

Loving God
Loving People

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August 2011

The NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH Vision

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August Highlights

16-JOY Luncheon
17-Budget Meeting
20-Crossroads Academy
24-New Wednesday Nights
27-Upward Soccer Games

Casting the Vision for a Great Church

by Skip Alexander, Senior Pastor

Thrilled, humbled, and excited are just a few of the thoughts and emotions I have described when asked about our first weeks at Northside. I have enjoyed the "You Meet the Nicest People" notebook you have prepared for our arrival. I have felt your prayers to our Father on my behalf and I have enjoyed reading your stories of faith and testimonies about Jesus Christ. Not long into our days together as pastor and people, I was asked about a vision for our church. My reply was that I hoped to spend time, as much as a year, getting to know the church, praying, listening and discerning the Lord's will with others about the future of Northside.

What I have come to realize over the last several weeks is that we do not have a year to wait. Frankly, there are some very important areas that need to be addressed in our church to ensure the future viability of ministry. An accurate assessment of our current realities is essential. I have worked with our church staff, counseled with our leadership and spent many hours in prayer. To that end, I have three important initiatives this fall as your pastor.

“Not long into our days together as pastor and people, I was asked about a vision for our church.”

Continued on page 2

Something New on Wednesday Nights

Beginning Wednesday, August 24th, we will have a new Fall line-up of discipleship opportunities.

- Wednesday Kids in Discipleship (First through Fifth Grade)
 - Wednesday Night Thing (Junior High and High School Students)
 - Parents of Teens
 - The Book of Acts
 - Evangelism Explosion
 - Radical Together
 - Men's Study / Women's Study
 - Contemporary Issues
- New Wednesday Night Schedule
Beginning August 24th**
- 5:30 Fellowship Meal
 - 6:30 Meet in Auditorium
 - 6:45 Small Groups
 - 8:00 Music Rehearsal



Big Apple Adventure Vacation Bible School in July was a tremendous success. Praise the Lord for all that He did during this incredible week! More pictures on p. 3





Vision for a Great Church (continued from page 1)

The first is related to our mission statement and purpose. I spent the first three Sundays with you preaching on our mission and purpose. The sermons were entitled, "Love God," "Love Others," and "Prove it." Having listened to you and interacted with others it became obvious to me that we are a "Love God and Love others" congregation. These biblical principles from Luke 10:27 and Matthew 28:18-20 resonate deeply in our identity. Therefore, I would recommend a refined purpose: "Northside Baptist Church will bring a great commitment to the great commandment and the great commission, resulting in a great congregation. To that end we will work together to transform lives with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Indianapolis, North America and the world." Our greatest mission field is home. We will work to adopt a missionary mindset toward our "Jerusalem" penetrating darkness in Indianapolis by making disciples and continuing a healthy, reproducing church plant effort. May I remind you that the greater Indianapolis area is one the largest unreached metropolitan areas in our nation. In the months ahead we will define a mission point in North America and a people group for adoption in the world.

The second initiative is related to our church staff structure. You have been fortunate to have a church staff that loves the Lord and loves you. They are a group of called and committed men and women. It will be my honor serving alongside them as senior pastor. Currently, however, we do not have a staff structure for church health or for church growth. We must close the "back door." As we see dozens of men and women come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ in the months ahead we must also see them discipled. We have a biblical mandate to make disciples. We must move people from rows of worship into circles of small group Bible study and discipleship. The second need is related to children, the largest lost generation in American history.

The commissioning of H and E as career missionaries through the International Mission Board is a cause of great praise. In my short time, I have grown to love and admire

the J family. We will continue to be their home church as they move to their appointment through this calendar year. Please pray for them as they make the adjustment. The vacancy that is left will be used to fill two important positions. First, the base salary and benefits will be the foundation for calling a Small Groups Pastor in 2012. Second, a part-time Children's Director will be called to carry forward the critical role of children's ministry in our church. We will rely upon our church family to lead Upward Sports ministry and a team is being assembled by the Ministry Placement Team to that goal.

