

10:10
News

Living the Abundant Life

A publication of Northeast Christian Church

April/May 2006



*“ . . . I have come that they may have life,
and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

John 10:10



Bob Cherry
Senior Pastor

Dear Northeast Friends,

This newsletter has been designed to help you become better informed of the ministries and activities of Northeast Christian Church. Our goal is to provide you and your family the needed resources to help you live the "Abundant Life" and assist you in meeting the challenges that come your way.

You may also visit our new web site, www.necchurch.org for the most up-to-date lists of activities, studies, classes and events.

I encourage you to take that next step in living the Abundant Life . . . that's what God wants for you! Know God, get connected and make an impact today!

Bob Cherry

It's ALL new!

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How did we get Eggs and Bunnies from an Empty Tomb?

by Wendie Gabbard, Member

Mention Easter and what comes to mind? Eggs, bunnies, marshmallow "peeps" covered with yellow sugar, lilies, Sunday bonnets and luncheon buffets?

Easter morning squeals can be heard through the neighborhood as children dragging baskets race through damp and sometimes frosty grass. Their goal? To find eggs dyed in dazzling colors and hidden carefully. Each child quickly counts his tally. For some reason, this number never seems to make Dad happy. "I think there may be more around here. Let's look again." When Easter is blanketed with a downpour, the egg hunt takes place inside. How many

*continued...
on back cover*



Northeast has a new web site!

Stay connected, know what's going on, listen to past sermons, register for classes, and much more!

Sign-up to receive this newsletter via e-mail!

Visit www.necchurch.org and click on e-alerts or send a quick e-mail to contactus@necchurch.org.

Thanks!

We asked our congregation to give us feedback on what they want and need from their family members and received over 2,000 responses from adults, students, and children. We've taken that information and will present a sermon series entitled, "Relatively Speaking" in April and May.



Relatively Speaking

Invite your unchurched friends, family and relatives!
Join us for our next six week sermon series entitled
"Relatively Speaking!"

April 22/23
April 29/30
May 6/7 (Derby)
May 13/14

I wish my husband would...
I wish my wife would...
I wish my children would...
I wish my mom would...
(Mother's Day/Baby Dedication)
I wish my grandparents would...
I wish my in-laws would...

May 20/21
May 27/28



What is all this “Abundant Life” stuff anyway?

There has definitely been a buzz about the “Abundant Life” around Northeast the last few months. What exactly is it? At Northeast, we believe that no matter what the circumstance, you can live a life full of peace, joy, purpose and fulfillment . . . that’s what God wants for us.



Jesus said in John 10:10,

“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

We believe that the three essential ingredients are **KNOWING GOD**, **CONNECTING WITH BELIEVERS** and **IMPACTING OUR WORLD**. The preferred path is:

Discover Ask questions and get to know God

Explore Get connected and “kick the tires” to try it out

Life Groups Share life with Christian friends

Equip Know and obey God in a deeper way

Serve Reach out to our community

Reach Share your Abundant Life with unbelieving friends

Start living the **Abundant Life** He has promised you today!



DISCOVER

The primary resource in the Discover phase is our Discovering Northeast (DNE) class. This class is designed to give you information about:

- the mission and values of Northeast
- how good you have to be to get to heaven
- how to become a Christian
- Northeast membership
- the Abundant Life process at Northeast

The next two DNE classes are April 30 and June 11. For more information on the Discovering Northeast class, contact Randy Gordon at 212-5250 or e-mail him at randy.gordon@necchurch.org.



So far in 2006:

- **190** have attended DNE!
- **46** baptisms/decisions!
- **76** new members!



What else do we offer in the Discover phase?

I Object! – looks at some common objections to Christianity

7 Steps to Bible Study Skills – how to read and understand the Bible

Cracking the Da Vinci Code – is this book and soon-to-be movie fact or fiction?

Visit www.necchurch.org to register for these classes.

EXPLORE

Why should you join an Explore group? Read what those who have experienced one have to say:

"Over 200 people are now "exploring" the Abundant Life.

Are YOU ready?!"

"This was THE best experience I have ever had in my ENTIRE CHURCH LIFE."

"I have been ON AND OFF AGAIN with church for the past ten years, but now I'm WAY ON AGAIN AND FIRED UP to take that next step!"

