

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

NOVEMBER 2008

ISSUE 9

FROM THE PASTOR

There's a movie that came out in 1991 that you likely have seen. It's called Fried Green Tomatoes. If you haven't seen it, I hope you take time to rent it when you can because it's a funny and touching movie. It's based on the book of the same title by Fanny Flagg. It stars Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy, Mary Louise Parker and Mary Stuart Masterson among others.

In it there is a scene where Kathy Bates' character is working to become healthy. She basically chooses to be empowered and happy by losing weight, eating nutritious foods, and learning how to love who she is. In the midst of this new path she's taking, she encounters a challenge in a grocery store parking lot. She is about to pull into a parking space when two, blonde, young women in their late teens or early twenties pull into the spot recklessly and nearly hit her car. The two co-eds get out of the car and say something like, "Face it, we're younger and faster. Better luck next time," and then laugh at her. Kathy Bates' character then proceeds to pull into their car hitting it multiple times and says, "Face it girls, I'm older and I've got better insurance."

It's a pretty funny moment in the movie and my description can't do it justice. It makes us laugh because it shows the older, heavier, more likeable character "winning" over the (we assume) less substantive, younger, skinnier characters.

This scene reminds me and concerns me about the challenge we face here at Northminster Presbyterian Church. (not being older and having better insurance or having value placed on us according to our age)

The challenge we have is to find a way to have relationships between people of different generations. It is also valuing people for who they are and where they are in their lives. We don't earn our value. God has made us all valuable. Part of our mission and ministry is to love one another as God loves us. With a difference in age of as much as 80 years, this can be perhaps a bit of work. But it is work to be enjoyed and shared. It is vital that we view ministry alongside one another. NOT as a competition to be won, but as a calling to be shared. I don't mean in the naïve way of Rodney King and his statement about racial relationships, "Can't we all just get along?" I mean in the real gritty way of living in relationship with people who we may not find it easy to get along with or who we may find it difficult to understand.

I notice a gap in the relationships we have even across the aisle from one another, and I don't mean Democrats and Republicans. I mean literally where we sit in church. I invite each of us to introduce ourselves to someone in the church whose face may look familiar but with whom we've never spoken for more than a passing moment, if at all. I'm happy because my experience with Northminster is that you are very open to working with one another. We just have an opportunity to be blessed with knowing someone else who God has led to serve here. (continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

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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
- Dwillia 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

Pastor's Page Continued

“Why do I need to do that? I have all the friends I need.” Well it is for the purpose of passing wisdom and the stories of Northminster on to the generations represented by the babies and toddlers and children of our church. Not only can we share the history and tradition of Northminster with one another as a means of creating more intimate relationships, we can do so as a means of being better equipped to serve Jesus Christ in tangible ways.

What can make that happen is we, as individual members and as a community of faith, pray for discernment in the ongoing planning process for our future. Help answer the question, “How is God calling you and me to serve alongside one another?” We do so with the understanding that the young(ish) people aren’t trying to take over, and to make sure that if you belong to a younger demographic, we don’t assume that if you happen to be over 65, that by definition, you are against progress or trying different things to build up the particular part of the Body of Christ. One of Northminster Presbyterian’s greatest gifts is its openness. God has called us ALL to this time and this place of ministry. For that we can live thankfully.

We’ve got work ahead of us, but it’s exciting work that we can share. It’s going to involve you and I looking at what is best for this congregation rather than what we can do to maintain the comfort we’ve achieved. We don’t change because we just want to change. We change because God is alive and moving. Therefore, we get to move alongside the Holy Spirit which can be a gift and a challenge.

Out of the retreat we held a couple of months ago, now we are looking to accomplish some goals that involve us being involved locally in mission work. Our Pentecost Offering, the portion that is designated for local mission, went to “On the Rise” here in Springfield that teaches life skills to at-risk teens and children.

We continue to support the Nehemiah Foundation as another way of working locally at loving people in tangible ways. We also have agreed to participate in a cooperative effort between 12 local congregations with Habitat for Humanity on a project called Apostle Build. It is so named for the 12 Apostles and the request that 12 churches work to build a Habitat House together. We share funding, labor, and feeding of crews with other local churches on a home to begin being built in March of 2009. The folks who hold the pancake breakfasts and who built the picnic shelter, often called the “Special Projects” committee, have agreed to give a significant portion towards our \$5,000 goal. With individual donations having already been received, we are over half-way to the goal.

We are seeking too, within the year, to offer a Bible School for adults and children. Yet another group of folks, as part of working at local mission, has contributed \$500 to assist individuals with gift cards from Kroger to help purchase them food and gas in emergency situations. The volume of calls to the office from people in need has increased in direct relation to the economy being in crisis.

