



Pastor's Column:

## Holding with the Open Hand

by Jim Lyon, Senior Pastor

I have a pastor-friend in Ohio that often speaks of "the open hand." It's his way of describing an attitude, a way of life, that does not try to grasp and control ("the closed hand"), but, instead, "holds loosely," "freely," for the moment. My friend knows that we can "hold" things in this life only briefly – and that if we try to hold on too long or too tightly, we inevitably end up losing them anyway. And that losing – that prying of the fingers back to set free – can be very painful.

I've learned that lesson, too (sometimes, the hard way). People come and go. You can't hold on to them. Opportunities can be seized in a moment, but then they are lost. Ideas can be grasped, but die if not shared and allowed to fly free. Joy and peace find a home in our



hearts only when we hold life with an open hand. "If you try and keep your life for yourself, you will lose it..." That's Jesus talking (in Mark 8:35).

Parents must all learn this lesson, as well. We hold on to our children when they're young, but as they grow older, we must loosen our grip. Eventually, we have to let them go, to make their own way, to find their own path.

Our oldest son, Jacob (he's 24), is moving to Anchorage this week. He has a great job lined up there (with a company called Premier Alaska Tours). He'll be exposed to some outstanding business models (both in tourism and real estate), he'll work with some great people (including some who once called Anderson home), and he'll have a chance to grow and build a new life in "the last frontier." Alaska is a land of great opportunity these days – a place of vast wilderness and wealth. In addition to its natural resources and strategic geography, the 49th state is welcoming millions of visitors each year in the booming Alaska-cruise and land tour trade.

My wife and I are excited (and thankful) for Jacob's good fortune, of course. We know the Lord's hand is in it. But, still, it's hard to approach the whole "our-

(continued on page 4)

## This Sunday @north

Join us for one of three worship services at our Scatterfield site.

**The 8:30am & 10:00am worship times** in the Sanctuary include the "Voices of North" choir, a blended set of traditional and contemporary music, prayer, and teaching from God's Word.

**The 11:30am worship time** in the Sanctuary also includes prayer and teaching from God's Word, but in a more relaxed format, and with more modern worship service.

**A full slate of Sunday School Classes** are offered for all ages at 8:30am and 10:00am. The 11:00am service includes a break-out session for children. Learn more about Sunday School Classes at Northweb.org – see "Quick Links."

## A New Year... A New You?

Resolved to do something new in 2006? Satisfy that hunger through one of North's ministries:

**Join an EyeWitness North trip** and make this the year of expanding your horizons. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.

**Join a men's or women's group.** Ladies can participate in a RefresHer Bible study on Tuesday mornings or the Thursday evening study. Men are welcome to join 3M on Monday evenings. Check the calendar for times and locations.

**Get fit with the INShape Indiana program.** Coming to North January 25; see page 2.

**3m men's monday ministry**

Travel the World with  
EyeWitness North



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**INSHAPE INDIANA**  
Governor Mitch Daniels

Holy Grounds



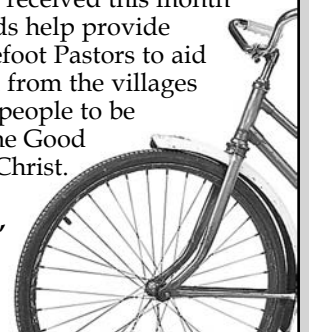
Come early or linger after the worship service to

enjoy conversation and refreshments at Holy Grounds coffee bar. Visit Northweb.org to view the full menu.

### Supporting Barefoot Pastors with the India Gospel League

In India, many pastors go village to village, preaching, teaching and planting churches. They walk for many miles each day proclaiming the name of Jesus. Proceeds received this month at Holy Grounds help provide bicycles to Barefoot Pastors to aid in travel to and from the villages enabling more people to be reached with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Open Sundays, 8:00am-1:00pm**  
Now accepting MasterCard and Visa.



Dave Ramsey's  
**Financial Peace University**



**There's still time to join a class!**

A 13-week course from personal finance expert Dave Ramsey. Learn how to: make a budget that you will understand and actually use; get out of debt and stay that way...

spouse about finances; invest...  
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University, or contact Sarah Trick at the Church Office or email at sjt@nachog.org.

