

## NORTHSIDE NOTES



## COVID-19 Sabbatical

Rev. Jeff Godwin

A **sabbatical** is an extended break from your job that gives you time to enhance your academic qualifications, reflect on your accomplishments, and decide how to prioritize your life and career or to take an extended rest period.

COVID-19 has given us an extended break from our ordinary lives. Some of us have been removed from our jobs. Some have been removed from society at large and isolation in our homes has become the normal. Some have had added pressures as they work to care for others during this difficult time. However COVID-19 has impacted each of our lives, we have a break for a while from our "old normal." It is up to each of us whether we waste this break or if we use this break to draw us closer to the Lord.

Many of our normal church activities have been cancelled or are being adjusted during this time of coronavirus. It would be easy

for us to pass right over that or feel the relief of not having to raise money for a mission trip, volunteer for VBS, or get up early for prayer. Instead, I would like for us all to be intentional about doing things that draw us closer to Jesus and help us love one another well. Each of the articles in this summer edition of the Northside Notes were written to share thoughts with you for this COVID-19 Sabbatical. Below are some of my additional thoughts.

We can all enhance our religious education and theological study. There are plenty of opportunities to study virtually from solid institutions. Maybe there has been a nagging question or special area of interest that you just never had the time to give focus. Maybe now is the time. There are plenty of free classes and studies available at Covenant Theological Seminary, Third Millennium, Ligonier Ministries, and many other solid Christian institutions. So, take one, two, three classes

or even earn a degree during the break.

During this break, we can all take time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. We can assess where we are in our relationship with the Lord. I'm always telling people to make sure they have no regrets in life. It is never too late to run back to your Savior. So, we can make sure we are keeping the main things the main thing and the right priorities the top priority. We need to glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

We can all take time to get rest ~ physical, emotional, and spiritual rest. Catch up on your sleep, exercise, and time with family and friends ~ even if it has to be virtual. Refocus your emotional health as you work on the issues that make you anxious. Spend some extended quiet time in the Word and devote time to prayer. Spend some time being still.

## SUMMER 2020

From the Pastor	1/4
Mission Trip	1
Summer Time & Friends	2
Young Professionals	2
Vacation Bible School	2
Youth Group	3
Sunday School	3

## Current Worship Opportunities

\*Participate in person at Northside Presbyterian Church at 10:45 A.M. on Sundays. *Childcare and Jr. Church are not currently available.*

\*Participate in the live-stream on our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/NorthsidePCA](https://www.facebook.com/NorthsidePCA) at 10:45 A.M. on Sundays.

\*Watch the live-stream on our website: [northsidepca.org/live](https://northsidepca.org/live), available shortly after 10:45 A.M. on Sundays.

\*Listen to the sermon audio or watch the video on our website: [northsidepca.org/media](https://northsidepca.org/media). Sermon audio will be posted by Sunday afternoons and video will be available on Tuesday mornings.

## Mission Trip

Rebekah Watts

Sadly, we had to cancel our mission trip to Northern Ireland this summer. The decision came after careful and frequent dialogue among the trip leadership team (Chris Sanders, Robbie Watts, and Rebekah Watts) with Pastor John Coulter, pastor of Ballysally Presbyterian, as well as leaders at Northside. Even after we made the decision to cancel the trip for 2020, we were able to continue to meet virtually with those in Northern Ireland. A few weeks ago we had a Zoom meeting with a few members of our mission team and the three youth workers and pastor in Ballysally. It was a wonderful time that strengthened the relationship between our two congregations and gave us the opportunity to share prayer concerns.

Please continue to pray for the church in Ballysally. The pastor shared that they have faced a significant learning curve trying to make services and other opportunities available virtually. Please also pray that the youth workers will be able to remain connected with the youth of the community, as well as for the pastor and elders as they continue to offer online services and outreach. Consider taking time during June 10-24 (the dates that we were supposed to be on the trip) to pray specifically for the congregation in Ballysally.

