

News & Views

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Indianapolis, IN 46220 317-251-9489

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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2010

Sound & Spirit presents folksongs and spirituals

BY LORI SCHLABACH, CHAIRPERSON, SOUND & SPIRIT

Sound & Spirit presents a program of folksongs and African-American spirituals performed by the Northminster Chancel Choir, Chamber Ensemble and guest artists on Sunday, May 16 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The concert is free and childcare will be provided.

The first half of the program includes folksongs from Venezuela, Serbia, Cameroon, New Zealand and other countries. Randall Frieling will be featured on piano and Marko Petricic on the bayan, a chromatic button accordion that originated in Rus-



Randall Frieling

sia. Randall Frieling maintains a busy schedule as performer, church musician, and teacher. He is Professor Music at Anderson University, where his duties include teaching piano, organ, and accompanying. He also serves as Music Director and Organist at Central Christian Church in Anderson University, and is the pianist for St. Paul's Episcopal Church's Archway service.

The choirs and guest tenor, John Wesley Wright will perform African-American spirituals in the second half of the program. John Wesley Wright is known for his artistic and soulful interpretations of music from baroque to Broadway. He has performed a nationally televised concert for the Belgian Royal Family and toured as a soloist and in professional ensembles throughout the United States, Europe and Japan. With a host of opera and oratorio roles, art songs, spirituals and cabaret music in his repertoire, Wright is a member of the acclaimed American Spiritual Ensemble.

The folksongs and African-American spirituals performed are a departure from the classical reper-

toire the Northminster choirs have performed on previous *Sound & Spirit* concerts. Rather than being composed and written down by a single composer, these folksongs and spirituals were born of groups and passed down orally and aurally over many years.



John Wesley Wright

There is nothing in the world so much like prayer as music is.

~William P. Merrill

In this issue

2 Pastoral Ponderings . . .

4 Dalai Lama comes to Indy

7 What's happening?

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 RUTH CHADWICK MOORE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Our Senior Pastor has gone on sabbatical. We sent Teri and Jack off with a reception and prayers for a wonderful time of adventure, travel and renewal. But what about the rest of us who are left behind? What are we supposed to do while Teri is gone?

Well, hopefully we will keep worshipping together faithfully and listening for ways to follow God's call to share the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ. I am still your Associate Pastor, although I am the acting head of staff while Teri is gone. Andi Martin, who was our seminary intern, is back and helping me with worship and pastoral care.

Andi will also be teaching an adult education class each Sunday morning on hospitality and welcoming in the midst of racial and ethnic diversity – so I hope many of you can attend. Andi is here part time and plans to be in the church on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sunday mornings. I will be in the office Monday through Thursday and will try to take a day off on Fridays.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us with any pastoral care concerns that you have. Remember, hospitals will not contact the church, so please have a family member or friend call us if you are hospitalized.

We are going to have some wonderful guest preachers in May (See May Sundays in the next column) and I will be preaching towards the end of the month. So please come to worship on Sunday and be open to hearing the Word from some new voices. The worship bulletin may be a little different each week and we may have more or fewer scripture readings and hymns, but I know you are flexible and open to the leading of the Spirit.

Our Teams, Session and Deacons will continue to meet. Our Officer Nominating Committee is meeting and so is the "Our Future is Now" campaign group. A lot is going on and we need you here to help us.

We will be assembling a time capsule on May 23rd to put in our new building cornerstone – so bring something to share with the next generation of Northminster members.

Your staff – the pastoral, program and administrative – is here, ready and willing to work with and care for you. We are here to reach out into the community and to help you do the same. We are going to miss Pastor Teri and her leadership amongst us, but we need to carry on and do the worship, work, mission, giving and reaching out that God is still calling us to do. I look forward to continuing to seek, serve and embrace with all of you.

Blessings,

Ruth

May Sundays at 9 & 11 a.m.

May 2

Guest Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Timothy Shapiro

President of the Indianapolis Center for Congregations and an ordained Presbyterian Minister. We're grateful to have Tim with us today.

May 9

Guest Preacher:

Rev. Dr. Edward L. Wheeler

President of Christian Theological Seminary – a Disciple of Christ seminary in Indianapolis. Dr. Wheeler is an ordained Baptist minister and has a PhD. in historical theology.

May 16

Guest preacher:

Dr. Wilma Ann Bailey

Professor of Hebrew & Aramaic Scripture at Christian Theological Seminary. She has a PhD in religion and was Pastor Ruth's Hebrew teacher at CTS.

