

News & Views

Northminster Presbyterian Church 1660 Kessler Blvd. East Dr.
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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2009

Holy Week at Northminster



April 5, **Passion Sunday**
Passion Sunday begins Holy Week. Join us at 9 or 11 a.m. for the Parade of Palms and a service of scripture and music. Communion is at both services.

April 9, Maundy Thursday
The Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m. will include the celebration of the Last Supper in preparation for Good Friday and Easter.

April 10, Good Friday
Good Friday Tenebrae at 7 p.m. is a service of music, readings, and light fading into the darkness of the Cross. This is an emotional service that remembers Christ's suffering and death (*last photo, Good Friday service 2008*).

April 12, Easter Sunday
We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with music by the Chancel Choir, brass quintet and timpani, scripture and

sermon at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services. Join us for this jubilant celebration of renewal and of hope. ■

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Our Vision: Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we celebrate God's love and follow Christ's teachings to seek, serve and embrace.

seek, serve and embrace



Pastoral update . . .

BY LARRY MOSLENER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Pat and I thank all of you for your prayers, concerns, notes, hugs, and encouragement as I prepare to answer God's call to a new position. Part of the preparation will take place the first week of May when I will travel to St. Louis for a week of interim ministry training. This was recommended by Carol McDonald, our synod co-executive. I have also met with Alan Thames, our executive presbyter. Both are aware of my situation and will help in my search for a new call.

In addition, my Personal Information Form or resume is posted on our denomination's web site for pastors seeking new calls. I have limited my search to the greater Indianapolis area or a reasonable commute to a new call in central Indiana. The reasons for limiting the search are to stay in our home and for Pat to continue her work with her present employer.

During this time of transition I will be working with the church staff, Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and the Congregational Life Team to insure that all my duties are placed in the proper and capable hands.

I have been praying for the staff and our church members as we are all going through these tough times. Many emotions have surfaced since the announcement was made about the elimination of the positions at Northminster. I said to many individuals that God is in the midst of it all. I have great faith that God will call me and the others to a new place

April worship schedule

April 5, Passion Sunday

April 9, Maundy Thursday

The worship service is at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

April 10, Good Friday

The worship service is at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

April 12, Easter Sunday

April 19

This is the second Sunday of Easter and we continue our celebration. The children's choirs will provide music in worship at the 11 a.m. service.

April 26

This is the third Sunday of Easter and we keep on celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

and that Northminster will continue to be a vital, active, and faithful congregation. ■

Good News and the Daily News April 5 with Matthew Tully

After the 11 a.m. service on April 5 a group will gather in Calvin Hall for about an hour and a half to talk about how the news of the day and our Christian faith and values can or cannot be reconciled.

The guest speaker and facilitator of the Good News/Daily News discussion is Matthew Tully, columnist with the *Indianapolis Star*. The topic Tully will examine is "The First 100 Days of the Obama Administration."

Tully has written about politics and government since 1992, beginning as a reporter with the *Gary Post*, then with the U.S. Senate for *Congressional Quarterly*. He has been with the *Star* since 2002 and was named the paper's political columnist in 2005. Tully graduated from Indiana University in 1992.

If you want lunch (salad and bread) with your political talk, call the church office at 251-9489 for a reservation. ■



Brethren and cistern

BY BOB GUDGEL, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR



The picture is from the new lower level . . . the elevator is to the right of Jim Mann and above his head is the old entry from the south parking lot.

The dictionary defines *brethren* as brothers in a religious setting. It defines *cistern* as a large storage tank for rainwater. Both words seem to reflect a part of our church's history. Brethren (both brothers and sisters in Christ) met many years ago to charter this church and construct its first building. A cistern was discovered last month smack dab in the center of the location for a steel column in the new Gathering Space.

The farmer that owned this property, that we now call Northminster, had a rainwater holding tank buried 15 feet underground. This relic, perhaps 80–100 years old, was unearthed, just east of the sanctuary, while workmen were digging footings.

Structural engineers directed us in the proper “repairs” and we were able to compact the ground and move ahead. You can now readily see the progress being made on the construction site.

What will be done in the sanctuary?

Members are asking me what will be done in the sanctuary and when will the work start? In late April, after Easter and after a couple of weddings, we are scheduled to start that phase. By then we will be finishing the office renovation that is now well under way.

The plan is to paint the entire sanctuary—walls, ceiling, windows, shutters and trim. The back and ends of the pews will be painted, new cushions will be made and the pews will be repositioned to allow a few more inches of space between the rows. There will be new carpet in the narthex and down the aisles. New tile flooring will go under the pews and on the chancel floor.

