

eUpdate

Northwest Indiana District Church of the Nazarene

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“Providing a climate for dynamic holiness ministry through the Church of the Nazarene in Northwest Indiana”

www.nwinazarene.org



**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
CENTENNIAL
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“WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE CHURCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU”?

Greetings! Just wanted to pass along some items for your information, as well as a few thoughts that came to me this morning. You will be receiving in a separate email reminders of important dates as we approach the end of this shortened assembly year.

INFORMATION

- Pastor Bill Hunter has entered the process of retirement from pastoral ministry. I am working with the DeMotte board and congregation during this time of transition. I know you will be praying for Bill and Virginia as they make this important transition in their lives.
- Welcome back to Mike Uhl, who has recently returned from his sabbatical.
- Mark DeYoung (Fairmeadow) has updated me on the progress of their Youth Center, known as the “Wherehouse.” Over \$45,000 has been raised within the congregation since October for a total makeover of their fellowship hall to make this project possible. A “sneak preview” took place in February with 120 middle school kids attending. The Grand Opening was on Friday, February 20 with 60 middle schoolers present, with other school activities happening at the same time. Last Friday 70 kids were present. There has been great cooperation from school personnel in promoting the Wherehouse. One of the Fairmeadow laypersons heavily involved in the project recently spoke to the PTO about the project. Over 200 parents were present. Mark reports that there has been lots of community excitement. The next step will be to begin to address how to reach out to senior high students in Munster. Congratulations, Mark!

- Congratulations to Horace Smith on a recent excellent review. The board at Logansport unanimously renewed his service to the church for four additional years.

In Addition, for the past two years, Logansport has conducted GED classes for anyone interested. These classes are Wednesday evening 7-8 PM. Now the church has officially set up a board of trustees and faculty for Servant Bible College. The first college classes begin April 14th. The college classes will be held on Tuesday evenings 6-10 PM for a ten week period. Anyone interested in either the GED or a college class may call 574-753-7960. Congratulations to Logansport for these exciting developments serving the community!

- Bob Lothenore continues to give excellent leadership as interim pastor to the Hobart congregation. Please pray for this ReStart effort. There are many challenges facing this congregation as they seek new direction for the church. There have already been answers to prayer and a new hope for the future under Bob's leadership. **Key needs to pray for: 1. The successful conclusion of an effort to lease a building for the use of the congregation, and 2. A worship leader.**

Just Thinking

We have entered the season of lent. Once again we make the journey with Jesus. We remember his life...his passion...his death...His resurrection! I was reading the lectionary scripture this morning. The OT reading was the story of Jonah and Nineveh...his call of the Ninevites to repentance...the response of the king of Nineveh...his humbling of himself, putting on sackcloth, sitting in ashes as a sign of repentance and the humbling of himself before God...and the city was spared. Then, the NT scripture (copied in below) harkening back to the Jonah story. I was struck by the words of Jesus: "At the judgment, the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation and condemn it, because at the preaching of Jonah they repented, **and there is something greater than Jonah here.**"

These amazing days we are experiencing! Almost daily, it seems, we become aware of new crises of integrity and trust, stories of unmitigated greed and self-centeredness, not to mention financial reverses, unemployment and, our greatest crisis, our spiritual bankruptcy as a nation. In the midst of it all, during this Lenten season, we are reminded again that there is one in our midst who is greater than Moses, greater than the angels, greater than Solomon. Jesus, our redeemer and our only hope, is in our midst. He is here! He is available to us! The question is: "Are we available to Him? Are we desperate for His presence?" Along with our ever present opinions regarding current circumstances (and we all have opinions, don't we?), I wonder if we don't need to put on sackcloth and sit in ashes and humble ourselves before God in confession and repentance.

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways I will hear them from heaven and heal their land 2 Chronicles 7:14

Join me, won't you, in taking some time this week to consider our need, as the church of Jesus Christ, to "...humble ourselves, pray, seek (God's) face and turn from (our) wicked ways." If we do...perhaps God would hear from heaven. Perhaps the church would be revived. Perhaps something could happen in this US culture like what happened centuries ago through the Wesleyan revival in England. Perhaps our God would heal our land! It all starts with us!

I'm praying for you as you lead your congregation through this Lenten season. May His grace and peace be yours in fullest measure!!

Gospel

[Lk 11:29-32](#)

While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them,
"This generation is an evil generation;
it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it,
except the sign of Jonah.

Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites,
so will the Son of Man be to this generation.

At the judgment

the queen of the south will rise with the men of this generation
and she will condemn them,
because she came from the ends of the earth
to hear the wisdom of Solomon,
and there is something greater than Solomon here.

At the judgment the men of Nineveh will arise with this generation
and condemn it,
because at the preaching of Jonah they repented,
and there is something greater than Jonah here."