

January 2017



News & Views

A newsletter of Northminster Presbyterian Church



Pastoral Ponderings
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Pastoral Ponderings - by Teri Thomas

This past year has been full of indicators that we have some serious work before us as a congregation. The focus group meetings and the personal visits that were held as part of the campaigns this year brought in excellent feedback from many of you; what you appreciate, what you hope for, what you believe God wants Northminster to be.

Having depleted some special gifts that had allowed us to try some new staff positions, we now need to look at our entire staff design. We want to be sure our personnel, our financial resources, and our volunteer efforts are all coordinated and moving us in the same direction.

We have a team of folks who attended a workshop on racial issues and they are eager to share their learnings with us and lead the congregation in exploring these emotional issues that affect us as a congregation, a city and a nation. At the same time we have begun conversations with CTS on a Faith in Action initiative to find ways of addressing poverty and hunger and education in our community. Amazing ideas are surfacing.

Our worship attendance has dropped off and yet worship continues to be what attracts most of our new members to the church. How do we explain that and how can we increase attendance?

All of these things point us to 2017 as a year of discerning, focusing, and (hold on, you can do it) changing as a congregation. When I was on vacation in November I had the privilege of visiting the Charles Darwin Center on the Galapagos Island of Isabella. I picked up a t-shirt that may become my uniform this year. It says, "EVOLVE...or become extinct".

I can get depressed if I think too much about all the congregations around us that are in fact becoming extinct. They are dying slow and painful deaths as they have lost their purpose and their vision as congregations. Instead, I focus on Northminster, our talented and creative members, our dedicated and faithful congregation, our vast resources of time, talent and treasure, and our memory of God leading us in the past and confidence that God is indeed leading us now.

PLEASE plan to attend the annual meeting as we begin to think together about our evolution and where God is leading us. Sunday, January 29th – lunch at noon followed by the meeting at 12:45. Make a reservation today.

Your evolving pastor...Teri

Annual Meeting and Lunch

- Sunday January 29th

Lunch will be served, to those with reservations, at noon on Sunday, January 29th. The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of Northminster Presbyterian Church will follow at 12:45 pm. Join us as we look at the past year and begin to envision the year ahead.

Once again, Circle 3 will be servers for the Annual Meeting Luncheon. Menu: Chicken Normandy with apples and cream/broth sauce, served over rice, green salad, rolls and assorted cookies and bars. Cost: \$10 per person, children 3-11 \$6, family maximum \$30.

Make reservations by calling the church office at 317-251-9489, at the sign-up table in the Gathering Place on Sundays, January 8, 15 and 22, or on the Featured Events page of our website.

Reservation deadline is Wed., January 25, 4 pm.

What Do Deacons Do?

Your Deacons hosted another successful Clothe a Child in December. Please remember to thank Chairperson Maureen Purcell for

all her hard work and her trusty elf Co-chair Mike Shannon for his help as well!

January Worship – by Teri Thomas

Start the New Year off right with **worship on New Year's Day at 9:00 or 11:00 am.** We will celebrate communion at both services as we continue with one last Sunday of angels. This time they visit the Magi and Joseph.

January 8th is the Baptism of the Lord Sunday. This year the lectionary starts us off in the Gospel of Matthew. We will have a baptism at 11:00 and we'll ordain and install officers at both services.

January 15th is the second Sunday of Epiphany or the second

Sunday of Ordinary Time, depending on your calendar. We are invited to come and see what Jesus is up to. Care to find out?

January 22nd has Jesus warning us, "Here comes the Kingdom." He tries to get the disciples ready, what about us?

January 29th, Paul writes to the Corinthians about foolishness and wisdom. Do we know the difference? Jesus preaches on the plain and offers the beatitudes as a way to live. Plan to stay following worship for the Annual Congregational Meeting. (*See article, page 2.*)

Interfaith Hospitality Network: Jan. 8 - 15 – by Kathryn Goncalves

It is IHN week again! Northminster will host families through Interfaith Hospitality Network January 8 - January 15. Through IHN, congregations throughout the city take turns hosting homeless families for one week, providing meals, shelter and compassion while they get on their feet. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available - play with kids, prepare dinner, drive the church van, stay overnight, set-up/clean-up - there is something for everyone! Please feel free to bring your own children to help out!

Please consider spending 2-3 hours of your time to provide a smiling face and a helping hand to these families. Sign up has begun in the Gathering Place. There is information available on the responsibilities of each position. The sign up sheet is posted across from the choir room during the week, or you may sign up on the Featured Events page of our website.

Questions may be directed to Dolly Craft, Nancy Jarrell, or Kathryn and Gabe Goncalves. Thank you for your consideration; this project would not be possible without you!

Welcome, New Member!