The chancel will be extended forward eight feet to allow more room and better spacing for the choir, the pastors, and others participating in worship. Funds have been donated to secure new liturgical furniture. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of June. Wurster Construction will segment the work so that we can worship as usual on Sunday mornings.

Invest in PILP

Construction has progressed to the point where we have now spent all

of the funds thus far received from the *Open to The Future* campaign. We are now using funds borrowed from PILP (Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program) as was planned by our Finance Committee and approved by the Session. Part of the PILP agreement calls for our membership to purchase \$500,000 in Presbyterian Notes (CD's). If we do this, the interest rate on the church's loan will be reduced by 1 percent from 6.6 percent to 5.6 percent.

Cheri and I along with other members have purchased notes worth a total of about \$250,000. I would encourage you to support this effort. Notes can be purchased for terms from six months to five years. The money (note) remains yours and you get the interest, but our church and other Presbyterian churches benefit from the use of your money.

The banks have had their “bailout,” why not transfer some of your CD's or IRA's to a PILP Investment Note and support your church and your denomination? ■

HOSTs are needed for the midweek Maundy Thursday service, April 9, and Good Friday, April 10. These services are in the sanctuary and begin at 7 p.m. so HOSTs would need to be on board by 6:40. If you can volunteer, please e-mail or call Associate Pastor Ruth Moore at ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489. ■

Mission: You do the math . . .

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

In a few days, it will be Palm Sunday and, just as it has for the last 60 years, it will be time to collect for One Great Hour of Sharing. It's the time when the Presbyterian Church and eight other denominations raise money for refugee assistance, disaster relief and development aid. In 2008, Presbyterians gave over \$8,000,000.

But it was \$750,000 less than in 2007. If that trend continues into 2009, as many Americans face uncertain times, what's going to happen to all those programs that need to be sustained?

Our denomination's OGHS focus goes to Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self Development of People. Each focus is for the long term, after the storm and

publicity has passed, after the reason for hunger has been addressed, after the water system is up and running, and while governments continue to bicker over the economy. OGHS honors our gifts by expanding programs and sticking around to support and enhance our efforts whether we are financially comfortable or not.

C. S. Lewis said, "I do not believe one can settle on how much we ought to give. I'm afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare."

One of Lent's great lessons is finding out we can do without more than we might have thought. Maybe you gave up something for Lent like wine or cigarettes or chocolate or movie night. Blessed are those that donate their



chocolate money to One Great Hour of Sharing! Or, look at it this way; another \$10 makes a more positive difference in some lives than it would make a negative difference in our own. Another \$5, given by many, has the ability to help others in a very powerful way.

So, you do the math. Your first number is 800, the number of members in Northminster. Now you may multiply. ■

Outreach: Community Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m.

The annual Northminster Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11, at 10 a.m.—rain or shine! This event is open to all children age toddlers–5th grade. Bring your basket and join us.

The north parking lot will be closed for safety reasons that morning. Please park on the street and watch your children carefully. We will meet in Calvin Hall and disperse by age groups to hunt. Questions? Contact Debbie Bulloff at dbulloff@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489. ■

What is there to celebrate?

BY LISA AND ANDY LONGO, OPEN TO THE FUTURE BRIDGE TEAM LEADERS

This past few months have been very difficult for the Northminster family. In 2007 we were challenged to be "Open to the Future" but now we are going forward into that future without some very important partners in ministry: Larry Moslener, Jim Mann, Sue Purtee and Andi Martin. There is pain in losing those members of our family. However, God never promised us that the future would be the one we envisioned. And, he is still calling Northminster forward to proclaim his word in the Broad Ripple community, in Indianapolis and in the world.

What's to celebrate?

So, what is there to celebrate at Northminster?

- Good friends and a loving church family
- Growing children's and youth programs
- Volunteers who are stepping up to fill needs
- Rich history of faithfulness
- Caring staff
- Meaningful worship and sermons
- Dynamic music program
- Community recognized fine arts program, *Sound & Spirit*
- Generous members who pledged to the capital campaign
- A Foundation that is supporting the church
- Beautifully renovated building space and new addition to support programming

Yes, there is lots of good news to share at this time as well. And while we mourn the loss of some staff members, let us also look to

the strengths of our church family. There is a bright future for Northminster, maybe so bright that we cannot see the details.

What role do we play?

So, what role are we each called to play in that future? What lies ahead for Northminster depends on our faith and on how we choose to act on our faith. Here are three things we are all being called to do as we move into our future:

- Share your time and talents to spread the Good Word. We need volunteers to fill big and small roles that are crucial to the mission and ministry of Northminster.
- Share your faith with others to grow our church family. Invite a

new member or family to

Northminster. It has been shown that a personal invitation is one of the best ways to grow our church family.

