



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

**DO NOT DELAY
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 EXPEDITE!!!**

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Sent with Prayer to...

From the Facility Manager

Happy New Year Northwood Family! It has been a while since I have communicated with you, which means it has been a busy time here at Northwood.

First I would like to give a great big "Thank You" to Jeff Fulford who has volunteered his time to come in and help me by spraying to get rid of the iron stains on the building and also spraying to get rid of the mildew and algae that seems to come out of nowhere.

Next, the initial plantings for the Memorial Garden have been installed. The grounds crew has installed new mulch for them, too. The reason for these plants being placed outside the wall is to create a buffer from the traffic on 580.

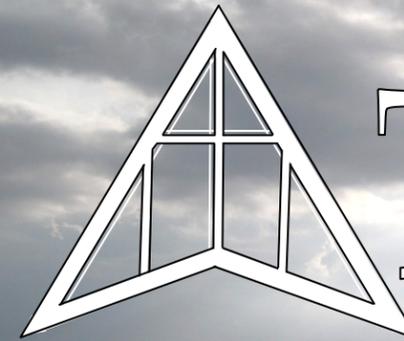
I would also like to note that the WiFi project is under way. All the necessary wiring is now in place.

Lastly, we will be doing some interior work in the next few weeks, concentrating on the North Entrance to start. We have some drywall we will be replacing, patching and painting.

In closing, I am writing you on the Monday before the Garage Sale. What a blessing to see so many willing volunteers helping make it a success. Kudos to Susan Curry for her devotion and organization. I pray that this sale is even more successful than years past.

God Bless,

Jeff



The Window

Northwood Presbyterian Church

January 20, 2015
 Volume 25, No. 1

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

W.A.Y. Dinner Menus Lent 2015

**February 11, 2015
 Mardi Gras Night**

Mardi Gras Salad, New Orleans Blackened Pork Loin, Bayou Dirty Rice, "Big Easy" Vegetables, French Baguettes & Butter, Traditional Bananas Foster Cheese Cake

**February 18, 2015
 Ash Wednesday Dinner before Worship**
 Hearty Potato Chowder with Smoked Ham, Baked Ham and Smoked Turkey Hoagie Sandwich, Baked Cape Cod Potato Chips, Lenten Cakes

**February 27, 2015
 Mid Western Dinner**
 Iceberg Lettuce with Fresh Garden Vegetables, Assorted Dressings, Chicago Stockyard Roast Beef with Savory Brown Gravy, Creamy Idaho Mashed Potatoes, Buttered Green Peas, Fresh Multi Grain Bread and Butter, Double Crusted Green Apple Pie

March 4, 2015
 Romaine and Spinach Salad with Mandarin Oranges and Vinaigrette Dressing, Mary Ann's Creamy Chicken Bake, Maple Glazed Baby Carrots, Fresh Baked Rosemary Bread and Butter, Homemade Pineapple Upside Down Cake

March 11, 2015
 Creamy Pineapple Cole Slaw, Sweet Baby Rays Pulled Pork, Creamy Macaroni and Cheese, Green Beans with Hickory Smoked Bacon, Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls, Plant City Strawberry Shortcake

**March 18, 2015
 St. Patrick's Day Dinner**
 Dublin Greens with Green Goddess Dressing, Traditional Corned Beef with Boiled Potatoes, Boiled Cabbage, Buttered Baby Carrots, Fresh Rye Bread and Butter, Murphy's Pudding Parfait

**Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches
 will be available at all Dinners**

**Annual Congregational Meeting & Luncheon
 Sunday, January 25th, 2015 at Noon**

At the Annual Meeting we will hear reports from the Session, the Deacons and their Ministry Teams. We will be electing new officers, as the Officer Nominating Committee brings its nominations, and consider changes in the pastors' terms of call. We will also elect members to the Nominating Committee and the Memorial Garden Board.

Elders
(Class of 2017)
 Loisanne Bilka
 Jerry Koski
 Allen Hurst
 Charlotte McQuown
 Doug Winder

Deacons
(Class of 2017)
 Lindsey Childs-Kean
 Cindy Whiteside
 Carol Bushnell
 Carol Zieres
 Cookie Roffey

Nominating Committee
 Patti Martin
 Dan Jeffre
 Nate Rodewald

Memorial Garden Committee
 Janet George
 Nancy Johnson
 Tammy Shierling

A Covered Dish Luncheon follows: Please bring a covered dish to share and join us for an afternoon of food and fellowship!

Bring the following:
A-F—Dessert
L-Q—Side Dish

G-K—Salad
R-Z—Entree

At A Glance

January 20, 2015

This Month at Northwood

Sunday, January 25th:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service
12:00 P.M. Congregational Meeting & Lunch

Sunday, February 1st:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Saturday, February 6th-Sunday February 8th:

Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk

Sunday, February 8th:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, February 11th:

W.A.Y. Mardi Gras Dinner

Sunday, February 15th:

8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Wednesday, February 18th:

6:00 P.M. W.A.Y. Dinner
6:45 P.M. Ash Wednesday Service

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

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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 58 percent of the 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 Presbyterian, if not more so. This being the case, I want to make available here in our Window Newsletter a series of articles about being Presbyterian. This will be a reminder of what we believe as Christians, but will also be, according to the high percentage of our members who did not "grow up" Presbyterian, something for us to learn or re-affirm together.

