

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

DECEMBER 2012

ISSUE 10

A word from the Pastor . . .

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

-Matthew 25:31-46

This Scripture has a specific memory attached to it for me. When I was in youth group at First Baptist Church of Bluefield there was a guy named Chuck who worked with my 6th grade Sunday school class. He was a kind man in his early 40's. His sincere love for God and care for us as his students was evident in how he spoke and in the enthusiasm with which he approached his teaching.

He worked at Bluefield Community Hospital. The hospital was two miles from our church. As part of Chuck's teaching he got permission from the parents of the youth group to take us to the hospital to visit people from our congregation. It was my first pastoral care visit. I had no clue that 16 years later in seminary I'd be completing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education as a hospital chaplain and drawing on that experience. Nor did I know that visitation would later become one of the most important sermon writing tools I had.

Doug Adams, the professor at Pacific School of Religion not the author of [Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy](#), taught me the importance of a pastoral visit. He said that when you visit people in their homes or hospital rooms that on the next Sunday that they attend worship, the good news you proclaim feels more personal to them. He believed that the Holy Spirit was revealing the Scripture not only that Sunday morning, but also during the time you spent with people during the week.

(continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

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PASTORS

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W. Franklin Sparks, Pastor Emeritus

CHURCH STAFF

Deana Knotts	Office Manager
Gay Steiner	Financial Secretary
Bill Harrison	Treasurer
Greg Veith	Custodian
Lydia Smith-Lockwood	Director of Music
Kristina Ahlstrom	Organist
Dwight & Sarah McCormick Nate & Kate Smith	Youth Leaders
Joan Generous June Hughes	Presbyterian Women
Nancy Jean Graves Ruth George	Parish Nurse Librarian

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monthly September thru May
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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)

"Therefore," he said, "make sure that when you are doing your sermon preparation that you make visiting your flock a part of interpreting the Word." He was right. I'm thankful to Doug for this lesson, and also to Chuck for planting the seed for this practice.

Before we went into the room Chuck told us who we were visiting. He taught us to introduce ourselves before we began speaking with them. He also taught us to ask if they minded if we read them some Scripture. They always agreed, because we Baptists were taught to love Scripture, and he would then read from Matthew 25.



The full text from Matthew 25 is an eschatological periscope. That's a fancy way of saying it is a section of Scripture that talks about the end of the world or final judgment. In the text the King, represents God. God separates the goats from the sheep. Those who gave something to drink to the thirsty, something to eat to the hungry, took care of the sick, clothed the naked, welcomed the stranger, and visited the imprisoned were included on the right hand of God and counted as sheep. Their reward was the kingdom of God. Those who neglected the thirsty, hungry, sick, naked, stranger, and imprisoned were counted among the goats and were cast into eternal punishment. The passage affirms that the treatment we offer to "the least of these my children" was equal to the treatment we were giving Jesus Christ.

Chuck interpreted the text to us and taught us that we were not just visiting a sick person in the hospital, we were in fact visiting Jesus Christ. Seeing Christ in everyone isn't bad theology and in fact is a good practice. The danger is that we believe we can earn our salvation through demonstrating compassion. That isn't the case.

How we treat others is important to discipleship. However, Scripture affirms in Ephesians 2:8-9— For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. Unfortunately this doesn't stop many of us from boasting.

So how is it we reach a balance between works and Grace? How do we reconcile the truth of being saved by Grace through faith with the Matthew 25 text? My hunch is we do so by living in gratitude for the salvation we've been given in Christ. If we are thankful for the Grace of God and the transformation of our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, then our behavior becomes a natural reflection of both gratitude and the Grace of God.

For instance I think of this text when I see a guy standing on a street corner, or at the end of an off ramp with the sign "Will work for food," or "Disabled veteran, homeless, need help," or "Can you give me some money I'm a starving comedian."

I have seen several different men at the off-ramp from Rt. 35 west onto South Smithville Road in Dayton, Ohio. This is the exit I take to get to our Presbytery (regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church USA of which I am a part) office.

