

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

DECEMBER 2014

ISSUE 8



The week of November 10th through November 17th I got to attend a program called Credo with 40 other Presbyterian Church USA pastors. It took place at Mo Ranch in Texas. Mo Ranch is a Presbyterian owned retreat center located a little over 90 miles northwest of San Antonio.

The event was based on an Episcopal Church program of the same name, Credo. The program was adapted for our denomination's use and paid for by the Board of Pensions of the PC(USA). The Board of Pensions has an investment in pastors being as healthy as we can be. The healthier we are, the better equipped to serve God alongside our brothers and sisters in Christ. The healthier we are, the higher the chances that the congregations we serve will remain healthy or work toward better health.

Credo means "This I believe". An expanded definition used for Credo was "This I give my heart to". Grammatical errors aside, the definition effectively framed the experience. The week of work at Credo helped us identify our original calls into ministry and to what and to whom we've given our hearts to in response to the call into parish ministry. Credo helped us examine not only our relationship with Jesus Christ, but also the relationships we have with our family, our selves and with our congregations. The work we did there was discernment and a work of the Holy Spirit. I am thankful to the session for granting me the time to go and participate in the work at Mo Ranch. I look forward to continuing the work here at Northminster.

As preparation for the time at Mo Ranch, we (all of the pastors that attended) completed surveys, engaged in prayer, and did reading in the weeks leading up to the event. Some colleagues and parishioners offered feedback on their experience of my ministry with Northminster and in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. The homework was intended to offer a profile and an opportunity for self-reflection on our lives in areas of our spiritual, emotional, financial, and physical health. A faculty was composed of people assigned to each of those areas of focus.

(continued on following page)



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

Emily Aldinger	Office Manager
Julie Griffin	Financial Secretary
Bill Harrison	Treasurer
Greg Veith	Custodian
Mike Ahern	Music Director
Jim Townsend	Choir Director
Joan Generous June Hughes	Presbyterian Women
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
Emily Aldinger, Newsletter Editor

Credo faculty included: a pastor/spiritual director serving a congregation in Marin County California (Anne Lamotte's pastor), a retired pastor who grew up with a love for sailing (but didn't serve a church in Springfield OH), a career consultant from Indianapolis, a psychologist from New Mexico, a Board of Pensions retirement planner, a CPA who happens to be married to a PC (USA) pastor, and a physician (from nearby Hilliard, OH). Each one provided us with plenary sessions, individual meetings, and specialized workshops. This particular team of faculty has led multiple Credos together. There are different faculty teams and different retreat centers that host Credo year round. The goal is to help the health of as many pastors and indirectly the health of as many congregations as possible.

One example of a workshop in the areas of physical and spiritual health was a meal we shared to teach us "Eating as a spiritual discipline". Hint: gorging on a fast food burger while driving, eating food over a sink, or while standing was not involved. All 41 pastors sat down at tables of 7 or 8 folks and we were walked through the meal using prayer to set a tone of thanks, and being mindful of the smell, the texture, and the taste of our food. One significant part of the meal was the savoring of the food. Before you say "We sent him to Texas to learn to eat slowly!?!?" please know that this was one piece of a larger and intricate program.

Another example of a fun workshop was playing together by creating art projects that represented our experience of baptism. Imagine a room full of clergy with tables full of art supplies typically set aside for first through fifth graders and The Little River Band playing in the background. One pastor at my table of four candidly admitted to us "I could not possibly be any more uncomfortable than I am right now in this moment". The laughter that ensued helped ease his tension and create a joyful time even for him. Again, you didn't send me to Texas to make finger paintings and learn to eat slowly. It was all part of the process.

For me the highlight of the conference was worship. We worshiped together three times a day. The services were 30 minutes to an hour long. We heard the Scriptures read. We sang many songs from the new Presbyterian hymnal. We prayed the liturgy together, shared the Lord's Supper, reaffirmed our baptismal vows, and got anointed with oil. We had a Taizé service where we worshiped by candlelight and sang chants. We heard great preaching from the faculty at two of the three worship services each day. It was glorious. Pastors are worship nerds in case you hadn't picked up on that.

The workshops, the plenary sessions, the small groups, the worship, the play was all work of the Holy Spirit to give us discernment to decide what was next in our lives. By using the week of activities as well as the work we did ahead of time we formulated a plan for our lives as pastors, parents, and spouses from this point forward. You know, small stuff. The plan was appropriately called a Credo plan. The idea was to outline no more than three broad goals for our lives. Under each goal we were to list specific steps aimed at improving financial, spiritual, emotional, and physical health. Upon returning to our ministry context we were told to gradually implement the plan and work to achieve the goals we had articulated.

