

NORTHLAND  
CHURCH

Fall Edition 2021

# ENGAGE



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### 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.

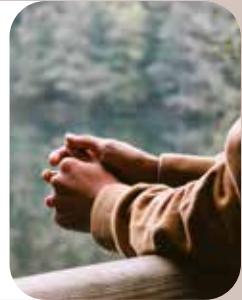
Put simply: We believe the church is more than a place you come to on Sundays ... it's people. People fully alive in Jesus — not just lung-breathing, heart-beating life, but abundant, thriving Life that can only come from Him.

“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)

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## WORSHIP TIMES

Online and On Campus

Saturdays ..... 5 p.m.

Sundays ..... 9 & 11 a.m.

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

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



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# GOD IS IN THE WAITING

CHRIS STORMS, GOVERNING ELDER

## If you're like me, you really enjoy a good meme.

You know, one of those pictures that pokes fun at something, usually with a sarcastic message. I saw one recently making fun of seasons in Florida. The first contained four pictures of the same dirt road lined with pine trees. Each of the pictures was apparently taken in a different season, but they all looked almost exactly the same. The other meme listed our seasons as being, Pollen, Lovebug, Summer, and Hurricane, seems about right.

I love living in Florida, but if I'm being honest there's something about watching the changing seasons I feel I miss out on. I'm not a huge fan of cold weather, but there's an excitement that comes when I hear a cold front is finally coming through. I don't think it has much to do with the cold itself, but more about the change. I get to wear different clothes, I get to feel a different sensation on my face when the breeze blows, I don't have to be so concerned about remembering to put deodorant on (just kidding about that one), but the list goes on and on.

Seasons are a part of how God created our world, and they don't just apply to weather, they actually apply to all of life. A whole section of scripture talks specifically about seasons and times. It's in Chapter 3 of Ecclesiastes.

**"For everything there's a season,  
and a time for every matter under heaven:**

**a time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;  
a time to kill, and a time to heal;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;  
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
a time to cast away stones,  
and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
a time to seek, and a time to lose;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;**

**a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace;"  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ESV)**

Now, there's a lot that we can glean from that scripture, but there is one thing in particular I'd like to point out, one question I'd like to ask.

First, simply put, many of the things on that list make me uncomfortable. Die, kill, weep, mourn, tear, be silent, etc. Those things don't seem good to me, but I've been following Jesus long enough to know that what seems one way to me doesn't necessarily mean it is that way. God determines what's right and good, not me. He never promises comfort.

So, assuming there really is a time for each of these things, how do I know when it's time for the season to change? Rather than trying to keep the times the way I'd like them to be, how can I let go of my own desires and enter into uncomfortable times so that I can experience Jesus in a new, fresh, and unfamiliar way?

I have no doubt God is leading our church into a new season. I believe it's going to be a season of life, joy, and Spirit-filled revival. But we aren't there yet, and I don't want us to miss the season we are in right now. Let's not be so proud of the past season or so excited about the next season that we miss out on what God has for us during this season, even if it's uncomfortable.

I believe right now we are in a season of slowing down, a season of shedding distractions, and a season of watching and listening. I believe we are in a season where we need to stop putting our focus on the doing and instead put our attention on being: being in the presence of Jesus.

As a member of the Pastor Search Committee, I can tell you we have come to terms with the season in which God has us. We have worked so hard for so long to get into the new



season. We've spent hours and hours interviewing pastors, praying together, and discussing who God might have for us. We have been doing a lot, but still, we wait. God's timing and our timing are not the same. We've embraced the reality that we have no control. In fact, we have come to the conclusion that this is a season of waiting, and contrary to where culture wants to push us, waiting is good. God is in the waiting.

My daughter Molly and I are starting a garden. We've done our research and found that a lot of gardening involves waiting. We prepare the soil and wait. We plant the seeds and wait. We water the ground and wait. The good news is much is happening during the waiting, we just can't see it.

The same is true of waiting as a church. If we are in a season of waiting, what does that mean for us? Scripture has a lot to say about seasons of waiting, listening, and being in Jesus' presence.

In 1 Kings 19, we read about the Lord passing by Elijah. The Lord was not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. After all of that happened, Elijah continued to wait and he heard a low whisper. Elijah was waiting and listening.

In Luke 9 when the twelve apostles return from being sent out, they sit with Jesus and tell Him all they've done, and it says He "took them and withdrew to a town called Bethsaida." Jesus took them somewhere different to be together.

In John 10, Jesus tells us that He is the Good Shepherd. He says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me."

Finally, in the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10, Jesus answers Martha's demand that He make Mary get to work. Jesus is pretty direct when he tells Martha He will not make Mary get up and start working because sitting at His feet, listening to Him is of greater value.

It's easy to fall into the trap of believing that if we are not doing a bunch of important things, we are off course and wasting our time, but Jesus reminds us that He is the Vine and we are the branches. To that, He adds, "Apart from me, you can do nothing." If we are going to be branches that bear fruit, that's going to be dependent upon us being connected to the Vine.

So, where are we going as a church right now? I hope in this season we are going deeper. I hope we can get really good at waiting because personally, I want to hear Jesus' voice. I want to be known by Him and I want to follow Him. I hope that by living those things out, I will be in a healthier spiritual place. Could it be that in this season Jesus is inviting you to do the same thing so that we can collectively be a healthier spiritual body of believers when God decides to send us our new lead pastor?

# Reflections on

# ROOTED

As I reflect on our series, ROOTED, I keep coming back to the centrality, the power, the unifying nature of Christ as our Lord. We engaged in this book together, hearing from four different preachers, memorizing verses, and reading the biblical text on our own. As we explored this book together, from beginning to end, Jesus was always at the center. We are very different from the Colossians – separated by thousands of years, cultural gaps, geographic setting – and yet, **we share the same Lord, and are ROOTED IN HIM just as they were.** The fact that the principles of Gospel faith and practice are the same for us as they were for a church community in such a different context is frankly remarkable!

My prayer is that we can continue together, as individuals, families, and as a church community, to bless and build the bride of Christ together, for the glory of our Father, as we stay rooted in the Son. - **John Cortines, Governing Elder**



The words of exhortation to live our lives as we have been taught, confirm identical instructions given to the Israelites as God brought them out of Egypt. **"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."** - Joshua 1:8



Likewise, in Joshua's farewell to the leaders of Israel, **"Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left,"** - Joshua 23:6

Paul's message to the Colossians confirms the need to be **ROOTED in our devotion and faith in the Gospel.** - Owusu Amaning, Governing Elder



During ROOTED, throughout the book of Colossians, one word stuck out to me most. It was the word "devoted" from Colossians 4:2. It says, **"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."** And in the next verse, Paul asks for prayer for open doors to share the message, the mystery of Christ.



We, as "adelphoi" (Greek word translated "brothers") brothers and sisters of believers at Northland, were so blessed to have gone through the book of Colossians for our preaching series ROOTED. As I consider the series and the titles of the sermons, I think of how much Paul cared and loved the church to send such a wonderful letter to the "adelphoi" at Colossae. Paul spoke with such compassion, love, and authority. He was very direct and Gospel-focused. It is good to remember that Paul was God's **"chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel."** - Acts 9:15.