May 23

Pentecost Sunday

Preaching:

Plain Old Pastor Ruth

Today we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and to us. **9 a.m. & 11 a.m.:** Recognize teachers, high school and college graduates.

10 a.m.: Collect & bless articles for the time capsule then place capsule at the cornerstone of our new building.

11 a.m.: The Teri Thomas Memorial Scholarship for a high school senior will be announced.

May 30

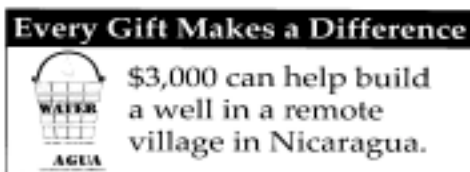
Trinity Sunday

Start your race day off right with worship! We'll celebrate the Trinity and look for ways God is teaching and guiding us. Ruth will preach.

More happening. . . .

OGHS Update

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering was collected on Palm Sunday, March 28. Thanks to your generosity we will be sending \$3044 to our Presbytery where the funds will be distributed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self-Development of People project. Your gifts will be going to people all over the world to provide food, shelter, clean water and financial assistance. The children's offering pail money and their OGHS fish banks raised \$149 of the total giving.



Gathering Place Time Capsule

On Sunday, May 23 - when we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples - we will fill a time capsule to be put in the cornerstone of the Gathering Place.

This cornerstone is right next to the new elevator in the Gathering Place. We will fill the time capsule at the 10 am hour and then a plaque will be placed over the cornerstone with the date of completion of our construction. We are inviting all small groups, Sunday School classes, ChristCare groups, circles, prayer groups, fellowship groups etc, to contribute. When someone opens that time capsule 50 years from now, what would you like them to know about your group, your faith, your church? Items can't be too big - the space is 17" deep, 10" wide, and 22" tall, but it would be great to have lots of mementos of who we are as this body of Christ we call Northminster Presbyterian Church.

Sunday Adult Ed Class

Andi Martin is teaching a class on Cultural Awareness and Diversity and in the Knox Room at 10 a.m on Sunday mornings. As part of Teri's Sabbatical grant she will be studying diversity and different cultures. We as a congregation will be studying along with Teri.

Cultural Awareness will be the only Adult Ed class from May 2 through July 18.



Andi Martin, Pastoral Associate

What do Deacons do?

The Deacons had their first Yard Sale in 3 years last month, in addition to holding their Annual Flower & Plant Sale. Both events are fundraisers for the Deacon's mission projects such as School 55.

The Deacons will be taking communion to the homebound on June 6th after worship. If you would like to be added to the home communion list please contact Pastor Ruth Moore at 251-9489 or ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org.



Moslener Update

Larry's contract with the Presbyterian Church in Peru, Indiana has been extended. He is happy there and they love him. Let's thank God for this blessing in our lives and in theirs.

Curious Conversations, May 15

The next Curious Conversations will be Saturday, May 15 at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room in the education wing of the church. This conversation time is the first step toward "official" membership in the church, but it is really just a time to get to know other new folks at Northminster and to learn more about us. We will start with caffeine and sugar (coffee and doughnuts) and end before noon. Please let Associate Pastor Ruth Moore know if you can come. ruthmoore@northminster-indy.org or 251-9489. Childcare is available upon request.

Dalai Lama event to benefit Interfaith Hunger Initiative

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

The Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual leader, will visit Conseco Fieldhouse to give a public talk titled “Facing Challenges with Compassion and Wisdom” on Friday, May 14th at 9:30 a.m. Proceeds from this event will be divided between Indianapolis’ own Interfaith Hunger Initiative – Northminster is a charter member - as well as the Indiana Buddhist Center.

Seating is general admission and tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. Tickets may be purchased at

cost at the Conseco Fieldhouse ticket office or through www.Ticketmaster.com for an extra service fee.

To save extra fees from Ticketmaster, you may order tickets through Tony Dzwonar at dzwonar@sbcglobal.net or 585-8474. Tony will accept orders through May 2nd. Also, please let him know if you’d like to ride the church van or carpool to this event from the church parking lot.



*His Holiness,
The Dalai Lama of Tibet*

Who takes the food?

Ever wonder what happens to all that food you faithfully put into the bins? Who carries it off? Who uses it? Behold! Russell Wareham (right) quietly and diligently empties the food containers, packs everything into his car and delivers the contents to Westminster Neighborhood Ministries. Seen here during the Christmas holidays packing up an overflowing barrel, Russell called on his brother Blake (left) to help.



