

## Time Escapes Us (continued)

think of our church building as the new church building or refer to the intersection of 84 and 14 as the circle or the Snack Shack as the Root Beer Stand (Harold changed the name himself and he still calls it the Root Beer Stand). I am probably also not the only one that has to remind myself that some of my nice "new" shirts have been with me over a decade. We do that because it's hard to rewire our brains in the midst of the strangeness of change. Once we file something away as fresh, we tend to always think of it as fresh. It's just the way we are.

We also do that with insights. Did you ever learn something that changed your life? Maybe it was in school or while you were reading your Bible. Someone said something or you read something that connected with you and it changed you. Maybe it even changed you so much that you now mark time by that insight: my life before and my life after. You converted from one way of living, thinking, and being to another. Have you had a moment like that?

I have had a few. I remember a particular insight like this while reading John 21 just after I turned 21. I was battling with doubts about

going into ministry, about who God is and even about if God was, but I had this deep and abiding love and respect for Jesus. In the text, Jesus kept asking Peter, "Do you love me?" Each time, when Peter said yes, Jesus told him to take care of his sheep. Suddenly it dawned on me that Jesus wasn't asking me to figure everything out before I went into ministry, he merely wanted to know if I loved him and, if so, whether I was willing to love his sheep. Those were easier questions to answer and that insight is one that has stuck with me.

Now, whenever I go to John 21, I read that text through the lens of that insight. It may not seem as fresh to me as it did thirteen years ago, but it almost does. It's an insight that has, at times, kept me going and I can mark time by it.

But what if I hang on to that particularly useful insight so tightly that I miss an even deeper and equally useful insight? What if I am so predisposed to what I first found in John 21 that I never find anything else there at all? What happens if I stop learning because I have found a place where life works for me? It is then that we're in a place where time escapes us and we lose out on God-given opportunities to love



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### Staff

Shane Alexander  
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*Youth Minister*

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*Secretary*

### Elders

Mike Clements  
Don Corbitt  
Rick Sadler  
Mark Scott  
Charles Sims  
John Turpin

### Deacons

Bobby Bailey  
Jeff Craig  
Harold Fisher

January 29  
**2012**

Northcrest  
Today

### *Upcoming Events:*

Senior Saints Banquet  
February 11

Nursery Attendant:  
Today: Cynthia Holmes  
2/5/12: Sheila Sims  
2/12/12: Teresa Turpin

### *Communion Servers:*

Rick Sadler  
Mike Clements  
John Turpin  
Dwight Gamble  
Charles Sims  
Kellan Mathis

### *Elder of the month:*

Mark Scott

### *For the Record*

<u>Attendance</u>	
AM Class	62
AM Worship	101
PM Worship	23
Wednesday	51

<u>Contribution</u>	
Budget	\$3,965
Received	\$4,078
Yr. to Date	\$14,824
Under	\$1,036

## Time Escapes Us

*By Shane Alexander*

My parents moved into their current house the summer before my senior year of high school. It was a nice house and I enjoyed my year there. Ever since that time, I have thought of that house as their new house.

This fall, my parents announced that after years of talking about it, they were finally going to put the house on the market. They both have some knee problems and they wanted a home with a master bedroom on the first floor. My reaction was to roll my eyes and tease them that they couldn't stay in one house very long.

Kara's parents still live in the house they moved into when she was just a baby. Mine have bounced around like a preacher married to a woman in the military. There were at least three places in San Antonio, one in Houston, a stop at the family ranch outside Lometa, a place in Lampasas, two in Round Rock, and then finally this house in Austin...all while I was living at

home. Then my dad floored me with a reality check. "Shane, we've been in this house just under 18 years."

I laughed, but then I thought about it. He was right. I am not saying that this made me feel ancient, but it did mean I was further removed from that period of my life that I thought I was. If they had bought this house when I was born, I could have lived in one house for my entire childhood. Maybe I was the destabilizing influence in their lives. After all, I am the one who has been unable to stay put in one place since leaving home for ACU.

The house has now been sold. They are moving next week. I am not sure where they are moving yet because I am not sure they know yet. Wherever it is, I wonder how long I will think of that house as their new house. (I hope I can think that for a very long time.)

I am confident that many of you can identify in some way. After all, some of you still

*(continued on back)*

## Youth Group

**Tuesday** – Bible study at the Siders from 6:30-8:30.

**Feb. 5** – Super Bowl party at the Siders at 5:00 pm.

**Senior Saints banquet** – Feb 11, need youth help.

**Central Texas Worship** is Feb. 12, leave at 4:30.

**Ignite** – Feb. 24-26.  
Friday – 7:30 pm.  
Saturday – 9:00 am.

## Other News and Notes

There is a signup sheet in the foyer for Ignite volunteers; any help will be greatly appreciated.

The Senior Saints Banquet will be February 11 at 5:00 p.m.

February 17 we will host a dinner for the volunteers at Caritas. There is a signup sheet in the foyer if you would like to help.

A bridal shower will be given for Devin Corbitt on February 12 at 2:30 pm. in the Fellowship Hall.

We will have a workday on February 18.

## Prayers

Kathy Clements is recovering after having chest pains last week. She is home and doing well.

Devin Corbitt's fiancé had surgery on Wednesday, he is recovering well.

Molly Frost's friend, Carol Weesner, is out of ICU and slowly improving.

Anita Chandler is recovering from pneumonia.

Jordan Clements friend, Caleb, broke his arm.

Shirley Lenamon is still having problems with her gallbladder and will follow up with her doctor in February.

Linda Gamble will have a procedure done tomorrow at Parkview.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### January Birthdays

29 – Steve Hogan

### February Birthdays

2 – Bentley Alexander  
4 – Heather Isbell

### We at Northcrest...

- Demonstrate Christ-like moral and ethical behavior
- Actively attempt to discover where God is at work and join him there (active involvement in ministry)
- Practice acts of devotion frequently (prayer, Bible study, quiet time, and listening to God)
- Share his or her faith at every opportunity
- Participate weekly in the worship assembly and a Bible study class
- Faithfully give as you have prospered
- Have love as the motivation for doing all these things

### *Gathering*

745 "Humble Yourself" *Mark Scott*

Announcements *Coy Siders*

Call to Worship

3 "Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah" *Mark*

Prayer

### *Abiding*

47 "Holy, Holy, Holy!" *Mark*

490 "It Is Well With My Soul"

Reading of the Word - Matthew 1:1-3a  
"Jeopardy, Part 3: Judah Edition" *Jimmy Prather  
Shane Alexander*

712 "Jesus Is Coming Soon" *Mark*

113 "His Grace Reaches Me"

Call to the Table *Don Corbitt*

Communion

Offering

Shepherd's Prayer *Mike Clements*

### *Sending*

517 "Heaven Came Down" *Mark*

Benediction *Shane*