As we look forward to next year, we are hopeful that we can make the trip in the summer of 2021. Please pray that the leaders will have wisdom and discernment about future planning. For those who already donated money towards the 2020 trip, we thank you so much for your generosity and support, and we plan to put money raised this year toward the next mission trip to Northern Ireland. (Fortunately, we were able to make the decision to cancel the trip in time to receive a full refund from the airline!) We hope that the wonderful group of people who were on the mission team this year will be able to make the trip in the future. We are resting in the fact that God is in control, and He will direct our steps.

# Summer Time and Friends

Elder Neil Ferguson

Although summer won't technically arrive until the solstice on June 21st, you can find clues that summer is already here in Florida: the sun comes up earlier and sets later, we have afternoon rains and plenty of croaking frogs, and we've already seen three named tropical storms! While COVID-19 has called into question whether there will be summer favorites like the Fourth of July fireworks or baseball, it is still that time of year to mix in lemonade, beach days, watermelon and backyard barbecues. Even under the current circumstances, I encourage you to consider meeting up at the beach or park for some outdoor fun. Get together for a game night or BBQ. Our small groups typically have a lighter schedule in the summer, but we can still look for ways to stay connected through sensible activities as the restrictions are relaxed. I challenge you to take the initiative and invite someone over from the church or get to know your neighbors even better.

Also, I encourage you to use these summer months to be thinking about and planning for the fall. In the August/September timeframe, small groups will resume meeting. Consider hosting a small group. We're looking to add one or two more small groups. It is a great way to make sure you straighten up the house weekly. Consider joining a small group. There is always room, and smiling faces will be there to greet you. In the fall, we will have our annual picnic and an occasional 2Gather event. Maybe you have some ideas for fellowship and gathering together as a church. Please share them, so we can start planning. If you would like to champion a new event and be the point of contact, let us know and we'll connect with you to get the ball rolling. We are always open to new ideas and are willing to come along side folks to help make their ideas a reality. The body is made of many parts, so let's get all the parts doing – together!

## *Tithes and Offerings*

### *Thank you for Giving! You May Give in the Following Ways:*

\*Mail your tithe to NPC, 1400 Lake Washington Road, Melbourne, FL 32935

\*Pay online using your bank or credit union website or app to Northside PCA, and a paper check will be sent to the church.

\*Pay online at [northsidepca.org/online-giving](http://northsidepca.org/online-giving). (There is a small charge to the church with this option).

# Young Professionals

Generations Minister, Chris Sanders

Many of our young professionals have expressed a desire to fellowship together, and we have brainstormed a few ideas that I think will serve our ministry well. See info below for the YoPro summer season of ministry 2020:

**Once a month gathering** (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month) for food, fellowship, and prayer @ Northside 6:30 – 9:00pm

**BYOM (Bring Your Own Meal)** - We will be providing a grill for those who want to take advantage of that. Northside can provide drinks, picnic supplies, and condiments.

We will have games set-up outside to promote social distancing à Can Jam, Corn Hole, Spike Ball, Frisbee, soccer etc.

We will conclude the evening with a time to share what God is doing in our lives and to pray together. Our schedule is:

**June 17 @ Northside**

**July 15 @ Northside**

**August 19 @ The Deniers**

Questions about Youth Ministry or Young Professionals?

Contact Generations Minister Chris Sanders

# Vacation Bible School

Elder Clayton Bennett

COVID-19 has changed, altered, or canceled many of our plans this year. For Northside, VBS is one of those events that has been canceled. Although we will not have the opportunity to work with the VBS students this year, Northside has been blessed with the opportunity to provide PAL with additional meeting space this summer.

Even though we will not be ministering in a large scale event like VBS, take time to consider and pray how you can personally reach out to others in the church and community to establish and deepen relationships and share the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These relationships can be developed by inviting others to outdoor activities like the beach or to relax in lawn chairs or by hosting small gatherings in your home. Be creative and purposeful in ways to connect. Although the means of gathering together and taking forth the gospel may change by our circumstances, the gospel message stands firm and is unchanged!

