



Northwood Presbyterian Church
 2875 State Road 580
 Clearwater, FL 33761
 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

**DO NOT DELAY
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Sent with Prayer to...

From the Facility Manager

Hello Northwood Family,
 It is still very busy here which means our facility is getting lots of use! What a blessing!

The garage sale was an enormous success and I have to comment Susan Curry and her volunteer staff for an exceptional job.

Jeff Fulford is still volunteering to help make our exterior walls and sidewalks nice and clean. I greatly appreciate his help and his servant heart!

As I am writing this, I am thinking about how the W.A.Y. dinners will be starting soon. Ed Puschmann is a faithful volunteer who helps us set-up and reset the rooms each week. Thank you, Ed!

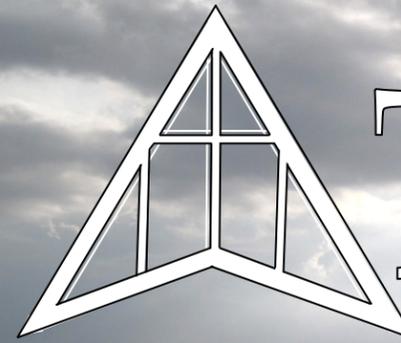
The North hallway has been patched, primed and painted. That coupled with the new tile makes it look really good. The Large Print Hymnal rack has been sanded and stained and now holds both the Large Print Hymnals and the Binders.

Work has begun to get rid of the moisture and moisture damage in the choir office and outside along the choir office and robe room. Kerry McDermott has volunteered some of his time to help. A lot of work still needs to be done so that this problem can be taken care of.

I want to thank Troy Harris and the Youth Group for vacuuming the Sanctuary pews after Christmas.

In closing, I'd like to point out that we have a new Coke machine. Our old machine was jamming up and rather than repair it, Coke decided to give us a new one!

God Bless,
 Jeff



The Window

Northwood Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

February 17, 2015
 Volume 25, No. 2



Membership Matters

We invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship and service here. Our Discovering Northwood class is for newcomers as well as those of us who have been around awhile to simply learn more about us or to become a member of our church family.

The next Discovering Northwood class is **March 22 in room 4** of the Christian Education Building **from 10:45 am-12:00 pm**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pastor, Rev. E. Chris Curvin, or Membership Coordinator, Katie Pacana. Both Katie and Chris can be reached at 796-8090.

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761
 727-796-8090 Main Office ~ 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care
 www.northwoodpc.org

Dear Northwood Family,

As the schedule to the right indicates, the plans to renovate the main building restrooms used by the Pre-School and the Church are well underway. In addition to a much needed facelift, the completed restrooms will provide improved access for those with mobility concerns, dedicated restrooms for the Pre-school and main building restrooms that are always accessible even when school is in session.

Northwood Presbyterian Church Schedule of Work-Building Renovation, Phase 2	
Asbestos Report	Completed
Advertisement/Bid Notice	March 10
Pre-Bid Walk Through	March 17
Bid Date	April 7
Receipt of Contract w/ Notice to Proceed	April 14
Construction Start	May 26
Substantial Completion-Punch List	August 4
Final Completion	September 4

The Pre-school calendar is, for the most part, dictating the schedule with the goal to complete all work during the summer break. Once construction begins on May 26th, some areas of the church will not be accessible until the work is complete on August 4th. We realize that this will be an adjustment for all of us and we ask for your patience. In general, during the time of construction, there will be no access to the Library, the Pre-School classrooms or office, the children's playground and the Men's or Women's restrooms in that building. From time to time, parts of the side walk between the church office and the playground will be closed as well. Again, we ask for your patience. There may be times when you can't see the reason for an area to be temporarily closed, but once the construction begins, those areas must be available to the contractor so that the work is not delayed but more importantly, for the ongoing safety and protection of all involved.

Please continue to watch the Window, Monitor and bulletin announcements for updates and the other ways this process will be managed as it progresses.

Chris Hurst
 Business Administrator

At A Glance

February 17, 2015

This Month at Northwood

Sunday, February 22nd:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, February 25th:
6:00 P.M. W.A.Y. Dinner
6:40 P.M. W.A.Y. Program

Sunday, March 1st:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, March 4th:
6:00 P.M. W.A.Y. Dinner
6:40 P.M. W.A.Y. Program

Sunday, March 8th:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, March 11th:
6:00 P.M. W.A.Y. Dinner
6:40 P.M. W.A.Y. Program

Sunday, March 15th:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, March 18th:
6:00 P.M. W.A.Y. Dinner
6:40 P.M. W.A.Y. Program

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The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church
Edited by Katie Pacana

Submissions:

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail Katie@northwoodpc.org, or place it in Katie Pacana's box in the church office. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month.