Since the sermon, I've heard or read the word devoted several times and considered what I am devoted to. I'm asking God to make me devoted to prayer for open doors to share the Gospel, with thankfulness and anticipation for what God will do. - **Chris Storms, Governing Elder**

We are living during such confusing times. Misinformation is a keyword in the world around us. Elections, pandemics, riots, right seems wrong and wrong seems right, believe what you want, cancel it if you don't agree, live for yourself, and on and on. Don't allow yourself to get distracted! Follow Jesus!

Let us seek Him who can rule in our hearts and live like this daily! Can you imagine if we all lived like this? How that would bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ by what others see in us! - **Nick Maroulis, Governing Elder**

To follow along with our current series, view our weekly Bible study at **[NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/DIGGINGDEEPER](http://NORTHLANDCHURCH.NET/DIGGINGDEEPER)**.

# STEWARDING OUR FACILITY

NORTHLAND FACILITIES TEAM

## When you come to Northland

for weekend worship services or a small group or any other event, you probably aren't thinking about things like the doors or faucets or fire alarm systems or emergency lighting. These are things we take for granted in our every day life that are an essential part of our operations as a church. The Northland Facilities Team takes extraordinary care of all of these things and so much more. Led by Jean Cope, this team of two maintenance technicians and eight housekeepers keep our Longwood campus up and running and looking great, all while adhering to a conservative budget. All members of this team have joined our staff since spring of 2019.

This team's expertise has saved Northland thousands of dollars by doing more work in-house, rather than contracting it out. Our two maintenance technicians, Tim Marino and Brian Silvia, efficiently tackle air conditioning maintenance, plumbing repairs, ceiling and wall damage, lighting upgrades, demolition, and construction, which saves us close to \$100,000 a year in contractor costs. Tim is keen on the lights, when asked about savings: "There are about 140 lights in the foyer which we are gradually upgrading to LED. The initial cost is more per bulb, but we save over ten times that in energy in one year. We've done around sixty bulbs, which saves us over \$10,000 per year. Once all of these lights are upgraded to LED, the energy savings from them being on for four hours a day is over \$24,000 per year. We're also going to tackle the exit signs since they are on 24/7."

Housekeeping/Safety Coordinator Chantel Banks leads her team of seven, providing coverage for mishaps and needs when guests are on campus, as well as turning around spaces in between groups. This team works well together and takes great pride and ownership

in their service to the church. Their sanitizing efforts were absolutely essential as we opened our doors to the community during the pandemic. If we had to pay a janitorial contractor, along with a mark-up on high-demand materials, the cost would have been much higher than staff housekeeping. We are so blessed to have these amazing people as part of our Northland family. Our housekeeping staff saved Northland \$13,000 this year, and that does not include avoiding the additional cost of COVID sanitization. "It's an incredible blessing and honor to clean God's house and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ," says Chantel. "God has continued to bring personal blessings with the people He has allowed me to love on and walk beside in this department. I'm beyond grateful to serve Northland alongside some amazing people while anticipating His mighty love and growth in the lives of those He chooses to bring to housekeeping as we do life together."



CHANTEL BANKS  
HOUSEKEEPING/SAFETY COORDINATOR

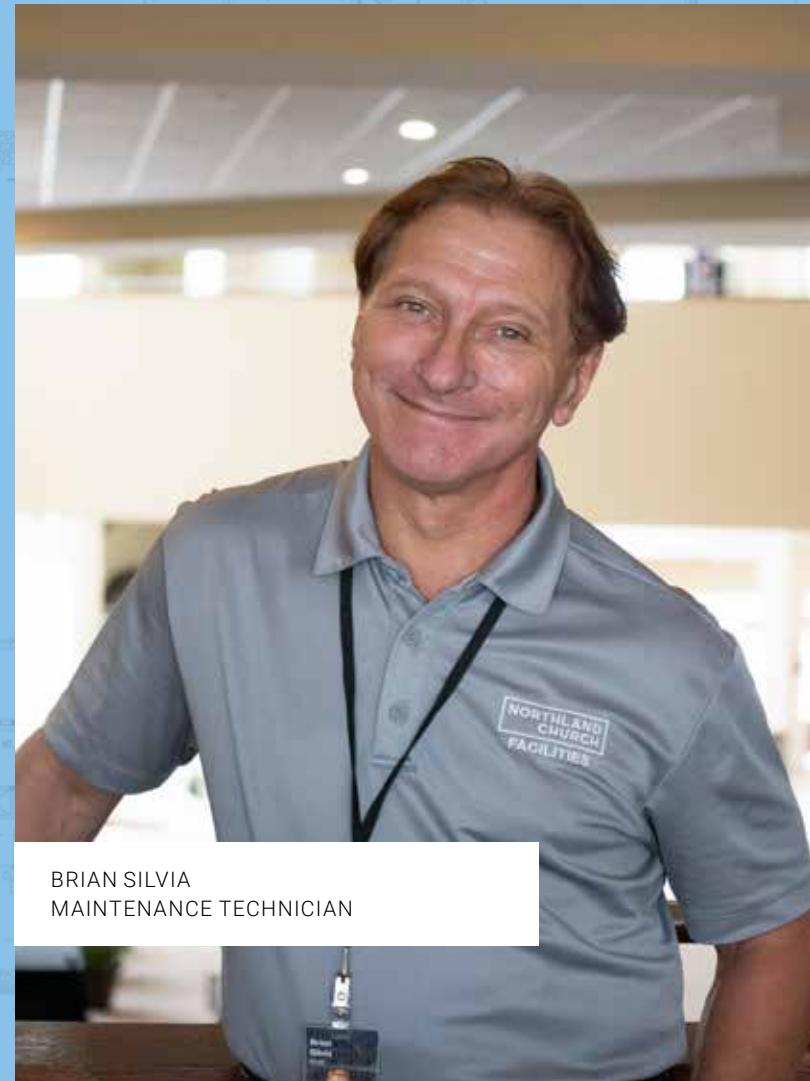




TIM MARINO  
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Northland is also committed to helping folks who come seeking opportunities for community service hours. Many of the people who seek Northland to fulfill these hours are adults trying to get back in right standing with their communities and the authorities. Brian, Tim, and Chantel put great care into providing these opportunities and use their hearts to make meaningful connections. "Working with these men and women allows me to be an example of the love of Jesus, by showing them trust and value, with absolutely no judgment for their reasons for needing community service time," says Brian Silvia. "Many of the men have not been introduced to God with examples of His greatness, so He allows me a moment in each of these men's lives to see His goodness. Chantel in housekeeping ministers to the women in the same manner."

**"It's an incredible blessing and honor to clean God's house and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ."**



BRIAN SILVIA  
MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN



The Facilities Team is always looking for ways to improve processes and reduce costs. For the work that requires outside help, Jean has made a concerted effort to find thorough, knowledgeable, and reasonably priced experts who are available when needed.

