

News & Views

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

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www.northminster-indy.org

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2011

An Exceptional Gift

BY MARY TARBELL, STEWARDSHIP BRIDGE TEAM MEMBER

As we continue to celebrate the renewal of our church building and all of the physical changes that have made being at Northminster such a pleasure, let us take a moment to remember Helen Zornes. Helen is no longer with us, but she supported our congregation in many ways for many years. Whether it was showing up for the first “Trunk or Treat”, providing leadership as a teacher for Circle 1, or baking wonderful cookies for PWCN (Presbyterian Women in the Congregation Northminster) bake sales, Helen was always ready to lend a hand to help at church. Everyone in the church office knew her well. She was a recruiter for the corps of volunteer receptionists who help the staff from nine to five every weekday. I started as a volunteer on the day after Labor Day under Helen’s guidance. It was a short week, the phones were crazy – ringing and blinking - but Helen sailed through her duties while ably teaching me the ropes. Many of us who worked in the old office re-

member the narrow desks, close quarters and ancient dark paneling. The office is now spacious, efficient and comfortable, partly because of Helen’s generous donation of over \$230,000 she left in her will to the building fund.

When Helen passed away, her niece posted this message in Helen’s funeral memory book: “After the Christmas presents were opened and the official celebration was over, my brother and I would find two more gifts left for us on the front porch. The gift tags said, “From Santa Claus” but I always suspected they were from Aunt Helen and Uncle Charlie.” That sounds like Helen – understated and generous. What a magnificent idea – a gift meant to be enjoyed after the giver is gone – made exceptional because it wasn’t given with the expectation of gratitude. Even though she is now with us only in spirit, Helen left all of us – and those who come after us – an exceptional gift.



Helen Lewis Zornes
January 18, 1923 - February 6, 2011
Helen joined NPC in 1967.

Is Northminster in your will?

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& more on 12/4!

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 REV. DR. TERI THOMAS, HEAD PASTOR



November is always a rather reflective month for me. Maybe it is the cold or the dark mornings that make it feel different. Or maybe it is the focus of the celebrations.

We begin the month with the celebration of All Saints Day. I think about all the special people who are the true “saints” of Northminster and the saints we have lost in the past 12 months. This year has really hit us hard with the good folks who have died. We will miss them all.

We also celebrate Thanksgiving this month with our interfaith service. This is always a very special service with Christians, Jews and Muslims coming together to worship one God. I hope you will join us this year. We all have so much to be thankful for.

Advent also begins in November this year. The word *Advent* means coming. Through the readings from the prophet Isaiah and the teachings of John the Baptist we will prepare for the celebration of Jesus’ coming as a baby in Bethlehem and also for the second coming of the Christ into our world

today.

Join me this month in some reflection, some remembering, some thanksgiving, and some preparation.

Blessings,
Teri

New Form of Government

After years of study, debate, amendment, negotiating and prayer the Presbyterian Church has adopted a new form of government. This means we have a new Book of Order or “rule book” for the denomination. So what changed? What stays the same? What difference does it make for us here at Northminster? On November 6th we welcome the Reverend Ralph Mitchell, retired pastor and former stated clerk. Ralph will help us understand the changes taking place. Join us at 10:00 in Calvin Hall for this lively discussion.



Christmas at Northminster

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 12/24

4 pm worship/Multi-generational

7 pm worship/Communion served

10:30 pm music prelude

11 pm worship/Candlelight service

Christmas Day, Sunday, 12/25

9 am worship

11 am worship

Sundays in November at 9 & 11 am.

Sunday, November 6

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Communion served at 9 & 11am

Today we’ll celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and All Saints Day. Teri Thomas will be preaching.

Sunday, November 13

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Paul tells the Thessalonians to encourage each other and build each other up. Jesus tells his followers the parable of the talents. Teri Thomas is preaching.

