

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

JANUARY 2013

ISSUE 1

New Year's Message FROM THE PASTOR

Fresh and Clean As a Whistle

- ¹⁶ Wash yourselves; make
yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
¹⁷ learn to do good;
seek justice,
rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
plead for the widow.
- ¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out,
says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
- ¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;

- Isaiah 1:16-19

I used to make a decent amount of money detailing cars. By decent I mean \$60.00 for two hours of work. My boss at the gas station where I worked made fun of me for detailing the cars for such a small sum.

"They charge a minimum of \$100.00 at Ziebart," he chided.

"Well you're the one paying \$40.00 more for a job I could do for less," I thought.

I didn't say that because even though it was only work at a gas station it was my primary source of income at the time. I didn't point out that most people don't own two gas station franchises and have \$100.00 of luxury income to spend on a car detailing.

(continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

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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

(New Year's Message from the Pastor, continued)

I loved maintaining a clean car. Earning money to do something I loved was a joy. I didn't take a ton of time on my first car even though it was a yellow 'Vette. It's because it was a Chevette, not a CORvette. It boasted 72hp and the patented uni-speak stereo system. The uni-speak consisted of one 4X6 speaker in the top center part of the front dash. Think hidden transistor radio.

It wasn't until I got a 1989 Chevy Cavalier though that I detailed cars with passion. I treated that car as though it were a Ferrari. I kept it spotless. I would slow down when I saw even a trickle of water from a hose in the road so that it wouldn't splatter on the wax finish I spent so much time on that day. Yeah I was THAT guy.

I remember once a woman I was dating rolled down the window of a car I had just washed and I got annoyed because I had to get out and dry the window again. There's a song called "Johnny's Camaro" by David Wilcox that takes on this issue quite well. I invite you to search for it on Google and give it a listen.

After children, and full-time employment, my car cleaning habits have changed radically. I'm lucky to get the Happy Meal residue out from under my seats once every three months. The car I drive now smells like sweat and stale French fries. This is an upgrade from when our youngest daughter had spilled milk from a sippy cup on the back seat when she was three. I have black interior so we found out about it only after the car was filled with the pungent smell of curdled milk. On the bright side Sarah and I got to play our favorite game named by Dave Attell "Find the Smell."

I realized, after becoming a father and husband, that no matter how hard I try or tried to keep blemishes, lint, water spots, bird bombs, and smells off of or out of my car that keeping it perfect was impossible. So I stress less about it being immaculate.

The same is true of human behavior. No matter how hard we try to be perfect it isn't possible. As Christians we believe we, along with all of humanity, are sinful no matter what. Sin simply defined is any thought, word, or deed that breaks right relationship with God, self, others, or creation. Right relationship is a relationship centered on the love of God and involves a healthy exchange of God's love. Defining love here is just as impossible as trying to keep a car perfectly clean. Read 1 Corinthians 13 for a decent start. Let's get back to my point.

If we are not in right relationship with our selves it is sinful. If we are not in right relationship with God it is sinful. The same is true for relationships with others and creation as well. The dilemma is that we aren't *capable* of living in right relationships on our own. It requires the perfect love of God. No matter how hard we try to scrub away those parts of us that make us difficult to love, no matter how much shine we try to put on our behaviors, we still need the only thing that can cleanse our hearts and minds, the Grace of God. We are saved by Grace, through faith in Jesus Christ so that no one can boast that we have achieved or earned our salvation. That Grace of God is the limitless love and forgiveness given freely to all of humanity. We can't earn it no matter how much attention to detail we spend on our behavior.

When God gives us this Grace we are invited to accept it and share the good news of it with others. This can't happen if we pretend to live a perfect life. If we put on a show of our faith, or take great care in appearing as perfect as we can on the outside when all the while our inside has not been cleaned by the love of God, then our lives are not an authentic representation of Christianity and what it means to be human.

I'm grateful God gives us this perfect unconditional, unearned love. Spit shining a soul would take FOREVER. The Isaiah text above tells us God does it for us. We are invited to examine our behavior honestly and seek how well we can treat the most vulnerable and how God's love transforms the way we behave. Ultimately, God redeems and makes up the difference between our ideal selves and our actual selves. What a gift!

If you want to have some fun I invite you to go to Advance Auto Parts and ask, "Could you tell me where I can find soul wax? Yeah I want water to bead up on my spirit."

"Do you have Armor All I can spray on my conscience? I like it to have a really clear coated conscience."

Don't really do that. You could get carried away in a nice shiny ambulance to a local mental health facility. Happy New Year! Here's to the saving Grace of Jesus Christ our Lord and prayers that God's Grace will make 2013 a year to remember.

Dwight

Happy Birthday to:

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <i>LeaAnn Hoefler</i> | January 2 |
| <i>Denise Molnar</i> | January 4 |
| <i>Doris De Mers</i> | January 5 |
| <i>Norine Kmett</i> | January 5 |
| <i>Gary Molnar</i> | January 7 |
| <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 |

Presbyterian Women News

The P.W. Board will meet on Monday, January 7, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

Women's circle meetings will resume in February.

The next meeting for Esther Circle will be Monday, February 11th at 7:15 p.m. at the church.

The next meeting for Ruth Circle will be Thursday, February 14th at 11:00 a.m. at the church.

Watch the weekly bulletin announcements and the newsletter for a start up date for the bazaar workshop.

**ANNUAL REPORT
DATES AND DEADLINES**

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The **deadline for individual committee reports** for the Annual Report will be **Monday, January 7, 2013**. We would like to have the report ready for people to pick up on Sunday, January 20th, one week prior to the meeting.

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 27th** 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 2013 per capita amount is \$26.55 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.