The final element of our renewed vision this fall will be some "home" improvement. Leigh Anne and I always spruce up the house when company is coming. Company is coming to our facilities every week and our facilities should reflect a fresh, welcoming environment. The greeter ministry has shared with me that our number of guests has doubled. Praise the Lord! We will begin improving elements in the auditorium, entrances, hallways and the Guest Center. Working with the appropriate committees we will ensure that good stewardship is used with our funds for the greatest first impression.

There are many additional areas that also will be addressed in the future. We are working to adjust Sunday morning worship and Connection Group start times. Wednesdays this fall there will be several new small groups with a new start time.

The 2011/2012 budget will be presented in August. Thanks to the stewardship team and their hard work to prepare a challenging but reachable budget. The goals I shared in this article are reflected in the proposed budget (more resources to missions, increase in Cooperative Program, and missions-going). Restructuring of the staff related to Small Groups Pastor and Children's Director will also be reflected in the budget.

There is much to be excited about at Northside. God is working, Jesus is Lord and there is much to be done for our Lord and to His glory.

And remember... God is great, you are an amazing church and I love you!

—Skip Alexander



I ♥ VBS



"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" - Ephesians 4:12

Date: Saturday, August 20, 2011

Location: Northside Baptist Church, Indianapolis

Cost: \$5.00 for box lunch

For: Local church ministry leaders: This year's Crossroads Academy will focus on the multiplicity of ministry opportunities found in our churches. How do we ramp them up to be more effective for the Lord? Come learn how to take your ministry in your church to a new level. Leave this weekend encouraged and equipped to serve God more effectively.

Schedule:

8:30 Registration

9:00 Session 1

10:15 Break

10:30 Session 2

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Worship

1:00 Session 3

2:15 Dismiss

Take your ministry to the next level in these areas:

- Being a Supportive Deacon – Tommy Snyder
- Developing a Discipleship Process – Art Groomes
- How to Develop a Children's Discipleship Process –
- How to Implement a FAITH/Evangelism Strategy in Your Church – Jim Bohrer
- Mobilizing Men to Do Ministry – Keith Burkhardt
- How to Start a Ministry to Single Adults – Keith Lowry
- Healthy Small Group Ministry – Scott Smith
- Developing a Strong Women's Ministry – Simone Monroe
- Improving Your Worship – Patrick Watts (LifeWay); Steve Blanchard
- How to Reach Today's Young Married Adults –
- Idea's for Using Technology in Ministry Today – Yale Wall
- Youth – Student Leader
- Church Assessments – Garry Jones
- Annual Church Profile (ACP)/Electronic Offering/Treasurer Training – Debbie Hymer and Kyle Brennan

Register online at www.scbi.org.

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in Kids Cove



WEDNESDAY KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP

Circling the Globe with the Message of Christ.



Upward Soccer Kicks Off in August

by Roberta Zenn, Upward Volunteer

Have you heard the buzz of Upward Soccer going around the church? It's almost here! The first game will start at the end of August! How wonderful that God has blessed Northside Baptist Church with a great opportunity to be able to serve Him, and to minister to the children of our church and community through the Upward Sports program.

Staff and Upward leaders have adopted the "all-in" motto once again! We want to use all the resources available to us to answer the call from God and show our love for Him! Our hearts are pouring out with ideas to go the extra mile to tell the message of God's love. Be still, listen and open your heart. Is God calling you for Upward?

