

March 2025

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						Against the Flow
2 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Sacrament of the Lord's Supper 10:30 am Against the Flow Evening Service 6 pm		Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Ladies' Book Study 9:30 am Session Meeting 6 pm	Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	Ladies' Book Study (Dunn Home) 1 pm WIC Prayer Time (Madeja Home)	Readers Game Night 6:30 pm (HILL Home)	
9 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6pm	Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am Ladies' Book Study 9:30 am Ladies Creative Night 7 pm	Spring Break No Wednesday Activities	Ladies' Book Study (Dunn Home) 1 pm		
16 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	Youth Fellowship 6 pm (Elliott Home)	Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	Ladies' Book Study (Dunn Home) 1 pm WIC Prayer Time (Madeja Home)	Parent's Night Out 5:30 pm	
23 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Evening Service 6 pm	Men's Book Study 7 pm (Madeja Home)	Men's Prayer Breakfast 6 am	Wednesday Night Activities 5:30 pm	Ladies' Book Study (Dunn Home) 1 pm		Men's Monthly Fellowship Breakfast 8 am
30 Sunday School 9:30am Morning Worship 10:30 am Fifth Sunday Gatherings No Evening Service						

NORTHPOINTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



March 2025

From the Pastor

What to Pray for Your Officers, Present and Future

Prayer is the pulse of the Christian. When a person has been placed under anesthetics while in surgery their heartbeat is constantly being monitored. It is important to check for a pulse because a pulse helps determine the presence of life. So also, those who have been given new spiritual life, those regenerated and “made alive together with Christ,” will have the heartbeat of prayer. God’s people are praying people. Sometimes we are more consistent in prayer and sometimes less. Sometimes we know what to pray for and sometimes we don’t. However you are doing in your prayer life, prayer is a mark of the Christian life (see Luke 18:1 and 1 Thess 5:17).

Prayer is a vital part of the ministry of officers in Christ’s Church for his people. Elders and deacons ought to pray frequently and firmly for the people whom they are called to serve. This is in following the example of Jesus, when he prayed that Peter’s faith would not fail (Luke 22:31-32). Then, we find in Scripture that prayer ought to flow in two directions. *Officers ought to pray for their people; and the people ought to pray for their officers.* In each of his letters to the church in Thessalonica, Paul asks the believers to pray for him and those ministering with him—“Brothers, *pray for us*” (1 Thess 5:25, 2 Thess 3:1). Hebrews 13:18 calls for the same thing. As we move through nominating and electing new elders to serve the people of Northpointe, I thought it would be appropriate to remind us of this call to prayer.

You ought to pray for your officers, both those presently serving and those who will serve you in the future. One of my joys as a Christian father is the opportunity to pray with my children—prayer that sometimes includes praying for any future spouse of

my children. I cannot be certain that any or all of my children will get married one day. But I get to pray that if they do that their future spouse will love the Lord and seek to live out his or her faith in the home. I don’t know who my children’s future spouse might be, but I can pray to the God who does know. Likewise, we may not know at this moment who exactly the Lord is calling to serve as elders, but we can pray to the God who does—praying for them on their behalf. I will use the space remaining to highlight things for which to pray for your officers, both present and future. The below is a non-exhaustive starting point.

What to Pray

First, pray for the holiness of your elders. When Paul asks the believers to pray for him and fellow leaders in 1 Thess 5:25, it comes on the heels of his prayer for the complete sanctification of the believers. With sanctification in mind, Paul then asks the brothers to pray for him. Your elders are to be godly men, “above reproach,” “lover[s] of good, self-controlled, upright, holy,” and “gentle” (Titus 1:7, 8, 1 Tim 3:3). They are called to be men who love the Lord and seek to live lives of holiness as the Spirit continues to sanctify them. Pray for them to this end. Pray for their sexual purity, yes, and purity throughout the whole of their lives. Pray for their faith in Christ to stand firm to the end in the face of all manner of trials, temptations, and sorrows.

