

News & Views

Northminster Presbyterian Church 1660 Kessler Blvd. East Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-251-9489 www.northminster-indy.org

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2009

Get into the Christmas spirit and help a child

Clothe-A-Child on Thursday, December 10

December 10 is the date for our annual Clothe-A-Child shopping trip with students from Indianapolis Public School 55. For those new to this ministry, Northminster volunteers help 100 School 55 children shop for warm coats, boots, hats, mittens and school uniforms. We gather at Sears in Castleton Mall at 9 a.m. and the children meet us there.

We need lots of energetic volunteers to sign up to be shoppers. (Trust me, these children are so excited about this opportunity that they have a lot of energy!) The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the Choir Room.

We also need donations to fund the project. Envelopes are in your offering envelope box or can be found on the Friendship Tables. Please mark the memo section of your check "Clothe-A-Child."

This is a wonderful way for you to get into the Christmas spirit and help a child in need at the same time. Plus it's fun! Questions? Contact Associate Pastor Ruth



Energetic shoppers lined up at Sears for our Clothe-A-Child 2008.

Moore at 251-9489 or ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org.

Need a SUPER gift idea?

Don't know what to get your mom this year for Christmas? Need a gift idea for someone? You can make a donation to Clothe-A-Child, and if you let Pastor Ruth Moore know details such as name and address, she will write a note telling your loved one of your donation in their

name. Contact Ruth Moore at ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489.

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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 pondering . . .

BY TERI THOMAS, PASTOR



By the time this issue of *News & Views* reaches your home we will already have begun the season of Advent. This is the beginning of the church year. We start again in the sacred cycle that leads us through the waiting of Advent, the birth of Christmas, the revelation of Epiphany, the preparation of Lent, the suffering and death of Holy Week and the Resurrection of Easter. After Easter we will move through the reception of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and then flow into the rhythm of Ordinary time.

Many of us did not grow up with this liturgical calendar. We celebrated Christmas and Easter, and

the other 50 weeks were just Sunday. I am glad the church has come back to celebrating the seasons.

The church seasons remind us of the seasons of our own lives and the seasons of a congregation's life. We know waiting. We understand new birth and we have also experienced suffering and death. The church seasons remind us once again of who we are as the people of God, what we can expect from God in each season, and where we will "end up" at the end of it all.

The most meaningful Advent I ever remember was 27 years ago when I was pregnant. The whole idea of waiting and preparing for birth took on new meaning that year. This year I am just beginning the wait for my first grandchild who is estimated to arrive in June (yes, I am too young for this and yes, you will get sick of hearing me talk about it). Maybe this will help me focus in some new ways.

This Advent I will be praying for each of you. I hope you find the light in the darkness, the warmth in the cold, and the hope in the bleakness as we wait together.

What do Deacons do?

BY RUTH CHADWICK MOORE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

In December the Deacons are in charge of Clothe-A-Child. On December 10, we will help transport, shop, feed and return to school safely over 100 children from School 55. This is the only opportunity some of these children have to get warm coats, hats and school uniforms. Please

consider contributing to this wonderful ministry and/or be a shopper.

As they do each year, the Deacons provide and take poinsettias to those Northminster members who are no longer able to attend worship. They will deliver this symbol of Christmas joy and love on December 20.

December Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

December 6

Today is the Second Sunday of Advent. The sermon will focus on John the Baptist and preparations for Christmas. We will light the Advent candles at both 9 and 11 a.m.

December 13

December 13 is the Third Sunday of Advent. The choir and orchestra will present C.P.E. Bach's *Magnificat* at 9 and 11 a.m. We will continue our preparation in music and in Word.

December 16 Blue Christmas

Today we will hold our annual Blue Christmas Service at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. This is a service for those who don't feel so joyous this holiday season or those who are missing someone special. This quiet service of candle lighting, prayers and communion will give us all the opportunity to reflect on the season. We invite you to make dinner reservations and stay for dinner following the service.

December 20

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Come at 9 or 11 a.m. to hear the familiar stories and ponder again what gifts God might have in store for you. We will continue with our wreath lighting.

December 24 and 27

Look on page 3 for Christmas Eve services and December 27.

