



THE WINDOW

Northwood Christian Church



Volume 38, #12 *The Church that says, "Welcome Home" December 2008*

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT NORTHWOOD

Christmas Parade Float: Saturday the 6th. Children and adults are needed to hand out our 1,000 scarves, hats, gloves and socks along the parade route. Dress for the weather. Meet at 1:30 at Olympic and Mohawk, our float is entry #32.

Cantata Service: Sunday, the 14th
Celebrate the season with our own church choir this year! We have two services to choose from, 9 am and 11 am, with time in between to share coffee with friends in the fellowship hall. Please bring a plate of cookies or nut bread to share.

Northwood's Kids Cineplex and Parent's Night Out: Friday, the 19th, 6:30 to 9 pm. Parents drop your kids and youth at the church and enjoy a night out of shopping or fun. We will have movies, crafts and snacks for the children. Please feed your children dinner first, only snacks will be served. You must reserve a spot for your child. Available for children 3-10 years of age.

Christmas Caroling: Saturday, the 20th at 4 pm. If you love the songs of Christmas, come sing with us! We are meeting in the church at 4:00, dividing into groups and heading out to share cheer with friends and congregants less able to get out on their own to enjoy the season. Fellowship and snacks to follow. Please contact John Hakes with any questions or for more information.

Children's Christmas Program:
Sunday, the 21st at 3 pm. This year's program is intergenerational, with lots of audience participation. Followed by cookies and cocoa in the fellowship hall

Northwood's Live Nativity:
December 22-24, 5:30-7 pm. Drive by Northwood to see our children in the live nativity.

Christmas Eve Service: Wednesday, the 24th at 6 pm. This year we will meet together in one service to share the hope, peace, joy and love Christ has given us. Please join us in the sanctuary for this special time of worship and contemplation.





Discover Real Joy This Christmas

One of my favorite Christmas stories has to do with a 90-year-old woman who one Christmas found buying presents a bit much, so she decided this year it would be simpler to send checks to her family and friends. So, she spent a pleasant afternoon filling out the checks and writing on each Christmas card after her name, *"This year, buy your own present"* and then she mailed them off. It wasn't until the Christmas festivities were over, that she found the stack of checks in her desk drawer—somehow, she had forgotten to put the checks in with the cards!

I am sure that we all enjoy receiving gifts but I have discovered the truth of Jesus words when he says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

If you want to bring some real and lasting joy into your Christmas season then I suggest you look for opportunities to give rather than receive.

And the good news is that during these tough economic times so much of what we can give does not have to cost very much. Why not call up someone and say, "I'd like to watch your children while you have a night out: or "I'd like to offer to take you shopping or clean your house, or take you to see some Christmas lights." I heard of a man who said that the greatest gift he ever received in his life was a note his dad gave him on Christmas. It read, *"Son, this year I will give you 365 hours—an hour every day after dinner. We'll talk about whatever you want to talk about. We'll go wherever you want to go, play whatever you want to play. It will be your hour."* That dad kept that promise.

Make sure and take some time for others this Christmas season. As you do, you will discover the real joy of Christmas and the blessing that Jesus talked about.

See you Sunday,

Barry

CHOIR CANTATA

Come and join us on Dec. 14, at 9 or 11 am for “A Family Christmas.” This year the cantata involves and celebrates many parts of our Northwood church besides just the choir! There will be readers of all ages, a children’s choir, a ‘tween’ choir, a praise team and a young soloist. Much of the music also features African American spiritual and gospel Christmas songs, so there is a lot of variety. You can expect a wonderful worship service that also includes singing favorite Christmas carols and celebrating our entire *family* at Northwood. There are only two services this day, and no Sunday School classes. A time for fellowship between the two service, please bring a tray of nut bread or cookies to share with all.

GRIEF GROUP

Grief Group is starting a new group on Monday, Dec. 29 at 7pm in the Fireside room, assuming there is enough expressed interest. Anyone is welcome who wants to resolve issues that have interfered with daily living in some way. This can be a loss of someone (death, divorce, separation), or any loss that takes an unusual amount of your thoughts or emotional time. This can result from events or treatment in our childhood or not realizing our dreams, etc. Please see or call Ted Stagner or email him. The group will meet for only 5–6 weeks so it will be important that you be there at the start and commit to being there each week.

