



Volume 38, #11 *The Church that says, "Welcome Home" November 2008*

Harvest Dinner

Reap the Harvest & Share the Bounty

NORTHWOOD'S ANNUAL FALL CELEBRATION

November 16th at 5:00

opens in the

Sanctuary for Prayer, Harvest Offering and Special Music

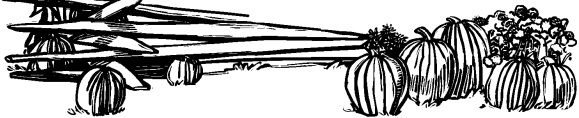
followed by

a Harvest Dinner

Come and enjoy this fun time at an old fashioned church potluck. The church will provide turkey, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy and rolls. You are asked to bring a side dish, vegetable, salad or dessert.



A Harvest Offering is taken each year to fund a special project at the church—this year it goes to help pay down the building debt. Make a prayerful decision about your donation—you are asked to consider contributing one day's wages for your household.



A Word from Barry



I believe the New Testament Challenge continues to be a very rewarding experience for our congregation. Over 200 of our people committed to reading through the New Testament, connecting with God every hour of every day, and participating in a small group. It has been a great time of Spiritual growth for those who accepted and followed through on their commitments made during the challenge.

Now in the midst of our New Testament challenge we as a church family face another challenge. We are not currently receiving enough income to keep up with our expenses. We asked several months ago that all staff and leaders in the church cut way back on their expenses and only buy what is absolutely necessary to do ministry. The leadership will soon meet to consider additional actions that may be necessary to keep our church on healthy financial grounds.

I want to make sure that I clearly communicate with you, our church family, about our current challenge so that each one of us can pray and ask ourselves if we are doing our part to support the work of the Lord at Northwood. I know and recognize the turbulent economic times we are faced with as a community, country, and world. It is not easy. But I do know that if we remain faithful, God will provide, and we must be willing to do our part as well.

As I read through the New Testament I am reminded of what made the early church such a strong, health, growing church. Consider these verses;

Acts 2:44–45 All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

2 Corinthians 8:1–5 Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in His kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do.

I believe that as a congregation, when we put God first, and allow ourselves to become generous, we open the door for God's blessings not only upon our lives but our church as well.
See you Sunday, Barry

OPPORTUNITIES

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

On **Sat., Nov. 8, 10-4**, Camp Fire at Northwood is having a holiday bazaar in our fellowship hall with many vendors, incl. Cookie Lee Jewelry, Megan's Pantry, Pampered Chef, Partylite Candles as well as handmade goodies, cards, ornaments, pot holders and more. If you are interested in having a table, see Barbara Stramler or Barbara Utt.

CANTATA CHOIR BEGINS IN NOVEMBER!



All singers are invited to join in the cantata choir, which presents *A Family Christmas* on Sun., Dec. 14. Rehearsals begin **Tue. Nov. 4, 7:30-8:30 pm** the Sanctuary.

Rehearsals are Tues. in Nov., then Dec. the 3rd and 10th from 6:30 to 8:30. A final dress rehearsal is Sat., Dec. 13 from 10-12.

Only seven rehearsals and you could participate in a great Christmas music experience celebrating our church family at Northwood. Consider joining in the fun and worship!-John Hakes, Minister of Music

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 gutter cleaning, leaf raking, and even changing those light bulbs. Call the church office if you need the *Dream Team* to visit your home.

MINISTRY NEWS

ALERT AND ALIVE

43 happy retirees and friends enjoyed our Fall potluck this past month.

Thank you Patty Phillips and Vera Kephart for your fun decorations, pencil gifts, and home-grown apples.

Our Thanksgiving potluck is noon, Tues. Nov. 18. Alice & Dick Sweeney and Emily Sachs are hosts and look forward to welcoming one and all to this fellowship time. Come and join this mostly 'over 50' group for a great potluck on **Tue., Nov. 18th at 12 noon.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

With the slipping away of fall and the coming long days of winter, the IPM folks are moving the Monday night prayer sessions from the church to their homes. They want to assure everyone that prayer requests will be handled the same way as when they met as a group.

Place your requests in the God Can and they will make sure they are put safely in a place where they will not be opened until the first Monday night. Thank you for your continued support. May God bless you and your families. Faithfully, IPM

PAIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Fireside Pain Management Support Group is meeting this month at Dan & Linda O'Neal's home, in Springfield, on **Monday Nov. 17, 6 pm**. Please contact Dan or Linda, or see the flyer posted on the bulletin board next to the library. Their home will seat many people comfortably.