Second, pray for the witness and fruitfulness of your elders. In 2 Thess 3:1, when Paul asks for prayer, he adds, “that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored.” Elders are to be faithful

stewards of the mysteries of God. Both in word and in deed, officers are always ministering in the name of Christ and on his behalf—doing so as yet weak vessels, flawed, those still being sanctified. Pray that your elders would be faithful, bold witnesses on behalf of Christ and fruitful in their ministry among you, that they might be “the aroma of Christ” (2 Cor 2:15). Pray for their conversations and counsels, that they might be useful to God and effective among you.

Third, pray for your elders’ love for Christ and his sheep. Rick Phillips writes, “A man can only succeed as an elder if he develops a love for the people of God that comes from the greater love of Jesus.” Love for the flock of Christ must be the singular motive for ministering in his name and any sense of a desire to minister in his name. In his conversation with Peter, Jesus ties together love for Jesus with caring for the sheep (John 21:15-17). Pray that your officers might serve among you for the purpose of pleasing Christ and not man (*please!* this is a sneaky temptation for all officers and those nominated to office).

Fourth, pray for your elders in their homes. Serving as an officer demands sacrifices on time and resources. It can be spiritually and physically frustrating and exhausting at times. Pray for your elders’ wives who support them. Pray for warm and fruitful hospitality. Pray that your elders would lead spiritually in the home with godly fervor, urgency, gentleness, and dignity (1 Tim 3:4-5). Pray that they would always bring to bear the gospel and the grace of Christ in all their interactions and conversations in the home, as they lead in demonstrating repentance, forgiveness, humility, and devotion to Christ.

Pastor Kevin Vollema

Northpointe Presbyterian Church
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MISSIONS MINUTE Update from Taylor Family — Wycliffe Bible Translators

Dear praying friends,

Thanks for all your prayers! I was able to spend about 10 days in Canada (complements of my frequent flyer miles) to visit our children and grandchildren, meet our newest grandchild, and visit one of our partnering churches in Calgary. It was great to spend some time with them.

The translation training workshop for Translation Consultants-in-Training earlier this month was appreciated and well received by the participants. This was our first attempt at a workshop like this and there were many positive comments, along with a few suggestions for improvement, in the participants' evaluations. Thank you for your prayers for that!

I went for two weeks in South Asia, where I taught at a translation training workshop for Asian Translation Consultants-in-Training with a long-term Asian ministry partner. This was a time of learning and fellowship for the participants.

Related to travel, please join us in asking the Lord for wisdom regarding whether to

repair or replace the old vehicles we are currently driving. I've done some repair work myself recently and paid for some other repair work, but I'm not sure how much more time and money to put into our '03 Odyssey (which is a very nice car with sentimental value, just old).

I'm also involved in helping to plan an exciting new translation project in a sensitive country in Southeast Asia that is currently scheduled to start in April. Please ask the Lord to give all of us who are involved in these workshops and projects wisdom and grace as we plan, prepare, and participate in these opportunities!

Thank you for your prayers for Karen as she works to support Mexico translators and translation projects in her role as the SIL Mexico Branch Translation Project Funding Coordinator!

Thank you for asking the Lord to provide the funds that we need to live and minister here and abroad! The Lord blessed us with many regular and extra gifts to Wycliffe on our behalf in December, so that we ended the year with 95% of the minimum

amount that Wycliffe expects us to receive for the year.

Please continue to pray for Karen and me, and our children and grandchildren, that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit and continually becoming more like Jesus.

Please reply and let us know how we can be specifically praying for you.

Thank you again for your prayers and partnership with us in getting God's Word to the ethnic minority people of Asia, Africa, and the Americas! You are making a difference in our lives and their lives.

We pray that the Lord will continue to bless, guide, protect, and provide for you and your family this month and throughout 2025!

