

Northwood Christian Church

Notes



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 24

Rev. Don Joseph, Minister

December 1, 2004

NOTE FROM DON

Last week some good friends of our came over to see us from Houston. All seven of us went out to eat that evening at one of Beaumont's fine restaurants. It was obvious the restaurant was packed and the waitress told us it would be at least 20 minutes before we could be seated. However, they quickly found a way to put some tables and chairs together in a room that was already full to the brim. It had seven or eight different tables already in it. Some had four people and some had six or eight. Some had as many as 12. I was very grateful that they found room in the corner for our little group of seven. As I looked around the room, I could see that everyone was laughing, and thoroughly, enjoying themselves. I realized very quickly though, that our table was a minority in this large room of people, and it had nothing to do with race, creed, or color. Every other person in this room was deaf...they could not hear at all. They all were communicating in sign language. They used their hands to tell the waitress what they wanted for dinner and dessert, and she was able to understand what they were saying. It was a truly fascinating thing to watch, and with as many people that filled the room that night, it did not even get that loud.

It's at times like these when you often sit back and reflect on how God has blessed us, and what He has given us. God has blessed us with an ability to hear Him both through scripture and through others. Yet we often turn a deaf ear to what we have heard and we choose not to acknowledge what God wants to say to us. We also have been commissioned to share the good news, yet so many times we become mute, or choose not to speak. One of my prayers for this Christmas season is that we would realize how many wonderful gifts our Lord has given to us. And what could be a better gift for Him in return than being able to exercise some of the gifts He has already handed out to us. The gifts are already ours, we must just choose to use them. Hearing God's voice is both a gift and a "choice". When used together they can be powerful. Like when the shepherds heard the angel say: "Do not be afraid, for unto you this day a child is born...Christ the Lord". Since they heard those words and acted on them, the world has never been the same. What is God saying to you this season?

In His Grip,

DON



Upcoming Advent Activities

- **Sunday, December 5th**- "The Good News of Christmas Present." We will be singing carols and also make some crafts to share with our fellow carollers on the 19th.
- **Sunday, December 12th**- "The Good News of Christmas Future." At 4:00 p.m., we will be brainstorming the possibilities of Northwood's future ministries!
- **Sunday, December 19th**- "Don't Keep the Good News to Yourselves!" At 4:00 p.m., we will be going caroling for our Northwood homebound and others who need a special touch of love and cheer.
- **Sunday, December 24th**- The Candlelight Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

- **December 4th**, the CWF Luncheon/General Meeting will be held @ Northwood at 12:00 p.m.
- **December 5th**, Northwood will have a **Congregational Meeting** following the church service.
- **December 6th**, **Game Day** will take place @ Northwood.
- **December 10th**, the CWF Seekers will meet @ the Wallace's home at 10:00 a.m.
- **December 11th**, the Elders will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the church.
- **December 13th**, the Freewheelers will meet for lunch at 11:30 a.m.
- **December 19th**, a **Fellowship Dinner** will be held after the church service.
- **December 20th**, the CMF Men's Group will meet @ Northwood at 7:00 p.m.

Quilt Guild Christmas Party

The Quilt Guild will hold a Christmas party in the activity building on December 11th. The party will last from 10:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

Online Devotionals

Bruce Benson has been hard at work updating Northwood's new website, so go check it out! All of the devotionals that have been written by our Northwood folks are available on the site, along with some pictures as well. The URL is www.northwood-christian.org so be sure to go take a look!

Givens' New Address

Just in case you aren't aware, the Givens have a new address! The address is: 3555 Durwood, Beaumont, Texas, 77706. If you can, send them a Christmas card!

Cantata

Don't forget that our choir will be presenting their annual Christmas Cantata on December 19th. In the past years, we have presented a manger scene with our music. This year, we will be doing the same and we would like as many youth to be involved as possible. If you are interested, please contact Lora Parker at 892-1384.

CWF Luncheon/General Meeting

On Saturday, December 4th, the CWF Group will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 12:00 p.m. for a luncheon along with the General Meeting. Please bring a pot luck Christmas dish with you and be sure to invite someone to come along!

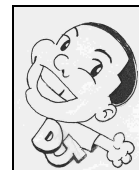
Christmas Eve Service

A special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on December 24th (of course). Please join us to hear the amazing story of the birth of Jesus! We hope all of you can make this and share this wonderful time together.

Congregational Meeting

Don't forget, this Sunday after the church service, we will be holding a Congregational Meeting to vote on a new constitution that has been reviewed by the Bylaws Review and Revision Committee over the past year. You can stop by the church office if you would like to review the constitution before the congregational meeting.

YOUTH SIDE OF THE PAGE



OYC

Northwood's Open Youth Center meets in the activity building at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. Stop by to have some fun!



College Group

The College Group will continue to meet in the activity building on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Let D.J. know if you are interested in becoming a part of this group.

Upcoming Dates

- **February 4-6:** Mid-Winter Rally
- **April 9-10:** Spring Rally
- **June 5-11:** CYF Camp
- **June 19-25:** Brownwood

Please speak with D.J. if you have questions about any upcoming events.

Random Thought



Should vegetarians eat animal crackers?

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