Gradually my goals and plan will be shared with the session. The aim is to plan not only for my life, but also for our lives together in ministry at Northminster. Credo staff cautioned against coming back into our families and ministry settings and dumping the plan onto folks all at once. Modifying behavior patterns takes intentional work over time. One specific piece of information I will share with you now is that I feel affirmed in my call to serve as your pastor at Northminster Presbyterian. I am thankful to be with you in Springfield, and look forward to how God unfolds our plans to serve in the name of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I pray the Holy Spirit leads us into a fruitful and creative ministry with one another and that we will develop our own discipleship, and make disciples as we follow The Way of Jesus Christ.

In Christ,
Dwight

Session Highlights

The Session met in stated meeting September 16 and October 21, 2014. Rev. Dwight McCormick opened the meetings at 7:00 PM, with prayer.

Pastor's Report: Rev. McCormick reported that he would be out of town November 10 through 18 attending *Credo*, a continuing education/professional development event sponsored by the Board of Pensions.

Finance Committee: The financial report and balance sheet through September was distributed. Total income through September was \$132,669, and total expenses were \$151,405, producing a deficit of \$18,736.

Property Committee: Elder Robert Triebelhorn reported:

Session approved a motion to proceed with sealing and striping the parking lot by either W.A. Stevens or Par Inc. Asphalt Maintenance and Marking for approximately \$5500.

Sterling Restoration LLC will begin work the week of September 22nd on the canopy over the front church entrance. The work will cost about \$5500 and was approved by session at the May 27, 2014 meeting.

The major repair work in the sanctuary cannot be completed before winter. Session approved (at a cost of \$3270) the placement of two support posts in the sanctuary to stabilize the weakened beam until work can resume in the spring. On motion from the committee, session approved leaving the posts unpainted.

Mission Committee: on motions from the committee, session approved:

Receiving the Peace and Global Witness Offering on October 5th and giving Northminster's portion of the offering to the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

Repeating the Secret Santa for Forest Glen assisted living residents. Holding special Advent collections for Interfaith Hospitality and/or Project Woman.

Receiving the denomination-wide Christmas Joy Offering on December 21st.

Repeating the shoe collection to benefit the WaterStep mission in 2015.

The next stated meeting of Session is December 9, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

Property Committee Report 11/17/2014

We have had a busy summer and fall with the lights, doors and locks; the cracks and soft spots in the parking lot; the drains in the rear of the church; the furniture in the family room; the bridge; and yet to come the roof and windows over the sanctuary. However, the roof, windows, and sealing of the parking lot will not be done until spring or early summer due to the cold weather and snow in winter. There are always items that need to be fixed, but when the roof and windows are completed, we should be in fairly good shape. Thank you all for your patience, feedback and understanding through all of this.

Robert Triebelhorn

Property Committee Chair

Northminster's Purpose Statement

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

"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; the spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love."

-Ada V. Hendricks

*The Joyful Noiseletter
Nov.-Dec. 2014*



Happy Birthday to:

Terry Dersch	December 1
Joshilyn Hoefler	December 2
Janet Hooper	December 2
Sally Asper	December 5
Andy Barga	December 12
Nancy Baker	December 14
Elisia Taylor	December 17
Stella Spriggs	December 18
Terry Rigio	December 27
Betty Rower	December 27
Larry Hines	December 31

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



PW Christmas Dinner
Friday, December 5th
6:00 PM Potluck Style Dinner
PW Will Furnish:
Ham, Rolls, Beverages
Please Bring a Side Dish to Share:
Those with last names beginning with
A-G – Vegetable; H-N – Salad; O-Z – Dessert
Entertainment provided by:
The Vintage Singers (that includes some of our members!)

Everyone is invited! Please feel free to bring family and friends to join in the fellowship!

Missed the Bazaar? No problem! There will be some leftover Bazaar items available for sale at the PW Christmas Dinner.

ESTHER CIRCLE

Meets 2nd Monday

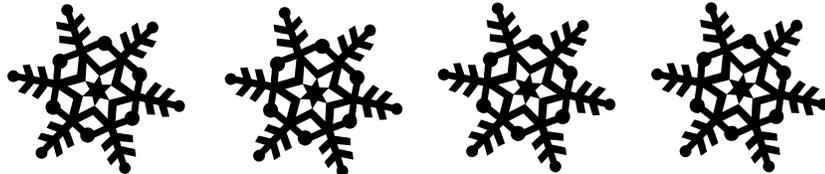
Leader: Cindy Chesnut

Treasurer: Anne Hines

Esther Circle will meet on **Monday, December 8th** at

6:00 p.m

at Lee Jordan's house for a Christmas supper and gift exchange.



Next P.W.
Board Meeting
Monday
December 1st
10 AM

RUTH CIRCLE

Meets 2nd Thursday

Leader: Joyce Carpenter

Secretary: June Hughes

Treasurer: Joan Garrett

Ruth Circle will not meet in December or January. **The next meeting will take place in February.**

New Office Manager!

