



Volume 38, #10 *The Church that says, "Welcome Home"* October 2008

Library Fall Fundraiser

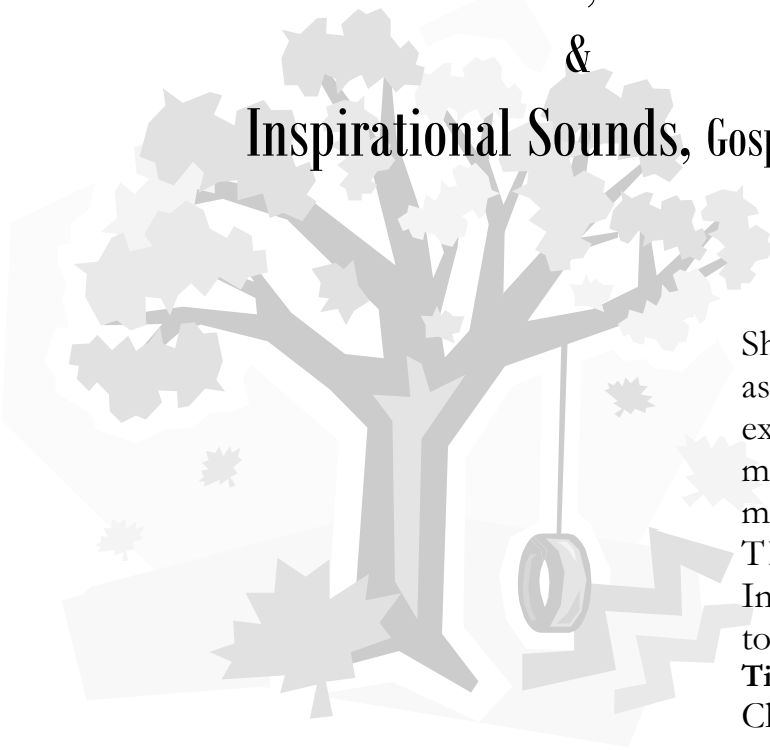
Oct. 10th, 7pm

Featuring:

Dorcas Smucker, Mennonite author

&

Inspirational Sounds, Gospel Choir



Share in this special evening as Dorcas shares from her experiences as a Mennonite minister's wife and as the mother of six.

The music of the Inspirational Sounds is not to be missed!

Tickets Available at the Door!
Childcare provided

A WORD FROM BARRY

Right Now, This Very Minute



As we are in the midst of the New Testament Challenge, I find that I am really enjoying the challenge of connecting with God every hour of every day, (in fact as I just typed these words my watch beeped, reminding me of God's presence with me.) God intended that we do life with Him, but the truth is that it is so easy to go through our day without much thought of God and trying to live on our own power and strength. God is with you this very moment. I appreciate the words of John Burke who writes in his book, *Soul Revolution* these words:

"Many of us live everywhere except in the moment. Some of us are so busy living in the future, consumed with worry about what might or might not happen tomorrow, that we miss the only moment guaranteed – this one moment with God. Some of us are stuck in the past. We feel so bad or so guilty about our wrongs or so resentful or bitter about the wrongs of others, we miss what God has for us this moment. God paid the price through Christ's death to forgive us fully and set us free from the past, and to ease our future worries with his relational security, so we could stay connected with him today."

As you read these words take a moment to consider that God is with you, right now in this very moment. Pause, let those words sink in! He loves you more than you can imagine and desires to share in your daily life. As you stay connected you will find His joy and blessings.

See you Sunday,

Barry

OPPORTUNITIES

Handiwork Anyone?

If you are interested in being a part of a group to meet socially and enjoy each other's company while knitting, crocheting, tatting, or cross stitching, please contact Mary Page.

Pinochle: Looking for

If you are interested in playing some serious pinochle and starting some fun friendships, call Dennis Page.

We Care About Our Seniors

Northwood's "Dream Team" is ready to help out any senior members/regular attendees who cannot accomplish tasks around the home or who don't have the financial means to hire help. No need to stress about your gutters needing cleaning out, leaves needing to be raked, and even changing those light bulbs. Call the church office if you need the "Dream Team" to visit your home.