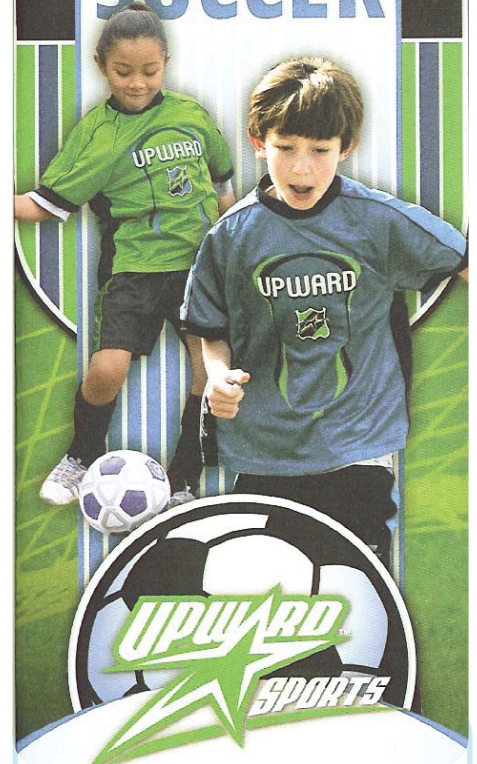
Upward Soccer is not all about the kids. Upward Soccer is about focusing on building relationships with parents and families, and being available to tell them the wonderful story of Jesus. Consider using your talents in coaching, being a referee, or even keeping Upward showered in daily prayer. Don't think you know enough about soccer to help? No problem, no previous experience needed!

How about making a commitment to be a team chaplain or maybe a game day greeter? Don't want to get up early on Saturday morning? You can help with practice nights! Maybe you cannot volunteer to work on game day or practice nights, but you can take a few flyers and let others know about our program. All you have to do is be available and God can use you for Upward!

Wow! How exciting that God has chosen our church for this assignment! God allows US to have this unique challenge, individually designed, one that can bring great blessings for His glory. Don't be content to sit back and let someone else have all the blessings this challenge will bring. This could be the best 6-8 weeks you have ever had being a servant for Christ. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Coming in August!
Registration now open!

UPWARD SOCCER



Download a registration form for
Upward Soccer
at www.worshipfortoday.com

Reflections on Scripture Immersion

by Hap Jolliff, Associate Pastor of Children & Ministry

Even as I write the words 'Scripture Immersion' I perceive that not every Northsider was aware in June, and possibly not now either, what exactly was taking place during Scripture Immersion. I will take responsibility for that as I also need to for other communication shortcomings. Yet if you will think back to June the 5th with me . . . jog your mind and go back to Pastor Skip's first day as the Senior Pastor of Northside Baptist Church . . . you will remember that it was a special day indeed! There

were 13 decisions made at the end of the message! What a dynamic message about 'Loving God' (with all of our drive, soul, might and mind) and being 'All in' for the Kingdom cause through the ministry at Northside! And how about the uniqueness of congregationally reading the end of the book of Revelation – thus beginning the service with the words "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen." It was great! And oh yes, then the Revelation Song began to resonate through the Auditorium as the verse began with "Worthy is the, Lamb who was slain; Holy, Holy, is He; Sing a new song, to Him who sits on Heaven's Mercy Seat."

If you are not excited about the remembrance of that day – you missed out! A 'normal' Lord's Day worship and yet the beginning of a new era at Northside Baptist Church! I am joyous to be in worship every Sunday with the saints, but I am convinced that many of us miss out on the joy in our day-to-day lives because we miss out on digesting God's Holy Word, given to us in what we tote and seldom quote – the Bible. It should amaze us that God has spoken to us. How profound is it that the God of the universe has communicated to us about who He is, what He has done, and the plan He has given that humanity might know Him, follow Him, and receive His gift of salvation in His Son Jesus the Christ? Scripture Immersion played a huge role in the June 5th worship for me. Yes, Scripture Immersion concluded as we began the service, but what that means is I had

just digested, along with other brothers and sisters, the entire Word of God (as revealed in the New Testament) over the previous 42 hours.

