

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2009

ISSUE 2



## *From the Pastor's Pen . . .*

Who are we? Who is our neighbor? What is God calling us to do? These are the three questions you've heard already in the pastor's annual report as well as some of my sermons over the last several weeks.

The questions come from a book of Congregational Planning called Holy Conversations. It is a model based on spiritual practices such as prayer and Bible study. With Session's approval, a group of folks from the congregation are going to be asked to serve on a planning team to help us have these "Holy Conversations." It will include feedback from folks in larger group sessions as well, so watch for the opportunity to serve in this way.

It will also involve training folks to plan. Most importantly it will involve trusting the Holy Spirit to work through us and lead us in planning. God is already present and already working. We are invited to listen for God's call—here is a poem about our call.

*-Dwight*

### **Called**

We are called  
to leave behind our solitary searching,  
to put on that single garment of destiny--  
The uniform of faithfulness--  
Worn by creatures great and small,  
Old and forgotten,  
Young and eager,  
Broken and bewildered,  
Spirited and set on fire:  
Sisters and brothers who share not race nor tongue,  
But whose hearts are claimed by love,  
Signed by a cross.  
Our future is together,  
Arm in arm,  
Finding healing as we heal,  
Knowing freedom in our forgiving.  
We are the strangest travelers:  
Seeking no reward at trail's end.  
As long as we may know the joy  
Of journeying with Jesus.  
We are called  
Disciples.  
We are called  
God's beloved children.

--Timothy Haut, Deep River, CT

## SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: 937-399-0838

FAX: 937-629-0881

[nrthmnstr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nrthmnstr@sbcglobal.net)

[www.northminsterspringfield.org](http://www.northminsterspringfield.org)

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### PASTORS

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

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### CHURCH STAFF

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

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

<i>Lilly Adams</i>	February 3
<i>Lucinda Yeagle</i>	February 4
<i>Maggie Roberts</i>	February 5
<i>Kristen Zeeb</i>	February 15
<i>Karen Veith</i>	February 17
<i>Martha Clement</i>	February 22
<i>Ashley Foster</i>	February 22
<i>Nancy Graves</i>	February 22
<i>Nancy Jean Graves</i>	February 26
<i>Lorri Long-Howard</i>	February 28
<i>Ruth Martin</i>	February 28

**Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides a one time credit to your heating bill in a winter season. The income guideline is as follows:

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Gross Income</u>
1	\$18,200
2	\$24,500

Add \$6,300 for each individual household member. Contact Rita Marshall at 521-3005 for more information.

**ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT**

**March 6th and 7th**, 2009 at Kirkmont Center (east of Bellefontaine, Ohio, in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley) This year's topic: "The History of Jesus Revisited with emphasis on forgiveness of sins and love of enemies. The retreat leader will be the Rev. Dr. David Hawley, pastor of the Indian Hill Episc/Presby Church of Cincinnati.

Further information is available at [www.kirkmontcenter.org](http://www.kirkmontcenter.org) or by calling 937-593-2141. Registration fee for meals, overnight and program is \$70 or \$45 for commuters. Lodging in beautiful Croft House.

**PER CAPITA AND INITIAL OFFERING**

Each year Northminster pays a per capita amount based on the number of members in the congregation. This money is used to support the work of the Presbyterian Church's governing bodies - the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. **The 2009 per capita amount is \$24.75 per member.** When members pay their own per capita apportionment, this amount need not come from the church's operating budget. The per capita envelope (blue) is included in the box with your offering envelopes.

The Initial Offering envelope (yellow) is also included in the offering envelope box. This offering is used to help cover the cost of the envelopes each year.

**Notes of Thanks**

I want to thank my church family for all the support given to me during Bob's recent illness and death. I received many calls, cards, food and almost daily hospital visits from Pastor Dwight. My family and I are very grateful.

*Sincerely,*  
*Barb Aker*

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers and concerns following our tragic loss. The hugs and kind words were very comforting. And thank you, Pastor Dwight, for being just a phone call away whenever we needed you.

*Sincerely,*  
*The Garrett and Ross Families*

We want to thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, and calls when Ray was hospitalized and later in therapy. We hope to be back with you soon.

*Ray and Eileen Gorby*

**Birth Announcement**

David and Frankie Walters announce the birth of a grandson, Max Lucien, on January 5, 2009. Max is the son of Kristen (Walters) Brandeberry and Steven Brandeberry. Congratulations!