Sunday, November 20

Christ the King Sunday

This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. We will recognize the Legacy Society members in worship and dedicate several bequests the church has received this year. Ruth Moore is preaching.

Wednesday, November 23

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This year we will be worshipping in the newly renovated sanctuary at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation on Meridian. Please join with other Christians, Jews and Muslims for this special service. There will be a joint choir as well.

Sunday, November 27

1st Sunday of Advent

Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin the new church year and the journey to the manger in Bethlehem. Join us for these Advent worship services as a way of preparing for the joy of Christmas.

What's happening at Northminster?

Offering of Letters on Sunday, November 13

BY CORINNE IMBODEN

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state, and never its tool. If the church does not recapture its prophetic zeal, it will become an irrelevant social club without moral or spiritual authority."

~ Martin Luther King

When I was growing up, my brother and I always had to clean our plates. No exceptions. My parents never gave the "think of the hungry people in the world" line. I think it had more to do with not being wasteful. Add to that, the fact that a lot of what we ate came from Dad's garden and not eating every bite would have been unacceptable on several different levels. Tomatoes, green beans, leaf lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, lima beans, peas, carrots, zucchini, eggplant, green onions, yucky parsnips (FYI – if you take really small bites of a parsnip and wash it down with lots of milk, you almost don't taste it. And no, parsnips are not white carrots.) Nevertheless, we always had enough to eat.

Thanks for your help. . . .

The co-chairs of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, Tim Cann, Bob Gudgel and Bill Lord, want to thank the members and friends of Northminster who joined us for the work days earlier this month. Jim Arend, Bob Bowers, Bill Diehl, Tom Duncan, Tony Dzownar, Ellen Fosnaught, Bill Freije, Troy Hill, Craig Hittle, Tim Rice, Gary Ryan, John Sibley, John Smith, Russell Mary Tarbell, Wardham, Jack Wineman, and Kevin Zimmerman. Our thanks for helping in the successful completion of a number of projects.

What about you? Have you ever not had enough to eat for an extended period of time? If not, what did that feel like? How did you cope? Could you continue to concentrate on everyday activities? Go to work? Run a household? Take care of your children? Or actually be a carefree child?

As you may know, Northminster Presbyterian Church is a covenant church to "Bread for the World". This means we are committed to pray and learn about hunger and give our time and resources to end hunger in our community, our nation and our world. As Christians, we are God's voice, His hands and His heart. It is our responsibility to do whatever we can to eliminate hunger everywhere. So let's write letters.

Yes, letters. By reforming U.S. national and foreign aid policies and programs, we can positively affect the lives of hungry people. Making these changes can transform the lives of millions from poverty and despair into life and dignity.

Unfortunately, in this highly politically-charged Congress, there is no legislation being considered to end hunger. All the focus is on ways to cut the defi-

cit. Only a small fraction of our budget goes to hunger-assistance programs. Can we, with good conscience, allow these programs to be cut or eliminated? When we gather on November 13th, let's tell our legislators how we feel about hunger-aid. The message of our letters is this: 1) There is not enough money in poverty-focused development programs to balance the budget 2) to try to do so is morally indefensible.

Let's use our hands and our voices to reveal God's heart to the world. Come write letters with me.

What Do Deacons Do?

The Deacons will be purchasing and delivering Thanksgiving Food Baskets to families in need from School 55. They are also busy planning for Clothe - A - Child (our cold weather clothes shopping trip for children from School 55) on Thursday, December 8. Mark your calendars and plan to join us to help us shop with the children for winter clothes.



We're Having a Party!!!!

Be sure to mark Sunday, January 8 on your 2012 calendars. That's when we are celebrating, with Pastor Teri Thomas, her 10 year anniversary here at Northminster!! Plans are underway, but the Personnel Committee would love to hear any ideas you have for this special day. Contact Ann Bruce at 849-4517 or annlbruce@att.net. We are so grateful for the love, concern, care and leadership Teri has given to all of us. We look forward to this opportunity to honor and celebrate with Teri. See you January 8th!!!



