

*Sunday, May 5, 2019  
Deacon Ordination Service  
During Worship @ 10:30 a.m.*

**SERVE**

*Called to  
Ordination Service  
for Cheryl Tarter  
2:30 p.m.*

**Office Hours:**  
Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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Return Service Requested

NorthHaven  
P.O. Box 722772  
Norman, OK 73070



### Letters to My Church

Every major spiritual tradition teaches that time alone is an essential aspect of developing spiritual depth. Yet in today's world of hyper-connectivity, time to disconnect and be with oneself is more difficult than ever.



Jakob Topper  
Senior Pastor

I was out of town for a little over week in March when my grandmother died. I resolved not to check my email while I was away and be as present to my family in their grief as possible. My telephone number has been printed in several publications since I arrived at NorthHaven and is in the church's online directory so anyone who really needed me could call. When I returned to Norman and logged into my e-mail for the first time, I had accrued over 800 emails. The vast majority weren't meaningful, but I had to weed through them all to learn that. Until then, I didn't realize how much of my time each day was spent managing my inbox.



Recently, I gave up social media as an exercise. Some of my friends were so aghast that they asked me what I was going to do now while using the restroom. They couldn't

conceive of the activity without their smart phone in hand and social media to scroll

through. It's a vulgar illustration, but perhaps it captures the essence of our society more acutely than any other.

Cal Newport wrote an illuminating book called *Deep Work* in which he lays out purely secular motives and reasons for taking time to disconnect and dig deep to do valuable work. His argument is simple and convincing. The ability to perform deep work - work that is cognitively demanding, rare, and hard to replicate - is becoming increasingly rare at exactly the same time it is becoming increasingly valuable in our economy. As a consequence, the few who cultivate this skill, and then make it the core of their work life, will thrive.

Newport sounds like a quasi-spiritual teacher at times. He promotes drastic measures like leaving social media, not responding to most e-mail, and being hard to reach all in order to promote deep work, because he can illustrate that the benefit of these practices far outweighs the consequences. If these suggestions sound as crazy to you as they did to me, I encourage you to read the book before casting judgement.

On one level, what he's doing is confirming through secular research what spiritual teachers have argued for millennium. Solitude is an essential practice for self-actualization, and I would add spiritual maturation.

One of the major problems I see within myself and in our world is the increasing difficulty to think deeply. It seems to be a result of living in a click bait society of easy distractions and abundant entertainment. None of which are inherently bad, but they do make it difficult to withdraw. Which is probably why withdraw and solitude, in the appropriate doses, is the prescription for what ails me.

(Continued on page 2.)



*NorthHaven: An inclusive family of Christ followers, inspiring, challenging and equipping each other to participate in God's great story.*

(Letter to My Church continued from page 1.)

I need to be bored once in a while to remember that boredom won't kill me. In fact, I've found boredom to be a conduit for divine inspiration and connection once I stop resisting it and instead choose to embrace it.

I need to know the world won't fall apart if I stop working for 10 minutes to sit with God in silence. An old pastor once told me that God created the Sabbath to remind pastors they aren't as important as they think they are. "If we die on Friday, they'll have the pulpit filled by Sunday," he would say.

What would happen if I took an internet sabbath?

How long has it been since I took a walk without my phone, or went for a run without playing music? What would happen if I did?

I wonder if at least part of the reason so many of us reject being alone with ourselves is because we're afraid of what we might find. But I believe that inviting God into that very part of me - the part I've worked so hard to distract myself from - may be the only way I can truly experience grace and peace.

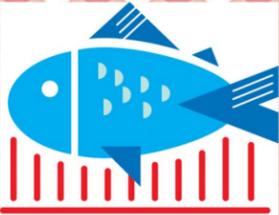
So I hope you'll join me by committing to do whatever is necessary, no matter how drastic, to make room in our lives to slow down, step away and experience our true selves and the loving Creator who birthed us.

Jakob Topper

**Women of NHC**  
**1st Monthly Fellowship Fun**  
**Tuesday, May 7 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Hollywood Corners**  
**4712 N. Porter**  
**Sign up on Facebook or in the atrium.**

**Potluck**

Sign up for sides & desserts



Invite a friend!

**FISH FRY**

Wednesday | May 15 | 5:30 p.m.