MILITARY BULLETIN BOARD

Northwood has identified eight service people who are part of our military family. One of the G.O.L.F. groups sent a package to each of them and there is now a bulletin board in the fellowship hall, with their photos and information. (When you enter it is on the immediate left wall) Leone Miller is keeping this board up to date.

Please support these folks with cards and prayers. Let Leone or the office know if we need new information on any of these service people or need to add someone from your family to the board.

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.

ALERT & ALIVE POTLUCK

Our Christmas potluck will be the 16th at noon, everyone is a host. Our prayer partners will be revealed and we will enjoy some holiday time, good food, and good words for one another. Bring a favorite Christmas item to add to the decor. 41 people were at our November potluck; let’s top it this month.

LIBRARY NEWS

The library wants to thank all of you for using our library and donating books to us and returning your books promptly. That makes our job easier. We try to keep up with books by putting them back on the shelves promptly which people are anxious to read. Merry Christmas from all of us on the library crew.

Welcome

New Members

November 2

Julie Wallace

Philip Hodgkin

Thomas Healy

November 9

Paul & Jacquelyn Bastinelli

November 16

Marlis Palmer

Mike & Sandi Land

Baptisms

November 23

Saydee Murphy



New Address

Bonnie Denning

Carol Wheeler

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

Richard's Reflection's on Stewardship

This month I am reflecting on what a giving church we are, even with these uncertain times!

Those of you who attended the annual Harvest Dinner, did you happen to look around and see how many folks contributed to having that evening be such a success? About 88 families and folks gave and pledged over \$11,200 to assist us in retiring our building's debt. If you were un able to attend or give that evening, you can still make a Harvest Offering or Pledge through the end of the year. We are blessed with so many who are willing to give in so many ways. Did you know we prepared 104 boxes for *Operation Christmas Child* and have more than 80 pledges to brighten Christmas for Angle Tree Children? With our Christmas float in the Springfield Christmas Parade we are giving out more than 1,100 articles of winter clothing (socks, hats, scarves and gloves) along the parade route. Whatever you contributed for Northwood makes all this possible to the Glory of God through Jesus. Amen

EUGENE MISSION



WORLD OUTREACH

The Eugene Mission provides food, clothing, shelter, a rehabilitation program and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It serves as an interdenominational parachurch organization.



Homeless men, women, and children have a safe, clean place to come in off the street.

Dayrooms, showers, towels, toiletries, pajamas, baggage storage, laundry facilities, haircuts and US mail service are provided.

Here, the homeless can find love and respect as they heal from the hurts of their lives and come to know Jesus.

OCTOBER 2008 WORLD OUTREACH GIVING

Love Offering/Church Family	\$563	Habitat for Humanity	\$156
Mission Scholarships	\$235	Disciples Mission Fund	\$813
Adopt a Ministry Student, NCC	\$782	El Faro Orphanage	\$188
FISH	\$266	Week of Compassion	\$313
Young Life	\$141	Whisler Family	\$657
Eugene Mission	\$281	Lemke Family	\$391
St. Vincent de Paul	\$109	Neveux Family	\$156
Youth for Christ (LCDC Chaplain)	\$297	Siedel Family	\$156
Angel Tree Scholarships	\$47	Sony	\$78

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6 pm Prayer Night	2 1 pm Women's Bible Study	3 2 pm A & A Games 6:30 pm Choir Cantata Practice	4 9 am Library Crew	5	6 2pm Christmas Parade
7 2nd 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	8	9 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Board Mtg	10 2 pm A & A Games 6:30 pm Choir Cantata Practice	11 9 am Library Crew	12	13 10 am Choir Cantata Practice 2 pm Angel Tree Christmas Party Youth Trip to Clackamas Town Center
14 3rd Sunday in Advent 9 am Choir Cantata 10:30 Fellowship Time 11 am Choir Cantata 5:30 pm HS Film Night	15	16 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study	17 2 pm A & A Games	18 9 am Library Crew	19 6:30 pm Northwood Cineplex for Kids and Parent's Night Out	20 4 pm Christmas Caroling 5 pm Hot Chocolate & Cookies
21 4th 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 3 pm Children's Christmas Program 6 pm HS Christmas Party	22 5:30 pm Live Nativity	23 12 pm Newsletter Items Due in the Office 1 pm Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Live Nativity	24 5:30 pm Live Nativity 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed  <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 Office Closed	27 8 am Women's Breakfast, Country Waffle
28 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 HS Film Night	29	30 1 pm Women's Bible Study	31 2 pm A & A Games			

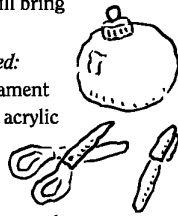
“Peace on Earth” Ornament



Make this Earth ornament as a reminder to pray for the peace Jesus will bring when he returns.

