

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE NORTHERN LIGHT

JANUARY 2015

ISSUE 1

New Year's Message FROM THE PASTOR

Happy New Year!

I pray God brings us all into new growth in our faith this year both individually and as a community of faith. I am writing to share some information about some educational opportunities in the New Year.

The first is a lectionary based weekly Bible study that I'll be conducting at the church on Tuesday mornings at 10:30am. The lectionary is a suggested preaching path through the Old and New Testaments that goes through a three-year cycle. It doesn't cover the entire Bible, but it intentionally provides texts that work to present broad themes and encompass much of the Bible in that three-year period. The years are labeled Year A, Year B, and Year C. 2015 is Year B. If you've wondered why a text appears with some regularity in worship (once every three years) it is often because I am following the lectionary guide of suggested readings. There will be Sundays that will vary based on possible congregation and cultural events that warrant preaching "off of the lectionary". However participants in the study will be notified weekly in the bulletin of the upcoming week's text so that you will still have time to study prior to the Tuesday meetings.

I'm inviting anyone who is interested to come join me for the study. During the first study on January 6th we will explore Mark 1:4-11. I will teach the class and lead the discussion but invite you to read the text ahead of time so that you may bring questions and insights. The intent is that the discussion will inform the sermons I preach. You will not need to participate every week in order to benefit from the study. In other words, drop in at any time.

A second educational opportunity will be during Adult Forum Sunday School in which we'll be discussing racism using The Thoughtful Christian Curriculum from Presbyterian Distribution Services. Study titles include: "Why is it So Difficult to Talk about Racism?", "Racism 101," "The Bible and Racism," "A History of Racism in the United States," "White Privilege," "Is Affirmative Action Still Needed?", and "Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism?" Copies of the upcoming week's study will be provided in the church office and available through attachments via email at least one week ahead of time.

(continued on next page)



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 A.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

Presbyterian Women

June Hughes

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

(continued from previous page)

The stories of Michael Brown and Officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Officer Sean Williams John Crawford III in Beavercreek OH, and Eric Garner and Officer Daniel Pantaleo in New York City have made issues of violence and race come to the forefront over the past several months. The issues are complex. The hope is to discuss the many issues of race not only in relation to the deaths and resulting legal battles, but to give us an opportunity to examine how racism relates to our life of faith in Jesus Christ. In addition, the hope is that we will be able to bridge gaps between our mostly white congregation and other congregations in Springfield where our black brothers and sisters worship. These connections are not happening. How can we change that?

Because the topic of race is volatile we have guidelines for how we interact with one another during this class. Participants are required to agree to the outlined protocols before being allowed to participate. Otherwise we will devolve into the practice of “the one shouting the loudest wins” that is ever-present in the media we consume. The Kingdom of God practices are different. We are called to focus on being loving to one another even at the expense of feeling like we are right or justified in our viewpoints.

Thankfully the Presbyterian Church USA has assembled a document called Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement. The document was utilized in the discussion within our denomination recently surrounding discussion of marriage equality. The practices within it are Scripture based and applicable to any difficult topic of discussion. Space does not permit sharing the full document here, but it will be printed out and made available on the volunteer signup table just outside the sanctuary by the first Sunday in January. It will be available in the church office as well and I will be able to share copies with you at your request. If you’d like to examine the document online prior to participation you can visit this link online: <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/seeking-be-faithful-guidelines-presbyterians-times/> Visit the link and download the PDF file. I will send this link via email just after the first of January. I look forward to having lively discussion and know God will help us all grow through the process.

I pray your Christmas was a meaningful time for you and those you love and wish you a Happy New Year. I’m excited to see what God will continue to do through the congregation as we seek to live into and help usher in the Kingdom of God.

Yours in Christ,

Dwight

Happy Birthday to:

<i>LeaAnn Hoefler</i>	January 2
<i>Denise Molnar</i>	January 4
<i>Norine Kmett</i>	January 5
<i>Gary Molnar</i>	January 7
<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>Barb Aker</i>	January 20
<i>John Roberts</i>	January 2
<i>Clyde Fromm</i>	January 22
<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 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in the church library.

Women's circle meetings will resume in February.

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

For Your Information!

Northminster's Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy



In the event of inclement weather, please check to determine if church worship services or meetings have been cancelled. Here are several ways you can find this information:

- 1) If you have heard on the radio, television, or any other media source that we have a "Level 2" or "Level 3" snow emergency then church services and/or meetings for that day will be cancelled.
- 2) On Sundays you may also call the church phone and listen to the voicemail greeting after 8AM. You will hear a specialized greeting designed to notify you if services will be occurring that morning. Again, if you hear of a level 2 or level 3 emergency, there is no need to call, services and meetings for Sunday are cancelled.
- 3) Watch the cancellations at the bottom of the screen on local channels NBC 2, FOX 45, and ABC 22. The cancellations will also be listed on the local news websites above, but they will be more quickly obtained by watching the "crawl" at the bottom of the screen.
- 4) Check your email after 8AM on Sunday morning.
- 5) Check the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/northminsterspringfieldohio?ref=hl>
- 6) This policy is in place for Sunday worship and Sunday activities.