“For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in”

Matthew 25:35

(Pentecost, continued from page 5)

Twenty-five percent of our Pentecost Offering supports Young Adult Volunteers. This program pays for travel and living expenses while participating in year-long mission opportunities in the United States and abroad. Four young women visited Northminster a few years ago to share their YAV stories. I remember one had been in Belfast, Northern Ireland and came home with many positive experiences from creating programs that brought together Protestant and Catholic teens. Another asked to be assigned to Romania because, in the exuberance of youth, she wanted to make contact with a local Gypsy population. Her desire to do the work of Jesus Christ, to share God’s word with an ancient, secret, reclusive society seriously endangered her life on one occasion. When we met her, she was still disturbed by the experience. But her faith sustained her and made an impression on the people who hosted her on two continents. She came to realize how the Holy Spirit moved through her in unexpected ways. An important lesson for a young girl.

She never converted a single Gypsy. And the stranger on a binge in

my hometown slipped out of the hospital and disappeared. And yet the Holy Spirit was there and was not discouraged.

The Pentecost Offering is on May 23. In addition to the Young Adult Volunteers, the Offering supports other activities like the Youth Triennial, Presbyterian Youth Workers’ Association, and the General Assembly Child Advocacy ministries which include issues of child trafficking. Forty percent is kept by Northminster for use on behalf of children at risk. This year it will go toward summer camps at the DaySpring Center. It is somehow appropriate to celebrate a birthday by focusing on the young, taking the opportunity and resources to develop programs that guide our young people along the path of Jesus. Please support these life-changing ministries where youth can “speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.”



Mission and outreach

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM

Pentecost Offering – two stories, two struggles

Several years ago I was given the opportunity to “perform” a kind of liturgical drama in church commemorating the Feast of the Pentecost. It was about my father and his friends in Alcoholics Anonymous. It was hard to acknowledge the turmoil and confusion I experienced as a child with an alcoholic parent. On the other hand, my father’s triumph was his legacy. Knowing that he was not alone in the courage he displayed nor in the ministry he shared, it was a story worth telling. But it took me in a direction I didn’t want to go.

Probably ten years before that Sunday morning, I was playing around with a writing prompt, something to get me started on a memoir, a common ploy that began with “I remember...” I pictured coming home from school in those days after Dad joined AA when members often hung out in our kitchen, drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes. I remembered the corner bench and the round table, the smoke rising up and hovering on the ceiling. Immediately, in a kind of smug writer’s sort of way (which means I have NO idea where it came from) I added “like tongues of fire.” My fingers came to a sudden halt on the keyboard, I got up and found my mother-in-law’s old Concordance bible, and looked up Pentecost. Scared me to death. I thought, there is no way I’m going to tie this into the Pentecost. The Pentecost is weird. Speaking tongues. Big hair. I worked with Pentecostals in Bloomington and they were Fanatics, never went to movies nor said bad words. My friends would think I had really gone over the edge.

I put that story away for years. But, as you might have guessed, sometimes God nags at you. (God can be a

little relentless in that way. Have you noticed?) One day I picked up the bible, moved through the index to find where the Pentecost story was, and thumbed through the Acts of the Apostles. I had already written the story of an episode the summer I was fourteen, when I saw a man have a convulsion on the street and ran to my father’s medical office a few doors away. My dad followed me outside and down the street. An ambulance took him to the hospital where Dad stitched up his head. The man had been on a binge, having just been released from a drunk tank someplace in Kentucky. Later that evening I listened as the AA friends chatted around our kitchen table sharing their own horror stories. This stranger’s story had been theirs. They understood each other. They spoke the same language. They spoke in tongues. I was most impressed by their willingness to attend to this stranger, an act of ministry. There was no avoiding the Acts of the Apostles now.

By just dropping in the passages from the story of the Pentecost to the story of the alcoholics, was personally enriching and surprisingly (maybe even shockingly) comforting. The Holy Spirit came into our home, forgave all past sins, and blessed them with the courage to go out and save someone else. The Pentecost is the birthday of the church, the beginning of ministry. I sooo get it now! Right.

When asked whether or not my little drama was theological, one of our pastors said “Well, what does it matter? What is really theological?” I sought a second opinion and got “What does the Holy Spirit mean to you, Maureen?” More questions.

WATCHOUT!

A list of mission events & volunteer opportunities at Northminster and in the community.