One summer I traveled to the Presbytery office when I had, Chloe, our oldest daughter with me. I knew we would see the guy at the end of the ramp. Before we got to the exit I told Chloe the story about Chuck taking me and our youth group to visit people in the hospital. I also offered what I thought was a decent description of how we are given salvation as a free gift through Jesus Christ. I'll never forget her response because it touched me. She said:

"Dad, can you stop talking and turn the radio back on? I really like that Lady Gaga song we were listening to and I've probably missed it now thanks to you!"

That is not true. It went more like this:

"Well Chloe what do you think we ought to give the guy I just told you about?"

"What did you plan to give him?" she said.

I said, "I've got some change here in this cubbyhole, a couple of dollars worth. Maybe I can give him some of that?"

(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Page, continued)

"Give him all of it." She remarked.

"Why?"

"Because he's homeless and we have so much. Hey don't you have more money you keep in your ash tray too?"

"Yeah."

"Well we should give him that too."

"But that's money for candy when I forget my wallet."

"You don't need the candy and he has nothing."

"I see your point."

Chloe has a kind and generous heart. Further proof of that is the permission she gave me to mention her by name in this story.

She said, "I'm glad you see it my way you old goat."

"You're grounded."

She really is, but not in the punishment way. She is grounded in Christ. Thank you Chuck, and thank you Jesus. Where do we see Jesus not only when we drive, but in the people we encounter every day?

Dwight



Happy Birthday to:

<i>Joshilyn Hoefler</i>	December 2
<i>Janet Hooper</i>	December 2
<i>Sally Asper</i>	December 5
<i>George Koerner</i>	December 8
<i>Andy Barga</i>	December 12
<i>Nancy Baker</i>	December 14
<i>Elisia Taylor</i>	December 17
<i>Charis Loomer-Owings</i>	December 17
<i>Stella Spriggs</i>	December 18
<i>Betty Rower</i>	December 27
<i>Terry Rigio</i>	December 27
<i>Larry Hines</i>	December 31

Session Highlights

The Session met in regular stated meeting November 13, 2012. The Moderator, Rev. Dwight McCormick, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with Scripture reading and prayer.

The Pastor reported that he will take vacation time November 19-26 and December 26-29. He has arranged for pulpit supply for November 25.

Finance Committee member Kevin Creager reported that the financial report and balance sheet shows that total income for January 1 through October 31 was \$150,467 and total expenses were \$161,586, producing a deficit of \$11,119. Elder Creager presented a draft budget for 2013, for information. The budget will be presented for action at the December session meeting.

Session approved two motions from the Mission Committee: 1) to request donation of items on December 9th for the Oesterlen Services for Youth; 2) to invite a representative of "Fair Trade Winds" to give a minute for mission during worship on December 9th and to display products for purchase after worship. The committee reported that Equality Springfield will be hosting Cafe on December 2nd to show their appreciation for being permitted to hold their July yard sale at Northminster.

The Property Committee reported that they are working to solve the problem of the water/mold problems in the downstairs men's restroom. They are arranging to have the carpet cleaned in the family room.

Session appointed Elder Terry Rigio to chair the Nominating Committee that will bring a slate of officer candidates to the April 2013 congregational meeting.

The next stated meeting of Session is December 18, 2012 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



News from the Treasurer

The Dining Out Campaign is doing well with \$7,097 given to date.

My suggestion is that we will end this campaign December 31st and those that have been giving to "Dining Out" will add it to their pledge for 2013. Remember, you can always amend your pledge—especially if it is increased!

The current *Extravagant Generosity* campaign isn't complete enough to report.

-Bill Harrison, Treasurer

Presbyterian Women

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

Co-Moderators.....Joan Generous & June Hughes
Secretary..... Anne Hines
Treasurer.....Ruth Martin



ESTHER CIRCLE

Leader: Cindy Chesnut

Meets 2nd Monday

Meeting Date: December 10th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: Church

Hostesses: Anne Hines and Cindy Chesnut

Program: Christmas Party

Bring a gift for the gift exchange.

RUTH CIRCLE

Leader: Gail Davis

Secretary: June Hughes

Treasurer: Joan Garrett

Meets 2nd Thursday

Meeting Date: December 13th

Ruth Circle will meet at "Teaberries" Restaurant at 11AM on December 13th for a Christmas Luncheon. Please call Gail Davis for reservations, 390-2527, by December 10th. If you need a ride, we will carpool at the church at 10:30 AM. Happy Holidays!

A HEARTY THANK YOU!

