

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

JANUARY 2011

ISSUE 1



## *New Year's Message* FROM THE PASTOR

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **PASTORS**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **CHURCH STAFF**

Deana Knotts	<b>Office Manager</b>
Gay Steiner	<b>Bookkeeper</b>
Bill Harrison	<b>Treasurer</b>
Mark Brush	<b>Custodian</b>
Lydia Smith-Lockwood	<b>Director of Music</b>
Kristina Ahlstrom	<b>Organist</b>
Mark Brush	<b>Youth Directors</b>
Susan Dersch	
Dick White	<b>Adult Ministry</b>
Dwilla Cramer	<b>Presbyterian Women</b>
Joan Generous	
Nancy Jean Graves	<b>Parish Nurse</b>
Ruth George	<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 New Year!

I look forward to the year ahead and the ministry God puts before us. With the beginning of the new year we often hear about or make new year's resolutions. Changes in behavior are what we are often addressing when we make such resolutions. I want to invite us to change a behavior. I want us to think differently about this practice of resolutions. I'd like us to deny the fallacy that new beginnings or changes in behavior can only happen with the start of a new year.

In fact God's Grace and relationship with humanity are all about an ongoing change within us and around us. The presence and love of God remind us that new beginnings can take place in every moment of every day. What I'd like us to do is choose to acknowledge the presence and love of God for us as often as we can. A lot of folks would refer to this as prayer without ceasing.

Life circumstances make a conscious acknowledgement of God with us at all turns more difficult. If we are hurting or facing adversity we may be asking "Ummmm....God, where are you?" God's answer is Immanuel, God with us in the birth of Jesus Christ. God promised ancient Israel continually that they were not forgotten. God spoke through the prophets to call Israel back to right relationship when they had forgotten their relationship with God. God sent Jesus to the world then to extend the promise of God's presence and love to all humanity. So you and I can be assured of God's constant presence with us and love for humanity even when we do not feel it.

So can you join me in praying without ceasing? Can we ask God to help us remember Jesus' presence and love for us and all of humanity as often as we can? What new beginnings do you have in mind for this type of prayer? What might happen if we look to live into the consciousness of Jesus Christ within us, around us, and through us? We might be transformed through the renewing of our hearts and minds. Then what might happen? It's an exciting prospect. Please join me in prayer.

God of the ages both past and yet to come, help us to be continually aware of how you are with us in the present. Transform the way we think so that we may know what it is to be loved and to share your love with others. Help our hearts and minds be motivated each day to see how your presence with us can help usher in the Kingdom of God within us and around us in every moment.

Dwight  
Dwight

**January Birthdays**

<i>LeaAnn Hoefler</i>	January 2
<i>Helen Roe</i>	January 2
<i>Denise Molnar</i>	January 4
<i>Doris De Mers</i>	January 5
<i>Norine Kmett</i>	January 5
<i>Deana Knotts</i>	January 5
<i>Gary Molnar</i>	January 7
<i>Pam Long</i>	January 8
<i>Kathryn Spurgin</i>	January 8
<i>Butch Dodds</i>	January 10
<i>Frank Sparks</i>	January 10
<i>Russell Des Combes</i>	January 15
<i>Wayne Maurer</i>	January 17
<i>Jean Myers</i>	January 17
<i>Phoebe McCormick</i>	January 18
<i>Elise Spriggs</i>	January 18
<i>John King</i>	January 19
<i>Barb Aker</i>	January 20
<i>John Roberts</i>	January 21
<i>Jim Griffin</i>	January 22
<i>Cindy Chesnut</i>	January 27
<i>Mindy Twiggs</i>	January 29
<i>Janet Digel-Koerner</i>	January 30

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

The following individuals were received into membership on Sunday, December 5, 2010. They joined by letter of transfer from Oakland Presbyterian Church, Springfield.

***Doris Harris***

1147 Armsgate Road  
Springfield, OH 45503  
937-399-0257

***Norma Leslie***

1931 Devon Drive  
Springfield, OH 45503  
937-390-0063

***Edna Roeder***

1280 Old Farm Lane  
Springfield, OH 45503  
937-390-0118

***Betty Rower***

3036 Armsgate Road  
Springfield, OH 45503  
937-629-0549

**Session Highlights**

The Session met in regular stated meeting December 14, 2010 in the Family Room. Rev. Dwight McCormick opened the meeting with prayer around the circle at 7:05 PM in the sanctuary, giving each session member opportunity to pray.

