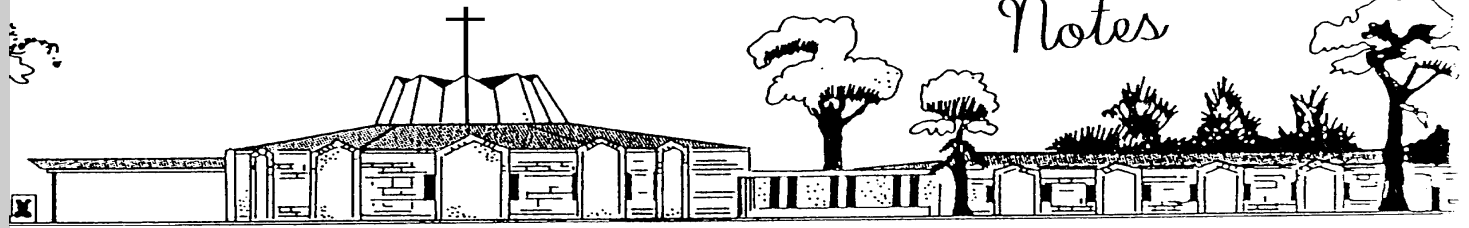


# Northwood Christian Church



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

Website: [www.northwood-christian.org](http://www.northwood-christian.org)

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

VOLUME 30, Number 21

Rev. Don Joseph, Minister

December 20, 2005

## NOTE FROM DON

The other night I came home a little tired and just plopped down on the corner of my couch. Linda and Kelsey said they were going to run off to the mall to do a little Christmas shopping so, of course, I graciously declined and stayed home. When I began flipping through the channels, a Christmas special caught my eye – one I had seen before, in fact, many times before. The characters were familiar with Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus and Snoopy. I had been watching the Peanuts Christmas Special since I was a kid. The show drifts through the idea of Charlie Brown producing a Christmas play full of uncontrollable characters. Then he is sent off to find a Christmas tree and chooses to rescue a tree that looks like it has no hope. After the whole cast of characters has made fun of him, Charlie Brown screams in frustration, “Doesn’t anyone know what Christmas is all about?” Then Linus steps to the center of the stage, asks for the spotlight and recites Luke 2: 8-14. Charlie Brown then goes away with a renewed spirit as well as all the cast. Even the scrawny little tree is transformed. Charles Schultz does a beautiful job of weaving the gospel story into entertainment and that evening this story truly lifted my spirit. But what also grabbed me was the five minute story I saw on Nightline that same night about this thirty minute Christmas special. They talked about how the three major networks were battling each other over who would get to air this show that has been on every year since 1965. Apparently, ABC won out with the commercial airtime selling for about the same as that as the Super Bowl. They even decided to air it twice. In a year where I have heard all this debate on whether we can even say Merry Christmas, should it shock us a show that answers the question of what Christmas is all about *with scripture*, is the number one Christmas special on television? No one seems to want to alter the dialogue to make it gender friendly or non-offensive. Charles Schultz wanted to answer a question as well as entertain, when Charlie Brown screamed out his question. The truth is, I believe he is just voicing the question that millions and millions have and will have, “Doesn’t anyone really know what Christmas is all about?” Linus has become a voice that we trust who answers the question that so many want to know. He answers it with words that so many of our souls are longing to hear – **THE TRUTH! WHAT A GIFT!!**

*Merry Christmas  
In His Grip, Don*

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

On Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 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.



### CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Our Christmas Day service will begin at the regular time but there will be no Sunday School. Please bring everyone and join us!!

### MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

The staff at NWCC would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas. May you and yours be filled with blessings this Christmas season and in the following new year.

*Don*

*James*

*LeAnn*

*Luella*

*Reminder: The office will be closed December 23, 26, 27<sup>th</sup>.*

### POINSETTIAS

You may purchase a poinsettia for a \$12.00 donation to make a gift 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)

### MISSION GROUPS AT NORTHWOOD

**In January and February we will be opening our activity building to more mission groups coming from all over the country to help and assist us in our clean-up effort. So be praying for these groups as they prepare to come.**

## ***Cabinet/Functional Committees***

- Wednesday January 11, Church Board, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday January 25, Pastor's Mtg. 6:00 p.m., Committee Mtg. immediately following
- Saturday, January 28, Elder's Retreat, 9:00 a.m.

## ***January Worship Leaders***

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

1<sup>st</sup> Bill Navarre                      8<sup>th</sup> Liz Benson  
15<sup>th</sup> Carrie Weems                22<sup>nd</sup> Diana Schneider  
29<sup>th</sup> Craig Mercer

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

## ***CWF/CMF Calendar***

- Wed., Jan. 11 CWF Exec. Board 6:00 p.m. with General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 20 CWF, **Seekers** 10:00 a.m
- Monday, January 16 **CMF Men's Group** meets @ Northwood at 7 p.m.
- Wed. Jan. 18, The **CWF Adventure Group** will meet at 7 p.m.

## **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

4 Janet Perkolup            22 George Flower  
5 Sigi Kessler                26 Donnie Allen  
6 Michael Givens        26 Hazel Harmon  
8 Lucille Bryan            26 Donovan Acklin  
10 John Cline                26 Rachel Ward  
10 Mike Waguspack      26 Thelma Herbert  
13 J. R. Johnson            26 Heather Dunkleberger  
13 Kimberly Williams    30 David Earle  
18 Sara Close

## ***YOUTH SIDE OF THE PAGE***

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Winter Retreat – I will be taking the youth to the winter retreat, January 13 and 14. We will be camping out beside the Trinity River, please pray for all of us!!**

**Hot Hearts will be January 20 and 21 with a lock-in on the night of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The sooner we register, the less expensive the tickets are. Let me know as soon as possible whether you want to attend. Approximate cost is \$25.**

### **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. I am going to say this *one more time!* If you would like any kind of financial help from the Disciples Week of Compassion or know of any one who you think might deserve a little boost, please let us know at the office. You can also call Bea Buller – 833-1203 or Sara Close – 892-1820.**

### **CASA of Southeast Texas**

What a year 2005 has been at CASA of Southeast Texas—really one for the books! From Child Protective Services reorganization to all out legislative reform that has brought in a flood of abused children; from major health issues of volunteers and staff and loss of loved ones to the devastation of homes and property and displacement of families from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. Every challenge brought new opportunities. The challenges brought opportunities to serve, to pull together, to be resourceful in finding new ways of responding to human need and to grow. Judge Larry Thorne recently reflected that after a couple of weeks of evacuation, all he wanted to do was go home. Even though there was no electricity and his home was not livable, he just wanted to go home. “I am beginning to get it!” he declared, relating the experience to children from abusive homes, who also “just want to go home.” Perhaps we can all gain from the experience a renewed urgency and commitment to make sure that these children, whose homes were devastated long before the hurricane, can finally go “home.” Not to one that is unlivable, but to a safe, loving home.

Never has the need been greater. Our dear friends at Northwood, we thank you for your support.

Lanis McWilliams

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