



December 9, 2018

Volume 15, Number 49

Good morning, Northside Family.

Whew! What a week it has been! It's been a full slate with the Marriage Matters Seminar, the Retirees Christmas Luncheon, the annual church-wide Christmas Party, and the Ladies Christmas brunch. And that in addition to the many ongoing activities/classes that are a regular part of our church's ministry.

The hope of the Northside Leadership is that all husbands and wives who were able to participate in the Marriage Matters Seminar were richly blessed in their marriage relationship. We were fortunate to have **Jerry & Lynn Jones** share many valuable insights and counsel on strengthening our marriages. May Northside forever be a church family where God's grace is in place in every marriage and family to be healthy, happy and whole – a reflection to the world of the unconditional love Jesus has for His church (see Ephesians 5.22-33).

Let us all share a very special thank you to our Shepherds for having the foresight to invite Jerry & Lynn to share their Marriage Matters Seminar with us. We are beyond blessed at Northside with a great, godly group of Shepherds who genuinely care for us and pray for us continually. Be sure to give them a pat on the back and a word of appreciation for all they do to help strengthen our faith and family.

Behind the flurry of activity this week has been a host of unsung heroes. From volunteers who provided childcare, to those who provided and served the meals each night of the seminar, to those who stayed behind in the Outreach Building to clean up, to those who made sure the setup, sound, audio/visual was prepared, to others who planned and organized the Christmas parties, thank you so very much! Your unsung service has brought much joy to many who benefited from your selfless service.

Thanksgiving is in the rearview mirror and Christmas is on the horizon. *“But, did you know that gratitude is good for your brain? It's true! Gratefulness helps us sleep better, reduces anxiety, stress and depression, reduces our physical pain, and gives us energy and vitality! There is indisputable evidence that gratitude benefits our bodies, minds and souls.*

*Being grateful feels great! But the power of gratefulness is released when it is expressed.”*

So, be grateful! Give thanks to the LORD for the blessings. Share your gratitude to others for the blessings they bring into your life. Don't relegate Thanksgiving to a one-day-a-year holiday. Let Thanksgiving permeate your life every day.

*“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always” (Psalm 105.1-4).*

We have much to be thankful for! To whom can you express thanksgiving today? In a season surrounded by gift-giving, perhaps the greatest gift you can give today is your thanksgiving and appreciation—to God and to those other who've enriched your life.

Don't wait...just do it!

I Love You all, Jim

### **Billy's Thoughts**

This past week has been a beautiful blur... Sunday through Wednesday—Marriage Matters Conference, Thursday—Retirees Luncheon, Friday—Our annual Christmas Party! I have seen so many who have worked so hard and countless hours to make each of these events appear seamless. There are too many people to single out for gratitude (for certain, if I tried, I'd overlook someone), so I want to, here and now, simply say thanks! Thanks to those who prepared food to make it easier for families to attend the conference, thanks for setting up and decorating for the parties, and for helping clean-up after the various events. It takes a team effort!

Looking ahead, an evening of caroling is being planned for the evening of Tuesday, December 18. It'll be a great time to encourage some of our seniors and enjoy hot cocoa afterward. Also, Thursday, December 20 is the JOY Group Christmas Potluck luncheon for 55+. A \$5 or less (or you can regift) gift exchange will be part of the festivities.

Today, we officially kick off a new quarter of Sunday morning Bible classes at 9:00. **Todd Ferguson** will teach *2 Samuel* in the Worship Center; **Billy McLain** – *Clash of Kingdoms* (a Ray Vanderlaan video and discussion series) in ORB 2; **Randy Mitchell** – *Fervent Prayer* in ORB 1; the Young Adults will study *Ruth & Esther* in the back of the old auditorium; the Praise and Singing class will continue in Room 19a. Young singles will meet in Jim's office led by **Gary Garner & Steve Smith**. Wednesday morning 10:30 a.m. and evening 6:30 p.m. classes will study *2 Peter*. Men's Wednesday evening class continues in ORB 2 and the Ladies class meets in ORB 1. It's all good! I hope you will make your best effort to join in Bible study here at Northside.

### **Hispanic Happenings with Fernando**

The year is running out, and we only have three weeks left, three weeks in which we prepare for our New Year's Eve. Three weeks of gratitude to God for the church and community activities. Three weeks where we meditate on the last twelve months and plan the next twelve if God allows it.

I thank God that in January of this year I was able to dedicate myself to full time ministry again. It has been a year of working in a more effective way. In February we had the couples' dinner where the marriages were strengthened by the Word of God. In March we began with the selection of deacons, and in April four men and their families were ordained as deacons. During these months, eleven new brothers and sisters were baptized by the grace and mercy of God.

Our retreats were a great blessing, also through the evangelistic campaign the message of the gospel was planted in our visitors. In these three weeks that we have left, it is the perfect time to look forward and put plans in the hands of God so that this coming year 2019 will be to exalt His Holy Name.

### **Conner's Contemplations**

First of all, I want to remind everyone about WINTERFEST Registration! Please make sure to sign up! You can follow the link sent to parent's email, check Facebook, or talk to **Dawn Mitchell**.