E-News:

If you are interested in receiving the bi-weekly Monitor via our e-news system, please send an email with your name and request to Katie@northwoodpc.org.

For more information about The Presbytery of Tampa Bay go to www.presbyteryoftampabay.com or about The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) go to www.pcusa.org.

From the PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor

"About Being Presbyterian"

It has been estimated that 6 out of every 10 members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) did not grow up in the denomination. I believe that may be very true of us at Northwood, if not more so. This being the case, I am making available a series of articles about "being Presbyterian." These articles will mostly be a reminder to many of you, but there may be something new here as well.

What do Presbyterians believe about the Bible? With limited space, here it goes!

I think Presbyterians believe that through the Bible, God speaks and reveals Himself to us--that the Bible is inspired by God. For some, this means the Bible is inerrant or infallible. For others, it means even though the Bible is culturally conditioned, it breathes with the life of God and we hear God's voice speaking to us through it. Believe it or not, in any church, people hold to many different views about the Bible.

What is true is this: the inspired writers of Scripture grasped something of God's grand revelation of Himself that we continually need to learn from and discuss. **For above all we believe as Presbyterians in the Authority of the Bible to guide us in all matters of life and faith.**

Presbyterians have always stressed the importance of scholarship and study of the Bible. (I encourage you to become involved in Adult Education at Northwood if you are not already doing so). All the way back to the reformer John Calvin, it has been crucial that our decisions as a church do not rest on the understanding of Biblical novices whose knowledge of Scripture is only surface deep, but on the most thorough and scholarly search for truth of which all of us are capable to discover. (I'll provide just a few practical suggestions about how to read the Bible at the end of this article).

I believe what our Presbyterian Constitution, *The Book of Order* and *The Book of Confessions*, guide us in believing is that isolating certain statements of Scripture and using them to prove a particular viewpoint is not when we are at our best. In other words, if I am really to hear what the Word of God has to say to me today, I cannot be individualistic in my reading of Scripture. I need to remain in conversation with other Christians and with the whole church.

We Presbyterians do believe in the importance of listening to each other when it comes to interpreting the Bible. No matter how alien a viewpoint may be to us on first exposure to it, we have a responsibility to hear it fully and not reject it out-of-hand.

What this means is that we are called to adopt the role of a student toward our sisters and brothers in the church. As a minister I am often asked what I believe. The fact is *what* I believe over the years has changed as I continue to grow in faith and understanding as a life-long student of the Bible. More appropriate, it seems to me, is the question of *in WHOM* I believe.

We Presbyterians welcome what archaeologists, historians and linguists have to tell us about the Bible. But be careful about believing everything you hear on television, as so very often it is NOT the result of scholarly effort, but viewer ratings.

Finally, I like being a Presbyterian because it is a great relief not to have to always be "right!" A reading of our confessions these past 2,000 years shows that even the greatest minds had only limited understanding, even got it wrong at times, and had to be updated. That means I can entertain the possibility that, as obvious as something appears to me, I might be wrong. In fact, if growing in grace and truth means anything, then perhaps I ought to delight in finding out that some concepts I have held to be true may require modification.

I close with some practical suggestions about reading the Bible:

- Read the Bible for the most natural meaning. That was John Calvin's rule. Don't stretch the text you read into something more obscure or something that is self-serving.
- Read the Bible in context. Jesus' statement that "you will always have the poor with you," is not an invitation to ignore the disadvantaged but is rather a sad commentary on the world.
- Read the Bible with Christ in the center. All ethics and all attitudes need to be judged by their closeness to Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate revelation of God. He is the true Word.
- Just read it. You don't have to have a minister to read it. But use the help of a commentary and other friends to discuss it.
- For those of you who are young, let the Bible be for you a star by which you may learn and be guided. To you who are middle aged, let it be a steady beat by which you march. And to those of you in your older years, let the Bible be a fountain of unending hope and strength!

Sincerely yours,
Chris

Christian Education

Susan Curry, Christian Education Team Chair

Prayer Group

Thursday morning prayer group begins at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. New participants are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Holloway at 937-3640.