My name is Emily Aldinger, and I will be serving as Northminster's new office manager. Most of you know me, but for those of you who don't I would like to introduce myself a little. I'm a born and raised Springfield resident, and I have been coming to Northminster my entire life.

I am a Bell choir member, and secretary of the Deacons. I am a graduate of Northwestern High School and Muskingum University. In addition to being office manager, I also hold a part-time position at Target.

I am very excited to begin this new adventure as your office manager! Thank you to everyone for their well-wishes and kind words. I also thank you for your patience as I settle into the job.

Additionally, the new church office hours are Monday-Friday from 9 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Thank you!

Emily



Outreach News:

There are 2015 calendars for new members available on the visitors table in the Family Room. Feel free to grab one!

Thank you,

Judy Heaton

Outreach Committee
Chair

Secret Santa for Forest Glen Assisted Living Residents December 11th ~ 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Do you have items around the house with the tags still on that you are not planning to use? Or do you have "like new" items that you are willing to part with? Would you like to help some senior citizens who cannot get out and about?

We are holding a Secret Santa shop for the residents at Forest Glen who are unable to get out to do any Christmas shopping but would like to give a gift to a friend or family member. For ideas for items you might like to donate, please see the list below. If you don't have items to donate but would like to make a financial donation, that would also be appreciated. It would be used to purchase Christmas wrappings and tags for the shop. This is such a simple mission but easy to complete. Serving this generation is very rewarding.

If you would like to help at the Christmas Shop on December 11, please call Sara Arnott at 629-0208. There will be a box in the Narthex the next 3 Sundays to collect your items. Thank you.

Ideas for items you might have on hand or could purchase at the Dollar Tree:

Women's scarves, gloves, jewelry
Jigsaw Puzzles
Sudoku, crossword, and puzzle books
Lotions, creams
Men's socks, ties, gloves
Children's books and DVD's
Boxed candies such as Thin Mints and Cherry Cordials (Dollar Tree)
Small guest towels or kitchen towels



News from the Mission Committee

Peacemaking Offering

The Peacemaking Offering works around the world to transform cultures of violence into communities of peace. Thank you for your gift of \$577.00. Twenty-five percent of all gifts made are kept by the congregation to promote peace in our own community. This year \$144.25 will be given to Interfaith Hospitality Network who help the homeless of Springfield and Clark County.

Shoe Drive Update!

Thank you for your shoes! Your participation in our shoe drive helped us gather 3,114 pounds to donate to WaterStep! That's amazing! Jennifer Poe, who coordinates WaterStep's Shoe Program was thrilled with the amount collected. In her words: "WOWZA!! You guys rock!!" WaterStep will sell these shoes to an exporter by weight with the price paid per pounds based on the market value depending on the condition of the shoes. Those shoes that cannot be re-worn will be recycled. While we cannot know the cash value of this donation, the funds will be used to support WaterStep's operation, from funding the trips to those places in need of clean water, to installing water purifiers, to training volunteers and local residents. The funds will be used where they are needed most. We hope you will help us again next year when we will do a second shoe drive.



Haiti Mission Trip Planned

The Honey Creek Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle is announcing a June 2015 Haiti Mission Trip. It is to be spent helping special needs children participate in a day at the beach and visiting PCUSA mission sites and learning about what our denomination is doing in the region. ***If you are interested in making the trip, please call Rev. Shelley Wiley, pastor at Honey Creek Church ASAP at 845-1298 or email her at scwiley@aol.com.*** She is making plans now and needs to hear from those interested soon.

Ongoing Mission Projects:

Project Woman: A box for donations is in the Family Room with a list of items needed. Also they are now accepting the sample products found in motel rooms. This is an important organization dedicated to ending domestic violence and sexual assault by providing services and programs to protect, educate, and empower women.

Box Tops for Education and Labels for Education: These are fun and easy programs where we can work together to help "earn free stuff" for our local schools! There are envelopes to collect your box tops and labels posted on the bulletin boards in the Narthex. Periodically, Carol Emerich takes care of getting these items to Pastor Green, a coordinator for the program in Springfield.

ADVENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES



The Christmas Joy Offering

This offering provides assistance for those who have dedicated their lives to the service of the church and also supports leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. You will be learning more about this offering in the coming weeks. This Joy Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 21st.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS!

December 14th
December 21st

Toilet tissue for Interfaith Hospitality Network will be collected
Facial tissue (Kleenex) for Project Woman will be collected

May you celebrate the joy of Christmas this Advent season by taking part in some of our church mission opportunities.