Brooke Kile joined NPC in December. She transferred her membership from Lakeview Presbyterian Church in Chicago where she served as a deacon. Brooke is an Assistant Director of Institutional Research at Marion University. Look for her picture and the pictures of other new members on the bulletin board off the Gathering Place.

Foundation Minute – by Robert Rothrock

Over the last few weeks we have all been inundated with requests for year-end giving from many charitable organizations representing great causes. I am sure you have as well. So, as you read this year-end giving request, put your checkbook away. How is that for a change?!

Many of us make the year end and January a time of planning. If you are doing some planned giving, estate planning, re-evaluating your will, or writing a will for the first time, please keep the Foundation in mind.

If you have questions, please call the church office and ask to be contacted by someone on the Foundation board. We have the resources to find the answers.

On behalf of everyone on the Foundation board, Happy Holidays!

Gifts That Last: Clothe-a-Child – by Maureen Purcell

Many of you remember the days when we visited the Sears in Lafayette Square. We worked with a larger agency that called upon school counselors and social workers to identify the neediest children all over Indianapolis and bring them to the Convention Center (Don Durrett) or the English Building (me). We asked for 100 children, chartered tour buses, and arrived at Lafayette Square by 8 a.m., shopping before the store actually opened, and later walking the children through the mall for lunch at the MCL Cafeteria.

By the time we began our committed relationship with IPS School #55, we had moved to Sears in Castleton Square. This year, our nearly 80 volunteers shopped and entertained 60 children.

Our funds have seen to it that the children at School #55 have new uniforms every year. My own privileged kids didn't like them, but I can see how looking the same protects children who may come to school from cars or shelters or foster homes. One can hide a lot under trousers and a new shirt. One young boy was wearing his sister's underwear while another had none at all.

I'm well aware that volunteering for Clothe-a-Child isn't as impressive as agreeing to carry a child for God as Mary did. Still I'm grateful for Josh Hill, John

Coleman and Jenny Moehring (perhaps others too) who routinely invite friends who take off from work to take on a little kid who needs things.

"I cannot thank you enough for the blessings received by our students. The genuineness of love and the sincerity of giving was felt and will always be appreciated. The students are very grateful and are still sharing their wonderful experiences with their teachers and classmates. I am proud of how they enjoyed interacting with their newfound friends. I shared with Mr. Hinton (thru email) how organized and fun this community event was. All the best - Lourdes Holloway, (School #55 counselor)"

To all who donate money to the Clothe-a-Child fund, food, services, shopping and entertainment, please note: blessings, genuineness of love, sincerity of giving, wonderful experiences, new found friends!



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NorthStars

Saturday, January 14, Bob & Cheri Gudgel will host the NorthStars and “**The Waffle Guy**” at their home, 9009 Spring Mill Rd., with Bob & Ann Nation co-hosting. We'll gather at 6:00 pm and enjoy gourmet waffles and sides prepared by The Waffle Guy, John Holsapple (main occupation is Music Director at Chapel Rock Church). He cooks, entertains, and guarantees a fun evening. \$8 per person. Call Gudgels @ 317-844-7139 or Nations @ 317-919-2353.

Get ready to cheer on the **Butler Bulldogs!** We have tickets in hand for the **Sunday, February 19**, game with DePaul at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$35 each. Seats have backs and cushions for your viewing enjoyment. Reservations and payments can be made with Bob Bowers at 317-259-7366 or betbobbowers@att.net. Checks should be made payable to Northminster with Butler Basketball in the notation line. Cash will be gladly accepted as well. Dinner will be at Fire By The Monon, (6523 Ferguson St, Indianapolis, IN 46220) between 5:00 and 5:30 pm. Let Bob Bowers know if you plan on being with us for dinner when you order your basketball tickets.

Left: Bob Bowers helps a child pick out warm clothes at the December Clothe-a-Child event.

WAMM: Worship through Arts, Music and Mission

Join us in the Gathering Place at 10:00 am on Sundays.

Stories under the Stairs continue. Little Round Table activities for our youngest children.

January 1

What makes you happy? We will look at some music videos set to Pharrell Williams song, “Happy” and talk about what makes us happy as we praise God.

January 8

With the waters of Baptism, we are made new in Christ. Plant some seeds and water them. How does the growing seed remind you of God’s love?

January 15

Imagine how we can be “lights to the nations.” Draw a picture, write a poem, tell a story about what you imagine.

January 22

Come, follow me. Practice of unity. Choose a leader and a follower and practice mirroring actions. Have someone guess who is the leader and who is the follower. How did you create unity? Improvisation by saying yes!

January 29

Counting our blessings. Make some “blessing cards” to help think deeply about its meaning.

Youth & Family Activities – by Julie Shannon

January 1

Happy New Year! No youth programming.