**CLASSES FULL!**

Waiting list available; contact Rob Spaulding in the church office. di-  
group leader about participating in the

Sponsored by Stewardship Ministries. For more information, pick-up a brochure at the Welcome Center, visit Northweb.org, or contact Rob Spaulding at the Church Office.

## Annual Business Meeting

Sunday, January 15 at 6:00pm  
Scatterfield Sanctuary

The congregation will meet for its Annual Business Meeting to formally respond to the proposed 2006 systemwide budget. All Northgoers who have regularly attended the church for at least the preceding 3 months and who are at least 16 years of age and have accepted Christ and consider North their home church may cast a vote to accept or decline the Church Council's proposals.

## INSHAPE INDIANA With Tanya Parrish

Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00pm  
Scatterfield Sanctuary

Governor Daniels' INShape Indiana program aims to connect Hoosiers to the existing programs, services, and events that are offered by many organizations and agencies in Indiana. The goal of the program is to improve overall health of our citizens; in terms of physical activity, healthful eating, smoking and tobacco use cessation, and fighting obesity.

Tanya Parrish, Chairperson of the Indiana State Department of Health Wellness Council, will be visiting to discuss the INShape Indiana initiative and how Northgoers can become involved individually as well as in small groups. During the Wednesday night program, she will share the many opportunities for individual health improvement and ways to encourage others. Sponsored by North's HealthCare Ministry.

## Wednesday, January 11

Enjoy a freshly prepared meal and mini-salad bar in the Fellowship Hall at Scatterfield. Wednesdays from 5:15pm until 6:30pm, just before our evening programs. Everyone is welcome!  
Cost: Adults-\$5, Children and College Students (with ID)-\$3 (maximum of \$20 per family).

### Lighthouse Café

- January 11: Northern Italian Spaghetti
- January 18: Baked Potato Soup in Bread Bowl
- January 25: Chicken & Noodles
- February 1: Teriyaki Chicken

- Fresh Air** – A teaching time for adults in the Scatterfield Sanctuary.
- Souled Out** – North's students (grades 6-12) gather for this high-energy worship and teaching time at the Cross Street ministry center.
- Children's Ministry** – Kids, grades K-5, meet in the downstairs classrooms at Scatterfield.
- Nursery/Toddler Ministries** – North offers ministries for our smallest Northgoers: the Preschool class for ages 4 and 5 meets in room 117; the 2's and 3's meet for Bible lessons and play time in room 120; and the "Little Blessings" Class for ages birth through 23 months meets in Nursery 3.

## Calendar for January 12-18

Scatterfield = 2604 N. Scatterfield Road • Cross Street = 2200 Madison Square • Broadway = 1400 Broadway • Bold indicates activities that are not regularly scheduled weekly events.

<b>THURSDAY</b>	9:30a	Ladies' Prayer Group (Scatterfield/210)
	6:00p	Voices of North Rehearsal (Scatterfield/101)
	6:30p	Women's Bible Study (Scatterfield/215)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:00a	Widows' Care and Share Breakfast (Offsite/Flashbacks)
<b>SUNDAY</b>	7:30a/10:00a	CBH "Viewpoint" with Pastor Jim Lyon on WQME 98.7
	7:45a	Pre-Service Prayer (Scatterfield/210)
	8:30a/10:00a/11:30a	Worship & Classes (Scatterfield)
	10:00a	First Steps (Scatterfield/208)
	11:00a	Student Ministries Welcome Team Meeting (Scatterfield/Fellowship Hall)
	5:45p	Will and Grace Small Group (Cross Street/Kitchen)
	<b>6:00p</b>	<b>Annual Business Meeting (Scatterfield/Sanctuary)</b>
	6:00p	The Well (Scatterfield/214)
	6:00p	ABS – Student Ministry Area Bible Studies (Offsite/Various homes)
<b>MONDAY</b>	5:00p	Come and Go Prayer (Scatterfield/Sanctuary)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	9:00a	RefresHer Women's Bible Study (Scatterfield/Fellowship Hall and Classrooms)
	4:30p	Children's Ministries Team Meeting (Scatterfield/105, 111, 115, 121)
	5:30p	Girl Scouts (Scatterfield/102, 103)
	<b>5:45p</b>	<b>Stephen Ministers Training (Cross Street/Large Conference Room)</b>
	<b>6:00p</b>	<b>Financial Peace University (Scatterfield/215)</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	5:15p	Lighthouse Café Open (Scatterfield/Fellowship Hall)
	<b>5:45p</b>	<b>Church Council (Scatterfield/104, 106)</b>
	6:00p	Children's Discipleship Class (Scatterfield/114)
	6:00p	Prayer Team Meeting (Scatterfield/210)
	6:30p	Student Ministries "Souled Out" (Cross Street/Gym)
	7:00p	Children's Ministries Program (Scatterfield/Lower Level)
	7:00p	Fresh Air (Scatterfield/Sanctuary)
	7:00p	Discover North (Scatterfield/214)

## Get Connected @north



Sign-up for classes and small groups online or at the Welcome Center

### Discover North

There's still time to join the new class!

