

# May 2011

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Young Adults 'Engage'  
Worship Service 6/3

KidsQuest Live Theatre  
Sleeping Beauty 5/20

Prayer Breakfast 5/21

Baptism Weekend 5/21-22

Father's Day Car Show 6/19

Christmas in July Toy Drive

All Church Picnic 7/3

## MAKING A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

### *One Child, One Adult, One Special Relationship*

Did you know Northshore members volunteer their time each weekend to help children with special needs? Here are some touching stories from what are becoming some very special relationships.

#### JORDEN ROTHAMEL

Ten months after his birth Jordan Rothamel was diagnosed with a rare condition only shared by approximately 60 people on the planet. His brain develops normally, however he has little verbal or motor capacity. Jordan is ten years old, loves to be a part of Northshore's KidsQuest ministry and Awana. He enjoys artwork, and his art has been shared during missionary trips to Costa Rica. His brother and two sisters provide endless entertainment, and the joy that Jordan brings binds the family together.



Jorden's dad, Leroy, says that Jorden is a gift from God; he realizes that Jorden is here to be loved and cared for unconditionally. Some have asked why the family doesn't have Jorden institutionalized and the Rothamel's answer is always, "He's our son, he's a person, and he is part of our family, he belongs with us."

This isn't the easiest path for the Rothamels, it means constant and complete care for Jorden, dealing with other health issues and social interaction. The Rothamels have struggled with finding a church home. Few churches are prepared to accommodate a special needs child. But Northshore members made the difference when they volunteered to work with Jorden.

#### TYLER HAACK

Tyler Haack was born with a brain injury and has been developmentally delayed, both physically and mentally. He is really a happy kid, he just doesn't understand where all the boundaries are. He loves music and enjoys playing.



It took a year and a half after Tyler was born for the Haacks to be able to go to church and trust Tyler's care to the nursery. As it happened, they were frequently called out of the service to help with him.

Finding a church with a children's special needs ministry is difficult if not impossible. The Haacks have experienced a lot of disappointment as they've searched for a church that could accommodate them. Again, Northshore volunteers made a difference for Tyler.

### **AIDAN AND ANDREW BOWKER**

Aidan and Andrew Bowker have a metabolic genetic syndrome where their bodies don't make cholesterol. They are developmentally delayed because of the cholesterol deficiency. Aidan is 8 and Andrew is 4. Both boys love school; they are in a life skills class helping them to cope with their world. They ride horses for therapy which works their muscles and coordination. They are really happy kids.

It was a very long time before the Bowkers were able to go to church after Aidan was born. Now, the Bowkers say, having that hour to an hour and a half each week where they can sit together in church and worship is priceless to them.



### **HEART REQUIRED, NOT SPECIAL SKILLS**

Each special needs child becomes a part of a class in the KidsQuest ministry. The other children have gotten to know them and greet them when they arrive. Being part of a regular class not only serves to provide the special needs child with social interaction at their level, but also provides fully able children the opportunity to understand disabled children, and not be afraid of them and to show love and respect to them.



People like Sue Davis, Karen Nicholson, and Geoffrey and Shanna Enns heard the call for special needs helpers and began the process of loving just one child enough to guide them through the Kid's Quest ministry. It didn't take any special skills or preparation. It did require some time with the family understanding each child's unique make up; how to guide them through a normal class, knowing what they liked and didn't like, and how to respond to their communications. The special needs helper does not become the class teacher but assists with that one child through the

classroom experience.

Families with special needs children rarely get opportunities to engage in simple pleasures like a date night, bowling, movies, or eating out. Each of these families expressed how much of a blessing it has been to have their special needs child cared for. They can now go to a church service as a couple



and enjoy that time once a week to worship together. It was difficult to maintain motivation to even go to church when one of them would be tied up with their child's care at every moment.

## NEXT STEPS

Prayerfully consider becoming a special needs helper. Consider spending a KidsQuest ministry hour with one special needs student, facilitating their classroom experience, and becoming their guide.

Contact: Christina Bergevin 425-407-1119 x1018 or email [cbergevin@northshorechristian.org](mailto:cbergevin@northshorechristian.org).

## MEMBERS HELP NORTHSORE *INITIATE* **A Follow-Up Report**

In April, Northshore asked its members to consider making a special offering called *Initiate*. That offering would first help with some pressing building needs like roof and heating repair. Secondly, it could help the church begin new outreach to the greater Everett area. God has worked through our congregation. We are pleased to report that approximately \$180,000 was pledged and about \$30,000 has been received. All offerings will be set aside until the one-year pledge period ends. At that time the Facilities Committee and Elder Board will designate the funds to the most pressing needs (most likely the front building roof repairs). We are so very grateful for God's provision that comes through you. Thank you for making a difference in our church!

If you aren't yet part of *Initiate*, would you prayerfully consider it? Some significant opportunities remain to repair the rear roof and heating/air conditioning systems. [You can read more about those opportunities by clicking here.](#)

## LOOKING AHEAD: IMPORTANT DATES

6/4-5 Youth Weekend in Services (Graduation Sunday)

6/19 Father's Day Car Show

7/1-30 Christmas in July

7/3 All Church Picnic - One service only this weekend at 10 AM Sunday

## MEET LESLIE ELVIG

Leslie is one of our Northshore heroines. She grew up at Northshore. now she is responding to help others overseas. Get your questions answered and hear more of what God has done with Leslie in the past year at our missions partner, Charity and Faith, in Mamelodi, Republic of South Africa. Find out how you can make this next year count!

When: June 18 & 19 (Father's Day Weekend) after each service

Where: Room C-213

For further information, email Leslie at [mayireturn@gmail.com](mailto:mayireturn@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

## *Toy Drive*

Feel the holiday spirit early this year and help Northshore Christian Church collect new toys during the month of July for our annual Christmas Day of Sharing in December. This is an all church event in which anyone and everyone can participate. So if you want to get a jump on shopping and take advantage of the Christmas in July sales that pop up everywhere, we could sure use your help to purchase new toys to reduce the urgency during the Christmas season. Share the blessings and drop your new toy off in the lobby anytime during July.

Have questions? Contact Emily Vanderwielen at (425) 322-2315 or email [emilyv@northshorechristian.org](mailto:emilyv@northshorechristian.org).

## NORTHSHORE UPDATES ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK



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You can now get instant updates from Northshore on both Twitter and Facebook.

*Northshore News* is published regularly (approximately once a month) and highlights how God is working in the lives of Northshore members. Article and photos by Northshore member Marcus Pederson, editing by Executive Pastor Rob Cizek.