

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

DECEMBER 2008

ISSUE 10



Advent means “coming” as in the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. We observe the season of Advent on the four Sundays before Christmas. Each Sunday we light a candle in an Advent wreath and read an accompanying Scripture that tells of the coming of Christ. So symbolically we wait along with those within Scripture for the arrival of Jesus. We read a final reading on Christmas Eve and light the Christ Candle as a symbol of the arrival of Jesus at his birth in Bethlehem.

It is an exciting time of the year and perhaps a bit of a frustrating time too. Christmas displays go up almost right after October 31st these days and the stores begin to sell Christmas gifts in earnest the day after Thanksgiving. For our culture, Christmas is a much longer season identified by our purchases. In contrast within Christianity, the season of Christmas is the twelve days of Christmas from December 25th to January 6th. January 6th is Epiphany, the celebration of when the three Magi came to worship Jesus. The church calendars are not in synch with the culture of the United States’ calendar. In the same way the reason behind Christmas is not in synch.

For Christians it isn’t about the coolness of the gifts we give, or receive because we’ve received the ultimate gift from God already. That gift is the grace and mercy of God given through the birth of Jesus Christ. So I invite us to keep in mind the love of Christ and how it may affect the way we purchase gifts for others as well as the deeper implications of why Jesus was born, to bring the world hope and salvation.

As part of living out our hope in Christ, our church is participating in the Heifer Project to help purchase goods for villages in foreign countries. When we buy something through the Heifer Project we are able to provide food for a family not just once, but in an ongoing fashion. For instance, you might be able to provide a goat for a village that produces milk, or a cow that gives birth to calves as well as gives milk. Please look at the literature within the newsletter and your bulletins for further details. Then you can decide if you’d like to show love to someone here in the States by giving the gift of hope to folks who are much like the family that found themselves sleeping in a manger and giving birth to a baby on a cold night. Chances are your friend probably didn’t want that singing bass anyway.

Dwight

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: 937-399-0838

FAX: 937-629-0881

nrthmnstr@sbcglobal.net

www.northminsterspringfield.org

PASTORS

Dwight McCormick II, Pastor
W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

CHURCH STAFF

Deana Knotts	Office Manager
Gay Steiner	Bookkeeper
Lydia C. Smith	Director of Music
Kristina Ahlstrom	Organist
Susan Dersch	Youth Directors
Mark Brush	
Howard Garrett	Adult Ministry
Dick White	
Dwilla Cramer	Presbyterian Women
Joan Generous	
Mark Brush	Custodian
Nancy Jean Graves	Parish Nurse
Virginia Phillips	Librarian
Bill Harrison	Treasurer

The Northern Light is published monthly September thru May with one summer issue.

If there is an omission or an error, please contact the editor so a correction can be made.

Thank You

Deana Knotts, Newsletter Editor



Worship Committee

Music & Worship Committee Gary Molnar-Chair

Kristina Ahlstrom	Joan Garrett
Julie Griffin	Anne Hines
Pastor McCormick	Jane Johnson
Diana Schneider	Lydia Smith

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, December 7

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 14

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126 or
Luke 1:47-55; 1Thessalonians 5:16-24;
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sunday, December 21

4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:47-55 or
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14;
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Thursday, December 25

Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas

Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97,
Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20
Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98;
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12); John 1:1-14

Sunday, December 28

1st Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

NEXT WORSHIP/MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 @ 6 PM

Children's Christmas Pageant & Deacons' Christmas Dinner

The annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be held on **Sunday, December 21st** during worship. Plan now to attend this always enjoyable performance by the children and youth of Northminster. After worship you are invited to stay for a Christmas Dinner prepared by our Deacons.

