



# THE WINDOW

*Northwood Christian Church*

Volume 39, #7

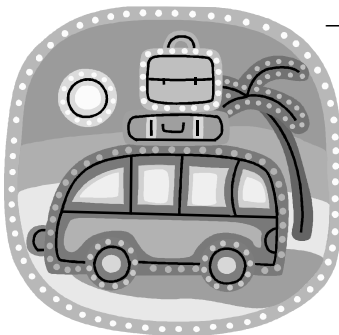
*The Church that says, "Welcome Home"*

July 2009

## *Summer* God's Bonus Days

An author writing in Guideposts magazine calls the nostalgic times of memory 'God's bonus days.' LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life's unexpected dividends—like a summer rainbow, a glorious sunset, a warm spring thaw—were occasions for shedding mundane tasks for a special event. She remembers one sensationally beautiful day in her childhood when the incredibly blue vault of the sky seemed limitless. Her dad picked up the fishing poles and called, "Let's play hooky, hon. It's one of God's bonus days."

—Marion R. Vuilleumier  
in *Meditations  
by the Sea*



Sit in the generous sunshine of summer  
A bright blue sky overhead.  
Join millions of leaves.  
Join grasses and trees.  
Soak up the warmth from heaven.  
Pause in the generous sunshine of  
summer.  
Look for a cool, clear brook.  
Rest in the shade  
That summer has made.  
Rest and refresh the soul.  
Bask in the generous sunshine of  
summer.  
Indulge in its timelessness—the quiet  
unfolding of nature itself,  
Abundantly giving,  
Abundantly living.  
Beauty transcends the earth, and leads to  
eternal worth!

—Peggy Ferrell



I recently started a new sermon series based upon Northwood’s new Vision Statement. It is essential that we have a current and active vision statement as it will guide and direct all that we do. I want you to know and remember these four words that represent our Vision Statement: **Connect—Grow—Serve—Go**

Last week I talked about the importance of connecting. As a church we want to help you connect to God and to a loving church family. I pray you will take these two commitments very seriously. I was reminded again about the importance of connecting with those who know us and love us in a story told by Dennis Lynn. “When former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn neared the end of his life, he surprised his colleagues in Congress by informing them that he was going home to Bonham, Texas. His startling announcement made no sense to them. They wondered why he would choose to leave an area that had some of the best medical facilities in the world and go to a tiny town in North Texas. Rayburn explained his reasons in a simple and sincere way. He said, “Bonham, Texas is a place where people know when you are sick and care when you die.”

It was his desire to be known and loved that drew Sam Rayburn back to Texas. I believe that each one of us have that exact same need, to be known and loved. That is my desire for you at Northwood. To be part of a church family where you are known and loved. Let me ask have you done your part? Are you part of a small group? Have you taken the time to build meaningful relationship at church? Are you serving in some way that would help draw you closer to others? The challenge is ours and yours!

*See you Sunday, Barry*



**Practical Help for Living**

The abundance of food in our cupboards and supermarkets makes it easy to forget that folks struggle to put food on the table. Northwood has a food pantry for anyone facing this challenge. Coordinated by long-time member, Toni Unfred, the pantry shelves are kept stocked by donations from church folks. “We have been overwhelmed with donations of foodstuffs and grocery cash cards. Now, with summer gardens beginning to produce, I am hopeful that gardeners will share their abundance,” said Toni.

It isn’t easy to ask for help. “No matter the age group, tough economic times hit all of us. Everyone has a story to tell about when times were tough, but many are unwilling to ask for help when they need it. They are embarrassed and ashamed. All I can say to that is, ‘As Christians, we are called to serve and to give, that is true, but if no one is willing to accept help, they deprive others of that chance,’” she said. Toni lives near the church and is available on evenings and weekends to open the pantry. Toni’s work with the food pantry is a reminder that each of us can make a practical difference in the lives of those around us.