The Greatness of Serving with Love



GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

“Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't need to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
via Lois Ward
Longmont, CO

The Joyful Noiseletter, Jan. 2010

GOD IS LIKE:

Bayer Aspirin

He works miracles

A Ford

He's got a better idea

Coke

He's the real thing

Hallmark

He cares enough to send the very best

Tide

He gets the stains out others leave behind

General Electric

He brings good things to life

Wal-Mart

He has everything

Alka-Seltzer

Try Him— you'll like Him

Scotch Tape

You can't see Him but you know He is there

Delta

He's ready when you are

All-State

You're in good hands with Him

State Farm

Like a good neighbor, He is there

VO-5 Hair Spray

He holds through all kinds of weather

Dial Soap

Aren't you glad you have Him?
Don't you wish everybody did?

The U.S. Postal Service

Neither rain, snow, sleet, or ice will keep
Him from His appointed destination

Chevrolet

The heart beat of America

Maxwell House

Good to the very last drop

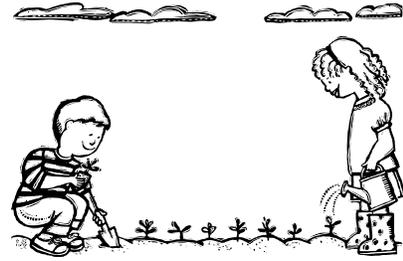
Bounty

He is the quicker picker-upper
Can handle tough jobs
And He won't fall apart on you

The Energizer Bunny

He keeps going, and going, and going

ADVICE to START the NEW YEAR



For the garden in your daily living, plant three rows of peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

To conclude your garden, we must have thyme:

1. Time for each other
2. Time for family
3. Time for friends

*Water freely with patience
and
cultivate with love.*

**Listen
Hear
Understand
Grow**

HEALTH NEWS
from the Parish Nurse . . . Nancy Jean Graves
January 2013
WHY AM I SHAKING?

The most common movement disorder, affecting an estimated five million in the U.S. is Essential Tremor (ET). One in 20 people over the age of 40 and one in 5 over 65 have ET. It is a nerve disorder characterized by uncontrollable shaking, or “tremors” in different parts or sides of the body. Often it includes the hands, arms, head, voice, tongue and chin. It is not life-threatening, unless it prevents a person from caring for themselves. Most people live normal lives with this condition, although they may find everyday activities like eating, dressing, or writing difficult. If the tremors become severe, they may cause disability.

The cause of ET is not understood, but it is thought that the abnormal brain activity that causes tremor is processed through the thalamus--a structure deep in the brain.

Genetics is responsible for causing ET in half of all those with the condition. Although ET is more common in the elderly, and symptoms become more pronounced with age, it is not a part of the natural aging process.

Primary symptoms are: 1) Uncontrollable shaking that occurs for brief periods of time. 2) Shaking voice. 3) Nodding head. 4) Tremors that worsen during periods of emotional stress. 5) Tremors that get worse with purposeful movement. 6) Tremors that lessen with rest. Many different factors or diseases can also cause tremors, including Parkinson’s disease, multiple sclerosis, fatigue after exercise, extreme emotional distress, brain tumors, some drugs, metabolic abnormalities, and alcohol or drug withdrawal.

It is important to see your physician at the onset of tremor activity. Although there is no specific drug for ET, several cardiac drugs have proven to lessen tremor activity. Tremadone (made of herbal extracts and vitamins) is designed for tremor patients and available on line.

From: Everyday health.com

*Submitted by: Patricia Fairbanks, RN
St. Bernard Catholic Church*

ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

Beginning Sunday, January 6, 2013 the Adult Forum will begin a six week study titled
“The Great Ends of the Church.”

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 6 | <i>Proclamation of the Gospel for the Salvation of Humankind</i> Leaders: Kevin Creager and Jim Cutler |
| January 13 | <i>Shelter, Nurture, and Spiritual Fellowship of the Children of God</i> Leaders: Susan Dersch & Terry Rigio |
| January 20 | <i>Maintenance of Divine Worship</i> Leaders: Jim Griffin & Don Hughes |
| January 27 | <i>Preservation of the Truth</i> Leaders: Rev. McCormick & Lois Shroyer |
| February 3 | <i>Promotion of Social Righteousness</i> Leaders: Diana Schneider & Bob Triebelhorn |
| February 10 | <i>Exhibition of the Kingdom of God to the World</i> Leaders: Bill Carpenter & Denise Molnar |

January 2013

Northminster Presbyterian Church

www.northminsterspringfield.org

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | 1  | 2 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir | 3 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club | 4 | 5 8:00 Pancake Breakfast |
| 6 Epiphany of the Lord Blood Pressure Screening | 7 9:30 YWM 10:00 PW Board Deadline for Annual Report | 8 7:00 Property Mtg. | 9 5:00 Music/Worship 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir | 10 6:30 Mission Cmte. | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 6:30 Deacon Mtg. | 15 7a Men's Breakfast 7p Session Meeting | 16 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir | 17 | 18 | 19 Clifton Ave. Breakfast/Food Pantry |
| 20 | 21 Newsletter Deadline Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | 22 | 23 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 Annual Congregational Meeting | 28 6:30 Remembrance Quilt Guild | 29 | 30 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir | 31 |  | |

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 1

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Return Service Requested



January 2013

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| January 1 | New Year's Day—Office Closed |
| January 5 | Pancake Breakfast |
| January 7 | Deadline for Annual Report |
| January 15 | Session Meeting |
| | Men's Breakfast @ Perkins |
| January 19 | Clifton Avenue Breakfast |
| January 21 | Deadline for Newsletter |
| | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| January 27 | 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*

NORTHMINSTER'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

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