Sara Arnott
Mission Committee

C.A.F.E.
Coffee and Fellowship Express
A Mission of Our Church
Guidelines and Information about Hosting Café'

Café preparation starts at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday. Plug in the coffee maker and prepare the Café for choir members who arrive about 9:00 a.m. They may want a cup of coffee. Instructions for the coffee maker are posted on the wall next to the coffee maker in the kitchen.

Put out juices and milk for the children. Have finger foods such as cheese cubes, crackers, donuts, cookies, seedless grapes, raisins, sliced apples, sliced pineapple, orange slices, nuts, or other fruits in season. There are trays, plates, and baskets for your use or you may use your own. Tablecloths are available also. The cost of the food is about \$20.

Have a basket for donations. You may use the donations to offset the cost of the Café or you may turn them in to the office as a donation. Put in an envelope and mark it CAFÉ.

If you use the church's items, please wash and them put away. The tablecloth should be washed and returned.

At the end of Café, please rinse out all of the coffee utensils and put away.

For additional information or questions, please contact Tom Stout, Café Coordinator.

Thank you!

Preliminary Result from Pledges:

The final tally is not yet available but 49% of givers increased their pledge from last year. Wow!!

Julie Griffin

Financial Secretary



Help!!

Our kitchen is accumulating many random items on the counters: cups, cards, Tupperware, etc.

Please pay a visit to the kitchen to see if any of them are yours, and take them with you. Thank you.



MUSIC and WORSHIP SCHEDULE for DECEMBER



HANGING of the GREENS ~ Sunday, November 30th

Hanging of the Greens will be **Sunday, November 30th!** We hope you will plan to stay after church to help decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas season.

There is a sign up sheet in the Family Room for those willing to help, and those willing to provide a light lunch and/or snack for those who are staying.

Please plan to help decorate Northminster for the season and enjoy some holiday fellowship.

A Christmas Pageant and Caroling Party Sunday, December 21st

The children of our church will present a Christmas Pageant during worship on Sunday, **December 21st.** This pageant has become a Northminster tradition that you won't want to miss!



After the Christmas Pageant, the Music and Worship Committee invites you to come caroling with us to help spread the joy of Christmas. Mike and Jim will lead us as we carol at nearby nursing homes. We'll meet after the Christmas brunch in the Family Room, and be on our way. We should be finished no later than 1:30. We hope you will join us!

Deacons' Brunch December 14th

The Northminster Deacons will be hosting a brunch on December 14th following worship. The brunch will include French toast, scrambled eggs, and sausage. All food will be provided by the Deacons. Please plan to join us for food and fellowship!



Christmas Eve Worship Service Wednesday, December 24th ~ 6PM

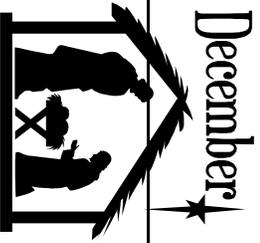
Come worship with us on Christmas Eve at 6PM to celebrate the birth of our Savior with a Service of Lessons and Carols.

Join you voice with ours as we sing Christmas Carols and tell 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.

December 2014

Northminster Presbyterian Church ~ Springfield Ohio

www.northminsterspringfield.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:30 a.m. Young Women's Mission 10:00 a.m. PW Board Meeting	2	3 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Choir	4	5 6:00 p.m. PW Christmas Dinner	6 8 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
7 <i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> Blood Pressure Screening	8 6:30 p.m. Esther Circle	9 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting	10 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Choir	11	12	13 Clifton Avenue Breakfast
14 <i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> Communion Deacon's Brunch	15 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	16	17 6:00 pm. Bell Choir 7:15 p.m. Choir	18	19	20
21 <i>Fourth Sunday Advent</i> Christmas Joy Offering Children's Pageant Caroling	22	23	24 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 	26 Office Closed	27 
28	29	30	31			

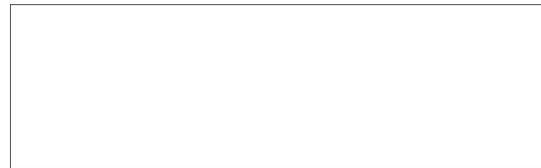
**NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT

Issue 8



December 2014

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 5 | PW Christmas Dinner 6PM |
| December 6 | Pancake Breakfast |
| December 7 | 2nd Sunday of Advent |
| | Blood Pressure Screening |
| December 9 | Session Meeting |
| December 11 | Christmas Shop @ Forest Glen |
| December 13 | Clifton Ave. Breakfast |
| December 14 | 3rd Sunday of Advent |
| | Communion |
| | Deacons' Brunch |
| December 21 | 4th Sunday of Advent |
| | Children's Pageant & Caroling |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Worship 6 PM |
| December 25 | Christmas Day—Office Closed |
| December 26 | 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