

News & Views

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

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2009

Sound & Spirit concert 7 p.m. Sunday, May 10



Northminster Chancel Choir, soloists, and orchestra present George Frederic Handel's exuberant *Dettingen Te Deum*.

Dettingen Te Deum is music full of pomp and circumstance and was meant to be performed in a grand celebration. It employs three soloists, chorus, and an orchestra of strings, oboes, trumpets, and timpani.

George Frederic Handel (1685–1759), who enjoyed many years of success in England,

composed this work in English in celebration of the victory of the British forces of King George II over the French armies of Louis XV in June 1743 at Dettingen, in Bavaria.

Joining Northminster's Chancel Choir and orchestra for this performance will be:

Jay White, countertenor
Douglas Hooper, tenor
Alan Dunbar, bass

As with all *Sound & Spirit* events, the concert is free and child care is provided. ■

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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



Last December I celebrated my 30th anniversary of ordination. It is hard to believe that I have been in ministry for over 30 years already. I can say without reservation that if I had the opportunity I would do it all again, except for the last six months. The last six months here at Northminster have been the most difficult I have ever faced as a pastor. I am not complaining and it is no one's fault. It has just been a lot of things they never prepare us for in seminary.

They never taught us how to lay off friends and colleagues. We learn that the good of the whole church always comes before the individual, but that is theoretical and it doesn't help much with the emotions.

They never taught us how to ask for more money when people are giving and the economy is in the pits. Most of you know I don't normally have trouble asking you to give and support the church financially. I believe it is our Christian responsibility. I believe in tithing. I believe we should step

up because the need is great and because it is part of our faith commitment.

I also know some of you are doing more than can be expected and some of you are suffering your own job loss or salary reduction or investment decline. At the same time, some of you are very comfortable financially and not supporting this congregation as you could. I cannot figure out how to convey the message that your help is desperately needed.

They never taught us how to balance a very painful time and a very exciting time. The pruning we have to go through to have a healthy financial position is so painful. People are feeling a sense of loss and sorrow. The new families, the new babies, the new building, the new outreach are so exciting it makes others want to cheer. It is a very fine line to walk keeping the enthusiasm and hope alive while addressing the pain and those who suffer. Neither side has received the attention they should.

As difficult as these past few months have been they have reminded me of many things I did learn in seminary. The wisdom of a group (a session or committee) is usually wiser than the wisdom of any one individual. People generally want to do what is right and they will when they understand why it is important.

If you have to go through a difficult time, there is no better place than a community of faith that knows how to love and support one another in joy and in suffering.

You are an amazing congregation. You are a living example of the

May Sundays at 9 and 11 a.m.

May 3

Join us as we explore the 23rd Psalm together. Communion will be served at 9 and 11 and the Chancel Choir is singing at both services. Teri Thomas is preaching. This is Andrea Martin's last Sunday with us as our intern. Join us for the reception at 10 a.m.

May 10

Teri Thomas is preaching on the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch. The Chamber Ensemble sings at 11.

May 17

Our theme for the day is "As a Parent Loves a Child." We will be recognizing all of our graduates. The Chancel Choir is singing at 11 and Teri Thomas is preaching.

May 24

Today we celebrate Ascension Sunday. Children will join us in worship.

May 31

We celebrate the glorious day of Pentecost and the Sacrament of Baptism. Teri Thomas is preaching—
"And the Spirit Sighs."



resurrection to new life promised through our Lord Jesus Christ. Keep the faith and we will finish this race. Blessings! ■

Volunteer spots available on church staff

Looking for a meaningful way to spend some time?

Wish you had more purpose in your life? Have we got a deal for you! We still have a few volunteer spots open on the church staff and we are looking for just the right people.

Jane Eyler is retiring as Director of Older Adult Ministries after six years of faithful service. We thank Jane for the trips and pitch-ins she has planned and the wonderful programs she has coordinated. We are seeking a new volunteer for this older adult ministry. This position will require about 6–8 hours per month planning and conducting occasional activities for our older adults.