The Session received reports from the Pastor and most of the committees of Session.

The Pastor reported that the Deacons were able to deliver 77 bags of groceries (contributed by the congregation) to the Clifton Ave. Church of God and the Christ Episcopal food pantries last month. They also delivered the Adopt-a-Family Christmas gifts, and they purchased \$200 in grocery cards for the Pastor and the church office to use to help needy families.

The Finance Committee report was given by Chair Kent Sherry:

Total income for January 1 through November was \$167,749 and total expenses were \$172,897, producing a deficit of \$5,148.

Pledge report: as of early December, 14 pledge cards had not been returned. A letter asking their intentions will be sent to each of these individuals so that the budget for 2011 can be finalized.

The committee presented a preliminary budget for 2011, and session approved it.

The Property Committee report was given by Co-chair Paul Good:

The committee has installed a screen in the sanctuary and has obtained a computer and projector which will be installed in the sanctuary. These purchases were paid out of the "Pancake Breakfast Fund."

The electrical circuit and outlets on the wall behind the organ need to be updated (currently there are multiple extension cords and power strips plugged into one outlet, presenting a hazard). This work is estimated to cost about \$700.

On Saturday January 29, 2011 the Session will meet from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in a special workshop/retreat to study how Northminster can best use its talents to be a mission presence in the community.

Session set the date of the annual congregational meeting for January 30, 2011, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. January 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for all committees, fellowship groups, and others to turn their reports in to the office.

The next stated meeting of Session is January 18, 2011 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

**January Lectionary Readings****Sunday, January 2***2nd Sunday after Christmas Day*Jeremiah 31:7-14; *Psalm 147:12-20*

Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9) 10-18

**Thursday, January 6***Epiphany of the Lord*Isaiah 60:1-6; *Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14*

Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday, January 9***Baptism of the Lord*Isaiah 42:1-9; *Psalm 29*; Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

**Sunday, January 16***2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*Isaiah 49:1-7; *Psalm 40:1-11*

1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**Sunday, January 23***3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*Isaiah 9:1-4; *Psalm 27:1, 4-9*;

1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

**Sunday, January 30***4th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Annual Congregational Meeting

Micah 6:1-8; *Psalm 15*; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

**MISSION and OUTREACH**

The monies that have been received through the Peacemaking Offering and other special offerings this year have been distributed to Oesterlen Services for Youth, on Lagonda Avenue in Springfield. They provide special counseling services for youth who have been abused, neglected, or are victims of sexual assault. They do not receive any funds for after school snacks for the children and will use the funds we have provided to nourish the bodies so the counselors can help heal the spirits. The staff is very grateful for the help.

## ANNUAL REPORT DATES AND DEADLINES

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The **deadline for individual committee reports** for the Annual Report will be **Monday, January 10, 2011**. We would like to have the report ready for people to pick up on Sunday, January 23rd, one week prior to the meeting.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 30th** immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to: Receive reports of the boards, committees and organizations of the church.

**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 2011 per capita amount is \$25.25 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.

**A New Year's benediction**

"Grant us, O Lord:

The hope to envision new dreams;  
The strength to rise above our limitations,  
our fears and whatever holds us down;  
The courage to stand on our own, to  
stretch our imagination and to experience  
being fully human, fully alive;  
The faith to live our lives in your image  
and likeness.

Guide us, O Lord, this New Year, every  
way, every day. Amen."

-Fr. Brian Cavanaugh  
Steubenville, OH  
from *The Joyful Noiseletter*

**HEALTH NEWS***from the Parish Nurse . . . Nancy Jean Graves***January 2011****PERTUSSIS (Whooping Cough)****What You Need to Know**

Pertussis is a very contagious disease caused by a type of bacteria called *Bordetella pertussis*. Among vaccine-preventable diseases, pertussis is one of the most commonly occurring ones in the United States.

There is high vaccine coverage for children nationwide. However, protection from the childhood vaccine fades over time. Adolescents and adults need to be revaccinated, even if they were completely vaccinated as children. Pertussis vaccines are very effective but not 100% effective. If pertussis is circulating in the community, there is still a chance that a fully vaccinated person can catch this very contagious disease. When you or your child develops a cold that includes a prolonged or severe cough, it may be pertussis. The best way to know is to contact your doctor.

