

# Norwood Christian Grapevine

*I am the vine; You are the branches... John 15:5*

## *Pastor's Promptings...*

### **OUR FAMILY HAS GROWN**

We now have a new daughter! My oldest son, Zachary, was married in Lancaster, CA on April 4<sup>th</sup>. While our family battled sickness all week leading up to the wedding, the wedding ceremony went perfectly. The church and the bride were both beautiful. I made it through the ceremony crying only twice, once at the beginning and once at the end.

At the beginning it started as soon as I saw my daughter Heather walking down the aisle in her lovely bridesmaid's dress. As soon as I saw her my eyes began to tear up and I was wondering if I was going to be able to conduct the ceremony without falling to pieces. As Natalie, the bride, entered on her father's arm looking radiant the tears began to flow and my nose began to run. As tears fell on my glasses I realized this was going to be tougher than I thought.

After the opening comments and prayer, as Zack stepped down to receive Natalie from her father, Charlie, I took the opportunity to compose myself – and to blow my nose. I regained my composure and proceeded with the ceremony. I had to look at my notes a lot because whenever I looked at

Zack or Natalie, I got teary-eyed again.

I made it all the way through the rest of the service until the very end when Charlie and I gave the couple our "father's blessing." I closed my part of the blessing with a quote from Numbers 6:24-26. This is the verse with which I always ended our family blessing time each week for the past several years. It is a very special verse for us. As I said the first line, "May the Lord bless you and keep you..." I choked up. Tears began to flow down Zack's cheek which didn't make it any easier for me. I regrouped, started over and this time got all the way through the verse, albeit with a weak and quivering voice.

After the closing prayer it was my pleasure to inform the audience that they were about to see Zack and Natalie's very first kiss. It was their desire to honor God by remaining pure throughout their courtship displaying no physical form of affection beyond holding hands. So their first kiss at the ceremony was not just their first as husband and wife, it was their first kiss ever. After the kiss I beamed as I introduced the new couple as Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Lawrence.

Life is filled with ups and downs. The wedding week was just another example of this

fact. One by one our family became ill. We were worried that this illness would ruin the wedding. Thankfully we all were well enough to make it to the wedding and everything went wonderfully well. Out of the downs of illness we enjoyed the ups of a God-honoring, Christ-centered wedding. When we look back at this time we can choose to remember the high points or the low points. It is our choice.

Likewise each of us has the choice to focus on the good or the bad of our life. If we focus on the bad time we will become bitter, discouraged and miss a lot of the good going on in our life. If we focus on the good, even when it seems like there is not much good in our life at the moment, we will have a more joyful life, be a much happier person, and be an encouragement to others around us.

Jesus said in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." We will have bad times in our life. There is no avoiding it. We will get sick even during a special event in our life, like a wedding. We will have car accidents, financial trouble, marital problems, rebellious children, or suffer the loss of a loved one.

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There will be plenty of bad times in our life to focus on if we so choose. But Jesus said, "Be of good cheer." Focus on the good things of this life. Do not let the bad times get you down. Jesus has overcome the world and all the bad things it can throw at us. And because Jesus has overcome this world we can overcome the bad times of this world as well.

One of the best ways to overcome the bad times is to focus on the good times. It is our choice. When we look at a rose we can focus on its beauty and aromatic fragrance or we can focus on the thorns. The same is true of life. Find the beauty among the thorns. Rejoice in the good and you will find that the lows of life don't seem to be as low and don't seem to last as long. The more you focus on the good things of life the more you will realize that there really is a lot to be thankful for.

I encourage you to live out Psalm 118:24 in your life: "This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it."

Serving Christ and His family,

*Pastor Ken*

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## A LET DOWN

By Davis Watson

Have you ever been let down? Has someone ever volunteered to do something and then didn't do it? Or they did it but not to your satisfaction? What are we to do with these people?! Do

we cut them "off" and say never again? Do we shame them and tell stories about them?

Well, this has happened to me! Someone who is to remain nameless, but is very close and dear to me volunteered to write this month's article for me. The topic she wanted to write about is "forgiveness" and how when we love someone we are more willing to forgive.

What a downer; here I am writing this month's article about forgiveness, feeling that I have been put upon. Do you ever have those feelings? Do you ever feel unloved? Or even betrayed?

What would Jesus say?

Are you thinking what Jesus would say?

I'm having trouble. Are you?

Many times it's difficult to recall what Jesus said, but it is much easier to recall what He did!

Jesus took all our negative feelings, all those things we said we would do and didn't, all those things we did and shouldn't, and all those things we should do and didn't and forgave them.

How did He demonstrate His forgiveness? By allowing those who hated Him to crucify Him on the Cross. Oh, what a price to pay for my misdeeds!

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.* John 3:16 NIV

To forgive, God demands blood! Either it will be your blood or His blood!

That's the choice we must all make. Are we going to use our blood and do it our way, the way of imperfect human beings, or the blood of our perfect Savior Jesus Christ? God commanded in earlier times only those lambs without defect be used as a sacrifice to roll back our sins. Jesus the Son of God who lived a sinless life was God's sacrificial lamb to be used as the final blood sacrifice.