We are also seeking a volunteer coordinator. This person will meet with our new members and help them discern their gifts and interests and where they might find meaning

in the life of Northminster. You will help us keep our volunteer data base up to date and join us for staff meetings once a month. This position will require 10–12 hours per month.

We have had many responses to our call for volunteers and we want to thank you all. The following folks have offered to help and are in the process of being trained and oriented:

- Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Betty Bowers
- Coordinator of Mission, Tony Dzwonar
- Assistant Clerk, Winston Becker and Lynne Tobin

If you want to help out and aren't sure where, please get in touch with Teri Thomas or Ruth Moore at 251-9489 or terithomas@northminster-indy.org or ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org. ■



Thank you, Jane Eyler, for your dedicated service as director of the JOY Ministry for older adults (JOY, an acronym for Just Older Youth, originated with Jane and Barb Stayton.)

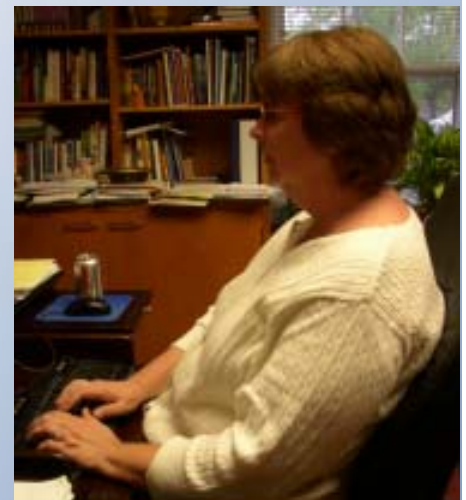
Curious Conversations May 16

Have you been coming to worship at Northminster, but want to learn more about the life and mission of this congregation? Do you have questions about what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century or what it means to be a Presbyterian?

If you have some unanswered questions and want to meet other people who have questions too, join us on May 16 at 9 a.m. in the chapel for coffee, donuts and conversation. We will meet until noon and end our time together with a light lunch. Child care is available upon request. Please contact Associate Pastor Ruth Moore

at 251-9489 or ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org to let her know you can attend or to ask questions.

This is the first step toward becoming a member of Northminster Church, but even if you have no interest in membership at Northminster please consider coming and joining in the conversation—Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to noon. ■



Associate Pastor Ruth Moore leads Curious Conversations.

Mission: This is just wild! You need to read this!

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

In May or early June, Northminster will once again participate in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. As we all know, the state of the economy has visited our church and our homes. Even with the hope touted by a new administration, we're still worried **and** cynical (a chronic disorder) about Washington.

Bread for the World is worried, too. They fear that the President and Congress have too many problems to address or that our nation can't afford to help poor countries. But the 2009 Offering of Letters advocates eliminating inefficiencies and redundancies in U.S. foreign assistance, now scattered across 12 departments and 60 agencies. If our country focuses its aid on reducing poverty—through programs that

people in developing countries design themselves—the money spent will address the root causes of hunger. Helping people help themselves. What a concept!

So here's what's wild: last fall, as the country was reeling over the economy, our Session was welcoming a new class of Deacons and Elders. New Elder Tony Ricchiuto was listening to Pastor Ruth Moore talk about Missions and what we do, including sending hand written letters to Congress for Bread for the World, and (are you still reading?) Tony said he used to work in Senator Lugar's office (remember, we send the Offering of Letters to both Lugar and Bayh) and he (Tony) said that the Senators actually read some of the letters **but**

that people like Tony read them **all**. Our Senators ask questions like "How many of my constituents want me to work toward reforming U.S. foreign assistance so it does a better job using our nation's resources to reduce hunger and poverty in our world?" And people like Tony can respond, "Senator, we got 800 from Northminster Presbyterian Church alone!"