You can be an evangelist!

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday

December 13, 9 or 11 a.m.

BY JIM DOUGANS, EVANGELISM TEAM

Last month I wrote to you about the E-Team's plans for a "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday."

Here is what we are asking you to do:

- First, look around where you live, work, or go to school—this is your mission field. Make a list of individuals you can invite to church.
- Second, commit to pray regularly for the people on your list.
- Third, invite a friend, neighbor, relative, or colleague to worship at Northminster on Sunday, December 13. The E-Team will provide you with an e-mail that you can forward to them. We will also have a postcard you can deliver to your neighbor. You can pick up the postcard on Sunday, November 29.

While every service at Northminster is special, Sunday, December 13, will be extra-special. The choir will perform the *Magnificat* by Bach's second son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. What a way for your friend to enhance their Advent season and prepare for Christmas. Furthermore, they will be able to see our updated sanctuary and new addition.

Study after study has shown the majority of people join a church because someone invited them to attend. Your invitee will enjoy a wonderful and uplifting worship service and refreshments following each service. Let's fill the sanctuary on December 13.

Outreach in the pew pocket and on the web site

New Pew Inserts

Be looking for new pew inserts and visitor cards. The new inserts are for you to request prayers for the weekly prayer brochure and to let us know visitor information or to change your address or e-mail for our records. The visitor cards will send visitors to a survey on our web site so we can learn more about them. These new items will be in the pew pockets in

December, hopefully on "Invite a Friend to Church Sunday."

Worship bulletin on web site

This is to alert you that we now offer the worship bulletin with the Order of Service as a link at the same place on the web site where members and friends can click to listen to the live services. Check it out at www.northminster-indy.org.

Welcome new member

Cindy Smith joined Northminster on October 25, transferring her membership from another Presbyterian church. Cindy attended Northminster in her youth (just a few years ago!) and she and Barb

Hill even went on a youth trip together back in the day. Cindy works for the Salvation Army and is already active in a Circle and a ChristCare group. Welcome back, Cindy!



Christmas Eve

December 24

- **At 4 p.m.** is the Christmas Eve Service for all ages. We will sing the familiar hymns and the children and youth will help us imagine the old story in a new way. We do not use real candles at this service so the sparks of God's love are safe for children of all ages.
- **At 7 p.m.** is the Christmas Eve Communion Service. We will sing together, pray together, light candles and share the sacrament as we welcome Christ's birth.
- **At 10:30** is the prelude for the 11 p.m. Candlelight Service. The Chancel Choir will help us welcome the birth of Jesus.

December 27

December 27 is the first Sunday after Christmas. We will sing more of your favorite hymns and hear more of the Christmas story at both 9 and 11. Bring your friends and family to continue the celebration.

Financial information

BY DON CRAFT, TREASURER

2009 Stewardship and Open to the Future Update

Both the 2009 Stewardship and the *Open to the Future* (OTTF) campaign receipts continue to be on track to successful completion. Through the second week in November, over \$700,000 in 2009 pledges have been received, 85 percent of the total pledged, and, with less than 2 years complete in the third year OTTF campaign, over \$2 million has been received, better than 75 percent of the total pledged.

Last Chance for IRA Charitable Rollover

Set to expire Thursday, December 31, the exclusion from gross income of charitable contributions coming directly from IRAs for those over age 70½ has not been extended. Qualifying contributions to Northminster Church made by year

end are excluded from gross income for federal tax purposes and consequently from Indiana income tax. Contact Don Craft in the church office at 251-9489 for additional details.

2010 contribution envelopes at church December 6 and 13

Due to the increase in postage, 2010 Contribution Envelopes for the General Fund will be available for pick up in the Gathering Place on Sunday, December 6 and 13.

Quarterly envelopes for *Open to the Future* will be mailed as usual. They are not as expensive because they are mailed in an envelope, not a box. If you received Contribution Envelopes and do not use them, please notify Financial Secretary Judy Zirkle at 251-9489 or jzirkle@northminster-indy.org to discontinue the envelopes.



Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Closterhouse Colloquium

The First Closterhouse Colloquium was held November 1 and 2 here at Northminster. Dr. Thomas Long was our guest preacher on Sunday and he spoke to about 75 area ministers and Northminster members on Monday. This wonderful event was funded through the generosity of Wilbur and Mae Closterhouse and Mr. P.E. MacAllister.

Our appreciation and thanks go to the committee that made all this happen:

- Jean Dodds
- Lori Schlabach
- John Stevens
- Bud Morack
- Jack Wineman
- Holly Hearon.



At the registration table Lisa Longo and Sharyl Stevens greet guests for the Closterhouse Colloquium workshop.

Dedication of Northminster's building/renovation

A Caring Embrace

"A Caring Embrace" was written by Northminster member Terri Hubbard for the Dedication on November 22, 2009, "with love for all that Northminster has been and continues to be to my family and me."

There's a light shining here that beckons me
 a warmth that draws me inside
 again and again.
 Every time I come in
 it finds a place in my heart to abide.

There are memories here that surround me
 a weaving of lives filled with dreams,
 faces of those
 who came in and then chose
 to be a family of faith so it seems.

There's a peace flowing here that comforts me.
 It's a place I've come with my tears.
 The caring embrace
 that's the soul of this place
 has brought solace to me through the years.

There's a presence here that anchors me—
 something I know but just cannot see.
 Sometimes I sit still,
 let go and can feel
 Love wrapping itself around me.

There's a quiet voice that says to me,
 "Others need what you've found
 in this place!
 Throw open the door!
 Welcome in even more
 to find love here and the peace of my grace!"



*Building Committee
 John Purcell
 Bob Gudgel
 Bill Lord
 Teri Thomas
 Dolores Heaton
 Jim Mann
 Linda Theobald
 Abby Auer
 Don Craft
 Andy Longo
 Pat Freije*



*Mary Tarbell, Betty Bowers, Nancy Leffler,
 Emma Longo, Teri Thomas and Ruth Moore*



Christmas Joy Offering

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

On Christmas Eve the Presbyterian Church takes up a very special collection with a long history. The Christmas Joy Offering began in 1930 in order to supplement inadequate retirement income and provide supplemental insurance for former ministers, missionaries, church workers and their families. Under the former PCUS, the fund was officially called the Joy Gift.

As the PCUS became the United Presbyterian Church in the United States (UPCUSA), an Advent offering, the White Gift, was collected for general mission and world relief. In 1964 its name was changed to Christmas Offering which provided support for health and welfare concerns related to children. This emphasis continued until 1973 when the offering was used, once again, to assist former servants of the church who were on inadequate pensions. In 1974 racial ethnic education was added, followed by, in 1979, nursing home care assistance. The Board of Pensions and racial ethnic education shared the funds equally.

In 1988 PCUS and the UPCUSA offerings were joined into one Christmas Offering Joy Gift. Quite a mouthful. In 1989 the offering became more simply Christmas Joy Offering and the General Assembly charged that the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges would be equal recipients.

Today the Board of Pensions, through its Assistance Programs, recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers

by providing funds to help them through difficult times. Income Supplements, Housing Supplements, Shared Grants and Emergency Assistance Grants are available to church workers who have financial need or an emergency. It is important that we sustain those who have sustained us.

The other half of our Christmas Joy Offering provides scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic needs. The Presbyterian Church has long promoted education and established radical ethnic schools and colleges. Among them are Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Knoxville College in Tennessee, Cook Native American Ministries in Tempe, Arizona, and Barber-Scotia College in North Carolina. Our gifts allow these schools to continue ministries, to evolve in response to changing needs and circumstances, just like the Offering has evolved. For example, Cook School for Christian Leadership is considering strategies for taking educational ministry directly to Native American reservations.

Just as our name has changed, PCUS or UPCUSA or PCUSA, the Christmas Joy Offering has taken a number of paths to the work it does today. Its strongest focus has always been on the needs of church servants in times of crisis. As the country changed, the focus grew to include racial ethnic education in order to assist in developing leaders in the church and in society.

On Christmas Eve, remember our past and our future, our retired ministers and our students.



Interfaith Hospitality Network

We have room!

Over 12 years ago, a Northminster committee called Social Education wrote a proposal about joining the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN), then a young organization which called on churches to house temporarily homeless families between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. Lynne Tobin was one who presented the idea to the Session and the Session approved it immediately.