W.A.Y. Dinner Lessons

Wednesday, February 25, begins the Lenten devotions that will be based on the book "Give Up Something BAD for Lent" by James W. Moore. This study encourages us to do something more than give up the chocolate, sweets, soda and the like. Instead, what if we gave up a habit or attitude in our life that is destructive—envy, jealousy, self-pity, apathy, procrastination, gossip, resentment, negative thinking, and so on. Join us as we journey down this road of personal reflection as we seek to be our best self for the Kingdom of God.

Women's Retreat

The Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk was a huge success. The speaker, Jennifer Weldon, was great and the theme "God's Grace" was well received. A big thank you goes out to all those who helped:

Planning committee: Diana Fisher, Sharon Brown, Jeanne Stephen,
Music: Cindy Huffman, Linda Granata
Crafts: Tracey Birch
Devotions: Trish Robicheau
Small Group Leaders: Dianna Hatch, Cindy Huffman, Pam Means, Diana Fisher
Clean-up: Rina McGrath, Cynthia Lawrence, Eileen Nelson, Babs Bailey

We had a wonderful time learning about God's Grace, talking, eating, playing, laughing and crying with other women. Don't miss next year's retreat to be held in January, 2016!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES

8:15 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (2014/15 School Year), Room 3, join us in the multi-age Sunday School worship class after the Children's Message.

9:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (14/15 School Year) Room 3

1st & 2nd Grades Room 16

Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 16.

3rd-5th Grades Room 8

Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 8.

11:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds – 5th grade (14/15 school year) join us as we bring the Bible to Action through games and activities in room 3 beginning at 11:00. Should your child like to attend worship up until the Children's message, they can join in on the fun in room 3 after the Children's Message or remain in worship with their parents.

Children Welcome to the Lord's Table

Parents, if you wish for your children to receive communion please have them remain with you in the worship service on Communion Sundays. If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Elder Jackie Koski (jackieandjerry@verizon.net), Chair of Worship Team. (Communion is normally celebrated on the first Sunday of each month).

Middle & High School Christian Education

Come join us for combined middle/high school Sunday school. We will be studying the "Elements" of our faith. Through new and exciting curriculum, we will learn how to grow in our walk with God.

9:30 AM Youth Room
11:00 AM Youth Room

9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SERENDIPITY—Rooms 13 & 15: Join us as we study different Biblical Figures each week! Coffee and cookies are provided!

TCI (Today's Christian Issues)—Rooms 9 & 11: Led by a rotation of teachers, this class examines current issues and how it relates to our faith. Be part of the conversation while enjoying cookies and coffee.

11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

EXPERIENCING GOD – Rooms 13 & 15: Led by Vicki Krueger.

Youth & Young Adults

Ken Andreassen, Team Chair ~ Gene Weitz, Elder
Troy Harris, Interim Director of Youth & Young Adults

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 20:

- Game night 7-10

Sunday, February 22:

- Youth group 5-6:30

Friday, February 27:

- Game night 7-10

Sunday School: Every Sunday at 9:30am and 11:00am in the Youth Room. Join us before or after the service you worship!

*Troy Harris, Director
of Youth & Young Adults
troyharris1962@yahoo.com, 366-7762*

Confirmation Schedule

Sunday, 2/22, 9:30 A.M., Rm. 18-class
Monday, 2/23, 7:00 P.M., Rm. 5-Session Meeting
Sunday, 3/1, 9:30 A.M., Rm. 18-class
Retreat, March 6-8
Sunday, 3/22, 9:30 A.M., Rm. 18-class
Saturday, 3/28, 9:00 A.M.-Confirmation Breakfast
Sunday, 4/5, preferred service-Introduction into Membership

Please join us in praying for our 2015 Confirmation Class. They meet each Sunday from 9:30 am to 11:00 am until Easter with a weekend retreat to Cedarkirk and participation at the February Session Meeting. Please keep them in your prayers—Lindsey Peterson, David Hamilton, Drew Hatch, Sarah Flaherty, Heather Wood, William Warren and Jarrett Mattson.



Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry

Dear families,

The Christian Education Ministry Team is very excited to be offering a VBS Sports Camp through Uncharted Waters Ministries for the summer of 2015. With the main restroom renovations taking place over the summer, by necessity, VBS will need to take place off campus. After weighing many different options we have decided to partner with Presbyterian Church of Palm Harbor and join them for their morning Sports Camp on June 15-19 from 9:00-12:00. They have welcomed us with open arms. We recognize that these dates overlap with the Youth Music Camp in Leesburg, FL and for a few of our youth we know they will need to make a choice between the two. Please know we are already making sure that next year there is no overlap of dates with VBS and Music Camp.