New Testament Challenge

The Challenge to read through the New Testament is still on. Have you been attending services and hearing the sermon every week? Reading your Bible every day? Attending a small group? Journaling? The daily readings, journal, and weekly sermons are all available on the church website. Check it out.

northwoodchristianchurch.org

MINISTRY NEWS

ALERT AND ALIVE:

The September theme was School Days, 47 people attended with Toni Unfred, and Marcia & Lloyd Finch hosting. October hosts are Patty Phillips and Vera Kephart. Come and join this mostly 'over 50' group for a great potluck on **Tue., Oct. 21st at 12 noon.**



INTERCESSORY PRAYER

God Can do all things

On **Sun., Oct. 5th**, please place your confidential prayer requests in IPM's 'God Can' in the fellowship hall. These requests will be prayed over by our team on Monday night.

PAIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

Understanding Medicare Part D:

The newly renamed Fireside Pain Management Support Group, that meets the third Monday of each month, will be especially interesting for October. The guest speaker Leslie Roy, who is the Program Coordinator for Cascade Health Solutions is answering questions about Medicare Part D. This subject is very confusing for so many and she can help shed some light on how to go about understanding Medicare Part D for many of you. These meetings are for everyone—not just people that are in pain. The group meets on **Oct. 20th** from **6–7 pm** in the Fireside Room.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Please make these changes to your directory

We don't put our Members personal information on the web. Please see your printed version or contact the church office for this information.



New Members

August 31

Shannon Morris

Baptisms

September 28

Dr. Richard & Donna Erpelding

You are invited to a
Retirement Open House
 for
Tom Utt
 Saturday, Nov.1
 1-3pm
 Northwood Christian Church

THANK YOUS

Northwood Family, Orville and I would like to extend our thanks for all the prayers, phone calls, cards, letters, flowers, and well wishes while we were in Colorado and after coming home. God is so good and gracious. Without Him, and all of you, we couldn't have made it. We miss being in church, and hope to be back soon.

With heartfelt thanks, Orville & Irene Gibson

Dear Northwood Friends, I want to express my thanks and appreciation for the cards, calls, and prayers during my illness and physical problems of the past six weeks. I feel some better, but it is a come and go situation. Thanks again, Hazel Straw

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

A few months ago I had decided I wanted us to dedicate a part of our newsletter to the theme of Stewardship. Stewardship is very much a spiritual issue that if we want to grow in our faith we must take seriously. At the same time I also wanted to clearly communicate with our church family our needs. Over the years I have always found Northwood to be a very generous congregation that when they become aware of any need they want to help meet it. It is one of the things I love most about Northwood. Three months ago the first article was written by Richard Smith who had just finished serving very effectively as our Stewardship chair for five years. Both Richard and I have received a number of positive comments about his first article and so he has followed up with both a second and third reflection. I would love to have others join in the conversation if they so choose. Thanks Richard and to you for all your generous ministry, Barry

RICHARD'S REFLECTIONS

Robert Shelton, an elder at Northwood, in his offering message on Sunday Sept. 21st made reference to the thinking that there are those who do not want us to talk about money and he pointed out that we own our building, that we need to keep the doors open, and that we have a staff to pay. After my last *Reflections* column I got a note from a member with the following quote: "I'm sorry—but 'to know and reflect' on something *has* to result in a 'to do.' Just reflecting isn't worth much." This person gave a very generous gift to the building fund and also to the general fund. This member ended her note with, "while I'm on my soap box—in my opinion, I think Stewardship—finances etc. *should be specific conversations* in the church and *not avoided!*"

On the other hand, Barry related to me that someone came to him after the last month's newsletter and related that they were on a fixed income and they could not give \$46 per week. God knows that their giving is very generous, too!

Again I state that the purpose of these articles is "to know and reflect" so the resulting "to do" will be giving with a cheerful heart *within one's ability and means* for God and the church we all love (agape).

The "*specific conversation*" for September is the following:

- We are not meeting general fund expenses by about \$675 a week, on average since July 1st and hopefully we will see a jump in giving as folks return from summer vacations. Using my calculations in the prior Reflections \$675/200 comes out to \$3.40 per week extra on the average for each giving unit. The truth is that with the present happenings with our economy, extra giving will be a challenge for all of us, so please reflect on your ability and means for giving.
- We had the hit of the break-in on September 3rd and the insurance company is letting us know we need to pay for securing our building better with different locks and re-keying after the theft.
- Just to know, there are some members who have provided a huge gift of time and efforts in getting our Worship equipment up and running after the burglary.

God Bless all of you that give so much! Richard C Smith, jr, RCSmithJr@Comcast.net

SOME THOUGHTS ON VOTING AS A CHRISTIAN

Paul Jackson

As you vote in the upcoming election, may I remind you of what Jesus said to some early followers? He said, “You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14).

