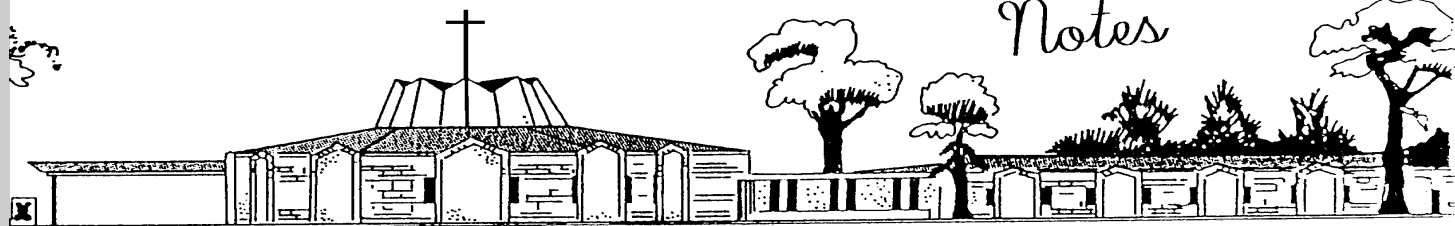


Northwood Christian Church



5050 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77708
Phone: (409) 892-3404

Sunday Services:
Church School: 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.

VOLUME 29, Number 4

Rev. Don Joseph, Minister

April 7, 2004

NOTE FROM DON



This Easter Sunday we have agreed to do a sunrise service for the Beaumont Yacht Club. They have been having a sunrise service for the last 15 years or so and this year they asked us to help accommodate them in their yearly tradition. When I was out speaking to them, they showed me where the choir would stand, where the electrical sockets were, and told me about the breakfast afterwards and how “short” the sermon needed to be. I had already announced at one of our board meetings that sunrise was close to 7:00 a.m. so I assumed 7:00 a.m. would be the starting time. But the coordinator of this event told me that the service would start at 6:00 a.m.! I couldn’t believe it! But I did not want to cause any problems so I just nodded and went on. Later in the week, when it was pointed out to me that our conversation had occurred before the change in Daylight Savings Time, I thought, “Well, surely she was just not taking that into account.” It will be totally dark when we get out there. Plus, the more I thought of getting up around 5:00 a.m. to be there at 6:00, the more it made Easter look like a real chore instead of a celebration. But after talking with several people at the Yacht Club and some folks who had done this before, they all assured me that it started at 6:00 a.m. This meant as the service was ending we would all get to see the sun rise over the lake together on Easter Sunday.

I despise morning and I wish it really did not exist at all. So 6:00 a.m. is pushing the edge, but today I realized how really spoiled I am and how so many of us are, just in different ways. I am really fortunate to be able to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to folks who want to hear it. I can’t believe that I would for one second even think about complaining about such a thing ... but I do. We all have the opportunity to share our faith openly and freely when others in this world don’t have that chance. We get to sing songs about the Lord in public and worship any way we desire, when there are people on this planet who do not have such freedoms. Jesus went to the cross, died, and rose again so we could have life, not so we can complain about life. Six o’clock a.m. is awfully early for me, but I will count it a blessing to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord as the first rays of light break through the darkness. My prayer is that those rays of light break through to a world that lives in constant darkness, even in the middle of the day.

In His grip,
DON

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.: Maundy Thursday service

Saturday, April 10, 10:00 a.m.: Easter egg hunt

Easter Sunday, April 11 --

6:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Beaumont Yacht Club

8:30 a.m. Early Service at Northwood

9:00 a.m. Breakfast hosted by CMF

10:50 a.m. Worship Service at Northwood

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

This Thursday at 6:30 we will be celebrating Jesus Christ’s last few days on earth, when he first broke bread with the disciples and washed their feet. This evening sets the stage for the Passion that was to come. Join us as we celebrate this evening together.

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

This year Northwood will be conducting the Easter sunrise service at the Beaumont Yacht Club off Pine Street. The service will begin in darkness at 6:00 a.m. Easter Sunday and end with the sun rising over the river. This is a traditional service that the Yacht Club has held for its members for the past several years, followed by a breakfast. Please plan to attend this service and experience the thrill of seeing the “sun”rise as we celebrate the risen “Son.”

EASTER EGG HUNT

This Saturday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m. there will be an Easter egg hunt at the church. Bring your kids, bring your neighbors, bring your grandchildren, too! A little old-fashioned tooth decay never hurt anybody! Plus, it’s all about laughter and fellowship. We hope to see you there! By the way, if you are free Friday morning the 9th, Ms. Bea would love to have you help her stuff plastic eggs; meet her in the children’s classroom at 10:00 a.m.!



THANK YOU, CHOIR!



Once again, our wonderful Northwood choir has gone “above and beyond” our expectations. Thank you to the choir, its illustrious leader Lora Parker and talented accompanist LeAnn Wallace for the beautiful and inspiring Easter Cantata you presented this past Sunday. Music is such an important part of worship, and you folks add a great deal to the service whenever you stand before the congregation and raise your voices in praise. Thank you for your dedication and for sharing your musical talents in helping us all to praise our Lord.

WORLD OUTREACH NEWS

We need your help restocking the PASTOR'S PANTRY. It's a collection of individual food servings for transients whom we serve. If you can bring a few packages of peanut butter or cheese crackers, little cans of Vienna sausages, individual servings of apple sauce or canned fruit or whatever a person can use who does not have cooking facilities, please put your gift on one of the two shelves in the Little Children's class, or in the office.



YOUTH COLUMN

UP COMING

Bunny Cakes:

Bunny Cakes will be delivered on Friday, April 9th.

Easter Egg Hunt:

Our youth have been asked to volunteer in our annual Easter egg hunt. Youth are to be in the activity center @ 9:30 Saturday, April 10, to hide the eggs. If you're available Friday morning, April 9, about 10:00 please meet Ms. Bea in the children's classrooms to help stuff the eggs for the hunt!

Easter Sunday Service:

Ok, y'all it is our turn to give back in the form of the message. We are responsible for the 8:30 service on Easter Sunday. Please contact Kristal or Andy for details on rehearsal times. We need as many youth as possible for this service. Thank you sooooo much!

PARENTS

Dear parents, Tis me DJ. I would like to take this time to thank you for all of your support and input. There are many Northwood traditions that I am not aware of and am open to learning. Thank you so much for your patience.

COLLEGE GROUP

We love the college group. Our meeting time remains at 7:00 pm and we are looking forward to our next meeting. Remember to bring spending money for dinner after Bible Study.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Northwood would like to congratulate Carrie Mercer and her crew on a job well done! The Spring Rally that was held here at Northwood was one of the best ever. Thanks to all of you.

NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

A called meeting of the general board was held on Sunday, April 4, 2004, at 12:15 p.m. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that the church hire Russ Furry temporarily as secretary to assist in the office.

Russ was active in the youth group as a high school student. He is now studying journalism at Lamar and assists with Northwood's youth activities. His first day working in the office was Monday, April 5. The rest of the office staff welcome him gladly!

THANKS FROM THE PASTOR

There have been several notes, cards, and gifts that have been left in my office over the last month or so. They are all very special and have moved me and some have even touched me in a way that I can't describe. Thank you so much for your generosity and kindness.

2004 EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING

Your support of the Easter Special Offering insures that the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will continue to be and share the good news of Jesus Christ from your doorsteps to the ends of the earth, in the year 2020 and beyond. Together, we are building a world with hope. Together, we are building a church with a vision. Together we are extending God's grace.

We will receive our Easter Offering Easter Sunday.

**Northwood Christian Church
5050 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77708**
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