## **"I ask God to reveal the people He wants to do the work, and He always provides,"** says Jean.

Drawing from her mechanical and process engineering background, she evaluates the expertise of companies the church is already in contractual agreements with, considering their safety practices, professionalism, commitment to community, integrity, and quality of work. She uses online ratings, interviews, and small jobs to evaluate those qualities before entering a long-term contract when seeking new service providers. Bids are accepted, and costs are compared on each scope of work. She has acquired better services to maintain HVAC, elevators, parking lots, fire sprinkler systems, refrigeration, roofs, and roll-up doors, all while saving Northland over \$50,000 in the past year. "Sometimes, the best contractor is a Northland congregant, and they give us excellent pro bono service."

**JUST A FEW OF THE MANY WAYS**  
this amazing team has worked hard to maintain this facility and be good stewards of our resources.



### **AC REPAIRS**

Average Cost \$3,600  
We Paid \$226  
**SAVED \$3,374!**



### **IRRIGATION REPAIR**

Average Cost \$3,500  
We Paid \$1,000  
**SAVED \$2,500!**



### **LAUNDRY ROOM UPGRADE**

Average Cost \$3,170  
We Paid \$100  
**SAVED \$3,070!**



### **LOT 8 RESTRIPIING**

Average Cost \$11,000  
We Paid \$3,900  
**SAVED \$7,100!**

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE MANY THINGS THE FACILITIES TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- HVAC
- Facility Lighting
- Security and Emergency Systems
- Pest Control
- Plumbing and Utilities
- Waste Management
- Landscaping/Irrigation
- Elevators
- Parking Lots
- Furniture
- General Maintenance and Repair
- Roofing, Windows and Flooring
- Signs
- COVID Sanitization
- Code Compliance/Emergency Preparedness
- PAY program (Community Service)
- Helping Our Community with Maintenance
- Vehicles and Driver Management
- Vehicle Donation
- Interior and Exterior Aesthetic of the Campus
- Storage and Warehouse Management

So next time you come to the Northland campus, take a look around and think about all the ministries facilitated by these resources that require care. Say a prayer for those who work hard to keep it all clean and working.



JEAN COPE  
DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

# TAUREN WELLS

CITIZEN  
/SIDIZON, SIDISON/  
I am inhabitant of a city or  
town officially; one entitled  
to the rights and privileges of  
a citizen.



OCTOBER 29  
NORTHLAND CHURCH  
ORLANDO  
(LONGWOOD), FL

• CITIZEN OF  
HEAVEN TOUR

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**RILEY CLEMMONS**  
+ **ANDREW RIPP**



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# CHONDA PIERCE LIVE IN CONCERT



FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12  
NORTHLAND CHURCH



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# LIVE GENEROUSLY

## Why Do Christians Give?

JOHN CORTINES, GOVERNING ELDER

*"Keep your life free from love of money."<sup>1</sup>*

*"Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor."<sup>2</sup>*

*"Do good... be rich in good works... be generous and ready to share."<sup>3</sup>*

**C**hristians consider the Bible to be our source of truth in matters of faith. Jesus says more about money than heaven, hell, or prayer, and there are over 2,300 verses pertaining to money in the Bible. Clearly, it occupies an important place in what we consider to be God's inspired Word.

### SO, WHAT DOES IT SAY? IN SHORT, THREE THINGS:

1. All of our wealth originates from and belongs to God.<sup>4</sup>
2. In light of this, our wealth should be used for God's purposes.<sup>5</sup>
3. God's purpose is to restore the world to wholeness. This occurs spiritually through salvation in Jesus Christ and physically through our giving to serve the poor, needy, and weak.<sup>6</sup>

Implicit in these three statements is the idea that our wealth is not our own. As followers of Jesus we believe that we have been bought with a price – when He died for us, we were purchased into His eternal family, accepted and redeemed.<sup>7</sup> In light of what He's done for us, nothing but radical and total submission to His purposes would be reasonable.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, our wealth is not to be used for our own goals, but rather subsumed into the greater purposes of God. Since we believe it is God who enables us to get wealth in the first place, and that we are the recipients of His great grace in our lives, our natural and joyful response is to engage in radical generosity on behalf of the Christian church and the poor.

This gets expressed in a variety of ways, but a few real-life examples might paint a picture of what 21st-century Christian giving looks like in its highest and best form. (All are true stories!)

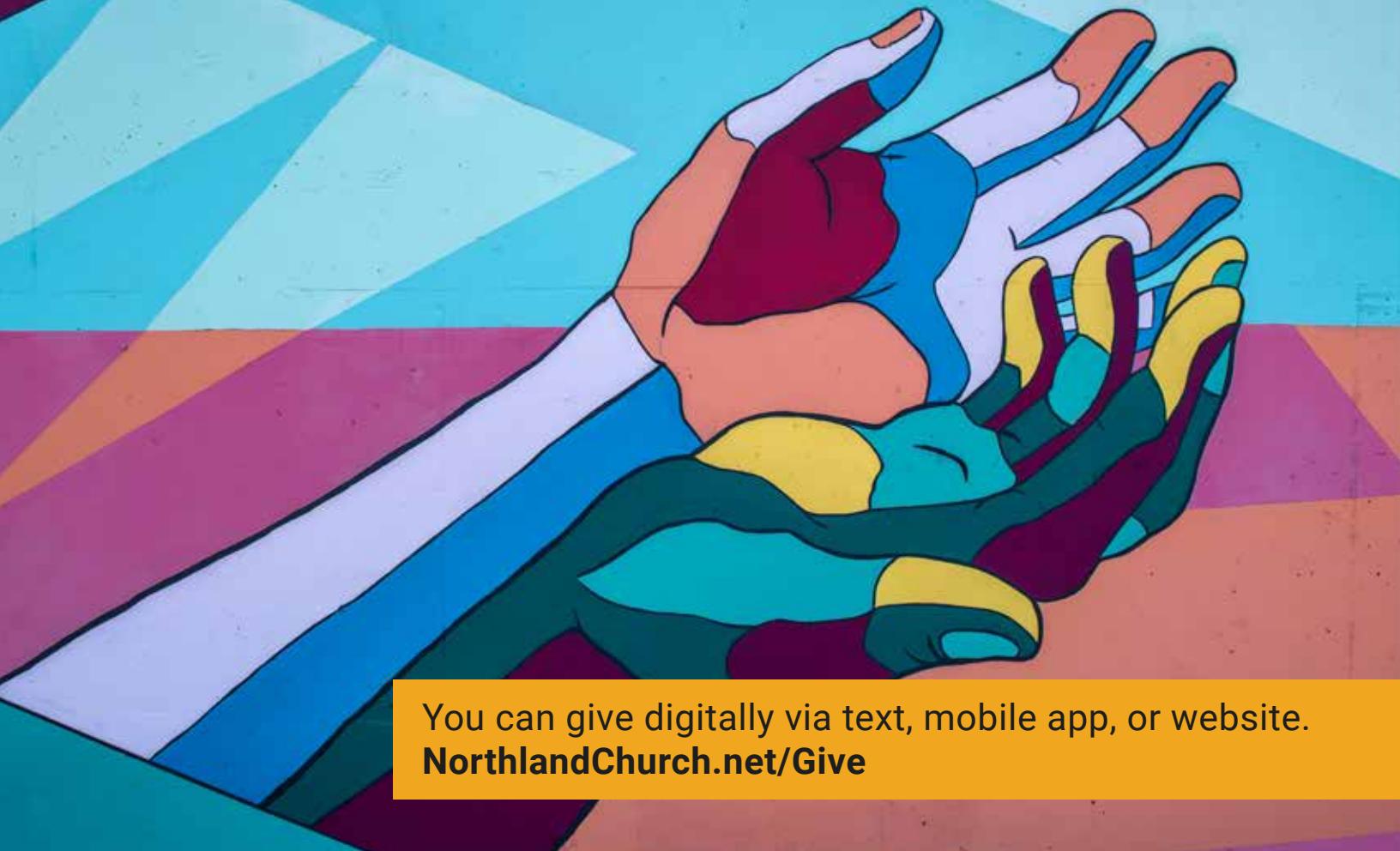
- **Tom and Bree relocate to a poor neighborhood,** despite Tom's very high income. They read about God's heart for the poor in the Bible, and they want to know God's heart. They lead a Bible study for the community, and eventually welcome a family in need to stay in their home for a while, while they get back on their feet. They give a huge fraction of their income away, raising their family on the median family income, rather than spending based on what they earn.