Northminster Caring Ministries

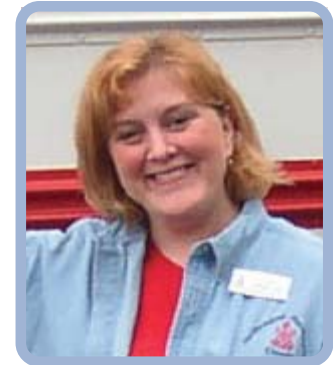
The Gratitude & Health Connection

BY LIZ NETERVAL, PARISH NURSE

As we approach Thanksgiving the focus turns to counting our blessings. Now, science is finding that there is a real connection between gratitude and our health. Studies show that being grateful increases happiness by 25% and boosts the amount of time people spend exercising (a terrific bonus for those of us who struggle to get to the gym.) Being positive even seems to create greater equality in dividing up chores between partners. Mindful gratitude is a great stress reducer also. In yoga, practicing mindful gratitude consistently leads to a direct experience of being more connected to life, and the realization that there is a larger context in which your personal story

is unfolding. Beyond Thanksgiving here are some ways to start adding gratitude

1. At dinnertime, take a moment to say one thing you are thankful for.
2. Remember why you love your spouse, partner, kids and/or friends when they're doing something that's annoying or frustrating you.
3. Don't compare your life to the lives of others. When you're feeling envious, ask yourself, "How can I create in me what I see in them?"
4. Give thanks for your body. What can you appreciate about it at this moment.
5. Look for the hidden blessings in challenges. How have you grown?
6. Practice these daily. Keep a gratitude journal.



(Liz Neterval, Parish Nurse)

If You're in the Hospital . . .

Hospitals, care facilities and retirement communities are not allowed by law (because of HIPAA laws) to share information about you with your church or pastor. **Please call the church or ask your family to do so.** (The Hospital Chaplain's Office may not remember to call us, even though you've asked them to.)



Understanding Depression, An Informal Dialogue, 11/13

Join Sam Smith, MA, Lmhc, Lmft, on Sunday, November 13, 10am in Calvin Hall for an informal group dialogue on understanding depression. Sam will discuss the causes, the signs, symptoms and the impact it can have on our lives. He will also relate some relatively new perspectives about ways of understanding and coping with this phenomena. While depression can be profoundly challenging, it often yields astounding transformative developmental treasures in our life.

Sam is a licensed mental health counselor, a licensed marriage and family therapist with a Masters degree and a therapist at the St. Vincent Stress Center on 86th Street. He has also held private counseling/therapy sessions 2-days a week at Northminster for the past few years, on Tuesdays and Fridays.



Recent Northminster Member Deaths

Donald Ream, Jr., on 10/17
 Betty F. Bailey, on 10/16
 Ann Louise Egger, on 10/6
 Charlotte Jean Berns, on 10/6
 Beulah Mae Sharp, on 9/23
 Vora Jean Watkins, on 9/16
 Ann Schmidt Walker, on 8/31
 Herbert C. Spencer, on 8/16

Mission and outreach

Taking note: When the theme is hunger

BY MAUREEN PURCELL, MISSION TEAM MEMBER

There's a special quiet about November. I mean with the air conditioning compressors turned off and the sound of lawn mowers and leaf blowers subsiding, and snow blowers still under the tarp in the garage. As one sense is relieved another sense awakens, and in November, that means the scent of turkey, sweet potatoes, pumpkin, noodles, vegetable casseroles, apple cider and all those things that give us comfort and warmth.

Yet there is a rumbling all around us, as deep as any hunger pang we've ever had, it's the hunger of other people. The problem is so big, it seems most of the missions our Team asks you to support have a hunger theme somewhere; Crop Walk, Offering of Letters, Thanksgiving Day's Drumstick Dash, December's Alternative Christmas Market and, this winter, the Souperbowl of Caring.

