

# THE NORTHERN LIGHT

MARCH 2014

ISSUE 3

## *A Word from the Pastor . . .*

I know a little girl who when she was four years old used to refer to vacation Bible school as "acation B Bible school". That little girl may or may not have been a daughter of mine. Her mispronunciation of vacation Bible school was a cute variation to me and to Sarah as well. We still talk about it every year we have a vacation Bible school (which to our daughter's relief has only been once in the last 7 years of our service at Northminster). There are some good memories associated with the years of participation in the VBS programs we enjoyed prior to answering the call to serve in Springfield. VBS is a wonderful tool for teaching Bible stories and biblical ethics to young children that will stick with them for years to come. Therefore, I am thankful that we are going to host vacation Bible school at Northminster this summer. It is several months away, but we are planning ahead to get all of the volunteers we can in place.

The last VBS was well done through the planning of the youth at church. The youth along with several volunteers helped to get our feet wet in holding VBS for the first time in what we think is a couple of decades. They held the program the summer before last. We learned that planning further in advance would help the overall process. So we find ourselves speaking about VBS in March.

This year our Christian Education Committee has taken on the project along with the assistance of Covenant Presbyterian Church and their Christian Educator, Tyra Jackson. With Northminster in the lead we will coordinate a creative and appealing program for children 5 (or nearly 5) through fifth grade.

The VBS will take place June 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> from 6PM-8:30PM. If you have attended worship within the last month you have seen the volunteer sign up sheets for the VBS. We have had good response on several fronts with the exception of people who will teach the classes. I want to invite you to consider teaching a class. All of the lessons will be provided to you well ahead of time, and you will be helping shape the faith of a young person in the name of the Kingdom of God. You will be rewarded in the knowledge that you have helped educate someone about the love of God in a fun and exciting way.

Please contact either Terry Rigio 325-7406 or Lois Shroyer 399-7701 from our Christian Education Committee to share your interest in helping to make the event a success. I look forward to telling stories to the children at the beginning of the evening each night and learning the Bible school songs that make "acation B Bible school" special. I can't wait!



*"The LORD is  
my light and  
my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?"*

**PSALM 27:1, NRSV**

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

400 Villa Road

Springfield, Ohio 45503

PHONE: (937) 399-0838

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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
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

Deana Knotts, Newsletter Editor

**MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 2**

*Transfiguration of the Lord*

*Communion*

Exodus 24:12-18; *Psalm 2* or *Psalm 99*

2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**

*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, MARCH 9**

*1st Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; *Psalm 32*

Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

*2nd Sunday in Lent*

Genesis 12:1-4a; *Psalm 121*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23**

*3rd Sunday in Lent*

Exodus 17:1-7; *Psalm 95*

Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30**

*4th Sunday in Lent*

1 Samuel 16:1-13; *Psalm 23*

Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

**LITURGIST FOR MARCH**

Susan Dersch

**GREETERS**

March 2	Gail Davis	Dick White
March 9	Bill Benston	Barbara Benston
March 16	Judy Heaton	Chuck Vanarsdall
March 23	Eileen Reeves	Gini Collins
March 30	Lee Jordan	Nancy Baker

**USHERS**

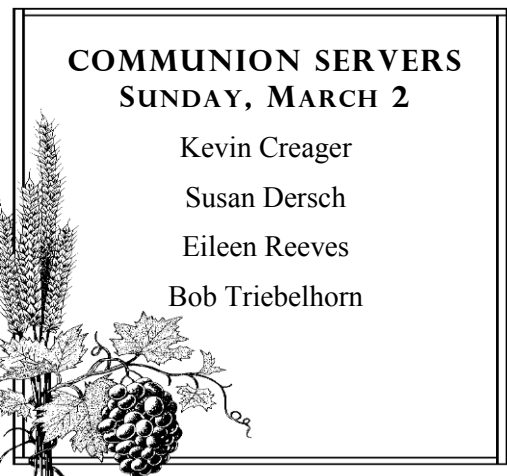
March 2	Hoefler	Hoefler
March 9	Carol Emerich	John Emerich
March 16	Ruth George	Bob Triebelhorn
March 23	Chuck Vanarsdall	Linda Vanarsdall
March 30	Barbara Benston	Bill Benston

**C.A.F.E.**

(Coffee and Fellowship Express)

March 2	Judy Heaton	Susan Dersch
March 9	Eileen Reeves	
March 16	Mary Green	Irene Hughes
March 23	(Open)	
March 30	(Open)	

*Open spaces still need to be filled—  
please consider serving on one of these Sundays!  
Sign-up sheets are located on the  
information table outside the sanctuary doors.*



# 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



## RUTH CIRCLE

Ruth Circle will meet at the church on **Thursday, March 13** at 11:00 a.m. Hostesses will be Joan Generous and Ruth Martin. Bring a sandwich for lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

## BAZAAR WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars! The **Bazaar Workshop** resumes meeting (weather permitting) on Tuesday mornings beginning **March 4th** at 9AM in the lower level community room. Questions: call Joan Generous at 969-8130. *New ideas and new helpers are welcome !*

**NEXT P.W. BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 3  
10:00 AM**

## PW SPRING DINNER – April 25th

PW will host a spring dinner on Friday, April 25th at 6PM at the church. The dinner will be potluck style with PW providing the meat and the beverages. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share. Entertainment will be provided by The Springfield Dulcimer Club. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the family room closer to the date of the event.