Menu Includes:
Pork Loin and Turkey
Coleslaw
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Dessert





Christmas Eve
A Service of
Lessons and Carols
December 24th

~ ~ ~

Prelude Music 5:00 PM
Worship 5:30 PM
Communion Served

**LESSONS
& CAROLS**

Adopted Christmas Families

The Deacons are adopting three families this year. They are all families with single mothers and 2 small children. The "giving" tree is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. As in the past, please pull the ornaments off the tree for the gifts you are willing to purchase. ***The gifts need to be wrapped and brought to the church by Sunday, December 21st*** and the Deacons will deliver them that week. We also supply food to our families for their Christmas Dinner. We are asking that during Advent members of the church fill the grocery cart with food items that will also be delivered at the same time as the gifts. Thank you for your support. For additional information call Marcia Barga 399-9839.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

-Luke 2:8-12

HEALTH NEWS *from the Parish Nurse . . .****Nancy Jean Graves*****December 2008****INFANT SAFETY and BOOSTER SEATS**

Infants should ride in a rear-facing infant-only safety seat or convertible safety seat until they are 20 pounds. Never place a rear-facing seat in a front seating position where there is an air bag. Always read the manufacturer's instructions before using the seat. For rear-facing seats, thread the harness straps through the lowest slots located on the back of the car seat. Tighten the harness straps to allow no more than two finger widths between the child and the harness. Always use the car's safety belt to hold the safety seat in place.

Booster seats offer the best protection for children who are over 40 pounds. A common mistake parents make is using a booster safety seat before a child has outgrown a convertible safety seat. Some booster seats are used with the combination lap shoulder belts and may not require a shield. Again, always read the instructions before using your seat. If the child's ears are above the top of the vehicle's seat back, move the booster seat to another position in the car.

Weight and height requirements for child seats may vary. This is why it is important to read the manufacturer's instructions for the make and model of the seat you select. Don't let your child talk you out of them riding in their seat, it may save their life. Being in the seat is a good start to later when they need to wear their seatbelts. Start good habits young.

Submitted by: Lisa Mayhugh, RN
Courtesy of the Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio Safe Kids Coalitions



Presbyterian Women

Faith, Fellowship and Fun with a Circle of Friends.
All are welcome to participate.

Co-Moderators
Dwillia Cramer & Joan Generous

Secretary
Anne Hines

Treasurer
Ruth Martin



ESTHER CIRCLE

Leader: Ruth George
Meets 2nd Monday

Esther Circle will meet on **Monday, December 8** at 7:00 p.m. at the Prestwick Village Clubhouse for a Christmas Party. There will be a \$10 gift exchange. Contact Lee Jordan 399-1730 if you plan to attend. Hostesses will be Lee Jordan and Doris DeMers.

MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE

Leader: Ruth Martin
Meets 3rd Wednesday

Mary-Martha Circle will meet on **Wednesday, December 17** at 10:30 a.m. at the church.

REBEKAH/SARAH CIRCLE

Leader: Joyce Carpenter
Meets 2nd Thursday

Rebekah/Sarah Circle will meet on **Thursday, December 11** at 12:00 noon at Northwood Hills Country Club for a Christmas Luncheon.

P.W. has made donations to the following:

Christ Episcopal Food Pantry.....	\$1,500
Interfaith Hospitality Network.....	1,000
Nehemiah Foundation.....	500
Salvation Army.....	1,500
Youth Mission Trip.....	500

Dr. Judy Royer, of Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton, supports PW Mission work by donating six dozen, fresh eggs to the Craig House each month.

PW BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 1 @ 10:00 AM

Thanks So Much!

We would like to thank everyone who helped with our Christmas Bazaar. We could not do this project without the help of the men and women who work so hard during the year and the week before carrying, moving furniture, setting up tables, putting up signs, etc. We thank the kitchen crew and the clean-up crew and a very special thank you to Joan Generous and Barb Aker who manage the craft workshop and the ladies and men who make items for our bazaar.

*The PW Board and
Dwillia Cramer, Bazaar Chair*

PW and AVM CHRISTMAS DINNER



Presbyterian Women (PW) and The Adult Visionary Ministry (AVM) will combine to host a Christmas Dinner on Friday, **December 5** at 6:00 p.m. at the church. This will be a catered dinner so reservations are necessary. Sign-up sheets will be posted in the family room. The deadline to sign-up is Sunday, November 30th.

