

News & Views

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

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2009

Happy New Year!

BY BOB GUDGEL, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Let's review our construction accomplishments for 2008 and then take a look into the crystal ball that tells us what is supposed to happen next.

What happened in 2008?

To date we have installed a new boiler (furnace) using over 1,000 feet of copper and gas pipe, a new underground power supply that includes a mile of electrical wiring, and all new transformers, distribution boxes and circuit breakers. Our piecemeal heating and electrical system that evolved from building expansions of long ago is finally being converted to an energy efficient system for the twenty-first century.

We have a new north parking lot produced from 80 tons of crushed rock and 7,000 cubic feet of asphalt. It has 56 spaces for off street parking, is fully landscaped and enclosed with shadowbox fencing constructed from 587 cedar boards.

The new north entrance, built through old Room 110, gives convenient access to the church office and Christian Education wing. This remodeled space has allowed us to create not only the new entrance, but preschool and youth staff offices, a storage room and a coat room.

The old Knox Room is now a vibrant nursery and preschool serving a resurgence of young Northminster and Broad Ripple families. This new location allows for a needed separation of weekday classroom activity from the pastoral and administrative offices.

What will 2009 bring?

The new year will find us working on two fronts: First, the excavation of 1,900 cubic yards of dirt on the south lot and then the erection of 36 tons of structural steel will get the gathering space into high gear. Simultaneously, we will start remodeling the office area. The old nursery and preschool rooms will be converted into pastoral staff offices and a small conference room. This interior work will start

January 5 and should be completed by mid February. Construction will then move across the hall to begin work on reconfiguring the existing offices to provide ample space for administrative services including reception area, publishing and printing, accounting and building management.

The crystal ball is starting to get a little cloudy so I don't want to predict construction activity too far in advance. We will keep you up to date as things progress. Thanks for your patience in dealing with the many inconveniences. ■

In this issue

- 2 Annual meeting
Worship schedule
- 3 ChristCare groups
- 4 Mission gifts to Joy's House
and Principe de Paz
- 6 Capital campaign

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



The New Year is bringing changes to Northminster. As is usually the case with change, some of you will love it and others will hate it. Isn't variety wonderful?

The building process will continue to change our space and the availability of space. Shortly after the first of the year construction will move into the office areas. Most of the staff will be working out of temporary space for several months. As you can imagine, this will complicate everything we do. Please bear with us if it takes longer than normal to respond to your requests.

In addition to space issues we will begin losing staff soon as part of the planned reductions in personnel. This will place more responsibilities on those who remain. There are some things that simply may not get done. Don't worry. We are still here for you. If you are not sure who to ask just ask anyone and we will direct you. We do request your patience in this time of transition.

One of the first places you may notice the changes will be in worship. During the reductions of

space and staff we will no longer be able to plan and prepare two different services for Sunday morning. Beginning in January, the 9 and 11 a.m. services will be basically the same. Choirs and soloists will vary at each service each week, but the liturgy and the hymns will be the same. Communion will be served on the first Sunday of most months at both services.

A big change we are hoping for is an increase in worship attendance. With parking issues and construction challenges, I know it might seem easier just to skip a Sunday. During these difficult times it is vitally important that we worship together as the people of God. The community of faith needs you here to be whole. We need you here to help welcome visitors and join in joyful praise of our creator. Why not make increased worship attendance one of your New Year's resolutions?

As we go through these new changes, please feel free to ask questions or share your comments with me. Happy New Year! ■

New Annual Meeting Format January 25

This year's annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Northminster Presbyterian Church will be held on Sunday, January 25, at 12:15 p.m. We will begin with lunch and then move into our annual meeting. There will be child care during the meeting.

This move is in response to those who don't like to come out at night and those who don't want to come

January worship schedule

January 4

We will celebrate Epiphany and the Magi bringing gifts to Jesus. Communion will be served by intinction at 9 a.m. and in the pews at 11. Teri Thomas is preaching.

January 11

This Sunday is the Baptism of our Lord. We will celebrate baptism as well as the ordination and installation of our new officers. Teri Thomas is preaching.

January 18

January 18 moves us into the season of Ordinary time. Now that Jesus has been born, what does it mean to follow him? Larry Moslener is preaching.