PEOPLE OF NORTHWOOD

My Dear Northwood Friends,

There aren't enough words for me to express my feelings. Leaving Northwood is very difficult. I wish to thank you for your love and compassion. I hope to see you soon.

Love, Bonnie Denning

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Jill is taking some time off and will be out of the office from Nov. 10 through the end of the month. The office will be staffed with volunteers for those three weeks. Hours will be Monday through Thursday, 9-12 and 1-4, and Friday's, 9-12. If you have business in the office, please try to call during those hours.

ANGEL TREE GIFTS



Angel Tree Ministry will once again, with your help, be providing children from our area with Christmas gifts. These gifts are a request from a parent who is incarcerated. This year we will be providing for 75 children. Each child will have two gifts, a need (clothing, etc) and a want (toy, game) Angel Tree sponsor ornaments will be available to pick up in the fellowship hall on Sunday Nov. 16th & 23rd, after each service. Each gift will need to be wrapped and returned to the church no later than Dec. 7th. Thank you for your gifts and prayers for this group of children. Northwood will sponsor a Christmas Party for these children on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the church. If you are interested in helping, please see Kitty Bates.



New Members

October 19

Michael Allen

Baptisms

October 26

Suzanne Sherwood

Connie Cooper

September 7

Sharon Sisler

*Celebrate the birth of
the risen king!*

Advent begins Nov. 30th

Devotion books available on

Nov. 23 & 30



A WORD FROM THE ELDERS

John Sargeant, Chair of the Elders

I am truly blessed to be the Chair of the Elders at Northwood Christian Church. Serving a wonderful congregation and being able to serve with a great group of elders has been a rewarding experience for me this year.

We did not make the time for a retreat this past summer. Instead, we decided as a group to meet weekly for 8 to 10 weeks after 3rd service for lunch and a time together. We are about half done. A year and a half ago we wrote a new job description for the Elders and we are trying to implement that job description at this time. We have been able to spend time in prayer and study seeking God’s will for Northwood. Barry shared with us on giving our Sunday morning meditations and Paul shared with us about spiritual gifts. Betsy came to one of our meetings to let us know what is going on with the preschool and Children’s ministry. Reed came and shared with us his plan for the youth.

The New Testament Challenge has been a great step for our church to become more strong biblically. I hope that you are all caught up with your reading and enjoying time with a small group.

Faithfully Serving Northwood

John Sargeant

Your Elders

Mike Harman	Dennis Page	John Sargeant, Chair
Judy Hockett	Andy Petersen	Bob Shelton
Christi Keefer	Mel Mead	Tom Utt
Ralph Matteson	Beverly Robertson	

November Diaconate

- November 2 - Dan Witt’s Team
- November 9 - Judy Davies’ Team
- November 16 - Gary Franklin’s Team
- November 23 - Kitty Bates’ Team
- November 30 - Debbie Child’s Team

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

November Elders

- Communion & Offering
- November 2 -
John Sargeant & Judy Hockett
- November 9 -
Andy Petersen & Bob Shelton
- November 16 -
Mike Harman & Mel Mead
- November 23 -
Emily Sachs & Christi Keefer
- November 30 -
Ralph Matteson & Tom Utt

SERVICE: MARK OF A GREAT CHURCH

“If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there shall my servant be also; if anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.” (John 12:26)

The church was founded by the greatest servant of all—Jesus Christ. He came, scripture tells us, “not to be served, but to serve.” This service was marked by sacrificial giving—his life for us all. (See Mark 10:45). Service then understood in light of Jesus Christ is the offering of one’s life—being expendable and available for others—whether in life or death.

Consequently, the church is designed to serve as well—after all it is the body of Christ as work in the world today. (Ephesians 2:10; 4:12). Service then becomes the job of every member of the body. It’s not something just a few do. To be mature equals to serve. (See Ephesians 4:12 especially.)

At the great Day of Judgment, the test of righteousness is service. (See Matthew 25:31-46). To fail to serve the neediest and weakest of humanity is to fail to serve Jesus himself. The reason for this startling truth is the fact that Jesus from the very beginning of his ministry numbered himself with the people. That’s one meaning of His baptism. He came to say to the people gathered for John’s baptism, “I’m with you. I’m for you. I stand alongside you.” Service is to enter into another’s world and offer one’s life. The law of heaven has it that the greatest of the Kingdom is the servant of all. (Luke 22:26). Service is about others—plain and simple.