- Share your financial resources to fund the work of the church. It takes money to fund the important mission and ministry done by and through Northminster. Consider increasing your annual pledge, making a special additional gift to the annual campaign, giving to the building campaign and making a planned gift to the Northminster Foundation.

The future may not be clear but let's embrace it with faith and enthusiasm for the loving God who will go there with us. ■

Good advice for "hard times" Financial Peace University beginning April 30

Financial Peace University is a life changing program that teaches you how to make the right decisions with your money. It was created by Dave Ramsey, personal money management expert, best selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*, *Financial Peace* and *More Than Enough*, and host of a nationally syndicated radio program.

On April 30, Financial Peace University is coming to

Northminster Church. In a series of classes you'll learn how to live on a budget, how to get out of debt, how to find bargains, how to save and invest, how to plan for retirement, and how to experience the joy of giving. The facilitators of the program will be Larry Moslener and Jim Mann (photo). Classes will be held on Thursday nights at the church. (More on cost and times in weekly e-mails and bulletins.) ■



Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Church School in April
April 5 is Palm/Passion Sunday. As we enter Holy Week with both palms and stories of Christ's sacrifice, we will remember Jesus through symbols/stories. Mark 14:1-15: 47 will be our text. Children will participate in the Palm Parade and then come to Church School to hear the stories of Holy Week with the assurance of God's love.

On Easter morning we will join the women in their amazement at the empty tomb. We will read Mark 16:1-8 and consider "who will roll away the stone?"

On April 19, the children of the Church School will consider John 20:19-31. Jesus will come to Thomas and say, "Peace be with you." People come to belief in different ways; there is room for question and doubt. How can we welcome others who bring their wonderings about Jesus to us?

April 26 will bring the study of Luke 24: 36b-48. We will travel along the road to Emmaus and meet a stranger. We will invite him to eat with us. Will we recognize Him?

VBS 2009

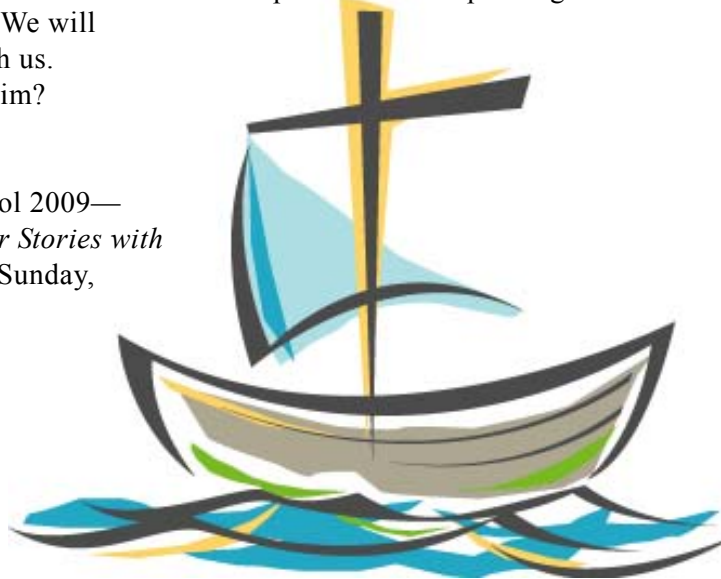
Vacation Bible School 2009—*H20, My Lord: Water Stories with Jesus*—will be held Sunday,

June 14–Wednesday June 17, from 5:45-8 p.m., for ages 4 (by April 1, 2009)—middle school. If you are interested in helping with drama, crews, crafts, video, parade, snacks, music, preschool, nightly newsletter or games, please let Debbie Bulloff know at 251-9489. On-line registration is now available at www.northminster-indy.org. Everyone attending must register individually.

Name the VBS newsletter

Our theme is *H20, My Lord: Water Stories with Jesus*. Our stories will include Jesus and John the Baptizer, Walking on Water, Healing at the Pool and Calming the Storm/Fishing with the Risen Christ. Submit your nightly news names to Debbie Bulloff by May 15. There will be a prize given to the winner.

If you can format a newsletter with lots of pictures from Microsoft Word for Office, we need your help! Let Debbie Bulloff know of your interest. We need help June 14-17 for production and printing. ■



Bible Bowl and BBQ April 19

Come join the fun on April 19 following the 11 a.m. service. In Calvin Hall it will be the kids and youth of Northminster vs. the adults in the competition of the decade. Questions will be taken from the various curriculums used by children, youth and adults within the last year. A pitch-in lunch will precede the competition.

