

News & Views

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

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2011

One A-Maizing Day at Northminster

CONTRIBUTING: MAUREEN PURCELL, TONY DZWONAR, MISSION TEAM; PASTOR TERI THOMAS

“There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread.”
Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*.

The Interfaith Hunger Initiative consists of two dozen faith communities in the Indianapolis area who are working together to help end child and family hunger. All of our faith traditions share this in common: we are called to feed the hungry. The covenant members (Northminster is one) work together to create a system of access to food through pantries in central Indiana (Gleaner’s Food Bank) and schools in Kenya (through the Umoja Project.)

During the weekend of February 25-27, these member congregations will each

create their own events around a meal of maize and beans to raise awareness and funds for IHI. Northminster’s One A-Maizing Lunch will actually be dinner, Sunday, February 27 at 6pm. It will follow Sound and Spirit’s concert featuring the Travelin’ McCoury’s that will benefit Wheeler Mission.

Northminster volunteers have considered that this might be “too much going on” at the church in one weekend. When’s the last time you went to a movie and picked up a sandwich on the way home? This FREE Sound and Spirit concert always draws a crowd and many free-will donations will help Wheeler Missions a great deal. Why not stay on for dinner?

Dinner tickets will be sold on February 13th and 20th to help gauge the right amount of food needed. Suggested contributions are \$5-\$18 a person, \$20-\$36 a family. An \$18 donation to IHI will provide a year of school lunches for a child in Kenya. \$36 will buy that and 108 pantry meals for a child in Indianapolis. IHI’s goal is to have 1000 participants across 24 congregations raise \$18,000. Teri and Jack visited

the Kenya school lunch program while they were in Africa last year. It has a tremendous impact on their lives and their faith. “To see the difference just \$20 can make in the life of a child (actually a whole family) restores a person’s belief in miracles,” according to Pastor Teri. Don’t miss this enjoyable opportunity to take part in such an important mission.



In this issue

- 2 February Book Study
- 6 3rd Annual Bible Bowl
- 7 Youth Trip to Perfect North Slopes Ski Resort



Our Vision

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

Pastoral pondering . . .

BY REV. DR. TERI THOMAS, PASTOR



How is a person supposed to remain faithful to Jesus in a world that is constantly changing, in a world of difficult circumstances? If you are looking for insight on that question might I suggest you read the Gospel of Matthew, the whole thing, start to finish.

The Gospel of Matthew was written for precisely that purpose. It is meant to tell folks how to be faithful, how to follow, how to find their way through the spiritual landscape that will lead them to this Kingdom they have heard promised. The Gospel was written to explain that first to Jews who had become Jesus believers and then also to Gentiles who wanted to follow as well. The Gospel can also help us with the same questions.

Matthew begins with the words of Jesus, his teachings on righteousness, prayer, love, law, and devotion. The Kingdom is mentioned over and over and over again and the Beatitudes turn our understanding of the world upside down.

The Gospel moves quickly from words to deeds as we read the accounts of ten miracles in close succession. This Jesus is more than just a man of words – he actually changes things.

The Gospel moves from Jesus' miracles to the concept of mission,

outreach and evangelism. The book ends with all the disciples standing around the risen Christ receiving the Great Commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." This is the point of the entire book. This is the charge. Jesus also says, "I am with you always..." This is the promise of the book. This is the assurance of the Gospel.

In February we will be preaching our way through the Sermon on the Mount from the Gospel of Matthew. Join us each Sunday as we unwrap this marvelous story.

February Book Study

Freedom: A Novel by Jonathan Franzen

Join us to discuss *Freedom*

Sunday, Feb. 13, 6 pm in the Gathering Place with Teri Thomas.

Monday, Feb. 14, 11 am in the Gathering Place with Teri Thomas.

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6:15 pm in the Gathering Place with Ruth Moore

If you already have a group of people and would like to discuss any of this book at another time we will provide resources and materials for you to lead a group.

Whitewater Valley Presbytery Coming to Northminster

On Saturday, February 26th, Whitewater Valley Presbytery will hold one of their quarterly meetings here at Northminster. We will be the hosts for several hundred Presbyterians from central Indiana as we worship, conduct business, examine candidates (including our own Megan Remtema) for ordination, and hear the Moderator of the General Assembly speak.