What does it mean to be “salt” and “light” as you cast your ballot this election year? I can’t answer that question for you. Only you can do that. I can say, however, without hesitation, that each of us has a responsibility to vote “Christianly.” But what does that mean?

Above all, I think it means to be deliberate and intentional about our vote. It means to know what the issues are. And it means to bring the “mind of Christ” or truth of the gospel to bear upon the issues, to vote from a biblically informed perspective. It means to act and vote from a clear Christian worldview. For example, what does God have to say about marriage? I’m assuming that as Christians, what He says about it is of utmost importance to us. Or what about war? Does God’s Word give any guidance and insight into very complex issues such as war or terrorism? And what about stem cell research or abortion? Does the Bible tell us when human life begins?

Am I suggesting that there is no room for honest disagreement on the issues? No. What I do believe, however, is that first and foremost we should be Christians, not good Democrats or Republicans, and that our voting values should be shaped and guided by our faith, the truth of God, the lordship of Jesus Christ, and the will of God—not by Hollywood or culture. Robert Webber puts it this way when he says that “...as Christians, we’re about the politics of Jesus and about the politics of the kingdom. Our primary *belongingness* is to that realm, as opposed to any other political realm. So we’re at odds with *all earthly* politics.” (Emphasis added.) In other words, our true allegiance is to a higher authority. The earliest Christians clearly understood this! (For example, see Acts 4.) It seems to me that they were able to strike the balance between being “in” this world but not “of” this world.

It is no different for us today. As noted New Testament scholar, N. T. Wright, wrote, “We live at a time of cultural crises. At the moment I don’t hear anyone out there pointing a way forward out of the postmodern morass... *the gospel of Jesus* points us and indeed urges us to be at the leading edge of the whole culture, *articulating* in story and music and art and philosophy and education and poetry and politics and theology... a worldview that will mount the challenge... *leading the way into the world*... with joy and humor, and gentleness and good judgment and true wisdom.” (Emphasis added). “In” this world but not “of” this

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Thoughts on Voting as a Christian

world! Could it be that this is the real intent of Jesus' powerful words?

So as you vote on November 4, don't forget Jesus' challenge to be "salt" (a flavor adding preservative) and "light" (illumination or clarity pointing the way toward something better.) These certainly are confusing and challenging times, to put it mildly. There is disappointment in institutions and broken promises and cynicism everywhere. There is fear and much uncertainty. People are looking for a better way. That's why our witness in this world is a witness borne of faith and that ultimately points to a reality that is beyond anything this world can offer. As one biblical writer put it many centuries ago, we know that we are but "aliens" or "strangers on earth...looking for a country of [our] own...a better country—a heavenly one...a city" prepared by God for us (see Hebrews 11:15-16).



GOOD OL' SOUL FOOD

Paul Jackson

Growing up in Alabama, I enjoyed good ol' southern cooking—fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, fried okra, corn on the cob, various varieties of peas, and even turnip greens. Many people would call this 'soul food.' There were always two or three desserts available, too. My favorites were cream cheese pie, seven layer chocolate cakes, and Mama's succulent peach cobbler, (the top crust was drenched in sugar and margarine) It makes me hungry just writing about it.

As good as that food is to me, there is a food that's even better. And that food is doing God's will. Jesus in John 4:34 says, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work." Here in this passage, Jesus has just opened up the possibility of new life to a woman whom He had met by a well. He helped her to see God differently. And it seems that something is so different about her. The town's people who heard her testimony seem to think so, too. In fact, they are so impressed with her testimony, "Come see a man who told me everything that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?", that they go out to see Jesus for themselves and many of them believe as well. (See John 4:1-42).

Jesus says that there is a food that lasts longer and is more nourishing than chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, and turnips. The food that fills and really nourishes is doing God's will. To do what God made you to do. To be so focused with your life that you accomplish the task that you are here for. To be so tuned into God and his agenda for others that you help them find God in the process. There is nothing quite like it.

If you want some real 'soul' food, give doing God's will a try. It may just be the best meal you ever had.

FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING

FAITH, JOY, AND SPONTANEITY OF A CHILD

As September draws to a close, so does my first full year in service to Northwood's children. It is a privilege to support families in the spiritual development of their children, working with other staff and lay leaders in this ministry.

I was reminded yesterday, while teaching a multi-age class in our preschool, of how easily faith is cultivated and expressed by our children. As Kelly Oviatt and I worked with kids on craft projects related to the creation story, one little man called out, "I love you, Miss Kelly." This was an out-pouring of his heart sparked not by what Kelly was doing for or with him, but instead a spontaneous response to God's great love shining through her.

