



# THE WINDOW

*Northwood Christian Church*

Volume 38, #7

*The Church that says, "Welcome Home"*

*July 2008*



This month a group of high school students is heading north. Their destination is the Gorge Amphitheater, a beautiful, natural concert venue. On the 23rd of July the serenity afforded by such a natural location will be disturbed by nearly twenty thousand energetic festival-goers. The Northwood youth are going to share in games, speakers, and musicians, in the hope that this trip will be a time of awakening and that God will share Himself with them in new and powerful ways.

A trip such as this does not happen by itself and the community's support is needed. Over the next couple of weeks our students will need to raise money for the trip. Our youth appreciate any monetary support you can give. Perhaps, even more important than money, are your prayers. Reed, the youth pastor, asks that you would pray for their safety, and that the youth will have their hearts open to what God wants to teach them.

## **FUNDRAISERS**

**July 13, Youth Services Rental.** Need someone to baby-sit for date night, or pull some weeds? On the



13<sup>th</sup>, students will be available to set up time to work for you. You are asked to pay in advance and we then will give you an IOU for services to be performed later.

**July 19, Multi-Family Garage Sale.** Over the next two week the youth ministry will have a sign up table in the fellowship hall available for any families who want to reserve a table to sell their items at a garage sale to be held in the church parking lot on July 19th. There is an upfront fee to cover the cost of advertising, and then a portion of your profits will go to the youth for the Creation Fest fund. More information will be available at the table.



While the youth are willing to work for their funds, some might prefer to simply donate money for students to be able to attend. If this is the case for you, contact Reed, drop off monetary donations in the church office marked Creation Fest, or put some money in the can that will be available at the Creation Fest table in the Fellowship Hall.

## A Word from Barry



The other day I was part of a conference for pastors on the subject of personal renewal—a topic I found to be helpful. The speaker shared something that, even though it seemed simple, caught my attention. As he was talking about learning to enjoy the grace of God, he said these words... “God does not just love you, He likes you. He does not just like you, He is fond of you!”

I find that we sometimes talk so much about God loving us, as if it is God’s responsibility that we may forget that God really likes us and is fond of us. What a difference that could make in your life if you simply carried that truth with you each day. I think it was Max Lucado who wrote these words along the same lines...

- If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.
- If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.
- He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.
- Whenever you want to talk, He’ll listen.
- He could live anywhere in the universe, and yet He chose your heart.
- What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary.
- Face it.. He’s crazy about you.



Take a moment today to remind yourself how much God loves you.

*See you Sunday, Barry*

### Quote from Barry’s sermon on June 29

*We are far more sinful than we ever dared imagine, but through  
Jesus Christ we are far more loved than we ever dreamed.*



Alert and Alive had a fun potluck in June with a wedding theme hosted by the Shelton’s and the Lacock’s. Did you know the Shelton’s grow a lovely garden? July’s theme will be “Favorite Spots” to visit or vacation; bring pictures if you like along with your potluck dish. The Rumelhart’s and Jeannine Mart are hosts. This fellowship event is primarily 50+, but all are welcome to attend 12 noon July 15.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

If you know someone who needs a prayer shawl to comfort them through a difficult time, or if you want to help knit prayer shawls, please let Alice Sweeney know.

**DOLLS ARE A SUCCESS**

A great big “thank you” to all who brought dolls and soft stuffed toys for needy children in the Ukraine. Over 150 children will have something to hug because of our generosity. The box by the office will be removed on July 7th, but the project will go on. In the future, if you have anything to donate, contact Janet Sweeney.

**PAIN MANAGEMENT GROUP**

We are back on track with our Pain Management Meetings starting Monday July 21st. from 6-7pm. Please join us for this hour of fellowship and helping each other to deal with pain and learn new methods to be more comfortable. Please, if you are hurting and would like to help others by sharing your story or maybe you are a caregiver that could help boost the confidence of others, please plan to attend. Dan & Linda O’Neal

**LIBRARY NEWS**

Three people have already earned their tote bag. Congratulations to Janine O’Guinn, Mary Lou Hanna, and Leone Miller for signing up and reading eight books. If you haven’t signed up yet for the reading program, you need to do it before the end of July.



