

# News & Views

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

DECEMBER 2008

## Sound & Spirit's Christmas Lite—December 3 Christmas Bake Sale and dinner too

**N**orthminster's arts series *Sound & Spirit* will present *Christmas Lite* on Wednesday, December 3, at 7 p.m. Children's choirs, adult choirs, and instrumentalists—many in costume—will perform some of your favorite secular songs of the Christmas season—some of them downright silly. *Christmas Lite* is one of *Sound & Spirit's* most popular offerings with the congregation and the Broad Ripple community—performers and audience have a lot of fun. As with all *Sound & Spirit* concerts, this one is free and child care is available.

### Christmas Bake Sale!

Ladies and gentlemen, start your ovens! Please contribute your favorite Christmas baked goods or snack items to the Christmas Bake



*Christmas Lite 2007—Tim Rice and Debbie Everett performed their own rendition of "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas."*

Sale on Wednesday, December 3, from 1–7 p.m. Bring your labeled items to Calvin Hall by 1 p.m. on December 3. Proceeds from the sale will go to a number of charities supported by Northminster. If you have questions,

contact Mary Tarbell at [swansons3@comcast.net](mailto:swansons3@comcast.net) or 850-0823.

### Dinner

The Congregational Life Team is sponsoring a dinner before *Christmas Lite* on Wednesday, December 3, in Calvin Hall, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Angels and shepherds will mingle with the diners. There will be a free will offering received to cover the cost of the meal, but please call the church office at 251-9489

to tell us you plan to attend. ■

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Pat Freije and Jerry Gray

### 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 pondering . . .

BY TERI THOMAS, PASTOR



**A**dvent is an awesome season in the life of the church. I think it is a season with multiple personalities. We are faced with waiting and anticipation. We read about the coming of Christ and the Second Coming. We talk of light in a season of darkness. We seek warmth when the air is so cold. We speak of prayer in a season of parties.

This year Advent could not be any more complicated. Our national leadership is in a time of transition. Our economy leaves us feeling uncertain and unstable. The harsh realities of our involvement in two wars hit us hard. We find ourselves in a time of conflict and

confusion when we want to sing about joy and peace.

Advent could not come at a better time. Somehow these multiple personalities reflect exactly what Advent is intended to be. This is a time to prepare. Clearly we cannot prepare for Christ's birth. It took place more than 2000 years ago. It is a little late to start preparing now. But we can prepare for a rebirth and even more, we are called to prepare for a second birth, a second coming, a time when the Kingdom of God will be realized and fulfilled.

Basically, Advent is the season when we contemplate peace in a time of war. This is when we sing of joy in the midst of pain and sorrow. Advent calls us to trust in uncertainty, to faith in confusion, to love in loneliness and despair.

So this Advent Season I encourage you to take your time. Don't rush to the celebrations, the glad tidings, the miracle and the sweet little baby. Take your time with the cold, the darkness, and the conflict. Try to understand the present and see God's work in today. Let the doubt and the hope come together in a time of expectation. And wait. ■

## Commitment Sunday

BY JACKIE CRITTENDEN, STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

November 9 was Commitment Sunday at Northminster and it was wonderful seeing members bring their 2009 estimate of giving cards forward during worship. As of November 17, 2008, we have received 242 pledges and monetary

commitments totaling \$636,977. Thank you to everyone for "sharing." Your gifts of time and treasure are greatly appreciated! ■

*More financial information is in a box on the December calendar page.*

## December worship schedule

### December 7

Second Sunday of Advent. Communion will be served at both 9 and 11 a.m. Teri Thomas is preaching.

### December 14

Third Sunday of Advent. Communion will be by intinction at 9 a.m. Teri Thomas is preaching.

### December 17 Blue Christmas

Wednesday at 5 p.m. in the chapel we will hold our annual Blue Christmas Service. This service is open to anyone who wants some quiet reflection on the past year and how the joy of the season speaks to the sadness or the pains of life. Bring family or friends to this service and plan to stay for dinner afterward.