- **Mark and Megan, in their late 20's,** are so thankful for Mark's large bonus he earned at his law firm. Joyfully and with a great sense of purpose, they feel called to give the entire amount away. They rank the opportunity to give to God's work more highly than their potential enjoyment of this money, including their future need for a home down payment.

- **Greg and Alison are home shopping.** They buy a house that costs less than half of what they can afford because they want to embrace contentment and give generously to spread the Christian message of hope. The house is less than what they'd like to have or what their peers may own, but they're thankful God has given them the opportunity to give generously.

### PAUL'S GOODBYE

The Apostle Paul stands second only to Jesus in his influence on the Christian faith. In his final goodbye to the Christian community around him, he gave them this charge: "And now I commend you to **God and to the word of his grace**, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that



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**NorthlandChurch.net/Give**

these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way **we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**<sup>9</sup>

He commends them to the word of God's grace, the Christian message of spiritual salvation. And then, he tells them that he never coveted money and goes on to charge them to help the weak and remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Why is Paul mixing up money behaviors with the spiritual message of God's grace? Consistent with the rest of the Bible, Paul didn't see money and spiritual life as separable. His life, free of covetousness and fully generous, was evidence of God's grace acting in his heart. As the well-known Christian Pastor Tim Keller says, reflecting on this passage,

"To the degree you understand the Gospel of grace, you will live a radically generous life! If you truly have a spiritual inheritance, you are going to be promiscuously generous with your earthly inheritance."

Christian giving springs from our view of God. Because we believe He emptied himself and gave everything for us,<sup>10</sup> we have no proper response but to turn around, face the world around us, and give ourselves away.

<sup>1</sup> Hebrews 13:5, <sup>2</sup> Luke 18:22, <sup>3</sup> 1 Timothy 6:17-19, <sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 8:18, 1 Chronicles 29:11-14, Colossians 1:16, <sup>5</sup> Luke 12: 42-43, Matthew 25: 31-46

<sup>6</sup> Luke 4:18-19, 2 Corinthians 5:18, Matthew 28: 19-20, Jeremiah 22: 13-16, Proverbs 19:17, <sup>7</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:20, <sup>8</sup> Matthew 16:24, Luke 14:33, <sup>9</sup> Acts 20: 32-35, bolding added, <sup>10</sup> Philippians 2: 5-8



John Cortines is the co-author of two books including, *God and Money: How We Discovered True Riches at Harvard Business School*. He serves with the MacLellan Foundation, where he oversees efforts to catalyze a global movement of generosity among all believers. John lives in Orlando with his wife Megan, their five children, and a flock of chickens.

# COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH, *and faith*



BILLY McAULIFF AND PASTOR XAVIER SMALL

Billy McAuliff interviewed Pastor Xavier to ask him about counseling, mental health, and faith.

*You've spent the past couple years studying clinical mental health counseling. Can you share some details about your studies?*

*I've always believed that the Bible and science work hand in hand, I just didn't know there was a term for it. In school, we use the term "integration." The model that I subscribe to is that the Bible creates the outline for how things are supposed to go and science fills in the details.*

*The church has been anti-mental health counseling because of its humanistic aspects, but I think there are a lot of theories, practices, and interventions that parallel Christianity. It goes back to a mindset that God is the standard; He is the foundation which we can build on with these psychological mindsets. We know we're looking at it from a Biblical lens, and that changes the dynamic when you approach therapy.*

*What drove you to become a licensed mental health counselor?*

*My church is in Pine Hills. There isn't a close counseling facility; I wanted to open one. But through pastoral counseling and hands-on experience I've gotten in this program and I've realized this is something I'm good at and passionate about. I believe in healing and seeing people healed. It's a huge driving force for me.*

*What sorts of misconceptions do you encounter about counseling?*

*The biggest misconception is that everyone that goes to counseling is crazy. A lot of times when you hear about*

counseling, everyone's thinking about things like persistent disorders: schizophrenia, multiple personalities, or different personality disorders. I tell people, "You don't need to struggle with persistent disorders in order for you to need counseling." A lot of the people that I've counseled so far have had adjustment disorders. Those are, sad to say, common things for a lot of people. Counseling requires recognition that I am a human being and that I have issues in functioning sometimes.

*Do you think there is something unique about the Christian perspective that's missing from conversations on social media and in popular culture about mental health, anxiety, and depression?*

*I am 1000% for mental health counseling. I'd argue that everyone should go get some sort of counseling at some point in their lives.*

*I believe that what is missing is the most important element of the entire conversation: Jesus. If we look at the root issues of mankind, we see a sin issue. The curse of sin affected everything. These different mental health issues, I believe, stem initially from sin. When we come to know Jesus Christ, we obtain tools we didn't have before. There is a lot of therapy in Jesus.*

*I don't think it's enough to say, "Just pray." That doesn't mean I'm saying prayer doesn't work, rather I believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our bodies, minds, and emotions. Sometimes that requires help. Counseling is not someone fixing you; it's someone holding your hand as you arrive at those answers.*

*One theory I subscribe to is "person-centered theory," which says humans inherently have the ability for positive growth. I believe people have the capacity to find the solutions*

they need. Sometimes they just need someone to hold their hand to get there. The Holy Spirit within the Christian is the Guide to find those answers. It gives the person seeking counseling an advantage: not only are you working on it, and your therapist is holding your hand, but you have the Holy Spirit guiding and teaching you in all things.

When we look at the conversation around therapy in the secular world, and there isn't the element of Jesus, I think it makes it exponentially harder to find the healing that you need. True healing only comes through Jesus.

#### **What have you learned about God as you've studied more about mental health?**

One of the biggest things is that God is a God of healing. He is a proponent of forgiveness, healing, and unity. God went through great lengths to get humanity back to how He created them. The story of the Bible ends with harmony, unity, and oneness – the way that God created it in the first place.

