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Volume 38, #9     *The Church that says, "Welcome Home" September 2008*

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## **NEW TESTAMENT CHALLENGE**

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**Sermon Series on the Major Themes of the New Testament**

Begins September 14

*Read through  
the  
New Testament*

*Hear the sermon - Sunday mornings*

*Personally Engage the Topic and Scriptures - Transformation Journal*

*Participate in a Small Group - W•2•L Groups*

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## **FALL G.O.L.F.**

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*September 10 - November 19*

*Wednesdays – 5:55–7:55 pm*

*(Meal service – 5:55–6:20 pm)*

**Good Food...Great Fellowship...Spiritual Growth!**

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### **MISSIONS FAIR**

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*September 10*

World Outreach is sponsoring a missions fair on Sept. 10th. At the event you can: come for dinner, browse the displays, talk to missionaries, and other groups our church supports, and learn about upcoming local outreach opportunities. A musical group from Northwest Christian University (we support them through our world outreach giving) will be here to close out the evening in song.

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### **W•2•L GROUPS**

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*September 17—November 19*

Sign up for a Word to Life small group (W•2•L) to grow spiritually as you share your life with others. Groups are offered on different nights, with most meeting on Wednesday's.

G.O.L.F. on Wednesday's will provide time to participate in a creative teaching experience to explore a key idea or thought from the week's teaching.

## A WORD FROM BARRY

*“Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should.”*  
Psalm 90:12 (LB)



I was recently given a book by Randy Pausch entitled “The Last Lecture.” Randy is a college professor who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. In his book he writes about really living life and what matters most.

Having glanced through his book, it made me think of the above verse. What an important verse to keep before us.

How would you answer this question; “What is the best way to spend your time?” My guess is that we might all answer that question differently. I would also guess that we would all agree that one of the best ways to spend our time is in growing in our relationship with the Lord and one another.

With this in mind, on September 14<sup>th</sup> we are starting a church-wide spiritual campaign, called *The New Testament Challenge*. I pray that you make every effort to be with us for Sunday worship and during the following nine weeks. During these 10 weeks we are inviting the congregation to worship together, read through the New Testament together, meet together, serve together, and play together. I believe it can be a significant time within each of our lives and within the life of our congregation as a whole. I am convinced that there is not a better way to spend our time than working on our relationships with the Lord with one another.

*I look forward to seeing you Sunday,*

*Barry*

## ALL CHURCH WORSHIP & PICNIC

**SEPTEMBER 7**

### **ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 AM CHURCH PICNIC FOLLOWING SERVICE Worship Service**

Worship on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 am. The whole church will meet together in the sanctuary, for one worship service. We will join together in song and fellowship. Remember, one service at 10 am! Nursery is available.

### **All Church Picnic**

Everyone is invited to the picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7 following the worship service. Fried chicken, drinks, and all tableware is provided. If your last name begins with A-M you are asked to bring a dessert, and N-Z are asked to bring a side dish or salad. After the picnic, everyone is invited to join in on the game of their choice. A family softball game will take place across the street at Page. Horseshoes in the church yard behind the garage, and for those less ambitious, card games in the fellowship hall.

## CHURCH PORTRAITS

**SEPTEMBER 22-27**

Think of this as our ‘family’ photo album—and it simply won’t be complete without everyone’s smiling face! Take a moment to stop in the fellowship hall on Sunday and reserve a time during the third week of September to have an Olan Mills photographer take a ‘snap’ of your family. There is no cost for the photo, however, additional photos are available for purchase.

Everyone photographed receives a free 8 x 10 of their choice, and receives a pictorial directory. This is a great way to get an updated photo of your family, and find out who everyone is at church.

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER TEAM**

On Sunday, Sept. 7th, the Intercessory Prayer Ministry is having their prayer request “God Can” in the Fellowship hall for you to deposit your prayer requests. On Monday night, IPM. team members meet in to pray for needs using these request forms.