What you will need:

1. Clear glass ornament
2. Blue and green acrylic craft paint
3. Sponge
4. Scissors
5. Black permanent marker (Sharpie) or black puffy craft paint
6. Paper plate
7. Glitter (optional)



What you need to do:

1. Cut the sponge into 2 rectangles, about the size of your tallest finger.
2. Pour a little paint onto a plate. (Add glitter if you want your ornament to sparkle.)
3. Use one sponge for blue and one for green.
4. Dab the paint onto your glass ornament one color at a time. Use green for land and blue for ocean to make the ornament look like our planet Earth.
5. When the paint is dry, use the marker or puffy paint to write PEACE on the ornament.
6. Use your ornament as a Christmas decoration or give it as a present.



A WORD FROM THE ELDERS

Each Sunday during December, the elder's are asking the congregation to bring canned foods with you to church. These foods will be given to the members of our church that are in need. If you are in need of assistance or know a member that is please contact Pastor Paul.

The elder's began an early morning prayer breakfast last month. We met at Therese's Place in Springfield. We are planning to meet there every 3rd Thursday each month. If you have something that you would like us to pray about, please contact an elder so that we may spend time in prayer over your concern. Everyone is welcome to come.

Have a great Christmas.

A NOTE OF THANKS

This is a note of appreciation from the FISH program to your church for the wonderful generous donation of food. Because of the economy this year, many people do not have the good fortune to have a hearty meal this Thanksgiving. The smiles we receive from the people who got food baskets is our reward knowing they will have a good meal. I wish I give you the satisfaction that as a dedicated partner you have in a big way helped the community.

Thank you again, Floyd Carpenter, Treasurer

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER & PRAYER REQUESTS

We are offering the newsletter in electronic pdf version, in the effort to save postage and printing costs. If this is something you would be interested in receiving, instead of the mailed version, please call or e-mail the church office. All other communication that goes out from the church will still go through the post office, it's just the newsletter that you would receive electronically. Also, every week we e-mail prayer requests received by the office. If you would like to be on the prayer request list, please let the office know.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse, from his roots a Branch will bear

NORTHWOOD'S KIDS CELEBRATE ADVENT

The first Sunday of Advent 2008, the Children's Church/Sunday School launched a magnificent 4-week project, creating the 25 ornaments for Jesse Trees, for church and home. Jesse Trees date back to the middle ages, springing from Isaiah 11:1 which says "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a branch will bear fruit." Indeed, the promised Messiah during Advent, is traced through the lineage of King David (son of Jesse) and back to Abraham.

that the world awaits of Jesse) and back to

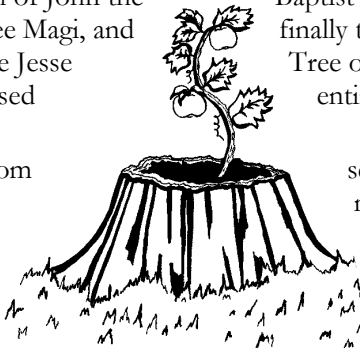
Fruit...

Isaiah 11:1

Jesse tree ornaments depict the critical events of the Old Testament that point to the birth of God's Son and our Savior. As we create the ornaments, the children are reminded of the Creation story, Adam and Eve, Noah and the ark, God's promise to Abraham and His willingness to sacrifice Isaac, Jacob's ladder, Joseph's sack of grain, Moses' courage, the first Passover, the Ten Commandments, Joshua at Jericho, Gideon's unlikely leadership, kings Samuel and David, and the prophets Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Nehemiah.

The remaining ornaments commemorate the amazing events leading to Christ's birth: Gabriel's visit with Mary, the miracle birth of John the Baptist to Elizabeth and Hezekiah, Joseph's trust in the Holy Spirit, the Three Magi, and finally the unpretentious arrival of our Lord Jesus. Tree ornaments can be used year-after-year as an Advent calendar focused entirely on the rich backdrop for and meaning of Christmas.

I have borrowed liberally from domain for this project, most jessetree.htm. I urge you to read basis of each ornament, and receive them from one of our makes Christ's birth even



several web-sites in the public notably www.eriercd.org/ the narrative about the scriptural perhaps make them if you will not children. For all of you, I hope this more significant and holy.