I believe that counseling is a gift from God. It's a tool to help us to grow closer to Him, especially when we are in places in our lives where we have a hard time doing that.

#### **How do I know when I should begin speaking to a trained counselor?**

I like to use two terms: "coping" and "functioning." If you're in a place where you are having a hard time coping with particular circumstances, that's a good indicator to go see a counselor.

A step further is when your functioning is impaired. This could mean you are having a hard time eating, sleeping, working with others, or joining social activities. When the things you normally enjoy are no longer enjoyable, that is a great indication that it's time to see someone. If you see the signs of struggle, go. You don't have to wait for despair and confusion to go see someone.

#### **Any closing thoughts?**

I believe that Jesus is the answer and that counseling and therapy are supplements. Counseling in the long-term will be helpful, but we won't be able to see true joy, healing, or peace until we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and we are walking in His light. As passionate as I am about mental health, I'm even more passionate about Jesus.

# You're Invited!

**Mental Health Summit and Worship Night  
Saturday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.  
[NorthlandChurch.net/MentalHealthSummit](http://NorthlandChurch.net/MentalHealthSummit)**



Xavier Small became Senior Pastor at Orlando Baptist Temple in 2019. That same year, he began his masters in clinical mental health counseling at Liberty University. He is set to graduate in 2022. He is currently a mental health intern at Grace Medical Home.



Billy McAuliff is a young professional and a longtime Northlander who is actively involved in our college and young adult ministries. Billy was one of our regular devotional hosts on Facebook back when the pandemic first hit.

# CAUTHORN FAMILY SUPPORT UPDATE

MATT SHILES, MISSIONS DIRECTOR

*"Our family is in a bit of a crisis and needs prayer."*

On the weekend of June 19-20, we brought you a prayer request and need for one of our missionary families serving on the other side of the world.

Gil and Michika Cauthorn are working at a church plant in Osaka, Japan. Less than 2.2% of the population in Japan is Christian. This makes each church plant vital to the spread of the Gospel. Gil is also working as

a science teacher and researcher, using the gifts God gave him to be a light to those around him. We received an email from Gil saying, "our family is in a bit of a crisis and needs prayer." They were expecting their third child when they received the news that they had lost the baby. As they dealt with the shock and pain of this loss, Gil was notified that his wages would be reduced during June due to circumstances associated with COVID-19 in Japan. The financial burden added to the stress and weight of the situation. That following weekend we brought the need to the congregation with an opportunity to pray and collect an offering. **Many in the congregation stepped up and gave a total of \$6,800.69!** In addition to this, we included a dollar-for-dollar match from the Missions budget from your regular tithes and offerings. **Within two weeks, we had sent them over \$13,601.38.** Over those weeks, we communicated with Gil, and I wanted to share some of that communication in his own words.

*"We are completely overwhelmed with the love and support we have received from our church family at Northland. Last week was truly one of the most difficult weeks we have had as a family."*

*Right now, we are focused on helping Michika recover physically as we as a family recover emotionally. Our girls have had a difficult time processing this, but it has given us an opportunity to revisit as a family the heart of our Father. God saw His son killed, and it was through that loss that our suffering has any chance of redemption. No one wants to go through this, but it has been through this situation that we have felt the overwhelming closeness of God's love as it has been poured out on our family through our*



*church community here, in Northland, Mosaic Church, and our family here and in Florida. We have received so many prayers, encouraging messages, random meals, offers of support, and now this overwhelming gift offering to help our family. This is more than we could ever ask for. We do not take this lightly and humbly thank you from the depths of our hearts. Michika and I are still in shock after reading your email.*

*This has also made way to be a witness here in Japan in ways we had not been able to in the past. God is turning this situation into one that is able to bless our family and many others around us. Thank you for always being such a strong support for our family and ministry in Japan.*

*Being able to see God's care for our family through our global church family has been an experience that we will carry for the rest of our lives. Thank you for your care for our family.*