January 25

This Sunday we will examine a couple of fishy tales from Jonah and Mark. Does the fish catch the man or does the man catch the fish? Teri Thomas is preaching.

after work. Now you have no excuse to miss this exciting event.

Lunch will be catered by Barbara Mohr. The cost is \$8.50 per person, \$4 for children 12 and under, and a \$20 family maximum. You may purchase lunch tickets after worship on January 11 and 18 or call a reservation to the church office at 251-9489. ■

Seek, serve and embrace

HOSTs needed for worship

Northminster's HOST teams (Hospitality Offered Serving Together) need some new volunteers. HOSTs help in worship one Sunday a month by greeting people as they enter the building, showing them how to get to the sanctuary, passing out bulletins and collecting the offering. HOSTs are an integral part of worship each Sunday and they help us glorify God.

But they are also ministers of hospitality—offering a friendly and welcoming face when members and

guests arrive on a Sunday morning. It can be an intimidating process to come to church for the first time, and we who are familiar with this body of Christ we call Northminster need to be ready, willing and welcoming when people come to encounter God. We especially need HOSTs at the 9 a.m. service.

If you can volunteer please contact Associate Pastor Ruth Moore at 251-9489 or ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org or HOST coordinator Josh Hill at joshhillnpc@yahoo.com.

Curious Conversations February 7

Are you interested in learning more about Northminster? Maybe even ready to take it to the next level and become a member of this faith community? No matter where you are on your faith journey, come and meet other new people and learn more about us. We will meet at Northminster on Saturday,

February 7, from 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Coffee, donuts and a light lunch will be served. Child care is available upon request.

Please contact Associate Pastor Ruth Moore to make a reservation or for more information at 251-9489 or ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org.

Consider joining a ChristCare group in 2009

BY JIM DOUGANS

As you look ahead to 2009, consider making a resolution to join one of the ChristCare groups at Northminster. ChristCare groups are circles of care with Christ in the middle. They are small groups that meet on a regular basis for support, friendship, and Bible study.

I lead the Spanish Christ Care Group or El Grupo Espanol de Cuidado de Cristo. El Grupo typically meets the second Tuesday

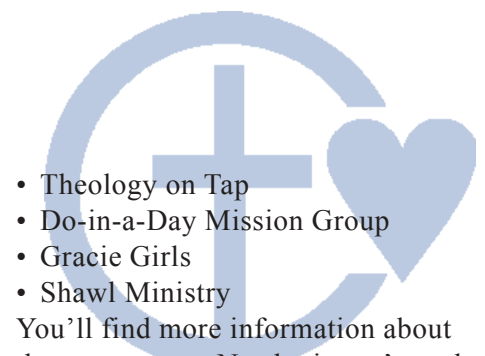
evening of the month in homes, restaurants and at the church. We study Spanish, read books about Latin America and otherwise immerse ourselves in the cultures located south of the border. We are planning a trip to Mexico in 2010. Contact me at 927-0957 or jydougans@ameritech.net for more information. There are six other ChristCare groups:

- Spiritual Striders
- Drama Group

Communion and Chancel Care Guild

Thanks to the Communion and Chancel Care Guild. Members of the Communion and Chancel Care Guild prepare communion and ready the chancel, sanctuary and chapel for worship each week. We are grateful to the following women for their service during 2008:

Barbara Angotti, Chair
Jane Browne, Chair
Eileen Alsop
Betty Bowers
Ann Dunipace
Mary Garrett
Elle Keppler
Patty Kidd
Nancy Leffler
Cathy Lord
Mary Ann McCormick
Alma Miller
Nancy Moritz
Mary Lu Spencer
Janet Swearingen
Georgeanna Tutrow
Betty Williams



- Theology on Tap
- Do-in-a-Day Mission Group
- Gracie Girls
- Shawl Ministry

You'll find more information about these groups on Northminster's web site www.northminster-indy.org, under ministries and small groups. New groups are forming, so watch for that or consider starting a group. Contact Pastor Ruth Moore at ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489 to learn more. ■

The joy of being the messenger

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

It's not Pastor Ruth Moore's fondest wish to bring to tears a woman who is expecting a baby but she did it—in a grocery store. Nor did she plan to bring about a small, but significant enough, quake in a small Mexican village, but she did that, too. And she's not sorry.