**DRIVERS SOUGHT**

There are several people in our church who couldn’t attend without help from a neighbor or friend to get here. Would you consider helping give a ride to someone in need? There are several people in the Thurston area, who come for 3rd service, and need a ride. There are a few close to the church who need rides. Do you have room in your car for an extra person? In August, when Janine O’Guinn’s son Braden heads off to college, she will need a ride to and from church. She is looking for a few people who could form a driving team. She needs someone to actually drive her van to church, (it’s wheelchair accessible). If you are able to help someone out with a ride, please let the church office know, or you can contact Janine directly.



**June 15**

*Sid & Debbie Leiken*

**June 29**

*Ted & Irene (Reen) Stagner*

**Baptism**

**June 15**

*Janay McAllister*

CHILDREN'S NEWS

**FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING**

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**FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING**



**BETSY CLEWITT & STAFF**

Keeping with tradition, we launched Northwood's Vacation Bible School on Father's Day. For the first time, we enjoyed a service-oriented, intergenerational program of service activities planned and executed by a nearly new crew of volunteers. Each evening began with family dinner and children's crafts linked to the service theme of the evening. We then celebrated that theme with praise and worship, followed by a Bible story enacted by children, youth, and adults. These activities provided the foundation for each night's service activity. On Monday, we formed three teams to bag and label all the scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks donated for December's Springfield Celebration. On Tuesday, we packed paper bags (decorated by our kids) with healthy foods for homeless people in our community. On Wednesday, we circulated throughout the Northwood community giving away the sunflowers our children planted weeks earlier. And on Thursday, we fanned out in the same neighborhoods to collect food for FISH. Each evening, we concluded with remarks from guests who serve the community in important ways, then prayer for the things to be given to others in need and a closing song.

Thanks to those who gave so generously of their time to make VBS memorable for all who attended. We hope you will study the new display of pictures in the narthex of the activities described above. On the faces of participants, you will see the great joy and sense of purpose when engaged in working together harmoniously to accomplish something significant for others.

The food drive continues until mid-July. Your contributions are so greatly appreciated. Our children and youth will continue and expand the service activities of VBS throughout the summer. And, again, kudos to those who worked tirelessly to make VBS a memorable time of worship and fellowship on behalf of the less fortunate in our community.

In His Spirit, Betsy

**YOUTH PROGRAM**

**A NOTE FROM**



**REED-O**

In a time long, long ago, before the advent of yard maintenance folk (you know, like when I was a kid), my parents used to pay me to pull weeds. Don't tell them, but I used to get some weird pleasure out of it. I used to love getting the perfect pull. When the whole root comes out, and all you have to do to get the dirt off is shake it a little bit, yeah, the perfect pull...what a thrill.

I bring this up because if you have ever stopped to look at a root it has different shoots that go in different directions; they spread hoping to reach into the rich soil that surrounds the plant. The food they supply to the plant will ultimately travel through the one main shoot, but the plant would not grow as big, or be as stable if the roots did not spread and draw strength from many sources. I would

*(Continued on next page)*

*(Continued from previous page)*

like to say that the Christian faith is like a root. As followers of Christ we can draw strength from many sources.

Our relationship with Christ is like the main shoot, it is fed through Scripture, our faith families (a.k.a church), and through the stories of those who have come before us. In the months that follow, I will elaborate on how I see each of the sources feeding our faith. For this month I want to focus on being rooted in our relationship with Christ, after all, He is the shoot that all other sources must flow through.

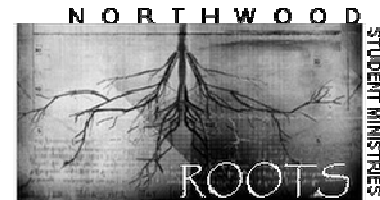
I had long thought that being a Christian was all about being good and doing the right thing. We are not to ask questions, but to silently follow a set of rules. As a Christian you can do this, but you can't do that. I thought you could, for lack of a better phrase, "earn your way into heaven." It has only been over the last five or six years that I began to wonder about the purpose of Creation, and the role of the Cross.


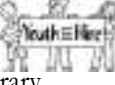
Why did God create us? Why would an infinite, perfect being choose to create us, a people He knew would choose to sin against Him? It is difficult to imagine, isn't it?