## LIBRARY NEWS

Yes, summer *is* a great time to read!! We know you love travel and be outside. We do too, but books fit right in with that quiet time you'll need along with the fun. Please remember to return books so others can read them. Consider listening to a speaker or an audio book, such as: Joyce Meyer or the Promise Keeper series.



## NEWS & REVIEW

What fun we had at our June indoor picnic. It was so special to have our own John Hakes sing and play his unique songs that everyone enjoyed. Now that you have heard him in such a relaxed setting come and enjoy Northwood's 5th Sunday songfest. Good entertainment. Thank you John for all you are and do. Thanks to all who helped with decor, picnic food, set-up and clean-up. What a nice family we have! July 21st we have scheduled an ice cream social with Sharon Chariker as our Hostess. Call her if you would like to help furnish ice cream, home made or store bought, or whatever else she needs. We will not have a meal. Eat a hearty breakfast or an early lunch at home and meet in the fellowship hall at 1:00 p.m.

## FLOWERS OF HOPE

On Sunday July 19, our sanctuary will be decorated with flowers honoring family members and friends who have battled cancer. If you want to participate, cards are available at the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. The cost is a \$5 donation to American Cancer Society. You are encouraged to bring a photo of your loved one and it will become part of Northwood's **Why Do I Relay?** display



## NORTHWOOD RELAYERS OF HOPE

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that one day cancer will be eliminated.

Help our church family Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back by participating in the Relay for Life at Lane Community College from **Friday, July 24** at noon to Saturday, July 25 at noon.

Sign up in the fellowship hall or by calling Jill in the office. Our goal is to have 50 Northwood representatives. A \$10 donation is requested for participation. Come with your families, your friends, and your co-workers.



If you cannot join us on that day, but would like to donate in the name of Northwood's team, write a check to the American Cancer Society and write 'Northwood Relay of Hope' in the memo line.

Give the check to the person at the sign-up table in the Fellowship Hall or leave it in the office.

If you have any questions, call Jill in the office or Judy Hockett.

### **Fundraising Update**

Cones for the Cure \$350  
Curbing for Cancer \$450

There were nine people who came and collected spare change at the 42nd street and I-105 exit on June 18, and we collected \$450.16! We had a great time also. Next year we want more there to help. We have great ideas!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU NOTES**

*Dear Family in Christ,*

During these past months, you have been so loving and caring for Gary, me, and our family. Over and over, we have received beautiful, fun, comforting cards and words, and have felt your prayers holding us up to our Lord.

We thank you deeply for being Christ’s servants. All that was done for Gary’s memorial service was wonderful. The gifts given to the memorial funds will carry on his ministry. Someone once said, “God lays His workers down, but His work goes on.”

Gary would have been so grateful to you all, and we surely are too.

*With Christ’s love, Hallie Wells and Family*

*Dear Northwood Christian Church Family,*

On behalf of my four sisters & brothers, Linda, David, Jon & Janet and all of our families, I offer our sincere appreciation, thanks, and sense of honor for all the care, love, and attention you have individually and collectively given to Dad & Mom both during the illness and now at Dad’s passing. The cards, the gifts, the post-memorial reception, your prayers, your hugs, all of your ministering to Mom, all have been so generous and meaningful. *So, thank you, Tim Wells*



**Welcome**

**New Members**

**June 7**

*Shelly Genck*

*Lisa Haight*

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.

**CONNECT: WITH THE NEW BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

Northwood’s vision is to **Connect—Grow—Serve—Go**. One way to connect is through the Northwood Business Directory that is being developed to list the businesses and services offered by our members. If you offer or are part of a business or service or have skills that members could benefit from—a listing is for you. Turn your business card along with a short marketing statement to the church office by the end of July. The listings are free, but donations to cover productions are greatly appreciated.