The menu will include:

Sliced Roast Pork w/Cranberry Stuffing

Whipped Sweet Potatoes

Creamy Broccoli Casserole

Chocolate Mint Cake Roll

Salad, Bread, Drinks

Cost: \$12

Entertainment for the Christmas Dinner will be provided by a choral group from Springfield High School.

NORTHMINSTER YOUTH



On October 25th/26th, the youth enlivened the church during the wee hours of the night during the lock in, staying up until 5 a.m. before down time was enforced. A video play off was the highlight of the evening with Jason Spoon and Mark Brush playing for the top post after some hotly contested matches. Jason came out as the final winner. It is certain that a video play off will be a key element in future events. Kudos go to Eric Barga who not only got up at the 8 a.m. call, but stayed for the whole service, singing in the choir and not nodding off!

The youth continue to serve by volunteering at the Church of God on Clifton Avenue's food pantry the second Saturday of each month. A food drive is being held to help fill the pantry's shelves for this month. The youth voted to spend \$150 of their mission funds to buy food and are challenging the congregation to match their food donation. (More details are elsewhere in the newsletter.)

*Looking Ahead***Saturday, December 6th****Babysitting for Christmas Shoppers!**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church; lunch will be provided for children and youth. Youth need to notify Susan Dersch when they can help. An e-mail has been sent out with times listed. A sign up for children is posted in the Narthex. This can be a warm-up for our Teens on a Mission summer Kids Club activity! A big thank-you to Mindy and Jenna Twiggs for planning and coordinating this event.

Saturday, December 13th**Help at the Food Pantry**

10 to 11:30 a.m. are the pantry hours. Please arrive by 9:45 a.m. at the Church of God on Clifton Avenue.

Saturday, January 10th**Help at the Food Pantry****Saturday, January 24th/Sunday, January 25th****Participate in HomeFest**

More details to come later.

Sunday, January 25th**Hang Out Night at the Church**

The time will be determined based on the HomeFest schedule. Watch the bulletin and January newsletter for details.

Youth and their families will be providing CAFÉ the last Sunday of the month. Contributions will go to the youth's mission activities.

If you have any questions or need information about the youth program, contact Mark Brush (399-5012) or Susan Dersch (629-0792).

Babysitting Services Offered

On December 6th, the youth are offering babysitting from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's a great chance for parents (or grandparents) to get some Christmas shopping done! Please sign up in the Narthex so we will know how many to expect and can plan accordingly.

Food Drive: Youth Challenge the Congregation

The youth group is once again challenging the congregation to match their food donation as the kids strive to help the Church of God on Clifton Avenue food pantry fill its shelves. The display in the Narthex represents the youth's contribution. **Please bring in your donation by Sunday, December 7th.** The food

**FOOD DRIVE**

pantry is especially seeking spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned fruit and soups, but any non-perishable food item would be appreciated.

The food pantry is open the 2nd and 3rd Saturdays each month. While the number of families served has fluctuated this year, statistics show that the number steadily rose in September and October. October statistics showed the pantry serving 113 families on the 3rd Saturday...more families than they have ever served on one Saturday during 2008. The 113 families break down to 149 adults and 116 children. Though the statistics don't track ages, from serving at the pantry there appears to be an increase in the older adults that are seeking assistance during these difficult economic times.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<i>Joshilyn Hoefler</i>	December 2
<i>Janet Hooper</i>	December 2
<i>Griffin Baggs</i>	December 3
<i>Jacob Baggs</i>	December 3
<i>Sally Asper</i>	December 5
<i>George Koerner</i>	December 8
<i>Kevin Spriggs</i>	December 11
<i>Andy Barga</i>	December 12
<i>Nancy Baker</i>	December 14
<i>Charis Loomer</i>	December 17
<i>Ray Gorby</i>	December 18
<i>Robert Digel</i>	December 21
<i>Jennifer Henze</i>	December 21
<i>Marge Johnson</i>	December 22
<i>Kristen Brandeberry</i>	December 25
<i>Frankie Walters</i>	December 28
<i>Larry Hines</i>	December 31

Notes of Thanks

Northminster Friends,
Thank you so much for the care package. I can assure all of the items will come in handy. It's so nice to know that I have a group of people at home who are thinking about me. Sometimes I can't help but feel so incredibly blessed. I miss you all! I miss going to church every Sunday and seeing all of you. I will see you in a couple of weeks over Thanksgiving break. I'm counting the days!

