

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

FEBRUARY 2012

ISSUE 2



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: 937-399-0838

FAX: 937-629-0881

office@northminsterspringfield.org

www.northminsterspringfield.org

PASTORS

Dwight McCormick II, Pastor
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 **Youth Leaders**
Nate & Kate Smith
Dwilla Cramer **Presbyterian Women**
Joan Generous
Nancy Jean Graves **Parish Nurse**
Ruth George **Librarian**

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

A Word from the Pastor . . .

In a sermon by Henri Nouwen called "Being the Beloved," he teaches us much of what it means to be sons and daughters of God. Not THE Son of God (Jesus Christ), but sons and daughters as in we are God's children. He calls this knowledge of being sons and daughters of God being the beloved of God. I offer the following summary of his sermon quoting large portions of his words. Most of what follows is directly from the sermon he preached about this topic.

In identifying our worth and our identity it is an error when we think "I am what I do." When we think that thought or live by it, our life is a series of ups and downs. When we do good works, we feel good about ourselves. When we fail, then we get depressed. Then when we are older we look back on our trophies or our accomplishments more than our relationships. But what we do and what we have done are not who we are.

It is an error for us to identify our worth and identity by thinking "I am what others say about me." It is powerful what people say about us. If people speak well of us, we walk around freely and feeling good. If someone says negative things about us, we might feel very sad. This is disruptive to our lives too because we tend to hear the negative comment(s) more than the positive. When someone speaks ill of us it can cut deep into our heart. If someone says something hurtful in the morning it can stay with us the entire day and ruin our mood. So we need to remember we are not what others say about us.

Finally it is an error in thinking when we think "I am what I have." Our possessions do not give us our worth and our identity. We may say I have kind parents, an education, a house, or any number of things, or tons of money, or a great car. As soon as we lose someone—a family member, lose our health, lose our property, we can slip into inner darkness.

A lot of our energy goes into these three flawed ways of thinking: "I am what I do," "I am what others say about me," or "I am what I have." IF we live this way then our life will go from extreme highs to deep lows. We will be tossed about like one who doubts and is like a wave of the sea. (See James 1). If we live based on these fallacies then we work to hold onto what we do, what others say, and what we own. These are unimportant in our lives because we
(continued on next page)

(Pastor's Page Continued)

are all mortal. When we go from this life into the next we can no longer do anything here on earth, we can no longer hear what others say, and we can't take what we have with us. So our value and identity must come from elsewhere.

The three premises "I am what I do," "I am what others say about me," and "I am what I own," are all what Satan said to Jesus in Matthew chapter 4 when tempting Jesus in the desert. The demon said "Turn the stones into bread and show you can **do** something." He wanted Jesus to believe that he was what he did.

"Jump from the Temple. Then angels will catch you and people will **speak well of you.**" He wanted Jesus to believe that he was what people said about him.

"Kneel in front of me then I will give you **all the kingdoms of the world.**" Satan said this because he wanted Jesus to believe he was what he owned.

Satan is lying on all three counts. Jesus said THAT'S A LIE! It is not true that if we do something or have people speak well of us and we have something then everybody's going to love you.

All of that is a pack of lies. Those are the greatest lies. It is those lies that make us enter into relationships of violence and destruction. Jesus told him, "I know who I am because before the Spirit sent me to be tempted in the desert, the Spirit came upon me and said, 'You are my beloved Son, on you my favor rests.'" That's who Jesus is, that's who we are-not God's only Son, but daughters and sons of God. We are God's beloved children.

We are God's beloved children! This is true of every human being, every person on this earth. It is vital that we cling to that as we live our lives. People will praise us and reject us just as they did Jesus, but whatever happens we are the beloved children of God. That is what allows us to live in a world that keeps on praising us, rejecting us, laughing at us or worse.

We are not great because of what we do, what people say, or what we own. We are the beloved even before we were born. What was said of Jesus was said of us. We are the BELOVED sons and daughters of God. Nouwen says we are to hear it not intellectually, but spiritually and from the center of our being. We are to accept it and let it flow from within us.

If we HEAR the message that we are God's beloved children, then our whole life can be turned around.