May 1: Michael Robison	May 5: Edith Duncan	May 20: Richard Divelbiss
May 1: Linda Skaggs	May 5: Addie Shelton	May 21: Hannah Hodge
May 2: Oma Gean Geis	May 6: Isabella Fullbright	May 26: Chad Duncan
	May 8: Makenna Morris	May 26: Scott Paganoni
	May 12: Abigail Pratt	May 29: John Dorean
	May 14: Isaac Miller	May 30: Randy Ridenour
	May 15: Vien Tran	May 30: Grayson Schooler
	May 16: Jeffery Knapp	
	May 18: Emily Miller	

THAT SHORE UP ABOVE

Article by Don Schooler

King Triton's little hissy fit on finding Ariel in her grotto with all of her "gadgets and gizmos a plenty" and "whozits and whatzits galore" is kinda . . . well . . . way over the top, right? Can we all agree that using his trident to destroy everything, including the statue of Prince Eric she'd salvaged from the sunken ship, was probably not his proudest Dad moment? I mean, the dude lost his mind and smashed all of her "thingamabobs," and she had twenty! That's not cool.

So, aside from my interest in animation (which you've got to be aware of if you've spent any time reading my ARTicles), why am I describing this scene from Disney's "The Little Mermaid"? Because I wanted to put that image in your mind and let it sit there for a while until we come back to it in a moment or two.

That scene was animated by the incredibly gifted artist and Disney Legend, Glen Keane. (BTW, that's a real thing, being a "Disney Legend," look it up.) Mr. Keane has a fascinating life story. His father was Bil Keane, creator/artist of the comic strip "The Family Circus," and he would frequently portray Glen's neighborhood adventures as "Billy," running around the neighborhood leaving a dotted line in his wake. Glen, who was a gifted athlete as well as an artist like his father, declined a college scholarship to play football and instead went to CalArts where he learned how to animate. He began working at Disney in 1974 where he stayed for the next 37 years designing and animating such iconic figures as the Beast from "Beauty and the Beast"; Tarzan in, well, "Tarzan"; Pocahontas in (ahem) "Pocahontas"; Rapunzel in "Tangled"; and, of course, Ariel in "The Little Mermaid."

But his fantastic career with Disney almost didn't happen. He almost quit to become a pastor.

A deeply devoted Christian, Glen struggled with the idea that he should do more with his life, that maybe he should leave animation to spread the Good Word. Until his Valencia, CA preacher dissuaded him. His preacher helped him understand he'd been given a unique opportunity to use his talents to reach those who might never set foot into a church. So he did.

Glen has said that while animating the final scene of "Beauty and the Beast," where the dying Beast lifts from the ground and transforms back into the Prince, that he was inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come!"

In the "Tangled" introduction Flynn Rider narrates: "Now, once upon a time, a single drop of sunlight fell from the heavens. And from this small drop of sun grew a magic, golden, flower. It had the ability to heal the sick and injured . . ." And that's what it did, it healed the sick, pregnant Queen, and in the process gave Rapunzel her magic, golden hair. Glen, who not only animated this scene but also directed the movie, was inspired by James 1:17 "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights."

So let's get back to King Triton and Ariel. Now, BEFORE Dad loses his cool and makes like Godzilla in Tokyo, Ariel sings this little song about how she would like to be "Part of Your World." She wants to go up to the surface and hang out with Prince Eric and dance around on what do you call 'em . . . oh, feet. Which is the reason why King Triton went all HULK SMASH! in the first place, because, you know, merpeople gotta stay in the sea. (When you breathe water, air is no bueno.) Glen has said that in animating this scene he was consciously reflecting on how Ariel's desire to get to the surface was not unlike the Christian desire to be with Christ. She even reaches upward as she sings. With that thought in mind reconsider these lyrics:



**Wouldn't I love, love to explore that shore up above?  
Out of the sea,  
Wish I could be,  
Part of that world.**

So, you and I will probably never get a chance to work for Disney, but we can find those opportunities in our lives and jobs to share our faith with others, like Glen. And, hey, if you can manage to disguise it in a catchy, little tune all the better!



During this year's Lenten season, NorthHaven Student Ministry took a long, hard look at what it means to join in the sufferings of Christ. What is the purpose of suffering and times of hardships? Through our study we learned that we suffer because it is only through our times of hardship that we can be transformed into the likeness of Christ. Paul says in the book of Philippians that he wants to know Christ, but we can only know Christ by joining Him in His suffering and becoming like Him in His death. To examine Christ's suffering we turned towards His testing in the wilderness.

When Jesus was tested in the wilderness it was all about His preparation for becoming the true Messiah, the promised Servant-King. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, the temptations were all designed to challenge what kind of Messiah Jesus came to be. To turn stones to bread was to tempt Jesus to be a Messiah that bribes the masses with materialism. Jesus tells Satan that "man shall not live on bread alone" (Deut. 8:1-3). To put our faith and trust in the material things of this world is to miss out on the abundance of life found in Christ. Prosperity and comfort with spiritual emptiness is a kind of death; true life cannot be found in materialism.

