

FALL 2020

Engage

WELCOME
BACK

.....
THERE'S A
SMILE
UNDER THIS MASK!
.....

Engaging People to be Fully Alive in Jesus.

NORTHLAND
CHURCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTORS:

Exec Dir for Community Life..... Rebecca Lang
Communications Manager..... Bradley Nolff
Graphic Designer..... Addie Cooper
Editor..... Katie Crawford
Writers..... Matthew Shiles
Gus Davies
Dr. Kevin Urichko
Nathan Clark
Kirk Leff
Rebecca Lang
Katie Crawford
Sean Cooper
Danny Gordon
Stephanie Seda
Dr. Agar Quinones
Robert Diacheysn
David Gritton
Lola Lang
Photographers..... David Saphirstein
Jamie Neville
Fe Salviano
Bradley Nolff
Jessica Saphirstein
Marcus Rhoads
Hannah Busing on Unsplash
Lina Trochez on Unsplash
Annie Spratt on Unsplash
Clement Falize on Unsplash
Annie Spratt on Unsplash
Keith Misner on Unsplash
Nick Quan on Unsplash

Printer..... Central Florida Publishing, Inc.

OUR VISION:

Engaging People to be Fully Alive in Jesus.

Jesus made an amazing declaration:
***"I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full."***

For Northland, our aim is to see the Life movement Jesus launched continue into the 21st century.

The scope of what He came to do is way more than inventing some religion and introducing a thing called church that happens in buildings on Sunday mornings. It's a goal aimed at the renewal of the cosmos and it starts with us as His image bearers.

The Gospel enables us to dance as human beings to the glory of God – to do that in community, to do that in our culture, and to see salt and light unleashed by the church, not just by yelling orthodoxy at a culture, but by also demonstrating vibrancy.

Put simply: We believe the church is more than a place you come to on Sundays ... it's people. People fully alive in Jesus – not just lung-breathing, heart-beating life, but abundant, thriving Life that can only come from Him.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." – John 10:10 (NIV)

Get to know our Interim Senior Pastor Gus Davies

Page 4



Disciples Making Disciples

Page 6



Stewardship Report

Page 10



Tips for Parenting during COVID-19

Page 14



Worship Times

Online and On Campus

Saturdays 5 p.m.

Sundays 9 & 11 a.m.

Spanish interpretation is available at the Sunday morning services.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 a.m. service.



**Sign up for our weekly newsletter
to stay up to date with everything
happening at Northland!**

>> NorthlandChurch.net/Newsletter

Get to know Pastor Gus

Learn more about our Interim Senior Pastor Augustine “Gus” Davies

WRITTEN BY: KATIE CRAWFORD

CONTRIBUTORS: GUS DAVIES, SEAN COOPER, REBECCA LANG,
MATT SHILES, AND KEVIN URICHKO.



Pastor Gus Davies was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa. He was raised by Godly parents who instilled values of hard work, faithfulness in all things, adventure, and working together in community. Pastor Gus and his wife, Jeneba, got married in 1984 and have been partners in ministry ever since. Colossians 1:28-29 has served as an inspiration, motivation, and goal for their life and ministry together.

For several years, Pastor Gus and Jeneba moved back and forth from West Africa to the United States. In 1996, Pastor Gus, Jeneba, and their two daughters, Angela Marie and Catherine Joy, returned to Central Florida after the outbreak of civil war in Sierra Leone. The warm welcome they received from the Northland family assured them that this was the body of believers they would call home.

Pastor Gus has been such a blessing to Northland. He has served in numerous roles, such as inner-city ministry, local and global missions, teaching classes, shepherding pastoral obligations, and as of July 2020, Interim Senior Pastor. When asked to describe Pastor Gus in one word, Northland staff members responded with words like humble, selfless, encourager, and laughter.

“It’s a place of worship, that is God-focused. We focus on Jesus Christ, who He is, and what He has done,” said Pastor Gus when asked his favorite thing about Northland. “It’s inviting. It invites us to be who we are and who we can become in Christ. It’s a place where diversity is, in every understanding of the word, is valued. An example would be nobody went looking for me, an African guy, because it’s a place where God is valued. So I didn’t need to prove myself as somebody of diversity. I was invited, I was encouraged.”

“When I see Pastor Gus in my mind’s eye, I see his big smile and love for Jesus,” says Pastor Sean Cooper. “Everyone who spends even a minute with Pastor Gus feels closer to Jesus.”

Pastor Gus has been a part of Northland for many years. When asked his favorite memory from Northland from the twenty-plus years he’s been here, his answer was how the church came alongside his family to disciple his children, who are now discipling others.

“It takes a whole village to raise a child,” said Pastor Gus. “One of my favorite things for me and my family is relationships. I love that even today, the relationships, some over 20 years, are still flourishing because we all value each other, we don’t need to prove ourselves. In Christ, we are accepted.”

Relationships are incredibly important to Pastor Gus. Executive Director of Community Life, Rebecca Lang, said she is willing to bet that Pastor Gus has never met a stranger. She fondly remembers the first time he spoke to her when she was volunteering at the welcome desk, he made her feel like they’d been friends forever.

“He’s been a mentor, teacher, coach, pastor, friend, and counselor to me but more, he’s been that to each and every person in my family,” said Rebecca. “My kids have benefited greatly from his guidance and advice, and my husband is immensely grateful for the godly voice Pastor Gus has been in his life, our family, and marriage.”



Over the past several years, Missions Director Matt Shiles has worked very closely with Pastor Gus. "He's been discipling me for the last several years, and it took me a while before I recognized that he was doing the same with so many other staff and countless congregants," said Matt. "He is also in weekly and monthly conversations with those he disciplined and led to Christ in Africa decades ago! So many of his methods won't be broadcast. They are quiet and methodical but have an eternal impact."