Rob and Karen

Wycliffe Bible Translators
PO Box 628200
Orlando, FL 32862

REMINDERS

- ◆ *Elder Nominations* close **March 2**.
- ◆ The *Lord's Supper* will be observed during morning worship on Sunday, **March 2**.
- ◆ Men's Prayer Breakfast dates for this month are **March 4, 11, 18, & 25** at 6 am.
- ◆ The next Reader's Game Night is **March 7**, at 6:30 pm. [Hill Home]
- ◆ *Women's Prayer Times* this month are at 7 pm, on **March 6 and 20** in the home of Carmel Madeja [420 Eastwood Street].
- ◆ The *Men's Book Study* dates are: **March 10 and 24** at 7 pm. [Madeja Home].
- ◆ *Parents' Night Out* will be **March 21, from 6-9 pm** Please make sure to pick up your children by 9 pm.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Northpointe Youth! We will have youth fellowship at 5323 Linmoor Drive, Marion on **March 17**, at 6pm, for supper, games, and a devotional. We look forward to seeing you all here!

LADIES' CREATIVE NIGHT

All Northpointe ladies are invited to an evening of fellowship, food and creative fun! Cindy Kiple will be hosting this event in her home (1619 32nd Street) on Tuesday, **March 11** at 7 pm. The project will be collaging on bottles which is easy and fun! All supplies will be provided unless you have a particular jar or bottle you would like to bring. Snacks will be provided as well. Please RSVP to Cindy Kiple as we need to know how many people to prepare for.

CHURCH-WIDE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

For Men - Northpointe is implementing a Bible study for residents at Aldersgate to be held once a month. We are asking for volunteers to teach a half-hour study with prayer. Study materials would be provided by Northpointe.

For Men and Women - We are asking for volunteers to visit with the residents at Aldersgate on a monthly basis. The director of the home would be giving you the name of one or two residents who would benefit from a regular visit, or you can take time in the lobby and visit with anyone needing a friendly ear to listen. They enjoy games, singing, listening to music, piano, coloring, art activities, etc.

For Men, Women, Youth, and Families - The Memory Care Unit at The Preserve is looking for help in ministering to their residents. We are looking volunteers to visit once a month to spend time with one or more residents. They enjoy sharing stories and listening to yours, having a book read, coloring, etc. Weekly activities include Bingo, Dominoes, Bridge, and finger painting. If you play an instrument, please consider bringing it and playing for the group. Visitation is from 9 am to 3 pm daily.

This is an opportunity to share God's Word with men and women unable to attend a church.

If you are able to participate, please sign-up on the bulletin board in the church lobby and Carmel will contact you and answer any questions you have about serving.

FIFTH SUNDAY SHEPHERDING GROUP GATHERINGS

Please mark your calendars. March has five Sundays, so Shepherding Groups will be having a special time of Fellowship, **March 30**, instead of gathering for evening worship. Please watch your emails for details.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Rebekah Thaggard
- 6 Mason Kiefer
- 10 Gary Morrow
- 12 Micah Hoskins
- 18 Kary Whitehead
- 19 Mary Claire Whitehead
- 21 Becca Tulip
- 23 Macyn Aull
- 30 Susan Thaggard

2024 FOURTH QUARTER & YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

The Lord continues to bless our church in many ways, including financially. Give thanks and praise to God for His goodness to us. And thank you for your generous and cheerful giving!

Fourth Quarter (October - December 2024)

Tithes and Offerings:	\$279,043
Expenses:	\$123,874

Annual (January - December 2024)

Tithes and Offerings:	\$758,846
Expenses:	\$473,636

The 2025 Budget has been set at **\$596,350** during the annual Joint Officers meeting in December. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or would like a copy of the 2025 Budget.

Please note that the income includes tithes, benevolences and other designated givings. The expenses include what was given to missionaries, local ministries, the PCA agencies, our Presbytery, and benevolent gifts to those in need.