Satan then tempted Jesus to reveal His power for mere spectacle and to entertain the masses. This temptation turns the awesome power of Almighty God into a tool for self-glorification and sensationalism. Satan tries a new angle on this test; he twists scripture to fit his narrative. Scripture can be twisted to support anything mankind wants it to support. This is why it is crucial that all scripture is

read through the lens of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, scripture is fulfilled and made clear, He doesn't dismiss what scripture says but rather He brings the fullness of scripture out of the pit that humanity has put it in. The written word, the Bible, is authoritative in that it points us to the Living Word, Jesus Christ, who has been given all authority.

Jesus was also tempted with power and to seize that power by compromising with evil. Jesus understands that there is no such thing as "good violence" and "bad violence", there is only violence and to submit to it is to submit to the will of evil. Jesus refused to bow down and worship Satan, even if it meant accomplishing what we would call good things. Jesus worshipped God alone, even though it meant dying on a Roman cross.

The purpose of Lent is that it is a time of introspection and preparation. Introspection leads us towards the denial of our egos, and guides us towards true repentance for our sins. This time of introspection prepares us to join in the suffering that Christ endured. To know Christ is to know His sufferings and His death, but that is not where it ends. We are given a new hope through Christ's glorious resurrection; through Jesus, death no longer has the final word, now even death is filled with the Holy Presence of God.

I am thankful and proud to be a part of a church family that desires to follow the narrow path set by Christ. That we desire to follow the Messiah that trades the power of the sword for the power of the cross, showing us the awesome, unconditional love of God.

Michael Boyd

*"God is like Jesus. God has always been like Jesus. There has never been a time when God was not like Jesus. We have not always known what God is like, but now we do."*

- Brian Zahnd

**Wednesday Schedule**  
**5:00 p.m. - Dinner in the Compass Café**  
**6:00 p.m. - Childcare / Kids Club / Bible Study /**  
**NorthHaven Student Ministry**  
**7:00 p.m. - Choir**

## Kid's Haven

### Long Days of Summer...

Where does the time go? Here we are at the end of school already. As summer approaches, many of you will find yourselves on family vacations or with kids at home more hours out of the day. Make that time count. Summer is a great time to flood young minds with God's Word. Kids can learn scripture and have fun at the same time.

For younger kiddos, singing the words of a bible verse in the car can make the time pass and the words stick. Can't sing? Neither can I. Just wing it; your kids really don't care how well you sing. Watching movies in the car or on an airplane is a helpful tool for parents, but make those minutes count. Try mixing a bible story DVD in with your child's favorite shows. Books are the same way; don't forget to put some bible stories in the backpack.

As kids get older, tracing the words of a bible verse is a great way to practice their handwriting skills and learn the words of simple verses. Longer memorization drills like learning The Lord's Prayer are great for this age. Try chunking larger groups of words; you speak the first line and see if your child can recall the second line. Bible story magnet sets are also fun activities for kids.

For your biggest kids, bible word searches and crosswords are good ways to fill time. They are also great tools for your child to

improve reading skills. Also available are devotionals for kids. Even if your child only spends a few minutes in quiet time, they are developing a habit that can last them throughout their life.

When my kids were younger and I knew that we would be trapped in a car for several days, I would stock up on items that were \$1.00 or less and fill gallon sized zip top bags. Each day I'd give each child a new bag and could throw away the cheap items that had been destroyed the day before. They were excited each day to play with new activities and less likely to smack their siblings out of boredom.

The "Go read your bible" command probably won't work for most of your kiddos, but with a little creativity, children can be engaged and growing in their walk with Christ. May your summer be fruitful and fun and not leaving you wanting to pull your hair out.