One children's pastor, Beverly Dillard, writes that worship and fellowship with kids is faith-filled because children:

- Worship with abandon, unconcerned about how others judge their "performance"
- Pray with simple faith, even when unanswered
- Accept scriptural authority and the humanity of its heroes, and
- Accept and love one another unconditionally and unselfishly.

My experience at Northwood affirms these observations. Our children, from infancy through pre-adolescence, sing, pray, share, and play in our children's programs with joy and without self-consciousness. They are jubilant in praising and worshipping a God who loves, comforts, and protects them. They are curious about the events and heroes of the Bible, accepting the truth of its contents. Our children share with each other with trust and listen to one another with respect. They love their parents and siblings unconditionally and unselfishly, and they share this love generously with each other and us too.

The next few months will be filled with our Sunday programs, G.O.L.F., Christmas programs, and service activities. But, let there be no mistake, our programs and activities are aimed at developing and deepening our children's *relationships* in the community of believers and with God. They will naturally be cute and have fun, but please notice also their unrestrained expression of the fruits of the Spirit. We grown-ups have so much to learn about faith from watching the youngest among us.

In His Spirit, Betsy

CHILDREN'S NEWS



BETSY CLEWITT & STAFF



SLOW DOWN & SAVOR THE SPIRIT

A NOTE FROM



REED-O

I am currently sitting in the Starbucks where my wife works. It is nice in here. The furniture is comfortable and I have a lovely view. Currently, there are only a few customers. It is a far cry from the packed lobby whose business was testified to by a line that wound around the merchandise displays and tables stopping just short of the door. I have been here for about two hours. As the lines have receded, so too have the number of customers. However, the length, intimacy, and intensity of conversation has increased exponentially. In fact, people are staying longer, looking happier, and the rush that people were in has subsided. People are slowing down, and finding community amongst their mochas and lattes.

My observations about my current environment have caused me to wonder, what in life do we miss because of our busyness? Do we miss out on the relationships God has created us for? What divine appointments have we failed to keep? Who are the lonely we have failed to comfort? The hungry we have failed to feed? The homeless we have failed to house? The naked we have failed to clothe?

As I have meditated on these questions I am beginning to realize that our busyness has become our God. It, rather than the life of Christ flowing through us, characterizes our lives. To accomplish the great commission we must slow down, and make the Gospel in our lives priority.

Extreme:
the middle school experience

Friday, October 17
Meet at the church at 7 pm.

High School Youth Group
Sunday night youth group—6 pm at the church
4th Sunday of every month—Film night at Reed’s Place

G.O.L.F.—Every Wednesday, dinner at 5:55 pm, class at 6:45 pm

October Elders
Communion & Offering

October 5 -
Ralph Matteson & John Sargeant

October 12 -
Mel Mead & Tom Utt

October 19 -
Bob Shelton & Beverly Robertson

October 26 -
Christi Keefer & Dennis Page

October Diaconate

October 5 - Gary Franklin’s Team

October 12 - Kitty Bates’ Team

October 19 - Debbie Childs’ Team

October 26 - Leisa McAdams’ Team

If you aren’t sure whose team you are on, please call the office.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|--|
|  | | | 1 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes | 2 9 am Library Crew 6:00 pm Alpha 6:15 pm Softball at Bob Artz 7:00 pm Grief Group 7:45 Softball Game | 3 | 4 |
| | | | 5 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 6 pm High School Youth Group | 6 6 pm Monthly Prayer Night | 7 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 8 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes |
| 12 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 6 pm High School Youth Group | 13 | 14 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Board Mtg 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 15 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes | 16 9 am Library Crew 6:00 pm Alpha 7:00 pm Grief Group | 17 5:30 pm Extreme, <i>The Middle School Experience</i> | 18 |
| 19 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 6 pm High School Youth Group | 20 6 pm Pain Management Support Group | 21 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 22 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes | 23 9 am Library Crew 6:00 pm Alpha 7:00 pm Grief Group | 24 12 pm Newsletter Items due in the Office | 25 8 am Women's Breakfast, Country Waffle |
| 26 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 5:30 pm High School Film Night at Reed's Place | 27 | 28 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice | 29 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes | 30 9 am Library Crew 6:00 pm Alpha 7:00 pm Grief Group | 31 | Nov. 1 Northwood Serves the Community Day 1 pm Retirement Open House for Tom Utt |

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The Window

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