**SYMPTOMS:** The disease starts like the common cold, with runny nose or congestion, sneezing, and maybe mild cough or fever. But after 1-2 weeks, severe coughing begins. People with pertussis usually spread the disease by coughing or sneezing while in close contact with others, who then breathe in the pertussis bacteria. Many infants who get pertussis are infected by parents, older siblings, or other caregivers who might not even know they have it. Since 1980, there has been an increase in the number of cases of pertussis, especially among teens (10-19 years of age). In 2009 there were nearly 17,000 reported cases including 14 deaths from pertussis nationally.

**THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT PERTUSSIS IS TO GET VACCINATED.** Vaccine protection for pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria can fade with time. Before 2005, the only booster vaccine available contained tetanus and diphtheria (called Td), and was recommended for adolescents and adults every ten years. Today there are boosters for adolescents and adults that contain tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (called Tdap). Pre-teens going to the doctor for their regular check-up at age 11 or 12 years should get a dose of Tdap. Adults who didn't get Tdap as a preteen should get one dose of Tdap instead of the Td booster. Most pregnant women who were not previously vaccinated with Tdap should get one dose of Tdap postpartum before leaving the hospital or birthing center. Getting vaccinated with Tdap is especially important for families with, and caregivers of new infants.

*Health News Continued*

The easiest thing for adults to do is to get Tdap instead of their next regular tetanus booster the Td shot that they were supposed to get every ten years. The dose of Tdap can be given earlier than the ten-year mark, so it's a good idea for adults to talk to a healthcare provider about what's best for their specific situation.

From the Center for Disease Control & Prevention

Submitted by: P. Fairbanks, R.N.

St. Bernards Catholic Church

**GETTING TO KNOW YOU**

The "Getting to Know You" program is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women's Board as a way to help the members/friends of Northminster get to know one another better. Included in this issue of the *Northern Light* are profiles that were included in the Sunday bulletin announcements for the month of December. Enjoy!

**Getting to Know . . .*****LeaAnn and Art Hoefer***

LeaAnn graduated from Southern Wells High School in Bluffton, Indiana. She works at International Truck and Engine. She enjoys reading, walking and gardening.

Art graduated from Springfield South High School. He works at DODC in Clayton, Ohio. He is interested in golf and fantasy football.

LeaAnn and Art are the parents of two daughters; Kaila, a senior at CTC and Joshilyn an 8th grader at Roosevelt Middle School.

LeaAnn is currently serving as a deacon here at Northminster.

Getting to Know . . .  
*Dwillla Cramer*

Dwillla graduated from La Rue High School and attended Ohio Northern University. She graduated from Wittenberg University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. She taught in the Springfield City Schools and retired from the Northeastern Local School District with 30 years of service.

While attending Ohio Northern she sang in the ONU choir and was a member of Tau Kappa Kappa Sorority (Alpha Xi Delta.)

She previously attended the Methodist church in La Rue and Ada Ohio.

Dwillla met her late husband, Max, at Ohio Northern. They were campus sweethearts and were married on November 21, 1951. Max and Dwillla moved to Springfield in 1953. Max was a pharmacist in the Springfield area for 35 years. They were married for 53 years.

Dwillla has two adult daughters; Susan Bare of Houston, Texas and Nancy Tarvin of Mesa, Arizona. She has three granddaughters and one great granddaughter in Arizona and two grandsons and one great grandson in Houston, Texas.

Dwillla enjoys reading, crafts, theater and music. She is a member of the Red Hats. Here at Northminster, Dwillla belongs to the Esther Circle and is currently serving as co-moderator of the Presbyterian Women's Board.



JANUARY

Getting to Know . . .  
*Denise and Gary Molnar*

Denise was raised in Antwerp, Ohio, where she attended First Presbyterian Church. She attended the Antwerp Local Schools and graduated from Defiance College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education. She pursued graduate studies at Wright State. Denise retired from the Clark-Shawnee School District after teaching first grade for 33 years at Reid School. She enjoys travel and reading and spends time volunteering at Reid School.

Gary grew up in Lorain, Ohio. He graduated from Lorain Admiral King High School. He earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Defiance College and a Master of Arts Degree from Miami University. Gary has worked at the Henry County Welfare Department and has served as an adjunct instructor at Urbana University and Clark State. He retired from the Springfield City Schools where he worked as a school psychologist for 30 years. He is currently employed at the Clark County Educational Service Center.