### **PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN**

How would you like three or four other women to pray for your children once a week? That’s what *Moms and Grandmas In Touch* is all about. It is a community-wide program that establishes small groups of women to meet weekly and pray for each others children. Think of the added protection your school-aged children will have being covered in the prayers of a few other mothers. To hear more, come to the **Fall Inspirational Dessert** on Tue., Sept. 23rd at 7:pm at Grace Community Fellowship. Or see Linda Bettis at church.

### **ALPHA**

**ALPHA**, a basic introduction to the Christian faith, begins Thursday, Sept. 4th at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. A video and small group discussion follows a great dinner. This group is for adults, and child care is provided. Come out, meet some new friends, and find out what the Christian faith is all about. This is a relaxed, pressure-free environment and you’re encouraged to bring your questions and your friends. If you have questions about the ALPHA program, call Andy & Gretchen Petersen.



### **PAIN MANAGEMENT GROUP**

There was a great turnout for our meeting in August. The turn out has been increasing and many people are able to share their story if they want to. There is no worry of anyone outside of the room hearing about it. We have a confidentiality rule that was agreed upon at the very first meeting July of 2007.

Please try to make it to our next meeting on September 15th, at 6 pm, in the Fireside Room. The latest information going on in the medical world such as new operations and organizations that are just getting started are always available. Dan O’Neal always has his laptop to show some procedures that are going on in our world to combat chronic pain problems.

This is an open forum and we are there just to answer questions and help you to understand things you may be struggling with about your doctor, pharmacy, or anything pertaining to medical issues.

### **WOMEN’S MINISTRY DAY OUT**

Join other women of the church on Saturday, September 20th, for lunch and a walk at beautiful Belknap Hot Springs. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am and carpool up the river, stopping for lunch and ending at Belknap for a leisure afternoon of hiking, walking, getting into the hot springs, or just relaxing by the river, and ending with dessert. The cost is \$12, and as there is no childcare available, children are welcome to come with us for a cost of \$8 for children over 12, or under 12 can go for free. Scholarships are available. Watch the bulletin and sign up in the fellowship hall to go on the great day out!



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIBRARY FUNDRAISER**

Author Dorcas Smucker will be speaking at a fund raiser for our Church library on Friday, Oct. 10 at 7 pm.

Smucker writes the "Letter from Harrisburg" for the Oregon Section of the Register Guard. She has written two books of collected essays, "Ordinary Days" and "Upstairs the Peasants Are Revolting." She draws stories from her experiences as a Mennonite minister's wife and the mother of six. Her columns and speaking engagements are an inspiration to anyone who has ever been a parent or who enjoys interesting, insightful writing. She has been called "bravely honest" and "hilariously humble".

She is the third author to take the podium for the Northwood's Library. The yearly fund raiser is popular a popular event with those who appreciate find Christian authors.

The evening will include special music and cookies and coffee. Book signing and book sales will also be part of the event. Child care will not be provided.

Ticket are \$3 each or 2 for \$5 and will be on sale in the fellowship hall on Sept 14, 21, 28 and Oct 5. This will be a great time to invite friends to Northwood. We hope you'll invite others.



**THANK YOU**

Thank you for all the items donated for the orphanage and village children in Ukraine. These children are very appreciative and have tears when given a toy. Thank you for making this possible.

Shipments will go in September to arrive in time for Christmas.

May God bless all of you for your generosity and thanks again. *Ann Palanuk*

**ALERT & ALIVE**

The 40 people who attended the Island Park Picnic in August had a wonderful time. The Noble's and Iverson's know how to barbeque to all tastes, even a homeless young man who wandered by. God provided pleasant weather to go along with the beautiful park setting, and our time of fellowship was enjoyed by all. This month our hosts are Toni Unfred, and Marcia and Lloyd Finch. Look for details in your Sunday bulletin (yes, read your bulletin). Come join this mostly over 50 group for good potluck eating and visiting Tues. Sept. 16 at 12 noon.