"We are done PRETENDING that we are a Life Group and now we're ready to LIVE IT!"

"This is all I have to say - AWESOME!"

"Thank you for letting me be a part of this LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE!"

"I took Discovering Northeast years ago and didn't get connected. Thanks for introducing Explore groups so I can now!"



Q Just what is an "Explore" group?

A An opportunity to explore the Abundant Life with others through five weeks of a DVD driven curriculum with Northeast ministers teaching.

Q Do I need to be a "Bible Scholar" to be in an Explore Group?

A Absolutely not! The curriculum was designed by Northeast to be used by everyone, regardless of spiritual maturity or Bible knowledge.

Q What's the best way to get connected to an Explore Group?

A Attend the next Discovering Northeast Class which is Sunday, April 30. If you have already attended the class please contact Katie Haller, Explore Ministry Director at 225-6479 or katie.haller@necchurch.org or Julie Berry (Assimilation Team Leader) at 222-9061 or julieberry@insightbb.com.

LIFE GROUPS

"I have been a member at Northeast since 2002. I tried several times to get connected through various activities and small groups. I never gave up and have found a home with my Singles Group on Thursday nights. I am thrilled to be participating in a Life Group that seeks the Abundant Life. Each person in our group offers different perspectives and experiences and I feel each meeting is a new adventure, a time to learn, grow, and develop as a person and as a Christian. God has truly blessed my life by allowing me to be a part of Northeast and a wonderful Life Group that helps me seek my Abundant Life."

Charlene Hoke, member

The Bible shows that Christian life is not meant to be lived in isolation or on your own. Life Groups are small gatherings of people who desire to connect authentically with other believers, grow in their faith, and impact their world together. Choose a group based on your age, interests or zip code...whether you are single, married, divorced or widowed.

If you are not involved in a Life Group yet, give it a try! Real friends. Real faith. Real fun.

To see a complete listing of all current Life Groups please visit www.necchurch.org or contact Mike Mack, at 212-5241 or e-mail him at mike.mack@necchurch.org.





EQUIP

What comes to mind when you hear the word "Equip?"

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "Knowing God?" Put the two together and you have what we call Equipping Experiences at Northeast. Our ministry exists to equip each

individual to know God more, wherever you are on your spiritual path.

"I was considering leaving Christianity until I took a Bible study. After the class, I decided to recommit my life to Christ and to get connected at Northeast."

Northeast Member

Bible Studies

We offer a variety of classes throughout the week and weekend. We have men's, women's, co-ed, parenting, "how to," and young adult/college age as well as a

variety of levels. A complete listing can be found on our web site at www.necchurch.org.

PromiseTowne Children's Program

PromiseTowne is a weekly children's program for ages birth through elementary that runs simultaneously with some Equipping Experiences. PromiseTowne provides children with an opportunity to play, learn and grow in a loving environment while building on their Christian faith.

Life Skill Classes

These include Financial Peace, Don't Look for a Worm in the Apple of Your Eye (marriage), and Bridges (crisis recovery). We will also offer different events, retreats and seminars coming up this Fall. Continue to visit our web site at www.necchurch.org for the most current offerings to meet you where you are in your journey to know God more! Come learn how to experience the Abundant Life!

SERVE

Impacting Our World in Slidell, Louisiana

Imagine losing your spouse and just two weeks later losing your home to a devastating hurricane. That's exactly what happened to Linda Holman, a resident of Slidell, Louisiana.



Linda (third from left) pictured with Northeast's relief team.

While in Slidell immediately after Hurricane Katrina and then during our follow-up relief trip in October, 2005 our team from Northeast met Linda, whose home had been filled with eight feet of water.

It did not take long for our Katrina Relief team to use Linda's story as the driving force behind all we did that week. Our team did a "mud-out" which basically meant that whatever was inside the house needed to be taken outside and hauled away. We stripped the house down to just the studs and exterior walls.

In February and March of this year, our second and third Northeast Katrina Relief teams headed to the Gulf Coast and continued our work on Linda's home. We installed toilets and showers, fixed electrical problems, installed windows, and hung drywall throughout her home. It is our goal to partner with Linda and have her home restored and her moved back in by May 1.