Each year around this time people are setting up their Christmas decorations (or have already done so) and it is amazing to drive through several neighborhoods and see all the fantastic lights. I remember in Hurricane Lakes there was a certain house that even had lights synced with radio music and if you tuned in a certain station it was all synchronized. Another really neat light show you can still see is located at Silver Dollar City this time of year. The lights and whole park are all Christmas oriented and make sure to maintain the true meaning behind it.

It was neat during the day but it always was more amazing at night. The lights always shined brighter at night. Whether driving around neighborhoods or walking through lights hung in parks, there are hundreds of pretty decorations around us. Most of these decorations deal with lights being used to capture our attention.

It makes me think back to biblical principles and teachings. Be a light unto the world. Christ is the light of mankind.

Where does a light shine the brightest? I can tell you this, it is not during broad daylight. A light always shines brighter at night. Darkness obscures all things but light.

May we be the light that guides others to Christ. May we direct them to Jesus in their darkest times. Finally, may we find Christ's light during our dark times and hasten toward him with all the power within us.

Merry Christmas Season  
In Christian love, Conner

### Events In December

**TODAY: Singing at Mt. Carmel 3:00-4:00.** Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

**WEDNESDAY: Bible class 10:30-11:30 a.m.**

**WEDNESDAY: GriefShare Support Group 6:30-8:00**

**THURSDAY: Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group 11:00.** The facilitator is **Melissa Baxley**.

**SATURDAY: Teen Progressive Dinner**

**December 18: Christmas Caroling.** More information is in Billy's article.

**December 20: JOY group potluck luncheon 11:30** for everyone 55 years of age and older.

**December 26: All classes will meet in the worship center**

### Winter Classes Begin TODAY

**Todd Ferguson**—worship center—"2 Samuel"

**Rob Nossaman**—Young Adults & Other (back of old auditorium)—Study of Ruth & Esther

**Gary Garner & Steve Smith**—Jim's office—Young Singles—"Living Jesus"

**Jimmy Mitchell & Rodney Crownover**—19a—Praise and Singing class

**Randy Mitchell**—OR1—"Fervent Prayer"

**Billy McLain**—OR 2—"Clash of Kingdoms" (a Ray Vanderlaan video and discussion series)

### Wednesday Night

Worship Center—2nd Peter

OR1—Ladies Class —"Spirit Hunger" (Filling our deep longing to connect with God)

OR2—Men's Class—Book of Matthew

*"To My Northside Family: Thank you all so much for the visits, calls, cards, food, texts but most of all your prayers for my surgery and recuperation! I felt each and every one of them! Our church family is amazing and we are so blessed to be a part of such a caring family! Jim and Linda Acree."*

**If you have moved** or changed your phone number, please write it on the back of your attendance card. If you are not on our email list, and would like to be, please write your email address on the back of your attendance card. Also, if you have not written yours and your family's birthdays/anniversaries on your card, please do so. If you do not want your special day included on the list we are putting together, please note that on the back of your card. We will be having an insert each month in the bulletin with these names and dates on it for those of you who enjoy sending cards.

It seems like saying "Thanks" is not enough for everyone who helped in the kitchen during the Marriage Matters Conference and those who furnished food for the Retiree/Seniors Christmas Luncheon last Thursday. A special thanks goes to **Donna Bowers** for organizing the food and to **Stephanie Howell** for assisting her. Also, a BIG thanks goes to **Marilyn Black** and her "crew" for decorating for both the luncheon and the Congregational Party last Friday night. They also worked hard preparing the food for the party. I know some were disappointed when Friday came and they couldn't purchase tickets to attend. However, a deadline to purchase tickets is just that....a deadline.

### Upcoming Events

**January 2: Regular Bible classes** will resume

**January 13: Baby Shower** honoring **Joe & Rosemary Gatliff** at 2:00 in the outreach building. They are expecting a boy and are registered through this link: [www.babylist.com/rosemary-gatliff](http://www.babylist.com/rosemary-gatliff).

**January 20: Baby Shower** honoring **Greg & Jenna Pryor**. They are expecting a girl.

**February 2: Sportsman's Night Out Fundraiser.** More info later.

**During the month** of November we furnished food for 333 families for a total of 1062 individuals. This ministry is successful because of all of the volunteers who work and to the ones who make a monetary donation.

### Sympathy is extended to:

**Donna Bowers** and **Marla LaSage** and their families in the death of their aunt, **Darlene Watson**, last week. She lived in Abilene, TX.

**Kristen Hamilton** and her family and **Sue Edwards** in the recent death of Kristen's grandmother and Sue's former mother-in-law, **Ginny Edwards**.

**Jim Kimbrough** (member of the current GriefShare group) on the passing of his mother-in-law, **Janet Conrad**, who died Thursday morning at the Hospice House in Little Rock.

