

News & Views

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

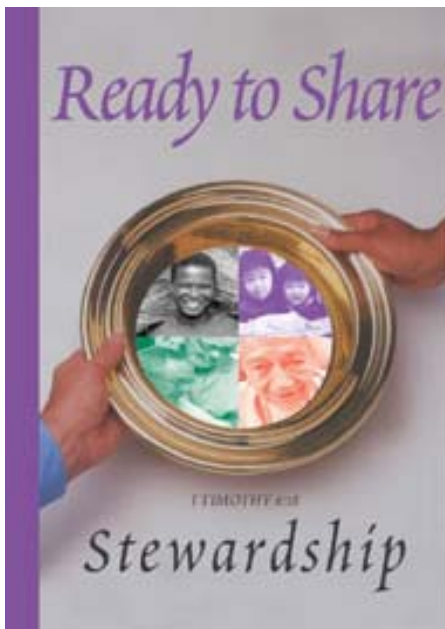
NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2008

Your commitments to Northminster

BY TERI THOMAS, PASTOR

**Do good, be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous,
Laying up for yourselves a good foundation for the future,
Take hold of the life which is life indeed. (1 Timothy 6:18-19)**



In uncertain economic times our instinct is to hoard and worry about the future. Scripture challenges us to remain faithful to what we believe and to live as

disciples of the one in whom we believe.

We hope you will prayerfully consider your commitments to Northminster in the coming year. Our giving is a response to God's goodness. We give because we are called to share who we are and what we have. God never said we should give only when we have extra or only when times are good. God said we should give, because God gave to us the amazing gift of Jesus. God gave when times were tough. God gave everything.

It is in response to God's generosity and grace that we make our commitments to Northminster for 2009. On November 2 we will celebrate the ministries of the church with meals at 12 noon and 5:30 p.m. Choose one time and join us to give thanks to God and

celebrate what we are able to accomplish together in faith.

On November 9 we will be receiving pledges in worship at both services. Pledge cards for the 2009 annual budget will be mailed ahead of time. We will also provide *Open to the Future* pledge cards for those who still need them.

The good news is that the work of Jesus Christ continues in the world today through the Body of Christ, the Church. We have the opportunity to be part of this amazing and life giving ministry. Prayerfully consider how you will be a living, breathing part of this body in the year ahead. ■

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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



I wish I could say something very profound and very comforting about the economy and where this current financial crisis is taking our country, our congregation and you. And if wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

While there is much we cannot know, there is also a great deal we can believe on the basis of our faith.

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8:28)

I do believe that and on my good days I can begin to see some of the good God is working in these days. We are all being forced to set priorities in our lives. We are put in the difficult position of having to make choices. That is not all bad. As American consumers most of us have been spoiled into thinking and believing we can and should have it all. Now we are reminded that we cannot have it all and maybe we should not even want it all.

The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. (1 Timothy 6:10)

Money is neither good nor bad in and of itself. How we use money and the power we give it in our lives are most certainly good or bad. It is becoming clearer and clearer that much of our current financial mess is the result of greed. We can argue over whether it was the greed of Wall Street executives seeking profits without weighing the risks or whether it was the greed of families buying houses they could not afford, but it was greed just the same. When we put our own life style and our own profit over the common good we are in trouble, always.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust consume . . . where your treasure is there will your heart be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Historically, churches have fared fairly well during rough economic times. Maybe that is because it takes rough times to remind us of this truth. Treasure invested in the church is about so much more than interest rates. Treasure invested in God's work is about ministry and mission, people and passion, goodness and grace. Treasure invested in the Body of Christ pays dividends for generations to come. Treasure invested in the work of the church keeps our heart where it needs to be and the payoff is divine. ■

You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.
(Winston Churchill, 1874–1965)

November worship schedule

November 2

Today is the end of daylight savings time. Reset your clocks and join us for worship and communion at 9 and 11 a.m. Larry Moslener is preaching.

November 9

Today is Commitment Sunday and the culmination of our stewardship campaign. Please bring your completed pledge cards with you to worship. Teri Thomas is preaching at 9 and 11 a.m.

November 16

We will serve communion at 9 a.m. Teri Thomas is preaching.

