



**Proclaiming God's Grace,  
Creating Community,  
Serving our Neighbors**

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**Christian Ed Lead**

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Jennifer Jensen

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Dawn Thornhill

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Ben Woldseth

# Northminster News

Volume LVIII, No. 2

February 2017

## *Letter from the Pastor*

### **Dear Northminster Family,**

Every Communion Sunday, we come to a table that is built for the nations. It not only serves as a witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus, but it serves as a witness to the outcome of the resurrection. That is, the one day when all the nations are gathered together of every tribe and tongue. Communion is one of the ways that diversity is built into the very heart of who we are as followers of Jesus.

It's very easy to forget this spiritual dimension to the importance of diversity when we each, for various reasons, cannot fully practice it. Some of us are limited to our home and immediate neighborhoods. Some of us are limited to the world that our job allows us to participate in. We are limited by neighborhood, school, and congregation. Often when we think of our limitations, we can become downcast and discouraged. What can we do, we think, to broaden our perspective? How can we practice our diversity?

### **We celebrate the little things.**

From learning about the Lunar New Year from our Taiwanese brothers and sisters to singing the freedom songs of Martin Luther King Jr., we have much to celebrate in our congregation. We welcome various voices, languages, and seek to put them into worship as often as we are able. Many of you have brought gifts from your culture and language, and have shared them amongst us all. I am so grateful - and please, continue in this!!

### **2. We prepare for what we cannot yet see.**

We study the history of our black and brown brothers and sisters, even when our congregation is primarily white. We engage in a discernment process to affirm our values in the midst of the strident debate over immigration and refugees. We sing and worship in languages other than our mother tongue because we recognize that the Spirit of God is not bound by the language we can understand. This is part of what we are doing right now at Northminster, and for this, I am so grateful. Please, continue in this!

**News Editor**

Stacy Kern

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“look for us on facebook!”

**3. We remain committed to the vision of the kingdom of God, and recognize that until that day, everyone is in process.**

I don't need to tell you that the divisions within our culture are heart-breaking and devastating. We must not forget that behind each perspective is a story waiting to be told. Please do not dismiss each other too easily. As the Body of Christ, we must mourn with those who mourn. This means weeping for our refugees as well as our loved ones that have been crushed by the forces of globalization. The varied perspectives within our congregation can be celebrated, but only if we are willing to hear one another and truly share our pain and lament. At this time more than ever, I encourage face to face meetings over social media discussions. You can sympathize with a perspective, but you can fall in love with a person. At Northminster, we strive to love people.

Celebrating diversity,

Rev. Dani Forbess



## Worship and Music Update:

Jim Peterson, our beloved Choir Director, has resigned for personal and health reasons effective immediately. We continue to wish him the best in every way. A card will be circulated on Sunday February 5th to thank Jim for his work with our congregation. Our Personnel and Worship and Music Committee understand how deeply committed Northminster is to the Choral Arts, and every effort is being taken to uphold this value. Personal notes to Jim can be submitted to the address of Dick and Ann Wightman.

Dani Forbess

## Garden Corner

As we wait for spring and the return of flowers we have installed an orchid in the sanctuary. If you would like to bring flowers the orchid can go away and your flowers will take its place. Nancy Ingle has already taken advantage of this bringing flowers on 1/14 & 28. Nancy also brought two small arrangements which were delivered to Bonnie Orr and Leroy Kelderman.



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Do you like a challenge? Our little church in the garden has seen better days. It has been a high note of the garden. Children love it and often put flowers inside. If someone would like to take on the job of rebuilding it we can probably find workers to apply the finishing rocks. Thinking about it? Please call Sheila @ 703-627-6830

Sheila Striegl

## February Youth News

**Confirmation Classes** start February 26th for 7-10th grade students! These classes will run every Sunday, leading up to confirmation on April 30th. Pick up an informational flyer and schedule in the narthex or check it out online. Feel free to contact Ally with any questions

**Breakfast Club** on Sunday, February 5th. Meet in the Fellowship Hall at 8am to get cooking



**Youth cook @ St. Luke's** on Friday February 10th at 4:30. Due to our fellowship hall renovation, St. Luke's has graciously offered us access to their facility so we can prep breakfast casseroles for their homeless ministry.

**Valentine's Day Party** during youth group on February 15th. All are welcome!

Ally Pexa

## Kitchen-table time: on stewardship.

We offer our time, talent and treasure in many different ways:

A word of thanksgiving as we begin 2017. Through the generosity of your pledges, our staffing and programming are being supported and encouraged. Thank you.

Over the next few months I'll be sharing information about more aspects of our giving and how it relates to our life together in Northminster.

To start the new year I focus on the building we share to gather and worship. We are in the final year of a three year capital campaign. Our Fellowship Hall is getting a refresh and facelift sponsored by a bequest specifically aimed at this room. And finally, we replaced the heater in the gym at the end of 2016 because that change desperately needed to be made.

Katherine Voyles

## LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

February 5	February 12	February 19	February 26
Isaiah 58:1-9a	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	Exodus 24:12-18
Psalms 112:1-9	Psalms 119:1-8	Psalms 119:33-40	Psalms 2
Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 5:21-37	Matthew 5:38-48	Matthew 17:1-9

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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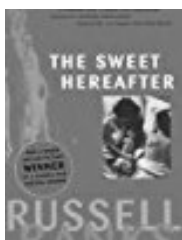
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**From the Bookshelf:**

The Christian Century for Jan. 18th has several articles especially relevant to current societal situations and/or problems. Do take some time to explore it. Magazines do not need to be checked out. They may be kept for one week.



Elaine Boehmer, Librarian



**READING GROUP NEWS—Meetings on the 2nd Wed. @ 5:30. This month we're discussing Sweet Hereafter by Russell Banks on February 8th.**

**Signa Treat**

## Helping Hands Committee

Thanks to everyone that returned our little “Can you help” form. We have a list of willing volunteers that can help with shopping, meals, driving and other special needs. Contact Jen Oxley or Sheila Striegl if you need some help!

We have also assembled a list of medical equipment that can be borrowed. Please detach and keep it handy.

### Medical Equipment Available

Bedside Commode	Raised Toilet Chair
Adjustable crutches	Walkers
Wheelchairs	Bath seat
Grabber	Walking Boot

Call the church office to make arrangements to borrow these items.