January 8

10-10:45am – Youth Gathering – breakfast and discussion. Regular Youth Fellowship from 6 to 8 pm. Pizza, games, discussion & prayer.

January 15

Regular Youth Fellowship from 6 to 8 pm. Pizza, games, discussion & prayer.

January 22

Regular Youth Fellowship from 6 to 8 pm. Pizza, games, discussion & prayer. Preparations for Italian Night.

January 27

Italian Night preparations, Friday night. Dinner and snacks for all set-up volunteers.

January 28

Italian Night - 6-8:30 pm. Volunteers needed for prep, cooking, serving, and running silent and live auctions! This is our annual youth fundraiser and a fun evening for all ages. (*See page 7.*)

January 29

No Youth Programming. Please attend the annual meeting. (*See page 2.*)

Christian Education - Family Ministries Events

Wednesday Night Dinners are available beginning January 4. Please make a reservation with the Church Office by 12:00 Noon on Mondays. Kid-friendly and we always have salad and a vegetarian option. Adults \$5.00. Kids \$2.50. You may pay with cash, credit or debit cards.

Italian Night is Saturday, January 28, from 6:00-8:00 pm. (*See article on page 7.*)

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting is February 7, at 7:15 pm. We’ll do some brainstorming for VBS/Arts Camp, which will occur from June 4 to 7. Our theme is Pentecost!

Parents with a Passion

Welcome all parents! Please join us on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:15 pm, upstairs, in the Knox Room. We share our parenting joys and challenges. We discuss current topics, laugh, support and pray for one another. Come and join us! For details, contact Julie Shannon: jshannon@northminster-indy.org.

Adult Education in January

Disciple Fast Track (Adult Bible Study) will resume with the last four sessions on the **Old Testament** on Wednesday evening, January 4, running through January 25.

The twelve week sessions on the **New Testament** will begin on Wednesday evening, February 1, and run for 12 weeks, through April 26.

If you wish to register for New Testament you may do so on the Featured Events page of our website, or by calling the church office: 317-251-9489.

New Testament Study Guides are \$15. Please let Debbie Bulloff know (dbulloff@northminster-indy.org) so we can order enough Study Guides.

Rev. Carol McDonald and Rev. Jim Montgomery (both honorably retired PCUSA ministers) will be facilitating the spring semester.

Fourth Sunday Adult Education – January 22 at 10 am

Join Associate Pastor Ruth Moore in the Conference Room at 10 am on January 22 for a new adult study. We will start a new 5 part study entitled, *Embracing an Adult Faith: Marcus Borg on What It Means to Be Christian*.

January 22nd's topic is God. Jesus is the topic for February 26, Salvation is on March 26, Practice is on April 23, and Community is May 28th. Come to as many of the sessions as you can, although you can join the group any time.

Italian Night

January 28, 6 - 8:30 pm, in Calvin Hall

All ages of Northminster members and friends come and enjoy the evening. Dinner is served at 6 pm, there are games for the kids to play, and there are silent and live auctions, and door prizes.

Italian Night fundraising enables Northminster to subsidize and provide financial scholarships for youth (6th grade to college-age) to attend Mission Trips, and Spiritual Conferences for students. These have a huge impact on these young people's faith, and have helped them to form lifelong, strong friendships that endure.

You'll receive special seating and an extra entry into the door prize if you send your meal reservation to jshannon@northminster-indy.org, or sign up on the Featured Events page of our website, by January 15th!

Food Pantry Help Needed

Mission Team is looking for a few volunteers for NPC Day at Second Presbyterian's Food Pantry on the second Tuesday, for approximately four hours, in January and February. And they can always use paper and plastic bags. Donation barrel is located across from the church office. To sign up or for more details, contact John Reed, 317-257-8784, or email: bjkreed@comcast.com.

January Calendar Highlights

1/2	All day	Building Closed
1/3	7:00 PM	Team Meetings
1/4	6:00 PM	Disciple Fast Track - Adult Ed
1/8	5:30 PM	IHN Week begins
1/16	All day	Building Closed
1/21	9:00 AM	Officers Retreat
1/22	10:00 AM	4th Sunday Adult Education
1/22	4:00 PM	Sound & Spirit - Millikin University
1/28	6:00 PM	Italian Night
1/29	12:00 PM	Lunch and Annual Meeting
1/31	9:00 AM	Newsletter Assembly

(Presby Day will take the months of January and February off. We will resume in March 2017.)