Discover North gives insight into our Core Values, our Mission and Vision, and what it means to be part of the North family. The class, led by Jeff Matas, meets the first four Wednesdays of each month at 7:00pm in Room 214. Free dinners at the Lighthouse Café are provided for participants and their families! Contact Susan Kidd in Front Door Ministries.

### First Steps

There's still time to join the new class!

This "micro-study" of the basics of Christianity works its way through the essentials of the faith; from God's character, to the significance of Communion. The class will meet at 10:00am in Room 208. Contact Teresa Danner in Adult Discipleship and Education.

### Small Groups

There's a group of friends just waiting for you to join!

North offers small groups with a variety of emphases, including fellowship, service, Bible study and hobbies. Learn more about Small Groups at Northweb.org, or contact Sarah Trick in Small Groups Ministries.



# Ministry Happenings

## Adult Ministries:

**Ladies' Thursday Evening Bible Study:** All women are invited to join a study of the Book of Acts, facilitated by Barbara Collier. The study resumes this Thursday, January 12 at 6:30pm in Room 215 and will continue through May. Childcare may be available upon request. *Contact: Anne Perkins at (765) 778-8429, Peggy Reynolds at (765) 643-8092, or Billie St. Clair at (765) 754-8605.*

**Senior Adults have new J.O.Y.:** The Senior Adult Fellowship—now known as the J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Group—will gather for the monthly meeting on Thursday, January 19 at 1:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Rev. Gerald Burnett will serve as the speaker. All seniors are invited to join the J.O.Y. group! *Contact: Esther Crnkovich at (765) 649-3323.*

**Widows Luncheon:** The Widows Support Group will meet on Wednesday, January 25, from 11:00am-1:00pm at Ryan's Steakhouse in Anderson. All widows are welcome. *Contact: Rosemary Harp at (765) 643-8400 or Ruth Brewster at (765) 642-7711.*

## Student Ministries:

**Pizza and Sub Sale Fundraiser:** For junior and senior high students needing to raise money for trips and events, Student Ministries is holding their annual Pizza and Sub Sale Fundraiser. Pizzas and subs will be sold in advance and picked up at the Scatterfield site on Superbowl Sunday, February 5. Students selling subs must be present to assemble the subs and pizzas on February 5. Order forms are available at the Welcome Center, or email Nick Tanner at [npt@nachog.org](mailto:npt@nachog.org). *Contact: Pastor Joe Webb or Nick Tanner.*

## Opportunities To Serve

### Pastoral Care:

**Stephen Minister Training:** Do you have a compassionate heart and a listening ear? Consider joining North's Stephen Ministry, a nation-wide program designed to equip lay people to become effective caregivers. Training begins Tuesday, January 17. *For more information, or to receive an application, contact Pastoral Care.*

### Worship Arts:

**Projectionists:** All Sunday and Wednesday services are in need of volunteers to run the projection system. Basic computer skills needed. *Contact: Liz Hasenmyer at the Church Office.*

## News You Can Use

**Update F1 Forms for 2006:** If you are in charge of a regular event and have not submitted a new F1 Event Form for 2006, please be sure to submit one to the Church Office. F1 forms are available at the Church Office or online at [Northweb.org](http://Northweb.org)... see "Forms Directory" under "QuickLinks." *Contact: Karen Fowler at the Church Office.*

**College Grants Available:** If you have been an active member of North Anderson Church of God at least one year immediately preceding enrollment in one of the Church of God colleges or universities, if you are enrolled at least 12 hours per semester and are in good academic standing, and are under 25 years of age working on your first undergraduate degree, you may be eligible for a higher Education Grant. Applications for the 2006-2007 academic year are available at the Church Office and need to be returned to the attention of Teresa Danner at the Church Office by January 31, 2006. *Contact: Teresa Danner at the Church Office.*



### Perspectives on the World Christian Movement:

Anderson University School of Theology is offering a course on the World Christian Movement beginning January 16. The 14-week course is offered with enrichment, certificate or course credit options. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Center. For more information, visit [www.anderson.edu/ccl](http://www.anderson.edu/ccl).