### December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will have a traditional service of Lessons and Carols at both 9 and 11 a.m. Join us for this festive service of scripture and song.

### December 24 Christmas Eve

See page 3.

### December 28

Christmas continues. We will sing more carols and continue the celebration. Rev. Ruth Chadwick Moore is preaching.

## Thank you from Pyoca

BY RICH SWARTWOOD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PYOCA

**T**hank you for Northminster's generous pledge payment of \$50,000 to Pyoca Camp, Conference & Retreat Center's capital campaign! Your gift has enabled us to continue with construction on the lodge renovation, specifically allowing us to proceed on the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system which will eventually heat and cool the entire camp, saving approximately \$10,000 a year!

Your gift will continue to provide much needed sanctuary for those who visit Pyoca each year—

sanctuary for rest, spiritual formation, the environment, and of course the campers. Each year we have approximately 650 campers come to be changed. Often, we do not see the changes immediately, but through parent responses, we know we have made a deep impact on the lives of the campers.

Again, on behalf of the over 2,600 people, who came to Pyoca last year and those that are coming in 2008 to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ and with fellow Christians, thank you. ■

## Heifer International, alternative gift

Looking for an alternative gift this Christmas that will benefit many, honor family and friends and save the earth? Instead of a material gift, consider a gift to Heifer International ([www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)).

Heifer International works with communities around the world to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Since 1944, Heifer has helped 9.2 million families in 125 countries move toward greater self-

reliance through livestock, training and "passing on the gift." By providing animals and training in caring for the animals, Heifer enables families to overcome poverty and make lasting improvements in their quality of life.

Northminster's Church School has been involved with Heifer Project for more than eight years. All contributions "plunked" in the Milk Pail during the "Time with Children" during Sunday morning services, as well as gifts by individuals and church groups such as NorthStars and Presbyterian Women's circles, have been sent to Heifer to purchase animals. This past year, contributions have enabled over 13 families to overcome poverty and hunger and become self-supportive.

There are Contribution Request Forms available on the Friendship



## Christmas Eve

Bring your family, your neighbors, and your friends for one of our Christmas Eve Services.

### 4 p.m. Multigenerational

At 4 p.m. is the multi-generational Christmas Eve Service. The children and youth will tell the Christmas story in pageant and song. This is a lively service for all ages.

### 7 p.m. Communion

The 7 p.m. service is our candlelight communion service. Various instrumentalists and voices will lead us in a quiet, contemplative celebration of the coming of Christ. We will share communion by intinction.

### 10:30 p.m.

At 10:30 is the musical prelude for the 11 p.m. worship service. Our Chancel Choir will lead us in this candlelight celebration of Christ's birth.



Tables. Joe Komenda (*photo*) at [brenkomen@aol.com](mailto:brenkomen@aol.com) will be happy to answer your questions. ■

## Mission and outreach

### Clothe-A-Child needs volunteer shoppers

Clothe-A-Child will take place on Friday, December 5, at Sears at the Castleton Square Mall. Volunteers are asked to meet at the north entrance next to the automotive repair at 9:30 a.m. (*note change of time*). A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the choir room or call Associate Pastor Larry Moslener at 251-9489.

Donations for Clothe-A-Child may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church. Special envelopes are located on the information tables in the narthex and office entrance. If contributing by check, please mark "Clothe-A-Child" on the check. Donations not used by Clothe-A-Child will be distributed by the Mission Team.

### Gleaners needs volunteers for Hunger Study

How extensive is hunger in our neighborhoods? In order to answer that question, Gleaners Food Bank, along with 8 other food banks in Indiana and 150 food banks nationwide, will participate in Hunger in America 2009, conducted by Feeding America (formerly Second Harvest). The information from the study will be shared with the Hoosier media, policy makers, hunger advocates, and concerned citizens to raise awareness of

hunger in Indiana. The study will be an important step to end hunger in our state.

During February through April, volunteers will go to charities that receive food from Gleaners to interview food bank clients. To learn more about this important volunteer opportunity to assist with interviewing, e-mail Gleaners Hunger Study coordinator Robin Miner at [rminer@gleaners.org](mailto:rminer@gleaners.org) or call at 317-925-0191 extension 14.