We need lots of volunteers to help on this Saturday. Can you greet? Park cars? Give directions? Make coffee or serve lunch? Hand people forms? If so, please contact Lisa Longo to volunteer: llongo@att.net or (317) 925-3810.

February Sundays at 9 & 11 am.

FEBRUARY 6

5TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
COMMUNION SERVED AT 9 & 11 AM

We continue in the Gospel of Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount. Communion will be served at both services and Teri Thomas is preaching. The Youth will be collecting for "Souper Bowl" of Caring following worship.

FEBRUARY 13

6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

We continue through the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus preaches a whole lot longer than Pastor Teri does. But his message is powerful.

FEBRUARY 20

7TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

We continue with the Sermon on the Mount and Associate Pastor Ruth Moore picks up the story.

FEBRUARY 27

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today we welcome the Moderator of the General Assembly, Elder Cynthia Bolbach, to our pulpit. Cindy will also be conducting an Adult Seminar at 10:00 this morning to discuss some of the issues coming out of last year's General Assembly. Don't miss this informative session.



What's happening at Northminster?

Parents with a Passion (PWP)

Feb. 2: Jennifer Dzwonar, NPC member & parent, will share her story as a surrogate mother.

Feb. 9: Just in time for Valentine's Day, we'll explore love languages and how to better communicate with your partner.

Feb. 16: We'll participate in the book study discussion of *Freedom: A Novel* at 6:15 in the Gathering Place.

Feb. 23: Katie Carter will share nutrition information for families.

Check out her blog for foodies at: <http://katymcarter.com/>

February 2, 9, & 23— meet upstairs in the Knox Room at 6:15pm. Questions?

contact Julie Shannon (251-9489 x26; jshannon@northminster-indy.org) or Liz Neterval (251-9489 x28; eneterval@indy.rr.com)

Associate Pastor Ruth Moore to attend CREDO Conference

I have been accepted to participate in a CREDO Conference sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA. This eight day conference is to help ministers access their physical, financial, vocational and spiritual health. Trained facilitators will help with the process and I am busy completing online surveys and other preconference materials that will help with this process. The Conference is being held at a retreat and conference center near Louisville, Kentucky. I will be away from the church from Sunday afternoon February 20, until Wednesday, March 2. I will not be available by phone or email. Please pray for me as I prepare and participate in this opportunity to grow as a pastor and as a person.



Have you met. . . . ?

My name is Kenneth Battle and I joined the Northminster team in early December 2010 as the Evening Custodian.

I was born in Indianapolis and attended IPS schools. I'm married and have two daughters, Meka and Monica. My wife, Sharon works for IU in an Indianapolis branch office. Daughter, Meka is a graduate student at Louisiana State University working towards her Masters Degree in Speech Pathology. Monica is a Pre-Med student attending Moorehouse School of Medicine.

I retired from General Motors after 30 years of service as a Journeyman Electrician. I like sports and classic cars and just enjoying life. As a new addition to the Northminster team, I look forward to meeting everyone and doing my best to do a good job.



(Kenneth Battle)

What Do Deacons Do?

The deacons will serve communion to home bound members after worship on February 6. If you would like to be added to the list to receive communion in your home please contact Associate Pastor Ruth Moore at 251-9489 or ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org.



News & Views Stuffers Needed!

Do you have a couple of hours to spare one morning a month? Why not join the "Stuffers" for coffee & donuts while preparing the *News & Views* for mailing? The group meets at about 9:30 am in Calvin Hall on the **last Monday of each month** and are usually finished by-or-before noon.

Mexico Mission Trip Call Out

February 6 at 12:15 pm— Meet in the Gathering Place after worship. Becca Haag is organizing a small group to travel to Mexico this summer. Come here what this mission is about. Julie Shannon will be there to help answer questions.

Italian Night Fundraiser, March 5, 6 - 8:30 pm

Our Annual Youth Fundraiser is almost here! Make reservations by calling the church office or emailing Julie Shannon at jshannon@northminster-indy.org If you have donations please contact Julie Shannon.