He reminds us of how God says we are beloved in several ways in Scripture. God says in the Word: "I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have written your name in the palm of my hand for all eternity. I have molded you in the depths of the earth and knit you together in your mother's womb. I love you. I embrace you. You are mine, and I am yours. You belong to me." We have to HEAR that. If we can hear that voice that speaks to us from eternity to all eternity then our lives will be transformed.

Thank God that we are beloved sons and daughters of God. Praise God for this gift. Amen.

Dwight



Birthday Wishes to . . .

<i>Lilly Adams</i>	<i>February 3</i>
<i>Maggie Roberts</i>	<i>February 5</i>
<i>Karen Veith</i>	<i>February 17</i>
<i>Martha Clement</i>	<i>February 22</i>
<i>Ashley Foster</i>	<i>February 22</i>
<i>Nancy Graves</i>	<i>February 22</i>
<i>Nancy Jean Graves</i>	<i>February 26</i>
<i>Ruth Martin</i>	<i>February 28</i>

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Friends and family of Brett Arthur Mansfield established a scholarship fund at The Springfield Foundation after his passing on August 21.

The Brett Arthur Mansfield Memorial Scholarship Fund was created to provide individuals with financial assistance to further their studies at an accredited college or university.

To celebrate and honor Brett's birthday, January 18, contributions can be mailed to The Brett Arthur Memorial Scholarship Fund, The Springfield Foundation, 4 W. Main Street, Suite 825, Springfield, Ohio 45502.

Brett's parents are church members Chuck and Lisa Mansfield and his grandmother is Gail Davis.

~ ~ ~

A NOTE of THANKS

I wish to thank my church family for all the prayers and cards I received. I am not quite up to par, but I'm getting there.

*Thanks again,
Toni Conway*

Session Highlights

The Session met in regular stated meeting January 17, 2012. The Moderator, Rev. Dwight McCormick, opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with Scripture reading and prayer.

The Pastor shared with the session his written report, for the annual congregational meeting, in which he explained very clearly the rationale and the process by which Northminster supports Youth First, a support group for LGBT young people. Session members had opportunity to ask questions and to reiterate Session's support for this ministry.

Report from Deacons: the Deacons are planning a congregational dinner for February 12th.

The Finance Committee report was given by Chair Kent Sherry, referring to the printed financial report and balance sheet: Total income for January 1 through December was \$176,242 and total expenses were \$202,037, producing a deficit of \$25,795. Committee members pointed out that receipt of regular pledge offerings fell 19% below the amount pledged and observed that this was likely due to the state of the economy.

The Property Committee report was given by Chair Bill Carpenter. He reported that they have received a bid from a lighting company to replace the track lighting, dimmers, switches, and pendent lights in the sanctuary. The upgrades will approximately double the foot-candles of light available in the seating areas. A bequest given for this purpose will more than cover the cost of the project.

Elder Lois Shroyer reported that the Administration Committee has facilitated the purchase of a used two-drawer fire-proof file cabinet for the church office, as was approved at the November 19, 2011 session meeting. The \$495 purchase price was reimbursed by one of our session members. There was no delivery charge, since Dwight McCormick and Jim Cutler transported the cabinet from Dayton to the church. So the only cost to the church budget is approximately \$25 to obtain keys from the manufacturer.

Chair Diana Schneider gave the report for the Worship and Music Committee, including communion dates for the year. Session approved the following communion dates: February 12, April 5 (Maundy Thursday), April 8 (Easter), May 27 (Pentecost), July 15, September 9, October 7 (World Communion Sunday), November 25 (Christ the King Sunday), and December 23.

The next stated meeting of Session is February 21, 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

NORTHMINSTER MISSION



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Souper Bowl of Caring is youth across the nation working to fight hunger and poverty in their own communities around the time of the Super Bowl football game. This year the Mission Committee and the Youth Group are working together to observe the “Souper” Bowl by collecting cans of soup (or other canned goods) or monetary donations on **Sunday, February 5th**. All donations will go to the Clifton Avenue Church of God food pantry, where Northminster serves breakfast once a month.