To be able to use His blood instead of our blood, we must accept His sacrificial gift of Jesus, believe in His name, be baptized for the remission of our sins and begin walking in the way He has demonstrated to us.

Oh, yes, as God forgave us we too must forgive those who have let us down.

For me it's one of those five-foot, green-eyed females who brings happiness to my life.

*I forgive you!*



## MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST SUNDAY, MAY 10TH

Ladies, plan now on attending our annual Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Guys, we will be serving the ladies so sign up to bring something for the potluck breakfast; don't let your wife cook it. The men are responsible for the meal on this very special day as we honor the women in our church family and especially mothers.

*I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES...* JOHN 15:5

## SUNDAY SERVANTS

**MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Ted & Fay Earley**

Greeters

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Communion Servers

**Ted & Fay Earley**

Communion Meditation

**John Oliver**

Sound Booth

**Heather Lawrence**

**MAY 10<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Davis Watson**

Greeters

**Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence**

Communion Servers

**Davis & Mary Watson**

Communion Meditation

**Ken Lawrence**

Sound Booth

**Heather Lawrence**

**MAY 17<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Greeters

**Howard & Betty Greager**

Communion Servers

**Howard & Betty Greager**

Communion Meditation

**Ernie Calvillo**

Sound Booth

**Heather Lawrence**

**MAY 24<sup>th</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Betty Greager**

Greeters

**Jerry & Sharon Pike**

Communion Servers

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Communion Meditation

**Davis Watson**

Sound Booth

**Heather Lawrence**

**MAY 31<sup>st</sup>**

Communion Preparation

**Ernie & Zack Calvillo**

Greeters

**Kate Davis & Thomas Lawrence**

Communion Servers

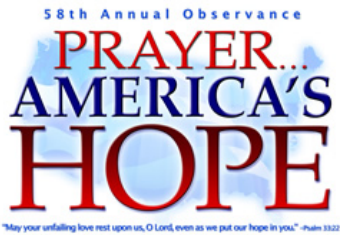
**Davis & Mary Watson**

Communion Meditation

**Ed Boehler**

Sound Booth

**Heather Lawrence**



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is the National Day of Prayer. Norwood Christian Church is participating in this vitally important day. The church will be open all day, beginning at 6:30 a.m. through 6:30 p.m. and we invite everyone in the community to come in and spend some time in prayer for our community and our nation.

We will have seven “prayer stations” set up in the sanctuary to encourage everyone to pray for the following seven areas: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church and Family. We invite the Telluride commuters to plan a few extra minutes Thursday morning before catching the bus or in the evening when you get off the bus to stop by and pray for our nation. Prayer lists will be available, as well as coffee and a light snack. Please join us on the National Day of Prayer at Norwood Christian Church.



## SHORT TERM MISSION TRIP MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>

Here's your opportunity to serve the Lord by attending a short term mission trip. A group from Norwood Christian Church will be traveling to New Castle, Colorado to help Camp

Christian prepare to open for the camp season. There are a lot of projects that must be completed before camp begins. We will leave Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and spend the night at the camp. We'll work at the camp on Saturday and return home Saturday night. See Davis Watson for details and to sign up.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our monthly men's breakfast will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. All men in the community are invited to attend. There is no cost and all food is provided by the church. Please call the church office at 327-0201 to RSVP so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone.



The Managing Your Money conference held here on April 25<sup>th</sup> was fantastic. The speakers shared a lot of helpful advice and practical tools to use to get out of debt and be better managers of the financial resources God has entrusted to our care. If you missed the conference, we are happy to announce that you can check out the DVDs of the entire conference from our church library. There are three DVDs each a little over an hour in length. The handouts are also available. Contact the church office at 327-0201 for more information or to check out the DVDs.



Corner of Lincoln & Summit  
P.O. Box 931

Norwood, CO 81423

Phone: (970) 327-0201

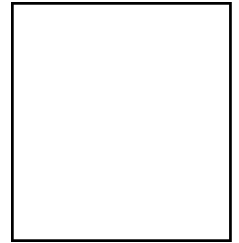
Ken@NorwoodChristian.com

www.NorwoodChristian.com

**10 AM ~ Bible Study**

**11 AM ~ Worship Service**

 *JUST LIVE it*



58th Annual Observance

PRAYER...  
AMERICA'S  
HOPE

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord, even as we put our hope in you." Psalm 112:1

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**



*When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son,...that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are His sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*  
*Galatians 4:4-6*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Men's Breakfast 8:30AM
<b>3</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <i>Dick &amp; Kathy Nelson—Annv.</i>	<b>7</b> <i>National Day of Prayer</i>  Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>8</b>  <i>Ashley Watson</i>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <i>Mother's Day</i> Breakfast 9:30AM Worship 11AM	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>15</b> Camp Mission  <i>Jim Newport</i>	<b>16</b> Christian Trip
<b>17</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	<b>18</b>  <i>Ken Lawrence</i>	<b>19</b> Elders Meeting 4:00PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	<b>25</b> <i>Memorial Day</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Praise Team 7:30PM	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <i>Dick Nelson</i>
<b>31</b> Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM  <i>Howard Greager Ricky &amp; Cindy Klement—Annv. Tom &amp; Terri Gabarron—Annv.</i>						