Gary previously attended the Hungarian Reformed United Church of Christ in Lorain, Ohio and was an Eagle Scout. He enjoys shade gardening, travel, and he collects early space memorabilia. Gary belongs to the Ohio School Psychologists Association, the National Association of School Psychologists and Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Gary and Denise met at Defiance College and have been married for 34 years. They are the parents of two adult children; Chris Molnar, Los Angeles, CA, works on the production staff of NCIS Los Angeles and their daughter, Stephanie Whiteside, of Galloway, OH, is employed by Rocking Horse Center and is married to Ryan Whiteside from Jackson, OH.

Gary and Denise have served in various leadership roles at Northminster and they are currently members of the bell choir.

## Serving Our Neighbors: Clifton Avenue Church of God Food Pantry, Part 1

With our church becoming more supportive of this food pantry, I wanted you to know more about it. Debbie Hilliard volunteers as the food pantry coordinator, and the pantry is open the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month. While I cannot say how other pantries in the area are run, Debbie has indicated that some only allow families to come once a month. The Clifton Avenue Church of God pantry requires all pantry participants to register, as required by Second Harvest, but they can come both Saturdays. Families must bring a photo ID and social security cards for themselves and each dependent. No income information is required. Once registered, they show their photo ID each time they come, and a number is given to them based on how many were registered as being in their family.

In 2010 through November, the pantry served an average of 149 families a month. Fewer families come in the summer months, with only 124 served in June (and also September). November was the highest month with 194 families served. People served are young and old and all ages in between. Most are one-person households, but some families have as many as eight members.

Our youth have been helping at the pantry for the last four years. They usually help carry out groceries, but have also helped give out numbers, oversee the bread/veggie room and help in the pantry room itself. Recently the youth involvement has dwindled as our youth are involved in other activities on Saturday mornings. The youth have also spearheaded food drives to benefit the pantry, and their efforts have always been much appreciated.

The last food drive coordinated by the Deacons resulted in more than 70 bags of groceries that were divided between the two food pantries we support. When the Church of God volunteers came to prepare for Saturday's pantry, they were surprised to find bags of groceries filling the work area in the pantry room. They did not know who had delivered the groceries, but they were very thankful as the food was much needed. Debbie called it a miracle and said "elves were at work." When I heard the story, and saw the bags, I told her the bags were from our church, and I was also able to share that Northminster's Presbyterian Women had chosen to support the pantry on a monthly basis. Debbie's face lit up with excitement, and she wished for me to pass along her thanks to all at the church.

Next month I'll share more about the church and the people who make the pantry possible. If you want to help, just let me know.

Susan Dersch



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**THE NORTHERN LIGHT**  
*Issue 1*

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO  
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## January 2011

January 1	Pancake Breakfast
January 10	Deadline for Annual Report
January 17	Deadline for Newsletter
January 18	Session Meeting
January 29	Session Workshop/Retreat
January 30	Annual Congregational Meeting



*On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;  
and they knelt down and paid him homage.*

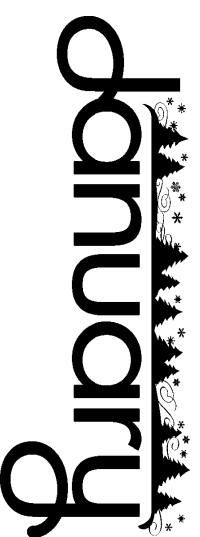
*Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts  
of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

*Matthew 2:11*

# January 2011

## Northminster Presbyterian Church

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



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

						1 8:00 Pancake Breakfast New Year's Day
2 Blood Pressure Screening	3 9:30 YWM 10:00 PW Board	4 6:30 Christian Ed.	5 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	6 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club	7	8 9:30 Youth @ Clifton Ave. Church of God Food Pantry
9 4:30 Youth Group	10 DEADLINE for ANNUAL REPORT 10:00 AVM Adv. Bd.	11 7:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Deacon Mtg.	12 5:15 Music/Worship 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	13	14	15
16	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18 6:00 Finance 6:00 Mission and Outreach 7:00 Session	19 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	20	21	22
23 4:30 Youth Group	24 6:30 Quilt Guild	25	26 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	27	28	29 9 am to 1 pm Session Workshop
30 Youth hosting Café Annual Congrega- tional Meeting	31					