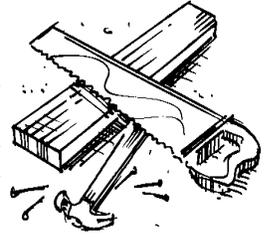
Love, Emily Aldinger

Dear Northminster,
Thank you very much for the care package! It was so great to get a package, and even better to see it was filled with so many useful goodies. I appreciate that my church family is still thinking about me while I'm in college. Thanks again.

Love, Megan Knotts

The Apostle Build Project

At its September meeting, the Session approved a partnership with the Clark County Habitat for Humanity that allows 12 (or more) individual churches to join together to build and fund a home for a local family starting in March 2009 and continuing for approximately 14 weeks.



As an Apostle Partner we are expected to provide:

1. **Prayer:** We are being asked to put our faith into action and pray for this building project.
2. **1/12 of the Volunteer Labor:** Over 1000 hours of volunteer labor goes into building one Habitat home. We will provide volunteer construction (skilled and unskilled) and meal crews. Each church will dedicate at least one Saturday (10-12 volunteers) to help build.
3. **1/12 of the Funding:** The cost of building a Habitat home is determined by the cost of the land, building materials, etc. The amount is set at \$5000 per Apostle Church.
4. **Coordinating Support:** Carol Emerich is the designated liaison to work with our church and Habitat. She will be counting on individuals for all kinds of help— whether it be for construction, phone calling, cooking meals or serving as a committee member. We can use as many people as possible and it offers you an opportunity to do more than talk about faith. It provides a way to put love in action.

Carol Emerich 323-1961

Christmas Card Heifer Project—Mission & Outreach*A Gift That Keeps on Giving*

As this joyful time of the year approaches when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, we have a desire to share our blessings with others. A few years ago we learned of a project called *Heifer International*. Most of us had been buying Christmas cards for friends at church and sometimes mailing the cards. In lieu of this, we decided to place a large Christmas card in the Family Room for everyone to sign and express their wishes to all. This saves you all money and we hope you will donate the savings to the Heifer Project. In the past we have helped many needy people by providing funds for animals, trees, seeds, training, etc.

There will be envelopes in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 7 and Sunday, December 14. The Christmas card will be displayed in the Family Room on Sunday, December 7.

If you still have questions you may contact Dottie Good at 969-8547 or the church office at 399-0838.

Dottie Good, Mission & Outreach Committee

Session Highlights

The Session met in regular stated meeting November 18, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Family Room. After the opening prayer the Pastor led a discussion of a chapter from the book Holy Conversations (which describes conducting strategic planning as a spiritual practice for congregations). Session members were encouraged to identify the Biblical story that is being lived out right now as individuals and as the congregation as a whole.

Then the Session received reports from the Pastor, the Deacons, and most of the committees of Session.

The Pastor reported that he preached at Xenia, Memorial Presbyterian Church on October 26th as a part of their stewardship campaign. He has spent significant time these past weeks serving on an Investigative Committee of Presbytery. He has participated in planning with the Music and Worship Committee, as well as with other committees of the church. He participated in the wedding of Stephanie Molnar and Ryan Whiteside on November 15th.

Mark Brush, Moderator of Deacons, reported that planning is well underway for the December 21st dinner to be held after the morning worship service (which will include the Children's Christmas program). Marcia Barga is again organizing the Adopt-a-Family program. Care packages were sent to all the college students on the congregation member/friend list.

Paul Good, chair of the Property Committee, requested that all committees or groups that need to rearrange furniture in the sanctuary, the Family Room, etc. let the Property Committee know in advance what is needed. If the request is made in a timely manner, the Property Committee can coordinate the work with Mark Brush and/or Greg Veith.