This year has not been what any of us were expecting, for our world, for our country, and even for our church family. We are excited about what this new chapter holds for us as a church.

"I'm inspired by the way he has embraced this new role of Interim Senior Pastor," said Pastor Kevin Urichko. "It's never something he's aspired to, but he has responded to the call with focus, prayer, determination, and trust in the Lord."

"In times in the past, and now in the future, let us keep our eyes on Jesus," said Pastor Gus. "He's the head of the church and he is running the church. He's got everything in His hands, there's nothing new for us even in times like these, whether it's COVID, whether it's the storm season, whatever storm it is, Jesus is still on the throne. King Jesus rules and reigns. We need to just be faithfully obedient to Him as disciples, following Him and learning and making disciples. So that is one of the reasons why I'm very committed to the whole disciple-making process because that's what Jesus did. My question to my fellow Northlanders is, are we looking to Him to take us through? He rules and reigns and I will continue to remind us of that. So let's keep our eyes focused on Jesus to take us through this time."





For more information on any of these next steps,
go to NorthlandChurch.net/Disciples.

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES

PASTOR GUS DAVIES, INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

JESUS CHRIST said to His followers, “therefore go and make disciples.” That was part of His last command in Matthew 28:16-20. This must be the priority of everyone following King Jesus and this should be the main focus for the Church. In the command, Jesus shared what His part is in making disciples and that our part is to obey and fulfill His mission. It is in ALL.

1. Jesus has ALL authority which is given to us through His Holy Spirit. John 16:15-21, 25-26; Acts 1:6.

2. Jesus said go to ALL the nations. Disciple people from every nation, tribe, and tongue. Matthew 24:14

3. Jesus said teach them ALL He has commanded us. Teach and baptize to show obedience and as a witness to Him as Lord. Matthew 28:20a

4. Jesus said His presence will be with us ALL the days of our lives until ALL have heard. Matthew 28:20b

Jesus modeled how we are to make disciples during His three years on earth with his own disciples. He lived and showed His followers how to be a disciple and how to make disciples. A study in the lives of the disciples and church history shows that we are to take the mandate to the nations. This means understanding the purpose and responsibility of taking the Gospel to everyone.

We have that in our vision statement, Engaging People to be Fully Alive in Jesus. To be a disciple is to be someone following, loving, learning, and living for Jesus. To make disciples means bringing others along with you to do the same. Everyone who has trusted in Jesus as Lord and Savior is to

make disciples. Thank God that over the years we have those at Northland Church and throughout the nations who have embraced discipleship. They continue to do so and others are joining them. But, we need to do much more so that we are faithful and fruitful disciples of Jesus.

How are we doing this now at Northland? Over the past year and a half we have devoted ourselves to praying, studying scriptures, and gathering in different ways and areas as we move toward being a disciple-making church. To begin to equip every believer for ministry we have fully engaged with many of our staff, elders, and congregational leaders. Over the summer, 180 leaders in 23 groups have been studying “The Master Plan of Evangelism” by Dr. Robert E. Coleman. Our purpose for reading this book is to bring us in alignment with Jesus’ style of making disciples. In the discussion groups, we are exploring and discovering the principles of evangelism and discipleship. Along with these principles, we are learning how these scriptures apply to us today.

How can you get involved? Jesus calls all of us to make disciples. Whether you’re a new believer or a long-time Christian, we will resource you to take the next step. We encourage and challenge you to pray and consider how Jesus wants you to participate. If you’re a new believer, we want to connect you with someone to help you grow. That means we also need people who are willing to disciple others. In late September, we’ll start new “The Master Plan of Evangelism” discussion groups and would like you to join us. For those who are currently reading “The Master Plan of Evangelism”, your next step is to lead a group, help a new believer grow, or find other ways to make disciples.

Succession Planning

Praying Together for our next Lead Pastor

DANNY GORDON, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNING ELDERS

In Jeremiah 3:15, the Lord declares to Israel “Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding”. The term shepherd is not often used in our contemporary language and the imagery of a leader who lays his life down for others does not make the news very often. But when it comes to the care of God’s people, this is the term He uses for how a leader is to serve. The word shepherd is also translated as “pastor” and both words are closely related to the Latin verb pascere which means “to lead to pasture, set to grazing, cause to eat.” What a beautiful picture of the role that a pastor fulfills to supply his flock with safety and sustenance. So, as we search for our next Lead Pastor, we could also accurately say that we have initiated the search for our next Lead Shepherd!

Throughout our 48 year history, God has provided Northland with exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ask or imagine and we are grateful. He owns the “cattle on a thousand hills” and we acknowledge that everything is His so with this posture, we submit to His will for the continued mission of our church. In particular, as we engage in succession planning, we submit ourselves to Jesus regarding the calling of our next Lead Pastor at Northland.

We are so thankful that our Succession Planning Committee, a cross-section of our congregation including Pastors, Governing Elders, Shepherding Elders, Staff, and Congregants, answered the call to spend 3 months praying and seeking the Lord for what He

has planned for us as a congregation. Starting in May, this group of 15 godly men and women from our church met together to seek the Lord in prayer, read the scriptures, and listen to the Holy Spirit as they developed employment policies regarding our next Lead Pastor, set in place the process for selecting our next Lead Pastor, and defined the qualities, responsibilities, and qualifications for our next Lead Pastor. We are thankful that God used each committee members’ unique voice in committee discussions and the end result was a collaborative and cohesive path forward. Although the committee has completed all the tasks set forth for them to accomplish in the Committee Charter, one will never be complete...prayer! As such, we are calling the entire congregation to pray along with the committee as they will continue to meet every Tuesday morning to pray during the Lead Pastor search.



