



Norwood Christian Grapevine

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

Pastor's Promptings...

RE-THINK CHURCH

A lot of people around here spend the summer weekends out enjoying God's beautiful creation and the myriad of outdoor activities there are to take advantage of. God truly has blessed us with a wealth of outdoor fun from mountain climbing, river rafting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, photography, or just sightseeing. We are blessed.

Summer is about over and the kids are back to school so now is a perfect time to come back to church. Norwood Christian Church is participating in Back to Church Sunday on September 13th and we would love for you to come for a visit. Back to Church Sunday is a national movement of churches to encourage formerly churched people to Re-Think Church and try it again.

According to LifeWay Research, 38% of people are receptive or highly receptive to attending church; 82% say they would be open to attending church if a friend invited them. So consider yourself invited! Norwood Christian Church is joining with thousands of churches across the country inviting everyone in our community to attend church with us on Sunday, September 13, 2009.

I know doing anything new can make you uncomfortable, especially going to a new church. You may be concerned about what to wear, what goes on, what you should do during the service and stuff like that. If you haven't visited our church before, or it has

been awhile, let me answer some questions you may have and describe what you will find when you come visit us.

What should I wear? You will see people dressed in anything from casual to business casual attire. You won't see any men in ties or suits (unless they are a visitor). Some of our ladies wear dresses; others are more casual. Dress in what makes you feel comfortable, but try to show respect. Nice jeans are perfectly fine. Don't be overly anxious about being under- or over-dressed. We are more concerned that you are here and not with what you are wearing.

What time should I arrive? Our Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. and our Worship Service starts at 11 a.m. We have free snacks and coffee available beforehand so if you arrive about 10 minutes early you can enjoy them, meet some people and get your bearings. We do tend to start on time so arrive early rather than late.

What do I do with my children? If you come to Sunday School at 10 a.m. we have two classes: one for children ages 3-10 and one for older children and adults. The younger children meet downstairs. A greeter will assist you and show you where to take the children.

We take a family approach to worship during our worship service at 11 a.m. Your children are welcome to sit with you during the service. We have coloring sheets for the children to keep their hands busy during service. There is a nursery downstairs for infants and toddlers if you choose. A nursery attendant will meet you if

you would like to leave your child in the nursery. Again, ask the greeter for directions.

What will happen during the service? All churches have their routines. Those of us who attend regularly take it for granted but it is helpful for a visitor to know the routine so they know what to expect. Our order of service (i.e. our routine) is printed in the bulletin you will receive when you enter the building. Our routine goes something like this:

We begin with five or six songs. Our songs are a mix of contemporary and traditional Christian music. We stand during the first few songs, then have an opening prayer, then sit during the last few songs. A song leader will tell everyone when to stand and when to sit.

Next comes our communion time. One of the men from the congregation will come forward and share some thoughts on the meaning of communion (the Lord's Supper). When he is finished we sing a communion song. Next is the communion prayer followed by communion being served. Ours is an open communion. Any believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is invited to participate in communion. The congregation remains seated as the communion trays are passed. When the tray comes to you, if you would like to participate, simply take one of the small cracker-like wafers and eat it, then take one of the small cups

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

of grape juice and drink it. Put the cup back in the tray and pass it along to the person next to you.

After communion I get up and preach. I try to make my message relevant to issues we face today. God's word is not just a history book. It has practical advice for living in our world today and I do my best to show how we can apply it to our everyday life. I usually preach for 20-30 minutes. If you'd like to hear some of my past sermons you can listen to them or download them from our website www.NorwoodChristian.com and click on the "Sermons" link.

After the message I give an invitation for anyone who wants to learn more about becoming a Christian or for Christians interested in learning more about joining the church to come forward for more information. If this makes you uncomfortable you can always talk with me after church or call me at the church office during the week for a more private conversation.

After the invitation we have announcements and prayer requests. Then we close the service in prayer and sing a closing song. We are usually done by about 12:15 p.m.

A Free Gift: To help you decide whether or not to come Back to Church we have a booklet we'd like to give you. It's called, "Re-Think Church" and it addresses ten concerns people have with going to church. It will not try to change your mind, convert you, or judge you. It's just a thought stimulator, a short exploration of the bigger issues related to living life without a church. To get your free copy email me at Ken@NorwoodChristian.com and include your mailing address and I'll put one in the mail to you. I

won't call or visit you (unless you invite me to) I'll just pop the book in the mail.