# 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 for February

#### Sunday, February 1

*4th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; *Psalm 111*;  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

#### Sunday, February 8

*5th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Isaiah 40:21-31; *Psalm 147:1-11, 20c*  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

#### Sunday, February 15

*6th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

2 Kings 5:1-14; *Psalm 30*  
1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

#### Sunday, February 22—Communion

*Transfiguration of the Lord*

2 Kings 2:1-12; *Psalm 50:1-6*  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

### Communion Servers

Emily Spriggs  
John Roberts  
Butch Dodds  
Carol Emerich  
Elise Spriggs  
Greg Veith



#### Wednesday, February 25

*Ash Wednesday Service @ Covenant 7:00 PM*

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12  
*Psalm 51:1-17*; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### Apostles Build Project

The Apostles Build is beginning to take shape! The new partner family has been selected and will be working with Habitat and the partner churches to build their new home. Tentatively, ground breaking will be Saturday, March 7, 2009, weather permitting, with building starting the following Saturday. Our church will be helping to build a Saturday in the spring. You will be hearing more about our plans in the coming weeks. Let us pursue this mission with enthusiasm and fervor because we have been called to do so. Faithfulness to God's calling is not meant just for good times but especially in times that are not so good.

-Carol Emerich

**Apostles Build Project**  
**Groundbreaking**  
**Saturday, March 7th @ 9 AM**  
**1170 S. Bell Ave.**

### AVM Adult Visionary Ministry

#### *"The Visionaries"*

The AVM will meet on **Friday, February 13th** at 1:00 p.m. at the church for their 1st Quarter Birthday Party and Bingo. Look for a sign-up sheet to be posted in the Family Room.

**Looking ahead to March:** We will meet for dinner on Saturday, March 21 at 5:00 p.m. at Cracker Barrel. After dinner we will travel to the Clifton Opera House for a show.

If you need transportation to an event, please indicate so on the sign-up sheet. For additional information on any "Visionary" activity, contact Howard Garrett 390-3194 or Dick White 399-7305, AVM Associates.

### USHER SCHEDULE

February 1	Ron Montgomery & Cindy Ater
February 8	Ron Montgomery & Cindy Ater
February 15	John & Maggie Roberts
February 22	John & Maggie Roberts
March 1	Art & LeaAnn Hoefler
March 8	Art & LeaAnn Hoefler
March 15	Bill & Barbara Benston
March 22	Bill & Barbara Benston
March 29	Steve & Kathie Harbaugh
April 5	Steve & Kathie Harbaugh
(Palm Sunday)	

## February Youth Events



**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Help at the food pantry**

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

**Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**

### **Hang Out Night at the church, 4:30 – 7 p.m.**

Come for dinner, have some fun and learn about your faith.

**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **Snow Tubing at Mad River Mountain**

We will be leaving the church at 6 p.m. and will snow tube from 7-9 p.m. Mad River Mountain has 10, 900-foot-long tubes, and snow tubes are provided. The cost of tubing will be covered by the church. Youth will need to bring money for food. If there is a change in the plans due to weather (either too cold or too warm), you will be contacted. Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> is a back up day for snow tubing. Friends can be invited, but only one friend per youth. Debbie Spoon is coordinating this event. Please contact Debbie by Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend...390-6693. Parents, please let Debbie know if you would be willing to drive. She will coordinate those arrangements.

**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

### **Hang Out Night at the church, 4:30 – 7 p.m.**

Come for dinner, have some fun and learn about your faith.

### **Sunday School Changes**

Sunday morning Sunday school for youth in grades 6-12 has been suspended. We will be incorporating Christian education into Hang Out Nights on Sunday evenings on an experimental basis. Parents were sent letters explaining this change.

## **HEALTH NEWS** *from the Parish Nurse . .* **Nancy Jean Graves** **February 2009** **BIPOLAR DISORDER**

Bipolar disorder (manic-depressive disorder) is an illness that causes extreme mood changes that switch from manic episodes of very high energy to the extreme lows of depression. This illness can cause behavior so extreme that you cannot function at work, in family or social situations, or in relationships with others. The cause of the disorder is not completely understood. We know that it runs in families. It may also be affected by your living environment or family situation. Another possible cause is an imbalance of chemicals in the brain.

Bipolar is hard to diagnose. There are no lab tests for it. Instead your physician will ask detailed questions about your symptoms. To be diagnosed with bipolar you must have had a manic episode lasting at least a week with three or more symptoms of mania. Mania symptoms include: needing less sleep, being more talkative, behaving wildly or irresponsibly in activities that could have serious outcomes, or feeling as if your thoughts are racing.

A variety of medicines are used to treat bipolar disorder. You may need to try several before you find the right combination that works for you. People often stop their meds when they feel better. This cannot be done or you will have a setback that can be very serious and life threatening. In addition to medications, counseling for you and your family is also important treatment. It can help you cope with some of the work and relationship issues that your illness may cause. Healthwise.

*Submitted by: Lisa Mayhugh, RN*



# Presbyterian Women

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

Co-Moderators.....Dwillla Cramer & Joan Generous  
Secretary..... Anne Hines  
Treasurer.....Ruth Martin



## ESTHER CIRCLE

**Leader: Ruth George**

*Meets 2nd Monday*

Esther Circle will meet on **Monday, February 9th** at 7:15 p.m. at the church. Call Dwillla 399-3935 if you plan to attend.

