

koinonia

April 2023

Waiting In Faith From Pastor Brandon

It has been a bit since we have given an update on the CEC project and I know that many have questions and possibly anxieties about where we are. Several years ago we began a project on our property that would be named the Billy and Betty Shoffner Christian Education Center. Our slogan for this project was/is “Building in Faith.”

This was largely in part due to our decision to build this facility that will house a gymnasium and classrooms

debt free. Much has changed since we prayerfully began this project. We have had many “opportunities” to exhibit the faith God’s Word calls us to. Few of these opportunities have been wanted or comfortable, but each has pressed us further into Jesus and blessed us with situations in which we have been able to walk in obedience to His Word.

This time of waiting has honed us as a people and forced us to wait patiently upon the Lord. I know that not everyone has shared every struggle or concern. I know that there have been those who haven’t waivered in their faith as we have waited. There have also been those who have faithfully given, even through times when we have not had progress to be seen. I thank God for those who have faithfully prayed and given toward this project over the last several years! This season of waiting has also caused some to question our goal or the principles on which we have committed to achieve it. Times and situations have changed and presented new questions and concerns. I also thank God for those who have struggled alongside us as times of waiting and trusting have been painful! Regardless of how you have walked this season out, there is a truth that we must learn and cling to. “They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” –Isaiah 40:31

We have a choice in this time of waiting. We can look for a building to be finished or we can look for the Lord and what He has for us today. Have you grown weary of waiting? This could mean that you are waiting on the wrong thing. When we wait upon the Lord, our strength is renewed. Waiting on any other thing has the opposite effect. I have experienced both sides of this in our efforts to finish the CEC. I have had times of immense faith that have kept me steadfastly fixed on the work of Christ in the now, and times in which I

have grown weary, crying out to the Lord, “Why can’t we catch a break?!” But the Lord has been gracious to us and merciful at every turn. He has dealt lovingly with us and sustained us in times of need. He has been faithful to us, never leaving us or forsaking us. He alone has done every good work that we have seen in our

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church. He is not far from us, and He is working to accomplish His will for Northside Christian Center.

In this season of waiting, I have been reminded of Psalm 40. The Psalmist begins: "I waited patiently for the Lord, and he turned to me and heard my cry for help." I would encourage you to read the entirety of this Psalm and further consider our season of waiting. Not only will He renew our strength as we wait, but He will hear our cry and turn toward us. I fully believe that He allows seasons of waiting in the lives of believers so that He might receive every praise for the good He does in, through, and for us.

Currently, we have a building shell that is waiting to be filled with AC/Electrical/Plumbing/

Upcoming Events:

**Family Life Event
- April 16th**

**Ministry Leader Meeting -
April 23rd**

**NCC's 62nd Anniversary
Celebration - May 21st**

Interior Framing/etc. We have updated plans for the addition of a second story and everything that goes with that. Because of the issues we have had with our current worship facility, the CEC will become our new church facility. We have the updated plans to accomplish this and are prayerfully looking to hire a contractor to begin work to complete this project. Finances are keeping us from moving forward with the completion at this point. We have around \$540,000 in the bank that is allocated for the CEC project. We still need an estimated \$800,000 to finish the project. Pray together that the Lord will provide a contractor that will see this project finished, as well as givers who will come along-

side to ensure that we have all that we need to finish. You may also pray that we can get things worked out with the insurance company regarding our current worship facility because that settlement could provide the funds for finishing the CEC project. We do not look to an insurance company or windfall to provide for us, though. We look to the Lord who can accomplish these things as soon as He is ready. Any way we look at it, we are in a season of waiting.

As we wait together, let us not do so in hopes of having a finished project, but in the hope that God would be glorified in how we finish. Let's wait upon Him and enjoy the blessings and promises therein. Let's cry out to the Lord together, not from despair, but knowing that He alone can accomplish the work He has begun in His church. Let's hopefully look for renewed strength and resolve to love and serve the Lord in this time of waiting and look forward to the testimony of His great work on our behalf! And let's wait with unwavering faith that the Lord will work all of this out for His glory and our good.