IHN Directors were surprised that Presbyterians were able to present and pass such a motion in one meeting without forming a committee first. The proposal had answered questions before they were asked and had already identified the spaces and supplies that would be needed. Thanks to Lynne Tobin and other Deacons, IHN has been a staple in Northminster's Mission efforts for many years. Because of our construction and IHN's restructuring, we halted the hosting of families in late 2007.

But get ready. IHN returns to Northminster in February. We are back on their schedule and they are back on ours. Soon the Mission Team will begin reevaluating new spaces and taking inventory on supplies. Watch for signs and sign-ups. IHN is back!

Mission: Green Group

BY MARYANN RUEGGER, GREEN GROUP



While the walls of the Gathering Place were being painted a beautiful shade of light green in November, so the Green Group (a part of the Mission Team) has been working on ways to “green up” our congregation and the way we use our building.

On September 27, Northminster led the way among Indianapolis area congregations participating in the first annual WALBICUS weekend. On that day, 16 percent of our congregation walked, biked, carpooled or took a bus to worship. As the winning

congregation, Northminster will soon receive a permanently installed bike rake from Bicycle Garage Indy, so even more bikers can ride to church in the future.

The Green Group has completed an Action Plan for review by the Session and anticipates completing several projects in the coming year. If you have ideas on environmentally friendly actions for Northminster, please contact Green Group cochairs Sean Crittenden at 385-4144 or Pete Grills at petegrills@gmail.com.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters December 6, 10 a.m. and noon

The Mission Team is looking for writers of the 2-minute letter. We are interested in two bills that are before Congress. H.R. 2139 Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009 and S. 1524 Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009. Both Acts seek to streamline efforts and make them more effective in confronting global hunger. More information is on the Mission

bulletin board across from the Chapel or at www.bread.org.

Because of Northminster’s dedication to ending hunger worldwide in our lifetime through our association with Interfaith Hunger Initiative, we are having the Offering of Letters on December 6 at 10 a.m. and at noon in the Gathering Place. Give 2-minutes to write our Senators and congressmen, urging their support of these bills.

WATCHOUT!

WATCHOUT! is a list of mission events and volunteer opportunities at Northminster and in the community.

- Bread for the World’s Offering of Letters, Sunday, December 6, at 10 a.m. and noon.
- Craine House Holiday Boutique, December 6, 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 6050 North Meridian, needs donations of homemade items (*shoppers too December 6*) to benefit this work release home for nonviolent female offenders and their preschool children. Contact Barb Stayton at bjstayton@aol.com or 733-0516.
- Clothe-a-Child, Thursday, December 10.
- Christmas Joy Offering, Christmas Eve, December 24.
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.–2 p.m., needs greeters, cashiers, warehouse help and drivers at their building materials and home goods site. Contact Jessica Conway at jconway@indyhabitat.org.
- Gleaners needs drivers to restock other pantries. Contact Mike Miller at mmiller@gleaners.org. Check schedule on the Mission board across from the chapel.
- Gleaners Pantry Partners, four 2-hour slots per week at Southwest Community Cupboard, 3737 Waldemere Road. Contact Debbie Wilson at dwilson@gleaners.org. Check schedule on the Mission board across from the chapel.

Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Church School in December

On November 29, the first Sunday in Advent, the children of the Church School considered Luke 21: 25-36. It is Jesus' final week in Jerusalem.

God's steadfast love invites us to enter Advent by trusting and living out the realm Jesus proclaims. What signs of hope does Jesus have the disciples consider? How can we be signs of God's presence and promise to others?

On December 6, John the Baptizer implores all to prepare the way. We will consider Luke 3:1-6 and meet John and hear his call to prepare for the Messiah. What can we do to prepare for Jesus?

December 13 will find John the Baptizer in the wilderness around the Jordan River. He calls us to look forward—to turn again to God and to Christ. We will consider Luke 3:7-18 and ask, "What should we do?"