# Youth Group

Generations Minister, Chris Sanders

I do not know about you but from my perspective, 2020 has been a strange year. Where has the time gone? What is the LORD doing in our midst? While there is a lot of doubt in our world, we *can* be certain that our God is with us and shepherding us unto His glory and for our good. It is hard to believe that we have another school year under our belt. As we anticipate another year, it is our desire to use the summer season of ministry to promote a safe environment for fellowship to resume. We take very seriously the health and well-being of your student, especially in this new season of youth ministry. To that end, I wanted to share some plans we plan to have in place as our youth ministry gets back to regular scheduled meetings.

**Safety guidelines:** For the safety of your student we will be following the CDC recommended guidelines, supported by our Session, by recommending each student come to youth group wearing a face covering or mask. We will do our best to promote social distancing throughout the night by playing most of our games outside and maintaining distance when gathering inside for snack and devotions. Individually wrapped snacks and drinks will be offered during youth group to prevent any transmission of viruses.

**Parents' Help:** We are asking families to assist our youth ministry by helping provide individually wrapped snacks and drinks, and to help clean-up after each meeting if you are able. Please sign up for snacks and cleaning support in the Welcome Center or by reaching out to GM Chris Sanders.

**Meeting Details:** We will ease into our regularly scheduled meeting activities by meeting every other week, starting on June 14<sup>th</sup>, until Sunday July 26<sup>th</sup> and then the following Sunday on August 2<sup>nd</sup> when we have a farewell to our graduated senior Jeffrey Wilson (5 meetings total). The "every other week" meeting schedule is purposeful in allowing families who are ready to meet to do so, while giving those who may not be ready to meet the freedom to send their student when they feel comfortable. This also allows us to keep a close eye on the health of our students as well as how COVID-19 is trending in our surrounding community. We will follow the direction of our leadership, seeking their guidance in case the youth ministry needs to cancel meetings should any students be diagnosed with COVID-19, or if our community numbers spike to a dangerous level.

**Meeting Purposes:** We will focus our time this summer on welcoming incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders, saying goodbye to our outgoing senior, supporting our current students, and assessing how things are going in preparation for our fall season of ministry. While we will not be going through a teaching series or book of the Bible, we will offer a devotion at each meeting, led by one of our volunteer leaders who will offer gospel-centered encouragement from a passage of the Bible or a lesson the LORD has been teaching them in their own lives that will benefit our students spiritually. We will not break into small groups like we typically do until the fall. For your planning, the meeting schedule is provided below.

June 14: 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Meet-N-Greet	July 19: No YG
June 21: NO youth group (YG) - <i>Happy Father's Day</i>	July 26: Nerf Wars
June 28: YG Social Distancing Summer Olympics	August 2: Farewell to Jeffrey Wilson
July 5: No YG - <i>Independence Day Weekend</i>	August 9: No YG ( <i>1st day of school for some is Aug. 10<sup>th</sup></i> )
July 12: Trivia Night	August 16: NPC Back to School Bash

# Sunday School

Elder John Roberts

I'd like to start out with a heartfelt thank-you to all those who helped with Sunday School over the last year. Whether you were a teacher, an assistant, or a substitute, Sunday School didn't happen without your gracious assistance.

Unfortunately, one of the casualties of the recent pandemic was the last two months of Sunday School. But we are looking forward to resuming this coming August. The children and youth will be continuing lessons from Great Commission Publications. This year they will be learning about God leading His people, obeying God, and God's grace. If you'd like to see what your children's age group will be learning you can see GCP's master plan at [https://www.gcp.org/downloads/scopesequence\\_masterplan.pdf](https://www.gcp.org/downloads/scopesequence_masterplan.pdf). Adults will be starting with a series from Hugh Davis on Discipleship. This is a topic a number of you have requested, and whether we've been disciples for 80 years or are just starting, it's a topic important for all of us to learn and relearn about. Thank you to Hugh for stepping up with this for us. After that, I will be starting a new series working through Acts. We will be looking at how the power of Christ and the Spirit worked in the Apostles, disciples, and the early Church and how we might apply that as disciples in the Church of today.