Mission will provide the paper, envelopes, addresses, space and opportunity, but you have to write the letter. People like Tony count them. Senators respond to high numbers. It's how they get to Washington. Christ likes high numbers, too. It's how huge stones are pushed away and resurrect new life. ■

Outreach: Invite your friends and family to church

BY RUTH CHADWICK MOORE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Over half of Americans say they would visit a church if they received a personal invitation from a family member, friend or neighbor, a new study shows. The latest LifeWay Research survey found that people are most willing to hear about a local congregation through a family member (63 percent) and through a friend or neighbor from the church (56 percent). Less than half are open to receive information about a church any other way, such as through an advertisement.

"We want to help Christians discover what approaches work best in today's culture," said Ken Weathersby, senior strategist for

evangelization at the North American Mission Board, according to LifeWay. "It's not about changing the Gospel, but determining how best to share it."

North America is a mission field for Christianity. Whose job is it to reach them? Yours! And the best way to share your faith is through conversation and relationship. Many of your unchurched friends are ready for an invitation to discuss their faith and would welcome being invited to church. You are the best evangelists Northminster has.

Other findings show that Americans are most likely to be open to consider matters of faith during the Christmas holiday season (47

percent) and Easter season (38 percent) as well as after a major national crisis such as 9/11 (38 percent). A third of Americans say they would read a Bible as their likely first response if they wanted more information about God. Only 19 percent say would attend a church service and 10 percent would talk to a Christian friend. LifeWay Research surveyed more than 15,000 adults in December 2008.

So start some conversations. Extend some invitations. This is an exciting time at Northminster. Invite others to come and see what God is doing through us, our new building process, and our outreach into the community. ■

A “feel good” day

BY BOB GUDGEL, BUILDING COMMITTEE CHAIR

We see a new building taking shape and often focus on the structure and lose sight of the people who make it happen. From Sunday to Sunday you can see the physical changes that have taken place, but unless you stop by during the week you don't see the workers. With few exceptions, these guys and gals work hard and bring skills that will soon provide a building that will make us all very proud. On any given day we may have half dozen trades represented by as many as 20 workers trying to keep our project on schedule.

The transformation of this noble but tired old building has not been easy. Combining old structures with new structures always has its surprises (I have previously reported on some) that can often test your patience and send your spirits plummeting. A recent event has erased those bad thoughts for me and given my spirits a real boost.

When our family joined this church in 1968, Frank Bean was an

associate pastor and I remember his folksy “feel good” sermons that always brought laughter from the congregation. Frank died earlier this year and a memorial service, held here on March 14, brought over 250 members, friends, family and clergy from the churches he had served. I mingled with the crowd that day . . . few knew of my involvement with our building project.

As people entered the church through our construction site, they looked down hallways, into new rooms and gathered at the windows to view the new addition. You could hear the oh's, ah's and wow's. “What a lucky church to be expanding.” “They must be doing something right!” I wish I could have recorded the moment. At a time when there has been second guessing, a down economy, and other concerns, it was truly gratifying that in the eyes of “outsiders,” Northminster is still the caring, active, dynamic church that Frank would be as proud to serve today as he was 40 years ago. ■

On April 16 Pastoral Intern Andi Martin, Bob Gudgel and staff put together a “feel good” day and appreciation time for the construction workers—in the form of a dessert table set up outside.



Outreach at Broad Ripple Art Fair

On Sunday, May 17, the Northminster E-Team (Evangelism) will hand out bottles of water on the Monon Trail during the Broad Ripple Art Fair. These bottles will have a special label *Fresh water for your thirst, Living water for your life.* Please join us for this outreach. Spend time with other Northminster members and share the joy of Northminster membership with our Broad Ripple neighbors. Contact Pastor Ruth Moore at 251-9489 or ruthcmoore@northminster-indy.org or Dolly Craft at 848-5170 or dollybike@aol.com for more information.