Bridge Teams celebrates anniversary

It was a crisp November morning, two years ago. There had been a final push to get the elevator running for the occasion. It was very exciting because some folks hadn't been on the second floor in years and the only other elevator takes just two at a time if there's a walker or food cart on board. In 2009, we called it "Dedication Sunday" and gave our blessing to all the new spaces, as well as our ability to actually get to them.

Sunday, Nov. 20, the Bridge Team will honor that day once again with a special event. There will be an historical perspective with before-and-after pictures of all the new spaces created during the *Open to the Future* capital campaign. Have you forgotten how you used to get to the sanctuary? Do any of you remember the Blue Room where the youth used to meet? Where was Julie

Don't think because it's easy for you to do, or that you have fun doing it, that you're not making an impact. You can get mad everyday about the 18,000 children who are hungry in Indianapolis, give until it hurts and make an impact, too. But remember every letter you write, every gift you buy, bucket you fill, dollar you drop, or step you take helps someone. You can bet your sweet potatoes on that.

Drumstick Dash starts Thanksgiving morning at 9am in Broad Ripple. You can take the whole family, even the ones visiting from out of town, to run, walk or even volunteer to benefit Wheeler Mission programs. A number of Northminster families participate in this fun event every year and you should be there, too. You can register at WheelerMission.org. The Mission Team continues to be thankful for this generous and supportive congregation.

Shannon's first office? Remember Calvin Hall for fellowship AND chair/table storage? Did you know the HVAC system had to be shut down sometimes so you could hear the sermon? The Knox room was elegant but very crowded. On Sunday 11/20 you will point and gasp at the many wonderful transformations.

Part of the anniversary event will feature a game we hope all of you will play. Each person or team (family and friends) will be given a questionnaire. In order to answer these questions, you'll have to visit different parts of the church building or grounds during the 10 o'clock hour. You might have to count, find a name, know your shrubs, discover something you never knew about our building. Oh, and there will be prizes. As if the church weren't prize enough.

Hands ON/Hands Involved

Upcoming mission events & volunteer opportunities

- **Undie Sundays**

In November for Martin Luther King Multi-Service Center. Underwear, all sizes, all kinds, all new. Look for baskets around the church.

- **Offering of Letters, 11/13**

Put it in writing! Let your legislators know what you want them to do about global hunger. This works.

- **Drumstick Dash, 11/24**

Thanksgiving Day, 9am in Broad Ripple.

Great family experience! Run, walk or volunteer to benefit Wheeler Mission programs. Register at WheelerMission.org.

- **Alternative Christmas, 12/4**

Ways to honor friends and family at Christmas with gifts crafted from around the world or donations to various missions. What to buy the man who has everything? A flock of chickens - for the man who doesn't.



Education for all ages

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Dental Kits for Ronald McDonald House

The children & youth who participate in the Wednesday Night activities will be assembling dental kits for Ronald McDonald House. Donations of new toothbrushes, dental floss, travel-size bottles of mouthwash and travel-size tubes of toothpaste are needed for this project. If you can donate any of these items, please bring them to the church office by **December 6**.

Casting Children for 4pm Christmas Eve Service

Does your child want to be in this year's 4pm multi-generational Worship Service on Christmas Eve? We are in the process of casting the story for this worship service. Be sure to let Debbie Bulloff, Dir. of Christian Education know if your family will be in-town during Advent/Christmas and your child's availability. Children must be present for rehearsals that will take place prior to the week of Christmas.

Vacation Bible School 2012

Already?! YES! A planning meeting will take place Tuesday, Nov. 1, 6:30-7:30pm. Come with ideas for next June. We'll have information about what's available in packaged themes as well as "home-grown" ideas. Child care available. Please let Debbie Bulloff know of your interest to attend.

