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\* Ministers \*  
**Brandon Johnson**  
Preaching

**Cliff Craig**  
Ministries

*Student & Family*

\* Elders \*  
**Thurman Edwards**  
**Wayne Grisso**  
**Paul Lofton**  
**Nicki Peltier**  
**Darrell Roe**  
**Mike Shelburne**  
**Gary Smith**  
**Wayne Stephens**  
**Larry Stillwell**

\* Deacons \*  
**James Childers**  
**Troy German**  
**Neal Martin**  
**Rick McCaslin**  
**John Plumb**  
**Tom Snodgrass**  
**Chase Townley**

**May 10, 2020 Vol XXXVIII #19**

**TODAY**



Join us in Worship thru YouTube.com, search "Northridge Church of Christ Media," or Facebook northridgecofc: 9:55am Sunday

**COMING UP**

Mark Your Calendars

June 7-12 - Camp Rock Creek - **Canceled**

June 14-20 - SoulQuest

June 28-July 1 - VBS

**NEWS**

**Yes, You May Meet**

A few folks have met at the church building (West Wing) to visit, pray, etc. So, yes, it's possible - for SHARE, family, friends, planning, etc. We ask that you follow all public guidelines: social distance (keeping the numbers down to be able to do so), wear a mask, disinfect the surfaces (tables, kitchen) that you use. Gatherings are still unadvised for ages 65 and older and those with vulnerable conditions.

Tables are set up in the West Wing to accommodate distancing. If you plan to meet with others here, please schedule with the office to avoid arriving at the same time as another group. Outside of all that, enjoy the times!

**Eyewitness Series – Gospel of LUKE**

A few of you may be following my "Luke's Jesus" adult class study on our church YouTube sight. I found a uniquely interesting series on Right Now Media called "Eyewitness Bible Series - Luke." Many persons you meet in Luke are portrayed by actors fleshing out their stories through what is known in history about those kinds of people. In this way, 20 videos, 12 to 18 minutes in length, teach much background to the gospel stories which makes Jesus' ministry come alive. I've added this series to the Northridge Channel which you can find thru the RNM home page by clicking on Northridge in the "Listings" on the left side of the screen. (Don't try clicking on the Northridge logo at the top.) I've also posted other selections on the NR channel for adults, teens, and kids. Check it out.

**Sandy Helm** - Sent a thank you card for everyone's prayers, cards, visits, and messages encouraging her these last 4 months. **Thank You**

**PRAYER NEWS**

**Polly Killing** - Just to let y'all know...Polly's doing well. Pain seems to be under control. She found out she has MRSA in her knee & said "it was in her IV, too." To me, it sounds as if she either has infection at the IV site or will have it due to MRSA. Said they were going to put in a port in her arm "like last time" so she would have several days of antibiotics. She does have her cell phone now so you can call it instead of the hospital.

**Lance McDaniels** - Had knee surgery. Everything went well and he is back at home.

**Thank You**

To the person(s) who applied the weed kill on and around the parking lot. Much better!

**Visit our new revamped website:**

**northridge.family**

You can find our YouTube videos, and there is now a giving page where you can make online contributions, and more.

## Beating on Trees With Bare Ax Handles

“To a large extent, we are going around beating on trees with bare ax handles. At intervals, under the suspicion that it is not getting the job done, we call for strategy conferences on how to make our ax handles more effective or how to improve our swing. We take a census of the trees, motivate the wood choppers, declare that this is the day for felling forests, and with polished ax handles and persuasive personnel, we embark toward the woods. But, alas, though the noise of these workmen is great, the sound of falling trees is missing. There is movement without might, energy expended without effectiveness, much doing but little dynamic! There is little to show after all is done but bruised hands, tired bodies, and wounded trees.

“What is missing? Why, the ax head, of course - the cutting edge of it all. But what is the ax head of the church? It is the life of God in Christ released in our world through the work of the Holy Spirit! Our bodies, and the larger body, the church, with all our abilities and programs are but handles on which swings the ax head of His life. The ax head is what we must recover.” - Jack Taylor.

We might deny it, but our religious heritage has denied the Holy Spirit. We have relegated Him to the “stuff in the Bible I don’t understand,” an extreme doctrine claimed by over-wrought religionists, or a ghost hanging around representatively through the Word. He once did miraculous works, groaned for some people in some prayers or some such thing, had the apostles write down scriptures and then apparently phased out.

The Word of God tells a different story. The prophets of old promised a new and special presence of the Spirit ((Isa 44:3; Eze 36:25-27; Joel 2:28-29) as they looked to the covenant made by Christ. We have not listened to Christ when we overlook His promises of the richness of the Spirit (Mk 1:7-8; Jn 4:7-14, 7:37-39). We have left ourselves weak by selectively throwing out the very statements Jesus made promising to send the Helper, Comforter, Strengtheners (John 14-15-16, see 14:16-18, 25-27 and 16:13-15). We read Acts for examples of baptisms, almost blind to the Holy Spirit as God’s gift to His people providing boldness, joy, and goodness (Acts 2:38, 5:32, 6:3, 11:22-24, 13:52). We have tried to explain away Paul’s indwelling of the Spirit (Rom 8:9-11; 1 Cor 6:19) as metaphorical. Not figuring out how a Spirit can indwell us, we dropped the whole idea.

Many Christians need a second look - and a first encounter - with the Holy Spirit. He is not a false doctrine; He is divine. Since we are to have the “mind of the Spirit,” the “fruit of the Spirit,” and are to be “led” and “sanctified” by the Spirit, are to “walk” and “live by the Spirit,” and be “strengthened with power in the inner man by the Spirit,” we must know the Spirit!

Think of it like this. God, Deity, the Lord, the Godhead, Trinity (as we vainly search for terms big enough!) is Spirit. Not made of nuts and bolts, nor atoms and chemicals, nor skin and bones. He is Spirit. His nature, His mindset, His every thought and action is Holy. He is Holy Spirit. As the Father, as the Son, and as self-described - the Holy Spirit.

And think of it like this. Jesus of Nazareth said He was leaving, but would be with His disciples always (Matt 28: 18-20). He would be with us by sending His Holy Spirit - His essence, Himself indwelling believers (Rom 8:9-11). Jesus is gone, but not away!

Let us not be found like some believers. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ And they said to him, ‘No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit’” (Acts 19:2). We’ve heard. We must desire and accept. Pick up the ax head. - Cliff



### Foreign Missions

**Coordinator** - Larry Stillwell  
**Ecuador**

Quito (Ecuador) International  
School of Biblical Studies  
Hugo Sandoval, Cayambe, Ecuador

**World Bibles** - Paul Lofton

**Treasurer** - Randy Waters

**Church Office Manager** - Marsha Rowley

SUN: Worship Assembly	10:00-11:05AM
Bible Studies for All Ages	11:15-12:00PM
SHARE Groups	Afternoon
WED: Bible Classes	7:00 PM
THURS: Bible Study	6:30 AM

### *One Week Ago*

Contribution: \$3478.66

Average Contribution: \$6148.80