November 23

We will celebrate the Reign of Christ. We have new members to receive and baptisms to celebrate. This is the last Sunday of the church year, so don't miss the celebration.

November 26 at 7 p.m.

Tonight is our annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, held this year at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at Kessler and Meridian. Imam Michael Sahir will be preaching. Northminster has taken part in this interfaith service since its inception.

November 30

Today is the First Sunday of Advent. Join us as we begin our time of preparation and waiting for Christmas. Teri Thomas is preaching and communion will be served by intinction at 9 a.m.

It's all about sharing

BY JACKIE CRITTENDEN, STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

When the Stewardship Committee chose a “sharing” theme for this year’s annual campaign, we weren’t sure where it would lead but once again amazing things are happening at Northminster. Over the last few months many congregation members have “shared” their stories with us in worship, the banner committee asked congregation members to “share” words for new sharing banners, which are now being displayed, and one of the ChristCare groups made some “sharing” posters featuring pictures of our congregation “sharing” their

time and talent with others. There are countless “sharing” moments happening, and I can’t possibly list all of them. Everyone has a story and the Stewardship Committee encourages you to “share” those stories with each other long after the dust has settled on this annual campaign.

Commitment Sunday is November 9 and we ask that you prayerfully consider what you will “share” with others from Northminster in 2009 and then bring your Estimate of Giving card to worship. Great things are happening at Northminster, thanks be to God!

Sharing Mexico mission experience

BY ABBY HUNTER, YOUTH ELDER

Hi, my name is Abby Hunter, and I am currently a sophomore at North Central. Recently, I went on a mission trip to Cancun with around 30 other youth and adults. This is the second time I have taken this trip. When I tell people I went to Cancun for a mission trip, their response is either disbelief or a sarcastic “yeah, a *mission trip*.” But what they don’t realize is that the Cancun I see is a different one. The palm trees are a little less green, the language is a little more colorful, and the beaches are a little less white. It’s not shiny, it’s not perfect, but it’s real. This is my Cancun.

This trip offers not only a chance to bond with members of our church, but also gives an opportunity to meet the Mexican

population of our partner church. While working on construction or helping with vacation Bible school, one thing becomes apparent: how truly amazing the congregation from Prince of Peace, our partner church, is. Always willing to lend a helping hand and ready with a smile, these people have greatly impacted my life.

Perhaps the most inspiring aspect is their generosity and kindness. Early on in the week another youth and I were shown the surrounding neighborhood, where most to the families of the congregation live, and we saw houses made of concrete blocks, or spare pieces of wood, and whatever materials they could find. Despite this, they never hesitated to share all they could with us, from food and homemade orange juice given by the

Curious Conversations

Saturday, November 15
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Interested in talking about Northminster? Wonder what it means to actually be a member? Want to meet some other people who are thinking about the church?

Join us on Saturday, November 15, from 9 a.m. to about 1 p.m. for *Curious Conversations* with Pastor Teri Thomas and some members of Northminster. This is for anyone interested in joining the church, anyone interested in asking some questions, or anyone interested in meeting some people. Coming for conversation does not obligate you to join.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 251-9489. Also let us know if you are coming so we can have enough food for lunch. We will provide child care if requested.

adults, to pictures and toys given by the kids. Their determination to finish their church, combined with their love for each other, is refreshingly apparent.

These trips of the past two years have greatly impacted my life. While I know that I will return, I try to remember these people and the values they have taught me and wherever I go, I keep a little part of Cancun with me. ■



Mission and outreach

Bread for the World Offering of Letters November 23

Perhaps you remember reading Associate Pastor Ruth Moore's article in the October *News & Views* about the Interfaith Hunger Initiative. In September, the Session signed a covenant on your behalf to partner with other Interfaith Hunger Initiative congregations to raise awareness about hunger. The Mission Team hopes to bring you regular updates and information about the project. But with every bit of information, comes a challenge.

On November 23 we will bring back the Bread for the World Offering of Letters. We will find a

place where we can lay out paper, pens, envelopes and addresses of our Senators and Representatives. We will give you an opportunity to drop a note to these folks in Washington, telling them you want them to support programs that address hunger in our nation and the world.