This Christian Sports Camp is \$25.00 per child and includes their sport of choice, a t-shirt, snack and craft. The children will learn songs, Bible stories, team building skills, do a craft each day, while learning their assigned sport. We will be offering soccer, flag football, basketball, cheerleading and team 45 (for ages 4 & 5). Due to the construction that will be going on at Northwood, the C.E. Team feels this is the best opportunity to offer our children a VBS experience and we hope you will share in the excitement!

Thank you for your understanding and support to the Ministries of Northwood.

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry

*Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry
childrensministry@northwoodpc.org 727-641-8140 cell/text*

Around Northwood

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Come and feel the presence of the Holy Spirit! Join us at the Thursday Morning Prayer Group. We meet at 10:00 am in the Parlor. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Holloway at 727-786-9440.

NPC Libraries

This month we are featuring faith-based fictional series in the adult library. Featured items include the Red Glove and Sunrise series by Karen Kingsbury, the Martyr's Song series by Ted Dekker, the Cape Refuge series by Terri Blackstock and many of the Joshua books written by Joseph Girzone. Check it out and get hooked on reading!

Bulletin Crew Assembler Needed

We are in need of more Friday morning volunteers to help assemble the weekly bulletin and tidy up the pews in the sanctuary. We meet at 7:30 am on Friday and are done no later than 9:00 am. Many hands make light work and we hope you will consider helping! Call Katie Pacana at 796-8090 if you are interested.

Building Renovation Pledge Update

Campaign Goal: \$80,000.00
Pledged to date: \$62,293.00
Received \$46,200.53

Per Capita Apportionment

Every church shares in the administrative costs of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through the annual per capita assessment. Northwood's per capita assessment for 2015 will be \$25.00 per every active member and confirmed youth (communicant member). Please consider paying this administrative cost above and beyond your annual pledge/offering. You can contribute to the per capita apportionment at any time during the year. To do so just write "per capita" on the memo line of your check or mark an envelope accordingly. Thank you for your gift.

Yard Sale Thanks!

"Many hands make light work," is a great saying though it is only partially applicable to the Music Ministry's Annual Yard Sale given the time and labor that go into it. In this case, many hands made the work more fun but there is no getting around the fact that the work is hard. Collecting donations, organizing and pricing them, setting up tables to display them, picking up furniture, keeping the displays organized during the sale, taking cash, making change, packing purchases, reorganizing displays, coming back on Saturday to do it all over again, and then breaking the whole thing down, vacuuming and resetting all the Sunday school rooms and Family Life Center so it looks like the sale never happened, barely scratches the surface of what goes into executing the yard sale. Thank goodness the Kitchen Krew contributes their time and effort to sustain all the workers with food and beverages and fellowship. We hope no one has been left off the list of Yard Sale Workers who deserve our thanks and recognition. We also thank all those who contributed so generously with their donations including fine collectibles and expensive items. We appreciated every single item that was donated. The \$10,000 that was raised is a new record for the Yard Sale and one that with your help, we hope to surpass next year.

God Bless you all!
Stephanie, Susan and Carol

Sale Workers:

Muriel Antonakes, David & Marilyn Arndt, Babs Bailey, Bunny Bitner, Kim Blackmore, Melanie Brown, Natalie Brown, Art & Pat Callan, Stephanie Carson, Vicki Conolly, Michael Cromwell, Kevin Curry, Risann Curry, Susan Curry, Gale Dufresne, Billy & Linda Earl, Bryce Fulford, Peter & Susan Gajentan, Margaret Gott, Gary & Linda Granata, Lynn Heider, Rees Heycock, Art & Jeanette Holloway, Susan Howell, Marti Huff, Cindy & Tom Huffman, Carissa Johnston, Mitchell Johnston, Lucas Johnston, Mark Johnston, Barb Jordan, Jane Larson, Jesse Lusk, Nancy Marshall, Bill & Patty Martin, Sue Miskiewicz, Fred McQuown, Bob Meier, Jon & Vicki Mills, Michael Mitchell, Jeff Mossolle, Barb Moler, Don Morrison, Linda & Mike O'Leary, Marie Phillips, Marie Purcell, Ed Puschmann, Dennis & Sandra Rasmussen, Carol Rathmell, Jackie Rice, Justine & Matt Ruisz, Bailey Shields, Bruce & Toby Shugart, Roger Snay, Ellen Stoup, Ken & Martha Tobiassen, Evelyn & Pete Towns, Heather Wood, Pam Wood

