

koinonia

May 2023

A Call to Fellowship From Pastor Brandon

It has been such a blessing to see the work of the Lord in our body! There are so many good things going on with our people. I see and hear about families getting together with other families for fellowship. This is not a new thing, but it is an increasing thing! This sharing of life together, outside of the walls of the church is a true embodiment of koinonia. I strongly believe that these interactions solidify the difference between “church friends” and “church family.” When I see this happening in our congregation, I am reminded of this scripture:

CONTENTS:	
A Call to Fellowship	1
Upcoming Events	2
New Members	2
VBS 2023	2
A Word on Worship	3
Giving Update	3

“Don’t neglect to do what is good and share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.” – Hebrews 13:16.

It is truly a sacrifice to invite people into your home and share life with them. There are preparations to be made and oftentimes meals to be cooked. This welcomed intrusion into another’s life is a powerful thing for both the guest and the host. It is something that the early church knew well. Acts 2:46 shows us that the first church met daily in homes. Throughout the rest of the book, we see instances where the church was gathered together in homes for prayer, preaching, and fellowship. Through our series in Acts, I have reminded us that the DNA of the church was obedience, unity, and prayer. We see these things in put into practice in their homes. It is difficult not to see this as a precedent set in the book.

Our faith is one bathed in relationship. Our relationship with Christ reconciles us to relationship with God. Our status in Christ puts us in relationship with each other. Our relationship with one another is God’s kingdom established in the world. With so much packed into our relationships, we cannot allow ourselves to believe that 2–3 hours a week is sufficient time to exemplify Christ to the world. Our faith must follow us home. Our lives must be lived in community with other believers. To experience what the first-century church experienced, we must engage the way they engaged.



My encouragement to you is this; if you are engaging in that next level of relationship with your church family, continue to do so! It’s what makes us more than family in idea only. If you haven’t been able to participate in deeper fellowship outside of

Sunday services, consider making relationships within the body of Christ a priority. Wednesday nights are a great opportunity to build relationships with this in mind. The fellowship had during our small groups is such a blessing and the discussions give opportunity to get to know one another outside of the Sunday morning service. Sunday School classes are another way to engage and get to know one another. Also, have someone you've gotten to know over for lunch or dinner. Invite someone to a restaurant to eat together. Share life with those you worship with. Allow obedience, unity, and prayer to overflow from your private life and into your relationships with one another. Be ready to pray for and encourage one another. Assembling together isn't just a Sunday thing.

Upcoming Events:

**NCA Graduation
- May 11th**

**NCC's 62nd Anniversary
Celebration - May 21st**

**NCA SUNDAY
-May 28th**

"And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching." - Hebrews 10:24-25

We are closer to seeing the day approach than the writer of Hebrews was. It is safe to say that intentional fellowship and encouragement should be a staple of our Christian walk. My prayer is that the fellowship we have now would increase as we see the day approaching and that we would sacrifice our time and homes and energy

and belongings to see our body grow in spiritual maturity and boldness to minister the gospel.

New Members

This month, we'd like to welcome the Harris family into membership at Northside! Dustin and Angela Harris have expressed a desire to walk with us as members of our local body of believers. They both profess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and are excited to partner with us in the mission and vision of our church. Let's be sure to welcome them, along with their children to our family of faith here. We will have an official time of expressing our membership covenant later on, but as of now, they are family!

If you or someone you know that has been visiting or attending our church would like to talk to someone about membership, we'd love to sit down with them! Any pastor or elder will be happy to make time to help walk you through our membership process. You can begin this process by checking out the "Become a Member" link in the app or on the website.

VBS 2023

July 24-28th will be the dates for Vacation Bible School this year. We are so excited to continue the great ministry we experienced last summer. This year's VBS is called "Hall of Heroes." We will have an exciting museum theme and the kids will get to see some of the heroes of the faith in person as well as some exhibits of important items from their stories. We'll be looking at the stories of Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and David. With everyone's help,

this will be an exciting time of ministry for both the kids and the adults! We still need adult volunteers to make this week a success, so please let Pastor Brandon, Tonia Crittenden, or Holly Derrick know whether you are available. Each night will run from 5:00 to 8:00 with a meal beginning at 5:00. Our big need right now is for four men who would be willing to get into character as one of our four heroes of the faith. As we get closer to July, we'll give you more information on what is needed.

A Word on Worship

From Pastor Scott

Last month we recalled the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22 and we noted that they had a habit of making sacrifices to the Lord together—worshiping the Lord together. God called Abraham to make sacrifices. These sacrifices were a foreshadowing of the perfect sacrifice that was to come—Jesus. Jesus' blood fulfilled God's requirement for the atonement of sin. Now, in Christ, there is no longer a need to sacrifice the blood of bulls and goats (Hebrews 10). David even instructs us in Psalm 51:16–17, “For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart—These, O God, You will not despise.” We no longer come to God with empty sacrifices that must be repeated, but we come to Him through Jesus Christ. Paul, in 1 Timothy 2:5–6 tells us, “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all.” So what does God desire of us in worship since Jesus Himself became the ultimate sacrifice for the atonement of sin? We see the answer Psalm 51. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit and a broken and contrite heart. How do we obtain this broken and contrite heart? The answer is two-fold. First, we must acknowledge God, His holiness, and His perfect standard. Second, we must humbly acknowledge our sinful state and accept His terms for coming to Him. Without these, we cannot worship God. Therefore, we can define worship as our response to the revelation of who God is and all that has done.

Giving Update

What a blessing it has been to see God provide for our church! He has proven Himself faithful time and time again. We praise God for the faithful givers He has placed in our fellowship. We are approaching the end of the school year and are in awe of His provision for the ministry of the school. Our year began with many questions of how we could afford to run a school that was not requiring tuition. The Lord has answered those questions by confirming the vision for that ministry in the hearts of families who want Christian education for their students, a community of faith that has come alongside prayerfully and generously to see the mission of the school accomplished, and a church body that has taken responsibility for our most comprehensive ministry to children and families. Throughout the year we have seen many opportunities as a church to press into the Lord and faithfully trust that He will make a way for the ministry that He has ordained here at Northside.

With this said, I do want to make you aware of an opportunity we currently have for giving. As a preventative measure, we recently moved funds from savings and our building fund to

help cover costs of operating. The need for this arose as we had a larger than normal first premium payment on our umbrella policy through church mutual. This is the \$9,000+ payment that I mentioned in last month's Koinonia. We are trusting the Lord to make up this lack and will redistribute the money to the savings and building fund as it is replenished. If you would like to give to help replenish these funds, you can do so online or on the app and choose "General" or "Building" as the designated fund or place your gift in the baskets or boxes during service times and label them accordingly. As always, you can come by the office to give and ensure that it goes where you are wanting it to go.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer and finances to keep our ministries going. May the Lord bless you with abundance to share!

-Pastor Brandon

The chart below reflects giving through the month of March. If you have any questions about giving or finances, feel free to call the church office and we'll make time to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have. (903) 693-6366