It would be a toss-up to figure out who has been more blessed by the service opportunities in Slidell. Talk to anyone from Northeast who has been on one of the trips and they will share endlessly about how God blessed them through the use of their gifts and abilities to help those in need. Ask Linda about her life since the passing of her husband and the hurricane, and she will tell you how God has blessed her and led her through this personal storm.

When it comes to serving and using our gifts, it is more about AVAILABILITY than it is ABILITY. Too many times we hear people say, "I wish I had something to offer on these service projects." **Make yourself available to God and see what He can do with an open heart and mind and willing hands.** If you are interested and looking for a place to serve in or through Northeast, please call Darin Bennett at 212-5202. To see a complete listing of Serve opportunities, please visit www.necchurch.org.



REACH

Talking to family and friends about Christ . . . easy and safe?

Contrary to what most of us may believe, reaching out to our family and friends for Christ is easy – and it is safe.

One of the values that Northeast Christian Church strives for is presenting the timeless message of Christ in a relevant way. Our weekend services are the primary avenue in which families worship God and apply His truth to their lives. The next sermon series will take a close look at the network of relationships within the family tree. Relatively Speaking will take us where families are and where they should be. Make plans to invite

your family and friends to this six-week series.

If an invitation to the weekend services is too big of a step for you to reach, then take advantage of other ministry opportunities that may be a more appropriate first step: Body & Soul aerobics, Fellowship In Training (running and walking), Memory Keepers (scrapbooking), GuyFest (June 17th), Independence Celebration (July 1st), sports leagues or family movie nights.

When it comes to reaching our family and friends for Christ, all we need to do is make ourselves available to live life and to be used by God. He will stir us to say and do the right things to reach people. It's easy and it's safe.



Balloon Angels – Impacting Our World

It was just three 3 1/2 years ago that Bob stood on the stage at The Palace during our 25th anniversary celebration and challenged 100 Northeast members to make a difference in our world. It was called “Kingdom Assignment” and involved Bob giving each member \$100 and asked them to “pay it forward.” One of the ministries that was born from this assignment is still impacting lives today . . . Balloon Angels.

The mission of Balloon Angels is to provide free helium filled balloons to hospitalized children in the Louisville community. “Our hope is that our gift of a balloon will help to lift a child’s spirits, put a smile on their face and, if only for a little while, help make their stay in the hospital a little brighter place to be,” says Gina McQuillen, President of the organization and Northeast member.

A 14-year-old girl who had been diagnosed with cancer at age 12 had been a recipient of Balloon Angels’ balloons for months. She looked forward to receiving her balloon every Tuesday. Sadly, God called her home in late January, but before she passed away, she decided to make a difference for other children at Kosair Children’s Hospital. For her funeral arrangements, she asked her parents to ask friends and family members to send balloons instead of flowers to the funeral. She asked her parents to donate the balloons to

Balloon Angels so they could take them to other patients at Kosair. Over 200 smiley face and star balloons were delivered to children at Kosair’s because of her request.



Last year alone, Balloon Angels gave out almost 10,000 free balloons to hospitalized children in the Louisville area. If you would like to be part of Balloon Angels, please contact Gina McQuillen at 253-0855. or email gary@balloonangels.org or visit their web site at www.balloonangels.org.





Infants, Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School

Promise Land



Promise Land is where your infants, toddlers and preschoolers start learning about God's love! Infants, crawlers and walkers are located in the nursery annex and two-year-olds are located right inside the children's entrance. Use the stairs near the gym to get to the three to five year old classes. A play-based, teacher directed Bible story program is available for children up to three years. Children 3-5 years of age enjoy small groups, large group teaching, worship and activity centers during all three services.

Coming soon in the 2-year-old room is a new mural painted by Northeast member Michelle Melhorn. They have also just introduced a new puppet ministry!

The Club- not your Mother's Sunday School Class!



The Club is Northeast's program for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade and is located in the Chapel. The Club exists to reach kids, connect them with other Christians, help them walk in their faith, and to challenge them to exercise their gifts in ministry, and worship God through their lifestyle.

The Club weekend service is packed with fun, creative elements to engage your kids. This is not your Mother's Sunday School Class! Our large group teaching time incorporates video, drama, song, and games to present biblical truth (all run by your kids in our tech booth!). In addition to the teaching your kids will participate in small groups with 8-10 other kids their age, led by the same leader all year. This investment in your child is bringing them one step closer to life change.