Northminster decided to devote 10 percent of the capital campaign funds to mission. The Mission Team has outlined a schedule for allocating these funds as they become available through your pledges. In the fall of 2008, we presented a check for \$50,000 to Camp Pyoca, the retreat, camp and conference center which is going through its own rebuilding project. When the next \$50,000 is scheduled for giving in June, the Mission Team decided to divide it between two organizations, Joy's House in Broad Ripple and Principe de Paz in Cancun.

Joy's House director Tina McIntosh was shopping in a local grocery store when Pastor Ruth tracked her down via cell phone. Joy's House is currently involved in

a massive expansion so you can imagine Tina's excitement upon hearing that Northminster would be presenting them with \$25,000. She cried right there in the cracker aisle. And Ruth was happy.

Pastor Neri (*photo*) from Principe de Paz in Cancun had just written Ruth (*photo*) celebrating a successful fundraising effort that raised \$7,000. Ruth wrote back telling him that Northminster would be adding another \$25,000 in June to their fund. Neri leaped for joy. You must have felt it! And Ruth was happy.

Joy's House

Joy's House, located north of Broad Ripple Avenue between Evanston and Burlington, serves as a daycare provider for adults who are aging or have physical and mental challenges. Their mission includes having these special adults participate in a social environment designed to improve their quality of life while offering support and needed relief for their caregivers. Their renovations will



include bird feeders and raised garden beds. Check out their web site at www.joyshouse.org.

Principe de Paz

Our friends in Cancun are now planning to start building their sanctuary. It's been a long time coming for the young pastor, his congregation, and for the many Northminster volunteers who have assisted, in spite of various hurricanes, in the build over the last eight years. June's gift will be the first of two \$25,000 gifts we hope to give them. This will make dreams come true for the active community. Ruth contacted them just prior to Christmas. The promise of Advent was not lost on any of them. The Mission Team thanks all of you for your continued support of the campaign that impacts so many, near and far. ■

Northminster raised \$1,395 in CROP Walk

Thirteen Northminster walkers of all ages raised \$1,395, completing a 3.5 mile circuit through the Butler Tarkington neighborhood on Sunday, October 19. Our walkers were:
Teri Thomas Jim Dougans
Larry Moslener Bob Wade
Julie Shannon Ev Fleming
Jacob Mann

CROP Walks raise money to support the humanitarian work of Church World Service, a cooperative

ministry of 36 Protestant and Orthodox denominations. CROP is an acronym for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Last year in Indiana and Kentucky 29 walks were held, raising \$463,000.

Of our 13 walkers two are extra special. Robert Wade and Jim Dougans both raised more than \$250, qualifying them for special recognition by Church World Service. Bob has been Northminster's

top walker for many years. This year he raised almost \$600.

In addition a number of young people participated again, ably led by Julie Shannon and Jacob Mann. Youth walkers were:

Michael Schmahl Abby Hunter
Mindy Boone Kate White
Jordan Ware Tori Eder
Morgan Boone

Hope to see you next October for CROP Walk 2009. ■

Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Church School in January

January begins with *Epiphany*, a Greek word meaning “manifestation.” The Church School will consider Matthew 2:1-12 and the coming of the Magi—the wise ones from the East. We are called to embrace the gift of Christ for all people. When has faith called us to take another road?

On January 11, we will focus on Mark 1:4-11. Jesus has a new beginning in baptism. God confirms the goodness of creation and calls Jesus “beloved.” What does it mean to pass through baptismal waters into the new life God promises us?

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 will be the Church School focus on January 18. We will be assured that God knows us and loves us. As we struggle to understand that all people are known and loved by God, how can that change our actions?

On January 25, in Mark 1:14-20, Jesus calls the first four disciples. “Follow me,” he says,

and immediately those men leave the boats and their nets and follow. When God calls, what will we do?

Library News

Due to construction, the Church Library will be packed up and temporarily stored. If you have library materials checked out, please return them this month. The collection is missing many titles that might have accidentally wandered home. Thank you.

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 or 251-9489. ■

Northminster Community Preschool and Mothers’-Day-Out

Northminster Community Preschool and Mothers’-Day-Out programs will begin registering children for the 2009-2010 school year this month. Northminster Presbyterian Church members may register their children for either program beginning Tuesday, January 20, at 12 noon. Registration forms will be available in the preschool hallway. Registration forms must be accompanied by a

nonrefundable registration check.