Mission: Green Stewardship Group

Sneaker Recycling! BY NANCY MORITZ, GREEN TEAM MEMBER

Did you know that you can recycle your old sneakers, no matter how grungy they look? Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program will turn your shoes into Nike Grind, a component in sports and playground surfaces. To participate in the program, take your old athletic shoes to a Nike store. Our closest store is the Nike

Factory Store at Edinburgh Premium Outlets (I-65 South). Drop your shoes (no more than ten shoes) in the bin near the store's entrance. You can recycle any brand of athletic shoe. The shoes should have no metal parts or cleats and should be dry.

Edinburgh Premium Outlets is 44 miles from Northminster; to limit

carbon emissions, plan your recycling trip to coincide with some shopping at the mall. Or, save your Nike visit for a time when you're driving south on I-65 for another reason. Be sure to ask your friends or neighbors if they have shoes to add to your bundle. For more information, go to earth911.com or nikereuseashoe.com.

IHN Coming to Northminster in February

BY NANCY FLAMME, IHN PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

We are starting a new year working with IHN and are scheduled to host families the week of February 27 to March 6. We will be hosting three times during 2011. Through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, congregations throughout the city take turns hosting homeless families for a week: helping to provide shelter, meals, security and compassion. The success of our week depends on having many enthusiastic volunteers willing to contribute their

time and energy. We will need people to prepare evening meals, act as dinner hosts, evening hosts, activity hosts (with the children), overnight hosts, and to drive the IHN van. We also need volunteers to help with set-up, cleanup and laundry. We would love to have some new volunteers in addition to our regulars who are always willing to step forward and fill these spots. Please prayerfully consider spending two or three hours of your time to provide a smiling face and helping hand to these

homeless families. You may sign up in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings starting February 6th. There will be information available on the responsibilities of each volunteer position. The sign up sheet will also be posted on the Volunteer Sign Up Board across from the choir room during the week. You can also call Nancy Flamme at 255-8387 to sign up. Thank you for your consideration of this worthwhile project.

The Travelin' McCourys benefit Wheeler Missions

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

The Travelin' McCourys do not stand still. They are on the road—and online—entertaining audiences with live shows that include some of the best musicians and singers from all genres. It's always different, always exciting, and always great music. That's why *Sound and Spirit* at Northminster Presbyterian Church brings back the always popular group, this time to benefit Indianapolis' Wheeler Missions. This Free *Sound & Spirit* Concert takes place Sunday, Feb. 27, 4 pm. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit Wheeler Missions.

No other band today has the same

credentials for playing traditional and progressive music, and the band is now combining their sound with others to make something fresh and rejuvenating.

They recently played with the Allman Brothers at Wanee Fest and then brought the house down at Warren Haynes' Annual Christmas Jam, an invitation-only Southern Rock homecoming. They've also performed with Phish and have a tour scheduled with the Lee Boys.

The band has a confidence that only comes with having paid their dues with twenty years on the bluegrass road.

Unique among arts series, *Sound &*

Spirit annually assembles groups of regional and national artists with diverse musical styles and presents them at no charge. This season, 100% of the offerings will go to local missions. The 2010-2011 series has featured the Rose Ensemble from Minnesota and the Northminster Chancel Choir presenting music of English Composers from Renaissance to Today. The remainder of the season will present the Music of J.S. Bach, March 20, at 4 pm with the Chancel Choir, and concludes with the Paul McKenna Band, March 8, 7p.m.

Mission and outreach

Tell Congress Northminster Cares

BY CORINNE IMBODEN, MISSION TEAM

On February 27 and March 6 Northminster Church and the Mission team will host another Bread for the World Offering of Letters. The focus for 2011 is to urge Congress and the administration to press forward with reforms to make foreign assistance more effective in reducing hunger and poverty throughout the world. We seek changes on four fronts:

- A stronger U.S. government focus on reducing poverty
- Clearer accountability for how aid dollars are spent and their results
- A transformed U.S. development agency
- U.S. aid that meets the needs and wants of local people

Congress has also started drafting reform legislation, including a possible overhaul of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the legal basis of our government's overseas development work. We will work with Republicans and Democrats to generate bipartisan support for reform. Since 2009, Bread for the World has helped build formidable coalitions with the broad-based Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network and with other faith-based groups.