Blessings,  
 Kim

**NHC VBS**  
 Sign up begins July 14

ages  
 3 years - 5th grade

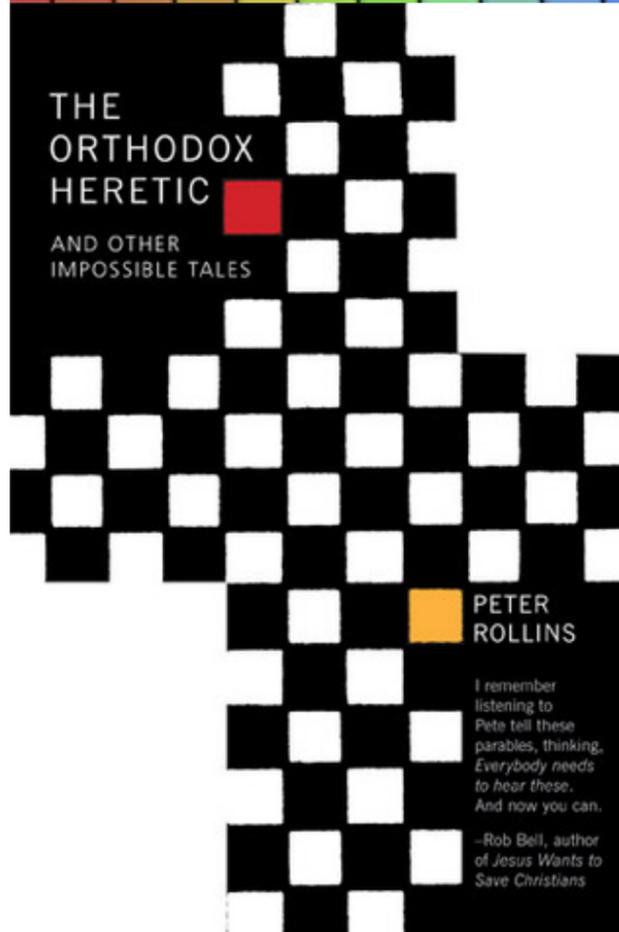
**FUN on the FARM**

Sunday, July 28 - Wednesday, July 31  
 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**Growing in love, patience,  
 generosity, and faithfulness**



### What The Pastor Is Reading



Rollins has already established himself as a major voice and an astute, generative force within the emergence Christianity. *The Orthodox Heretic* is his most accessible and engaging work to date." - Phyllis Tickle

In this bold new book Peter Rollins presents a vision of faith that has little regard for the institutions of Christendom. His uncompromising critique of religion, while often unsettling, is infused with a deep and abiding love for what it means to genuinely follow Christ.

Pete Rollins writes with clarity and compelling conviction." - Frank Schaeffer

"I remember driving around Belfast with Pete, sitting in the front seat listening to him tell these parables that he'd written—thinking, 'Everybody needs to hear these.' And now you can."

—Rob Bell, author of *Jesus Wants to Save Christians*

Rollins book of parables was profoundly disturbing, challenging, and inspiring in equal measure. More than once I had to put the book down after reading one of his stories and sit in shocked concentration, searching my owl soul to discover what he had dislodged within me. This isn't a book to agree or disagree with. It would be better approached like one might greet a book of poems. How does this story make me feel and what can I learn from that? These are the questions I found myself asking repeatedly.

-Jakob



### What Is a Call?

It is with great humility and honor that I embrace NorthHaven's call for ordination. As I looked back over my faith journey and what it means to be "called," I was drawn back to Joan Chittister's book, *Following the Path*, in which she shares her ideas about discerning life's path. In one chapter, titled "What Does It Mean To Have a Call?" she says, "There is no such thing as one great life choice. The truth is that life is a series of choices, some of them more major than others, but all of them, in the end, defining." Also, that it's the "summons to fullness of life" that is the essence of the call, pursuing what is lacking in us. Chittister suggests in that search sometimes "people stay on roads long gone purposeless to them because they fear the unknowns of another." Yet, others are "too quick to leave a road," seeming to always be looking for that perfect job or situation. The final statements she makes in that chapter sum it up in this way: "Choice is the holy-making stuff of life. There is no such thing as the inconsequential. Everything we do affects something and someone. Choice, therefore, is a spiritual skill of great import." (Emphasis mine)

*"Seek the LORD when he can still be found; call him while he is yet near. My plans aren't your plans, says the LORD. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans."*

*Isaiah 55:6, 8-9, CEB*

From her words, I have learned that we all are called and make choices every moment of every day toward fulfilling or not fulfilling our call. Sometimes we win and sometimes we fail. However, I think we can learn from times of failure. Early in the book she states, "Learning

to hear the song within us, finding the call within us, and then bending our lives to follow it to the fullness of ourselves is the key to happiness, to meaning, to fullness of life." This does not indicate that our life journey is an easy, free from pain existence. As I was reminded during the days of Lent and Holy Week, if Jesus truly is our example, He certainly experienced the ultimate suffering, showing us that indeed, He has borne our griefs. We take solace in that fact as well as hope.

As to my own "call," I agree with Joan Chittister that life is a series of "calls." I followed the path into teaching music, not really knowing that was my calling until I had been doing it for awhile and could look back and affirm that fact.

I believe I can say the same for music ministry. I am old enough to have the luxury of looking back, seeing where God has led me. Sometimes I have won, and sometimes I have failed. Maybe life really is made up of 4 steps forward, 2 steps back. Maybe I am in a hurry and want change NOW! (Okay, I admit I am and I do!)

Isaiah 55:6, 8-9, CEB says, "Seek the LORD when he can still be found; call him while he is yet near. My plans aren't your plans, says the LORD. Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my plans than your plans."

My prayer and hope is that I will always look for God's way and not mine because His is the better. May you and I strive to make good choices!

Cheryl