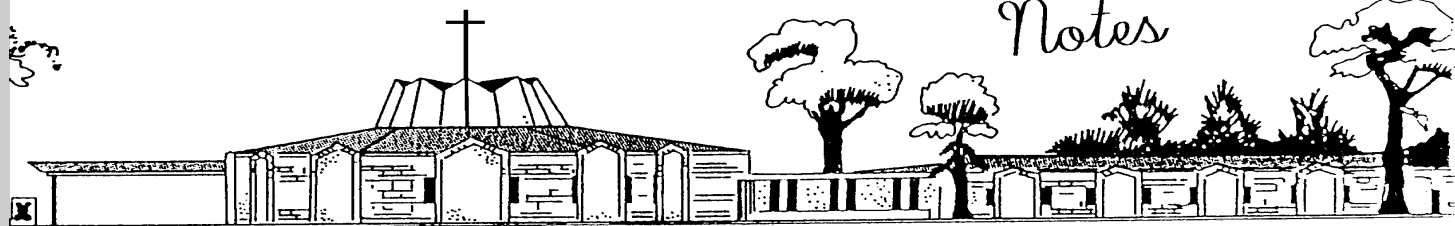


Northwood Christian Church



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

Website: www.northwood-christian.org

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

VOLUME 30, Number 20

Rev. Don Joseph, Minister

November 30, 2005

NOTE FROM DON

This past week my daughter and I drove to Dallas to pick up my mother for the Thanksgiving holiday. My mom has just moved back to Dallas to be near her sister after living in Austin for over 35 years. Since that is where I was born, I took the opportunity to show Kelsey the house where I grew up and also to try to find the elementary school I attended as well. The last time I had been there was 1969 and I was only in 6th grade so I wasn't driving much. St. Bernards Catholic School is nestled way back in the middle of a heavily wooded neighborhood and I truly shocked myself when I drove into the parking lot. Half the "shock" was because I found it and half was because that little school looked almost just like it did when I left it. Oh sure, there were a few new statues and a fountain, a new swing set and some portable buildings. But for the most part it was the same. The education building was directly across from the sanctuary and that parking lot was our playground. I left a lot of skin on that asphalt. And that back fence... we used to sneak out the back of the fence and run the deer right outside of the school until we got to the front gate where there was another small opening and then we would sneak in, just praying the nuns didn't catch us, because that was our time of "freedom" outside the walls. Sometimes were caught, sometimes we were not. It seemed like it took us forever to run from one opening to the other. When I was back this last time one of the things that struck me about everything was the size. Everything was much smaller - even the length of the back fence. I thought it took us a minute or two to run from one opening to the other. That stretch was only about as far as the fence on the children's playground. It would have taken me only about 15 seconds to run it - even on one of the days the nuns caught me!

Yes, it is true. I sat with my daughter in the school parking lot and said it seemed SO big at the time! As human beings our minds are always distorting the size of things. I wonder if there will come a time when we are standing hand in hand with the Saviour looking up in His eyes saying things like, "You mean I *DID* have it in me to forgive that individual?" or "It would *NOT* have been financially impossible." Or we could have changed the world around us had we just not been afraid of the size of our problem. So often we focus on the size of our obstacle instead of focusing on the size of our God. What can we accomplish with real faith? See ya Sunday!

ADVENT BEGINS

November 27 – January 5

Every Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the blessings God has given each of us. During the Advent-Christmas season, we give thanks for the wonderful life God gives those who believe in Jesus Christ, which is the true gift of Christmas. Please join us for Advent activities each Sunday at 4 p.m. through January 5th. For specific advent activities please see the December calendar.

TOY DISTRIBUTION

Toy distribution for the clients of the Empty Stocking Fund/Christmas Bureau will be held at the Beaumont Civic Center December 6, 7, & 8th.

Christmas Fellowship Dinner

Please join us Sunday, December 18th for our *Christmas Fellowship Dinner* immediately following the Sunday morning worship service.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The choir will be presenting our annual Christmas Cantata which will be held this year during our morning service on December 18th.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On Saturday, December 24th, we will be holding our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. We will meet in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Plan to join us for a wonderful evening - bring family and friends along with you. This will be a special evening to remember Jesus' birth.

POINSETTIAS

You may purchase to make a gift of poinsettias to honor or memorialize a loved one. Please see or call Pat Focken to place your order or for more information. (Home: 753-3845) (Work: 833-9159)



Cabinet/Functional Committees

- Saturday, December 10, Elder's Meeting, 10:00 a.m. @ the Flower's home
- Wednesday, December 14, Church Board, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 28, **all regular meetings cancelled**

December Worship Leaders

The following people are scheduled to serve as Worship Leaders for the rest of the month:

4th Bea Buller 18th Ray Poff
11th Zack Kidd 25th BlaneDunkleberger

Please call the church office if you need to switch with someone.

CWF/CMF Calendar

- Wed., Dec. 7 **CWF** Exec. Board 6:00 p.m. with General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 16 **CWF, Seekers** 10:00 a.m. @ Barbara Wallace's home
- Monday, Dec. 19 **CMF Men's Group** meets @ Northwood at 7 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 19, The **CWF Adventure Group** will meet at 7 p.m. @ Donna Given's home – Bring a dish

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 5 Tommy Shelton | 19 Gordon Dunkleberger |
| 7 Dee McWilliams | 19 Carrie Weems |
| 8 Don Rogers | 19 Bert Bassett |
| 9 Cheridan Roberts | 20 Rex Tynes |
| 10 Christy Acklin | 20 LeAnn Wallace |
| 10 Rhys Earle | 21 Steve Focken |
| 11 Dolores Flower | 22 Zack Kidd, Jr. |
| 13 Bill NaVarre | 27 Karen Kidd |
| 14 Annie Brown | 31 Logan Weems |

YOUTH SIDE OF THE PAGE

JUST A REMINDER: James will be taking the youth to Woodlands Christian Church in The Woodlands for the *Break'N A Sweat Service Rally* on December 2 – 4th.

Newest Arrival



Congratulations to parents Brandie and Chris Focken and grandparents Steve and Pat Focken on the arrival of:

Matthew Cole Focken
November 22, 2005
6:03 p.m.
5 lb. 15 oz.
18 inches long

WEEK OF COMPASSION FUNDS

We held up issuing our week of compassion funds to individuals who have suffered from Hurricane Rita. If you still would like to file for assistance you must get your paperwork in before January 1. If you have any questions about this fun, please call the office at 898-0050. This the Disciples Week of Compassion Fund helping you!

GET PLEDGES IN

For those of you who have your pledges in, we appreciate it. For those who haven't yet, don't worry – it's not too late!! We need those pledges so let's get them in!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On December 18, immediately following the service and before the fellowship dinner, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on next year's budget. This will be our sole agenda item.

Northwood Christian Church
5050 Eastex Freeway
Beaumont, Texas 77708
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