



Volume 39, #1 *The Church that says, "Welcome Home" January 2009*



Winter G.O.L.F.

Jan. 4–Mar. 18

Making Your Life Count

Weekly Schedule

- Sermon Series
- Sunday small groups – 9:45 to 10:45am
- Wednesday G. O. L. F. program – 5:55 to 7:55pm
(dinner at 5:55 to 6:20)
- Wednesday Word•2•Life small groups – 6:45 to 7:55pm

G.O.L.F. kicks off this Sunday with Pastor Barry's first message in the sermon series. The Wednesday night program and small groups also begin this week. Sign up with Pastor Paul on Jan. 4th for a small group and mark your calendar for Wednesday.

*"We're just
better together!"*



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*



Do you ever suffer from the 'someday' syndrome? This is the idea that someday: when things calm down; when my life gets in order; when the finances improve; when the kids grow up; I will start living the life that God called me to live. That *someday* I will start living a life that counts.

I am very excited about the next series of sermons that will challenge us to take a look at our lives and consider how we might make our life count. I want to challenge us to live each day with a sense of purpose and direction. The overall theme for our series comes from Psalm 90:12 that reminds us of how really limited our time on this earth is and to spend the time well that we do have.

I was reading the other day about the Qiche Indians of Guatemala. They take the idea seriously of living each day with a sense of purpose and direction. So much so that each tribe has a person who serves as a "day keeper." The day keeper's job is to show the other members of his tribe how to use each day well, making every moment count. The day keepers remind the people to do every job, no matter how mundane, with a sense of purpose.

It is my prayer that these sermons will assist us in living our lives with a sense of purpose and direction. I also realize that to get the most out of this series of sermons we all could benefit from having a "day keeper" in our lives. I believe this is where our small groups can help us the most. The purpose of our small groups is to build relationships with one another while discussing the theme of the sermon that week. I see small groups as helping play the role of "day keeper" in our lives over the next 11 weeks. It can be a time to encourage and challenge each other to make our lives count. If you are not part of a small group I encourage you to sign up for one. If you are not sure how to do this, simply see me or Paul.

I look forward to this time of continued growth in our lives.

See you Sunday, Barry

KNITTERS NEEDED

Are you a knitter? If so, how would you like to share your knitting abilities with fourth and fifth graders? Judy Hockett is looking for 6 to 7 knitters who would like to help her Sunday School class knit scarves. We will be knitting during the Sunday School hour on the fourth Sunday of each month. If you are interested, please give Judy a call.

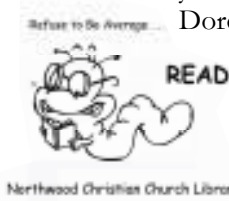


IPM NEWS

To all of those who request prayers for our Monday Night Prayer Night, please deposit those requests in the God Can on Sunday, Jan. 4. Those of us who meet to pray for those who have requested special prayers, will meet on Mon. afternoon, Jan. 5, at the home of Linda and Barry Bettis. We will pray for approximately 1½ hours at that time. If, you don't get your prayer requests in the God Can, you may email them to Linda Bettis at bettis0339@comcast.net or to Arleen Field at arleen.field@worldnet.att.net. It is our pleasure to pray for your utmost needs. Have a very blessed and happy New Year. The IPM.

LIBRARY NEWS

It's been a great year for our library. We had a very successful fundraiser with Dorcas Smucker and fun giving out totes for some of our adult readers. Some are still reading and will likely get their totes soon. Now that the weather is cold, why not spend some time reading. Get warm with a nice cup of tea and a snuggly blanket and one of our interesting books. If you're making resolutions....reading would be a fine way to go.

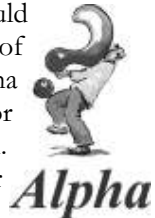


GRIEF GROUP

The new grief group meets Mondays at 7 pm in the Fireside room. This group is for anyone who wants to resolve issues with any loss such as illness, death, divorce, or separation that takes an unusual amount of your thoughts or emotional time. Contact Ted or Reen Stagner. The group meets for 5-6 weeks.