We are continuing to formulate what our plan for the future is in order to be proactive rather than reactive. This process will not be completed immediately. My regrets to those who are more adept at planning than at the touchy, feely part of ministry. But rest assured, God is at work and so are we on God’s behalf. The leadership of the church can’t do without everyone’s listening for the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I ask that all of us commit daily to follow Jesus and serve in the name of Christ’s love. What then will it look like when we build relationships between the young(ish) and fast and the slightly older and better insured? Well, that is up to you, me, and God. Let’s get to work.

Dwight



Worship Committee

Music & Worship Committee

Gary Molnar-Chair

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

Lectionary Readings

Sunday, November 2

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

Sunday, November 9

Stewardship Commitment/Consecration
 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;
 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 16

33rd Sunday In Ordinary Time
 Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123;
 1 Thessalonians: 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 23

Christ the King Sunday
 Communion
 Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100;
 Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 30

1st Sunday of Advent
 Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

November Greeters

2	Phil and Ardyth Kunkle
9	Jack and Ruth Dern
16	Nancy Baker and Joe Bindley
23	Bill and Sheila Carpenter
30	Jim and Sherri Lukehart

Music/Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 12
 6:00 PM



POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

It is time, once again, to order Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the worship area. This year we are ordering from the Clark State Feed A Family Program. The cost for each plant is \$10 and \$3.50 from each poinsettia ordered will help to feed a family in need. Please indicate how many plants you would like to order. Checks should be made payable to **Northminster Presbyterian Church.**



Paid orders must be turned in by

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Red poinsettia _____

Pink poinsettia _____

Marble poinsettia _____

Burgundy poinsettia _____

I/We would like to provide a poinsettia for Christmas Worship.

Name:

(as you would like it to appear in the bulletin)

In Memory of

or

In Honor of

Flowers will be available for pick up following the Christmas Eve service.

HEALTH NEWS *from the Parish Nurse . . .*

Nancy Jean Graves

November 2008

GOOD DENTAL HYGIENE

Our teeth are very important to us, as important as our heart. It is necessary for us to keep them healthy throughout our life. Studies have shown that the filling of tooth cavities costs more than the costs involved in heart disease!

Clean your teeth after eating with a toothbrush and dental floss. Use the correct toothbrush for your teeth. Ask your dentist what kind to use. Visit the dentist regularly. You need to have your teeth cleaned regularly to remove plaque which will reduce the number of bacteria on your teeth—a key to helping prevent tooth decay and gum disease.

Don't ignore bleeding gums when you brush or floss. This may be a sign of periodontal disease and needs to be checked by a dentist as soon as possible. Some things to avoid to maintain good teeth:

- avoid using tobacco products
- avoid chewing on hard objects that could crack a tooth
- avoid eating a lot of foods high in sugar, if you do, brush right after eating
- avoid eating dry cereal—better to add milk

Chewing Vitamin C tablets or using products with Vitamin C in them will cause teeth to lose calcium—damaging teeth quicker than anything else.

Some tips for babies— avoid giving babies a bottle containing milk, juice or formula in bed. This is not good for their teeth. The sugars from milk or juice will decay their teeth. Prolonged breast feeding with small feeds every few minutes can also lead to tooth decay. When babies start getting teeth, it is important to give them foods to chew. It is also important to start brushing their gums even before teeth bud. Young children need assistance with brushing teeth. Brushing and regular dental checkups are your best defense against cavities and dental problems.

Submitted by: Lisa Mayhugh, R.N.

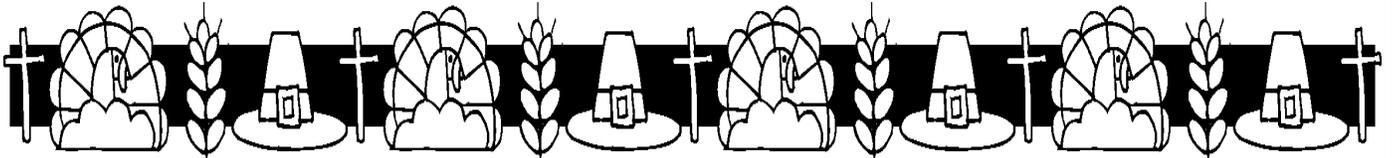
Presbyterian Women

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 met on Tuesday, October 28 to make "Buckeyes" for the bazaar. This annual project serves as our November meeting. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 8. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Prestwick Village Clubhouse for a Christmas Party. Hostesses will be Lee Jordan and Doris DeMers.

MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE

Leader: Ruth Martin
Meets 3rd Wednesday

Mary-Martha Circle will meet on **Wednesday, November 19th** at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Sheila Carpenter will present a program on Scotland. Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch.

