

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

JANUARY 2012

ISSUE 1



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	Bookkeeper
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

Happy New Year! I also add to it Merry Christmas since there are twelve days of Christmas leading up to January 6th when we celebrate Epiphany. I say it here as well because after we'd already mailed last month's newsletter, I realized that I'd written a newsletter article asking people to sign up to serve God rather than writing about the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Technically though, serving God in the church and in all areas of our lives is an ideal response of gratitude to the gift of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. So since I didn't say it explicitly last month, Merry Christmas to everyone!

I want to shift gears and tell you a couple of useful pieces of information. One is that I will be doing a sermon series on the book of James beginning January 8th and going through February 12th. It is a challenging book. I look forward to studying it with you on Sunday mornings. Please read it ahead of time. It is only five chapters long.

The next thing I want to share is that we will be implementing a new way of taking attendance on Sundays during worship. "We take attendance in worship?" you may be asking. Well we've had "friendship folders" where we sign our name in the pad to let us know you were here and as a way of having visitors let us know they were in worship so we can follow up with them. This pad will be going away and replaced.

The new way we'll be doing this is with a "Communication Card" (See the example). It is more than just a way of taking attendance though. The communication card gathers several pieces of information and provides ways we can respond to the Scripture and worship service. It helps us record:

Contact information

Prayer requests-even if you've stated them during joys and concerns this ensures they get on the prayer list and allows you to put in the requests you'd rather not make public.

Memory verse or other action step in response to the Scripture reading and sermon.

Offers a way for worshipers to request information on how to join the church, how to become a follower of Jesus Christ, and any specific information on a mission or event taking place in the church at the time.

The change comes as part of a new focus on outreach ministry for the purposes of evangelism and gaining new members. We historically have had no clearly defined follow up plan for: having visitors return to worship, inviting people to follow Christ, and inviting people to join the church. This card and everyone participating in the use of it will help us remedy that situation.

The cards will be placed in bulletins every Sunday and will be filled out by members, regular attendees, as well as visitors and placed in the offering plate each Sunday. They will be sorted by the Outreach committee immediately following worship. It is important that members and regular attendees fill out the card to help demonstrate to visitors that they are not the only ones filling out the cards. This will also help keep track of folks who miss several Sundays so that we can check in on you and see if you are well. (continued on next page)

(Pastor's Page Continued)

Change is not usually welcome. However this change will help us improve our church in several key areas. It will help us build up the Body of Christ, improve communication, and ensure we are presenting the good news of salvation in an innovative (for us) way.

As one last piece of information, I want you to know that an Outreach committee has formed. It is a committee that has emerged from what was previously "Mission and Outreach." We're doing more mission work and now will be doing more outreach. It's exciting to see that this has happened. Good work folks!

We are asking people to serve on the newly formed Outreach committee who have a passion for furthering the Kingdom of God and who feel like we have work to do in making disciples of Jesus Christ. Is this your passion? I'd love to speak with you about it. Some of you will be asked to serve if we see that you have the gifts for this particular ministry. Thanks in advance for your help in adapting to the new way of doing things. God is at work among us and through us. Thank you Jesus and once again, Merry Christmas!

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

Adult Forum Topics for January

On **January 8th** (Baptism of the Lord Sunday) the topic is "Remember Your Baptism." How is the Lord's baptism an example for our own? What does baptism mean for each of us?

On **January 15th** Rev. McCormick will lead a one session study on "The Gift of Friendship." Is friendship a dying art? Loneliness and isolation continue to increase in our culture. Yet, Christian values of community should provide an alternative to lives lived in isolation. The Bible teaches much about relationships that can help us be loyal friends.

On **January 22nd** Rev. McCormick will lead a one session study on "God in the Bible" examining common themes in the Old and New Testaments related to God's relationship with humankind. This study will look at three of forty themes: God's sovereignty over all the peoples of the world, God's desire for justice in the world, and God's commitment to the health and well-being of the human family. Such themes suggest ways to address contemporary issues when there is no direct word to be found.

On **January 29th** there will be no Adult Forum because of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Start the New Year by meeting together in community to learn more about our faith with and from each other.

Men's Breakfast Meeting

The men's breakfast meeting has resumed meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant on N. Limestone Street.

Share Your Artwork and Craft Pieces

This is a call for artwork and craft pieces to be hung in the Family Room and Chapel. Please share your talents with your church family. Pieces should be ready to hang. Please share items such as: paintings, stitchery, stained glass, quilted designs, etc. If you have something to share please call Sharon Stout 325-2604 by January 31.

We all would appreciate being able to see the gifts you would like share.