The adult and family ministries committees will provide BBQ sandwiches and we ask that everyone bring a dish to share. If your last name starts with A-P, bring a salad and Q-Z bring a dessert. Please call the church office at 251-9489 for reservations by Thursday, April 16. You won't want to miss this!

Adult Education

Take a look at the Adult Education insert in the April *News & Views*. There are a variety of classes offered and opportunities to grow in your faith through study. Courses are also listed on the web site www.northminster-indy.org.

Library News

Due to construction, the Church Library has been packed up and temporarily stored. If you have library materials checked out, please return them to the church office. The collection is missing many titles that might have accidentally wandered home.

What's happening?

Broomball anyone?



Broomball April 24

We are playing Broomball at the Pepsi Coliseum on Friday, April 24, from 10 p.m.–12 a.m.! The cost is \$10 per person for two hours of crazy fun on ice. To hitch a ride on the church bus, please arrive at Northminster by 9:40 p.m. We'll head on over to play with other churches in the Indianapolis area. Bring your old broom and lots of duck tape, your friends, and your \$10 for tons of fun!

Candy for the Easter Egg Hunt by April 9

We still need candy for the Easter Egg Hunt. Please bring individually wrapped candy to the church office. There is a big plastic bin across the hallway in the middle cupboard for the candy. Thank you. Girls Scouts will stuff eggs April 9.

NorthStars reservations due by April 13

On Saturday, May 2, join NorthStars (couples and singles 60+) to see the *Twentieth Century* at 8 p.m. at the Civic Theater. It is a comedy that

takes place on a train. The tickets are \$24.00 each. If you want to have a chicken dinner at the Iron Skillet at 6 p.m. before the play, the cost is \$23.20 per person.

We need your reservation check by April 13. RSVP to Janet and Ed Swearingen at 849-3612, 8144 Hewes Pl., Indianapolis 46250.

Tandem lunch April 21

Join your Tandem friends (social group for older adults) for lunch on Tuesday, April 21, at 11:30 p.m. at the MCL Cafeteria in Castleton.

Moms' Group April 28

The Moms' Group (moms of children 5 or under) will meet Tuesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at the home of Allison Shelton, 9767 Fortune Drive, Fishers 46037. Please bring a beverage and/or a snack to share.

If you have not been to one of this group's gatherings, all are welcome. We are a very laid back group so it is easy for a new mom to drop in! Questions? Contact Liz Neterval at 502-7150 or eneterval@indy.rr.com.

Sometimes it's hard to ask for help

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help.

We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. (It's confidential too!) Find out more. Call a Stephen Leader: Betty Bowers 259-7366 or Larry Moslener 251-9489. ■

Youth Fellowship activities

April 5

Bowling at Woodland Bowl, 6–8:15 p.m. Home for spring Break? Bowl with us! You'll need \$15 for two games of bowling, shoe rental, and food. You can also bring coupons to reduce your cost. Meet us at Woodland Bowl (421 East 96th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46240, 317-844-4099) or meet us at the church by 5:20 p.m. and we'll drive together! We will leave Woodland Bowl at 8 p.m., and you can be picked up at the church by 8:25 p.m.

April 12, Happy Easter!

No Youth Fellowship

April 19

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

April 26

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

May 3

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

May 8, Family Fun Night

Youth and their families are invited to an outing on Friday, May 8. Details coming later.

Contact information

- Julie Shannon at 753-6985 or jshannon@northminster-indy.org
- Jacob Mann at 698-8399 or jacob@northminster-indy.org.

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Sound & Spirit presents at 7 p.m., May 10

Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*



George Frederic Handel (1685–1759)

Dettingen Te Deum is music full of pomp and circumstance and was meant to be performed in a grand celebration. Many composers have set the *Te Deum* text, which comes to us from the *Rule of St. Caesarius*, A.D. 502. It is an ancient hymn of praise to God the Father, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit. Throughout history it has been used as a thanksgiving hymn at consecrations, ordinations, days of celebrations, and military victories. Handel, who enjoyed many years of

success in England, composed the work in English in celebration of King George's armies' routing of the French forces of Louis XV in 1743.

Joining the Northminster's Chancel Choir and orchestra for this performance will be Jay White, countertenor, Douglas Hooper, tenor, and Alan Dunbar, bass. As with all *Sound & Spirit* events, the concert is free and child care is provided. ■

Northminster's choir, orchestra, soloists and director John Wright in concert in 2008

Sound & Spirit, Northminster's arts series, features the Northminster Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra in George Frederic Handel's exuberant *Dettingen Te Deum* at 7 p.m. Sunday, May 10. Composed in 1743, this was Handel's final major liturgical work. It employs three soloists, chorus, and an orchestra of strings, oboes, trumpets, and timpani.