As I went about my study, a very different picture began to appear. It seems that since the beginning of time God has taken a special interest in humanity. He was in relationship with Adam and Eve in the Garden. Even through the story of Adam and Eve's first sin we see God's intense and intimate love for them. God wants to have a relationship with His creation; He wants to have a relationship with us.

The whole of the Biblical witness speaks to this truth. God is continually speaking to His creation. First he speaks through the patriarchs, then the judges and kings, then the prophets and priests, and in the ultimate act of redeeming love He sends, and speaks through, His Son. A suffering servant sent to live, die, and be raised for us. Not only does Christ speak of loving God and each other, showing humanity the Father's heart for His creation, but He loves us in what He would call the greatest love. He gives up His life for his friends, that we might become His brothers and sisters, and sons and daughters of the Most High God.

God chose to create humanity because He wanted to share with something outside Himself the perfect community He experiences in the trinity. Picture if you will a perfect community of three distinct persons bound together by one substance. It has been described as the heavenly dance, a dance whose partners' serve and love one another perfectly. Giving and receiving, serving and accepting, the dance goes on in perfect love, in perfect community. It is out of the overflow of this perfect love that God decides to create humanity, to join into this community. It is through accepting the truth that God wants to be in relationship with us, and accepting that through Christ He has made it possible, that we gain right standing before God. What Christ has accomplished on the cross is a work of reconciliation. Because of the cross, and the sending of the Holy Spirit we are freed from sin, able to learn how to live in right relationship with one another. When we learn to live **ROOTED IN CHRIST**, we learn to live in community with God and one another the way we were intended to in the beginning. It is in these relationships, which Christ has made possible, that we are able to fully enter into the creation we were intended to be. The rules of the Christian life are not about restricting oneself from experiencing life, rather they are guidelines given by God that we might truly experience it.

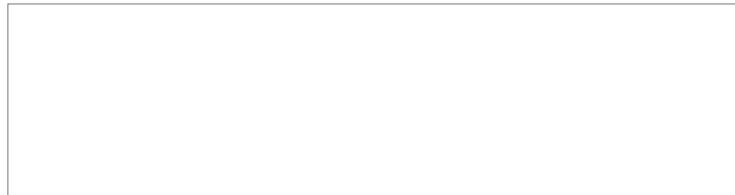


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1 pm Women's Bible Study	2 2 pm A & A Games	3 9 am Library Crew 6:30 pm "Because I Trust Him" Class	4 Office Closed  <i>Independence Day</i>	5
		6 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 6 pm Youth Group	7 6 pm Prayer Night	8 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Board Mtg	9 2 pm A & A Games	10 9 am Library Crew 6:30 pm "Because I Trust Him" Class
13 <b>Rent a Youth</b>  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	14	15 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study	16 2 pm A & A Games	17 9 am Library Crew 6:30 pm "Because I Trust Him" Class	18	19 10 am Youth Multi-Family Garage Sale
20 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	21 5:30 pm Worship Team 6 pm Pain Management Support Group	22 1 pm Women's Bible Study	23 2 pm A & A Games	24 9 am Library Crew 12 pm Newsletter Items Due in Office 6:30 pm "Because I Trust Him" Class	25	26 8 am Women's Breakfast, Country Waffle
27 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	28	29 1 pm Women's Bible Study	30 2 pm A & A Games	31 9 am Library Crew 6:30 pm "Because I Trust Him" Class		

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My Dear Northwood family,

Thank you so much for the many prayers, cards, emails, calls, and hugs! They mean a lot in times of loss. The final weeks for my father were mixed with the knowledge that he would soon be gone, leaving a big hole in our lives, and yet with the comfort of knowing that he would also soon be enjoying a life without pain and problems. I may have shared with you already, but again I must say that God was present and His spirit was clearly working within all the family amidst the rapidly changing final circumstances for Dad.

His funeral was held at the church he most regularly attended, and which is connected to the Christian Academy he helped to found, build, and support. It was officiated by the missionary pastor he supported for decades. The celebration was a fitting tribute to how God worked in his life.

I admired the talents my dad had and used, took a lesson from his philanthropy, and feel honored that he respected and loved me and all of his family so very much. I feel richly blessed to have known and loved him. If wealth is measured at all by the good deeds you do, the people you help, and the friendships you make in life, then my father was a very wealthy man. He will be missed.

Again, and on behalf of my immediate family, I thank you for your love and support!  
With love, Allan Gibbs