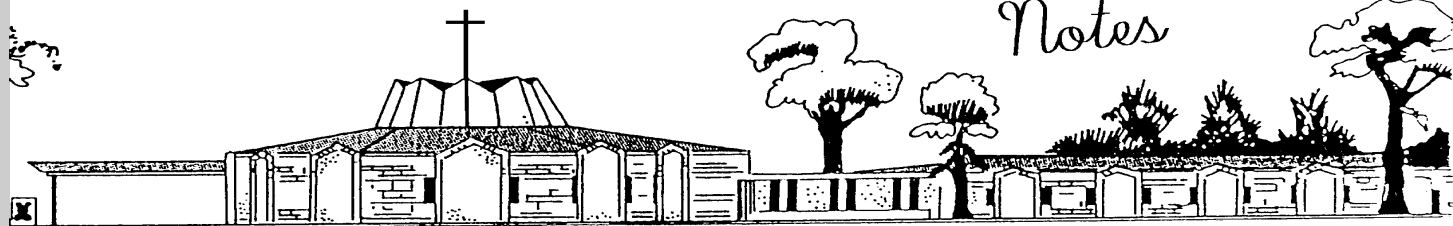


Northwood Christian Church



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 31, Number 3

Rev. Don Joseph, Minister

February 20, 2006

NOTE FROM DON

I love the Olympics, both winter and summer. And my family likes watching them as well. Recently we've all been sitting on the couch together just watching everything that comes on - the half-pipe, ski jumping and cross-country skiing. And if you stay up late you can watch curling. One evening we were watching the pairs skating finals when a couple from China was introduced. They said the two were going to attempt a throw that had never been done before, a quad "something." As they skated, the tension mounted as the time came near for them to try this throw that had never been done in the history of skating competition. Then when they did it everyone held their breath and the young girl flew through the air and then literally just splattered all over the ice. It was a terrible failure. Her knee bent in a way that it was not designed to go and tears were flowing down her cheeks. The music stopped - she was hurt and they skated off the ice. It was obvious to most everyone they could not continue. But as she was limping off the ice into that little box to sit down her partner would not let go of her hand. He just stood on the ice and refused to let go. After several minutes of conversation she limped back on the ice to see if she could skate. She made a few passes and they started up the music again. The couple finished their program to a standing ovation with blood running down her leg and a smile across her face. And in the midst of it all, they somehow won the silver medal. It was amazing!!

I thought about all the times in my life that I have tried new things and failed. (And trust me; there have been quite a few.) It is so tempting to limp off hurt and dejected and say I am done - *through!* I gave it my best and now it's up to someone else. But Paul says the prize goes to those who finish the race. On the way to the finish line there are going to be quite a few hurdles some pretty hard falls and even a few times when we get lost along the way. And we are not just called to limp to the finish line. With God's grace we can finish in a manner worthy of the prize.

So whether you can relate more to the flamboyant skater who always needs to be pushing the edge and trying new things, or the cross country skiers who quietly but consistently pushes toward their goal, they both have to finish. And let's not leave out our curling friends who are just a little different but have found their place on the team as well.

See ya Sunday - In His Grip, Don

WEEK OF COMPASSION

The theme of this year's Week of Compassion is **WHEN DID WE SEE YOU THIRSTY AND GAVE YOU DRINK?** (Matthew 25-37). The Bible speaks often of water and the dangers of not having it. We are reminded of the sacredness of this limited resource. 2 million people—mostly children—die each year from waterborne diseases. Scripture puts Jesus' face on all those who thirst. But how can we bring clean water to all of the villages that need it most? Our efforts may seem like a "drop in the bucket." Through our Week of Compassion offering we will join other Christians who also see Jesus in the lives of those who thirst. Our combined gifts will help to dig wells, plan irrigation efforts, sanitation projects, flood relief and bring new hope to villages and cities everywhere. Be assured that **EVERY DROP HELPS!!!!** - *Bea Buller*

LENT BEGINS MARCH 1

That is so easy to say, but many of us deep down inside still wonder what Lent is all about. In a nutshell, it is a time to throw the emergency brakes on our busy lives - slow down and reflect on why we are here - to see if we can more fully understand the depth of God's love and the reason for His coming to Earth in the person of Jesus. I hope this Lenten season is special for all of you and each of us draw a little closer to the savior.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will have an Ash Wednesday service March 1st to kick off the beginning of Lent. It will start at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Hope to see you there as we start the beginning of this Lenten season together.

MISSION GROUPS AT NORTHWOOD

As of now, these are the dates that the mission groups will be staying in the activity building at Northwood:
February 12-18 (Kansas)
February 26 to March 4 (Indiana, Missouri)
March 12-18 (California, Illinois)
March 19-25 (Iowa, Arkansas)
March 26-April 1 (Indiana)
April 2-8 (Kentucky)