## **FINANCIAL PEACE IS POSSIBLE!**

Northwood wants to give you the opportunity to learn how to manage your finances God's way and end up in better shape than you ever thought possible. The class is called **Financial Peace University**, and it's taught on video by Dave Ramsey.

Take this class to see how much peace you can actually have in your home when you have your money under control. The class focuses on practical ways to manage everything God has given you. It's the best time you'll ever spend learning about money! For more information, visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com), or talk to Pastor Barry or Richard Smith. The summer class starts on Thursday July 9<sup>th</sup> and a second class is offered in the fall starting on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>.




## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT—JUNE 2009**

The Operating Summary/Financial Statement for May 2009 is provided below. For the month of May (five Sundays), all budgeted expenses were covered by the generous tithes and offerings of our congregation. Throughout the year, designated gifts for general fund eligible expenses were used to help offset the lack of general funds. As a result, the current year deficit sits at \$3,435 instead of \$33,647. Our General Fund Reserve (savings account) now sits at \$41,800.

### **Operating Summary—May, 2009**

<b>Revenue</b>	<b>May-09</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
GF Giving & Misc. Income	\$47,035	\$399,820	\$480,877
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>May-09</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>
GF & World Outreach	\$38,070	\$420,055	\$480,877
*Unbudgeted Expenses	0	\$13,412	0
<b>Total</b>	\$38,070	\$433,467	\$480,877
Net Receipts – GF	\$8,995	(\$33,647)	
Designated Gifts/fundraising	\$2,702	\$33,212 Note**	
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$11,697</b>	<b>(\$3,435)</b>	

GF is General Fund, \*(Primarily Vision Street Consultant –Church Assessment as approved by the Board),  
 \*\*Used to offset GF Expenses

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2 pm A & A Games 7 pm Captivating Class	2 9 am Library Crew	3 Office Closed	4
			5 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	6 Monthly Prayer Meeting at Bettis' 9:15 pm Softball Game at Guy Lee	7 1 pm Women's Bible Study 7 pm Fireproof Class 8 pm Drop In Basketball	8 2 pm A & A Games 7 pm Captivating Class
12 <i>Car Wash during Church</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 5 pm Elder's Meeting 6 pm Youth Group	13 7:45 pm Softball Game at Guy Lee	14 1 pm Women's Bible Study 1:30 pm Studio Go! S'more 6:30 pm Board Mtg 8 pm Drop In Basketball	15 1:30 pm Studio Go! Livin' Large 2 pm A & A Games 7 pm Captivating Class	16 6:30 am Elder Breakfast, Terese's Place, Spfld 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Financial Peace University	17 Office Closed 6:30 pm Extreme	18 6 pm Celebrate Recovery Training
19 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 Creation Group Meeting	20 7:45 pm Softball Game at Guy Lee	21 1 pm Alert & Alive Ice Cream Social 1 pm Women's Bible Study 1:30 pm Studio Go! S'more 7 pm Fireproof Class 8 pm Drop In Basketball	22 1:30 pm Studio Go! Livin' Large 2 pm A & A Games 7 pm Captivating Class	23 9 am Library Crew 12 pm Newsletter Items due in the Office 6 pm Financial Peace University	24 Office Closed	25 8 am Women's Breakfast, Country Waffle 6 pm Celebrate Recovery Training
			Youth to Creation Fest in George, Washington <i>return Sunday</i>		Relay for Life at LCC	
26 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Contemporary Service 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional Service	27 6:15 pm Softball Game at Guy Lee	28 1 pm Women's Bible Study 1:30 pm Studio Go! S'more 8 pm Drop In Basketball	29 1:30 pm Studio Go! Livin' Large 2 pm A & A Games 7 pm Captivating Class	30 9 am Library Crew 6 pm Financial Peace University	31 Office Closed	

## NEWS FROM RECOVERY CORNER



Celebrate Recovery continues to move forward toward our start date of September 19<sup>th</sup>. We began training new leadership on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>, and will continue with the training classes every Saturday evening (except July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Sept 5<sup>th</sup>) from 6–8pm. There is always room for more people at these training sessions, so if you are interested please feel free to join. You can also contact me at [davew@northwoodcr.com](mailto:davew@northwoodcr.com) for further information.