- **Damien Center**
26 North Arsenal. Many and varied: fund-raising events, food pantry assistance, receptionist, data entry, paperwork, phone calls, staffing at health fairs, Center tour guides, assisting testers with paperwork for walk-ins. For more information, call Sandy Windsor, 632-0123, ext. 236.
- **Wheeler Mission:**
All 3 locations need volunteers for tasks at various times. Check the Mission Team board for more information.
- **Habitat for Humanity Restore**
Volunteers needed:
Tuesday–Friday: 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm
Contact Jessica Conway at jconway@indyhabitat.org.
- **Gleaners Pantry Partners**
needs to fill four 2-hour slots per week at Southwest Community Cupboard. Contact Debbie Wilson at wilson@gleaners.org.
- Drivers needed to restock 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

Egg Hunt Thanks

Thanks to all of you who donated candy to our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Even though the weather was iffy, we had a wonderful time finding all the eggs and being together in our wonderful new Gathering Place. Special thanks to the youth, Older Adult luncheon group, and parents who filled all the eggs. The ChristCare group managed all the registration and prize giving again this year. This was truly a community attended event.



Fun for all ages!

Vacation Bible School 6/14-6/17 from 5:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Jesus' Miracles is our theme. Come see water turn to wine, Jesus feed the 5000, the paralyzed man walk, and Lazarus rise from the dead! We are planning our 5th annual Handmade Parade. There will be water fun again this year! This annual **free** event is a centerpiece of our Church School year. Volunteer by calling Debbie Bulloff at 251-9489 ext. 16 dbulloff@northminster-indy.org Crew Leaders, Craft Leaders, Preschool Crew Leaders, Games helpers, photographers and Nightly Newspaper Editors are needed. Set-up and clean up folks are needed, too. Children and Youth ages 4 (by April 1)-Middle School need to **register by June 6, 2010**. On-line registration is now available through www.northminster-indy.org and we will have special registration and "yes I can help" events at 10 a.m. and 12:00 Noon on Sunday May 16.

Summer Church School Teachers & Helpers Needed

Summer Church School begins May 30. We are in need of Nursery, Toddler, Preschool and Children's Church teachers and helpers for the summer months.

We have a wonderful, relaxed time with plenty of fun. Our curriculum is very teacher-friendly. Please check your calendars and plan to join the children of our congregation at either 9 a.m. or 11 a.m. as they continue their faith journeys. Let Debbie Bulloff know of your availability. Sign-up on the bulletin board across from the Choir Room, email Debbie at dbulloff@northminster-indy.org or call 251-9489 ext. 16.

Church School in May

May 2:

Focus scripture:
Revelation 21:1-6

During this Easter season, we will think about the dream that God has for our world. The Church School will take a look at the *apocalypse* or "unveiling" today.

May 9:

Focus scripture: Acts 16:9-15

We will try to use our imaginations and feelings to understand John's "code," as we hear God's plan.

May 16:

Focus scripture: Acts 9:16-34

Paul and Silas are jailed. We will discover how songs and prayers to God provide help and comfort. What words and "habits of the heart" do we learn from rituals and tradition that open us to God and help us act with compassion?

May 23:

Focus scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost, the Birthday of the Church, reveals us to be the gathered and scattered people of God's Spirit. We celebrate the gift of God's Spirit with the first believers on the 50th day after Passover. How can we share that gift with others?

May 30:

Summer Church School Begins



What's happening?

Older Adult Ministries Green Coffee?!

The Older Adult Ministries (OAM) is hosting a Mother's Day Luncheon on Thursday, May 6. We would like all attendees, both men and women, to bring a photo of themselves and their mother along with a story to share with the group.

Entertainment will be provided by Carol Frolich, who will speak on the project she is heading up at the Indiana State Museum; a hyperbolic crocheted coral reef for exhibit September 2010. The exhibit is a testament to the beauty of the reefs and the sea creatures who inhabit them – all made from yarn! Crocheters from all over Indiana are participating, making this truly a community art project.

The lunch, which starts at noon, will be furnished by Barbara Mohr at the cost of \$6 per person. **All reservations must to be made by noon Tuesday, May 4.**

Eagle Court of Honor at NPC

On May 2, Boy Scout Troop 180 of Carmel will be conducting an Eagle Court of Honor at Northminster Presbyterian Church at 3:30 p.m. Alan Hill recently completed the requirements for the rank of Eagle Scout and will be honored at this time. You are cordially invited to attend the ceremony which will be followed by refreshments in the Gathering Place. Please RSVP to Barb or Josh Hill by calling 850-4238 or barbillhome@sbcglobal.net

AN EASTER FLOWER THANK YOU

...The Easter flowers delivered to me were beautiful and I enjoyed visiting with the Deacon, we had a lovely chat. I appreciate your thoughtfulness &

kindness. Sincerely,

Kate Brown

Have you noticed the "new" coffee cups available during the fellowship hours in the Gathering Place? Volunteers who were sprucing up the church in preparation for Holy Week found the cups in a closet off Calvin Hall.