At the recommendation of the committee, we will be engaging a Pastor Search Consultant to assist us in the process. During committee discussions, it became apparent that we don't have the in-house capacity or expertise to do a national search ourselves so we are engaging the consultant to publicize the position for us and provide us with qualified candidates that we can pursue. Through prayerful consideration, we have selected the Slingshot Group. The Slingshot Group has extensive experience in Lead Pastor placement and their associates are still involved as Pastors in their local churches, so they have real-time insight into church ministry. If you hear of any candidates, you can direct them to the Slingshot Associate assigned to our search, Kye Chung. His email address is kchung@slingshotgroup.org.

Also, as recommended by the Succession Planning Committee, we are excited to announce that a Pastor Search Committee has been created. This group of 8 amazing men and women was formed as a smaller subset of the Succession Planning Committee to take advantage of their knowledge of the Succession Planning documents and common understanding

of committee discussions. Their task will be to interface with the Pastor Search Consultant throughout the process. They will be the group that initially reviews candidates brought to us by the consultant and they will narrow down the number of candidates for interview by the Governing Elders, Pastors, and Staff Leadership. Please know that although the final decision will be made by the Governing Elders, we will engage as many voices as feasible from our church congregation...this Lead Pastor will be our long-term Shepherd and it is extremely important to us that we hear from you!

We are told that from start to finish (depending on God's timing, of course) the process will take a minimum of 6 months, so we will keep you updated all along the way. Please be praying for each member of the committee- that God would provide wisdom and discernment toward the selection of our next Lead Pastor, a "Shepherd after God's own heart." Please pray that God will prepare our next Lead Pastor's heart for ministry at Northland and pray that God will also prepare us for him!



Stewardship Report

A Word from Kirk Leff, Chief Operating Officer

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10.

It is tempting to gloss over the power and depth of this familiar scripture. And we can forget to give honor and glory to God for the impact generated by these specific good works—good works only accomplished in accordance with His plan.

Thus far, 2020 is a year that has forced us to rethink our daily life while coming face-to-face with our fragility. But it also is an opportunity to examine our engagement with our Creator and the good works He set before us...especially in the context of our vulnerability while we navigate unprecedented circumstances. God is not surprised by 2020, and we can lean into the immense comfort of that truth.

As a present-tense example, through your enablement, God has allowed Northland Church to do His good works—to be salt and light, to extend practical care, to be brothers and sisters, burden carriers, accountability partners, to provide shoulders to cry on, arms to pick one another up, hands to extend in loving compassion, and feet to walk alongside others in times of great need. Even in cases where we are doing all this from a distance, via online platforms, devotionals, special virtual events, or live moments on Facebook; God is right with us.

Our fiscal year for 2019-2020 came to a close on June 30. As can see by the numbers on the right that we fell short of the goal we prayerfully set. The first thing many people default to when their goal is not met is to deem it a “failure,” but as believers...that is far from true. Circling back to Ephesians 2:10, the phrase “which God prepared beforehand” reminds us it is not our goal, but His plan that truly matters.

Pre-COVID-19 General Tithes and Offerings were \$201,277 over goal. Since COVID-19 General Tithes and Offerings have been short of goal by \$500,408. His provision is enough! We have moved into our new fiscal year 2020-2021 with prayer,

trust, a tighter budget, and the understanding that God will provide for all our needs.

Look at just a few of the many examples of how God provides! Back in December, we saw our highest year-end giving in over three years. Little did we know, God was preparing us for the challenging times ahead. This is such an encouraging example of God being in the details of all that we do: December 2019, tithes and offerings exceeded anticipated giving by \$302,866. Fast forward to April 2020, we landed short of anticipated giving by \$367,217. We praise God for how He provided in advance during December 2019 for what was going to happen in April 2020 as we were just experiencing the early impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Just two weekends prior to COVID-19 shutting down in-person worship here at Northland, we were able to experience the wonder of God over an incredible ten-day span in the life of Northland Church! It all began with us hosting over 2,250 in concert with Amy Grant. For so many, it was a trip down memory lane of their musical Christian journey. During weekend worship, we were reminded of the beautiful truth of the Good Shepherd who calls each of us by name. Then during the week, dozens of you transformed the foyer into a dazzling, colorful environment to honor over 2,000 dads and daughters during a spectacular Daddy Daughter Dance. In a very intentional vow ceremony, they pledged to honor one another according to God’s will for their relationship. Then, as Jesus calls us to do, hundreds of you were His hands and feet, serving others in practical ways through our Local Serve Day. The weekend reached a crescendo with an evening demonstrating the essence of Fully Alive as we hosted our special need friends dancing the night away at Joy Prom 2020.

Northland Family, thank you for being sacrificial givers to your church. May God pour out His blessings on you as together we continue Engaging People to be Fully Alive in Jesus.

“May your unflinching love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you” - Psalm 33:22.



A Word from Dr. Kevin Urichko, Executive Pastor of Stewardship

As we look forward and consider the year ahead, our Stewardship Team is establishing several big picture goals. Sharing our blessings of time, talent and treasures strengthens our trust and faith as we seek to become more Fully Alive in Jesus. I will be introducing you to two categories of giving which are critical to our vision and mission as a church during the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Missions/Outreach

Even while tightening our operating budget, our goal is to make sure that at least 10% of everything you give to Northland goes beyond our walls - to projects, ministries, mission efforts, and other churches in our local community and around the world. Cutting back has allowed us to re-prioritize, but the strategic investment of this portion of your tithes and offerings in the advancement of the Gospel through partners across the globe is so important.