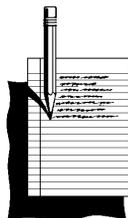
The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on January 25, 2009, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the congregation to receive reports from the Pastor, the Deacons, committees and organizations of the church, to receive the budget for 2009, and to vote on changes in the Pastor's terms of call.

The Finance Committee is still working on the 2009 budget, as not all "estimate of giving" cards have been received. It is anticipated that a budget will be submitted to Session for approval at the December 16th meeting. Copies of the budget will be available early in January.

The next stated meeting of the Session is December 16th at 7:00 PM.

Please pray for the Pastor and Session as we try to serve this congregation and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lois Shroyer, Clerk



Church Corporation

Kent Sherry **President**
Lois Shroyer **Clerk of Session**
Bill Harrison **Treasurer**



Session

Class of 2009

Butch Dodds
Bud Graves
Gary Molnar
John Roberts
Kent Sherry

Class of 2010

Jim Griffin
Diana Harrison
Lois Shroyer
Emily Spriggs
Jim Twiggs

Class of 2011

Sally Asper
Cindy Ater
Bill Chesnut
Paul Good
Carol Emerich

Deacons

Class of 2009

Marcia Barga
Elise Spriggs
Marta Stalder

Class of 2010

Mark Brush
Joan Garrett
Greg Veith

Class of 2011

LeaAnn Hoefer
Chuck Mansfield
Ron Montgomery



PREVENT A STROKE WITH PAINLESS AND ACCURATE SCREENINGS

Life Line Screening will offer preventive health screenings at:

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Monday December 8, 2008

The screenings offered include a state-of-the-art ultrasound screening of the carotid arteries in the neck (most strokes are linked to plaque build-up in these arteries), an ultrasound screening used to detect abdominal aortic aneurysms (ruptured AAAs have more than a 80% mortality rate and present little or no symptoms), a screening for plaque build-up in the arteries of the legs (a strong indicator of coronary heart disease) and an atrial fibrillation test that screens for an irregular heartbeat.

"Why not just go to my doctor for these tests?" you may ask. The answer, although surprising, is that your insurance companies typically will not pay for these screenings without clear evidence of symptoms. Unfortunately, most people who suffer a stroke or abdominal aneurysm never show any signs that a major medical catastrophe is about to occur.

These painless, non-invasive tests are offered in the convenience of your neighborhood for \$149. **YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER** by calling 1-800-324-1851.

December 2008
Northminster Presbyterian



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	9:30 YWYM Luncheon 10:00 PW Board 1:30 Property 6:30 Administration	2	6:30 Girl Scouts	3	6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	4		5	6:00 AVM & PW Christmas Dinner	6	8:00 Pancake Brkfst 9:00 Babysitting for Shoppers
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7	8:30 Life Screening 10:00 AVM Adv. Bd. 7:00 Esther Circle @ Prestwick Village	8		9		10	6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	11	12:00 Rebekah/Sarah Circle @ Northwood Hills C.C.	12		13	10:00 Youth Group help @ Clifton Ave. Church of God Food Pantry
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14	15	16	17
Deadline for Newsletter	7:00 Men's Breakfast @ Perkins 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Session Meeting	10:30 Mary/Martha 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	

21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Christmas Pageant Christmas Dinner			Christmas Eve Service 5:00 Prelude Music 5:30 Worship Communion	Christmas Day Office Closed		

28	29	30	31
Youth Group Cafe		7:00 Cub Pack	

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Return Service Requested

Issue 10

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO
PERMIT NO. 75



December 2008

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|-------------|---|
| December 5 | AVM & PW Christmas Dinner |
| December 6 | Pancake Breakfast |
| December 8 | Life Screening |
| December 16 | Session Meeting |
| December 21 | Christmas Pageant/Dinner |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service
Prelude Music 5:00 PM
Worship 5:30 PM |
| December 25 | Christmas Day—Office Closed |



*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6