**WE CARE ABOUT OUR SENIORS**

Starting this fall, once a month, 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, etc. Call the church office if you need the "Dream Team" to visit your home.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Do you have mornings or afternoons free, have office skills and would like to volunteer in the church office? We are looking for a few good people to fill-in in the office when Jill is away. If you aren't available for a full day, there are half days available. 9-noon, or 1-3 pm. A training is planned for September to learn how to use the phone system and copier. Please let Jill know in the office



**DIRECTORY CHANGES**

*Please make these changes  
to your directory.*

**Webster, Reed & Kelsey**

**Field, Arleen**

Janet Wells is now Janet Morden

**Morden, Charlie & Janet**

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.

**Welcome**

**New Members**

**August 10**

*Karen Huddleston*

**August 17**

*Dick & Donna Erpelding*

**Baptisms**

**August 3**

*David England*

**August 17**

*Cheryl Gulovsen*



Announcing our newly redesigned  
web site: [www.mission2mexico.org](http://www.mission2mexico.org)

The site features:

- A tribute to the work and life of Sister Austin
- Information on the newly established trust for the orphanage and endowment in her memory
- A fun photo journey through the mission of M2M
- More is added all the time, so come back often

*Mission to Mexico is celebrating their  
20th year of service in 2008!*

## **FURTHER REFLECTIONS...**

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Thank you to all who commented on my reflections in the August newsletter and stated that you did not know the specifics of our financial situation. Now that I am just a member at Northwood I am still very interested in our financial health and want to give you a few more thoughts on where we stand. If you would also like to keep up on how we are doing you can ask Sandi Hanna, board to e-mail you board minutes. It is interesting that specific conversations about giving are avoided in the church. I am going to be specific, however, because we need to know. By sharing in the newsletter everyone can reflect before God on what giving is best in relationship with Him, Who said trust Me.

One thing I have noticed over the years, and this summer is not an exception, giving goes way down during the summer. In fact, this July's giving was over \$1,000 behind what is needed to pay our staff and keep the building open. Attendance is down, as expected, during the summer and, I guess, what that means is some folks are taking a vacation from giving to the church when they are having a busy summer. Prior summers we had reserves to cover the hiatus and our situation now is we have had to borrow to cover the deficit this summer.

Based on our \$470,000 projected budget for this fiscal year we need to have giving at \$9,040 per week and the need for giving each week this year has increased because we are losing project rental income this month. Using the thinking of last month's Reflections ( $\$9,040 / 200 = \$46$  per week). There are those who continue to be very generous in their giving and if everyone would reflect on giving as much of \$46/week, or more, as they are willing and able, it would make a huge difference in our Northwood's financial health.

Siuslaw Bank, who holds our building loan and graciously extended it in April as interest only for three more years, has (because of an auditor) asked for clarification on what our situation is and when we are having another capital campaign. A letter has been drafted that states we are having another capital campaign in the first half of 2009. We will need volunteers to head up such a campaign and will everyone to please start praying now as to what would work for you to commit when we are asked for our pledges next year. In the meantime any additional building fund giving that you have, can be used to lower the debt on the loan and, thereby, the interest paid to service it.

I thank everyone for the love and blessings you provide in so many ways for Northwood and please think of these word, not as a "to do", but as an opportunity to know and reflect on Northwood's financial health.

*Richard Smith*

**YOUNG LIFE & WYLDLIFE CLUB**

Clubs are weekly meetings within a local community that are open to any student who wants to attend. Many attend club each week to sing, laugh, play games and hear a leader share great news about God’s love in terms they can understand and grow in their faith.

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST**

This is an international non-profit organization that works with middle school and high school age students. There are four ministries to connect young people with Christian adults; Campus life, Youth Guidance, Mentor Moms, and Geo 7. Campus Life ministry involves connecting young people with Christian adults as well as training students to reach their peers with the Gospel. Youth Guidance is a ministry that reaches out to young people at Lane County’s detention facility. Mentor-Moms, this is in coordination with Young Life and is a mentoring program that works with young mother and young mothers to be. Geo 7 is an outdoor ministry that works with kids who are interested in the outdoors.

