The Window

Northwood Christian Church

Volume 41, #7 *The Church that says, "Welcome Home"* *July 2011*

A Word from Barry

In a recent sermon to our seniors, I wanted to share with you a letter from an 80 year old woman to her children, but was not able to due to time. So, I pass it along to you in our newsletter.

To all my children:

A few years ago, I saw a tee-shirt with the words "Live Long Enough to Be a Burden to Your Children." Back then, I thought it was funny, Today, I don't think it's funny at all, because I am afraid I'm doing just that. None of us want to be a burden to our family, but the older we get, the more we realize that age comes not only to the aging person, but to the family, as well. Both must accept old age and make the necessary adjustments.

Sometimes I wonder how the children of Methuselah felt about their father who lived to be 969 years old. Imagine, at more than 900 years old, did he have all of his faculties at that age? Or was he blind, deaf, and maybe so feeble that he couldn't walk? Did his children worry about whether he was eating right, getting enough exercise and dressing warmly enough? How did he accept his advancing years? These questions came to mind because, as a parent, I hate having to rely on my children to do things for me that I could do for myself a few years ago.

You children are always so kind and generous about looking after me, but I want to be doing for myself. I long to drive my car again. I want to go alone to the grocery store to shop, and I want to drive myself there. I want...but you get the idea. What I really want is to be 70 again. The truth of it is, that our roles are reversed, and now I am your child needing you in a special way. I suppose my upcoming birthday started my thoughts along these lines. You never forget my birthday, or any other special day, without a gift. I realize the problems you must have in choosing a gift, because I have what I need in material possessions. This is a good time to tell you that what I truly want are things I can never get enough of, yet they are free. I want the intangibles. I want just a little more of your time, and that's selfish of me, I know, because you have your own children, and grandchildren, who want your time, and also you need time for yourselves. But all I want is just a few unhurried minutes. I would like for you to come and sit with me, and for you to be relaxed. It makes me so nervous when you sit on the edge of your chair and keep looking at your watch. We can talk, or we can be silent. I would just like for us to be together.

You children who live out of town are thoughtful to call me on the phone, but I would like it if you could just write once or twice a month. Then I could look forward to reading and rereading your letters. I don't always hear every word you say on the phone, and a letter or two would help me greatly.

I need your patience when I don't hear what you say the first time, so please don't be annoyed. I know how tiresome it is to always be repeating , but sometimes I must ask you to repeat. Now, you don't need to yell at me, just speak slowly. I need your patience when I think too much about the past. I need your patience with my slowness and my set ways. I want you to be tolerant with what the years have done to me physically.

Please be understanding about my personal care habits. I really can't see when my dress is dirty or the floor needs cleaning. I spill things. I lose things. I get unduly excited when I try to figure out my bank statements. I

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can't remember what time to take my medication, or if I took it already. I take too many naps, I know, because you have said, "Quit spending all of your time sleeping." Well, sometimes when I sleep in the daytime, it was because I was awake half the night. At other times, sleep helps to pass the day. When I have nothing but time on my hands, a 15-minute nap seems like an hour.

Well, there you have it: time, patience, and understanding. These are the priceless gifts that I want. Over and over again, I take my bible, (thank God that I can still read), and I read what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:11: "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." But oh, how trying!

I know what it is to be in need, and what it is to have more than enough. I remember how your father and I struggled through the depression, and then how wonderful it was when we finally had a good nest egg, and had saved something for old age. I am thankful I can still care for myself financially (that is, unless I live to be 969!)

Finally, in his letter, Paul wrote, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I know I can, too! Maybe I can't do all I want to, the way I used to, but how comforting it is to know His eye is on the sparrow and I know He cares for me. I guess being 80 isn't so bad after all! God has blessed me so much.

Love, Mom Keltner

This letter was read by Dr. Dobson on the "Focus on the Family" radio broadcast entitled, "Caring for Elderly Parents."

When the Message Hits Home

Jonnie Helfrich

I appreciate all of Barry's and our guests' special messages on Sundays. Every once in a while, though, the message rings particularly true. That was the case on June 12th for me. Those of you, particularly in 2nd service, know the truth in that.