Piggybacking on this “souper” event, Mission Committee members, Tom Stout and Joe Stalder, will make soup to sell, with all proceeds going to the congregation’s Relay for Life fundraising efforts. Minestrone and beef vegetable soup will be for sale by the pint or the quart.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY

As you know, Northminster serves breakfast at the Clifton Avenue Church of God on the third Saturday of the month. The next breakfast will be Saturday, February 18th, when the Team One Breakfast Crew, led by Chef Bob Triebelhorn, will be serving all who come to the food pantry. A warm breakfast on a cold winter morning is always appreciated! If you would like to serve on a breakfast team...or if you want to be an alternate...please contact Susan Dersch (629-0792).

While the Mission Committee has added funds for the breakfast to the church budget, we all know the church has had difficulty meeting its budget the last few years. There have been a number of you who have made donations specifically to the breakfast in the past. If you are so inclined, please consider continuing to make that extra donation, marking it specifically for the breakfast. Your generosity is appreciated!

MANY THANKS!

The Mission Committee wants to thank you for your generosity this Christmas season. We raised \$519 for the Christmas Joy offering, took more than \$135 in gas gift cards to Project Woman and many rolls of toilet paper to Interfaith Hospitality Network. These gifts were all gratefully received.

LOOKING AHEAD

Watch for information about our next Habitat for Humanity work crew project. We want to support Habitat’s efforts in Springfield by serving at the site several times this year. If you are interested in serving, feel free to let Carol Emerich know. She will be coordinating these efforts.

The Mission Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, feel free to come to the meeting!

Hunger Statistic

The number of Americans living in poverty is the highest it has been in 52 years.
One in seven households in our nation is food insecure, which affects more than 16 million children.
(from the US Department of Agriculture)

FEBRUARY LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, February 5

Ordinary Time

Isaiah 40:21-31; *Psalm 147:1-11, 20c*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, February 12

Communion

2 Kings 5:1-14; *Psalm 30*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12; *Psalm 50:1-6*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9



**ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP
February 22**

A Service to Begin Lent
@ Covenant Presbyterian Church
7:00 PM

A combined service with
Covenant, Northminster
and Oakland Presbyterian Churches.

Wednesday February 22

Ash Wednesday

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

Sunday, February 26

Genesis 9:8-17; *Psalm 25:1-10*

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

2012 COMMUNION SCHEDULE	
February 12.....
April 5.....	Maundy Thursday
April 8.....	Easter Sunday
May 27.....	Pentecost Sunday
July 15.....
September 9.....
October 7.....	World Communion Sunday
November 25.....	Christ the King Sunday
December 23.....



VALENTINE DINNER

The Deacons will be hosting a Valentine Dinner after worship on Sunday, **February 12th**. The Deacons will provide the meat and drinks. Those with a **last name beginning: A-H bring a vegetable; I-P bring a dessert; Q-Z bring a salad**. We hope you will plan to join us!

FEBRUARY ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

The Adult Forum schedule for February through Palm Sunday is as follows:

Feb. 5th: Rev. McCormick will lead a study on the Book of James.

Feb. 12th: No Forum—Deacons’ Valentine Dinner

Feb. 19th: Elder Diana Schneider will lead a study on Seasons of the Church Year from *The Thoughtful Christian*. Why is the church decorated in purple during Lent? Why is Christmas always on December 25, but Easter is on different dates all the time? What is Ordinary Time? These and other basic but often unanswered questions in the liturgical life of churches are answered in this one-session study. Participants are guided through the liturgical calendar and given a chance to discuss the various seasons.

Feb. 26th thru April 1st (Palm Sunday): Elder Lois Shroyer will lead a Lenten study—“Gospel Portraits of Jesus.” This Lenten study explores the biblical names for Jesus and the titles for Jesus in the Gospels.

What can we learn about Jesus from the multitude of names he is given in the New Testament? Plenty! Welcome to a six-week course that will explore a number of the names and titles for Jesus that appear in the four Gospels, with some attention to relevant Old Testament passages.

The sequence of the names and titles of Jesus for our course of study moves from the most familiar name, *Jesus*, to Jesus’ activities as *teacher*, to several common metaphors such as *bread*, to more abstract names like *Messiah* and *Son of God*, concluding with a focus on *resurrection and life*.