We want to make sure some of that missions giving is guided by the causes that are most important to you. While everything we give away must fit with our mission as a church and be approved by our elders, I bet you have some insight into where God is at work through your relationships that would help us be a better church! Let me know what you see.

Gratitude Fund

God has entrusted us with an amazing building. It's the largest gathering space in Seminole County with technology that rivals anything but two or three venues in all of Central Florida. I take it for granted too often that we get to worship God in our beautiful and extraordinary Sanctuary.

And yet, our building is now over 13 years old. Repairs and maintenance costs are growing with time and we must set aside larger reserves for some expensive work in the near future. Also, we are prayerfully considering the best way to address our mortgage and don't want it to be a limiting factor for any ministry.

Even while our facility has been used much less over the past six months, it is still the resource center and support for online ministry and various forms of connection to each other. The goal of a Gratitude Fund is to address these needs out of our thankfulness to the Lord for the great resource He has given us.

As you plan your giving in the days ahead, prayerfully consider how the Lord is prompting you to contribute at Northland. We will provide additional details in the near future about our giving goal for this year and the great things that your tithes and offerings already fund. Know that you are a blessing and God is using us together to make a difference in this world!

**Fiscal 2019-2020
Giving Versus Need Update**
July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020
Total Need \$9,500,000
Actual Received \$8,900,194

Ways to Give

Give via mobile text.
Text "northland" to 77977.



Download and use the
PushPay App.



Give online at
NorthlandChurch.net/Give
or use the Northland App.



Give by cash or check
and drop it in any of
our tithe boxes.



Access Ministries

Include. Equip. Entrust.

Access Ministries strives to include individuals and families living with disabilities in all aspects of Church life. We firmly believe that to build the Kingdom of God, we must include our brothers and sisters of all abilities, recognizing and celebrating the unique giftings of each individual as a co-laborer for the Gospel message of Jesus.

Access Ministries Holds Online Summer Camps for Teens

STEPHANIE SEDA, ACCESS TEEN COORDINATOR

Teen Connect Camp was different this summer but wonderful! We had a lot of fun playing games and getting creative while making friends and meeting new guests. Teens gathered online each week for this fun experience to stay connected. At the end of our seven weeks of camp, campers got to identify their favorite part of camp was and overwhelmingly the answer was "seeing their friends." As a leader, it made my heart so happy thinking that although we were all so far from each other, we were able to provide a space where we could all just spend time with friends. It was a new way of doing things but it was still a success!

Another highlight of our summer was Teen Connect partnering with Younglife Capernaum. We had a great time meeting every Tuesday for Teen Connect Club online gatherings. Getting to see both groups of teens come together and spend the summer together was inspiring. We now have teens from Capernaum that join our "Fun4All" classes or other Northland online events. The isolation of living in a world with COVID-19 was hard on some of our teens but it brought a lot of growth to our teen ministry. We could never have known what this summer would bring, but our teens have been open and flexible and we now have an online place where they can spend time together and build new friendships!



RECOGNIZING THE TALENTS OF OUR AMAZING ARTISTS

Ongoing Ministry Events

THE UPPER ROOM

Weekly online Bible study groups for teens and adults. Come and learn the Word of God while making friends and building community! Saturday at 5 p.m., Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

FAITHABILITY WORSHIP

An online worship event that includes music, games, and connection. Join us on alternating Fridays via Zoom for a night of fun and celebration! Fridays from 6:30 - 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY ART CONNECTION

An arts-based creative expression program, currently offering fun and innovative classes online throughout the week. Visit our website at CommunityArtConnection.com for more information!

Paint Outside the Lines

DR. AGAR QUINONES
DIRECTOR OF ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT,
COMMUNITY ART CONNECTION

Community Art Connection offers a wide variety of classes in their online platform "Paint Outside The Lines". This unique digital program provides adults with special needs an opportunity to engage in a variety of creative subject matter while also connecting with new and familiar friends and staff. What's great about this online platform, is that each class is tailored so regardless of background, skill level, or previous knowledge of subject matter each artist can be successful and grow all while having a truly creative fun time. One great example of these amazing classes is our ASL class.

Who says learning a new language as an adult is impossible? With Ms. Kristin as a teacher, learning ASL is not only possible, it's fun and relevant. Each Thursday at 11 a.m. Ms. Kristin along with co-teacher Ms. Barbara welcomes artists into a packed digital classroom. You see, Ms. Kristin's ASL class is so popular, spots fill up each session within the first couple of days of registration. That's how awesome her ASL class is.

During the session, artists are taught the alphabet, numbers, and basic conversational ASL. Learning one of the largest and oldest languages in the deaf and hard of hearing community sounds like a big feat but with the guidance of a loving and creative teacher, artists are taught the beautiful language of sign.

**To learn more about
Community Art Connection and explore
all the classes they offer,
visit CommunityArtConnection.com**

**Questions about CAC, email
CommunityArtConnection@gmail.com**

**Questions about FUN4ALL classes, email
Marty.Williams@NorthlandChurch.net**



BOOST!
Lift Disability Network understands disability, including the fatigue and isolation families sometimes experience. Boost is a monthly event for individuals and families impacted by disability.

Currently held online via Zoom, it's a time of crazy activities and inspiration, and we all end the night with our lives elevated...That's why it is called Boost! One Friday a month from 6:30-8 p.m.

TEEN CONNECT CLUB
Middle and High School students with disabilities (and their friends) gather online each Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. to have some fun and encourage each other. Games, themes, music and more!

HOME CHURCHES/ SMALL GROUPS
Looking for a small group that understands the unique experience of living with special needs? Multiple small groups meet throughout the month to study the Bible and walk through life together.