All nations agree that hunger can be cut dramatically by 2015. It's an amazing goal and progress has been made in recent years, so Bread for the World knows it can be done. But we're not on track right now. Better funded U.S. aid programs can help improve health, nutrition, education, and water

systems, and build long-term solutions for families and communities. We want to ask our leaders in Washington to increase poverty-focused development assistance and pass the Global Poverty Act so that our assistance will have the maximum impact for those with the greatest need.

The squeaky wheel gets the oil. The Bread of Life Offering of Letters is designed to make some noise and draw attention to the hunger of children and families. That includes the 18,000 Indianapolis children who frequently go without food. Join us on November 23 and get loud with your pen.

Westminster Neighborhood Ministries

Westminster Neighborhood Ministries (WNM) is one of Northminster's ongoing mission projects. WNM exists to provide programs, assistance and relief to those in the Holy Cross-Westminster Neighborhood on the near east side of Indianapolis. Located at 445 N. State Avenue, WBM is a ministry of Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

Northminster's congregation supports the food pantry of Westminster Neighborhood Ministries with donations of food and personal items placed in the barrels at the front of the church and in the education wing. Items regularly needed in the food pantry are dish washing detergent, hand soap, diapers of any size, spaghetti in small boxes, deodorant, toothpaste, mouthwash, canned corn, canned fruits, tuna and soups.

If you have questions about this mission project, please call Cheryl Plunkett at 698-1567.

Coupons for School 55

Indianapolis Public School 55 participates in two programs that help schools raise money for equipment and supplies:

- Box Tops for Education
- Campbell Soup Labels for Education

Northminster church members can help School 55 by cutting out special coupons off products we use at home. The Deacons will collect these box tops and labels year round and deliver them to School 55. Collection bags with complete instructions and list of products will be available on the Friendship Tables in the narthex and by the church office.



Clothe-A-Child shopper Bob Rogers helps IPS 55 student select clothing.

If you are not currently supporting a school, please consider helping School 55. Questions? Please call Sara Neitzel at 842-5374 or Larry Moslener at 251-9489. Thank you for your help. ■

Church School in November

BY DEBBIE BULLOFF, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

On November 2 we will consider Matthew 23:1–12. Jesus has told us to love God and our neighbors. How can the greatest among us be the one who serves and cares for others and not the one with all the power? How can we become disciples and partners in service, learning and growing together?

The parable from Matthew 25:1–13 about the bridesmaids and the oil lamps will be our text for November 9. An untended life of faith runs the risk of smothering the God-given flame within. Can we be ready to show God's love wherever we are?

On November 16, we will talk

about the parable of the talents when we share Matthew 25:13–30. We should not hide what we have out of sight. We need to rejoice in God's extravagant love and learn to pass it on. How shall we do this?

On November 23 is Christ the King Sunday—the end of the church year. Our focus passage will be Matthew 25:31–46. Christ is at work through us. What shall we do? How can we be the hands of Jesus?

November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent. We wait in confidence and hope that God's salvation will come among us. We will focus on Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 and join in a song of longing for God. When will the Christ come?



Angels and Shepherds Needed for Dinner

If you would like to dress up and appear as an angel or shepherd at the Congregational Life Dinner on December 3, please let Debbie Bulloff know of your interest at 251-9489 or dbulloff@northminster-indy.org. We will need adults, youth and children in costume. ■

Christmas Lite and other events December 3

Christmas Lite concert

Northminster's art series, *Sound & Spirit*, will present its annual Christmas card to the Broad Ripple Community and to our own congregation—*Christmas Lite* on Wednesday, December 3, at 7 p.m. Our children's choirs, adult choirs, and instrumentalists will perform some well-known and really silly secular songs of the Christmas season. It is fun for both the performers and the audience. You can also expect the appearance of a rotund, bearded fellow in a red suit.

Christmas Lite Dinner

The Congregational Life Team is sponsoring a dinner before *Christmas Lite* on Wednesday, December 3, beginning at 5:30 in Calvin Hall. There is a free will offering received

to cover the cost of the meal, but please call the church office at 251-9489 to let us know if you plan to attend.

Christmas Bite!