Our Krispy Kreme sales, “Recycle” t-shirt sales, and Papa’s Pizza fund raiser were all well supported and continue to add funds for our start up costs. Thanks to everyone for your support. You will have another opportunity to get your car washed on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, Papa’s Pizza on Main St in Springfield is the location, so come on out and get those cars ready for summer fun.

Remember Celebrate Recovery for all of life’s “hurts, hang-ups, and habits”. Have a Blessed Summer.

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS: 2009 INTERFAITH MINISTRY SHELTER

It was a privilege for our Northwood family to be servants to five homeless families at First Christian Church in Eugene, May 25-31.

We served breakfast and dinner, helped transport people from First Place to Eugene First Christian, entertained children with crafts, and shared our Lord’s love.

Our food, caring, and helping were appreciated by the families. A thank you also comes from Gary and I to all who so willingly signed up and worked so hard.

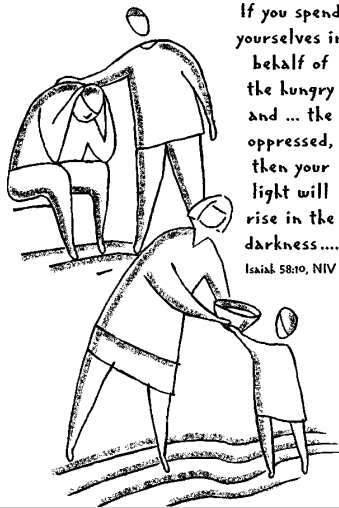
Our breakfast preparers were: Sue & Russ Smith, Mary Lou Hanna, Connie Knight, Ralph & Bonnie Matteson, Dick & Alice Sweeney, Shiela Rowland, Eunice Barnts, Lew Stewart & Teena Stratton.

Dinner preparers, servers, & dish washers were: Don & Marie Wilson, Lloyd & Marcia Finch, Bob & Vera Shelton, Allen & Marcia Freeman, Hal & Janet Sweeney, Jeannine Mart, Vi Williams, Mark Schneider, Michael & DawnMarie Allen, Susan Devine, Carole Huston, Mel & Carol Mead, Judy Honeck, Rod & Rita Bowman, Marvin & Janet Cowan, & Reen Stagner.

Van drivers were: Dennis Page, Rod Bowman & Teena Stratton.

Craft leaders were: Katie Rutherford & children, Tanya Dean & Jennifer Utt.

A big thank you again, Gary & Meredith Noble



If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and ... the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness....  
Isaiah 58:10, NIV

## **WORLD OUTREACH**

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The world outreach committee members are asking you to pray about special sponsorship and programs within Northwood. Be sure you check out the bulletin board in the hall by the restrooms for interesting information about these programs:

- The Military Family of Northwood bulletin board
- Children’s Ministry-collecting gloves, scarves and hats to give to those in need at the Springfield Christmas Parade.
- The Prayer Ministry-praying for special needs of those in our church.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry-knitting shawls for those who need special comfort.
- Interfaith Shelter-serving the homeless of our community one week a year.
- Northwood’s Relayers of Hope-Celebrating, Remembering and Fighting back for those we have lost to cancer or who are fighting it.
- Celebrate Recovery-for all of life’s *Habits, Hurts and Hang-Ups*
- Northwood Outreach Scholarship-helping individuals with school or mission scholarships.
- Northwood’s Food Pantry-helping our church families when needed.

These are all ministries that you can take part in. Contact the church office or Leone Miller for more information about any of them.

## **F.I.S.H. THANKS YOU**

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Thank you for your generous donations to the F.I.S.H. program. During these times many people are having difficult problems with food and clothing, prescriptions, and even electric bills. Having you as a dedicated partner is a very big asset in our mission to help with the needs of our community.