REBEKAH/SARAH CIRCLE

Leader: Joyce Carpenter
Meets 2nd Thursday

Rebekah/Sarah Circle will meet on **Thursday, November 13th** at 12:00 noon at the church. Hostess: Karen Schatz
Program: Joan Garrett

PW BOARD MEETING
Monday, November 3
10:00 AM

Craig House Meals

On the 4th Monday of each month, PW delivers an evening meal for 12 men living at Craig House, a homeless shelter for men. If you would like to help by providing either a **meat, vegetable, salad or dessert**, please sign-up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the Family Room. Your donations may be brought to the church on the Sunday before or picked up at your home. **This month's meal date is Monday, November 24.** Call or see Marcia or Andy Barga (399-9839) for more information.

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 closer to the date of the event. Entertainment for the Christmas Dinner will be provided by a choral group from Springfield High School. Watch the bulletin announcements for additional information about the menu and the cost.

Thanksgiving Thoughts

*God's grace and goodness are so bountiful,
way beyond our human need -
And our lives can be so very full and happy,
If we'll only let Jesus take the lead.
Pray! Rejoice and be forever happy,
and never give in to doubt and despair -
For life's dark clouds will evaporate
when Thanksgiving is in the air."*

-Bob Wickline
Minister at Saltair Church of Christ, Bethel, OH
The Joyful Noiseletter, November 2008

NORTHMINSTER YOUTH

Looking Back

The year opened with a hang out night at church in September where we tested our skill with Guitar Hero. As we each showed our prowess...or lack thereof...it became clear that Tim held top honors among those present. Are there any challengers out there?! In early October the group enjoyed a cook-out and bonfire at the Hooper's (many thanks!). Though it was a balmy evening for the time of year...almost 80 degrees...we still enjoyed gathering around the bonfire to make smores, talk, and enjoy Aiden's antics.

Our lock-in is set for October 25-26 and promises to be another time for fellowship and fun with some activities focused on faith.

Looking Ahead

November 8th - Help at the Food Pantry at the Church of God on Clifton Avenue. Please be there by 9:45 a.m. The food pantry is open 10 to 11:30 a.m. We need at least three youth to help. Kids can sign up during Sunday School or can let Susan know by calling 629-0792.

November 23rd - Bowling at Northridge Lanes after church. We'll have lunch at the lanes so bring some money. (The bowling will be covered.)

December 6th - The youth will offer babysitting from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church. A sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex for the children, and youth can sign up that day during Sunday School.

December 13th - Help at the Food Pantry at the Church of God on Clifton Avenue.

Fundraising

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).

AVM Adult Visionary Ministry
"The Visionaries"

The AVM will host their last quarterly birthday party of the year with a Soup/Sandwich/Movie Luncheon on **Tuesday, November 11** at 12:00 noon. Bring your own sandwich. The AVM will provide soup and beverages. We will be celebrating those people who have birthdays in October, November and December. This will also be a time to honor our veterans. Plan now to join us!

Then on **Friday, December 5th** the AVM will combine with the Presbyterian Women for a Christmas Dinner at 6:00 p.m. at the church. This is a catered event so reservations are necessary. Entertainment will be a vocal group from Springfield High School. Additional information will be forthcoming in the weekly bulletin announcements.

For additional information about any AVM activity, contact Howard Garrett or Dick White, AVM Associates.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Sunday, November 9 is our congregation's Consecration Sunday. Plan now to attend Sunday morning worship and the catered Celebration Luncheon that will follow. We hope you'll be with us on Stewardship/Consecration Sunday to make your financial commitment as an act of worship in the church sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Joe Hookey will be our worship leader that morning.



An Update from Alex Creager

Hi everyone. I'm sorry that I've been so long in telling you how my year in Belfast is going so far. Every week I've been getting busier. I love being here in Belfast and everything is going very well. Last night I finally finished creating my blog, alexcreager.weebly.com. It has a lot more details about what I've been doing here. I'd love hearing back from everyone. All my contact information is on my blog site. You can all reach me on skype also. It would be awesome to talk to any of you. I hope everyone is doing well.

