

Northeast Park BAPTIST CHURCH

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Ministerial Musings

Are you striving for holiness, or are you misusing the grace of God?

Week after week I strive with everything that is within me to proclaim the good news that God has done the work to pay the penalty for our sin. I declare with confidence that we are saved by God's grace through faith, and it is not our works that set us free. I point out to you that you will continue to falter. I try to encourage you (and myself) by showing you that God will always forgive his children. This is the good news. How are you applying it in your own personal life?

There is a temptation to think in our minds that if God forgives all our sin, then we really do not need to worry about the sin that remains in our life. We admit we ought not sin, but we quickly satisfy ourselves with the reminder of the "amazing grace" of our loving, heavenly Father. The problem occurs when we stop with this line of thinking and do not continue to strive against the sin in our lives. We truly must strive to kill the sin that is within us and run from it. Paul wrote in 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8:

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (ESV)

If you know there is sin present in your life, know that Christ died to forgive that sin; Christ also died to break its power over you so that you might live free from its bondage. Your sin is killing you. It affects every part of who you are and forces you to lose sight of the glory of God and remain focused on fallen creation. Put to death whatever is earthly in you (Colossians 3:5) and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

God is good.

Steve

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name. Acts 10:43 ESV

Observing Presidents' Day

By [Margaret Cagle](#)

We have been blessed in America
By our God's almighty hand.
We should be ever thankful
For the freedom in our land.

Passed to us is a great heritage
From past leaders in our nation.
Many prayed, seeking God's guidance
Through wars and much tribulation.

We've had some great presidents,
Who have led in an honorable way.
We give them tribute and honor
On their own very special day.

We celebrated Washington's birthday
In the past throughout our land.
Some states honored Lincoln too.
For the Union, he took a stand.

In the nineteen-eighties, we changed.
We now call it Presidents' Day.
In February, the third Monday,
Honor to our presidents, we pay.

What can we do to truly observe
This special Presidents' Day?
Thank God for blessing our nation
And for the President, we can pray.

Focus on WMU is February 11. Focus on WMU is not about WMU. It's about the work of God through our church as the Gospel is shared. WMU is just a vehicle that believers can use to get involved in God's work. Participation in the work of the church is encouraged, and a mission's lifestyle includes any or all of these: learning about missions, praying for missions, giving to missions, serving in missions and supporting missions. Is your lifestyle where God wants you to be? Get involved where you can, doing what you can--all for the glory of God. Women on Mission meets the first Monday of each month at 3 pm.

From Highland Lakes to NEP

By: Misty Hamby

Black light is an art form that is exciting and awe-inspiring. I'm going to tell you a little bit about where and how we learned this skill, and how it changed from idea into production.

This summer, at JAM camp whilst visiting one of my camper's classes, I received a crash course in everything black light. I learned that while it looks hard and very technical, it's not. So, how do we get from "huh?" to "wow!"?

It all starts with song choice. This past Christmas, we needed a song about redemption from sins. "Not Guilty" by Mandisa very clearly conveyed that message. After choosing the song, we had to determine what motions and posters to use.

As a group in Kid's Choir, we went through the song verse by verse, and decided what motions would fit. Since most of our group had never done a black light performance, we had to keep things simple. We did a lot of repeating of hand motions and posters, but still had enough variety to really give it the "wow" factor.

We enjoyed every aspect of black light, from planning and practice all the way to performance. The research of how-to was easy, and choosing a song was fun. I'm thankful our church is a part of an association that has camps like JAM camp where our kiddoes (and adults) can learn new skills like black light. How exciting it is to praise God in different ways.

The Willow Park Ministry

What is this *Willow Park* event that is always on the calendar? Well, let me tell you. Northeast Park Baptist Church began serving Willow Park when brother Dale Maddux began regular Monday evening services back in 2014. (Honestly, it may have been 2013, but I have slept since then!) From time-to-time, brother Steve would fill in when Brother Maddux was unable to make a service.

In time, as brother Maddux was unable to continue regular services, pastor Steve took over the ministry. He currently goes out twice a month on Monday nights. Attendance varies between 8 and 20 residents. The most encouraging part is after the service is over, there is often a resident or two that hang back and ask him to pray with them over a situation in their lives, or maybe something that is affecting the entire resident home. Most residents that attend see this as a regular church service that they do not always get to attend outside Willow Park.

Throughout this ministry, many residents have regularly heard and been encouraged by the gospel. While some have passed away over the years, and new members have been coming, it is always an encouragement to your pastor to see these not forgotten saints every month and praise the God of our salvation together with them.



4 Ways Sexual Sin Can Kill Your Marriage

JANUARY 20, 2018 / [Jaclyn S. Parrish](#)

When my husband, Sam, was in grade school, he heard some words around the lunch table he didn't understand. But from the way the big kids chuckled and leered, he knew these weren't words he could ask his parents about.

So he waited until the house was empty and sat down at the family's new iMac. And at age 10, he typed his first Google search.

That afternoon began a [lifelong struggle with pornography and same-sex attraction](#)—one that might have ended our marriage if we'd mishandled it in these four ways:

1. IGNORE SEXUAL SIN According to the CDC, nearly one in five women in the United States is a rape victim. According to [Barna](#), 41 percent of young Christian men regularly seek out porn, and a staggering 72 percent of non-Christian young men do likewise. It's a statistical impossibility that your family, friendships, church, and marriage aren't in some way haunted by sexual sin.

