well-known for his shyness, so he spoke briefly. Looking at all of his family, friends and supporters, he said "Today I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth . . . I might have had a tough break; but I have an awful lot to live for." Similarly, Jesus calls us to rejoice in knowing that the good news of God's grace and salvation has been proclaimed to us all, to the poor and the exiles and the forgotten - *. . . and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. - Matthew 11:5*

After retiring, Gehrig was offered high-salaried jobs doing minimal work, yet he took a low-paying job to help mayor Fiorello La Guardia, who was trying to implement some long-needed reforms; he often worked on projects that few people noticed, until his last few days. Lou often said, "Appreciate the small victories, for they are the ones that matter most." Likewise, God reminds us of the many seemingly small miracles of grace and compassion he does in our lives each day - *Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me. - Matthew 11:6*

Jesus is indeed the one who was to come, and he is the same Yesterday and today and forever.

- Mark Garner

Gracious Lord, Immortal Truth Is Thine

Lord, in thy great, thy glorious name,
I place my hope, my only trust,
Save me from sorrow, guilt and shame,
Thou ever gracious, ever just.

Thou art my rock, thy name alone
The fortress where my hopes retreat;
O make thy power and mercy known,
To safety guide my trembling feet.

To thy kind hand, O gracious Lord,
My soul I cheerfully resign,
My Savior God, I trust thy word,
For truth, immortal truth, is thine.

- Anne Steele, 1717-1778

This is an excerpt from a series of poems by British poet Anne Steele based on the Psalms. This one is based on Psalm 31.

Christ The Ground Of All My Hopes

Christ, of all my hopes the ground;
Christ, the spring of all my joy;
Still in Thee may I be found,
Still for Thee my powers employ,

When affliction clouds my sky,
And the wintry tempests blow,
Let Thy mercy beaming eye
Sweetly cheer the night of woe.

Jesus, my redeeming Lord,
Be Thou then in mercy near!
Let Thy smile of love afford
Full relief from all my fear,

Firmly trusting in Thy blood,
Nothing shall my heart confound;
Safely I shall pass the flood,
Safely reach Emmanuel's ground.

- Ralph Wardlaw, 1779-1853

Scottish writer Ralph Wardlaw wrote a variety of books on Christian topics, including several on particular books of Scripture, and he also edited a hymnal. For a time he was a minister, and later he helped establish a school of theology.

One Sacrifice For Sins

By one sacrifice for all time, Jesus has made it possible for everyone to come to God with a humble heart and receive forgiveness of all our sins, an eternal home with God, and much more. This week, Donna Smith writes about the completeness of Jesus' sacrifice and how Jesus is the answer to the greatest needs of our souls.

Jesus Is The Real Answer

As is often the tendency, I awakened early in the morning with my thoughts skimming over a variety of topics. This, of course, was prior to getting out of bed. It was also prior to making any attempt to control them. I relaxed and spent those few moments thinking of changes and developments which had occurred in fashion, the automotive industry, food science, technology, music, icons, games, retail etc. Almost all these changes were supposed to be better and were usually an attempt to fill a need. I must admit that most of them, at their place in time, did exactly that. However, it never seemed long before a new and better change occurred.

Eventually, my thoughts settled on an NBA player who at that time was dubbed "the Answer". He was quite talented and achieved a level of popularity. Despite respecting his talent, I felt uncomfortable with his confidence in allowing the nickname. He viewed himself as a solution to a need in the NBA. He also was a promoter of an athletic shoe brand line which was popular at that time. Yet I've had the opportunity to live long enough to be able to see, even a person who saw himself as "the Answer", be replaced by a seemingly better option. I also saw other shoe brands become more popular. I then concluded that all things change whether for good or for bad. I then decided to get up, make some coffee, and have a bible study from Hebrews 10.

As a young Christian, Hebrews became my second favorite book of the bible second to Nehemiah. As always, I was reminded of one of the most important developments of all time. It is a development for which there is no better option. It's also one that can be depended upon to remain in place until the return of Christ. This plan was Jesus's fulfilment of the Law which was only a shadow of good things that were to come. (Hebrews 10:1)

In Hebrew 10:8-10(NIV) I was reminded that Jesus is The Real Answer: *First he said, "Sacrifice and offerings, burnt offerings you did not desire nor were you pleased with them" (Although the Law required them to be made). Then he said, "Here am I, I have come to do your will.*

Verse 10 put everything in perspective for me. It explains that I am made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. I need not expect any more options or plans. There is no need to Google it for the latest version. He has done it perfectly. (Hebrews 10:14)

Amen.

- Donna Smith