Please visit our classes. We would like to show you a quality program in a Christian environment. We will hold an Open House during regular classes on Thursday, January 15, 9:30–11 a.m. and 12:45–2:15 p.m. For additional information or to schedule a visit, call preschool director and Northminster member Judy Nelson at 251-9489. ■

Montreat June 28–July 4

What goes on at Montreat Conference Center June 28 – July 4? A bunch of folks from Northminster will join Presbyterians from across the country for the Annual Montreat Conference on Worship and Music. We take over three houses for a week of communal living. During the day we attend worship and workshops. Jennifer Lord, one of our own, is one of the preachers for this year’s conference. The workshops include Bible studies, drama, caring for creation, liturgical art classes, steel drumming, hand bells, organ, planning worship, piano and vocal choirs for 4th graders through retirees. Participants pay their own registration fee and living costs are shared with the church. There are scholarships available.

We will begin taking reservations in early January so check the dates now. Check it out on line at <http://www.montreat.org/current/2009-worship-music>. Talk to John Wright if you are interested in attending.

If you are interested in going along as head cook and chore organizer, talk to Teri Thomas. This person does the meal planning, shopping and preparation and organizes the group to help with chores and cleanup.

Open to the Future Capital Campaign

BY LISA LONGO, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BRIDGE CHAIR

On November 23 we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our capital campaign, including the opening of the new entrance from the north parking lot. Members of the congregation could look at the work that has been done in the new entry area and in the Knox Room. Additionally, there were displays on the four missions we will be sponsoring through the *Open to the Future* campaign. Those missions are Pyoca Camp, Conference and Retreat center in Brownstown, Indiana; Joy’s House; Principe de Paz Church in Cancun, Mexico; and Habitat for Humanity.

Construction questions quiz

Members also had the opportunity to answer six construction questions. The winners of the contest were:

- (1) How many cubic yards of dirt will be removed to build the gathering space? *3,200 cubic yards—Angela Paxton guessed 2,800.*
- (2) How many parking spaces are in the new north parking lot? *56—Don MacPherson guessed 56.*
- (3) How many new door frames will be used in the total project? *46—Danielle Howard guessed 44.*
- (4) How many shingles will cover the gathering space? *1,726—Angela Paxton guessed 1,800.*
- (5) How many subcontractors are working on the project? *31—Jacob Dzwonar guessed 37 and Ed Swearingen guessed 25.*
- (6) How many bay windows will be in the gathering space? *12—Mike Shannon and Jacob Dzwonar guessed 12.*

We had members guess the completion date of the project. Those guesses will be held until the project is complete and whoever is closest will have the opportunity to participate in the building dedication.

We also collected coins and bills in the large church bank and filled in nearly halfway in just three hours. The total dollars raised from the Church Bank on November 23 was \$197.05.

Capital Campaign as of December 8, 2008 Here’s what the first year of our campaign looks like!

Total number of commitments -----	334
Total amount of commitments -----	\$2,668,049
Received from those completing Commitment Card -----	\$1,420,303
Received from those NOT completing Commitment Card -----	\$17,396
Total received -----	\$1,437,700
Donors who have given full commitment -----	68
Amount given by donors who have given full commitment ----	\$778,406
Donors behind in giving -----	166
Total amount behind -----	\$145,850
Donors who have given without completing a commitment card -----	45

More explanation of giving

Mark Blackmore from our capital campaign consulting company RSI was impressed with the percentage of our campaign that has been collected. On average, 40 percent of funds are collected in the first year with 30 percent collected in both the second and third years. We have collected 53.89 percent in the first year! Not only is this an impressive percentage, it also will allow us to pay more up front and activate our building loan at a later date and save on interest expense.

In looking at those listed as behind, this was a straight calculation by percentage on each gift so if 33 percent of a pledge wasn’t paid, the gift came up in the behind category. This does not take

into consideration the variety of schedules individuals have put themselves on to make payments toward the campaign.

Thank you to everyone who has completed their pledges and to those who are making regular payments toward the *Open to the Future* campaign. If you have questions about your pledge, contact Jim Mann at 251-9489. ■

Gift to Foundation

Northminster Presbyterian Church Foundation just received an anonymous bequest in the amount of \$100,000. We so appreciate the generosity and foresight of this member. Have you included the church in your estate planning? ■

What's happening with youth? Italian Night is quickly approaching!