Thank you again, Daryl Carpenter, Treasurer



## **MAY 2009 WORLD OUTREACH GIVING**

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Love Offering/Church Family	\$828	Habitat for Humanity	\$230
Mission Scholarships	\$345	Disciples Mission Fund	\$1,196
Adopt a Ministry Student, NCC	\$1,150	El Faro Orphanage	\$276
FISH	\$391	Week of Compassion	\$460
Young Life	\$207	Lemke Family (CMF - Ukraine)	\$575
Eugene Mission	\$414	Neveux Family (NICS - Indonesia)	\$230
St. Vincent de Paul	\$161	Siedel Family (CMF - Kenya)	\$230
Youth for Christ (LCDC Chaplain)	\$437	Sony (Mission to Unreached People - Indonesia)	\$115
Angel Tree Scholarships	\$69	Whisler Family (Wycliffe - Indonesia)	\$996

CHILDREN'S NEWS



With summer now upon us, we're shifting into a new rhythm for the season. The first item of greatest interest pertains to re-scheduling VBS. The staff considered two options for this year's VBS: 1) the 5 consecutive evening family program and 2) a more traditional day-time VBS program primarily for kids, held for 5 consecutive Tuesdays from 1:30 – 3:00. After lengthy discussion, the staff agreed on the day-time program for kids.

So, starting on Tuesday, July 14, and for the next four Tuesdays, we're inviting kids 4-12 to join us for "VBS S'more" from 1:30-3. We will explore the Studio GO! Bible stories that motivate us to serve others, have fun with crafts and skits, and tackle service projects appropriate to the age group. Please let us know in advance if your children will participate, simply by calling me. We're hoping that all adults who want to assist with the program or participate will also attend!

Beginning on Wednesday, July 15, we're inviting our 'tween girls to meet from 1:30-3 for a program we're calling "Living' Large." For the subsequent four weeks, we'll be exploring how to bring our heart's desires to meet the world's deepest needs. And then we'll practice it in ways that serve others in our church and community. Again, girls or parents, please let us know if you'll be joining us by giving me a call.

It may be summer, but we're still here and working hard to engage our kids in worship, fellowship and service in God's house. Please join us...

In His Spirit, Betsy



July Schedule:

- 14<sup>th</sup> Studio Go! S'more
- 15<sup>th</sup> Studio Go! Livin' Large
- 21<sup>st</sup> Studio Go! S'more
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Studio Go! Livin' Large
- 28<sup>th</sup> Studio Go! S'more
- 29<sup>th</sup> Studio Go! Livin' Large

July Elders

Communion & Offering

- July 5 - Andy Petersen & Mel Mead
- July 12 - Beverly Robertson & Christi Keefer
- July 19 - Ralph Matteson & Merrill Burge
- July 26 - Bob Shelton & Tom Utt

July Diaconate

- July 5 - Connie Knight's Team
- July 12 - Dan Witt's Team
- July 19 - Judy Davies' Team
- July 26 - Gary Franklin's Team

*If you aren't sure whose team you are on, please call the office. New Diaconate members will be added to the schedule in August*

**REMEMBER THE LEAST OF THESE**

We, a group of students, sat eating our lunch. I had Middle Eastern food, others had Chinese or Mexican. The concoction of smells from the various vendors in the open air Central Market of Los Angeles tickled our senses, there was so much great to food to be had. Our group of students had pulled together three or four small square tables, the metal edges banging together as the uneven concrete floor enticed the tables to sway back and forth on the concrete pinnacles that reached up beneath each of their feet. We were tired, hungry, and frustrated at the despair and depression that had been painted across the faces of those who call the streets of Skid Row home. It was difficult to see people without what I call the basic necessities of life, a home with walls, an ability to buy food, a daily shower. Such simple things had seemed guaranteed growing up in a white middle-class home, but it was obvious now that those things are not guaranteed. In fact, now it seems that nothing is. As we were sharing our feelings about what we had seen, one member of the group began to wonder where one of our classmates was. This particular classmate had been struggling to keep up all day; he had a physical handicap that did not allow him to walk as fast, or as far as the rest of us.