These are both great ministries, each reaching out to students in our area. Our church supports both Young Life and Youth for Christ in our World Outreach giving each month.

**JULY 2008 WORLD OUTREACH GIVING**

Love Offering/Church Family	\$537	Habitat for Humanity	\$149
Mission Scholarships	\$224	Disciples Mission Fund	\$776
Adopt a Ministry Student, NCU	\$746	El Faro Orphanage	\$179
FISH	\$254	Week of Compassion	\$299
Young Life	\$134	Whisler Family	\$627
Eugene Mission	\$269	Lemke Family	\$373
St. Vincent de Paul	\$104	Neveux Family	\$149
Youth for Christ (LCDC Chaplain)	\$284	Seidel Family	\$149
Angel Tree Scholarships	\$45	Sony	\$75

**September Elders**  
 Communion & Offering  
 September 7 -  
 Mel Mead & Christi Keefer  
 September 14 -  
 Dennis Page & Judy Hockett  
 September 21 -  
 Mike Harman & Bob Shelton  
 September 28 -  
 Judy Hockett & Andy Petersen

**September Diaconate**  
 September 7 - Debbie Child’s Team  
 September 14 - Leisa McAdams’ Team  
 September 21 - Dan Witt’s Team  
 September 28 - Judy Davies’ Team  
  
*If you aren’t sure whose team you are on, please call the office.*

FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING

CHILDREN'S NEWS



Fall 2008 promises to be a happy and busy time for the youngest members of Northwood's church family. Although these events target our children, ***we need people of all ages to help make them successful!***

Like many other mid-size churches, we've learned that Children's and Youth ministries thrive when adults of all ages actively promote and participate in kid's programs. Both children and adults grow in unity and spirit through inter-generational ministry.

We hope you will carefully study the activities planned for Fall 2008, and identify those in which you'll participate. All of our children will profit from knowing that they are loved and supported by the whole church family. In turn, you will see firsthand how much your wisdom and kindness are needed by our kids.

Our kids are the tiny trees we've planted, in need of good soil, light and water to grow spiritually. Please give of your time and talents to this purpose.

**Our Fall schedule** includes many activities for children and adults to experience Jesus' birth as a community.

Design and construction of sets and sewing costumes for the ***Christmas Play*** will begin in mid-September. Amateurs or professionals required! Casting is planned for mid-



October, with rehearsals beginning in early November. Thespians, alert! Speaking and singing parts for children, youth and adults! Our 2008 Christmas play will be inter-generational. We need children, youth and adults to perform, as well as assist with costumes, set design, and lighting. Everyone with these and other gifts is asked to volunteer NOW! Talk to Betsy or Jill.

The performance, slated for December 21, will involve audience participation in a worshipful setting. Put this date on your calendar!

All children will practice music for the ***Christmas Play and Cantata*** from 6:40-7:00 on GOLF Wednesdays.

We will begin collecting filled shoeboxes for ***Operation Christmas Child*** in mid-November. Please help us meet or exceed the 175 boxes we collected last year. This international outreach will be coordinated by Kelly Oviatt.

Volunteers, children and adults, are needed to accompany our church float in ***the Springfield Christmas Parade*** in early December. We will be handing out the lovely socks, mittens, gloves, scarves and hats collected earlier this year.

Finally, we are reviving the ***Live Nativity*** this year. We intend to accommodate all children and youth who want to participate in bringing joy to the community on December 21-24. We will be in place on Christmas Eve as worshipers leave our service!



BETSY CLEWITT & STAFF

As I sat in the dark amongst hundreds of other Pirates of the Caribbean fans, I felt as though I had been robbed of my time and money. I had just paid close to ten bucks at an Arcadia, California movie theater to sit through the 150 minute run time of Pirates of the Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest. It wasn't that the beginning and middle of the movie were bad - just the ending. It felt incomplete, like there was something more to be said, there was not a feeling of completion. We all know that they did that so people would look forward to the third movie, but it still was a disappointment.