In addition, the E-Team will help to staff the Broad Ripple Village Association booth at the Fair, handing out information about the village and association membership (Northminster has a business membership in the association). The BRVA would like volunteers to spend two hours during the Art Fair (May 16 and 17) at their booth.

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Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

VBS 2009

H2O, My Lord: Water Stories with Jesus will be held Sunday, June 14–Wednesday, June 17, from 5:45–8 p.m. Our Vacation Bible School program is designed for children ages 4 (by April 1, 2009) through middle school.

If you are interested in helping with drama, crews, crafts, video, parade, snacks, music, preschool, nightly newsletter or games, please let Debbie Bulloff know at dbulloff@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489. On-line Registration is available at www.northminster-indy.org. Each person attending must register individually.

Name the VBS newsletter

Our theme is *H2O, My Lord: Water Stories with Jesus*. Our stories will include Jesus and John the Baptizer, Walking on Water, Healing at the Pool and Calming the Storm/Fishing with the Risen Christ. Submit your nightly news names to Debbie Bulloff by May 15. There will be a prize given to the winner. We need help June 14-17 for production and printing of the VBS newsletter.

Church School in May

On May 3, we will imagine God's ultimate care for us through the essential qualities of a good shepherd: caring, rescuing, feeding, protecting and guiding. Where and when do you hear the voice of the Good Shepherd? We will study John 10:11-18 and ask to what is the shepherd calling us? Jesus says, "I am the true vine."

On May 10, we will discover how He wants us to make a

welcoming place for those who are seeking community with God's people. May 17 brings the last Sunday for 10 a.m. Church School until fall. We will remember Jesus' teachings about being friends. How can we support one another as the community that is the Body of Christ? We will consider John 15: 9-17.

On May 24, the preschool classes will hear a story about how prayer helped Jesus' friends choose a leader. Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26 will be our text. How and when have we felt we were guided by prayer? May 31 brings Pentecost. We will celebrate God's Spirit, present with God's people. Using Acts 2: 1-21, the children of the Church School will talk about the message we are called to proclaim.

Church School in the summer June 7–September 13

We need help this summer staffing the Nursery, Toddler, Preschool and Children's Church classrooms at both the 9 and 11 a.m. hours. Helpers will be needed to staff Crafts on the Patio at the 10 a.m. hour. A schedule is posted on the bulletin board across the hall from the Choir Room. Our curriculum is wonderful and we will have a fun, relaxed time learning about God's word. Do you hear God calling you to teach/help this summer?

I do.

Please let Debbie Bulloff know if you are available. ■



Adult Education Sundays at 10 a.m.

Don't forget to take a look at the Adult Education insert in this issue of *News & Views*. There are a variety of classes offered and opportunities to grow in your faith through study. Courses are also listed at www.northminster-indy.org/ministries/adults/adult-education.

Seekers Sundays at 10 a.m.

Did Jesus really expect the newly-cured leper to tell no one about the new healer in town? Do we have as many demon-possessed souls today as there seemed to be in Jesus' day? What are our modern-day demons? These are a few of the questions that have been posed in the new adult study class called Seekers.

Join us in Room 207 as we discuss and ponder the book of Mark. Whether you are a Bible Novice or seasoned Spiritual Guru, this could be the group for you. The book of Mark is our first endeavor but we hope to study various books and topics of interest. All are welcome. All are invited. All are called.

What's happening?

New Church Library will need your help

Friday Fun Night at Bounce Planet, May 8, 7-10 p.m.

Last year we all went duck pin bowling . . . This year, we'll bounce the night away! To ride the church bus, please meet us at the church by 6:15 p.m. The cost of the evening is \$9 for the bounce time from 7-10. We plan to be at Bounce Planet from 7-9:30 p.m. and return to the church by 10. You can meet us there if you like, and younger siblings of the youth and their families are welcome.