Barry spoke of marriage and living happily ever after. I was a child in one of those marriages. If there were challenges or struggles for Mom and Dad, I was unaware. Never did a cross word between them fall on my ears, if one were ever spoken at all. There was an occasional finger wag. That wagging finger was usually grasped, the person pulled close and kissed. The adoration between them was palpable. Theirs was a truly beautiful marriage, for 62 years, until Dad's passing in 2008. And no doubt, in Mom's heart, it lives on.

So, when it came time to sing "How Beautiful," how difficult it was! I'd sung it twice before, without missing a beat. I missed several beats that Sunday and struggled to get the song past my suppressed sobs. The words came to me as never before with the message that God had meant for me to hear. I wanted to sing the song with the pretty voice God gave me. The voice didn't sound as pretty, but for many of you, the message was more meaningful. It was, for perhaps the first time, delivered straight from the heart. I took the message home. When Aaron got home that day, I wrapped my arms around him, looked in his eyes, and I know that he saw my undying love for him.

Thank You for Helping

Another week of helping homeless families at Eugene First Christian Church, was again a blessing for 47 members of our loving family at Northwood. Not only for us, but for the families, as they are so grateful and a joy to serve. Many thanks were received!!

We had 9 people who prepared and served, 23 who prepared and served dinners, 5 drove the van, transporting people from First Place (where they spend the days), bringing families to the church to eat dinner and stay the night. We also had six adult and three middle school youth come to entertain and teach crafts to the children.

May God bless you, our beautiful Northwood family, who willingly volunteered and shared our Lord's love and cared for others.

Thank you all, Gary and Meredith Noble

Food Pantry Update

The food pantry is still up and running at Northwood. If you find yourself in need of using it, please just call the office or drop by, and we can help you. If you don't drive, or can't get to the church, you can call and let us know what you need, and we will arrange someone to deliver you a food box. All you need to do is ask, and we can help.

The shoppers for the food pantry would love to have your coupons. Weekly coupons from newspapers, (Sunday and Wednesday) and store coupons also. If you have access to a computer, and want to print coupons, check with the office for some great sites to print them from. There is a box on the desk in the foyer to place the coupons.

SENIOR TALENT SHOW

Everyone is Invited - August 6

Calling all Hobos to come Saturday, August 6th! Everyone is invited to the Senior Talent Show. This year is a Hobo theme. The show starts at 11am in the Sanctuary and afterwards, there will be a feast and more fun in the Fellowship Hall. Remember to mark your calendars and even come dressed in your hobo best. Any questions or concerns, call Sharon Chariker. Hope to see you there!

LIBRARY NEWS

The library crew continues to work through the summer. We're still inventorying and adding new books. We've already added about 140 books this year. We just placed a set of Old Testament commentaries by J. Vernon McGee. They're on the back shelf in their own area because many like his works. Summer is a great time to read!

RELAY FOR LIFE

July 29 & 30

Only four more weeks until Northwood joins the Relay for Life at Willamette High School. You may sign up in the fellowship hall on Sundays or by calling the church office. A $10 minimum donation is required for participation with the Northwood team. You may purchase a Northwood Relayers of Hope T-shirt for $5. Survivor T-Shirts are provided at no cost as our way of celebrating victory over cancer. Why not consider buying a shirt even if you cannot participate in the walk.

Also. don't forget, every Sunday you may help support cancer research by purchasing an ice cream cone, an Italian soda, or a mocha. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

If you have some free time and would like to help, we are looking for volunteers to put together our silent auction baskets (items already purchased); to decorate the sanctuary with memory flowers on July 31; and to help with ice cream and beverage sales.

WORLD OUTREACH

If you check out our Outreach bulletin board, you will see that our focus this month is on scholarships, as well as several other ministries. Scholarships for students attending NCU were established in memory of long-term members Stan and Peggy Glick, as well as former pastor Gary Wells. The Doris McCord Memorial provides scholarships to help young people attend summer church camp. There are also limited funds for Women's Ministry events, youth activities and Mission to Mexico. Angel Tree provides summer camp scholarships for children who have an incarcerated parent .