Bakers, mark your calendars for the Christmas Bake Sale on Wednesday, December 3, from 1–7 p.m. This sale is sponsored by Presbyterian Women. All members of the congregation are invited to donate their Christmas specialties. Just bring your donation to Calvin Hall.

That evening on your way to *Christmas Lite*, buy a few dozen cookies, or even a fruitcake to celebrate with friends and family. All proceeds from the bake sale go directly to charity. If you have questions about Christmas Bite,

please contact Mary Tarbell at swansons3@comcast.net or 850-0823. ■



Children's choirs performing at Christmas Lite

What's happening?

Your choice of outings, dinners and . . .

Praise Dinner November 9

The annual Praise Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, November 9, at 12:15 p.m. in Calvin Hall. Ernie Knowlton and family will cater the Thanksgiving feast, sponsored by Presbyterian Women in the Congregation of Northminster (PWCN) and served family style. Doug Hooper and his guitar will entertain; the Merry Maids will set and decorate the tables, and the Merry Waiters will pass the food.

Praise Dinner tickets will be sold at the canopy and narthex doors next Sunday, November 2, or you may call in a reservation to the church office at 251-9489 by November 6. Adult dinner is \$10; youth 4–14 years is \$5; and under 4 years, free. All are welcome. For more information call PWCN moderator Wanda Wheeler at 257-7521.

JOY Ministry landfill tour November 13

JOY (Older Adult) Ministry will sponsor a tour of the Southside Landfill and Crossroads Greenhouse on Thursday, November 13, from noon until 4 p.m. We'll take the church bus from the Northminster parking lot, so the group is limited to the first 13 who RSVP to Jane Eyley at jweyley2@cs.com or 823-2319. Leave a message.

Tandem Christmas party December 4

Tandem (older adult social group for couples and singles) will have their annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 4, at 6 p.m. in Calvin Hall.

Dinner is \$10 per person. Please see your reservation to Juanita and Jim Cox, 10428 Bristlecone Drive, Fishers, IN 46038.

NorthStars—tentative schedule for events

NorthStars is a Northminster social group for couples and singles 65 plus. Events are coordinated by various members of the group, who will contact all NorthStars about date, time, cost, and other plans.

December 5 or 6 is *Bye-Bye Birdie* at Footlite Musicals. We'll meet at Northminster for supper beforehand. Bob and Cheri Gudel and Ann Bruce are hosts.

In January we'll take in Butler basketball. Bob and Betty Bowers will let you know which game and what follows the game. Our Super Bowl Party is February 1 at Bill and Pat Freije's home.

Bill and Jane Browne and Bob and Cheri Gudel are organizing a Duck Pin Bowling fund-raiser in the Fountain Square area. In late April or early May we'll go to a Civic Theatre performance or a similar event with Ed and Janet Swearingen serving as hosts.

In mid June is a free concert at Holliday Park. Lowell and Pennie

**O Lord that lends me life,
Lend me a heart replete
with thankfulness.**
(William Shakespeare,
1564–1616)



Lumley will coordinate this event (these concerts continue all summer, usually on alternate Thursday nights). If you have questions or if I can help you in any way, contact Joyce Mallette at 251-9602 or mallettej@comcast.net.

Why I don't go to the movies

(1) The manager of the theater never called on me. (2) I went a few times, but nobody spoke to me; they're not friendly at the movies. (3) Every time I go to the movies, they ask for money. (4) Not all the people at the movies live up to the ethical standards in the movies. (5) I went so much as a kid; I don't need the entertainment anymore. (6) The movies last too long. I can't sit still for two hours! (7) I don't care for some of the people I see at the theater. (8) I don't always agree with the things I see and hear at the movies. (9) The music isn't all that good in the movies. (10) The shows are held in the evening, the only time I can be with my family. ■

As of September 30, 2008

Operating budget -----	\$899,363
Operating expenses ----	\$849,706
Contributions -----	\$766,907

As of October 20, 2008

<i>Open to the Future</i>	
pledges -----	\$2,619,692
Contributions -----	\$1,329,984

What's happening with youth? Volunteer opportunity for high schoolers

November 1, 7:30–11:30 a.m. or 12:30–4 p.m.