Finding joy in the Lord and excitement for the ministry to be accomplished through Northside is directly tied to our intake and obedience to the Scripture that God has given! Digesting the New Testament off and on over 42 hours was like eating the Big Ugly Burger at BUB's in Carmel in 16 minutes – I was full. And

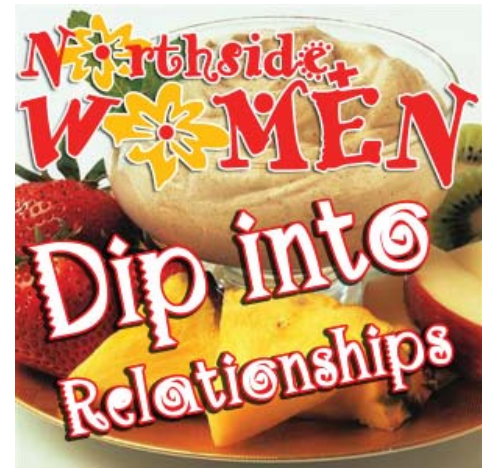
yet with the fullness that both of those experiences brought – I continue to be hungry! As we move forward as a church – let's be hungry for the

things of God! And let's be sustained on His very word which feeds our hungry souls! We do not have another Scripture Immersion planned, but know the kingdom will advance as His Word is received by faith and nourishes our hungry souls! May you immerse yourself in the Word of God as we embark upon a new church year. And should you not be connected to other Christ-following, Bible-believing saints - may you initiate action to connect with others this month in one of Northside's Connection groups.

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." —2 Timothy 3:16-17



Hap Jolliff accepted the challenge from his friend Ben Knowles to tackle the Big Ugly Burger - a 1-pound post-cooked weight burger at Bubs in Carmel, IN.



**Dip into Relationships
Sunday, August 7 at 3:00
PM in the Fireside Room**

Join the ladies of Northside as we get better acquainted with our new pastor's wife, Leigh Anne Alexander and daughters Meredith and Caroline. This casual time of fun and fellowship will feature various kinds of foods with dips. Women and girls of all ages are welcome to participate.

**Precept Bible Study
for Women
Begins September 14th
More information
coming in the
September Issue**

With All Our HeARTS!

by John Reeder, Associate Pastor of Worship and Evangelism

With All our HeARTS is a theme I believe God has given us here at Northside to help us keep our focus on Loving God and Others while Excelling in the use and promotion of the arts in order to best bless our God personally with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to Showcase the God we love to the people we love in our community and around the world.

Art is too powerful to ignore, too necessary to avoid. Art is a part of all cultures in all times. The importance of art is not up to a vote. Art either glorifies God or obstructs our recognition of Him. The Worship and Arts Ministry of Northside purpose is...

- To encourage and develop a community of artists who will use their God given gifts to glorify God by first developing a heart attitude of loving God and loving others.
- To assist the artist to excel in their area of giftedness and therefore stimulate the production of art within the church that points to the glory and works of God.
- To lead the artist to use their artistic abilities to showcase the God we love to the people we love in this community and around the world by multiplying the arts outside the local church that give witness to the presence and glory of God.
- To distribute products of art to the body of Christ that will edify believers in the journey toward spiritual maturity and encourage a seeker to examine the claims of Christ and initiate their journey in faith to begin a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

God has so blessed us with a wide variety of gifts and talents here at Northside. We have a great responsibility to see that all these gifts and talents are used for His glory. This fall I hope you will choose to use your gifts and talents with us at Northside. We are forming a variety of teams: Worship Choir, Worship Team, Worship Band, Worship Orchestra, Drama, or Dance, Photography, Video, Administration, Stage Team, Props and Decorations, Set Building and Painting Teams, Set-up and Tear-Down Teams.

Opportunities abound with children, students, and adults. Get involved and give With All Your HeART!

**Don Agnew
GOLF**

Invitational

Maple Creek Country Club
10501 East 21st Street
Monday, September 5 at 10 AM
4-Person Scramble
\$45 per person includes green fees,
cart, lunch & prize fund.
Sign up in the Guest Center or at
worshipfortoday.com

Budget Business Meeting: August 17

Copies of the 2011 - 2012 budget will soon be available in the Guest Center. Further detail is available upon request by contacting the church office or Jennifer Hall at jhall@worshipfortoday.com.

A formal presentation of the budget will be made at our Monthly Business Meeting on August 17 at 6:30. On Sunday August 21, we will conduct a ballot vote in the morning worship service for members to approve the proposed budget. If in the meantime, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Stewardship Committee or the church office.

Thank you, Stewardship Committee, for all your hard work in putting together a plan to support our ministry and carry it forward into 2012. May God bless your efforts!

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 AM Covenant Foods 4 PM	3	4 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 AM	5	6 Upward Soccer Clinic 9 AM Coaches' Meeting 11 AM
7 Classes 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Dip into Relationships 3 PM	8 Upward Soccer Evaluation 6 PM (Upward Registration Deadline)	9 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 AM Covenant Foods 4 PM	10	11 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 AM Women on Mission 10 AM	12	13
14 Classes 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM Week of Prayer for State Missions	15 Upward Soccer Practice 6 PM	16 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 AM JOY Luncheon 11:30 AM Covenant Foods 4 PM	17 Business Meeting – Budget Presentation 6 PM	18 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 AM Upward Soccer Practice 6 PM	19	20 Crossroads Academy 8:30 AM
21 Classes 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM	22 Upward Soccer Practice 6 PM	23 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 AM Covenant Foods 4 PM	24 New Wednesday Night Schedule 5:30 PM	25 Women's Prayer Group 9:00 AM Upward Soccer Practice 6 PM	26	27 Upward Soccer Games 9 AM
28 Classes 9:30 AM Worship Service 11:00 AM	29 Upward Soccer Practice 6 PM	30 Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30 AM Covenant Foods 4 PM	31 Wednesday Night Schedule			

SCBI Calendar:

- o August 6 Disaster Relief Rally, Highland Lakes Baptist Camp
- o August 13 State Golf Outing
- o August 14-21 Week of Prayer for State Missions
- o August 20 Crossroads Academy (at Northside)
- o August 26-27 Interchange: Missions Education Workshop, Highland Lakes

Please contact the editor by email with ideas or submissions for *The Vision*. Articles and other submissions to *The Vision* must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication and will be included or edited at the editor's discretion. If you do not wish to receive this publication, you may unsubscribe at our website.

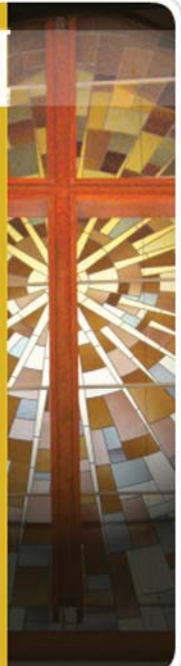


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Worship Times
 Sunday Bible Study - 9:30 AM
 Sunday Worship - 11:00 AM
 Wednesday Night Activities - 6:30 PM



PRAISE · WORSHIP · FELLOWSHIP · DISCIPLESHIP · MINISTRY · EVANGELISM

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Sunday Morning connection groups

Preschool Rooms
 Purple: born before 7/2006
 Red: 7/2006-6/2008
 Orange: 7/2008 - 6/2009
 Yellow: 7/2009 or after

Elementary Students
 252 Basics: Grades 1-5 in Kids Cove

Junior and Senior High School Students
 CLC Assembly Room

Adults
 Singles (Whitely) ED114
 Joshua Class (Knowles/Long) ED204
 Parents by Design (Dickerson) ED115
 Godly Parental Solutions (Westrum) ED102
 Cross Class ED207
 Living Stones (Christie/Pole) ED117
 40's (Donaldson) ED112
 50's (Justice) ED111
 60's (Woessner) Fireside Room - CLC
 Ladies' C (Carter) ED106
 Senior Men ED113