On December 20, the children of the Church School will light the fourth Advent candle and listen to Mary's song. Luke 1:39-45, (46-55) tells of the coming births with Elizabeth and Mary. We will light the candle of love and talk about the child who will come and change everything. On December 27, we will practice learning in the church as Jesus learned in the temple. Luke 2: 41-52 will be our focus. We will celebrate!

Dress up December 2

If anyone—child, youth, or adult—would like to dress up as an angel, shepherd, or wise person for the Congregational Life dinner before *Christmas Lite* on Wednesday, December 2, please contact Debbie

Bulloff at dbulloff@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489.

Crèche/Christmas ornament December 6

Please let Debbie Bulloff or Mary Tarbell know if you will be sharing a favorite Christmas ornament or crèche with the congregation on Sunday, December 6, at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Place. Contact Debbie Bulloff at 251-9489 or dbulloff@northminster-indy.org or Mary Tarbell at 255-9250. The Church School will visit and will want to hear the special stories.

Cupcakes for Jesus' Birthday Party December 20

Please let Debbie Bulloff know at dbulloff@northminster-indy.org if you can bring cupcakes for Jesus' Birthday Party on December 20 at 10 a.m. in the Gathering Place. The Church School will celebrate with the entire congregation as we get ready to welcome the Christ Child.

Hand washing reminder

Please remember to use the hand-sanitizer in each Church School classroom as you enter and leave. Children have been singing *Happy Birthday* twice as they wash their hands and coughing into their elbows. Grown ups need to do the same.

Adult Education Sundays

Don't forget to take a look at the 10 a.m. Sunday Adult Education classes listed in the *News & Views* insert, Sunday bulletin and posted on the Adult Education bulletin boards. Also check out adult education on the web site at www.northminster-indy.org.



Barb Hill is directing Vacation Bible School music.

Barb Hill: Focus on teaching in the Church School

Barb Hill has been a teacher in the Church School since her oldest son Alan was a toddler and she was encouraged by Ruth Moore to give it a try (a mere 15 years ago!) Barb says she has been "cross-trained" to teach everything from toddlers through middle school. She has no formal teaching background. She holds a master's degree in physical therapy but loves kids and Jesus. You may know Barb through her long time second job as music leader for Northminster's annual Vacation Bible School. We give her lots of thanks and praise and invite you to talk with her about how much fun it is to teach in the church school here at Northminster.



What's happening?

Opportunities with Family Ministries

Christmas Party at the Paxton home!

On Friday, December 4, Dave and Angela Paxton will host a party for adults, providing some “beverages” and appetizers. The party begins at 7 p.m. Bring an appetizer, dessert or beverage to share and a “gag gift.” Try not to spend money on the gift. Get creative; make something; find an item that needs a new home.

“Recognizing signs of drug usage” January 6

On January 6 *Parents with a Passion* will kick off the new year with a special speaker. Kimball Richardson from St. Vincent Stress Center will present an educational program on the signs that a teen or tween is using alcohol or drugs and what to do about

it! The program will start at 6:15 p.m. in Calvin Hall. *Parents with a Passion* invites **anyone** with a child in his or her life or anyone who is interested in the topic to join us.

Retreat at Pokagon January 29–31

We have reserved 22 rooms for the biennial Family Ministries Retreat at Pokagon State Park on January 29-31, 2010. Join Northminster families as we toboggan, bird watch, swim in the indoor pool, play games, worship, and just hang out together.

Registrations must be submitted with full payment and a completed registration form to Debbie Bulloff by December 15, 2009. Check www.northminster-indy.org Ministries/Families for more information.

A lot's happening in 2010

Older Adult luncheons

Mark your calendar on the first Thursday of every month from January–December 2010. Older Adult Ministries will have a luncheon with an activity following. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for more information.

Women's Retreat

Save this date: Saturday, February 6, 2010. Our annual Women's Retreat will be held from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. in our new Gathering Place. Please join us as we focus on “The Art of Faith,” using a creative blend of artistic elements, contemplative exercises, and interactive activities. More information will follow.

Senior University

Senior University is March 10, 2010, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6050 North Meridian. In community with St. Paul's Episcopal, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, St. Luke's United Methodist, Progressive Baptist and Northminster Church, we will consider “The Sacred Bridge: Our Neighbor's Experience with Worship and Music.”

John Wright, Director of Music Ministries, will participate with the music ministry folks from the other congregations. The only cost is lunch. More information will come.

Parents with a Passion calendar

Thanks to the families who participated in the American Village visit on November 8!

December 2

We will not meet tonight. However, please come to church and attend the annual *Christmas Lite* program—a wonderful way to start the holiday season.

December 9

Angela Paxton leads us on the topic of “Dealing with Holiday Stress.” Perfectly timed!

December 16

Parents with a Passion holiday snack and party-time—come to visit and talk from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Andi Martin, pastoral intern in 2008 and 2009 and former leader of *Parents with a Passion*, will be visiting with us. Please bring a snack to share and maybe a favorite holiday food. We'll provide beverages.

December 23 and 30

No *Parents with a Passion*.

January 6

Special speaker from St. Vincent's Stress Center

Contact information

- Julie Shannon at 753-6985 or jshannon@northminster-indy.org



What's happening?

Stephanie Alexander recognized by IPS



At the October 27 meeting of the Indianapolis Public Schools Board of School Commissioners, Stephanie Alexander was recognized with a "Parent Recognition Award" for her community efforts in the School 55 KABOOM playground build. Stephanie's daughters Robin and

Danielle both attend School 55 and Stephanie regularly volunteers at the school. Stephanie Alexander and her family (Solomon, Jenice, Robin, and Danielle) and Principal Stephanie West, who recommended her for the award, attended the award ceremony. *(Photo Stephanie Alexander and Principal Stephanie West)*

Christmas Lite and Congregational Life Dinner December 2 at 7 and 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Lite is Wednesday, December 2, at 7 p.m.—a program of traditional and offbeat Christmas pop music, presented by Northminster adult and children's choirs, soloists and instrumentalists. Like all *Sound & Spirit* concerts, this one is free and

child care is available.

Join your friends before *Christmas Lite* for a freewill offering dinner served in Calvin Hall between 5:30–6:30 p.m. Make a reservation at the church office at 251-9489 by Tuesday, December 1.

Food and Bake Sale December 2

Presbyterian Women (PWCN) are inviting all members and friends to contribute to the Food and Bake Sale on December 2. Bring your donations to the chapel beginning at 4 p.m. We'll

sell from 4–7 p.m. and then after *Christmas Lite*. Questions? Call Norma Arend at 251-2549 or Wanda Wheeler at 252-5766.

Poinsettias in honor or in memory

Again this year, we will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias and greenery. Because of an increase in price from the greenhouse, the cost for each plant is \$12. You may contribute a plant and dedicate it in honor of or in memory of a loved one. These dedications will be printed in the worship bulletin at Christmas. Please do the following:

- Fill out the form which is printed on the December calendar insert or pick up a pink poinsettia form from the Friendship Table. Make a check payable to Northminster Church ("poinsettia" in the note line of the check).
- Drop off the form and check at the church office or mail to Financial Secretary, Northminster Church, 1660 Kessler Boulevard, East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220. The deadline for receipt of checks is December 15.



Please take your poinsettia home with you after the 11 p.m. Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve. Thank you for helping make the church festive and beautiful during this season.

What's happening?

Youth opportunities this Christmas

4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

You'll need to **arrive at church at**

3 p.m. to prepare!

Julie Shannon will be talking to you to get you involved! We will mail and post a schedule of rehearsals. We need youth to be:

- scripture readers.
- characters in the Christmas story.
- greeters and ushers for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Youth Mission over Christmas

We 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.

December 24, 9 p.m. College Age/Young Adults

We'll gather downstairs (if it's ready) in the new youth room for a college age and young adults Christmas reunion. Come and reconnect with your Northminster friends. This is a very informal gathering! Food and lots of laughs are available as your Christmas gifts!

Opportunities . . . fellowship and service

NorthStars December 5

Join with the NorthStars (social group for people in their 50's, 60's, 70's and beyond) on Saturday, December 5, for a fun-filled evening at the Buck Creek Playhouse for "Home for Christmas," an adaptation of Lloyd C. Douglas' story. (The playhouse is located on Southeastern Avenue near the Acton Road exit from Interstate 74.) Tickets are available at a cost of \$12 (for seniors), payable at the theater. The play begins at 8 p.m. with seating starting at 7:30. Call Betty Bowers at 259-7366 for reservations (car pooling will be arranged).