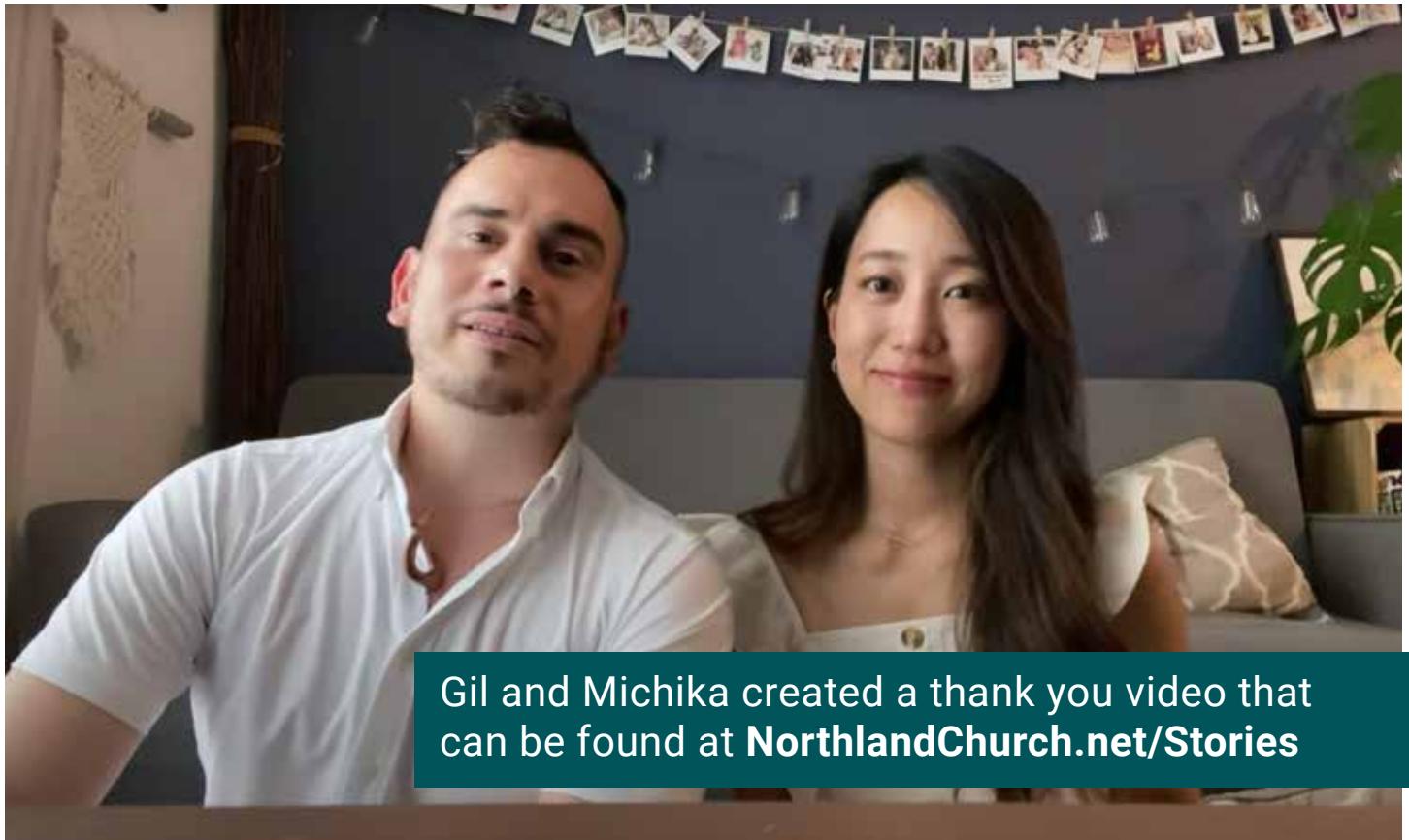
*God bless you and yours,  
Gil"*

## MISSION TO JAPAN

When Gil mentions family, it's because he grew up at Northland and his parents still attend. He was impacted through our student ministries and was forever changed through the ministry Mission to Japan led by Warren and Yukari Griffith. This homestay program allows Japanese students to come to the US to learn and live with a family for several weeks. They also take US students to Japan to do the same. It was in this ministry that Gil met Michika, and his love and passion for Japan grew. They have now been serving there for ten years.

When reflecting on this, I am thankful for how the Holy Spirit knits our stories together for His good. Thank you for being a part of this through your prayers and financial gifts.

Each month we gather on the third Saturday to pray for the Cauthorns and all of our supported missionaries and partnerships locally and globally. For more information, go to [NorthlandChurch.net/Missions](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Missions).



# SERVE OTHERS

## Local and Global Missions

MATT SHILES, MISSIONS DIRECTOR

### YOU ARE INVITED TO ENGAGE!

#### When Helping Hurts 2 Day Seminar

Chances are, your intentions are good, but how do you go about making sure your work is actually helping those in need and not hurting them? At When Helping Hurts two-day seminar, learn how to properly walk with the needy in humble relationships rather than give them temporary handouts.

The seminar teaches people to rethink the way they view poverty by addressing the roots of the issue and then provides practical instructions on how to mobilize to engage in effective poverty alleviation. Join us as we unpack this amazing curriculum, taught through video study by Brian Fikkert, coauthor of the book "When Helping Hurts."

The seminar will be held Friday, October 8 from 5:30 to 8 p.m and Saturday, October 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Register at [NorthlandChurch.net/Missions](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Missions). For more information, contact Matt Shiles at [Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net).**



### BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE RECAP

During the first two weeks of August, we collected canned food and school supplies for our community right here in Seminole County. We are so thankful for your heart, and how you show up each and every year we offer this opportunity.

Our food collection, also known as Red Bag, helps to stock the food pantry for Winter Springs Elementary. Many other Seminole County schools are adopted by churches and organizations as well. There are many students in need and are eligible for free and reduced lunch. This provides food during the school week but not on the weekends. A school pantry allows the opportunity for food to be brought home on the weekend for students who need it most.

**We collected 2,063 lbs of food for the Winter Springs Elementary Pantry.** This is a big deal and will go a long way in encouraging and supporting this school!

In addition to food, you also donated 1,399 lbs of school supplies that will be delivered to Tools 4 Seminole Schools. These supplies are loaded up and delivered to Tools 4 Seminole Schools in Sanford. Each Local Serve Day, we send a team to Sanford to help out in the warehouse and to get a closer look at the great work being done there. Teachers can visit Tools 4 Seminole Schools to shop for their classrooms to help those kids most in need. Every year this Northland family is so very generous, and this is another example of that! We know the need is great, and Tools 4 Seminole Schools always appreciates the way we support our teachers and students in Seminole County every year.



## LOCAL SERVE DAY OCTOBER 23!

Saturday Serve Days give us an opportunity as a larger body to put our faith into action in a very tangible way. By putting the "When Helping Hurts" principles into practice, we hope that these days are not one-and-done types of events. Join us for our next Saturday Serve Day on October 23. Signups will be available on September 23 (one month prior) and will be listed at [northlandchurch.net/localserve](http://northlandchurch.net/localserve). If you are interested in helping organize the next Serve Day, contact Matthew Shiles at [Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net) or 407-937-1768.

## SHORT TERM MISSIONS TRIP

### Preparation Class

The class is designed to prepare first-timers as well as seasoned veterans for short-term missions trips. The course provides practical preparation and foundational missional teaching to draw individuals into a deeper relationship with Christ. Over the course of six weeks, you will learn about the Great Commission and how to share the Gospel. You will also learn about different cultures and how to serve well without causing harm to yourself or others. We completed a class in July and will be offering one again in September-October. **For more information, contact Julia Kauffman at 321-356-1063.**

For more ways you can serve locally and globally, visit [NorthlandChurch.net/Missions](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Missions)



# BE IN COMMUNITY

## Upcoming Events for Children and Students

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

#### SECOND SATURDAY PARK DAY

September 11, October 9, November 13,  
December 11, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Second Saturday of each month, we'll meet at the Northland playground for a time to connect, and if you want to grab lunch with people afterward, you'll already be together!

#### PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

September 10, October 1, November 5,  
December 3, 6-9 p.m.

Drop your kids off at Northland and go out! You might choose to have a date night, a group date, or just some time to sit and relax.

#### INFANT BAPTISM/DEDICATION CLASS

Saturday, September 18, 5-6 p.m.

Northland offers special ceremonies for infant baptism and dedications. Our desire is to partner with parents in raising their children to know and follow the Lord. We will discuss the differences between infant baptism, baby dedication, and believers' baptism and how the church is arranged to come alongside you in raising your children in the Christian faith.

#### FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Saturday, September 25, 6:30-8 p.m.

Dudes and dudettes, grab your family and climb aboard the Love Sub for a night of fun. Join us for pizza, worship, games, and to meet our special guests, Woodstock P. Havens and his nephew Shiloh, as they learn "No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!"



#### ADVENT WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 10, 7-9 p.m.

The Advent Workshop offers ideas for bringing faith-forming practices into the home and encourages the development of a deeper understanding of Advent. Learn how your family can put Christ in the center of your Christmas celebration. Come for a cocoa bar, desserts, and door prizes. You'll also receive a family devotional to take home with activities and plenty of ideas!

#### PROPHETS & PROMISES

November 19 at 7 p.m.

Every year, our first through fifth graders join together to celebrate what they have learned in children's church about who God is and what He has done. This year, at our Prophets & Promises celebration, the children will share the year's Bible stories and scripture songs with family and friends.

Our children's ministry team is planning some fun outings for the fall. Visit us online at [NorthlandChurch.net/Children](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Children) to learn more and to register!



For more information, visit [NorthlandChurch.net/Students](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Students)



## MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

### LUG (LIVING UNDER GRACE)

**Wednesdays, 6 - 8 p.m.**

Join us for crazy games, fun worship, and connecting with one another through small groups! LUG stands for Living Under Grace, and we're learning all about what that means for us as young followers of Jesus.

### PKG UNPLUGGED

**Wednesdays, October 6 - November 17, 4 - 5:30 p.m.**

If you love video games - join us for Powder Keg Games (PKG) to hang out and play all kinds of different video games before LUG begins! Under the leadership of James Li, students will explore the question of "How do we use gaming for the Gospel?" through weekly devotionals.