Family Ministries Retreat to Pokagon State Park

Registration is now open and rooms are filling up for this fun Family Ministries retreat on Jan 20-22, 2012. We have 22 rooms reserved for Friday and Saturday nights. Your registration form and check to reserve your room must be turned in to Debbie Bulloff by 12/1. Go to Family Ministries at www.northminster-indy.org for more information and to print out a registration form.

Parents with a Passion

PwP is a group for parents with children of all ages. Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:15pm in the Knox Room

11/2 & 11/9: Pastor Ruth Moore will lead the group as we discuss the books *The Five Love Languages* and *The Five Love Languages of Children*. We will learn our own love languages as well as learn the love languages of our partners and children so we can love each other in a way that affirms our gifts and our needs.

11/16: How to keep sane & healthy during the holidays!

11/23: No PwP (Thanksgiving Break)

11/30: Mission project – we'll collect our donated items for a family in need and make cards for the homebound.

Church School in November

Sunday, November 6

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 25: 1 – 13

The children will consider what it means to be ready to shine with the light of Christ, as we hear the parable of the ten bridesmaids. How can we prepare with faith and hope for Christ's return?

Sunday, November 13

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 25: 14 – 30

Jesus' parable of the ten talents reminds us that the abundant possibilities of God's love are not limited by traditional boundaries. How shall we use God's gifts in service to God and our neighbors?

Sunday, November 20

Focus Scripture:

Matthew 25: 31 – 46

This is Christ the King Sunday, the end of the church year. Jesus tells us that each time we help someone with a drink of water, food or clothes, we do those things for Him. The children will consider small acts of love that can make a very big difference.

Sunday, November 27

Focus Scripture:

Isaiah 64: 1 – 9

The Season of Advent invites us to acknowledge times of deep belief and times of doubt. We must wait expectantly and sometimes with anxiety, just as the Hebrew people did. How will God "tear open the Heavens" for us this Advent and Christmastide?



What else is happening at Northminster?

J.O.Y. Group Upcoming Events

The J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) Group invites anyone looking for wonderful fellowship, a delicious lunch, and musical entertainment to join them Thursday, 11/3 for the Thanksgiving luncheon. It will start promptly at noon with lunch and entertainment to follow. **RSVP to the church office by Tuesday, 11/1.** Cost of the lunch is \$7.00.

Mark your calendar now for our Christmas luncheon to be held on Thursday, 12/8. We will be singing your favorite Christmas songs and hymns.

NorthStars to see *Hairspray*

On Sat., 11/19, NorthStars will attend the Broadway musical, *Hairspray*, presented by the very talented North Central HS students. Our evening will begin at 5pm with dinner at Maggiano's Restaurant (Keystone at the Crossing). After dinner we'll go to North Central for the 7pm show. Tickets are \$10. **Call the Jacklins, 845-9694, by 11/13 for reservations.** When calling with your reservation, let Cheryl know if you are dining and going to the show or just one or the other.



The Mom-to-Mom Group

(A group for mothers of younger kids) Moms will meet on **Tuesday, 11/29** at 6:30pm at the home of Julie Shannon (3935 Central Ave, Indpls.) This is a week later than normal due to Thanksgiving. Child care will be provided. Contact Liz Neterval (502-7150) or Julie Shannon (753-6985) with questions.

"Get on the Bus" Singles



This is a new singles group. Get involved. Join the fun. All are welcome.

November takes us to the Pepsi Coliseum to see the Indianapolis Ice hockey team play the Sioux City Musketeers on Friday 11/25. Bring your Thanksgiving friends & family. RSVP to the church office (251-9489). For our December event we'll attend the ISO Christmas show - a holiday blast of fun! Date to be determined. Questions? Contact Jennifer Smith at jennifer@avantgarb.com

College & Military Care Packages!

Every year we mail out 20-30 care packages to current college students and military personnel connected to Northminster. Email Julie Shannon (jshannon@northminster-indy.org) if you'd like to help with this important ministry. Popular items needed are baked goods, cookies, school supplies, small items-like granola bars, cough drops, etc. You can donate money or goods. All items are greatly appreciated by those who receive these packages. We like to mail packages out by the end of November.