Hostess: Dwillla Cramer

Program: Marcia Barga

## MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE

**Leader: Ruth Martin**

*Meets 3rd Wednesday*

Mary-Martha Circle will meet on **Tuesday, February 17th** at 11:30 a.m. at the church. **WEATHER PERMITTING.** Lunch will consist of grilled chicken fettuccini with vegetables, salad, garlic bread, dessert, coffee and tea. Be sure to bring your Christmas exchange gift and your secret sister card.

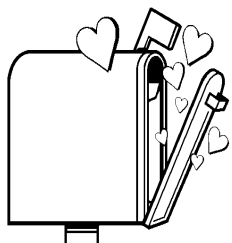
## REBEKAH/SARAH CIRCLE

**Leader: Joyce Carpenter**

*Meets 2nd Thursday*

Rebekah/Sarah Circle will meet on **Thursday, February 12th** at 12:00 noon.

Hostesses: Barb Aker and Ruth McAdams



**PW BOARD MEETING**  
**Monday, February 2**  
**10:00 AM**

## *Session Highlights*

The Session met in Regular stated meeting January 21, 2009 at 7:00 PM, beginning in the sanctuary for a time of prayer, reading of scripture, and singing of a hymn, then returning to the Family Room. 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 decided that the "planning committee" will be made up of seven members (the pastor will be one of the members, but not the chair). Session members were charged with prayerfully considering which congregation members should be asked to serve on the committee and to bring suggestions to the next session meeting.

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

The Pastor reported that he officiated at the memorial service for Geneva R. Nugent on January 9, 2009.

Property Committee: the Moderator reported that two pieces of equipment (the office copier and the snow blower) had broken, were found to be beyond repair, and had to be replaced.

Session approved a request from Villa of Springfield to use Northminster facilities as an emergency shelter for their residents, if the need should arise. This arrangement has existed in the past, and our insurance covers this use.

During the Finance Committee's report Session again discussed the 2009 budget, which had passed by a unanimous voice vote at the December meeting. Even though the budget has been cut as much as possible, the anticipated deficit in 2009 is over \$20,000. Session members acknowledge that the church cannot sustain deficit budgets year-after-year. We also recognize that this is an exceptional economic time in the history of our nation and that we need to remain faithful to our calling to mission. We promise to continue to reduce expenses where possible and to enthusiastically promote the various mission and other special projects in order to generate excitement and support from the congregation.

The next stated meeting of the Session is February 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

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

*-Lois Shroyer, Clerk*

NORTHMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road  
Springfield, Ohio 45503



**THE NORTHERN LIGHT**

*Return Service Requested*

*Issue 2*

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
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## **February 2009**

- February 1**    **Blood Pressure Screening**
- February 7**    **Pancake Breakfast**
- February 13**    **AVM 1st Quarter Birthday Party**
- February 16**    **Presidents' Day - Office Open**
- February 17**    **Session Meeting**
- February 22**    **Communion**
- February 25**    **Ash Wednesday Service @ Covenant**

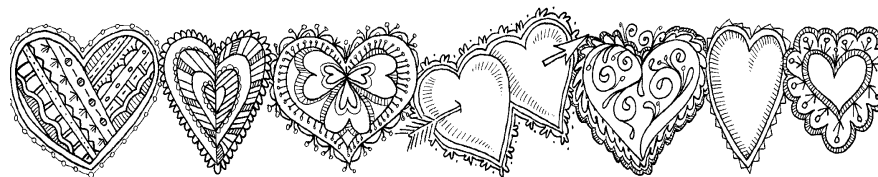
NORTHMINSTER'S VISION STATEMENT

REJOICE! RENEW! REACHOUT!

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

# February 2009

Northminster Presbyterian Church



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

1 8:30 Music/ Worship Mtg.  Blood Pressure Screening	2 9:30 YWM 10:00 PW Board	3 6:30 Girl Scouts	4 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	5	6	7 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
8	9 10:00 AVM Board 6:00 Finance 7:15 Esther Circle	10 6:30 Administration Committee Meeting	11 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	12 12:00 Rebekah/ Sarah Circle	13 1:00 AVM 1st Quarter Birthday Party	14 10:00 Youth help @ Clifton Ave Church of God Food Pantry  Valentine's Day
15 4:30 Youth Hang Out Night at the Church	16 Presidents' Day Office Open  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 7:00 Men's Breakfast @ Perkins 11:30 Mary/Martha Circle 6:30 Girl Scouts 7:00 Session	18 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	19	20	21 Youth Tubing @ Mad River Mountain
22 Youth hosting Café Communion  4:30 Youth Hang Out Night at the Church	23 6:30 Quilt Guild	24	25 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service @ Covenant 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:15 Choir	26	27	28