Italian Night 2008— Abby Hunter, Emma Moore and Jacob Mann

Annual youth fundraiser

Italian Night is scheduled for February 28, 6–8:30 p.m. in Calvin Hall. This annual youth fundraiser is quickly approaching—a fun evening for all ages! The evening begins with an Italian dinner served by the youth. Throughout the night are a silent auction and raffle. A live auction with incredible items starts

at 7 p.m. There are games for children.

No reservations are required. However, if you do RSVP, we'll reserve a seat up front and give you one free raffle ticket for your reward! All proceeds go towards the youth summer trips.

Donations for Italian Night!

The youth of Northminster greatly appreciate the support of the Northminster congregation and community for Italian Night. Donations for our live or silent auction are a great way to help.

If you have a special talent or a unique opportunity to donate please contribute! Here are a few past popular donations: lake cabin getaway, homemade wines, family game basket, handcrafted jewelry, gourmet dinner delivered, pet sitting, and various other services. Please e-mail Julie Shannon at jshannon@northminster-indy.org with your questions and ideas! ■

What else is happening?

Marko Petricic's music receives award

Marko Petricic, organist/music associate at Northminster, has received national recognition. Marko's organ recording of French organ music from First Presbyterian Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, will get the national award and international distribution on the Pro Organo label. He will also have an opportunity to record the sequel to this recording on one of the great European organs in the near future. There may even be a

promotional video on the Pro Organo's youtube web site.

NorthStars Super Bowl Party

Join NorthStar friends at Pat and Bill Freije's home, 5458 Woodfield Dr., Carmel, for a Super Bowl Party on February 1. Pitch-in dinner is at 5 p.m. with dessert at halftime. Please call Mary Lou Snare at 251-2669 or Pat Freije at 848-0917 for your reservation and what you will bring for the meal. NorthStars is for couples and singles 55+.

Youth Fellowship activities

January 2–3

Youth Overnight! Enjoy a fun overnight over winter break! Gather at 6 p.m., have dinner and several surprise activities. Please pick up tired youth on January 3 by 8:30 a.m.!

January 4

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–6:30 is pizza and gathering; 6:30–7:15 is games; and 7:15–8 is study, discussion and prayer.

January 11

Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

January 18

Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

January 25

Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

Contact information

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

Sound & Spirit February 8

On Sunday, February 8, at 4 p.m. *Sound & Spirit* presents the Odela Dance and Drum Company, a professional group celebrating the traditions of West African life. This group is from Louisville, Kentucky.

"What's happening" is continued on the January calendar page.

seek, serve and embrace

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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2009

Clothe-A-Child is big success!

On Friday December 5, more than 50 volunteer shoppers greeted 100 children from Indianapolis Public School 55 at Sears in Castleton Square Mall for a morning of shopping followed by a pizza lunch. The children were provided early Christmas presents in the form of school uniforms, underwear, socks, coats, and shoes. Afterwards, everyone met in the Sears party room, decorated in holiday motif, and enjoyed cookies, candy, punch, and of course pizza! Then the children serenaded the shoppers with Christmas carols before their return trip to school. Smiles, hugs, high fives and warm fellowship were the rule of the day.

This day of shopping was provided through the generosity of many Northminster members and friends. Thank you to all the financial donors and shoppers. Sufficient funds were received to pay the clothing bill that totaled \$12,897.44. We thank Sears for their wonderful support and additional discounts.

Special thanks goes to Tim Rice, who coordinated our efforts between Sears and the Eliza A. Blaker Elementary School (School 55); Don and Dolly Craft, who organized



Shoppers included John Purcell, Steve Kiltner, Mick Keppler, Bob Rogers, Bo Walker, John Stevens, Kim Leech, Don Durrett, and Bob Bowers.

the bus chaperones; Sara Neitzel, who arranged lunch for all the students, teachers, and volunteers; and all the volunteers who gave their time and effort to help the children choose their new clothing. Numerous thank you notes from the students and their parents are on the Deacons' bulletin board across from the choir room. ■

Northminster member Sara Neitzel was the Clothe-A-Child volunteer who arranged lunch for children and shoppers. She also coordinated the delivery of 35 food baskets to School 55 for Thanksgiving.



School 55 officials distributed the baskets.