A NOTE FROM



REED-O

Just as the concerned member of our party stood up to go look for our lost classmate, he showed up. In broken, frustrated, and angry speech he said “thanks a lot for your help guys, I couldn’t carry my food so I spilled it.” We all looked at him, his face furrowed in anger; it was not the first time that I had seen that face that day. It very much resembled the looks we received from the homeless to whom we denied assistance. As the force of what he said hit our hearts, we all apologized. I do not know what the other members of the group were thinking, but my emotions went from surprise, to guilt, to shame. I was ashamed that we had forgotten about him. We were so preoccupied with our own meals, tired feet, and conversation that we had allowed our brother to struggle on account of his disability.

As I have reflected over our trip to Skid Row these past nine years, I have had the same emotions that inundated my mind when our classmate came to us frustrated because we had forgotten about him. I have been surprised by the condition of the poor, I have felt guilt over all the luxuries I have, and I have felt shame that I, we, us, as Christians, have largely forgotten the poor who call various Skid Rows, bridges, and parks around the world home. We have forgotten about the “least of these” who Jesus refers to in Matthew 25. We, by forgetting about the poor of this world, have forgotten about Christ, as He says, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.” The deplorable conditions of the poor in our society are largely due to the sin of forgetfulness, and to those of us who have forgotten, I say: remember the love of Christ you have known, remember the sacrifice He made for you, remember the blessings that He has given you. In remembering Christ, do unto the least of these.

**July Schedule:**  
5<sup>th</sup> Youth Group 6:00 (H.S.)  
7<sup>th</sup> Can & Bottle Drive Canvas Day  
10<sup>th</sup> Dinner & Dessert Auction, 6:30  
12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Morning Car Wash  
12<sup>th</sup> Youth Group 6:00 (H.S.)  
17<sup>th</sup> Extreme 6:30 (M.S.)  
19<sup>th</sup> Creation Group Meeting, 6:00  
22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Creation '09 @ the Gorge

Northwood Christian Church  
2425 Harvest Ln.  
Springfield, OR 97477

PERIODICALS  
Postage Paid At  
Springfield, OR 97477

USPS 398-120



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A publication of  
Northwood Christian Church  
2425 Harvest Lane  
Springfield, OR 97477  
Office: 541-746-2790  
[www.northwoodchristianchurch.org](http://www.northwoodchristianchurch.org)  
Email: [office@northwoodchristianchurch.org](mailto:office@northwoodchristianchurch.org)  
Fax: 541-747-7485

Sr. Pastor: Barry Lind  
Sr. Assoc. Pastor: Paul Jackson  
Youth Pastor: Reed Webster  
Director of Children's Ministry: Betsy Clewett  
Administrative Assistant: Jill Noble

*The Window* (USPS 398-120) is published monthly by  
Northwood Christian Church  
2425 Harvest Lane, Springfield, OR 97477  
"Periodicals" postage is paid at Springfield, OR Postmaster  
Send changes to *The Window*, 2425 Harvest Lane Springfield, OR

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**Northwood Staff**

Barry Lind, Senior Pastor  
Paul Jackson, Sr. Associate Pastor  
Reed Webster, Youth Pastor  
Betsy Clewett, Director of Children's Ministry  
Jonathan Swartout, Youth Worker  
Kelly Oviatt, Children's Worker  
John Hakes, Music Minister  
Judy Lacock, Pianist  
Connie Knight, Bookkeeper  
Jill Noble, Administrative Assistant  
Terrina Garrett, Custodian

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](mailto: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.