If you are the organizer or leader of a study, committee meeting, or other church group during the week, you will be responsible for notifying participants of cancellations. If you decide to conduct the meeting during a level 2 or 3 snow alert, you will be responsible for opening the church building and, in some cases, turning on the heat and making any other arrangements for your meeting. Church walkways may or may not be cleared in time for meetings during a level 2 or 3 snow alert. For the purposes of safety, you are encouraged to stay home if there is a level 2 or 3 snow alert.

The church office will be closed for the day if there is a level 3 snow alert. On level 2 days, it will be at the discretion of office personnel and the pastor whether to open the church for the day. Please call after 9AM to determine if the office is open that morning and be aware that walkways will likely not be cleared by early mornings on level 3 snow alert days. If you feel your safety is in jeopardy, please err on the side of staying home.

If you have any further questions, please contact the church office at 937-399-0838 or email at office@northminsterspringfield.org.



Pancake Breakfast Call for Help

We are in our fourteenth year serving pancakes the first Saturday of each month, including New Year's Day on one occasion. We wish we could say things have been great this year, but truth is that attendance is down and it has been a very slow year. Perhaps that is because everyone may not be aware of why we have this every month and there is curiosity about where the donation money goes.

In October 2001, the pancake breakfast was started by eight congregational families to raise money for a church picnic shelter. While serving pancakes for donations is not a great money-maker, it did serve as a catalyst to bring people together to dream and plan a picnic shelter. We had raffles and dinners to aid to raising money as well. In the first year we had raised enough funds to complete the planning and design process, and define what we wanted.

Along the way we picked up momentum and a lot of interest within the congregation resulting in major memorial donations to the picnic shelter fund by congregation families. By 2003 we had the funds necessary to conduct talks with a shelter company in North Carolina about buying one

of their shelter kits. Thanks again to generous donations, we were able to contract for delivery of the shelter materials in early spring 2004. That spring the funds became available to start the site preparation, including the driveway to the shelter site.

The shelter was erected in the summer of 2004. Another fund raising was started for the picnic benches and nine families answered the call. That year we celebrated with our first annual picnic in our new shelter. The following spring the electric and water service to the shelter was installed.

Once the shelter was completed, the pancake breakfast was continued to offer fellowship opportunities to the congregation. The donations have been used to fund other church activities. The committee purchased and, in concert with a young man seeking his Eagle Scout Award, erected the outside storage shed next to the picnic shelter. The committee provided the labor to replace the basement family room carpet with a tile floor, purchased and installed the projector system in the Sanctuary, contributed to the new sound system station, and contributed funding to several other church projects. Donations have been made to Katrina victims, Habitat for Humanity, Young Peoples Fund, and Northminster's Youth Group. Committee members have donated all the expenses for materials and food supplies for the pancake breakfasts, dinners and the hog roasts.

Somewhere along the way, our committee became known as the Pancake Breakfast Committee. Whatever you call us, we need more committee members as we are now down to 4 and a half members, one generally in Alaska or Florida. You don't need to know how to cook pancakes, as we can train on the job. You can call Paul Good (937-969-8547) or Bill Carpenter (937-399-1497), or just show up at 7AM the first Saturday of the month. But, most of all, MORE PANCAKE EATERS are needed! Your efforts are necessary if we are going to keep this activity going.

A bit of trivia: We've served over 20,000 pancakes and sausages and over 200 gallons of juice and lots of coffee. More important, this activity has generated over \$50,000 that has helped to support the church.

See you January 3, 2015!

Shelter Committee: Bill Carpenter, Terry Dersch, Joan & Ed Generous, Paul & Dottie Good, and Chuck Mansfield

News From the Mission Committee



The Mission Committee thanks you for your support of the many opportunities to give this holiday season. There were so many items given for the Secret Santa Shop at Forest Glen, that we used part of the donations to support the Christmas Shop at the Clifton Avenue Church of God coordinated by the Promise Neighborhood. Your contributions of toilet paper for Interfaith Hospitality Network and the facial tissues for Project Woman were very much appreciated. Of course, your monetary gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will be put to good use helping retired church leaders and students at one of the five Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Mission Committee
Sara Arnott, Carol Emerich, Susan Dersch, Joe Stalder, Tom Stout

Session Highlights

The Session met in stated meeting December 9, 2014. Rev. Dwight McCormick opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, with prayer.

Pastor's Report:

Rev. McCormick reported that he would be organizing a "Longest Night or Blue Christmas" service on December 21st at 6:00 pm for those grieving the loss of loved ones or other difficulties.

He also reported that on January 12, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Northminster there will be a training event for Youth First leaders, as there is a community need for this group to be reactivated.

Finance Committee:

The financial report and balance sheet through November was distributed. Total income through November was \$162,672, and total expenses were \$195,805, producing a deficit of \$33,133. It was noted that, as of November 30, payment of 2014 pledges is \$8,800 under the pledged amounts.