ALPHA

Alpha is a great opportunity to invite non-Christians or anyone who would benefit from studying the basics of the Christian faith. The Alpha course is open to anyone 18 or older and childcare is provided. Invite a friend for a great dinner and come join us on at 6 pm on Thursday Jan. 8th in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions call Andy or Gretchen Petersen.



GOAL SETTING SEMINAR

A special seminar on setting godly goals with Pastor Paul is scheduled for January 29 in the Fireside room from 6:30 to 8pm. Everyone welcome!

NORTHWOOD SERVES DAY

Set aside March 28 on your calendar to make a difference in your community. This is a special day of service planned for those not going on this year's Mission-to-Mexico trip during Spring break. See Pastor Paul to sign up.



A NOTE FROM THE ELDER'S

I feel very blessed to be part of such a loving church family. Sunday, December 21, the elders delivered food boxes to 18 needy families from Northwood. The amount of food was phenomenal. I am glad that we were able to do this for our congregation. Thank you to all who contributed. We as elders know that the needs do not end at Christmas.

We are looking for ways to keep this food drive going to help out our church family throughout the year. One member had an idea to make competitions between small groups or Sunday school classes. Seems like a lot of people come to the plate when there is a competition. If you have an idea please speak with an elder. The elder's will be having our monthly meeting Sunday, Jan. 11th and our prayer breakfast Thursday, Jan. 15th. Have a great month, Northwood.

John Sargeant



THE BILLY GRAHAM AND NORTHWOOD AMBASSADOR INITIATIVE

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us..."
(2 Corinthians 5:20a)

We are looking for all ages of "Northwooders" who have a heart for sharing Jesus with those who do not know him and who have not accepted him as their Lord and Savior.

We are looking for every person—young or old—who is passionate about the Good News of Jesus Christ and wants to be effective in telling others about how to find the joy of God's salvation.

We are looking for anyone and everyone who will commit to pray for the lost in their own corner of the world and who will look for opportunities to serve and love others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Does this describe you? Then read on.

We are calling all with the above heart to join the Billy Graham and Northwood Ambassador initiative today. Simply go to the Northwood Christian Church web site (www.northwoodchristianchurch.org) and click on the link to www.billygraham.org/ambassadors. Then enter your name and e-mail address and you'll be an ambassador. You will receive twice-monthly newsletters by e-mail from Billy Graham, as well as extensive online training tools, articles, videos, downloadable pdfs, and more. In addition, Pastor Paul will host a regular gathering for all ambassadors for sharing, encouragement, and prayer together for the spiritually lost.

We hope you will become an ambassador today! Questions? Talk to Paul and let him know if you sign up.



2009 Mission Trip

March 20–29

download an application at our website, mission2mexico.org

Lew's CREW
does breakfast!

Sunday, Jan. 18th

M2M Annual

Fundraising

Breakfast

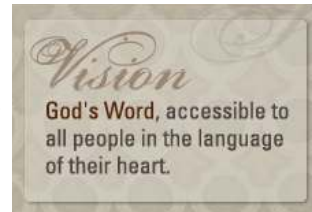
7am-all three services

WORLD OUTREACH

WYCLIFFE

Wycliffe provides bible translations to over 70 countries in the world. Wycliffe also provides managers throughout the 70 countries dealing in such things as training/consulting, administrative operations, executive administration, and working as project managers.

Presently Northwood Christian Church is supporting two Wycliffe translator families. The first is Ron & Jacqui Whisler, who are involved in bible translation for Indonesia. Ron & Jacqui are presently here in Eugene, working on the bible translations. Northwood Christian Church also is supporting the Neveux family. Chris and Devlyn are serving through bible translation and medical outreach in SE Asia.