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24–27

VBS 2011 will Stir It UP! at Northwood from July 24–27. Opening each evening at 5:45, our own Top Chefs will serve a meal for one of God's appointed festivals: Purim, the Feast of Booths, Passover, and the Feast of Pentecost. As we celebrate, we are reminded that Jesus appeared to fulfill and forever transform our faith. In addition to age-appropriate classes for children, teens, and adults, we will work together to construct remarkable representations of each festival, replicate a highlight of each celebration, and complete a service project as an intergenerational faith community. Plan to join us for fun, faith, and fellowship!

FROM THE CHILDREN'S WING

I thought I could resist, but here's another tidbit from the backseat of my car. My grandkids were sitting in their car seats as I drove down the freeway to Cottage Grove. Jermey (6) sneezed. Casey (2) said, "Jermey blessed you on Yea-Yea, arm wet." Translation: Jermey sneezed all over Casey's arm!

This little girl believed that the big stuffed bear in the preschool classroom was named "Jesus." Now she believes that a sneeze is called a "bless you" because that's what people say when you sneeze. What am I to do?

Like Nana, like Yea-Yea. I learned an aberrant "bless you" as a kid too.

I was born in the South and grew up around people who frequently used the expression, "bless her heart." (Variation: bless his heart, bless your heart.) Actually, no blessing is intended.

In fact, the "bless you" indicates that the words to follow about someone else are not kind. The "bless you" signals the listener that you are really not being mean, and not to object to the story being told. An example would be, "She wanted to sing in the choir but she couldn't carry a tune, bless her heart." The "bless you" really means "pardon me." What a twist.

These days, I am uneasy when I hear this expression. I prefer my "bless you" to be an expression of concern or empathy, a tiny prayer. A "bless you" should leave no germs behind.

PUBLISHED AUTHOR

David Lane, a longtime member of Northwood's congregation, who often contributed to worship with his singing, has written a Christian novel, inspired by the passage I Corinthians 13:9–12.

The Light in the Mirror is the story of Richard Hawkins, a young man raised by his uncle Mac, a Scot who teaches him to follow Jesus and seek to know God's purpose for his life.

HELP WANTED

Do you have a good ear for music? Would you like to help in the sound booth? We need a few people to help out on Sundays. Contact Richard Russell if you're interested.

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 *Office Closed*	2
3 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary 9:45 am Contemporary 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional	4 *Office Closed* *Independence Day*	5 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm FPU 6 pm Memory Care Group 6 pm Women's Bible Study	6 12 pm Alpha Leadership Meeting 2 pm A & A Games	7 9 am Library & Yard Crews 9 am Out of the House	8 *Office Closed*	9
10 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary 9:45 am Contemporary 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional	11	12 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Board Mtg.	13 2 pm A & A Games	14 9 am Library & Yard Crews 9 am Out of the House	15 *Office Closed*	16
17 8 am Jump Start 8:15 am Contemporary 9:45 am Contemporary 9:45 am Sunday GOLF 11:15 am Traditional	18 6:15 pm Softball Game at Bob Artz	19 12 pm Alert & Alive Potluck 1 pm Women's Bible Study 6 pm Memory Care Group 6 pm Women's Bible Study	20 2 pm A & A Games	21 6:30 am Elder's Breakfast (Terese's Place) 9 am Library & Yard Crews 9 am Out of the House 12 pm Newsletter Items due	22 *Office Closed*	23
24 *See Above* 5:45pm Vacation Bible School 31 *See Above*	25 5:45 pm VBS 9:15 pm Softball Game at Bob Artz Nomads to Waterloo Park	26 1 pm Women's Bible Study 5:45 pm VBS 6 pm Women's Bible Study	27 2 pm A & A Games 5:45 pm VBS	28 9 am Library & Yard Crews 9 am Out of the House	*29 Office Closed* 12 pm Relay for Life begins at Willamette HS	30 8 am Women's Breakfast, Heritage House 12 pm Relay for Life ends

Northwood Staff

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Betsy Clewett, Director of Children's Ministry
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Amy Gilman, MS Youth Worker
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The Window
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