**Prayer List: Linda Acree** received the best results possible last week from her recent surgery. She is cancer-free and no treatments will be necessary. After having a CT scan last week, **Blythe Bowers** has been diagnosed with having a painful bulging disc affecting her spine and will require surgery to correct as soon as can be scheduled. She has an appointment with her doctor on Thursday. **Nancy Davis** will meet with a doctor next Tuesday to schedule a procedure to clear a carotid artery. **Phil Davis** will have a total knee replacement surgery on his right knee Tuesday at Baptist Hospital. **Janice Smith** is beginning physical therapy following her recent health issues. **Angela Wilson**, Margaret Organ's daughter, will have surgery Friday at UAMS to remove a tumor on her liver. **Sabrina Wright** will have back surgery Thursday at St. Vincent Hospital.

**Continue to remember:** Linda Ball, Patrick Bowers, Nelda Burrow, Amy Campbell, Joe Campbell, Charles Caradine, Jimmy Card, Freddy Charo, Cash Clancy, Peggy Cobb, Don Colson, Doug Connors, Todd Donahue, Don & Patricia Flowers, Wade Garrett, Mark Gober, Helen Hairston, Shirley Harkreader, Jan Hastings, Alice Harris, Logan Harris, Seth Henry, Jason Hobbs, Richard Hooton, Glenn Kays, Rod Kirk, Mike Knappier, Reba Leonard, Bill Loe, Jacob Lowe, Wilma Lunsford, Robert Matheny, Bonnie Mayberry, James Mayberry, Carole Mayes, Dudley McClarkin, Manher & Louise Mehta, Darrell Messer, Nick Nichols, Jeremiah Nutter, George & Sharon Pearson, Wayne Perry, Jewell Powell, Mike Ransom, Walter Rhodes, Diana Richard, Dale Ridge, Bess Sanders, Margaret Scott, Janice Smith, Patsy Steele, Harold Stuart, Letha Styles, Fred & Edith Swaim, Jeannette Underwood, Richard Wallace, Ron Wallace, Brandon Webb, M. D. Williams, Doug Willis, Billie Wilson, Syble Womack, Mark & Mary Woodville.

**Shepherds**

Jim Acree Terry Hastings  
Carroll Davis Randy Mitchell  
Tom Davis Rob Nossaman  
Todd Ferguson Rick Treadway  
Richard Wallace

Email address: elders@northsidecofc.info  
Chairman thru December: Rob Nossaman

**Deacons**

Carlos Bautista Michael Haltom  
Gary Black Alex Hamilton  
Jarred Crow Todd Hastings  
Rodney Crownover Phillip Howell  
Curtis Evans Charlie Manning  
Julio Flores Billy McLain  
Kelley Geurin Steve Smith  
Chris Givens Alejo Solis  
Javier Guzman Freddy Swaim

**Staff**

Jim Gardner  
Stephanie Howell  
Billy McLain  
Jimmy Mitchell  
Linda Pike  
Conner Smith  
Fernando Toledo

**Records: December 2, 2018**

Bible Classes	369
AM Worship	574
PM Worship	204
Wednesday	263
Weekly budget	\$13,034.19
Contribution	\$16,603.16

**Service Schedule**

Sunday Morning Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Study-Hispanic	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship-Hispanic	11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Sunday Children's Bible Hour	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Morning Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study-Hispanic	7:00 p.m.

**Office Information**

Telephone 501-315-1128  
Fax 776-1604  
E-mail office@northsidecofc.info  
Web www.northsidecofc.info  
Address 917 North East Street  
Benton, AR 72015

**Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday 8:30 a.m.--4:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m.--Noon

**10:00 AM Worship**

Jimmy Mitchell.....Worship Leader  
As The Deer Thirsts.....PH  
Todd Hastings.....Welcome & Family News  
Joy to the World.....1018  
All Hail The Power of Jesus Name.....162  
A Shield About Me.....PH  
Rob Nossaman.....Prayer  
Behold Our God.....PH  
Michael Haltom.....Communion Devo & Offering  
Holy Spirit, Breathe On Me.....(offering song).....PH  
Jesus Loves the Little Children.....(children's song).....1015  
Highly Exalted.....PH  
Jeff Haughee.....Titus 3.4-7  
Jim Gardner....."One of a Kind"  
Just As I Am/I Come Broken.....PH  
May the Presence of the Lord.....PH  
Carroll Davis.....Shepherds Prayer

**Infant Nursery**

Angie Smith & Gary Lowe

**Toddler Nursery**

Rob & Sherry Nossaman

**5:00 PM**

**LIFE Groups**

**Communion**

Kelley Geurin

**Pantry Needs:**

Cereal, Toilet tissue,  
Dishwashing Liquid

**The backpack program for Caldwell, Howard Perrin schools & ALC Program** is starting up again. We need individual Mac n Cheese, individual applesauce cups, pudding cups, fruit cups, pop tarts, peanut butter, peanut butter or cheese crackers, individual chip bags, juice boxes and Capri sun. Please put your items in the tubs just outside the children's worship room in the multipurpose area.



**NEED PRAYER**

An Elder and his wife will be in the Elders' office after services to pray with anyone that needs prayer. Elder and his wife this week:

**Richard & Shirley Wallace**