Throughout the year The Club also provides activities for the kids...Retreats -Parties - Summer Camp -Movies -Workshops and more!

Purpose Driven Starbucks!



Like we need another reason to stop by Starbucks for that grande caramel macchiato! You may have noticed Starbucks provocative quote campaign, "The Way I See It" where writers, scientists, athletes, politicians and musicians are quoted on its coffee cups. Add Rick Warren to that list, author of the best selling book "A Purpose Driving Life." If you haven't seen it already, here's what his quote says:

"You are not an accident. Your parents may not have planned you, but God did. He wanted you alive and created you for a purpose. Focusing on yourself will never reveal your real purpose. You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense. Only in God do we discover our origin, our identity, our meaning, our purpose, our significance and our destiny."

*The Rev. Rick Warren
for Starbucks.*

"Reaching Out!"

A member of Northeast's Saturday morning men's Bible study class had a friend who recently had quadruple bypass surgery and had to miss work for six months. He had no short term disability insurance and had a family to support. This Bible study group created a fund-raiser and raised \$3,000 for him...relieving some of the financial stress brought on by his surgery. This group showed the love of Jesus with an unchurched friend and impacted his life.

This same group also helped one weekend build the Northeast Habitat House.

When is the last time you reached out to someone and impacted their world?



Northeast college student Stasia Dimery will soon be in Africa!

IMPACT



QUEST

Into Africa!

Spending a whole summer in Africa? That sounds crazy, almost as crazy as working with Middle School Students! Stasia Dimery is doing both. While attending school at Northern Kentucky University during the week, Stasia Dimery has also been serving in Student Ministries in some great ways on the weekends. When your student comes to Impact (Middle School program) on Saturday or on Sunday, Stasia greets them with a smile and helps them feel welcome. So because of her great contributions and awesome service, she is off to Kenya!

Stasia has a heart for global missions and has been accepted as a REACH Summer Intern with Christian Missionary Fellowship to (CMF) serve alongside other college students for ten weeks in Northern Kenya. CMF and its missionaries have been targeting the people in Northern Kenya for over 15 years and have established many local Kenyan Congregations. During this time Stasia will help local churches minister to the surrounding areas as they deal with both physical and spiritual needs.

The last weekend in April, Middle School Ministries will be taking a special offering during Saturday and Sunday Impact to support Stasia as she is required to raise her own support for her internship. We are excited for the ways God will use her to reach and love the people of Kenya just like she does here with our Middle Students at Northeast. If you would more information about Impact, CMF or Stasia's trip, please contact Jon Wren at 212-5232 or via e-mail at jon.wren@necchurch.org.

**Other Impact Middle School/
Quest High School News:
Student Ministries Web site
is now live!!**

Log on to www.necchurch.org and click on Middle School or High School for the latest info on upcoming events and activities. Promotion Weekend is June 3rd and 4th, 8th graders move into High School - 5th graders move into Middle School

Calendar of Events

APRIL

- 11 **Get a Life class** (women only)
6:30–8:30pm, Room 203,
(7 weeks)
- 12 **Loved by God** (women only)
6:30–8:30pm, Room 202,
(7 weeks)
- 12 **Go Fish**, Evangelism class,
7:00–8:00pm, Lower Level-6,
(6 weeks)
- 13 **Women's golf lessons** begin
- 15 **Easter Egg Hunt**, 3:30 pm
1 & 2 Chronicles class (men only),
7:30–9:00am, Lower Level-6,
(13 weeks)
- 23 **How to Study the Bible** class,
11:00am, Room 201, (2 weeks)
Spiritual Gifts class,
10:30am, Room 202, (5 weeks)
"Meet the Parents" event
Parent class for May Baby
Dedication
New Life Group Leaders
Basic Training
- 26 **Slaying the Dragon of Lust** class
(men only), 6:30-8:30pm,
(5 weeks)
- 30 **Discovering Northeast** class,
Lower Level

MAY

- 9 **New Life Group Leaders**
Basic Training
- 13–14 **Baby Dedication**
- 19 **Fifth Grade Graduation Party**
- 20 **ServeFest 2006**—"Taking it to
the Streets"
Men's Softball – Tom Sawyer
& Oldham County (TBD)