I know that I probably shouldn't say it, but the book of Acts leaves me with the same feeling. It just isn't complete. The book is an account of the beginning of the Christian church. If you read it all the way through, you witness God sending His Holy Spirit, people preaching the good news, the birth of the first Christian community, and the Apostle Paul trekking all over the countryside teaching people about Jesus. It is the most complete picture of the early church that we have in the Bible, and yet it still seems incomplete.

As Acts ends, Paul is on house arrest in Rome. That's it, that's the end. This epic story that began with a visitation from a resurrected Jesus ends with Paul, the Lord's most prominent mouthpiece, in chains. A humbling end to an amazing story, a story that will prove to be used to change the world. And yet, even though the story seems incomplete, I get the feeling - just like with Pirates 2 - that the story is in some powerful way not over. Others have agreed that the story is not over. In fact there is currently a movement among church planters that call themselves Acts 29. The actual book of Acts ends at chapter 28, and the leaders are acknowledging our continuation of the story that started all those hundreds of years ago.

The story continues because the church, the people of God, continue. We continue to serve and worship the same living God. We continue to spread the Word of God amongst our family, friends, and co-workers. The story found in the book of Acts is indeed incomplete, because as the lives of those who have followed the Way of Christ since the end of Chapter 28 testifies; God is not finished, His mighty Acts continue to well up in the lives of we who follow Him.

The faith family that we find ourselves living in is not the only community that we need to be rooted in. We should also be rooted in the lives of those believers that have come before us. In their lives we witness God working, in their lives we can observe moral failings, and in their lives we can see the redemption that comes from knowing Christ. We need to be rooted in the lives of the host of Christians that have come before us because they testify about the power of God that is still alive and present. We can watch as people like Martin Luther, the father of the reformation, struggle with being good enough. We can see how others like St. Augustine have struggled with sexual immorality. We see our lives reflected in their stories. We can take solace in knowing that our struggles are not unique to us, and that as God has answered all those others that have come before, He will answer us as well.

#### A NOTE FROM



**REED-O**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>Labor Day</b> Office Closed	2 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:45 pm Praise Team/ Choir Practice	3 10 am Preschool Open House 2 pm A & A Games 6:30 pm Preschool Open House	4 9 am Library Crew 10 am Preschool Open House 6 pm Alpha 6:30 pm Preschool Open House 6:30 pm Holy Spirit Class	5	6
7 10 am One Worship Service in Sanctuary 12 pm All Church Picnic 6 pm Youth Group	8 9 am First Day of 4-yr-old Preschool 6 pm Prayer Night	9 9 am First Day of 3-yr-old Preschool 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Board Mtg 7:30 pm Choir Practice	10 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm Missions Fair	11 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Alpha 6:30 pm Holy Spirit Class	12	13
14 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 11:15 am Children's Baptism Study 6 pm Youth Group	15 6 pm Pain Management Support Group	16 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice	17 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes	18 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Alpha	19	20 10:30 am Women's Ministry Belknap Spring Hike
21 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service 11:15 am Children's Baptism Study 6 pm Youth Group	22 3 pm-9:30 pm Olan Mills Photos at the church	23 1 pm Women's Bible Study 3 pm-9:30 pm Olan Mills Photos at the church 7:30 pm Choir Practice	24 12 pm-5:30 pm Olan Mills Photos at the church 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes	25 9 am Library Crew 12 pm Newsletter Items Due 3 pm-9:30 pm Olan Mills Photos at the church 6 pm Alpha	26 3 pm-9:30 pm Olan Mills Photos at the church	27 8 am Women's Break-fast, Country Waffle 10 am-5:00 pm Olan Mills Photos at the church
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 11:15 am Children's Baptism Study 6 pm Youth Group	29	30 1 pm Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm Choir Practice				

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