Effective aid matters to poor countries. Haiti is struggling to recover from long-standing poverty problems made worse by the 2010 earthquake. Similarly, the people of Liberia are emerging from two devastating civil wars that left many more deeply impoverished. These problems cannot be overcome quickly. But effective U.S. assistance will make a big difference as Haitians and Liberians—and people in many other developing countries—struggle to build a better future for themselves.

Effective U.S. assistance can also achieve a rapid reduction in malnutrition among children worldwide. Recent studies demonstrate that the best way to

reduce child deaths and disability from malnutrition is to focus on babies and pregnant women.

February 27 is a busy day at Northminster with a focus on hunger issues. We will have tables set up in the gathering place at 10am and also after the 11am service for this letter writing event. One hundred percent of the free will offering received at the February 27 Sound and Spirit concert, featuring the Travelin' McCourys (4pm) will go to Wheeler Mission. You can also write letters later that night at the IHI One A-Maizing Dinner (6 pm). In case you are unable to be at church on February 27, we will continue our writing campaign on Sunday, March 6.

Handwritten letters are extremely effective. Justin Ohlemiller, the District Director for Rep. Andre Carson, told the local Bread chapter that last year's letter writing campaign focusing on the Earned Income Tax Credit was the most striking issue of any that had crossed the Congressman's desk. He went on to say that it was most impressive that the letters were all individually written and not just a signed form letter or postcard. He said that personal handwritten letters are the most effective type of communication and noted that some are passed on to the Congressman himself.

For Northminster, advocacy for hungry and poor people is a matter of faith. We are moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ to help our neighbors—whether they are next door or on the other side of the world. "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? And when did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?.... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Hands ON/Hands INVolved

Upcoming mission events & volunteer opportunities

- **Wheeler Mission Partners with Travelin' McCoury's**

Feb. 27 at 4 pm, bring canned food or make a free-will donation to Wheeler Mission and enjoy this very popular *Sound and Spirit* bluegrass group.

- **One A-Maizing Dinner**

Feb. 27 at 6pm at Northminster to benefit Interfaith Hunger Initiative. Each covenant congregation will serve a special menu to raise hunger awareness. By reservation so save the date!

- **Offering of Letters**

Feb. 27 and March 6
Bread for the World program that encourages Congress to pass reforms that will greatly improve the effectiveness of any U. S. assistance in developing countries.

- **Conversations with Abrahah**

Our Eritrean friend, Abrahah Gezehe, would like to work on her English language skills and needs some conversation. **Calling all young moms!** Any subject (recipes, kids, gardening, politics) is welcome and very helpful. For more information on how you can teach by just visiting, contact Susie Koriath, 845-0452.

- **Gleaners Food Bank**

Gleaners needs drivers to restock other pantries. Contact Mike Miller at mmiller@gleaners.org Check schedule on the Mission board across from the chapel.



Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

How many people did Jesus feed by the Sea of Galilee? If you know the answer, or even if you don't, come to the 3rd Annual Bible Bowl on Sunday, March 6 at 12:00 Noon! We will have a pitch-in lunch in Calvin Hall with barbecue from G.T. South's and then adjourn to the Gathering Place for the competition! There is a trophy for the

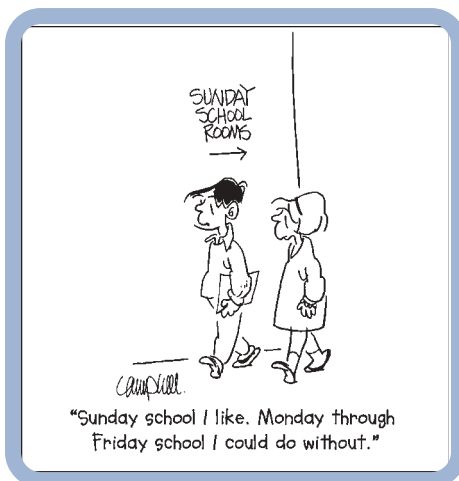
team that answers the most questions correctly! **Please make a registration for lunch with the Church Office no later than Noon on March 3** (251-9489) so we will know how much barbecue to buy. Last names A-L should also bring a side dish. Last names M-Z should bring a dessert. More information? Talk with Terri Palladino or Debbie Bulloff.