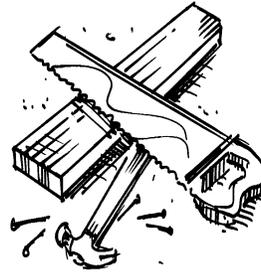
-Alex

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dylan Foster	November 2
Ardyth Kunkle	November 2
Kris Spriggs	November 3
Fynetta Sinfield	November 7
Ruth Dern	November 8
Steve Heida	November 8
Dwight McCormick	November 8
Tim Spoon	November 9
Jodi Williamson	November 9
Dick Clement	November 11
Bill Harrison	November 11
Phil Kunkle	November 11
Richard Thomas	November 14
Betty Dow	November 15
Dick Johnson	November 16
Erich Zeeb	November 16
Kristin Jones	November 17
Terry Ziesmer	November 18
Betty Thomas	November 19
Winnie Strawsburg	November 20
Pete Torok	November 20
Chloe McCormick	November 22
Harold Locher	November 25
Ginny Carlisle	November 26
Donna Sherry	November 26
Joan Garrett	November 28
Terry Hooper	November 29
Kerry Digel	November 30



Thanksgiving

**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 or A Forever Gift

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 will save you 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 is so much more I could say about Heifer, but space will not permit. There will be flyers in the church bulletin explaining the project more. If you still have questions you may contact Dottie Good at 969-8547 or the church office at 399-0838. If I am unable to answer your question, I will be happy to search for it.

Dottie Good, Mission & Outreach Committee

Session Highlights

The Session met in Regular stated meeting October 21, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the Family Room and after the opening prayer received reports from the Pastor, the Deacons, and most of the committees of Session.

Mark Brush, Moderator of Deacons, reported that home communion had been served to some of the folks on the shut-in list on or after World Communion Sunday, October 5th.

Most of the components of the video security system donated by Bill Harrison have been installed. The cameras are motion activated and the film is retained for 15 days. One nice feature is that the office personnel can check the monitor to see who is at the front door before going down the stairs.

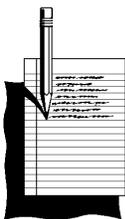
At its September 23rd meeting, Session approved the recommendation of the Mission and Outreach Committee that Northminster partner with Habitat for Humanity on the "Apostle House Build" to take place in the spring of 2009. This involves a commitment of \$5000 and 30 "person-days" of volunteer labor. The session members felt very strongly that this is a call to local mission that we need to answer and that it fits in with the desires expressed at the leadership retreat in May for a local, hands-on, visible mission project. Paul Good reported that the Picnic Shelter Committee would donate \$2000 from its funds (earned from the monthly pancake breakfast) for the Apostle Build Project. At the October 21st meeting, Rev. McCormick reported that some other donations have been received, so we are almost halfway to raising the full amount.

The Property Committee reported that the grading work to correct the drainage issues has been completed and that if any problems are experienced over the winter, the contractor will correct them next spring. Session approved the committee's recommendation to have Scanlan Construction investigate the source of leakage from the sanctuary windows, this may cost up to \$1000. If the problem is with seals around the windows, then they can probably be repaired and the windows will not have to be replaced. Repairs have been made to the sanctuary lighting to correct a safety issue. Session voted to table until April, 2009 a decision on the necessity/feasibility/desirability of replacing the lighting in the sanctuary.

The next stated meeting of the Session is November 18th 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

November 2008
Northminster Presbyterian Church

November



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Christmas Bazaar Pancake Breakfast
2	3 9:30 YWM Luncheon 10:00 PW Board 6:30 Administration	4 Election Day Polling Place 6:30 Girl Scouts	5 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	6 6:00 Girl Scouts	7	8 10:00 Youth help @ Clifton Ave Church of God Food Pantry
9 Consecration Sunday	10 10:00 AVM Board 6:30 Administration	11 12:00 AVM 4th Qtr Birthday Party Soup/Sandwich/Movie	12 6:00 Music/Worship 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	13 Newsletter Deadline 12:00 Rebekah/Sarah Circle 6:00 Girl Scouts	14 6:00 Molnar Wedding Rehearsal	15 4:30 Molnar Wedding
16	17	18 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Session Meeting	19 10:30 Mary-Martha Circle 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	20 6:00 Girl Scouts	21	22
23 Communion Youth Group Bowling at Northridge Lanes	24 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:30 Quilt Guild	25 7:00 Cub Pack	26 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	27  <i>Thanksgiving</i>	28 Red Hat Club	29
30 1st Sunday of Advent Youth Group Cafe						

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Return Service Requested

Issue 9

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



November 2008

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| November 1 | Pancake Breakfast
Christmas Bazaar |
| November 4 | Election Day |
| November 9 | Stewardship/Consecration Sunday |
| November 11 | AVM Quarterly Birthday Party |
| November 18 | Session Meeting |
| November 23 | Communion |
| November 27 | Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed |
| November 30 | 1st Sunday of Advent |

NORTHMINSTER'S VISION STATEMENT

REJOICE! RENEW! REACHOUT!

A church family that lives and shares its Christian faith by rejoicing, renewing and reaching out!