NOVEMBER 2008 WORLD OUTREACH GIVING

Love Offering/Church Family	\$728	Habitat for Humanity	\$202
Mission Scholarships	\$303	Disciples Mission Fund	\$1,052
Adopt a Ministry Student, NCC	\$1,012	El Faro Orphanage	\$243
FISH	\$344	Week of Compassion	\$405
Young Life	\$182	Lemke Family (CMF - Ukraine)	\$506
Eugene Mission	\$364	Neveux Family (Wycliffe - Indonesia)	\$202
St. Vincent de Paul	\$142	Siedel Family (CMF - Kenya)	\$202
Youth for Christ (LCDC Chaplain)	\$384	Sony (Mission to Unreached People - Indonesia)	\$101
Angel Tree Scholarships	\$61	Whisler Family (Wycliffe - Indonesia)	\$850

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2	3
				4 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	5 2 pm Monthly Prayer Group, Bettis' Home 7 pm Grief Group	6 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice
11 <i>FISH Sunday, bring canned food</i> 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	12 7 pm Grief Group	13 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Praise Team 6:30 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm Choir Practice	14 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes	15 6:30 am Elder's Breakfast, Theresa's Place 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Alpha	16	17
					HS Youth Group to Hood River Snow Rally	
18 7 am Mission 2 Mexico Breakfast 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service	19 7 pm Grief Group	20 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes	22 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Alpha	23 12 pm Newsletter Items due in the Office 7 pm Middle School Extreme	24
25 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 at Reed's Place 6 pm New Member Dinner	26 7 pm Grief Group	27 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6:15 pm Praise Team 7:30 pm Choir Practice	28 2 pm A & A Games 5:55 pm G.O.L.F. Dinner 6:45 pm G.O.L.F. Classes	29 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Alpha 6:30 pm "Setting Godly Goals"	30	31 8 am Women's Breakfast, Country Waffle

NEW MEMBER DINNER

All new members and their families are invited to the New Member Dinner on January 25 at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP with Pastor Paul or the office, so we know how many will be attending, and we can plan accordingly.



New Members

December 21

Arissa Winningham

December 28

Nellie Brooks

Baptisms

December 14

Michael Allen

Dawn Marie Powers

Change of Address

Rolly & Gena Sullivan

Marlis Palmer

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.

A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

from the Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Something I learned in one of my philosophy classes from a professor who came from India, was that everything good in life is all about the expectations. Once the event takes place, then the excitement is over. Once the expectations are over, and we know what the event would bring, then we come to a place where there is a downside.

So what I learned from Christ was, it is only He who brings us the continued excitement. It is only He who brings us into new avenues and new adventures. So once Christmas is over, I learned to just focus on Christ and anxiously anticipate the new year and see where He would take us. Where Christ takes us, is always better and much more fulfilling.

I have always loved the new year. Lots of new expectations and new areas to work for our

God. So what Professor Singh was telling us was to never focus so much on one thing, just keep focused on the future and we will never feel let down or sad. I found that lesson so very profound for me. I have since learned to keep the focus on Christ and He will most certainly bring us to something entirely unexpected and overwhelming. The things of this earth just let us down, but He keeps us overjoyed and full of excitement as we wait for our next assignment.

So dear child of God, keep thinking of what He will have you doing in the next year. It always gets better and better. You see, by staying spiritual, we don't experience all of those let downs of the natural. Oh how He must see things! Life is always a joy in His world. Hopefully we'll get to see a glimpse of His world as we go about doing His work.



Blessings in the New Year - IPM

January Elders

Communion & Offering

January 4 -

Christi Keefer & Judy Hockett

January 11 -

Mike Harman & Mel Mead

January 18 -

Dennis Page & Bob Shelton

January 25 -

Tom Utt & Ralph Matteson

January Diaconate

January 4 - Kitty Bates' Team

January 11 - Debbie Child's Team

January 18 - Connie Knight's Team

January 25 - Dan Witt's Team

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

As 2008 Closes: Let's Look Ahead

Betsy needs your help to make 2009 a success!