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This state of affairs is nothing new. A cursory jaunt through Leviticus 18 is enough to take even the most hardened porn user aback. Paul made a point to tell the Corinthians to “flee sexual immorality” ([1 Cor. 6:18](#)) because he knew their culture, like ours, was drowning in it. But while it's true that “no temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man” ([1 Cor. 10:13](#)), it's equally true that, like the ancient Israelites and the early church, we ignore sexual sin to our peril. Sexual sin is an epidemic, but it doesn't have to be terminal. Sexual sin that remains secret is dangerous and deadly. Our spouses need to know what we've done and had done to us. And our churches need to be places where sexual sin can be brought to light with grace and fought in community.

2. UNDERESTIMATE NON-SEXUAL SIN

On our wedding day, I'd kissed a grand total of two boys. I'd waited for true love like a good Christian girl should, while my new husband was a sober porn addict who struggled with same-sex attraction. And I wasn't one bit more righteous than he was.

Without Christ, I was dead in my sins ([Eph. 2:1](#)). I was corrupt ([Ps. 14:3](#)). I was worthless ([Rom. 3:12](#)). My righteous acts were repulsive rags to a holy God ([Isa. 64:6](#)). I'm just as sinful as my husband was during the worst years of his addiction. For our marriage to survive, my husband must daily choose to deny himself the things his flesh desires. But so must I. I'm just as capable of unraveling our marriage as he is. I don't get to look down on him just because I never got around to committing the sins he did, and to do so would drain the life and joy from our marriage just as effectively as adultery would.

3. CHEAPEN CHRIST'S REDEMPTION

I had many reasons to marry Sam. He's kind. He's brave. He's godly, gentle, and I love him. But those aren't the things that outweighed my fear that he might betray me on the other side of the altar. The only reason I'm able to trust my husband is because I trust Christ.

When we write off people like my husband as irredeemable and unworthy of fellowship, we're sneering in the face of the beaten, mocked, and crucified Christ and saying, “No. I'm sorry. This isn't enough.” And if Christ's sacrifice can't redeem porn addiction and same-sex attraction, then it can't redeem anything, our faith is futile, and we're to be pitied for our delusions ([1 Cor. 15:12–19](#)).

God isn't good because our marriage survives. Our marriage survives because God is good.

Yes, it's absolutely true that “neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality . . . will inherit the kingdom of God” ([1 Cor. 6:9–10](#)). But let us never forget that “such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” ([1 Cor. 6:11](#)).

4. DEMAND PERFECTION

Even so, I know that marrying Sam was risky. He might fall back into porn. He might cheat on me. He could leave me and Jesus. And if he does, God will still be good, God will still be sovereign, and God will still be faithful.

This isn't incredible faith—it's the same faith every Christian is called to. We all live on the ragged edge of any number of disasters: a cancer diagnosis, the death of a child, a senseless attack, a fire, a flood. And we stand before a cloud of witnesses who've stared down all these and worse and said, in faith, “Though he slay me, I will hope in him” ([Job 13:15](#)). Even if he doesn't rescue us, we won't bend the knee to the gods of this world ([Dan. 3](#)).

My husband can't bear the weight of my ultimate faith. To place that burden of expectation on my husband's shoulders would crush him and our marriage both. God isn't good because our marriage survives. Our marriage survives because God is good.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-ways-sexual-sin-kill-your-marriage/>



Children's Mission Day

The first *Children's Mission Day* was in 2008. Since then thousands of kids have taken part. Northeast Park Baptist Church is once again joining with others across the country in hands-on ministry in our community for Children's Mission Day. All kids' grades 1-6 are invited to meet needs by moving out of their churches and into their communities to do missions. Our plan this year is to visit the Good Samaritan Nursing Home to hand-deliver Valentines February 14 to the residents.

Above left: Delivering Valentines. Above right: Raking leaves for a church member. Middle right: Collecting food Lower right: Caroling.



Marvin and Ima June

McConnell are new members of Northeast Park Baptist Church. They are both originally from Oakland City. Marvin retired from Whirlpool. They both enjoy reading, and Marvin enjoys genealogy while Ima June enjoys crocheting. Their best vacation was to Niagara Falls. Marvin enjoys the Old Testament and Ima June's favorite Bible book is Psalms. His favorite Bible character is Paul. Marvin's favorite Bible passage is Joshua 24:15b: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (KJV) Her favorite passage is Psalms 28:7a: "The Lord is my strength and my shield. My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." (NASB) Marvin was led to the Lord by a church who prayed for him. Ima June was led to the Lord by helping in Bible School crafts. They have two adult children, Tom and Jane Ann. Welcome Marvin and Ima June to Northeast Park!

"The Candy Man" aka James Creekmur

James 'Candy Man' Creekmur has the best job in the world. He has been handing out candy bags after church for the past several years. It started out as a piece of candy and has evolved into a bag. It has become a family project to sit in his living room floor and assemble hundreds of bags at a time. He enjoys the excitement in the young faces and loves the 'candy trades' of the older kids. His goal is to encourage kids to come to church and return, hopefully with family & friends. It is a ministry he enjoys and will always have candy when he is at church. It keeps him going!

Our Church's Mission

Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20)

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