

An Unwelcomed Visit

I hate him. He is mean and ugly and I hate him with all of my being. It had been years since I had encountered him and his absence had been delightful. But last week he returned, and once again I remembered just how much I hate him. I wish I would never have to see him again, but I cannot escape the reality that he will most assuredly walk back into my life at some point and steal my joy.

His name is Death and ever since the Fall of Man described in Genesis 3 he has been our ugliest nemesis and our greatest fear. Even when he seems far away, just the fact he exists changes our behavior in subtle, yet profound ways.

My most recent encounter with him came a week ago as our oldest dog, Jessie, had to be put down. Her passing ripped a gaping hole in my heart and reminded me of how much I hate Death. He is a thief who slowly, but surely, takes away the things that matter most to me: my family, my friends, and even my beloved pets.

In the midst of my pain last week, one thought that kept me sane was knowing that Jesus will one day destroy Death. Jesus has convinced me of this by rising from the dead himself. His own resurrection stands as an example of what he will eventually do for all of those in Christ.

The depth of this truth is one we have sometimes failed to comprehend. Several books, including most recently N.T. Wright's, *Surprised by Hope*, have opened my eyes to what the Bible really teaches about death, resurrection, and the afterlife. Wright points out that for most Christians, we believe Jesus has *redeemed* death, meaning turned death into a good thing. In other words, it is often believed death is good because the Christian passes into her final home with God. But that's not what the Bible says. Instead we still await the coming resurrection when Jesus will not *redeem* death, but *conquer* death. The apostle Paul writes, **"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'**

'Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

Notice that Paul writes in the future tense. He does not deny that death still stings and has its victories. Our hope comes from knowing that when Christ returns death will be conquered and give up those it has taken from us (i.e., resurrection).

So Death, go ahead and have your victories. Pierce our hearts with your sting. You will not win. Jesus beat you once and he is coming back soon to finish you off for good. Then we'll never be troubled by your ugly face again.

Curtis Williams

North Pointe Adult Bible Classes

Sunday mornings,
9:30 to 10:15 a.m.



"God Walks With Man: A study of the book of Genesis"

Teacher: Bill Mustin

Location: Cafetorium

Dates: January 4 – March 29 (13 Lessons)

Two New Classes

Starting Sunday, February 15

"Instructions for the Game of Life"

Teacher: Billy George

Location: A Hall

Dates: February 15 – March 29 (7 Lessons)

"Groups: The Life-Giving Power of Community"

Teacher: Spencer Akins

Location: C Hall

Dates: February 15 – March 29 (7 Lessons)

North Pointe Ministry Staff

Matt Lee, Youth Minister

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Beverly Ritz, Children's Minister

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Dr. Curtis Williams, Preaching Minister

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North Pointe Support Staff

Tammi Omer, Administrative Assistant

(Office) 972-675-8500 ext. 1
Tammi@northpointecofc.org

Sunday morning schedule

Bible classes.....9:30 am
Worship service.....10:30 am

North Pointe Shepherds

Mike Campbell

(Home) 972-475-2699
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Doug Priebe

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Church Office Information

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Sachse, TX 75048
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North Pointe Web Page

www.northpointecofc.org



"Pointing People to Real Life"

February 8, 2009

Order of Worship

Song: *Doxology*

Song: *Give Thanks to the Lord*

Scripture Reading: Psalm 57:9-11

Welcome & Call to Worship

Song: *I Keep Falling in Love With Him*

Song: *Covenant of Love*

Song: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Song: *The Steadfast Love of the Lord*

Lord's Supper

Song: *You Are My All in All*

Song: *God Is So Good*

Offering

(Children's Offering* and children dismissed to Children's Worship**)

Song: *Unto Thee, O Lord*

Song: *Listen to Our Hearts*

"Face-to-Face With God"***

Message: "Loving Lavishly"

Song: *Boundless Love*

Family News

(Parents dismissed to pick up children from Children's Worship**)

Song: *My Life Is In You, Lord*

New to North Pointe and have children?

Children are an important part of the North Pointe church. For this reason we offer the following opportunities for children during our worship service:

Nursery: A staffed nursery with pagers for parents, is provided during the worship service. The nursery for babies, toddlers and two year olds is located in E Hall past the restrooms. A separate, non-staffed nursery is also available for parents to use as needed.

***Children's Offering:** To teach our children the discipline of giving we provide them an opportunity to contribute in a visible way. This money is used for various ministries.

****Children's Worship:** Because children have their own unique level of learning and expression we offer a special worship period for children 3 years of age through 2nd grade. Children are dismissed to Children's Worship following the Children's offering.

*****What is "Face to Face with God"?**

This time during our worship service allows three opportunities for personal prayer. You may: 1) remain in your seat and spend time privately praying to God, 2) go to the back of the cafetorium where a member of our prayer team will pray for you or with you, privately and in confidentiality concerning your prayer request, or 3) come to the front row of seats with your public prayer request where the prayer leader will include your request in his prayer concluding this period.

North Pointe News

New Baby

Congratulations to **Bob** and **Sue McDonald** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Skylar Rose Fegan**. She was born Wednesday, February 4 at 10:20 p.m. She weighed 9 lbs. 7 oz. and is 21" long. The proud parents are, **Chris** and **Kendall Fegan**.

Today

Praise Team Meeting

12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the church office

Future Events

Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, February 11

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Home of **Deanna Priebe**
316 Love Bird Lane, Murphy

Come and Go Bridal Brunch

Honoring **Kathleen Spivey**, bride-elect of **Matt Lee**

Saturday, February 21

10:30 to 12:00 p.m.

Home of **Geri Wyatt**
5606 Lena Judd, Sachse
Kathleen and **Matt** are registered at
Bed, Bath & Beyond, and Target.

Grandparents/Grandkids Rocket Blast

Friday, May 15

Home of **Richard** and **Linda Knox**

"... so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe ..."
Philippians 2:15



Today

Leadership Training for Christ

Today is the last day to fill out your registration form for LTC. Please register at the table in the back. Cost is \$30 which covers the cost of registration, t-shirt, and awards plaque.

Chorus Practice

3:15 to 4:00 p.m. at the church office

Bible Bowl

4:15 to 5:15 p.m. at the church office

Future Events

Father/Son Event, "A Pirate's Life for Me"

Friday, March 6

Safe Place Training

Sunday, March 29

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the church office.

All volunteers/teachers who work with children and teens must attend.

All Church Picnic

Easter Egg Hunt and Kid's Art Auction

Sunday, April 5

Family Rocket Blast

Friday, April 3 (note date change)

Home of **Richard** and **Linda Knox**

For families with kids up to the 5th grade

Kid's Kamp

June 14 - 17

Crocodile Dock

Where fearless kids shine God's light

Camp Impact

June 28 - July 2

Beverly Ritz

North Pointe Youth Ministry

Today

Leadership Training for Christ

Last day to register! Cost is \$30.

Bible Bowl

4:15 to 5:15 p.m. at the church office

Drama Practice

2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Home of **Randall** and **Audrey Wallace**

210 Towngate, Wylie

This Week

Teen Pointe Group

Wednesday, February 11

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Home of **Mike** and **Frances Campbell**

6006 Pleasant Valley Road, Wylie

Future Events

"Sing Song" at Abilene Christian University

February 20 - 22

Register and pay by today.

High school only

Cost \$25.00 (no scholarships)

Teen Parent Meeting

March 1

Parents of teens 5th through 12th grade

Burger Island

6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Matt Lee

Record for Sunday, February 1

Worship Attendance: 182

General Offering: \$3,195.25

Children's Offering: \$ 21.49

Future Facility Fund \$ 300.00