### Interfaith Hunger Initiative

Northminster Church is a covenant partner with the Interfaith Hunger Initiative. For the next five years we will work to raise awareness about the causes and extent of hunger in our city and worldwide and commit some of our benevolence budget to actions that will work to end hunger. Pastor Teri Thomas and Rabbi Jon Adland of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation were among the community and religious leaders attending the IHI Kickoff on Monument Circle October 16. ■



### Christmas Eve Joy Offering

As a part of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. (PCUSA), Northminster participates in four special offerings with our denomination each year. On Christmas Eve we will collect for the Joy Offering. Envelopes can be found in your home offering envelope box and will be in the pews for the 4, 7 and 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services.

Fifty percent of the collected offering will go to the PCUSA Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other 50 percent supports Presbyterian-related racial ethnic education. Educating racial-ethnic students has been a mission of the PCUSA for decades. From Stillman College founded in 1876 to the Presbyterian Pan American School started as Texas-Mexican Institute in 1911, the denomination's commitment has continued.

For more information go to [www.pcusa.org/cjoffering](http://www.pcusa.org/cjoffering). Please consider contributing to this worthwhile offering this Christmas.

# Seek, serve and embrace

## Stephen Ministers care and listen

**C**hristmas can be painful. The joy of Christmas can turn into a time of painful loneliness and emptiness for those who have suffered a loss or who are going through a difficult time. But help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and support you through the holidays and as long as your need persists. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with a Stephen Leader: Betty Bowers at 259-7366 or Larry Moslener at 251-9489.

### Home communion

The Deacons serve communion to individuals at home who cannot attend worship regularly on the first Sunday of each month. If you are interested in receiving communion,

please contact Associate Pastor Larry Moslener at 251-9489 or [larrymoslener@northminster-indy.org](mailto:larrymoslener@northminster-indy.org).

### Need a ride?

Northminster Presbyterian Church has volunteers who are willing to provide roundtrip transportation to the church on Sundays for the 9 and 11 a.m. service. Depending on the number of people who request a ride, the church bus or an individual's car will be used. Pick-up time will be scheduled based on where you live. The bus or car will take riders home immediately following the worship service.

If there is a church event immediately following the 9 or 11 a.m. service you want to attend, arrangements can be made for your transportation back to your home. Please contact Associate Pastor Larry Moslener at 251-9489 or [larrymoslener@northminster-indy.org](mailto:larrymoslener@northminster-indy.org). *Continued on page 7*

## Fun stuff with Northminster friends

### Shannon Christmas Party

Mike and Julie Shannon will host a party on December 6 at 7 p.m. for singles, married couples with or without kids—adults in their 20s, 30s and 40s. We will exchange fun gag gifts (\$5 and less). Bring a beverage or appetizer or dessert to share and some canned food items for our church's food barrels. Grown-ups only, so please arrange for child care. Questions? Contact Julie Shannon at [jshannon@northminster-indy.org](mailto:jshannon@northminster-indy.org).

### Butler Basketball

For those of us that follow local college football, basketball season is back! The NorthStars (couples and singles 65+) will visit Hinkle Fieldhouse on Saturday, January 10. The game (with Detroit) starts at 2 p.m. and tickets are \$16. We will gather for food and comments after the game. Send reservations and ticket purchases to Bob Bowers, 6924 Munsee Land, Indianapolis 46260 by December 21. This event is open to all basketball and Bulldog fans.



*Northminster joined other congregations for the House of Abraham Habitat for Humanity build on October 25 and November 1. Lynne Tobin, Corinne Imboden, and Jack Wineman were builders and Ann Bruce, Fran MacAllister and Mae Leech made sure there was food.*

# Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR



*Christmas Lite Dinner 2007: (Right) Shepherd Aidan Yohn, joyful angels Senit and Dawit Nega and Tesfome Gebrenegus and lamb Michael Longo.*

## Church School in December

As we journey through the Advent season, we will light candles in Church School to remind us of hope, peace, joy and love. On December 7 we will focus on Isaiah 40:1-11. God's people are in exile. God will bring them back to the land of promise. We will hear and be messengers of God's comfort and promise. When, God, will you change our world?