FUN4ALL
Engaging and creative online activities for individuals of all ages and abilities... check out our weekly schedule of events! Classes are daily at 4 p.m. on the Access Ministries Facebook page. Email Marty.Williams@NorthlandChurch.net for more info

For more information or to register for any of these events, contact Heather at (407) 937-1828 or Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net

Young Families:

Four Tips for Raising your Children Well during a Pandemic School Year

PASTOR NATHAN CLARK

With the start of the new school year, parents everywhere are struggling to know how to love and raise their kids well in the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic. Maybe you're heading back to face-to-face school, maybe you're moving into virtual learning, or maybe you're still just trying to figure out what's going on. In any case, here are a few tips we can all follow to love our kids even better this school year.

Pray. Every relationship is dependent on good communication, including our relationships with God. God speaks to us through scriptures and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. But God is also calling us to engage with Him through prayer, which is both when we bring our hearts to Him and when we open our hearts to hear what God has to say to us.

Prayer is especially important for parents because prayer itself is an act that requires admitting that we can't do it all. In fact, most of the things we want for our kids are beyond our abilities. But the hopes we have for our kids aren't beyond God. So let's bring our hopes and dreams to God, and while we're at it, let's include our children in our prayer times so they can learn what it's like to talk with God.

Study. When your kids are in a hard class and there's a big test coming up, what do you tell them to do? Study! Well, it turns out that life is a hard class, and parenting brings new tests daily. So just like kids should study, we should study before our testing moments. While there's not a book of the Bible specifically dedicated to parenting or family needs, Galatians is a great book for parents to explore the gifts God brings into our lives as we follow Him. The Northland Bookstore is also full of great resources, including Bible studies you can do with your kids.

Give. Jesus gave us two great commandments – two practices above all other that we're supposed to build our life around. Both are based on giving: Love God and love your neighbors. There are lots of ways to give, just like there are lots of ways to love. Find ways as a family that you can engage in habitual giving. Some of that giving can be to each other. Also look for ways your family can practice generosity as a family, whether in the form of helping neighbors in need or taking part in community care.





Rest. After 6 days of creation, God rested on the sabbath. Sometimes it's easy as a parent to spend all our time finding new creative activities or clubs for our kids. But it's important that families pause and rest as well. Of course, taking a family sabbath will provide much-needed rest during stressful times. But that sabbath is also the time to pause and reflect on the creative work God's already completed. During a family sabbath, you can spend time together writing down the ways you've seen God at work in the week, as well as the places you're hoping to see Him show up in the week ahead.

It's going to be a strange year, full of unexpected turns and difficulties. But we're not alone on this journey. Proverbs 3:26 tells us that in hard times, "the Lord will be at your side." So as you enter into this new school year take advantage of the company you have with a God who is right there with you. Remember - one of the greatest gifts you can ever give your kids is showing them what it means to live a life of faith. With these tips, you'll find yourself following God more closely as a family. And you'll find yourself on a Proverbs 22:6 journey, directing "your children onto the right path" as an extension of your own faith.

**For more information contact
Pastor Nathan Clark at
Nathan.Clark@NorthlandChurch.net**

BACK ON-CAMPUS FALL PROGRAMMING KICKOFF

**MIDDLE SCHOOL LUG starts back on Wednesday,
September 30, 6 p.m., Sanctuary**

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP starts back on Sunday,
September 27, 6 p.m., Sanctuary**

**TO KEEP OUR NUMBERS IN LINE WITH CDC REQUIREMENTS AND TO HELP WITH
PHYSICAL DISTANCING, ALL STUDENTS MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED.
Questions? Contact Alex Anderson at Alex.Anderson@NorthlandChurch.net**



Wow. What a crazy past 5 months it has been! While I have missed seeing students in person, I have honestly loved the personal connections I've made with students virtually online. I feel like I've been offered a little sneak peek into how they really live. What their homes are like, what pets they have, projects they

have been working on and want to show off, and games they play. Getting to have the time to put Biblical truth in front of them and really dissect and discuss it has been so neat. You should hear how much these middle school students have learned this summer!

Moments of this pandemic have been hard. Trying to find ways to connect to every student without meeting in person is hard. But these glimpses of online connections have been priceless.

It's a beautiful reminder that God is so much bigger than this hard moment. He is in control. He is putting the students who need it the most in our Zoom meetings and He is changing lives for His kingdom, regardless of what's swarming around us.

- Alex Anderson, Student Ministries Administrator



Hi, my name is Jarrett Conkling. I've been an intern at Northland for the past two summers and I have definitely been blessed by my time here. That being said, this summer has basically had a mind of its own and a set of challenges different from any other season of ministry I

have been a part of. I'm sure that's something that can be universally agreed on, and although it's been difficult it's provided it's own set of opportunities. Throughout the summer we have been able to connect more deeply with a smaller group of kids through Bible studies which has facilitated some amazing conversations and a continual focus on Christ even when life is strange and monotonous. The best part of following God is the circumstances don't change your focus or your heart. Letting the kids see that as well as being reminded of it myself has been a blessing and one that I may have missed without Northland during this season. Nothing is better than seeing God move regardless of the time or season of ministry and life, so having the opportunity to draw near to Him with students and other leaders has been amazing.

- Jarrett Conkling, Student Ministries Intern



High School Ministry

SENIOR LIFE PREP

COMING SOON! This is a time of team-building and fun for high school seniors as they prepare for life on their own. The teaching is on topics such as finances, life skills, the transition into the next season of life, and apologetics/Bible study. Senior Life Prep ends with a five-day trip called Epic, where the students have no idea where they are going! Contact Liz Gritter at Liz.Gritter@NorthlandChurch.net.

OPEN FLOOR

Last Tuesday of every month, 3-5 p.m.
For more info, contact Jamila Millette at OpenFloorEvent@gmail.com.