We would like to thank each one that helped to make the Holiday Bazaar a success. It takes hard work and commitment throughout the year to produce the fruits that we enjoy on the day of the bazaar. When we work together great things happen! We had more men help this year than ever before and that made such a difference. Thank you again to everyone. We couldn't do it without YOU!

Barbara Benston and Joan Generous, Co-Chairs

BAZAAR RAFFLE WINNERS

Quilt—John Emerich

Bath & Body Basket—Mindy Twiggs

Bath & Body Basket—Mary Quinn

Book Basket—Jenna Twiggs

Stained Glass Angel—Sarah McCormick

Wall Hanging—Tom Stout

A Christmas Prayer

"Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift, and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

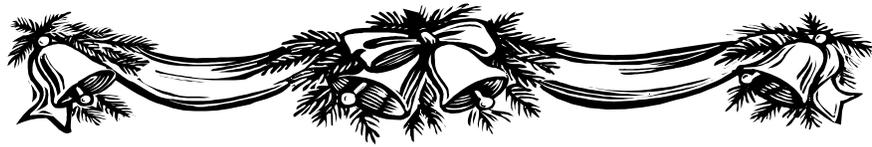
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen!"

-Robert Louis Stevenson
via St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus, TX
The Joyful Noiseletter, Dec. 2007



PW BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 3rd
10:00 AM

Music and Worship Schedule December 2012



Hanging of the Greens, Lunch, and Christmas Caroling

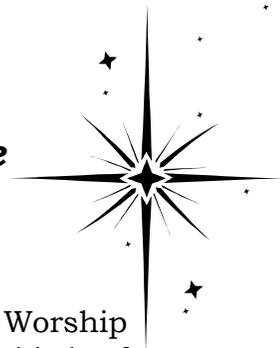
Following worship on **Sunday, December 2**, plan to stay and help decorate the church as we begin the Advent Season. The children will be rehearsing for the upcoming Christmas pageant while adults put up decorations.



Those who participate are invited to stay for lunch provided by the Music and Worship Committee. After lunch those who wish may come along for caroling at local nursing homes.

Christmas Eve Service 6PM

Come to Christmas Eve Worship at 6PM to celebrate the birth of our Savior with a Service of Lessons and Carols. Join your voice with ours as we sing Christmas Carols and hear the story of Jesus' birth through the reading of Scripture by members and friends of the Northminster family. Come hear the Word, believe the Word, and receive the Word that became flesh on that most Holy Night.



A Christmas Pageant & Christmas Brunch

The children and young people of our church will present a Christmas Pageant during Worship on Sunday, **December 16th**. This pageant has become a Northminster tradition that you won't want to miss!

After the Christmas Pageant the Deacons will host a Christmas brunch which will include a variety of breakfast casseroles, breads and beverages. You don't need to bring a thing. Just come and enjoy!



Mission Committee News

Watch the Bulletin Board in the Narthex

Under the banner “Opportunities to Serve” is information about ways you can give back to the community. Check it out!



Advent Collections

Giving to the community has always been important to us, especially during the Advent season. This year the Mission Committee is collecting the following toiletry items for Oesterlen Services for Youth:

Toothpaste – 6.4 oz or larger

Toothbrushes – soft bristle, adult size

Stick Deodorant – 2.6 oz or larger (unscented and gender neutral)

Please bring these items to the church on Sunday, December 9th.

Oesterlen began as an orphanage in 1903. Since the mid-1950s Oesterlen has been a mental health treatment center for emotionally, behaviorally, and psychologically troubled children and youth. Today Oesterlen offers a full range of services, including residential and outclient community services programs. Watch for information in future newsletters about how we can support their ministry at no cost to us.

Fair Trade Sunday – December 9th

Fair Trade Winds is a family-run Fair Trade retail store committed to helping alleviate global poverty and increase social responsibility through Fair Trade. Farmers and artisans who sell their goods through Fair Trade build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. By supporting Fair Trade, we make choices in line with our beliefs and affirm human dignity by promoting:

Fair Wages

Children’s Rights

Women’s Rights

The Right to Organize

Environmental Rights

Indigenous Rights

On Sunday, November 9th, a representative from Fair Trade Winds will provide a Minute for Mission, and a display of their wares will be available for purchase in the Family Room. [Fair Trade Winds opened a new store in downtown Springfield (36 N. Fountain Avenue).]