On December 14, Psalm 126 will help us celebrate the good things God has done for us. This prayer song helps us proclaim and rejoice in God's promises. Where do we see seeds of love and care—planted in hope—beginning to flourish and come to harvest? Will all nations see and rejoice?

December 21 will find the children of the Church School considering Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 2: 1-7. God continues to make things happen. We can have

confidence in God's presence and faithfulness. God continues to give birth to grace, hope, new possibilities, and salvation for everyone. How can we respond to God's promise that continues to be born among us this Advent season?

On December 28 we will join Anna and Simeon as they meet Mary and Joseph and Jesus at the temple. We join them in proclaiming that the good news of God's love and care is now among us in Christ. Our focus scripture will be Luke 2:22-40. In what ways can we, the people of Northminster Church, express our joy in the long-awaited gift of Jesus?

## Birthday Party for Jesus

Please join the Church School in Calvin Hall at 10 a.m. for our Birthday Party for Baby Jesus on December 21. If you can make a dozen cupcakes for our celebration, please let Debbie Bulloff know at

[dbulloff@northminster-indy.org](mailto:dbulloff@northminster-indy.org) or 251-9489 by December 17.

## Angels and Shepherds

If you would like to dress up and appear as an angel or shepherd at the Congregational Life dinner before *Christmas Lite* on December 3, please let Debbie Bulloff know by December 2 at 251-9489 or [dbulloff@northminster-indy.org](mailto:dbulloff@northminster-indy.org). We will need adults as well as children and youth volunteers.

## Worship in Children's Church

You are invited to worship with the children of the Church School in Children's Church. We are singing, praying, hearing the lesson/story and practicing parts of worship that you will recognize from "Big Church." When our worship service is finished, we adjourn for fellowship and craft time. Join us in Room 203 after the Time with Children. Questions? Want to join in and help? Ask Debbie Bulloff at [dbulloff@northminster-indy.org](mailto:dbulloff@northminster-indy.org) or 251-9489.

## Church School Mission

Many families in our city are hungry. Please join the children of Northminster in bringing protein-rich foods like canned tuna, soup, and peanut butter to church for our food barrel during Advent. The Deacons will take these offerings to Westminster Neighborhood Ministries food pantry.

## Helpers for little ones

If you can help in the Nursery at **8:45 a.m.** on the 3rd Sunday of the month, in the Toddler Room occasionally, or in Preschool at 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. once a month, please let Debbie Bulloff know. Our little ones need loving arms. ■

# What's happening with youth?

## Youth adopt family for Christmas mission

### 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Youth Participation

We need youth to be scripture readers and to play the parts of the Christmas story characters for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. We also need youth to help greet and usher. Contact Julie Shannon at [jshannon@northminster-indy.org](mailto:jshannon@northminster-indy.org).

You'll need to arrive at church on December 24 at 3 p.m. to prepare! I'll be talking to you to get you involved! We will mail and post a schedule of rehearsals.

### Youth Christmas mission

Northminster youth are going to adopt a family from the Dayspring Center and as a group purchase Christmas gifts for them. There are many families in Indianapolis who are in need and this is one small way we can help make their Christmas a little brighter. Dayspring Center provides emergency shelter, clothing

and three meals a day for homeless families with children. (The average age of a homeless person in the United States is 9 years old.)

### Youth for House of Abraham

Tory Eder and Emma Moore joined other Northminster members in helping to build the House of Abraham Habitat for Humanity house on November 1.

### College age reunion

College age reunion is on Christmas Eve at 9 p.m. in the youth room. Come and reconnect with your Northminster friends. This is a very informal gathering with food and lots of laughs available!