She is clothed with strength and dignity,  
and she laughs without fear of the future.  
Proverbs 31:25

~ ~ ~

*A Special Invitation  
to all Women of the Church*

## Esther Circle Meeting

*Monday, March 10, 2014  
6:30 p.m. @ Northminster*

### **Program: The Celebration of Purim**

By: Diana Schneider

A sign-up sheet will be  
posted in the family room.

**Hostesses:  
Emily Spriggs & Marge Stumpf**



**You're Invited!**

## AMBUSHING THE JOY SUCKERS

### Memoirs of a humorist with a moral perspective

(*Joyful Noiseletter* consulting editor Phil Callaway, who lives in Three Hills, AB, Canada, is one of the best Christian humorists on the North American continent—a humorist with a moral perspective. Here are excerpts from his rib-tickling new book *When You Need a Good Laugh*. ©2013 by Phil Callaway. Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR. Used by permission.)

#### By Phil Callaway

I once asked the famous author and radio preacher Chuck Swindoll what he takes the most flack for. “Humor,” he said. Though many tell him that his laugh is the only one they hear in the their homes, others want him to stop.

“How do you deal with their jabs?” I asked. “Some people want you to be as miserable as they are,” he responded, “and I’m not getting on that bus. Amen! The trips seem never-ending when we travel with the self-appointed guardians of misery.

**Have you met sour people whose faces are cemented in a downward scowl? Genetics didn’t help them, but chances are they’ve been sampling at least one of the following forbidden prunes.**

Do you ever worry? I do. I worry about potholes, cell phone radiation, oversleeping, and getting frisked at airports. You say, “Don’t worry. Be happy.” I say, “Are you crazy? There’s so much to worry about nowadays.” Take e-mail. Please take it. I’ve had enough. Here’s information I’ve found in my e-mail inbox alerting me to emergencies I had no idea I needed to worry about:

- KFC chickens are mutants.
- Cold water causes cancer.
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers contain formaldehyde.
- If you go to sleep at a party, you could wake up without a kidney.
- Shop at a mall, and you may be drugged with a perfume sample.
- Never pick up a five dollar bill in a parking lot. Someone might be lurking beneath your car to grab your leg.

We all know that worry is like a porch swing. It gives you something to do but never takes you anywhere. Still we worry about being

underpaid, overtaxed, and underappreciated.

If chronic worry is pulverizing your complexion and ulcerizing your kidneys, the cure is closer than you think. Don’t skim over this. Read it slowly. It has the power to change your life. Ready?

### Don’t worry—pray!

“Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down” (Philippians 4:6-7).

**Each time worry arrives, show it through the door of prayer. The more we pray, the less we panic.**

Feed your mind on things that are honorable, pure, lovely, and of good report. They’re seldom in the newspaper or on TV. They are waiting to be discovered in the pages of good books and the words of good friends.

### A habit of rejoicing

Default to rejoicing at every opportunity, and your life will be transformed. No lie. You’ll find that the God who has shown up for saints throughout history is not about to abandon you.

**So rejoice, relax, and reflect on God’s goodness. Hang out with positive people. Read that book of cartoons. Loosen your tie. Hug a friend’s Chihuahua. Share a joke with a friend. Lighten up and laugh.**

### The paranoid society

There are benefits to paranoia. These include high blood pressure, irritability, itchininess, heartburn, late nights, and gas. Has any culture experienced more paranoia than ours? The e-mails keep arriving:

- Never combine shrimp with vitamin C. This causes death.
- The bottom of a woman’s purse has more bacteria than a toilet seat.
- Avoid sitting on hotel bedspreads.
- Don’t open a public bathroom door without using a paper towel.
- Hold your cell phone only to the left ear. Right ear usage directly affects the brain.

This reminds me of the answering machine message: “If you are paranoid, stay on the line. We’re tracing the call.”

We fear that next round of layoffs. Terror-

ism. The future. Loneliness. Flying. Death.

**But fear gives small things big shadows. It chokes courage, stunts joy, clamps us in a headlock, and gives us noogies.**

### Bitterness imprisons

Life offers plenty of opportunity to court bitterness. But for every day you are bitter, you lose 24 hours of joy. And soon you’ll hear the sucking sound of laughter draining from your life.

As with worry, there’s a cure, of course. It will take an act of the will, but even more, an act of love. Here it is: “Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31-32).

**Bitterness does three things to you. It claps you in irons, cements your frown, and contradicts the behavior God showed you.**

How can a bitter person pray honestly, “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors?” Tim Keller is right: “An unforgiving heart is an unforgiven heart.” When bitterness creeps up on me, I am reminded that I follow a man whose first words amid blood, horror, and his hands nailed to wood were “Father, forgive.” To the degree we remember what Jesus has done for us—to that degree we can forgive.