### 2006 Giving Envelopes Available:

Thank you for your faithful support of North's ministries. To better assist in the recording of your gifts, new 2006 giving envelopes are available for pick-up at the Welcome Center. If you have not had giving envelopes in the past but would like a set, please sign the sheet available at the Welcome Center and new envelopes will be sent to you. *Questions? Contact Calvin Pleninger at the Church Office.*

**Weather-Related Cancellations:** For up-to-date information about North's cancellations and closings (including the Church Office and NorthKids Learning Center), tune in to radio stations WQME 98.7FM or WGNR 97.9FM, or to Indianapolis television stations WISH (Channel 8), WRTV (Channel 6), or WTHR (Channel 13).

**Women of Faith 2006:** North women are invited to attend the Women of Faith Contagious Joy conference in Fort Wayne, August 18-19. *For information about early-bird pricing and premium seating, contact Debbie McCafferty in the Church Office or visit the information table in the Scatterfield lobby on January 15.*

## Family News

### In sympathy with:

Mike Hacker and family at the loss of his mother, Trudy Hacker, on December 28.

Bob Ivy and family the loss of his brother, OJ Ivy, on December 30.

Jay Porter and family at the loss of his father, Gerald, on January 3.

### Celebrating the dedication of:

Ramsey Rebecca and Quade Edward Gary, daughter and son of Mark and Kasey, dedicated on January 1.

### Rejoicing in baptism with:

Mitchel Montgomery, baptized on January 1.

## Employment Opportunities

### NorthKids Learning Center:

**Temporary Positions:** NorthKids Learning Center is looking for individuals experienced with children in classrooms who can be available as substitute teachers throughout the year. *Contact: Melanie Denniston at NorthKids Learning Center, (765) 622-6379.*

## Staff @north

### Pastoral/Executive Staff:

Barbara O. Berry - *Pastoral Care*  
Jim D. Lyon - *Senior Pastor*  
Jeff A. Matas - *Director of Front Door Ministries*  
Jim L. Rogers - *Senior Associate Pastor*  
Mike L. Schwartz - *Discipleship and Education*  
F. Rob Spaulding - *Business and Administration*  
Paula K. Spear - *Director of Children's Ministries*  
Keith E. Stork - *Outreach and Missions*  
Joe A. Webb - *Student Ministries*  
Steve D. Williamson - *Worship and Arts*

### Administrative Staff:

Jennifer L. Allbaugh - *Administrative Assistant, Outreach and Missions*  
Becky A. Arthur - *Administrative Assistant to Senior Pastor*  
Gerald Burnett - *Minister of Visitation (no email)*  
Kelli J. Bays - *Office Manager*  
Teresa E. Danner - *Administrative Assistant, Adult Discipleship and Education*  
Melanie K. Denniston - *North Kids Director*  
Marge A. Eckhardt - *Administrative Assistant, Bookkeeping*  
Karen A. Fowler - *Buildings Manager*  
Elizabeth D. Hasenmyer - *Multi-media Coordinator*  
Rhonda D. Hollingsworth - *Administrative Assistant, Student Ministries and Children's Ministries*  
Susan M. Kidd - *Administrative Assistant, Front Door Ministries*  
April L. Linville - *Counseling Staff*  
Douglas R. Linville - *Director of Counseling Ministries, Dove Harbor, and The Miriam Project*  
J. Kevin Majeski - *Communications Director*  
Debbie J. McCafferty - *Administrative Assistant, Pastoral Care*  
Carol A. Mitchell - *Receptionist*  
Calvin L. Pleninger - *Bookkeeping and Computer Services*  
Lisa L. Ritchhart - *Children's Ministry Assistant (lritchhart@netzero.net)*  
Mary K. Smith - *Administrative Assistant, Worship Arts*  
Shelly Stottlemeyer - *Early Childhood Assistant (stottlemeyer@insightbb.com)*  
Nick P. Tanner - *Youth Coordinator*  
Sarah J. Trick - *Small Group Division Leader*  
David A. Whitmoyer - *Madison Park Project Director*  
C. Ryan Woolsey - *Student Ministries Creative Arts Director*