Great churches will always be churches that are marked by service, not necessarily because of their fame or size. The acid test is this: Are they meeting the needs of people—those in the church already and those outside in the world. A great church doesn’t just “hold service;” it “gives services” to a dying and needy world. No church that lacks service can be great; and no church that serves in the spirit of Jesus can be considered small.

Northwood is a great church for this reason: Northwood is a serving church. Hundreds of our members are actively involved in service each week. May this characteristic continue to be a hallmark of this congregation, our watchword for assessing our true greatness as a church of Christ. My thanks to all who participated in our Northwood Serves Day. *Pastor Paul*

Top 10 Predictions No Matter Who Wins the Election

1. The Bible will still have all the answers
2. Prayer will still work
3. The Holy Spirit will still move
4. God will still inhabit the praised of His people
5. There will still be God-Anointed teaching and healing
6. There will still be singing of praise to God
7. God will still pour our blessings upon His people
8. There will still be room at the Cross
9. Jesus will still love you
10. Jesus will still save the lost

Isn't it great to know who is really in control?

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The mission of St. Vincent de Paul is being mindful of the sanctity and dignity of all, doing any charitable work that assists the poor and those in need of consolation, seeking out and using every resource.

St. Vincent de Paul’s Social Service Office helps provide prescription medication, rent assistance, utility assistance, LTD transportation, propane for heating, gasoline, clothing, school supplies, furniture, greyhound tickets, medical equipment, and home visits.

St. Vincent de Paul’s Eugene Service Station provides day shelter with services for homeless adults including the following: showers, meals, laundry, phone calls, mail internet access, LTD bus tokens, LTD bus passes, clothing and pet health services. the Theron Atkinson Food Room provides weekly and holiday food boxes.

St. Vincent de Paul also provides skills assessment, training, job placement, and follow-up for adults with multiple barriers to employment.

Upcoming projects are in process to increase housing for seniors and veterans.

Northwood Christian Church is pleased to be able to assist St. Vincent de Paul in helping our neighbors in Lane County.



SEPTEMBER 2008 WORLD OUTREACH GIVING

Love Offering/Church Family	\$542	Habitat for Humanity	\$151
Mission Scholarships	\$226	Disciples Mission Fund	\$783
Adopt a Ministry Student, NCC	\$753	El Faro Orphanage	\$181
FISH	\$256	Week of Compassion	\$301
Young Life	\$136	Whisler Family	\$633
Eugene Mission	\$271	Lemke Family	\$377
St. Vincent de Paul	\$105	Neveux Family	\$151
Youth for Christ (LCDC Chaplain)	\$286	Siedel Family	\$151
Angel Tree Scholarships	\$45	Sony	\$75

FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING

Since August, Northwood's pastoral staff have worked together weekly to develop the pulpit message, individual journal prompts, small group discussion guide, and Sunday school and G.O.L.F. lessons for all members of our community. I am blessed in this collaboration by three patient partners—Barry, Paul, and Reed—whose insights and understandings have made the New Testament Challenge so meaningful for us all. In the Children's Wing, we've tried to provide lessons and activities that illustrate the New Testament themes in ways that are meaningful and relevant to young children. Every topic lends itself to an illustrative Bible story, related songs and crafts, and a fable or allegory.

Along the way, we also introduced the *touchstones* of our church's Covenant of Community for Children and Youth: respect, relationship and right-standing. We've seen firsthand that the concepts of godliness, obedience, patience, and honesty are the foundation for development of mutuality, community and servanthood in early and middle childhood. Our children have responded favorably to these lessons and the practices of peace-making.

My hope is that Northwood's adults—and not just parents of our children and youth—understand the importance of *touchstones* in a faith community. In the Old Testament, people set up stone markers as reminders of their encounters with God and the great works He accomplished in their midst. Today, these touchstones also remind us of what God asks of His people along their faith journey, so that we learn to live in increasing faith and godliness.