WE NEED YOU!

We need craft people, parade people, outside & inside decorations folks, games & music people, preschool leaders and school-age crew leaders, video and "Bible Wheel of Fortune" leaders, snack and dinner helpers for VBS this summer. Where do you fit in?

Church Camp/Summer '11

Check out www.northminster-indy.org/familyministries for links to opportunities for camping experiences for children, youth, families and individuals. Need financial assistance? Contact Julie Shannon about "c a m p e r s h i p s" at jshannon@northminster-indy.org



Save the dates!

June 13-16, 5:45-8p.m.

Vacation Bible School

Ages 4 (by 4/1/11)–Middle School. Come for the stories and stay for the amazing 6th Annual Homemade Neighborhood Parade! Questions? Contact Debbie Bulloff dbulloff@northminster-indy.org for more information.

Computers are needed

We need at least two computers to add to our computer lab in the 3rd-5th grade classroom for homework help on Wednesday evenings. Gently used and fairly speedy would be wonderful. Please see Debbie Bulloff if you would like to make this important donation.

Many New Books & Videos!

The Northminster Library has many new books and videos! Come check it out! The library is upstairs, just a step from the elevator. Church School classes will be visiting, you can too!

Church School in February

February 6

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 5:13-20

We continue exploration of the stories from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus tells us we are salt and light as we seek to live as God's people in the world. How can we, the people of Northminster be that salt and light?

February 13

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 5: 21-37

Jesus tells us to be a light for the world and that God's love can shine through us to others. How can we work things out, make things right, say "I'm sorry" and be forgiving?

February 20

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 5: 38-48

Jesus tells everyone to love God and their neighbors. How can we do this and expand the boundaries of our love and care for others?

February 27

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 6: 24-34

Jesus tells everyone that God loves and cares for them. He talks about the birds of the sky and the lilies of the fields. We are charged to put this love first in everything we do. How shall we do that?



What else is happening?

Youth Ski Trip to Perfect North Slopes

BY JULIE SHANNON, DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Our youth will join other area youth groups (our Dunes trip friends!) for this trip. We'll leave from church early Saturday morning, Feb. 19; ski, snowboard or tube all day Saturday, spend the night Saturday and return on Sunday. Anticipated costs per person for adults & youth:

Ski/Snowboard/Tube Rental: \$45 day

Hotel: \$25 per person

—based on 4 person occupancy—

This cost may be more if adults need to be separate from teens.

Meals: \$15-20 each

Transportation: \$10 per person

—gas for church bus—

Total Cost: \$95-100 per person.

The youth may bring a sack lunch for Saturday or bring money to purchase

lunch at the resort. We'll go out as a group for dinner Saturday night and a continental breakfast is provided by the hotel for Sunday morning. On the trip home, we may have sandwiches chips and drinks but this has not yet been decided. **Registration deadline for this trip is February 13!**

If you would like to go and need financial assistance, let Julie Shannon know as soon as possible. Be sure to check out <http://www.perfectnorth.com/>



NPC Youth encouraged to attend Feb. 27 events

the *Sound & Spirit* bluegrass concert by the Travelin' McCoury's at 4pm followed by One A-maize-ing Meal at 6 pm in Calvin Hall. The A-maize-ing Meal is a fundraiser for Interfaith Hunger Initiative! Youth pizza money will pay for this meal. Proceeds collected at the meal will help support a school lunch program in Kenya (that Teri & Jack visited on Sabbatical.) This is the same area in Kenya that received proceeds from the "Ken-ya Help Us Carnival" that helped youth attend secondary school. After dinner, the youth will meet for discussion and some games from 7-8 pm.



Thank You, Thank You!

I wish to thank the Deacons involved during my illness. Also for the many phone calls & the beautiful poinsettia given to me at Christmas.