If you are 16 and older, come and volunteer for House of Abraham Habitat for Humanity Build on Saturday, November 1. You can work a half day or a full day and lunch is included. Please let Julie Shannon know ASAP if you are interested in volunteering for this fantastic charity! Plus you may get to use power tools, too!

Message from Julie Shannon

May you all be blessed and find some time to rejoice in all the fun and excitement taking place at Northminster. Here's a little quote by Rabbi Harold Kushner from the book *Handbook for the Soul*. "When your life is filled with the desire to see the holiness in everyday life, something magical happens: ordinary life becomes extraordinary, and the very process of life begins to nourish your soul!"

It's all right to need help

Help staying healthy . . .

Keep yourself, your family, your friends, your coworkers healthy this winter: Get a flu shot. You can do that at Northminster November 2, 9:30–11:15 a.m. in Calvin Hall stage end. If you are on Medicare, the shot is free. If not, the cost is \$25 for flu shot; flu mist, \$35 and pneumonia, \$45.

Sometimes it's hard to ask

We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that asking for help is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden. However, that's not God's plan. Galatians 6:2 says, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." God wants us to care for others and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. It's

confidential too! Find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with a Stephen Leader, Betty Bowers at 259-7366 or Larry Moslener at 251-9489.

A ride to church

The Deacons coordinate rides to the church for those needing transportation. Please contact Chris Havlik at 414-7392 or chrishavlik@comcast.net if you need a ride to church on Sunday. ■



Upcoming youth events

November 2

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

November 9, Band Night at Youth Fellowship

5:30–8:30 p.m. in Calvin Hall
Bring your friends and your music loving self! Sunday night we'll have NeoGenesis, a Christian Rock band from Ft. Wayne and Opposites Attract, Matt Boris' band from Fishers. Price of admission: a canned goods item for Gleaners Food Bank and a snack to share!

November 16

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m. Please bring your pizza money and we will have some food from Leah and Stella's fall festival as our dinner that evening! Look forward to some good eats as this dinner is prepared by the chefs from the restaurant, The Greek Islands.

November 23

Regular Youth Fellowship, 6–8 p.m.

November 30

No Youth Fellowship
Happy Thanksgiving!

Contact information

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

seek, serve and embrace

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Indianapolis, IN 46220-2799

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NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2008

Clothe-A-Child Friday, December 5 Sears at Castleton Square Mall at 8:30 a.m.

The annual Clothe-A-Child shopping spree with the students from Eliza A. Blaker School (Indianapolis Public School 55) is Northminster's gift to a large number of students.

Many of you have participated in this event for many years. For those new to the church here are the details. Church volunteers will meet at the Sears in the Castleton Square Mall on Friday, December 5, at 8:30 a.m. for final directions. They'll enter the store at the north entrance next to the automotive repair. Students from School 55 will arrive by bus at the store around 9 a.m. Each volunteer helps one or two students shop. Each student (grades K-6th) has a list of clothing and sizes.

After the shopping is completed, other volunteers will escort the students to a community room where lunch is served to the students and volunteers. The shopper volunteers will get checked out at the register and take their students' bags to the community room. Other veteran volunteers will be available to help with directions. The Sears associates are also very helpful with clothing choices and location of merchandise in the store.



Volunteer shoppers Bob Bowers, Ed Swearingen, and Doug Sherow

How is Clothe-A-Child funded?

Clothe-A-Child is funded through donations from church members and friends in the community. A special Clothe-A-Child envelope dated

November 9, 2008, is included with your offering envelopes. Clothe-A-Child envelopes will also be available on the information tables at the church. If donating by check, please mark Clothe-A-Child on your check. Any excess donations not used by Clothe-A-Child will be distributed by the Mission Team.

Want to be a shopper?

We will need volunteers to shop with approximately 100 students. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board across the hall from the chapel. Volunteers will also be needed to help direct the students, carry bags, and serve lunch. Anyone who has volunteered in prior years will tell you that this activity is much appreciated by the students and families of School 55. It also gives each volunteer a good feeling of helping a lot of great kids.

Questions?

If you have any questions, contact Sara Neitzel at 842-5374 about helping with lunch; Tim Rice at 849-5728 (Tim is our liaison with Sears, event cheerleader, and giver of instructions before the busses arrive); or Associate Pastor Larry Moslener at 251-9489. ■