*E-MAIL: Unless otherwise noted, staff e-mail addresses are made up of their initials (first, middle, and last) followed by @nachog.org.*

## Contact Us:

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
PO Box 2479 • Anderson, IN 46018

**WORSHIP SITE**  
2604 N. Scatterfield Rd. • Anderson, IN 46012  
(765) 648-2080

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2200 Madison Square • Anderson, IN 46011  
24-hour line: (765) 642-2000 • Fax: (765) 643-0976  
Hours: M - F / 8:30a to 4:30p

[www.northweb.org](http://www.northweb.org)

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**DOVE HARBOR**

1400 Broadway / Anderson, IN 46011  
Phone: (765) 642-1853  
Shelter for Women and Children  
Hours: M - F / 8:30am to 4:30pm

**NORTHKIDS LEARNING CENTER**

Early Learning Program  
2200 Madison Square / Anderson, IN 46011  
Phone: (765) 622-6379  
Hours: M - F / 6:30am to 6:00pm  
School Age Care  
2604 N. Scatterfield Rd. / Anderson, IN 46012  
Phone: (765) 648-2080  
Hours: M - F / 6:30am to 6:00pm

**THE MIRIAM PROJECT**

Adoption Agency  
1400 Broadway / Anderson, IN 46011  
Phone: (765) 640-1580  
Hours: M - F / 8:30am to 4:30pm

**www.northweb.org**

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Coming Soon...

A new ministry initiative  
watch the @north for details



Receive the @north  
newsletter by email...  
sign-up at Northweb.org!

Pastor's Column:

**Holding with the Open Hand** (continued from page 1)

son-is-moving-thousands-of-miles-away" thing with "the open hand." We want to hold on; we know we must let go. Anchorage is over three hours by plane past Seattle; Alaska itself spans four time zones. It's a long way from Hoosierland to the city perched above Cook Inlet, off the North Pacific.

Jacob was in the fifth grade when we moved from Seattle to Anderson. We can appreciate now, better than before, the loss our parents felt. We know many of you have experienced this same mixed bag of emotions as you have seen your loved ones drive (or fly) far away, too, even when you know it's the right thing.

Still, there's a peace that comes with "the open hand." Jacob is in God's hands. What can we do, but place him there? We've had families surrender their sons onto the front lines of Iraq and Afghanistan. No easy step. Still, those sons (and daughters) are in the Lord's hands. We must surrender. Let go. Trust. Pray. Watch. Rest. Experience the Lord's peace, "that passes all understanding."

I know, I know. He's just flying off to start a new job. In another state. No big deal. Well, except, he's our firstborn son. Our precious Jakie (okay, sorry, Jacob—but that's what we called you when we held you tight!).

Once more, parenting is teaching us about God's heart. How must He have felt when he surrendered His only Son to us? "The unspeakable gift." How He must have wanted to "hold on," but, instead, chose to "let go." It's all about "the open hand."

Thanks to all in this church family that have loved my family over the years. Thanks to every Sunday School teacher, youth leader, kind soul, smiling face, gracious spirit, and generous heart that has loved Jacob Lyon over the years. You cannot know how we thank God for you.

And, as all of us move forward into a new year, think about living with an "open hand" with everything in this world—knowing that we have today and today only to enjoy and to bless. Don't hold on too tightly, don't fret over everything at church, at home, at work—don't imagine that any of it is yours to begin with. Just allow God to place treasures in your palm, if even for a moment.

May God go with you, Jacob. Always. We love you. And, we love you, North, too. Thanks for your "open hand" and sweet spirit of grace, always. ☺

**A Gift of Purpose**

After last year's "Purpose Driven Life" emphasis, 96 extra copies of Rick Warren's best seller were donated to the Pendleton Reformatory's P.L.U.S. (Purposeful Living Units Served) program. According to Charlotte Tirre, L.C.S.W. with the prison Psychology Department, the gift was the exact number of books needed for the inmates participating.

In dozens of letters, inmates wrote thanks. "You are telling me that I am worth a second chance..." "It is through your unconditional love and support that we can become better people and hopefully fol-

low your example..." "I... will be going to Anderson for work-release and would really like to get some information on how to attend your church..."

Thanks, North, for your life-changing generosity.