Kitchen Krew:

Michael Cromwell, Bob Grubbs, Charlotte McQuown, Lauren Meier, Barb & Sam Musgrave

NPC VITALS

Prayer Ministry

Ken Andreassen; Burt & Dottie Benziger; Larry Cornillaud; Kimberly Corrello; Doris Croasmun; Jean Dayes; Shirley Gleason; Hugh Gott; Fred Inkles; Rees Heycock; Lou Hortobagyi; Kelly Jordan; Jane Kaempfer; Diane Luke; Lois Marsh; Mildred Martin; Robin MacLennan; Curtis McLeod; Helen Meier; Norman Phillips; Marian & Walter Rather; David Smith; Charline Snow; Gene Snyder; Lucille Talbot, Barbara Yontek.

Please keep the following who are serving in the military in your prayers. Addresses have been included should you wish to send cards of support.

Capt. Daniel Doverspike
2044 Pratt Court
Evanston, Illinois 60201-3116

Our prayers and sympathy go out to:

- Joe Zeigler and family upon news of the death of his daughter, Dianna Kim Zeigler Swientek, who died Monday, January 12.
- The family of Harley Olson upon news of Harley's death on Saturday, January 24
- Sue Gavette and family on the loss of Sue's sister, Doris Jean Lemon, who died Saturday, January 31.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of:
Diana Murray
Diana Murray
Edna Bechtold

Given by:
Barbara Englehart
Anonymous
Anonymous

In Honor of:
Ellen Stoup
Barbara Englehart

Given by:
Patty Martin
Patty Martin
Becky Sharp & Bob Walker Loisanne & Bill Bilka

VITALS

Weather: Cloudy & Cool
Scout Sunday, February 8, 2015
(8:15) 193
(9:30) 188
(11:00) 189
Women's Retreat 23
Total: 593

Congratulations!

We would like to say a special congratulations and blessings to Becky Sharp on her marriage to Bob Walker this past January!

"THANKS" FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Isaiah's Inn

Dear Northwood,
Thank you for the generous Christmas presents for 20 people. We have lots of children and both the children and parents are greatly appreciative of your gift. With your gift and others we were able to provide nearly 1,000 presents to those in need, including 35 new bicycles.
Very truly yours,
Robert E. Crown, President

Westchester Gardens

Dear Northwood,
Just a note to say thank you for the walker bags and blanket. They are much needed. The walker bags are such a popular item for our residents. They are always looking for them. Thank you for thinking of us.
Ann Padovani

Women on the Way

Dear Northwood,
Thank you very much for your continued support with this gracious Alternative Giving donation of \$545 to the Women on the Way Program.
Sincerely,
Shirley A. Crumbly, Coordinator

Presbyterian World Mission

Dear Fellow Partners in Mission,
I'm writing to express our appreciation to you for your gracious and faithful support of our mission personnel. We received your \$250 donation. Your contribution changes lives for the sake of the gospel around the world. You are a valued partner.
Yours in Christ,
Chris Roseland, Church Support

Bay Area Pregnancy Center

Dear Northwood,
We were able to help so many families thanks to our generous congregation who kept our little food pantry stocked. Thank you!
Marshal Rimer, Executive Director

FFIM

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your generous donation of \$70 for the work of the New Hope Clinic in Honduras. You are doing Christ's work every day through the support you provide to the clinic.
Thank you!
Beth A. Houghton, Treasurer

Beth-El

Dear Northwood,
Thank you for your donation of \$220 that made 2014 another wonderful year of helping those in need in our community. We serve more than 75,000 folks each year and could not do this without wonderful donors. May 2015 bring you success and happiness!
Blessings,
Dave Moore, Executive Director

RCS

Thank you for your generous donation of \$365 to RCS Food Bank. Your commitment to helping people right here in Pinellas County is sincerely appreciated.
Sincerely,
Jeff Muller, Chair, Board of Directors

Heifer International

Heifer International gratefully recognizes Northwood Presbyterian Church for putting together a Living Gift Market. Thanks for making a meaningful difference in the world.
Pierre Ferrari, President and CEO