Sometimes this means forgiving ourselves. I’ve had to forgive myself for doing dumb stuff. Forgiveness and love blow the doors off the prison of bitterness and free us up to laugh again.

*The Joyful Noiseletter*  
March-April 2014



**CHURCH'S CORPORATION**

President – Kent Sherry  
 Vice President – Bill Carpenter  
 Clerk of Session – Lois Shroyer  
 Treasurer – Bill Harrison



**Class of 2015**

Kevin Creager  
 Susan Dersch  
 Diana Schneider  
 Bob Triebelhorn

**Class of 2016**

Carl Ahlm  
 Julie Griffin  
 Terry Rigio  
 Charles Vanarsdall

**Class of 2017**

Judith Heaton  
 Denise Molnar  
 Eileen Reeves  
 Kate Smith

**Class of 2015**

Mark Brush  
 Ruth George  
 June Hughes



**Class of 2016**

Dee Ahlm  
 Emily Aldinger  
 Joe Stalder

**Class of 2017**

Rob Adams  
 Lindy McMahon  
 Nate Smith

Moderator—Nate Smith  
 Co-Moderator—Ruth George  
 Treasurer—Dee Ahlm  
 Secretary—Emily Aldinger

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

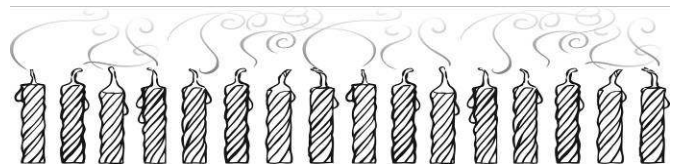
The February session meeting was rescheduled due to illness of the pastor. The makeup meeting had not been held at the time of the printing of the newsletter, so no highlights were available. Please check the April issue of *The Northern Light* for highlights from the February and March meetings.

**ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE**

- March 2 “Four Gospels, One Story”
- March 9 Lenten Study “An Acceptable Fast”
- March 16 Lenten Study “An Acceptable Fast”
- March 23 Lenten Study “An Acceptable Fast”
- March 30 Lenten Study “An Acceptable Fast”
- April 6 Lenten Study “An Acceptable Fast”
- April 13 Lenten Study “An Acceptable Fast”
- April 20 Easter Sunday—No Forum
- April 27 “Glory to God”

**PARISH NURSE ARTICLES**

The monthly parish nurse articles have been suspended at this time. Northminster’s Parish Nurse, Nancy Jean Graves, will continue to offer blood pressure screenings on the first Sunday of each month before and after worship in the Chapel area.





**HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY TO:**

<i>Aiden Brush</i> March 1	<i>Emily Spriggs</i> March 6	<i>Toni Conway</i> March 16
<i>Doris Harris</i> March 1	<i>Betty Lou Graven</i> March 9	<i>Eileen Reeves</i> March 16
<i>Owen Smith</i> March 2	<i>Nicole Roberts</i> March 9	<i>Erin Deas</i> March 19
<i>Josh Twiggs</i> March 4	<i>Lucille Arthur</i> March 12	<i>Bud Graves</i> March 24

# March 2014

## Northminster Presbyterian Church

Springfield, Ohio

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
<b>2</b> Transfiguration of the Lord Communion Blood Pressure Screening	3 9:30 YWM Meeting 10:00 PW Board	4 9:00 Bazaar Workshop	5 10:00 Women's Study Group 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship at Covenant	6 6:00 Springfield Dulcimer Club	7	8
<b>9</b> 1st Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time begins	10 6:30 Esther Circle	11 9:00 Bazaar Workshop 6:30 Deacons' Mtg.	12 10:00 Women's Study Group 5:30 C.E. Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	13 11:00 Ruth Circle	14	15 Clifton Ave. Breakfast
<b>16</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent	17  St. Patrick's Day Newsletter Deadline	18 7a Men's Breakfast at Perkins 9:00 Bazaar Workshop 6:00 Finance Cmte. 7:00 Session	19 10:00 Women's Study Group 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	20 Spring Begins	21	22
<b>23</b> 3rd Sunday in Lent	24 6:30 Remembrance Quilt Guild	25 9:00 Bazaar Workshop	26 9:30 Mail Newsletter 10:00 Women's Study Group 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 4th Sunday in Lent	31					

**NORTHMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

400 Villa Road  
Springfield, Ohio 45503



**THE NORTHERN LIGHT**  
*Issue 3*



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**March 2014**

- March 1 Pancake Breakfast 8AM
- March 2 Communion  
Blood Pressure Screening
- March 5 Ash Wednesday Worship @ Covenant 7PM
- March 9 Daylight Saving Time begins
- March 15 Clifton Ave. Breakfast
- March 18 Men's Breakfast @ Perkins N. Limestone 7AM  
Session Meeting



**Above all, maintain constant love for one another,  
for love covers a multitude of sins.**

**1 Peter 4:8**

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