

Dear Friends,

The average person will spend approximately 150,000 hours at work during their lifetime, which is about 40% of the time a person is awake. For those who are doing graduate studies, your waking moments are much higher than the average individual. I must be honest, I do like to work. I firmly believe that God honors work. The God who created and sustains the world is also the God of the workplace, which includes school work. Work has value, and when we work hard, we honor God by making what He has given us more valuable through our efforts.

In less than a month, one of the most significant events at NU will take place. It is called the President's Banquet ([click here for details](#)). For the past few months, a team of people have been planning and preparing for this significant event. Many have invited business people, pastors, and relatives, who work hard for a living, to attend the President's Banquet. People will bring money, earned from their work, and invest it into student scholarships at NU. What would make a person want to spend their time or money investing in student whom they have never met? There are likely a several reasons, but for me, it's because I want my work to have lasting value.

My wife Brenda and I have committed all of our professional lives investing in students. We firmly believe the future of the faith community will be built upon our current investment. The best legacy we can leave is by pouring our resources into the lives of those who will carry the call of God forward for years to come.

Psalm 90 is all about the brevity of life (vs. 3-4,10). However, even though life is short, according to this psalm, it is possible for our work to outlive us. What we do can have lasting value. The psalm ends on a note of hope: "May the favor of God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work our hands" (v. 17).

You may not like the work or school work you have been given to do. But perhaps the Holy Spirit can provide you with insight to see how your work can outlive you.

Lord, thank you for the work we get to do. Establish a spirit of gratitude in us, so that our work might be able to bless others far beyond us. I pray for the Presidents Banquet in a few weeks. Provide the financial means for students to study at NU for years to come. Amen.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Mon, Jan 28 | Liturgical Rhythms: Megan Netherton | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Mon, Jan 28 | REVIVE: Rev. Sean Smith | Butterfield Chapel, 8pm

Wed, Jan 30 | Church Fair | Butterfield Chapel, 9:30am

Wed, Jan 30 | People of Prayer Series: Dr. Clint Bryan | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

Wed, Jan 30 | Staff & Faculty Chapel: Dr. Barbara Petty | Butterfield Chapel, 3:40pm

Fri, Feb 1 | Ephesians: Christian Dawson | Butterfield Chapel, 10 & 11:20am

The poster features the word "revive" in a large, white, lowercase font on a black background. To the right, there is a grid of words in yellow and white: WORSHIP, PRAYER, ENCOUNTER, SCRIPTURE, and REFRESH. A white shield-shaped logo with a cross and other symbols is on the right. A yellow banner at the bottom repeats the word "revive". Below the banner is a photo of Sean Smith speaking at a podium. At the bottom, the name "sean smith" is written in a large, yellow, lowercase font. To the right, a black box contains the date "JAN 28th" and time "8PM" in yellow, with "NORTHWEST UNIVERSITY BUTTERFIELD CHAPEL" below it.

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Money Magazine Top 20 Most Affordable Private Colleges