Middle School Ministry

SMALL GROUPS BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, starting October 1, 6 to 7 p.m.

This small group Bible study will be online. Students will meet with MS friends weekly to dig deeper into God's word and join in community with each other! All students must be pre-registered, Zoom details to come. Have a question? Contact Alex Anderson at Alex.Anderson@NorthlandChurch.net

PKG UNPLUGGED

Wednesdays, starting September 30, 4 to 6 p.m., The Rink. Calling all middle school students who love video games! Join us for PKG (Powder Keg Games) as we explore the question, "How do we use Gaming for the Gospel?" Come hang out before LUG starts! Contact James Li at James.Li@NorthlandChurch.net or Austin Bowlin at Austin.Bowlin@NorthlandChurch.net for more info.



**TO ATTEND ANY OF THESE EVENTS,
YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER ONLINE**

NorthlandChurch.net/Students

KING CITY CHRONICLES



CHILDREN'S CHURCH UPDATE

by Scoop Gibson

Hello, all you Cats and Kittens. King City's lead investigative reporter, Scoop Gibson here! It's been quite some time since we've been able to worship face to face in the old Children's Worship Wing but that hasn't held us back from providing quality Children's programming to point our little lambs to the throne of God.

This year's theme is Kings and Kingdoms and if ever we needed reassurance from our King it's here and now! Rest assured the King is in control and Children's Church will go on. This summer we enjoyed a virtual visit to Camp Venture! Ranger Reggie and his pal, Safari Sam took us around the world aboard the Safari Express to teach us all about the amazing parables that Jesus shared with His disciples.

For ten weeks we've produced virtual services complete with our fun opening greetings, worship music, crazy characters to teach you the Bible lessons, and even an optional craft lesson. All summer you've been able to worship with us from the comfort of your own home. We hope you've enjoyed learning more about our King Who Teaches. We sure have enjoyed bringing His Word to you.

But that ain't all! We've also been bringing you devotionals every week since the lockdown began. Every Monday through Friday, for over twenty weeks, Children's Church has been producing daily devotional messages featuring your friends Mr. Robert, Ms. Marisol, Mr. David, and Ms. Lola. We've also had special appearances from our crazy friends Professor Von Himmel,

Dr. Sominex, Sir Praisealot, and Squire Gus. Even our pirate pals Capt. Billy Ocean and his nephew Cody sailed by to uncover some treasured scriptures.

You can also find special pre-K lessons and storytimes with Ms. Jessica and Delbert the Donkey from Praise Time on NorthlandChurch.net/Children.

I know you're thinking, "Wowzers, now I've seen it all!"

Well, there's more still! We're moving onto our King City series. King City is a city devoted to the glory of God where sharp reporters and brave superheroes patrol the streets and spread the truth of God's Word. You can tune in every weekend for a new adventure and every Wednesday for our special news program, The King City Report: Where we only give you the truth...God's truth!



STREET BEAT

by Kasey Carter

Hello faithful readers, cub reporter Kasey Carter coming at you with an exciting edition of Street Beat. People are always asking, "Kasey Carter, what's happening around King City?" The big story this summer was our first-ever virtual VBS, Scoutabout: Out of Service!

Scoutabout is a free, five-day online Vacation Bible School featuring our own Professor Von Himmel, who does everything out of service for the Lord! With the help of his grandson, Skyler, and his faithful lab assistant, Helga, the nutty professor tries his best to get closer to Jesus. Using his special time machine he manages to bring

several of the Lord's disciples to his lab, each time getting a little closer to the truth of how to serve the Lord and others.

Scoutabout features fun and informative sketches, lively worship, crafts, game times, and even a daily service challenge! And the best part is you can do it in your own home with your brothers and sisters, your neighborhood friends, even your mom, and dad.

Ask your parents to log on to NorthlandChurch.net/VBS to find all the videos!



THE DIRT WITH DAISY

by Daisy Dearborn

Daisy: Hi friends, this is field reporter Daisy Dearborn with my new interview column, The Dirt with Daisy. Today I scored an interview with Worship leader and King City citizen, Marisol Laboy. Miss Marisol, thank you for joining us today.

Marisol: Thank you for having me.

Daisy: What is your actual title?

Marisol: I am the Children's Worship Producer.

Daisy: What is your favorite thing about Children's Worship?

Marisol: It's a beautiful way to teach children about the freedom we have in Jesus and how important it is to give Him glory and thanks!

Daisy: Wow, you make worship sound so good that everyone will want to try it!

Marisol: That's great because we have several opportunities for children to lead others in worship! For kids in Kindergarten-2nd grade, we're offering the Voices of Praise Children's Choir. We'll meet on Mondays, September 14th-

November 2nd, from 3:30-4:15 p.m. For grades 3-5 there's the Voices of Light Children's Choir meeting Wednesdays, September 16th-November 4th, 3:30 to 4:15 p.m.

Daisy: That's amazing, but my little sister is in middle school. Is there anything she can do?

Marisol: Yes, for 6th through 8th-grade students we offer Voices of Truth Gospel Choir meeting Wednesdays, September 16th-November 4th, 5:15-6:00 p.m. All of these classes will be online for this session. We will do it in a fun and creative way so that we can sing God's praises together. The classes will end with a special program on November 1. You can register on our website. Go to NorthlandChurch.net/Children. If parents want more details they can contact me at Marisol.Laboy@NorthlandChurch.net or (407)937-1742.

Daisy: Sounds good but suppose there are kids that don't sing?

Marisol: They're in luck because Ms. Nichole Gordon is offering dance classes! Psalm & Dance 1 is a Dance Troupe for grades 2-4. It's on Mondays, September 14th-November 2nd, from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Psalm & Dance 2 is a Dance Troupe for grades 5-8. It's on Wednesdays, September 16th-November 4th, 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. Miss Nichole can be reached at nicholerg95@gmail.com. Classes will be online. They can register at: northlandchurch.net/children.