**Registration is required.**

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

**Mondays, 7 - 8 p.m.**

Log on to Zoom to join other middle school students, high school leaders, and adult leaders who are growing deeper in their faith. We are digging into God's word and learning ways to apply it to our daily lives.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

**October 8-10**

Mark your calendars! Join us for this high-energy, life-changing weekend. Over this weekend, students will be cultivating lasting relationships with other middle schoolers as well as their high school and college leaders, worship together, and learn about who God is and what He has done.

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

### YOUTH GROUP

**Sundays, 5 - 7 p.m.**

Join us for a time of intentional Bible Study in small groups of other high school students and college leaders. This will be followed by worship and then games starting around 6 p.m. This is the portion of the night where students should feel free to invite their friends for a night of games, movie nights, and other fun hang-outs.

# PAUSE.

MELINDA RUTLAND



The past couple of weeks, the past couple of months, the past couple of years, the past couple of decades, have been, well, I think each would have its own adjective to add to the list.

## **But this is not about the past. This is about the pause.**

When we only focus on what is unclear, suspicious, damaging, and fail to celebrate what is good, we end up out of balance.

For what God created is good.

Rooted in truth.

Birthed in love.

And He created all.

Regardless of the past and present swirling or sinking, through the looking glass of my own frustration, loss, anger, sorrow, and failing, I was at Northland at 7 p.m. on June 15 to celebrate what God has made in His image.

And I think we need to pause.  
Let me tell you a story about Mark.

When COVID entered the scene, Mark was in his special needs group home in Kissimmee. Our family had a system. Every other week, someone would visit. Laundry and linen swap, shampoo and toilet paper refills, bathroom cleaning, haircut, nail trim, and a guaranteed trip to Chick-Fil-A for a chocolate milkshake.

## **Then, suddenly, no more visits.**

Months went by.  
Our system broke down.  
And so did Mark.

Quarantined for two weeks,  
Fully isolated though asymptomatic.  
Covered with facial lesions from 24/7 mask wearing.  
Hospitalized for over a week with non-COVID issues.  
Permanent internal damage.  
Underweight.  
Unkempt.  
Unseen.

**"When we only focus on  
what is unclear, suspicious,  
damaging, and fail to  
celebrate what is good,  
we end up out of balance."**

The first family dinner we had at my home, Mark spoke in halting sentences about hospitals. And death. He'd panic and make grunting sounds, then say out loud to no one in particular, "I'm okay. I'm not going to die." As if trying to reassure himself. One of Mark's housemates died from COVID. His friend went to the hospital and never came back. Who knows what Mark thought when it was his turn to go in the ambulance?

For a long time, he didn't make eye contact with anyone other than Mom. And even that was only out of the side of his eyes. The terrified soul of a child desperate for safety.

No turning back now. He was here for the duration. However long that was.

Weeks of rehab went by, trips to specialists, strategic medications, in-home physical therapy, extra helpings at dinner, the body strengthened, the soul still stagnate.

## **And who stepped in? Jesus. You. Northland.**



To learn more about Access Ministries or Community Art Connection, go to **[NorthlandChurch.net/Access](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Access)**

While the online ministry never stopped, Access Ministries and the Community Arts Connection quickly offered in-person day programs for those with special needs the moment it was deemed safe. Suddenly there was art, singing, music, friends, fun, purpose, and gradually, Mark began to reappear.

On June 15 at 7 p.m. in the Main Sanctuary at Northland Church in Longwood, there was a musical presentation of "Aladdin" performed with more heart and soul than you can imagine. Mark played the role of Jafar, the evil sorcerer out to conquer the world through the power of the magic lamp.

You would never have guessed what he had endured.

**So.**

Regardless of what has happened...

Regardless of what is happening...

Regardless of what will happen...

I was at Northland at 7 p.m. on June 15.

**...to thank and support** those who not only acknowledge but love, honor, and cherish ALL as Imago Dei.

**...to celebrate the artistry,** the work, the effort of the performers.

**...to bask in the uninhibited joy** of their accomplishment.

**...to cheer for my brother, Mark,** who came back to us lost and now is found.

## NEW TO NORTHLAND?

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

Fill out 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](http://NorthlandChurch.net/New).

## WORSHIP TIMES

### ON CAMPUS AND ONLINE

Saturdays ..... 5 P.M.

Sundays ..... 9 and 11 A.M.

Spanish interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 A.M. service.

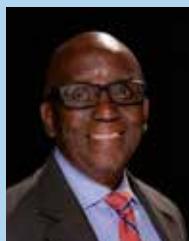
American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation is available at the Sunday 11 A.M. service.

## ACCESS MINISTRIES



We have programs and services for individuals with disabilities.

Find out more at [NorthlandChurch.net/Access](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Access). Details: Heather Subbert at (407) 937-1828 or [Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto: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.

## FOLLOW US @NorthlandChurch



## GOVERNING ELDERS

### Danny Gordon

*Chairman*

407-937-1762

[Danny.Gordon@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Danny.Gordon@NorthlandChurch.net)

### Pastor Vince Taylor

*Vice Chairman*

407-937-1769

[Vince.Taylor@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto>Vince.Taylor@NorthlandChurch.net)

### Mike Kemp

*Finance Committee Member*

407-937-1765

[Mike.Kemp@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Mike.Kemp@NorthlandChurch.net)

### John Cortines

*Human Resources*

*Committee Chairman*

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### Dr. Nick Maroulis

*Human Resources*

*Committee Member*

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### Chris Storms

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[Chris.Storms@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Chris.Storms@NorthlandChurch.net)

### Owusu Amaning

*Human Resources*

*Committee Member*

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## CONTACT INFO

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[NorthlandChurch.net](http://NorthlandChurch.net)

[Hello@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto>Hello@NorthlandChurch.net)

### Main Phone

407-949-4000

### Main Fax

407-949-4020

### Northland Bookstore

407-949-7199

## CARE AND COUNSELING

**Crisis Phone line**  
407-949-7187

**Oviedo Counseling Clinic**  
407-244-3308  
[oviedocounseling.com](http://oviedocounseling.com)

**Open Doors Counseling Longwood**  
407-900-3218  
[opendoorscc.com](http://opendoorscc.com)

**Stephen Ministry**  
407-949-4013  
[Lynda.Wgmason@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Lynda.Wgmason@NorthlandChurch.net)

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

**Prayer**  
[Pray.NorthlandChurch.net](http://Pray.NorthlandChurch.net)

## CONNECTING AT NORTHLAND

**First Steps**  
Lauren Travers 407-937-1787  
[Lauren.Travers@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Lauren.Travers@NorthlandChurch.net)  
Text "Northland" to 97000

**Belong & Grow Partnership**  
Barbara Olsen 407-949-7183  
[Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[Northlandchurch.net/Belong&Grow](http://Northlandchurch.net/Belong&Grow)

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
407-949-4000  
[Volunteer@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Volunteer@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Serve](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Serve)

## GROWING AT NORTHLAND

**New Believers**  
Susan Gurnett 407-760-6979  
[Susan.Gurnett@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Susan.Gurnett@NorthlandChurch.net)  
Text "NewtoGod" to 97000