January 2017 Birthdays

Jude Wareham	1/1	Emily Keesling	1/14
Mary Ann Perkins	1/2	John Plunkett	1/14
Brooke Kile	1/2	Pat Johnson	1/14
Nancy Dynes	1/3	Ann Bruce	1/15
Jack Jones	1/3	Catherine Richardson	1/15
Russell Wareham	1/3	Joanne Jones	1/15
Roslynn Lancaster	1/3	Kate White	1/16
Susan Neville	1/4	Jacqueline Schmidt	1/16
Steve Neterval	1/4	Gavin Teising	1/16
Emily Plunkett	1/4	Douglas Hooper	1/17
Linda Bell	1/4	Elisa Deer	1/18
Susan Martin	1/4	Janet Ingram	1/18
Cathryn Siegrist	1/5	Christopher Everett	1/19
Vicky Smith	1/5	Kendall Flynn	1/19
Joseph Fulnecky	1/6	Alma Miller	1/19
David Wheeler	1/6	Erin Bristow	1/19
Joan Wheeler	1/6	Kay Smith	1/20
Jesse Noneman	1/6	Charlie Scheuermann	1/20
Clinton Winkler	1/7	Aimee Scheuermann	1/20
Betty Williams	1/9	Isabel Ruegger	1/23
Victor Perkins	1/9	Benjamin Plunkett	1/23
Martha Brooks	1/10	Judith Morr	1/23
Arthur Angotti	1/11	Scott Calwell	1/25
Jill Fouts	1/11	Mary Winkler	1/25
John Shreve	1/12	Janice Holley	1/25
Kris Phegley	1/12	Jean Burton	1/26
Tula Mae Cross	1/12	Mary Baxter	1/27
Daniel Ent	1/13	Abigail Chellgren	1/27
Chloe Wareham	1/13	Connie Coleman	1/28
Elizabeth Aelick	1/13	Ann Engel	1/29
Catherine Lord	1/14	Carolyn Noneman	1/31

Children's Church and Worship

All School age children (K-5th gr) will attend worship with their parents and celebrate Communion with the Congregation on Sunday, January 1, 2017. Look for the Children's Worship bulletin. After Time with Children, Toddlers and Preschoolers will proceed to their classrooms on the 1st floor of the

C.E. wing for Church School and care. Children's Church for K-5th graders will be offered at both services, after the Time with Children on Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29. Nursery, Toddler and Preschool Church School and care will be offered every Sunday.

Church School

Consider the scripture and talk about the question at the end of each week's lesson. The booklet, *Living the Seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany* is available. We are following the Lectionary for Year A with focus on the Gospel of Matthew.

January 1 - Scripture: Psalm

148. Preschoolers will show praise to God with our bodies through music, dancing and free play. We will celebrate with words of joy!

January 8 - Scripture: Matthew

3: 13-17. Baptism of Jesus Sunday, we will hear, with Jesus, that we are God's beloved. How shall we "repent" or turn a different direction to see how God sees?

January 15 - Scripture: Isaiah

49: 1-7. Children of the Church School will consider how God calls us through "special gifts" we are given. How shall we use those gifts to spread God's love?

January 22 - Scripture: Matthew

4: 12-23. Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming God's reign, teaching, healing and calling disciples. When he calls ordinary fishers to follow, they obey. Are we listening for God's call to us?

January 29 - Scripture: Matthew

5: 1-12. The Church School will begin a 4 week study of the Sermon on the Mount and Beatitudes, a series of sentences beginning with the word blessed, or happy. What challenges do we find when we immerse ourselves in the wise ways of God? How shall we live the blessings?

Millikin University Choir swings by Sound & Spirit

- Sunday, January 22, 4:00 pm

We all know the importance of networking. You go to the big event, you introduce yourself, you share your time and talent and next thing you know, the phones start ringing. That is if you impress. The Millikin University Choir under the direction of Dr. Brad Holmes, accepted invitations to perform at national and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and make an impression over and over.

On Sunday, January 22 at 4 PM in the sanctuary, Sound & Spirit is especially excited to host the energetic Millikin University Choir from Decatur, Illinois. The 50-member mixed chorus has now treated audiences internationally with their innovative approach to tone, style and programming that spans five centuries. A vast audience has already enjoyed and made note of the diversity of music and lively presentations coming out of Millikin.

As Director of Choir Programs, Dr. Holmes has grown the choral fleet to 250 students, four traditional choirs, a variety of smaller vocal ensembles and a nationally recognized choral staff. The University Choir coming this month features upper-class students from varying majors who supplement their concerts in Decatur with extensive tours around the lower forty-eight. From Millikin to Montreat to the Choir of Clare College in Cambridge, Dr. Holmes shares his lovely and lively choir and sets a high bar with All-State and festival choruses and clinics across the country. Get a taste at bradholmesmusic.com.



From Bach to jazz to bluegrass, Sound & Spirit concerts celebrate regional and international artistry and present them free of charge to the Broad Ripple Community and beyond. Funded by supporters and the audience, we accept a free-will offering to maintain standards of future events. Child-care is provided.