Habitat for Humanity Workday Scheduled for Saturday, December 15th

Northminster will again be fielding a work crew for Habitat for Humanity. Those who want to participate should meet at 1214 Clifton Avenue at 8 a.m. to get our assignment for the day.

Many thanks to those who came out on Saturday, November 17th!

(continued on next page)

(Mission Committee News, continued)

Christmas Joy Offering Collected December 23rd

The annual Christmas Joy offering is used to (1) provide assistance to retired and active church workers and their families and (2) to support Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The offering is equally split between the two recipients.

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions helps grant peace of mind and practical assistance, whether it's one-time assistance to purchase a needed item, such as a hearing aid, or on-going support to help make ends meet during retirement. Church workers who receive assistance say that "as crucial as the financial assistance is, what really sustains them is the knowledge that the church is standing with them in their time of need."



Supporting our racial ethnic schools and colleges helps with basic operating costs and scholarship assistance helps ease the burden of educational debt for racial ethnic Presbyterian students. This allows the students to be more freely able to discover and pursue their professional goals. All PC (USA)-related schools and colleges are open to any qualified student regardless of race.

During the Advent season we will hear more about the impact of this offering.

Submitted by:

Susan Dersch, Committee Chair

HEALTH NEWS

from the Parish Nurse . . . Nancy Jean Graves

December 2012

HOLIDAY FOOD STORAGE

Chill It Promptly

- Store leftovers in airtight, shallow containers (2 inches deep or less).
- Refrigerate or freeze leftovers within two hours of cooking the food.
Set your refrigerator below 40 degrees F. and your freezer below zero degrees F.
- Remove turkey from the bone and store it separately from the stuffing and gravy.
You can leave sliced breast meat, legs, and wings whole.

Use It or Lose It

- Use refrigerated cooked turkey within three or four days.
- Use stuffing and gravy within one to two days.
- Finish fruit and cream pies within two to three days and cheesecake within seven days.
- Eat leftover casseroles and cooked vegetables within three to four days.
- Regardless of how many days have passed: if in doubt, throw it out!!!

Reheat Right

- Reheat leftovers to 165 degrees F. Bring leftover gravy to a steady boil on the stove before serving it a second time.



AM Dietetic Association
and Kim Bachman, RD/LD, Heartland of Springfield

December 2012

Northminster Presbyterian Church
www.northminsterspringfield.org



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
2 Blood Pressure Screening Hanging of the Greens Lunch, Caroling	3 9:30 Young Woman's Mission 10:00 PW Board 6:30 Deacon Mtg.	4 10:00 Beth Moore Bible Study 6:30 Christian Ed.	5 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	6 5:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club Christmas Party	7 6:30 PW Christmas Dinner/ Shawnee H.S. Madrigal Dinner	8 6:30 Shawnee H.S. Madrigal Dinner Clifton Ave. Breakfast
9 Bring Advent Gifts for Oesterlen Fair Trade Sunday	10 Newsletter Deadline 7:15 Esther Circle Christmas Party	11 10:00 Beth Moore Bible Study	12 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	13 11:00 Ruth Circle @ Teaberries Restaurant 6:30 Mission Cmte.	14	15 Habitat Work Day Meet at 8AM at 1214 Clifton Ave.
16 Christmas Pageant Deacons' Christmas Brunch	17 6:00 Finance Mtg.	18 7a Men's Breakfast @ Perkins 10:00 Beth Moore Bible Study 7p Session	19 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	20	21	22
23 Communion	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 6PM	25 Christmas Day 	26	27	28	29 
30	31					

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 10

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Return Service Requested



December 2012

December 1	Pancake Breakfast
December 2	Hanging of the Greens/Caroling
December 9	Bring Advent Gifts for Oesterlen
December 15	Habitat Work Day
December 16	Christmas Pageant & Brunch
December 18	Session Meeting
	Men's Breakfast @ Perkins
December 23	Communion
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 6PM
December 25	Christmas Day—Office Closed

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."
Luke 2:10-11*

NORTHMINSTER'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

Northminster Presbyterian Church will develop disciples of Jesus Christ and learn to follow the way of Jesus.