AVM-Adult Visionary Ministry

The Adult Visionary Ministry (AVM) regrets to announce that they made a decision at their December board meeting to discontinue activities due to declining attendance.

JANUARY LECTIONARY READINGS



Sunday, January 1
1st Sunday after Christmas

Guest Worship Leader
Rev. Dave Girbert

Scripture Readings
Matthew 5:13-16
Galatians 5:22-25

Message
"Make This Your Intention"

Isaiah 61:10—62:3; *Psalm 148*;
Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Friday, 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 8

Baptism of the Lord

Genesis 1:1-5; *Psalm 29*
Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 15

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 22

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1-5,10; *Psalm 62:5-12*;
1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 29

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

ANNUAL REPORT DATES AND DEADLINES

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
The **deadline for individual committee reports** for the Annual Report will be **Monday, January 9, 2012.** We would like to have the report ready for people to pick up on Sunday, January 22nd, one week prior to the meeting.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 29th** 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 2012 per capita amount is \$25.38 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 2012

FUNERALS ARE FOR THE LIVING



In the summer of 2011, within a two month period, I lost my Dad and my sister to cancer. Dad died just five weeks after being diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer. My dear sister, Amy, fought an aggressive breast cancer for two years. Despite continuous and cutting edge treatment, the cancer spread to her lymph nodes, lungs and brain. She was 51.

My family found consolation in knowing that Dad was waiting with open arms to welcome Amy home. And that Dad would not have to endure, with us here, the devastation of losing Amy. None of us looked forward to the “wake/viewing/visitation” that would precede the funeral Mass. Somehow, baring our souls and exposing our grief in public felt very uncomfortable. But after both Dad’s and Amy’s visitation, we all agreed that “funerals are for the living.”

I saw my Mom stand taller and stronger with each hug she received. Her mood became less somber, at least for a while, as each friend and family member carried away a little bit of her pain. We knew that our Dad was the greatest guy ever, but learning that so many others thought so too was up-lifting. Hearing the old stories made us smile. And more than that, they were a lesson in integrity and loyalty for six young, adult grandsons who adored their Pappy.

Amy’s visitation was like a too-soon reunion. Again, many people came to honor Amy and share a story of her kindness and generosity. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. Despite her weakness, hair loss, weight loss, frequent nausea and prognosis, she never complained. She always presented with a smile, a spring in her step and a warm welcome. She rejoiced in feeling well enough to go to work. Her sense of humor was unflinching, even as she pointed out the many spots between the hospital and home where she’d “thrown up.” As if she now felt a bond to each place.

Again, we knew these things about Amy and her fight to live. But hearing how many people she touched along the way, helped us all understand that Amy had indeed been a very good disciple. The last time she attended Mass, she was so weak that she laid down on the pew. At her funeral Mass, her new, young pastor shared the impact that had on him.

If you are someone known to say, “I don’t want any wake/viewing/visitation when I die,” please, for the sake of your family, reconsider. Your family will benefit tremendously from those who come to honor your life and memory. When your soul leaves your body, it’s not about you anymore. It’s about the living.

Submitted by:
 Mary Caputo, RN
 St. Theresa Catholic Church

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

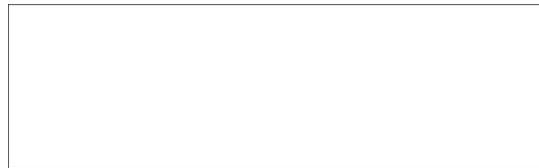
400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 1

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

Return Service Requested



January 2012

January 2	Office Closed
January 7	Pancake Breakfast
January 9	Deadline for Annual Report
January 16	Deadline for Newsletter
January 17	Session Meeting
January 28	Session Retreat
January 29	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 2012

Northminster Presbyterian Church

www.northminsterspringfield.org

office@northminsterspringfield.org



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 New Year's Day Blood Pressure Screening	2 Office Closed	3 7:00 Christian Ed.	4 5:15 Music/Worship 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth Group 7:15 Choir	5 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club	6	7 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
8	9 9:30 Young Woman's Mission 10:00 AVIM Board Deadline for Annual Report	10 6:30 Deacon Mtg. 7:00 Property Mtg.	11 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth Group 7:15 Choir	12	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Deadline for February Newsletter	17 7:00a.m. Men's Breakfast @ Perkins Restaurant 6:00 Finance 7:00 Session	18 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth Group 7:15 Choir	19	20	21 Clifton Ave. Church of God Breakfast/ Food Pantry
22	23 6:30 Remembrance Quilt Guild	24	25 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Equality Spfld. Youth Group 7:15 Choir	26	27	28 9 to 1 Session Retreat
29 Annual Congregational Meeting	30	31				