Kate Brown

Thanks to all of my terrific church family who sent cards, called, visited, and most of all prayed for my recovery from knee surgery. All were deeply appreciated.

Troy Hill

Youth Fellowship Activities



February 6

Souper Bowl Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring collection at 9 & 11am worship services.

Super Bowl Party at the

Dzwonar's home: 5:30 pm, Bring a snack to share and a canned food item.

February 13

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6-8pm.

Topic: Love!

February 19-20

Ski Trip to Perfect North Slopes!

See article this page.

February 20

No Youth Fellowship this night.

February 27

Good Music & A Good Cause!

Attend the *Sound & Spirit* concert & the One A-maize-ing Meal.

See article this page.

Friday, March 4

Italian Night Youth Fundraiser Prep & Set-up, 5 - 9 pm!

Come help Julie & Mike Shannon set-up for the big youth fundraiser!

Saturday, March 5

Italian Night Youth Fundraiser!

Prep & set-up begins: 10 am
cooks begin kitchen prep: 2:30 pm
event volunteers arrive: 4:30 pm
volunteers dinner served: 4:30 pm
Event Dinner Served: 6 - 6:30 pm
Silent Auction: 6 - 7 pm
Live Auction: 7 - 8 pm
Check-out: 8 - 8:30 pm
Clean-up: 8:30 - 10 pm

Contact information for youth

- 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

FEBRUARY 2011

Do you remember

BY REV. DR. TERI THOMAS

Do you remember the song from the *King and I*—“Getting to know you, Getting to know all about you. Getting to like you, Getting to hope you like me”?

Here at Northminster it is time to get to know you all over again. Our congregation has been changing, or demographics are changing, some programs have ended and new ones are being born. We need to know who you

are, what you like, what you need and what you have to offer the larger community.

In the month of February we are asking all church members to complete a survey that will help us gather information about us. We will respect your privacy as we gather this personal information. It is necessary for us to plan new opportunities and to match folks needs with gifts others have to share. You have several ways to complete this survey.

- Go to the church web site and complete the survey on line.
- Call the church office and get a copy mailed to you.
- Fill it out during the 10am Fellowship Hour in the Gathering Place on Feb 13th and 20th.

I do hope you will take a few minutes of your time and share this important information with us. It will help us serve you better and help us connect our members in some meaningful ways. Thank you. Pastor Teri Thomas

New Presbyterian Hymnal 2013

BY JOHN M. WRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

In 2004 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) gave authorization to the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and the Office of Theology and Worship to begin research into the feasibility of a new Presbyterian hymnal. Members of a Hymnal Committee were selected and held their first meeting fall 2008. The Hymnal Committee consists of 15 voting members (2 under the age of 25), the editor, and three ex officio members. Did you know the Presbyterian Church has published a new hymnal roughly every 20 years, or about every generation? Our previous hymnals were published in 1933, 1955, 1972, and our current one in 1990. Since fall of 2008 the committee and

editor Mary Louise Bringle has examined almost 4000 hymns and songs including collections of contemporary and praise music, collections of songs from Christian communities from around the world, Psalm settings, and the contents of the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal*, the 1972 *Worshipbook*, and the 1955 *Hymnbook*, and written statements on language.

Northminster is one of 37 “Hymnal Advocates,” which means we are a supporter and consultant for the 2013 hymnal. From time to time our congregation will be asked to participate in surveys and field testing. This week we received 4 hymns to “try out” in our worship by the end of February. What is edifying and not surprising to me is that of the 4 hymns we received, this congregation

has already sung 3 of them during the last 18 months. Those hymns are, in case you are interested, “Shall We Gather at the River,” “Toda la Tierra” (All Earth is Waiting), and “Canticle of the Turning.” As a worship leader, I am always thankful that our congregation is open to music of various cultures, and is willing to attempt any liturgical practice we offer. I have colleagues in churches who cannot say this.

The Presbyterian hymnal project is a fascinating process, though I admit I am a hymn geek. If you would like more detailed information, complete with video interviews with the editor, Mary Louise Bringle, visit www.presbyterianhymnal.org.