Directions from the Broad Ripple area to Bounce Planet: Take Binford Boulevard north. Continue on I-69 North. Take exit 5 to merge onto State Road 37 (towards Noblesville). Continue on State Road 37, 6.5 miles. Then turn LEFT at Pleasant Street. Destination is 1710 Pleasant Street, Noblesville, IN 46060. For additional information visit Bounce Planet's web site at www.bounceplanet.net.

Easter Egg Hunt report

"It was great! Eighty-five children came to our Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 11, and they were a

diversified group from all over the neighborhood. We looked like the United Nations," said Debbie Bulloff, Christian Education Director.

Bible Bowl report

Sixty-six people of all ages came to the First Annual Bible Bowl on Sunday, April 19. And all ages responded with enthusiasm and knowledge to the competitive quizzing. Adult winners of the contest are Lucille Auble and Jeff Schmahl, and young winners are Lauren Palladino and Katharine Ruegger. Names of winners will be engraved on the Bible Bowl Trophy.

Library news

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

We will be organizing and reshelving the library collection in its new location soon. If you would like to volunteer to help with this project, please let Debbie Bulloff know.

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Outreach at Broad Ripple Art Fair



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If this sounds interesting to you, please contact Sharon Freeland, Executive Director of the Broad Ripple Village Association, at 251-2782 to volunteer.

In appreciation for your volunteering at the Broad Ripple Art Fair (water distribution or the BRVA booth), you will receive a Northminster T-shirt to wear while working at the Fair. Let Pastor Ruth know you've volunteered and she will give you a T-shirt. ■

Youth Fellowship activities

May 3

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6-8 p.m.

May 8, Friday Fun Night

May 10

No Youth Fellowship

May 17

Graduate Recognition

At 9 and 11 a.m. services graduates from high school, college and beyond are honored. **6-8 p.m.** At Youth Fellowship we will have a special dinner with graduates and their families as our guests of honor. After dinner are youth activities and games.

May 24

No Youth Fellowship

May 31

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6-8 p.m.

June 5-7 at Gray's cabin

Youth are invited to a weekend of boating, hiking and fun, Friday night-Sunday morning at Jerry and Sally Gray's cabin. Meet Friday night at 5 p.m. to drive down; spend Saturday on the lake; return for 11 a.m. service June 7. Cost is \$20 for food!

Contact information

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

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MAY 2009

What's happening?

Financial Peace University beginning May 4



It is not too late to register for Financial Peace University, beginning on Monday, May 4, at 7 p.m. Financial Peace University teaches you how to make the right

decisions with your money. It was created by Dave Ramsey, personal money management expert, best selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*, *Financial Peace* and

More Than Enough, and host of a nationally syndicated radio program.

In a 13-week series of classes you'll learn how to live on a budget, to get out of debt, to find bargains, to save and invest, to plan for retirement, and to experience the joy of giving. This exceptional program is designed for all age groups from the young single person who is preparing for a career after high school or college, couples who are raising their children and want to know how to pay for their college education, to those individuals who are contemplating retirement.

The facilitators of the program are Jim Mann and Larry Moslener. Call 251-9489 to reserve your spot for this class. (Note that the day of this program has been changed from Thursday to Monday night.)

Register for *Storytelling 101*—first session May 12, 6–9 p.m.

Register today for *Storytelling 101*. Anyone with a passion for storytelling, communications, art, video, or design may volunteer—any age and experience level. Through *Storytelling 101* volunteers will be coached and trained on story development, interviewing, video production techniques, editing, pre-

and post production. The video stories they create will be shared within the church and on our web site.

The four sessions of *Storytelling 101* will be held at Northminster:

- **Tuesday, May 12, 6–9 p.m.** Orientation and Basic Composition (A pizza dinner is included with the first session.)

- **Tuesday, May 26:** Learning Equipment
- **Tuesday, June 9:** Editing
- **Tuesday, June 23:** Put It Together You can register for *Storytelling 101* (and be a part of Northminster's Video Team) by calling the church office at 251-9489 or on the web site at www.northminster-indy.org. ■