Jehovah-Jireh
From Pastor Scott

:::This article was sent to our NCA families and we wanted it to encourage you as well:::

So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Gen 22:14 ESV

In Genesis 22, God asks what would seem to be the unthinkable of Abraham. Isaac, Abra-

ham's only son, was a miracle child born according to the word of the Lord to his 90-year-old wife. God had promised Abraham he would make a great nation of his descendants and that through his descendants the whole earth would be blessed. Abraham received this promise long before Isaac was born. But now. With Isaac around 14 years old, God speaks to Abraham:

He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." Genesis 22:2 ESV

Abraham, believing God, obeyed God and headed out on the journey. Once Abraham had arrived at the mountain God showed him, he built an altar, bound Isaac and laid him on the altar, and reached back to offer him as a sacrifice to the Lord. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." Gen 22:11-14 ESV

Abraham's obedience led him to a place where he was able to see God's provision for himself, for Isaac, and for all the nations of the earth. Over the last few months, I have watched as the Lord has provided for ministry here at Northside. Last spring, we clearly heard the Lord telling us to remove the tuition requirement for families at NCA. Through much prayer and discussion among our elders, the Lord brought us to the place of obedience. And now, three quarters into this school year, God has shown us His provision in every way. We are seeing great spiritual and academic growth in our students. We have not lacked to pay even one bill or paycheck. In every way we have had everything we need to do what He has called us to do. What a faithful God we serve!

Thank you to all of you who have given to this ministry. God has used you to make possible the ministry that continues to happen every day. Please continue to pray for all aspects of ministry at Northside and please continue to give as the Lord speaks to you. I pray that through your obedience God will reveal himself to you as Jehovah-Jireh just as he did to Abraham.

A Word on Worship

From Pastor Scott

And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Gen 22:7 ESV

In Genesis 22, we find this great story of the faith and obedience of Abraham. I encourage you to pause reading this article and read Genesis 22 if you are not familiar with this story. As Abraham and Isaac are on their way to the place God told Abraham to go, Isaac makes an important observation. Isaac, about 14 years old at the time, notices that they have wood

and fire in hand, but there is no lamb. It is clear at this point that this is not the first time Abraham has taken Isaac to worship the Lord. This is something they have done together on a regular basis. They have a habit of worshiping the Lord together.

As families in the 21st century, we all have our routines. We all have our regular schedule that allows us to keep up with all the busyness of the world around us. Does your routine include time set aside for family worship? Do you make time to set aside everything that calls for your attention and worship the Lord together? Family worship is an important element in spiritual development for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren. It is time the Lord can use to form us into true worshipers.

I pray you see the importance of developing a habit of personal worship, of family worship, as well as a habit of corporate worship. God uses each of them to form us into the image of Christ. I pray you will make a priority to guard and develop these worship habits in your life and family. Look of our Word on Worship next month when we discuss some of the elements of these times of worship.

Giving Update

We continue to praise the Lord for His faithfulness to provide for this church through the generous giving of church and school families as well as friends of the ministry and those who have been blessed by our church and school throughout the years. Our weekly reports have shown that we can depend on the Lord for every need that arises. Currently, we have no major outstanding needs but are looking for the Lord to help take care of a new development. One of our insurance premiums through Church Mutual has increased significantly. This increase has given us a larger first payment than normal. Pray with us for the Lord's provision for this unforeseen increase.

We are still in the process of doing needed repairs and upgrades to our current worship facility. Our building fund seems to be maintaining its level with these projects, but with any aging building, we will likely continue to have needs arise regarding our facilities. Pray with us that our facilities will hold together and that the Lord provides for any needs that arise regarding our facilities. Our building fund receives a small percentage of the tithes and offerings that come into our church each week. This fund grows in times in which we aren't having to make repairs or upgrades and can dip down when we are making repairs to our facilities. It is currently sitting at around \$12,000. Banning a major repair job such as an AC unit replacement, this fund should continue to take care of our facility needs without dipping too low.

Finally, we will have opportunities to give throughout the summer. Vacation Bible School will come with costs for the ministry being done, especially as we feed the children and workers each night. We will have fundraising happen for youth camp as well. Prayerfully consider whether the Lord would have you give toward these important ministries as He blesses you. Thank you for the continued prayers for our finances.

–Pastor Brandon

The chart below reflects giving through the month of March. If you have any questions about giving or finances, feel free to call the church office and we'll make time to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have. (903) 693-6366

NCC Projected Expenses

August 2022-July 2023

■ Given ■ Still Needed