Youth Activities in November



Sunday, November 6, 20
Regular Youth Fellowship,
6-8pm

Friday - Saturday
November 11 - 12
Lock Out for the Homeless
8 pm - 8 am

Held at Meridian Street UMC. We will be collecting coats to donate to local organizations. This is a great opportunity for youth from different churches to be in fellowship together and reflect on homelessness in Indiana, the United States and around the world. **Let Julie Shannon know ASAP if you plan to attend,** a special permission slip is required for this event. **RSVP to Julie at JShannon@northminster-indy.org**

Sunday, November 13
NPC's Amazing Race!!!

5:30 - 8pm
NPC youth & families are invited to participate in this Family Night. We'll eat some amazing food and form teams of 4 to run the Amazing Race. Parents and younger siblings are welcome and encouraged to participate.

Sunday, November 27
No Youth Fellowship tonight

Youth 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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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2011

Music Ministry presents *Christmas Lite* Program, with special guest, Max Wellman, 12/4

BY JOHN WRIGHT, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

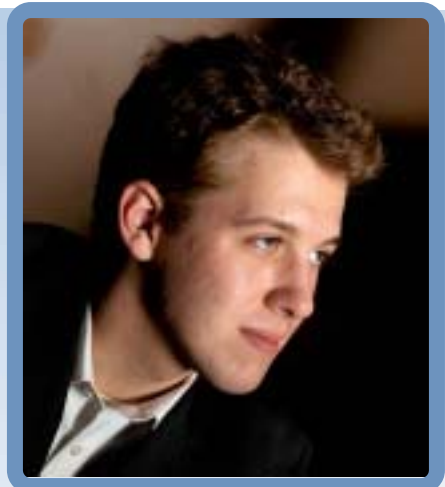
Join us in the sanctuary at 1pm for a 50-minute show of secular and silly Christmas songs, featuring our children's choirs, Chancel Choir, and soloists. Our special musical guest this year is jazz singer and pianist Max Wellman. Mr. Wellman, based in Atlanta, Georgia, will present Christmas arrangements from his 2012 "Home for the Holidays" tour, and you don't have to go to stubhub.com for tickets.

For more information about Max Wellman and his music, visit www.maxwellmanmusic.com. There is

a rumor that a large man in red will make an appearance. There will be a lunch served at Noon in Calvin Hall, sponsored by the Congregational Life Team. Come join the fun as we usher in the holiday season! This is a free event.

"Wellman is a jazz vocalist whose crisp, clear tenor voice produces melodic interpretations that echo the likes of Harry Connick Jr., Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, and Michael Buble."

~ The Des Moines Register



(Max Wellman, jazz vocalist)

Alternative Christmas Market

Don't miss this opportunity on 12/4 from 10am - 1pm, in the Gathering Place to do some Christmas shopping and make a difference in the lives of people. Instead of purchasing actual gifts, make Christmas more meaningful by donating to a charity in honor of those on your holiday list. The recipient will receive a card with an insert that tells about the organization to which you have made a donation in their honor. Organizations that will be represented include Interfaith Hunger Initiative, Habitat for Humanity, and Heifer International. Global Gifts will also be selling handcrafted items by artisans in developing countries.

Calling All Bakers on 12/4

PWCN will hold its Annual Bake Sale Sun., 12/4, beginning at 10 am in the Gathering Place. Delicious cookies, breads and cakes will be available to purchase. Proceeds will be used for mission projects. Bake your favorite recipes, bring them to church Saturday by 4pm or early on Sunday to be included in the Sale on December 4th!

You're Invited to a "Lite" lunch

Wondering what you'll do between the church service at 11 am and the *Christmas Lite* concert at 1pm on December 4th? The Congregational Life Team invites you to Calvin Hall for a "Lite" Lunch. No RSVP is necessary and a free will offering will be collected.