The cups proved a nice surprise for the Congregational Life Team. The team had been trying to make the coffee hour more "green" by reducing the use of styrofoam cups, which are a HUGE environmental no-no. (Word has it, Teri had charged the team with having the deal done by the time she returned.) The "new" found coffee cups have saved the church about \$1,000. Nice work Team!

Special Program for Parents of Middle & High School Youth

On May 23 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room, Aimee Scheuermann will speak to parents and youth to help everyone better understand college admission requirements. Parents are invited to join their youth for pizza from 6-6:30 p.m. Following dinner parents will meet with Aimee while the youth participate in group activities. The youth will rejoin parents for final portion of presentation and Q&A with Aimee.

Special Thanks to our Confirmation Mentors:

Angela Paxton	Joe Komenda
Winston Becker	John Purcell
David Gresham	Jerry Gray
Emmalee Hinton	Mike Boris
Bonnie Fulnecky	
Sean & Shannon Crittenden	

Youth Fellowship activities

May 2

Regular Youth Fellowship
6-8 pm with special program for parents.

May 9

Mother's Day

No Youth Fellowship
Celebrate Mom!

May 16

Regular Youth Fellowship
6-8 pm

May 22

Holiday World Trip!

Youth & families are invited to attend the day of fun!
Cost: \$26.95 per person
7 am - 11 pm

May 23

9 & 11 am: Teachers & grads recognized
6 pm: Special dinner and evening with youth & their families

May 28

Youth cookout at the Shannon home! 5:30 - 8 pm

May 30

Memorial Day Weekend

No Youth Fellowship

Contact information for youth

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



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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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www.What'sOnOurWebsite?:

Northminster's Spiritual & Fellowship Groups

You read about them in the bulletin each Sunday; North Stars, *Parents With A Passion*, Theology on Tap, to name just a few. There are many group/organization names you become familiar with at Northminster. But what are they? What do they do? Which one is right for you? If you've ever sat in the pew thinking, I'd like to attend North Central's upcoming production – but am I “qualified” to be a North Star? Wonder no more! There are two easy ways to access the descriptions of Northminster's many groups:

1. If you already know the name of the group, simply type it into the “Search” box in the upper right corner of the home page. Click “Go.” You will be linked to excerpts of each mention of the group on the website. Above each excerpt, the specific “Page” of our site where the information is found is listed. Click on the name of the Page (which will be in red), and you can review the excerpted text in full.

2. Just browsing to learn about what groups might interest you? Click “Ministries” along the top of the home page to access a “drop down” menu. Choose the type of ministry you're interested in from the Menu. For example, if you are an adult, you might choose “Adults” to be taken to a summary of Adult programming, accompanied by additional links along the left side of the screen. From there, click Adult

Fellowship, Small Groups, Families or whatever else interests you. The description of each group contains contact information so you can learn more.

This marks the first in a series of articles designed to introduce (or hopefully re-introduce) the congregation to Northminster's comprehensive and user-friendly website. If you haven't visited yet, click www.northminster-indy.org. Please let the Communication Team know if you have a favorite feature of the site that deserves highlighting in a future article. (sglant@northminster-indy.org).

A cool drink of water!

Do you like being outside? Making other people happy? Spreading the word of Jesus and NPC in an easy, fun way? Then join us in distributing water on the Monon Trail in Broad Ripple! The Northminster E-team has been enjoying this ministry — but we need more help in order to continue. The next water distribution dates are Sunday, May 16 and Sunday, June 13, noon to 3 p.m. on both days. If you are interested and available — even for just an hour or two on either date — please contact Jennifer Dzwonar at jennifer.dzwonar@borshoff.biz or 585-8474. Bring your family and friends. No one is too young or old for this refreshing ministry!

Interfaith Hospitality Network Our Host Week: 5/16 - 5/23

Through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, congregations take turns hosting homeless families for a week providing shelter, meals, security and compassion. The success of our week depends on 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 drive the IHN van to pick up our guests and take them in the morning. We also need volunteers to help with set-up prior to their arrival, cleanup after they leave and laundry. We hope new volunteers will fill some of these positions. Please prayerfully consider spending two or three hours of your time to provide a smiling face and helping hand to these homeless families. Sign up in the Gathering Space on Sunday mornings or on the sign up sheet posted on the Volunteer Board across from the choir room during the week. Position descriptions are available for each position. Call Nancy Flamme at 255-8387 with questions or to sign up.