**Here are a few things you can do to help our Sunday School program:**

1. Consider helping with children's Sunday School. We are always in need of teachers, assistants, and substitutes.
2. Bring your children to children's Sunday School, and come to adult Sunday School. YOU are what we are doing all of this for; so, come and join us!
3. Pray! Pray for those preparing lessons. Pray for volunteers to lead and assist. Pray for one another that we would all be built up in Christ, knowing Him better, and bringing glory to Him in all that we do.

# Shepherding Groups

Rev. Jeff Godwin

During this time of COVID-19, I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that you have a Shepherding Elder who cares and prays for you. Each of these men has been charged by God to love, spiritually feed, and protect you. Please never feel alone or forgotten. Feel free to reach out to your Shepherding Elder or myself if you need to talk or need help with anything. It is truly a privilege and honor to be a part of your walk with Christ!

At Northside, every family unit is assigned to a "Shepherding Group" which is overseen by an Elder. Why?

- ⇒ It is impossible for one person to oversee everyone in the congregation. Organizing the church into smaller Shepherding Groups helps an Elder to be involved with people in a more personal way.
- ⇒ Shepherding Groups divide the ministry equally among the Elders. At Northside we divide the church alphabetically each January according to the number of Elders currently sitting on the Session.
- ⇒ Shepherding Groups allow each Elder to know his people from week to week and to recognize when they are missing, ill, or struggling and need a word of encouragement or comfort.
- ⇒ Shepherding Groups provide a more personal way of communication within the church. Elders are available to speak on the church's vision, our church culture, or any challenges we may be facing as a congregation. This allows members to have clarification and ask questions to learn more of what is happening in the church.
- ⇒ Shepherding Groups allow each person an Elder to use as a listening ear to receive Godly and Biblical advice in regard to issues they may be encountering in life.

Being assigned a Shepherding Group does not mean that you are not allowed to communicate with other Elders or the Pastor. It is simply the way that we are allowing the Biblical concept of oversight to be given more effectively to every family unit attending Northside.

## WORSHIP

Elder Jim Dike

## TEACHING

Elder John Roberts

## NURTURE

### Congregational Care:

Elder Don Hunsuck

### Facilities:

Deacons

### Fellowship:

Elder Neil Ferguson

**Mercy:** Deacon Bill Snyder

## SHEPHERDING GROUPS

Josh Summer	Albright-Camilli
Stan Thurman	Carson-Diener
Clayton Bennett	Dinsmore-Gioffre
Jim Dike	Graves-Isbell
Neil Ferguson	Johnston-McGovern
John Hohmann	Mills-Rensenhous
Don Hunsuck	Rice-Sullivan
John Roberts	Tombs-Woodford
Pastor Jeff	Elders & Deacons

## REACHING

### Missions:

Elder John Hohmann

Elder Josh Summer

### Outreach:

Elder Clayton Bennett

### Connect:

Elder Stan Thurman

*Please contact the oversight Elder or Deacon with questions or if you are interested in serving in one of these ministry areas.*

## NORTHSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Senior Pastor** Rev. Jeff Godwin

**Generations Minister** Chris Sanders **Worship Director** McCartney Diener

**Elders** Clayton Bennett, Jim Dike, Neil Ferguson, John Hohmann, Don Hunsuck, Roland Landry, George Mills, John Roberts, Bob Staples, Josh Summer, Stan Thurman

**Deacons** Hugh Evans, Ray Parish, Robert Ragan, Bill Snyder, Bernie VanSomeran, Chad Wilson


## OUR MISSION


To glorify God through faithfully following the Scripture, to love one another, and to reach the world with the power of Christ.

## OUR VALUES

We value God-centered, joyous worship and growing in our relationship with and knowledge of Christ. We value reaching out to those within our church and community who have needs, and sharing the Good News that Jesus came to save us.

## NORTHSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

 1400 Lake Washington Road Melbourne, FL 32935

 (321) 255-0701



[www.northsidepca.org](http://www.northsidepca.org); [office@northsidepca.org](mailto:office@northsidepca.org)



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