HEALTH NEWS

from the Parish Nurse . . . Nancy Jean Graves

FEBRUARY 2012

HONEY! WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU

Honey's medicinal powers have been known and traced back to the Xin dynasty period of 2000 B.C. The healing properties of honey are mentioned in the Bible, the Koran, and the Torah. Scientists have revealed powerful antibacterial properties on at least sixty species of bacteria as well as antioxidant properties. Honey has been used in the treatment of cough diarrhea, asthma, stomach ulcers, burn, sun-burn, diabetic foot ulcers, wound healing and even cataracts.

Most recent scientific research on honey's medicinal uses have been directed toward wound healing and allergies. Topical use of honey has been successful in treating diabetic ulcers. Some studies have suggested that topical use in wound treatment reduces odors, swelling, and scarring and also prevents dressings from sticking to wounds. Wound gels that contain raw honey have regulatory approval now to treat drug resistant strains of bacteria (MRSA).

Honey has been used for centuries to treat coughs and sore throats and according to recent research, may be as effective as many cough medicines. Honey is also used for skin conditioning, reducing facial redness and acne, and in hair care. Honey has also been helpful in minimizing some seasonal allergies but was not found effective against hay fever.

Interest is still high in determining what properties honey may provide medically in the future. Wikipedia.org lists references for examining recent studies. Honey still tastes good on biscuits as well. You might want to try some!

Submitted by:
Sue Markley, R.N.
Urbana United Methodist Church

Presbyterian Women

**Faith, Fellowship and Fun
with a Circle of Friends.**

All are welcome to participate.

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

ESTHER CIRCLE

Leader: Cindy Chesnut

Meets 2nd Monday

Meeting Date: Monday, February 13th

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Place: Church

MARY-MARTHA CIRCLE

Leader: Ruth Martin

Meets 3rd Friday

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 9th

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Church

Mary-Martha Circle will meet with Rebekah/Sarah Circle on Thursday, February 9th, at noon at the church. Bring a sandwich and your own dessert for lunch. Meeting will follow.

Questions: Gail Davis 390-2527

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED
FOR THE FOLLOWING IN 2011:**

CLIFTON AVENUE CHURCH OF GOD	\$1,200.00
INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY	500.00
SALVATION ARMY	500.00
SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK	500.00
NEHEMIAH FOUNDATION	500.00
PROJECT WOMAN	500.00
FOOD VOUCHERS	300.00
FOR USE AT NORTHMINSTER	
AMERICAN RED CROSS	<u>200.00</u>
	\$4,200.00

Looking Ahead to March

Mark you calendars crafty ladies! The **Bazaar Worskhop** is scheduled to begin meeting (weather permitting) the first Tuesday of March (**March 6th**) at 9AM in the lower level Community Room. Questions: Joan Generous 969-8130 or Barb Aker 399-3967.

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 2

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

Return Service Requested



February 2012

- February 4** Pancake Breakfast
- February 12** Communion
- February 12** Deacons' Valentine Dinner
- February 20** Presidents' Day—Office Open
- February 21** Men's Breakfast @ Perkins
- February 21** Session Meeting
- February 22** 7PM Ash Wednesday Service @ Covenant



VALENTINE DINNER

The Deacons will be hosting a Valentine Dinner
after worship on Sunday, **February 12th.**

The Deacons will provide the meat and drinks.

Those with a **last name beginning:**

A-H bring a vegetable; I-P bring a dessert; Q-Z bring a salad.

We hope you will plan to join us!

February 2012

Northminster Presbyterian Church

www.northminsterspringfield.org

office@northminsterspringfield.org



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 5:15 Music/Worship 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	2 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club	3	4 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
5 "Souper" Bowl of Caring Blood Pressure Screening	6 9:30 Young Woman's Mission 10:00 PW Board	7 6:30 Mission 7:00 Christian Ed.	8 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	9 12:00 Mary-Martha Rebekah/Sarah Circle	10	11
12 Communion Deacons' Valentine Dinner following worship	13 7:15 Esther Circle	14 6:30 Deacon Mtg.	15 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	16	17	18 Clifton Ave. Church of God Breakfast Food Pantry
19	20 Newsletter Deadline Presidents' Day Office Open	21 7:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Finance 7:00 Session	22 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service @ Covenant 7:00 Youth First	23	24	25
26	27 6:30 Remembrance Quilt Guild	28	29 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir			