

From The Pastor's Heart

What's the big deal with decorating a Christmas tree? That question kept popping in my mind as my wife was insistent that we decorate our first Christmas tree together. Growing up, we had Christmas trees and I would hang an ornament or two, but it never became something that I just had to do. In fact, during the B.S. (Before Shoshannah) years, I never put up a Christmas tree in my home. Now, before you write me off as a Scrooge or someone who dampens the holiday spirit, know that I LOVE Christmas. I don't love what Christmas has become in our society, but I LOVE Christmas and all that it brings in its purity.

As we decorated the tree Sunday night, something profound happened. No, I didn't discover a love for decorating trees, but what I did discover was the joy that could be found by taking something out of a box (a tree) and coupling that with others items that came out of boxes (lights, ornaments, etc.) It was amazing to step back and marvel at something so beautiful because of WHAT IT HAD BECOME.

The Christian life is much the same way. Without Christ, there's not much to get excited about. However, when we think about what we've become because of Christ, there should be unexplainable joy in our hearts. There should be unspeakable gladness in our lives because of the knowledge of what Christ has done in us. Do you feel it? Can you relate? Perhaps I think too much, but Sunday night I laid in bed thinking about our Christmas tree and my life. I thought about what my life has become over these last 30 years and how different people have hung different things (or ornaments) on my life to make me who I am today. Some aren't so pretty as others, but they have meaning to me. Some look lovely and nice and some are even unexplainable to onlookers, though I know what they mean in my life.

I hope that this Christmas you will take the time to evaluate what you've become. Not an evaluation that measures your parenting skills, communication skills or any earthly skill, but rather who you are in Christ. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:17, *"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* I love that verse and the promise of who we are and who we'll be in Christ.

As followers of Christ, we celebrate His birth as a gift from our Heavenly Father. As you give gifts and receive them this season, will they define who you are? I doubt it. They may bring you joy, but will it be unexplainable? Probably not. Will it bring gladness that's unspeakable? No. The point is for every gift you get and give this season, it can be defined in a worldly, temporal way. The gift of Christ wasn't just for the present day Israelites, but for all who would call on His name. And by calling on His name, we become something this world doesn't know or understand. This Christmas, may the egotistical ways fall, may we desire more to give than to receive, and may we be more heart stricken about those who have never become through Christ what they could be.

What's the big deal with decorating a Christmas tree? For me, it's all in the becoming...

- Pastor Adrian Dixon

Thanksgiving Day Outreach Reflection

Six hundred meals later, it was finished! On Thursday, November 26th, over fifty people gathered to help prepare, serve and deliver meals to those in our community. Civil servants, homeless individuals, those who were caring for the sick and those alone on Thanksgiving Day were provided a warm, traditional Thanksgiving meal. The generosity of those who gave, prayed, volunteered made this day possible. As we continue to march towards 2010, may we always be looking for opportunities to show our thankfulness to God by serving others.



Discover Northside/Partnership Class

Discover Northside is an information and partnership class held after a morning worship service. This will be an opportunity for you to ask questions and learn about Northside's structure, strategy and vision. You will also have the opportunity to join the church as a partner. The next class will be Sunday, December 6th following the morning worship service. Please sign up in the lobby if you would



Church Work Being Done!

On December 7th, 8th, and 9th, we'll be gathering to do some work around the church. We'll be getting started around 8 am each day. We'll be patching, painting, installing new thermostats, cleaning, installing new furniture in the lobby area and doing general maintenance around the church. If you can help any of these days, please sign up in the church lobby.



Jeremy Thompson Sharing

Jeremy is on a short furlough from the mission-fields in South Sudan. He will be preaching on Sunday, December 27th on how God is working in his life and how he is seeing God move among the Sudanese people.

Church Schedules—December

Refreshments

1 st Sunday	Ed & Frances Rogerson
2 nd Sunday	Debra Dixon Shoshannah Dixon
3 rd Sunday	Tom & Sue Bodette
4 th Sunday	David & Fern Winston
5 th Sunday	Jesse & Joyce Poole

Greeting

1 st Sunday	Ed & Frances Rogerson
2 nd Sunday	Carl & Heather Richardson
3 rd Sunday	Tom & Sue Bodette
4 th Sunday	Sue Wade & Nellie Griner
5 th Sunday	Ed & Frances Rogerson

Cleaning

Judy Seay & Sandra Adams

Thanks For Giving!

A heartfelt thank you is in order to all those who financially supported Northside Community Church during 2009. Your tithes, offerings and sacrifices have enabled the work of ministry in our community and beyond. If you or your company would like to make any end of the year, tax-deductible donations or contributions to the General Fund or Building Fund, those gifts would be greatly appreciated at this time. You can bring your gift to the church or mail it to:



Northside Community Church
P.O. Box 1139
Knightdale, NC 27545

December Birthdays

Jacklyn Smith	December 2nd
Steve Dixon	December 3rd
Aaron Massey	December 4th
Abigail Garee	December 8th
Jan Wilson	December 9th
Brandon Ray	December 12th
Allen Jones	December 14th
AJ Burr	December 17th
Shawn Simpson	December 17th
Kim Mitchell	December 19th
Amanda Prather	December 22nd



Did we miss yours? Please let us know!

Church Loan Update December 2009

Northside Community Church is aggressively paying down a loan used to plant the church as well as acquire property. This loan is interest free and as it's paid back, these monies are being used to plant and build other churches. If you would like to contribute to help meet this need, please note your gift for "loan repayment" and mail it to:

Northside Community Church
PO Box 1139
Knightdale, NC 27545.

*Invested to get Northside where we are today...
what we owe so that we might invest in
others:*

\$75,463.23

A Look at the Numbers...November

	Attendance	Offering
November 1st	92	\$2,348.00
November 8th	92	\$3,729.00
November 15th	88	\$977.00
November 22nd	102	\$1,646.00
November 29th	97	\$3,030.00

Total Amount of Tithes	\$11,730.00
Amount Needed Per Week	\$2,284.62
Average Weekly Tithes	\$2,346.00
YTD Budget Shortage	\$5,060.10
Building Fund Total	\$76,306.44

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to fear the Lord your God." (NLT)

Deuteronomy 14:23c

News & Notes For December...

- **Men's Morning Bible Study** – The Men's morning Bible study meets every Friday at IHOP at 7:00 am.
- **Youth Lock-In**—The youth will be having a lock-in at church on Friday, December 4th.
- **Knightdale Christmas Parade** – Knightdale's annual Christmas parade will be Saturday, December 5th at 2:00 pm. NCC is participating.
- **Discover Northside Class** – NCC's Discovery Class will be Sunday, December 6th following the morning worship service.
- **Church Business Meeting**—Our last meeting of 2009 will be Sunday, December 13th at 6:30 pm at the church.
- **Christmas Eve Communion Service**—There will be a candlelight communion service on Thursday, December 24th at 8:00 pm at the church.
- **Jeremy Thompson Preaching**—Jeremy will be home and sharing on Sunday morning, December 27th.

First Annual NCC Turkey Classic

On Saturday, November 28th, thirteen guys gathered at Wil-Mar Golf Club for a 2-man scramble tournament. Before the sun set, two teams emerged tied for the winning spot. David Books & Tyler Sills were tied with Steve and Eric Dixon as the winners of the First Annual NCC Turkey Classic. Way to go guys!



Christian Sympathy

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Tom & Sue Bodette. Tom's father, Ed, passed away November 9th. Please remember the Bodette family in your prayers.

Christmas Bible Study

Pastor Adrian will be leading a 4-week Christmas Bible study beginning Wednesday night, December 2nd at 7:00 pm at the church. Everyone is invited to attend this study.



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Meadow Lights

NCC will be taking a road trip on Friday, December 11th to see the Meadow lights and have dinner at the Meadow Village Restaurant. We will be leaving the church at 5:00 pm.



All are invited to attend. You will need to arrange your own transportation. Spots are limited, so please sign-up in the lobby if you plan to attend.

Church Business Meeting

We will have our final business meeting of the year on Sunday, December 13th at 6:30 pm at the church. We will be finalizing the 2010 budget and updating the church on the building team's progress. If you are a partner or regular attendee, please plan to attend this meeting.

Business Meeting



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

NCC will be having a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service on Wednesday, December 24th at 8:00 pm at the church. Please invite your neighbors and friends to attend with you.



The Pastor's Challenge

Pastor Adrian challenged the congregation during the month of November that if NCC maintained an average attendance of 120 during the month of December, he would be getting his hair cut way, way short on the first Sunday in January. Also, if you invite someone with you to church during the month of December, please put a visitor's card in the offering bag with their name and your name on it. We will be giving away a really nice prize at the end of the year for whoever's name is drawn.



Knightdale Christmas Parade

The Knightdale Christmas Parade will be Saturday, December 5th at 2:00 pm. NCC will be participating in this year's parade, so come out and be a part of the fun!

NCC T-Shirts

The new Northside t-shirts are in and available. You can purchase a shirt for \$7.00. Wearing these shirts to the gym, shopping and at outreach events is a great way to let people know about Northside. Please see Carl after the service if you would like to purchase a shirt.

Merry
Christmas
...and a happy new year!