**Discipleship**  
Susan Gurnett 407-760-6979  
[Susan.Gurnett@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Susan.Gurnett@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Disciples](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Disciples)

**Small Groups**  
Bethany Durys 407-937-0541  
[Groups@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Groups@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Groups](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Groups)

**Classes, Studies and Ministries**  
Barbara Olsen 407-949-7183  
[Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Barbara.Olsen@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Ministries](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Ministries)

## FAMILY AND STUDENT MINISTRIES

**Children's Ministries**  
Bethany Durys 407-937-0541  
[Bethany.Durys@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Bethany.Durys@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Children](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Children)

**Student Ministries**  
[Student.Ministries@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Student.Ministries@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Students](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Students)

**College & Young Adults**  
Bethany Durys 407-937-0541  
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[NorthlandChurch.net/YoungAdults](http://NorthlandChurch.net/YoungAdults)

**Access (Disability) Ministries**  
Heather Subbert 407-937-1828  
[Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Heather.Subbert@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Access](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Access)

## LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS

[NorthlandChurch.net/Missions](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Missions)

**Mission Trips**  
Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768  
[Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[SomedayIsToday.net](http://SomedayIsToday.net)

**Disaster Response**  
Judy Head  
[Judy.Head@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Judy.Head@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/DisasterResponse](http://NorthlandChurch.net/DisasterResponse)

**Prison and Jail Ministry**  
Matthew Shiles 407-937-1768  
[Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Matthew.Shiles@NorthlandChurch.net)

**121Hope Anti-Trafficking Ministry**  
Meg Johnson 407-937-0547  
[Meg.Johnson@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Meg.Johnson@NorthlandChurch.net)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/121Hope](http://NorthlandChurch.net/121Hope)

**Homelessness**  
Thomas Denove  
[tmdenove@gmail.com](mailto:tmdenove@gmail.com)  
[NorthlandChurch.net/Homelessness](http://NorthlandChurch.net/Homelessness)

## PASTORAL SERVICES

**Baptism**

- (Infants to 5-years-old)  
Diane Jones  
[Diane.Jones@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Diane.Jones@NorthlandChurch.net)
- (Grade School)  
Renee Cantu 407-949-4038  
[Renee.Cantu@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Renee.Cantu@NorthlandChurch.net)
- (Adult/student)  
Julie Meeker 407-937-1772  
[Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Weddings and Funerals**  
Julie Meeker 407-937-1772  
[Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Julie.Meeker@NorthlandChurch.net)

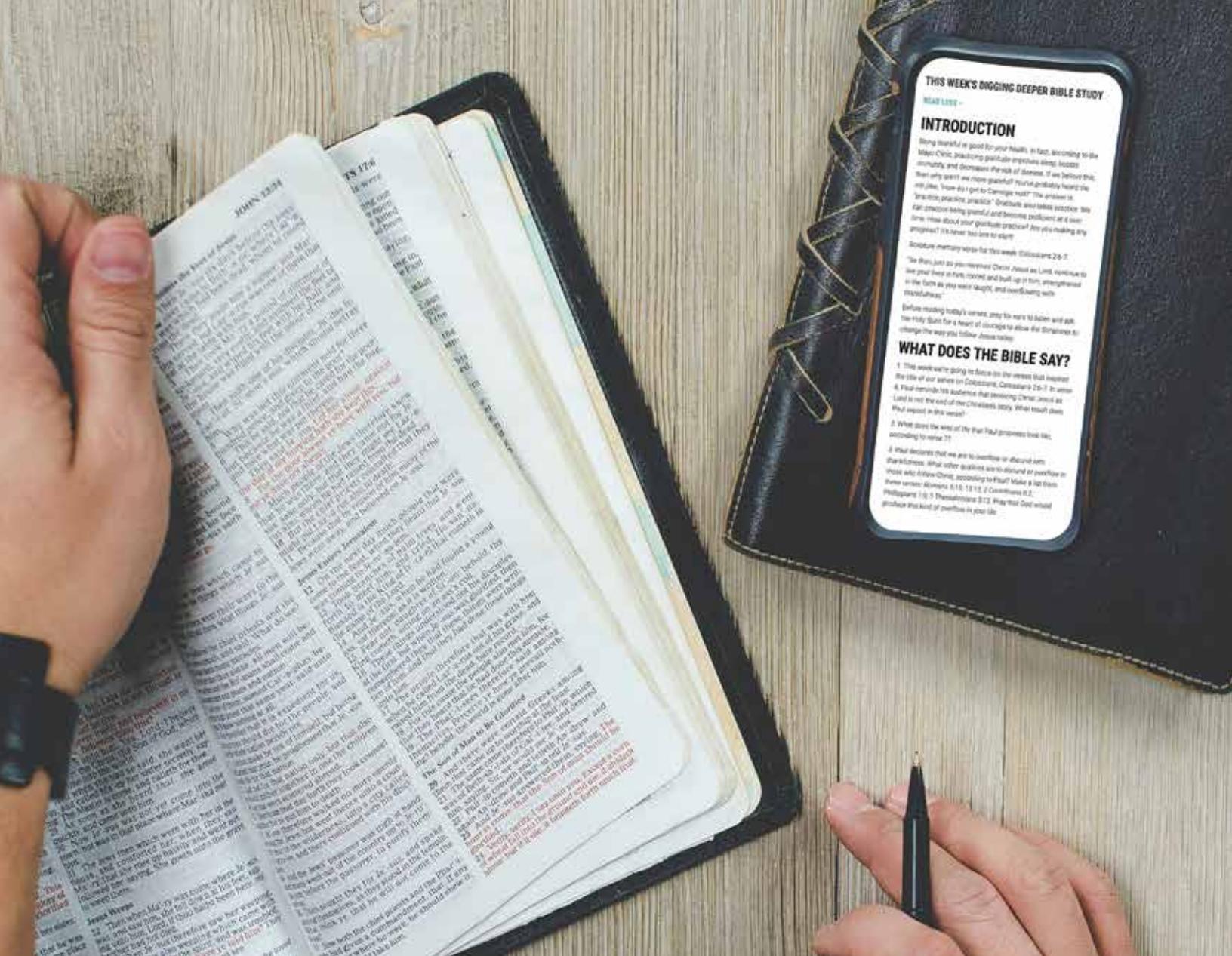
## PASTORS

**Gus Davies**  
*Interim Senior Pastor*  
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**Marshall Hall**  
*Worship Pastor*  
[Marshall.Hall@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Marshall.Hall@NorthlandChurch.net)

**Rob Hemphill**  
*Student Ministries Pastor*  
[Rob.Hemphill@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:Rob.Hemphill@NorthlandChurch.net)

**John Tardonia**  
*Pastor, Care and Counseling*  
[John.Tardonia@NorthlandChurch.net](mailto:John.Tardonia@NorthlandChurch.net)



## WANT TO DIG DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE?



Check out the digging deeper Bible studies that are available online at [NorthlandChurch.net/DiggingDeeper](http://NorthlandChurch.net/DiggingDeeper)