Daisy: Thank you Ms. Marisol for all of that info and for all you do. This is Daisy Dearborn with The Dirt with Daisy.

**For more information
visit us online at
NorthlandChurch.net/Children**

NORTHLAND
COLLEGE
AND
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRY



Bethany Durys



bubba

Connect, grow, and serve with other college-age students and young adults (ages 18 through 29). No matter where you are in your faith journey, you are welcome to join us and explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus.



Liz Gritter



Taylor Durys



Pastor Xav



**COLLEGE AND YOUNG ADULT GATHERING ON ZOOM
Tuesdays, 7-8:15 p.m.**

Dig into His Word and have honest conversations about life and faith. Contact Bethany Durys at Bethany.Durys@NorthlandChurch.net or call 321-222-0823 for more information.

Missions & Outreach

Thank you for Helping...Back to Campus Weekend!

Our box truck departed loaded with a delivery for Tools4Seminole Schools, filled with school supplies Northland families donated. Teachers will be able to shop for their classrooms to help those kids most in need. Every year our Northland family is so very generous and this is another example of that! During this time of uncertainty, it's a big deal that you would give these supplies to those in need. We know the need is great, and Tools4Seminole Schools always appreciates the way we support our teachers and students in Seminole County every year.

GivingTuesdayNow Food Drive

Back in May, we had the wonderful opportunity to collect food for families in need and to prepare for the upcoming school year. Thank you to those who drove by to donate bags and bags of food! We also want to recognize the many hands who received and sorted bags and held signs. It was incredible to see everyone's excitement as they drove through. 115 bins of food were collected to help families and to stock the pantries of Winter Springs Elementary and Milwee Middle School. We have enough food to begin this school year. This couldn't have happened without you sacrificing your time and money! The Red Bag Project (our yearly food drive) will be at a later date as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Stay tuned!



A close-up photograph of a yellow school bus sign. The sign is rectangular and features the words "SCHOOL BUS" in large, bold, black letters. Below it, in smaller black letters, it says "EMERGENCY EXIT". The sign is mounted on the side of the bus, and the background shows the yellow paint and rivets of the bus body.



Call to Prayer

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."
- Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
- Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)

- **Join our monthly prayer time on the 3rd Saturday of each month.**
- **Find an in-depth Northland Missions prayer guide at NorthlandChurch.net/Missions**
- **To be added to the monthly invites, contact Sharon Germaine at 407-694-9659 or segermaine@cfl.rr.com.**

Short-Term Mission Trips

COVID-19 has affected so much this year, and that includes our planned Short Term Mission teams in 2020. Find new dates and trips for 2021 at SomedaysToday.net

The Gospel & the Arts in Prisons

True North Foundation

PASTOR SEAN COOPER

When we stop and take note of how much COVID-19 has impacted our daily lives, a long list ensues. All of us have stories, and many of them are still unfolding. For those who are in jails and prisons, social distancing includes the inability to see any visitors, including family. The threat of the virus in these closed spaces has elevated the stress for both prisoners and staff working in these facilities.

Northland has a long history of jail and prison ministry but with the COVID-19 visitation restriction, our ministry teams have no access to enter those spaces. So when the opportunity came to bring the gospel into prisons worldwide, the True North Foundation jumped at the opportunity.

In the wonderful and amazing way that the Holy Spirit is always working behind the scenes, a True North project called "Higher Love" was noticed by a Christian film producer. This film-maker reached out to True North board member, Lori Hall, and expressed great interest in using the "Higher Love" music video for a Christian series being developed for prisons around the world. The organization, Fourth Purpose, contacted many artists, musicians, pastors, and ministry leaders to speak hope to prisoners through a project called Visitation 2.0. Through partnerships with Alpha, Global Leadership Network, Prison Fellowship, God Behind Bars, and other organizations, these episodes are bringing the hope of Jesus into these secluded spaces.

The result: Over 6,000 prisons worldwide reaching 2.2 million prisoners and 700,000 prison staff and personnel! The director of the series was so moved by the "Higher Love" video that he named the episode Higher Love and asked Northland staff member Jamila Millette to introduce the video!

A few short testimonials from prisoners—

"I found this new video called Visitation 2.0 and have been encouraged beyond measure. It's good to have people out there who care and love us while we're here locked up. Some of us don't have anyone out there fighting for us in our corner, but the men and women who are believers in Christ from Visitation 2.0 are there for us." -Joshua in Kansas

"I just want to thank all who made the Visitation 2.0 program available to me. I've been having a real rough time, and this really helped me out and kept me from doing something I knew I would regret. Thank you." -Jesse in Arkansas

"I'd like to thank you and those from the Visitation 2.0 series for the hope and kindness given, it makes a difference." -Luc in Maine

All of us are God's handiwork, the Creator's masterpieces. That promise is true for each of us including those who are imprisoned. Please continue to pray for ministry efforts taking place in jails and prisons. And let us remember Jesus' words:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'"

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' - Matthew 25:35-40 (NIV)

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. - Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)



To view Visitation 2.0 episodes go to
4THPURPOSE.ORG/VISITATION2

To watch the "Higher Love" music video go to
YOUTUBE.COM/C/TRUENORTHFOUNDATION
To see other True North commissioned art projects go to
TRUENORTHFOUNDATION.ORG/PORTFOLIO

Follow us on social media

 [True_North_Foundation](https://www.instagram.com/True_North_Foundation)  [TrueNorthFound](https://www.facebook.com/TrueNorthFound)

New to Northland?