There are defining moments in life when we encounter God, and these encounters change us forever. These moments define who we are, affect the course of our lives, and alter forever our relationship with Him and others. These *touchstones* become the narrative of our faith, individually and collectively as a faith community. It is this narrative we must share with our children and youth, and reference during times of trouble and trial. From this perspective, the Covenant of Community for Children and Youth really calls us all to respect, relationship and right-standing with Him and our fellow believers.

In the months ahead, we will frame our Sunday and GOLF lessons around these and other *touchstones*. I invite everyone to contribute to Northwood's narrative as a faith community, and share your own life-changing encounters with God with us, in your small groups, and through the children's and youth ministries.

In His Spirit, Betsy

CHILDREN'S NEWS



BETSY CLEWITT & STAFF



The movie, *Freedom Writers*, tells the story of Erin Gruwell and her class, a bunch of gang banging misfits from the Los Angeles area. Erin, a first year teacher is idealistic enough to believe that she can change the future for her class. I recently watched this movie with a group of students on our monthly faith and film night. As we watched the story unfold I was struck by the change in the students lives. They went from having great fear and animosity towards one another to viewing each other as family.

For many of the students their immediate circumstances did not change. They still lived in the ghetto, many dealt with abusive or absent parents, others dealt with drugs, and all of them dealt with the daily reality of gang warfare. What Erin gave them was the sense that the story they had been living was not the story that had to be. They had been taught by their circumstances that life would be over by 18, that the thug life was all they could grasp, and that the ultimate success was to die for their gang. She gave them a vision of a future where they could succeed, graduate from high school, and go to college. The dominant narrative told them they would be dead by eighteen. She told them life would just be beginning.

As Christians we are given the same choice Erin gave her students. We are given two competing stories, which we can live in. We can choose to live in the story of this world, a story that is characterized by pride, greed, deception, pain, suffering, and death. Or we can choose the story of the Christian faith. A story that is characterized by Christ's victory over death, where love, peace, and joy abound. If we choose to live in the story suggested by the world we will live lives of defeat focusing on our struggles, hardship, and pain. But if we choose the alternative story, the one that Scripture has testified to we will live in the promises of God. We will be able to see beyond our struggles, and know that the pain that we find in our immediate circumstance is not the ultimate reality. We will be able to persevere in hardship knowing that Christ has already won the victory. We will know that the story that is being written by the world is not the story that has to be, and it is not the story that will be in the end.

Whatever struggle you might be facing, know that it is not our struggles and circumstances that win. Christ has won, that will not change. Partake in His story, knowing that it is the truth.

November Calendar

- 2nd Word Night (HS)
- 9th Seek Night (HS)
- 16th Harvest Dinner (All)
- 21st Extreme (MS)
- 23rd Faith and Film (HS)
- 30th Game Night (HS)



A NOTE FROM



REED-O

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

REED WEBSTER & STAFF

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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November

1
9 am
Northwood
Serves the
Community
1 pm Tom Utt
Retirement
Reception
Set Clocks Back

<p>2 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 Youth Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>5 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes</p>	<p>6 9 am Library Crew</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10 am-4 pm Camp Fire Holiday Bazaar, Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>9 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 Youth Group</p>	<p>10 6 pm Prayer Night</p>	<p>11 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Board Mtg</p>	<p>12 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes</p>	<p>13 9 am Library Crew</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 5:00 pm Harvest Dinner</p>	<p>17 6 pm Pain Management Support Group</p>	<p>18 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>19 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes</p>	<p>20 9 am Library Crew</p>	<p>21 7 pm Extreme: The Middle School Experience</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 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 Youth Group</p>	<p>24 12 pm Newsletter Items due in the Office</p>	<p>25 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>26 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes</p>	<p>27 Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 8 am Women's Prayer Breakfast, Country Waffle</p>

Office Closed

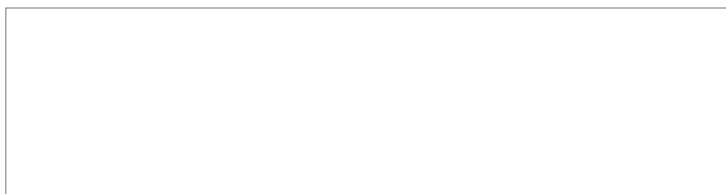
30 *1st Sunday in Advent*
8 am Jump Start
8:15 am Contemporary Service
9:45 am Contemporary Service
9:45 am Sunday GOLF
11:15 am Traditional Service
6 pm Youth Group

December 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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28	29	30	31			

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