BETSY CLEWITT & STAFF FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING

CHILDREN'S NEWS



As 2008 draws to a close, I find myself reflecting on what the children's ministry has accomplished in the past year and setting new goals for the year ahead. I need your help with this.

We have certainly been busy in 2008, but what have we done to bring glory to God's kingdom? Yes, children attend Sunday and mid-week programs in large numbers, but only a fraction spend more than one hour a week with us. Many children participate in special events and programs, but I suspect we're adding yet another thing to families' fragmented and busy lives. Are we really contributing to our kids'

spiritual development?

As I look back, one event stands out as truly memorable to children who participated in it: namely, the collection of 1,000 caps, scarves, socks, and mittens that we distributed to needy kids in our community at the Springfield Christmas parade. This project was a church-wide and intergenerational effort, from making or buying the "warm woolies" to bagging them at VBS, and finally handing them out at the parade on December 6. Our kids learned the many benefits of setting high expectations and achieving them, working in Christian community, and serving others in need. This is the genuine purpose to faith-in-action.

Many have asked if we will continue with the 'warm woolies' project. I think this is a good place to start planning for 2009. We'll set the bar a little higher – how about 2,000 pieces? And start now when gloves and hats and mittens go on sale.

This is a good start, but what else? This is where I need your help. Please let me know, in person or by email, what have we done in the past year to bring glory to God's kingdom? What should we be doing to grow our children's faith? How can the kids programs support families, rather than increase 'busy-ness' in their lives? I look forward to receiving your input as we plan for a productive 2009.

In His Spirit,

Betsy



In the next few months I will be giving you all the chance to meet the members of the awesome youth ministry team through a series of interviews. This month I interviewed my wife Kelsey. The following is our conversation:

R How long have you been involved in youth ministry?

K I have been ministering to youth since I was a sophomore in high school, and have been involved ever since, in many different capacities, in the couple different churches we have attended since I came to know the Lord after middle school.

R What is your favorite part of working with the youth?

K The most exhilarating part of youth ministry for me is always when the fun and busyness stop for a real moment of connection and depth. Sometimes it is a real question about Jesus, a realization about life, a reckoning with an old hurt, or one of many other genuine interactions with the Truth that the Holy Spirit leads us to.

R What would you tell someone that was thinking about getting involved in youth ministry?

K Be yourself! Ministering to students, the elderly, infirm, children, adults (et cetera) is not about conforming to a stereotype or the leader's way of being. It is about bringing the passions God has stoked in you and the passion you have for the Lord to the population you are serving-it really does "take all kinds," all of the body of Christ to

A NOTE FROM



REED-O

serve the rest of the body and those who don't yet know Him.

R What is your favorite color?

K Right now, I'm into greens and browns.

R What is on your ipod?

K I'm listening to a lot of relaxing music lately-acoustic worship, classical, slow/soulful music in general..

January Schedule:

4th Youth Group 6:00 (H.S.)
 11th Youth Group 6:00 (H.S.)
 16th – 18th High School Snow Rally (Hood River)
 18th **No Youth Group** (H.S.)
 23rd **Extreme** (M.S.)
 25th Faith and Film 5:30 – at Kelsey and Reed's house (H.S.)

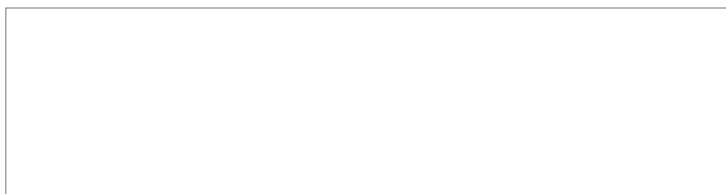
Special Notes:

- Extreme is on the fourth Friday of the month due to the high school Snow Rally.
- G.O.L.F starts on Wednesday the 7th

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The Window

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We reserve the right to edit or rewrite submitted articles. Newsletter deadline is the 24th of each month. Articles may be submitted by e-mail to office@northwoodchristianchurch.org or to the office. Church office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm., closed noon to 1 pm for lunch, Friday, 8 am to noon.