JUNE

- 1 **Bridges Leadership Training**
begins
- 3 **Fifth graders move** to
Middle School Impact
- 4–9 **Middle School Camp**
at White Mills
- 7 **Cracking the DaVinci Code**–
Fact or Fiction?
6:30pm (4 weeks)
High School summer
mini-event
- 11 **Discovering Northeast** class
- 17 **Guy Fest**
- 17–23 **Christ In Youth (CIY)**
Summer conference
- 18 **New Life Group Leaders**
Basic Training
- 18–23 **4th & 5th grade camp**
at White Mills

JUNE (continued)

- 30 **Middle School**
summer mini-event

Monthly Ongoing Activities

FIT Fitness in Training (Saturdays)

Body & Soul Aerobics
(Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays)

Co-Ed & Men's Softball
(Tom Sawyer and Oldham county TBD)

**For an up-to-date listing of all
Northeast events, including all
on-going classes, please visit**

www.necchurch.org.

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Not Pictured:

Tamara Campbell, Preschool Director

Tony Cansler, Accountant

Katie Haller, Explore Director

Terry Hubbard, Campus Operations Staff

James Niedermeyer, Campus Operations Staff

Mary Ann Owens, Campus Operations Staff



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Eggs and Bunnies... continued

of us have found a forgotten egg behind the couch around May?

Later, the chocolate is washed from small faces, jelly beans hidden in pockets and everyone dresses in new outfits for church. This may be the one time of the year when Mom decides to try a hat. And not just any hat, but a bonnet to block the view of multiple rows behind her. Dad is usually yawning from his early morning adventure outside and anticipating a parking challenge at the church lot.

After church, many gather with family for traditional foods. Hams dripping with glaze are carefully carved. Potato salad, green beans, deviled eggs, and for the finishing touch, perhaps a pineapple upside-down-cake. Ahh...now, that's what I call Easter. Or, is it?

What happened to Jesus? How did we get bunnies, eggs and all the other symbols for this Resurrection Sunday celebration?

I decided to do what any 21st Century techie would do and explore the internet for possible answers to my questions. I was dismayed to find numerous explanations and some were quite revealing. I focus on the warm traditions and the accepted symbolism of Christ we find in our Easter ways. So, here are a few "facts" about the fun:

The Egg: Called the perfect container, it symbolizes the beginning of life. During spring festivals in ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome colored eggs were dyed, eaten and given as gifts. Christians of the Near East, then Western Europe adopted this tradition adding that it symbolized the open tomb and new life of the risen Jesus.

The Bunny: According to an old German story, a poor woman hid some brightly colored eggs in her garden as Easter treats for children. While the children were searching, a hare hopped past. The children thought that

the hare had left the eggs. So every Easter, children would make nests of leaves and branches in their gardens for the hare.

The Easter Lily: This brilliant white flower represents purity and the radiance of the Risen Christ. The trumpet shape represents the triumphant announcement of his resurrection.

Easter Outfits: In the Early Church, those who were baptized at the Easter service wore white robes as a symbol of their new life in Christ. Those who had been baptized in years prior wore new clothes to indicate their sharing in the new life in Christ. In Europe during the Middle Ages, people in their new clothes took long walks after the service and this evolved into what we know now as Easter Parades.

So, there you have it. Don your best clothes, hunt those eggs, eat the chocolate bunnies and don't forget the One who gives us the best Easter gift – Life Abundant in Jesus.

Coming June 7! Cracking the DaVinci Code Fact or Fiction?

The DaVinci Code starring Tom Hanks hits theatres May 19. Your unchurched friends and family will be talking about it. The whole country will be talking about it. What do you know about this book and soon-to-be movie and how can you use this as an opportunity to talk about Jesus with your unchurched friends and family members? Sign-up for this class and find out! Visit www.necchurch.org to register.

Abundant Life!
KNOWING • CONNECTING • IMPACTING

NE NORTHEAST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

9900 Brownsboro Road
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Staff Offices:

13309 Magisterial Drive
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Three identical Services:

Saturdays, 5:00pm
Sundays, 9:15am & 11:00am*
(*interpreted for the hearing impaired)

Our Mission:

"To team with God in turning unchurched people into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

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