Butler Basketball January 16

The NorthStars are again sponsoring an outing to DAWGS basketball. We will see Youngstown State on January 16, at 2 p.m. Cost of tickets is \$16 each, payable to Bob Bowers at 259-7366 (6924 Munsee Lane, 46260).

We will meet for dinner at Binkley's after the game at about

4:30. Everyone is welcome to join in for the game and/or dinner. Game reservation deadline is January 2.

Epiphany of gift opportunity For School 55 January 3

On January 3 we will celebrate Epiphany in worship. This is when we remember the journey of the wisemen and the gifts that they gave to the Christ child. In the spirit of that giving, we are asking you to bring the gift of new school supplies for School 55 to worship with you.

As the children begin the second semester of the school year, they need new packages of lined paper, folders for their work, markers, crayons, pencils, pens, and glue sticks. And teachers always need copier paper and boxes of Kleenex. So as you do your after Christmas bargaining shopping, remember to pick up a few things for the children of School 55. Thank you!

Youth Fellowship activities

December 4–5 Cave Trip

If you are going on this incredible overnight adventure in a Cave, your money should be in by now. Cave participants must be at Northminster by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 4. Please come with a full stomach, (we'll have snacks), but due to the drive we will be unable to stop for dinner. Bring sleeping bag, appropriate clothing, and spending money as the Cave has a snack bar! Awesome!

December 6

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m. Food, fun, fellowship, Bible study, discussion and prayer!

December 13

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

December 20, 6:30–9 p.m.

Youth Christmas Party at Julie and Mike's house (3935 Central Ave). Bring a snack to share, a \$5 and under gag gift to exchange, and a canned food item which will be donated to Washington Street Presbyterian Church's food pantry.

December 27/January 2

No Youth Fellowship

Save the date: February 27

Italian Night 2010 is Saturday, February 27, at 6 p.m.

Contact information

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

seek, serve and embrace

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Indianapolis, IN 46220-2799

1660 Kessler Boulevard, East Drive
www.northminster-indy.org 317-251-9489

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2009

Chancel Choir and orchestra will offer C.P. E. Bach's *Magnificat* December 13

BY JOHN M. WRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

On Sunday morning December 13, the Northminster Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra will offer Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's *Magnificat* at the 9 and 11 a.m. services.

C.P.E. Bach (1714–1788) was the second of five sons of Johann Sebastian Bach and his first wife, Maria Barbara Bach. He was a crucial composer in the transition between the Baroque and Classical periods and one of the founders of the Classical style. Unlike his father, who was relatively unknown during his lifetime, C.P.E. Bach was revered as a keyboardist and composer while he lived, and his influence was great during the mid 18th century and beyond. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) said of him, “He is the father, we are the children.”

One of the most beautiful stories in the New Testament is told in the first two chapters of the Gospel according to Luke—Christ's nativity



and childhood. Luke's gift for words shines forth from these pages in a series of passages that read like poetry and have become the very essence of belief to many Christians. Of particular beauty is the passage identified in the King James version of the Bible as “Mary's song of thanksgiving” (Luke 1:46–55), which begins, “My soul doth magnify the Lord,” or in Latin, “Magnificat anima mea Dominum.”

In Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach's hands, the *Magnificat* (1749) contains nine movements and is scored for

three trumpets, two horns, two flutes, two oboes, strings, and timpani. Joining John Wright, Director of Music, Marko Petricic, Music Associate, and our Northminster Chancel Choir are soloists Angelique Zuluaga, soprano; Ursula Kuhar, alto; Tim Grino, tenor, and Wayne Hu, bass. Thomas Gerber, founding member of

Indianapolis's Ensemble Voltaire, will play harpsichord; and Zach de Pue, concertmaster of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, will serve as concertmaster.

The Chancel Choir has enjoyed the challenge of learning this bright and joyous music. The final movement is a 246 measure fugue requiring athletic, nonstop singing for almost 8 minutes. We look forward to both praising God and sharing this majestic music with worshipers on December 13.