Elder Kevin Creager presented the "Pastor's terms of call" for 2015, Elder Carl Ahlm of the Personnel Committee explained the compensation package, and on motion, session approved. The congregation will vote on this package at the annual meeting in January.

Elder Creager presented the remainder of the proposed 2015 budget for discussion. Session offered two amendments to the proposed budget, and on motion from the committee approved the amended 2015 budget. This budget will be presented at the annual meeting in January.

Session approved the committee's recommendation to receive an offering during the Christmas Eve service.

Property Committee: Elder Robert Triebelhorn reported that the committee is attempting to use the expertise of its members (and of others in the congregation) to perform maintenance tasks and repairs, as they are able, in order to save money.

Session set Sunday, January 11, 2015 for ordination/installation of newly-elected elders and deacons; and set Sunday, January 18, 2015 as the date of the annual congregational meeting.

The next stated meeting of Session is January 20, 2015 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.

Submitted by Lois Shroyer, Clerk of Session

ANNUAL REPORT DATES AND DEADLINES ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The **deadline for individual committee reports** for the Annual Report will be **Monday, January 5, 2015.**

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** is scheduled for **Sunday, January 18th** 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 2015 per capita amount is \$35.14 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.

	<p>Remembering Our Shut-In Members</p> <p>Doris Harris, a church member who is living in Villa Springfield, very much enjoys reading. Due to her low vision, she needs large print books. If you are interested in donating a book to Doris, please bring them to church and Sue Creager will deliver them. Doris prefers happy books and romances.</p>
---	--

2015 Schedules Needed!

The office would like schedules for the 2015 meetings and events being held by the church committees and circle groups. This information will be used to put in the church calendar for the year. You can either drop off a copy to the office, or email it to

office@northminsterspringfield.org. Thank you!!



The Northern Light's Page of Inspiration and Humor



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
©Dik LaPine
Reprinted with permission

A New Year's Prayer

May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path; not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart; not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

— Author Unknown
The Joyful Noiseletter

Words to Start the New Year

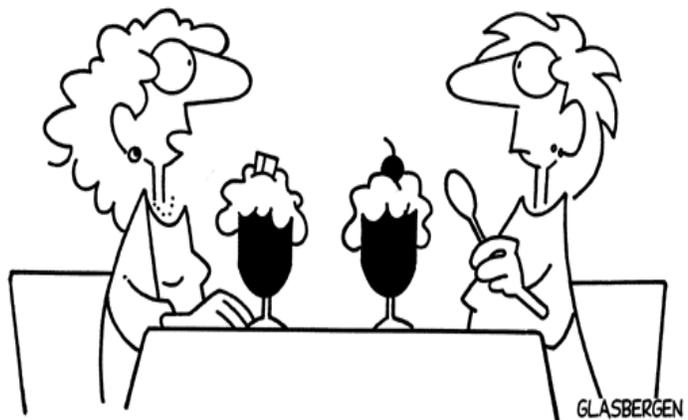
New Year's Wishes for each of you:

- May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs, and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count, and your mortgage rates not rise.
- May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them.
- May you live in a home and a world at peace, with the awareness of the beauty in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, and every wonderful, miraculous beat of your heart.
- May the Lord bless you with every joy, good health, peace, and much love in 2015.



— Author Unknown
via Rev. Dr. Karl R. Kraft
The Joyful Noiseletter

Copyright 2003 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



"If you put a crouton on your sundae instead of a cherry, it counts as a salad."

January 2015

Northminster Presbyterian Church

www.northminsterspringfield.org

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1 	2	3 8:00 Pancake Breakfast
4 Blood Pressure Screening	5 9:30 YWM 10:00 PW Board Deadline for Annual Report	6	7 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	8 6:00 p.m. Dulcimer Club Meeting	9	10
11 Epiphany of the Lord Ordination/ Installation of Deacons/Elders	12	13	14 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	15 7:00p.m. Session Meeting	16	17 Clifton Ave. Pantry 10 a.m. New Elder and Deacon Training in Family Room
18 Annual Congregational Meeting	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 12 noon—Newsletter Deadline	20	21 6:00 Bell Choir 7:15 Choir	22	23	24
25	26 6:30 Quilt Guild	27	28 9:30 Mail Newsletter 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Youth First 7:15 Choir	29	30	31

NORTHMINSTER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

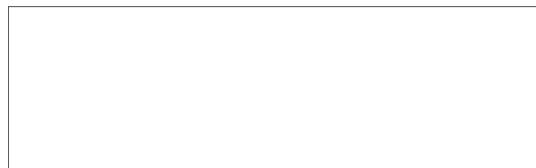
400 Villa Road
Springfield, Ohio 45503



THE NORTHERN LIGHT
Issue 1

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

Return Service Requested



January 2014

January 1	New Year's Day—Office Closed
January 3	Pancake Breakfast
January 5	Deadline for Annual Report
January 15	Session Meeting—7:00 p.m.
January 17	Clifton Avenue Breakfast
January 18	Annual Congregational Meeting
January 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 23	Deadline for Newsletter—Noon

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

NORTHMINSTER'S PURPOSE STATEMENT

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