So there you have our "routine" so now you know what to expect. I hope you will come for a visit. You are welcome to come any time, but we especially would like to give you an invitation to come for a visit on Sunday, September 13th as part of National Back to Church Sunday. We are a very friendly church so when you come expect to have people come up to you and say "Hi!" You won't find any high pressure arm twisting or anything, just a bunch of friendly folks who will be genuinely happy to see you.

See you on **National Back to Church Sunday** on September 13th.

Serving Christ and His family,

Pastor Ken

A SLICE OF LIFE

BY DAVIS WATSON

It was Sunday morning and Mary, my wife of 30+ years, had just sliced open her finger. She obviously hadn't learned safe knife handling procedures. This is one of the life skills she missed learning by not being a Boy Scout.

Having been both a Cub Scout and later on a Boy Scout I was prepared to apply proper first-aid procedures to stop the bleeding and apply the bandage to her middle finger.

In Scouting, knowing first-aid is very important because we are always doing things that are risky. We need to be prepared to help ourselves and others at all times; from bandaging a sprained ankle while backpacking to building a "monkey" bridge over a ravine, or rescuing a fallen hiker.

Being prepared is Scouting's goal.

Second only to my baptism into Christ, Scouting was the best choice I made when I was young. Scouting prepared me for life. As a Christian, I learned reverence toward God. As a citizen, Scouting taught me to care about my community. As a husband, I'm called upon to be prepared to fix all types of things around the house. As a father, Scouting taught me to be leader and a coach to my daughters' softball teams. As an appraiser, Scouting taught me to be trustworthy.

In all aspects of life, Scouting prepares you to become an adult who cares about his God, his Life, his Family and his Community.

Norwood has a great Scouting tradition! There have been probably more Eagle Scouts per capita than any community in the nation. The men of Norwood Christian Church and other men in the community are dedicated in seeing the Scouting experience continue to thrive.

All boys ages 7-20 and teenage girls ages 14-20 can participate in one of the scouting programs. For more information about Cub Scouts (boys ages 7-10) call Ken Lawrence, Cub Master, at 327-0201, for Boy Scouts (boys ages 11-17) call Davis Watson, Scout Master, at 327-4221, and for Venturing (boys and girls ages 14-20) contact Dean Boehler at 327-4942 or Jim Fitzmorris at 327-0458, Venture Leaders.

Our regular weekly meetings will begin in September. Sign up today for your own unique slice of life.



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



You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
1 Peter 1: 18-19

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 Praise Team 7:30PM <i>John Oliver</i>	4	5
6 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	7	8	9 <i>Kate Davis</i>	10 Praise Team 7:30PM	11	12 <i>John & Rhonda Oliver—Annv.</i>
13 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	14	15	16	17 Praise Team 7:30PM <i>Ron Gabbett</i>	18 <i>John & Carmen Warfield—Annv.</i>	19
20 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	21 <i>Ernie & Dori Calvillo—Annv.</i>	22	23 <i>Tom Gabarron</i>	24 Praise Team 7:30PM	25	26 <i>Pioneer Day</i>
27 Bible Study 10AM Worship 11AM	28	29 <i>Cathy Carlson</i>	30			



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www.NorwoodChristian.com

10 AM ~ Bible Study

11 AM ~ Worship Service

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SUNDAY SERVANTS

September 6th

Communion Preparation
Betty Greager

Greeters

Heather, Thomas & Robert Lawrence

Communion Servers
Davis & Mary Watson

Communion Meditation
Ken Lawrence

Sound Booth/Slides
Heather Lawrence

September 13th

Communion Preparation
Davis Watson

Greeters

Kate Davis, Thomas & Robert Lawrence

Communion Servers
Dick & Kathy Nelson

Communion Meditation
Davis Watson

Sound Booth/Slides
Heather Lawrence

September 20th

Communion Preparation
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Greeters

Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Servers
Howard & Betty Greager

Communion Meditation
Ernie Calvillo

Sound Booth/Slides
Zack Calvillo

September 27th

Communion Preparation
John Oliver

Greeters

John & Rhonda Oliver

Communion Servers
Ernie & Zack Calvillo

Communion Meditation
John Oliver

Sound Booth/Slides
Zack Calvillo