Do you have questions ... about God, Northland or anything else?

Fill our our digital connect card by texting "Northland" to 97000.

We are here to answer questions, help get you involved, pray with you, sign you up to volunteer, or just to give you a virtual hug.

Questions? Email [Hello@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto>Hello@NorthlandChurch.net) or visit NorthlandChurch.net/New.

Worship Times

LONGWOOD and NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET

Saturdays..... 5 p.m.

Sundays 9 and 11 a.m.

Follow us

@NorthlandChurch



Spanish interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 a.m. service.

American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 a.m. service.

Access Ministries

We have programs and services for individuals with disabilities. Find out more at NorthlandChurch.net/Access. Details: Heather Subbert at 407-937-1828 or Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net

Gus Davies, Interim Senior Pastor



Pastor Gus was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa. His foundational years of discipleship commenced after he trusted Christ at a Youth For Christ rally. He and his wife, Jeneba, have been partners in the ministry since their marriage in 1984—Colossians 1:28-29 has been their goal for life and ministry.

Pastor Gus and Jeneba earned scholarships to receive their masters in Christian Education at Reformed Theological Seminary. While in America, their first daughter was born. After moving back to Liberia when the program was done, their second daughter was born. He and Jeneba both taught courses at the African Bible College.

Pastor Gus and his family returned to America for a year to assist at a church in Deland. Although he had opportunities to continue ministry in Deland, he and Jeneba were reminded of Colossians 1:28-29 and decided to return to Sierra Leone.

In Sierra Leone, Pastor Gus served as the National Director of Youth for Christ and as national pastor and church leader at a local Presbyterian Church. He and Jeneba planted three other churches around the city.

Pastor Gus and his family returned to Florida in 1996, after the outbreak of the civil war in Sierra Leone. The warm welcome they received from Northland assured them that this was the body of believers they would call home. While at Northland, Pastor Gus has served in numerous roles.

Most recently, Pastor Gus was appointed Interim Senior Pastor, beginning July 1, 2020. Pastor Gus believes this role will strengthen and stretch him. He longs to finish strong with a legacy that Jesus is building His Church at Northland and beyond with the people He redeemed. He desires to see the fruit that abides in His Kingdom for His glory as we continue to worship, witness, and declare His Name.

Contact Info

530 Dog Track Road
Longwood, FL 32750
NorthlandChurch.net
Hello@NorthlandChurch.net
Main Phone 407-949-4000
Main Fax 407-949-4020
Northland Bookstore ... 407-949-7199

Governing Elders

Danny Gordon

Chairman
407-937-1762
Danny.Gordan@NorthlandChurch.net

Pastor Vince Taylor

Vice Chairman
407-937-1769
Vince.Taylor@NorthlandChurch.net

Mike Kemp

Finance Committee Member
407-937-1765
Mike.Kemp@NorthlandChurch.net

John Cortines

*Human Resources
Committee Chairman*
407-937-1761
John.Cortines@NorthlandChurch.net

Dr. Nick Maroulis

*Human Resources
Committee Member*
407-937-1766
Nick.Maroulis@NorthlandChurch.net

Whom Do I Contact If:

I am in crisis?

Northland's main line.....407-949-4000

I would like to talk to a minister?

Minister on Duty (MOD).....407-949-4000

I want to seek counseling?

Counseling referral line..... 407-949-7204

I have a prayer request?

Prayer request line 407-949-4025 or
Pray.NorthlandChurch.net

I need the Hospital Ministry to pay a visit?

Hospital Ministry Team407-949-7149 or
HospitalVisits@NorthlandChurch.net

I am interested in a Care Ministry?

Barbara Olsen407-949-7183 or
Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net

I want to become a member?

Lauren Travers.....407-937-1787 or
Lauren.Travers@NorthlandChurch.net

I have accepted Christ into my heart and wish to be baptized?

(Infants to 5-years-old)
Diane JonesDiane.Jones@
NorthlandChurch.net

(Grade School)

Debbie Blahnik.....407-949-7162 or
Debbie.Blahnik@NorthlandChurch.net

(Adult/student)

Julie Meeker.....407-937-1772 or
Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net

I need info on Student Ministries?

Alex Anderson 407-949-7295 or
Student.Ministries@NorthlandChurch.net

I need info about Children's Ministries?

Debbie Blahnik407-949-7162 or
Debbie.Blahnik@NorthlandChurch.net

I am interested in Mission Trips?

Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768 or
Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net;
or visit SomedaysToday.net

I want to serve at Northland?

The Connect Team407-949-4000 or
Volunteer@NorthlandChurch.net
or visit NorthlandChurch.net/Serve

I want to get involved in a serve project?

Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768 or
Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net

I am getting married?

Pastor Nathan Clark 407-949-4016 or
Nathan.Clark@NorthlandChurch.net

I need to plan a funeral?

Julie Meeker.....407-937-1772 or
Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net

My family is living with disability?

Heather Subbert.....407-937-1828 or
Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net

I need information on jail/prison transition ministries?

Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768 or
Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net

I need information on 121Hope Anti-Trafficking Ministry?

Meg Johnson..... 407-937-0547 or
Meg.Johnson@NorthlandChurch.net

I want to start/join a group?

Bethany Durys407-937-0541 or
Groups@NorthlandChurch.net or
visit NorthlandChurch.net/Groups

I'm interested in connecting with other young families?

Pastor Nathan Clark407-252-5847 or
Nathan.Clark@NorthlandChurch.net



**CONNECT
WITH US**

New to Northland?
Need prayer?
Looking for community?

TEXT "NORTHLAND"
to 97000.





CONNECT WITH US



**NEW TO NORTHLAND?
NEED PRAYER?
LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY?
Text "Northland" to 97000**