### Italian Night February 28

The youth fundraiser Italian Night is set for Saturday, February 28, 6–8:30 p.m. in Calvin Hall. Please save this date! ■

## Seek, serve and embrace (continued)

### Visit to American Village

Sunday, December 7, is the date the *Parents with a Passion* class—and anyone else who wishes to join them—have set to visit our friends at American Village! We will leave Northminster around 12:20 p.m., set up for our guests in the Ford Room in Washington Manor at 12:45, share cookies and carols and finish at 1:30.

After that we will visit some of the other residents who seldom have visitors. Please plan on bringing your children—our guests look forward to their songs and smiles! Stephanie Alexander will also sing and Julie Shannon has offered to play the piano.

If anyone else cares to share musical talents, let Andi Martin know at [andimartin@northminster-indy.org](mailto:andimartin@northminster-indy.org). ■

*Monica Brase and Rosemary Norrick talk during the American Village visit at Easter 2008.*



## Youth Fellowship activities

### December 7, 6–8 p.m.

Regular Youth Fellowship. Come early, 5:15–6 p.m., to play Wii games! As always expect food, fun, fellowship plus Bible study, discussion and prayer! We'll be discussing current issues and how they impact our faith in youth group.

### December 14, 5–8 p.m.

Youth Christmas Party at Julie and Mike's house, 3935 Central Avenue. Bring a snack to share, a \$5 and under gag gift to exchange, and a canned food item for Westminster Neighborhood Ministries food pantry.

### December 20, 9–11 a.m.

Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Eve service. Following the rehearsal, we'll go to see *The Tale of Despereaux—Small Hero, Big Heart*, tale of a misfit mouse who prefers reading books to eating them, an unhappy rat who schemes to leave the darkness of the dungeon, and a servant girl with cauliflower ears, whose fates are intertwined with that of the castle's princess.

### December 21 and 28

No Youth Fellowship

### Contact information

- Julie Shannon at 753-6985 or [jshannon@northminster-indy.org](mailto:jshannon@northminster-indy.org)
- Jacob Mann at 698-8399 or [jacob@northminster-indy.org](mailto:jacob@northminster-indy.org).

# seek, serve and embrace

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Indianapolis, IN 46220-2799

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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2008

## Thanks be to God for volunteers

BY BOB GUDGEL, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone but your Building Committee would like to extend the season long enough to say a special “thank you” to some church members who have contributed significantly of their time and talents to our building project.

### Mike Shannon

Mike Shannon, who works for Miller-Eads Electric Company, came to me early in our bidding process and offered to volunteer his services in helping lay out the electrical system needed for our project. Additionally Miller-Eads, as a favor to Mike, was willing to work for a reduced markup that would provide substantial savings.

### Tim Rice

As part of this plan, Tim Rice, who works for Eaton Corp., would supply all of the electrical “gear” that would be used in the project. Tim suggested, and Miller-Eads agreed, to let the church buy the equipment direct from Eaton Corp. and thus avoid the middleman markups. Through the combined efforts of Mike and Tim and the generosity of Miller-Eads, we were able to cut some \$50,000 from our original electrical budget.



*Jerry Gray designed the cross, built it, and donated the whole project to the church.*

### Pat Freije

Back in the summer, Building Committee member Pat Freije was reviewing estimates for the landscaping of our new facilities and proposed that her landscaping crew could do the work for half the price of the estimates. (In her other life, Pat is a custom home builder

and has access to landscaping.) The beautiful work done around the north parking lot is the result of many volunteer hours from Pat and the discounted work of her landscape crew. Thanks, Pat, for saving us another \$20,000.

### Jerry Gray

Jerry Gray owns Leslie Coatings Inc., a company that does specialty paving projects like tennis courts and running tracks. His expertise and familiarity with asphalt companies helped us secure a paving contract that saved us \$23,000. Additionally, I asked Jerry, who is also our resident artist, to design a cross to hang by the new north entrance. He not only designed it, but built it—all 300 pounds worth—and donated the completed project to the church.

Erecting the cross was made possible by **Mike Shannon**, who provided a bucket lift truck and two employees to do the work. Our thanks to Miller-Eads employees **Todd Mann** and **Scott Heckman**, who attached the cross with precision to its place of prominence on the north wall. Thanks be to God for volunteers. ■