December Elders Communion & Offering

- December 7 -
Judy Hockett & John Sargeant
- December 14 -
Ralph Matteson & Beverly Robertson
- December 21 -
Andy Petersen & Tom Utt
- December 28 -
Mel Mead & Beverly Robertson

December Diaconate

- December 7 - Connie Knight's Team
 - December 14 - Dan Witt's Team
 - December 21 - Judy Davie's Team
 - December 28 - Gary Franklin's Team
- If you aren't sure whose team you are on, please call the office.*

AMAZING KIDS: FAITH IN ACTION

CHILDREN'S NEWS



FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING

As November draws to a close, so does the church-wide New Testament Challenge. The children's staff are keenly interested in assessing how our children responded to the Sunday morning and Wednesday evening lessons aligned with the weekly theme.

Throughout the past 10 weeks, we were overwhelmed by the excitement children brought to children's church, Sunday school, and G.O.L.F night. In part, the children's energy and curiosity seems sparked by the growing numbers participating in these activities. For many, their enthusiasm also arises from the intergenerational nature of Wednesday G.O.L.F. nights.

Another measure of children's spiritual growth through the NT Challenge is their witness on the arts and crafts we've completed together. In recent weeks, they've embellished their work products with written confessions of faith, writing "I love God" and other expressions on papers, tokens, and emblems. Parents report that the youngest children express similar feelings in conversations and prayer.

The final measure of our kids' faith development during the past 10 weeks is their willing service to the church during this time. They eagerly prepared table decorations and the Thankful Tree, and set up tables and chairs for the Harvest Dinner. Those who participated in Service Saturday were also excited about working hand-in-hand with grownups to help others.

This excitement and expression of faith will likely prevail throughout our Christmas season, which begins on December 6th. We will pass out the 1,000 hats, gloves, mittens, socks, and scarves that were collected for this year's Springfield Christmas Parade. Parents and children are needed to make this event successful. We're singing in the annual Christmas Cantata, and presenting the annual Christmas program at 3 p.m. on December 21st. Children will stand in Northwood's live nativity from December 22-24, and prepare luminaria for our Christmas Eve service. We need *YOU* to embrace and applaud our children for their participation in serving Him and blessing the church in the month to come.

In His Spirit,

Betsy

BETSY CLEWITT & STAFF

And the award goes to

I am really blessed to be a part of a community where people freely tell you what a good job you are doing. It feels good to know that people care enough to notice the youth, and like what they are seeing. I agree with those people, I do think we are doing a good job, but before I pull a muscle trying to pat myself on the back I have to be honest and say that a lot of the good that is going on is not of my doing.

Our youth ministry team is made up of a diverse group of people. We have a lot of different perspectives, gifts, and talents; each person brings something unique and all are unequally appreciated. I want to take the time to introduce them to you and will be doing so over the next few months. But for this month let me just send out a big thank you to all who have worked so tirelessly over this past fall to begin the rebuilding process of our youth ministry.

Thank you to...

If you recognize any of the following names please let them know how much you appreciate their work with our youth.

Small Group Leaders:

- Tyler Childs
- Barbara Dean
- Laurel Stiller
- Jonathan Swartout
- Kelsey Webster

Student Leader:

Taylor Lind

Parental Support:

- Bunny Ferrari
- Sylvia Murphy
- Barbara Stramler

A NOTE FROM



REED-O

YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

December Dates

- Sunday 6th Word Night (HS)
- Saturday 13th Youth Day Trip to Clackamas Town Center (MS & HS)
- Sunday 14th Faith and Film (Kelsey and Reeds) (HS)
- Sunday 21st High School Christmas Party (HS)
- Sunday 28th Faith and Film (Kelsey and Reeds) (HS)
- Monday 29th High School and Middle School Boys Paintball Day
- TBA - Girl's Night

Coming in January



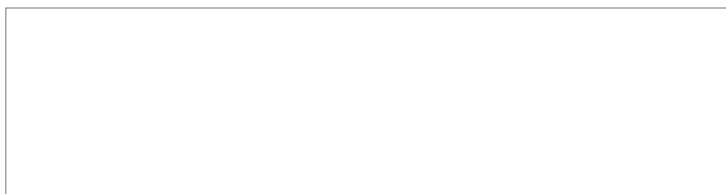
High School Snow Rally
January 16-18

REED WEBSTER & STAFF

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Judy Lacock, Pianist
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