First, it is important to say that all that is required to be a member in the Presbyterian Church is to confess the Christian faith, trust in Christ as our forgiving savior, promise to follow Christ and Christ's example for living and commit oneself to attend church and become involved in its work.

In saying this, note that we as a church are then a big umbrella to which all Christians can readily belong. This big umbrella idea of the Presbyterian Church, or "big tent" as some have referred to it, reminds me of my favorite definition of the Presbyterian Church which I've remembered over the years from resources and which others have found helpful in new member classes. This definition has always stuck with me and goes like this:

"The Presbyterian Church is part of a Christian denomination which is democratically organized to embrace the faith common to all Christians!"

We are indeed a big tent! What I have learned from serving as a pastor (which is also, by the way, called a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church) is that for nearly thirty years every person I've ever met who walked through the doors of church has come into the Christian faith in their own unique way. I believe it can be said that no two people come to faith in exactly the same way. Yes, there may be similar ways that people come to faith, like by growing up in church because parents brought them since they were baptized, but this isn't true for everyone.

I remember a time in my own life as a young boy that my parents did not always go to church, but they did support me going, and we attended several churches off and on. My Dad worked on Sundays and there were several years I remember riding the school bus to my best friend's church. (Marty was my best friend, and Marty's Dad was the pastor of the Oak Street Baptist Church.) I rode the school bus every weekday to Kindergarten at that church so it seemed natural to me to ride the school bus to church on Sunday as well. (Can you imagine what would happen if Pinellas County allowed us to use a school bus on Sundays to run a bus route to bring children to Sunday School at Northwood!) Well, several years after attending the Oak Street Church, at about the age of 10, my Dad became the construction foreman for building the new sanctuary for the oldest Presbyterian Church in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area (Hamilton County). Not long after that, my family and I became members of that small but alive church known as The First Presbyterian Church of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee. I did not know all there was to know about being Presbyterian at that point, much less about being a Christian, but becoming a member of any Christian church is simply a starting point to greater learning and service. This is certainly true of becoming a member of the Presbyterian Church.

There are many roads people travel in discovering faith in God. I have learned from listening to many of you that some of you have come to faith because of the influence of a Sunday School teacher, or a pastor, or you have had a life changing experience of some sort which turned your life around. I know some at Northwood who recall attending a Billy Graham Crusade and giving their life to Christ at that time. There are even some who have had a "Damascus Road" experience like the Apostle Paul. I also know that some of you are still exploring what it means to believe in God and accept faith in Jesus Christ. Rest assured that many times the call to faith in God may be accompanied by confusion, uncertainty and even periods of denial.

What I'm trying to say is that however we come to faith in God, what we believe as Presbyterians is that there is something about the Lordship of Jesus Christ that lays claim on our life and calls us to follow Him and be part of the local church. And while churches of other denominations may be diverse, we as Presbyterians celebrate our diversity. Note that we do not seek uniformity as Christians, but rather as Presbyterians we seek unity in Jesus Christ, for no two people have the same experience of faith.

So then, anyone who can be a Christian can be a Presbyterian. We believe in one Lord, one Faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all. We affirm this each and every month when we partake of the bread of the Lord's Table together, for "we are ONE in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!"

Next month I'll pick up back up on what we believe about being Presbyterian and what we believe about the Bible.
Your Pastor and Friend,

Chris
Chris Curvin

Christian Education

Susan Curry, Christian Education Team Chair

Thursday Morning 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.

Spring Women's Bible Study

Knowing how to pray can change your life! Join us for a five-week study on prayer, using Kay Arthur's study, *Lord Teach Me to Pray*. We will begin on Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. Contact Pam Means to sign up and order a workbook! (386-0747 or psm260@gmail.com)

Fresh Brewed

February 6, 10:30am will be our **Valentine Cupcake Tea**. Please bring your favorite cupcake, tea sandwiches or salad to share. We will be studying Chapter 7 (Listen Look Beneath) of our book *A Million Little Ways*. All ladies are invited as we celebrate an early Valentine's Day. Contact: Sally Uhler 727-796-7563.

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 5

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 5.

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

Sunday, January 18: No Youth Group
Friday, January 23: Game night 7-10
Sunday, January 25: Youth group 4:15-6:00
Friday, January 30: Game night 7-10
Sunday, February 1: Youth group 4:15-6:00
Friday, February 6: Game night 7-10
Sunday, February 8: Youth group 4:15-6:00
Friday, February 13: Game night 7-10
Sunday, February 15: Youth group 4:15-6:00
Friday, February 20: Game night 7-10
Sunday, February 22: Youth group 4:15-6:00
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!

Confirmation Schedule

Sunday, 1/25 @ 9:30 A.M., Rm. 18-class
Sunday, 2/1– no class
Sunday, 2/8 @ 9:30 A.M., Rm. 18-class
Sunday, 2/15 @ 9:30 A.M., Rm. 18-class
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 either March 6-8 or 13-15
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

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



Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry

Worship Preparation Class For Children :

This year the Children's Ministry team will conduct a special Worship Preparation Class for two weeks in February. Children in 2nd grade (or 3rd-5th grades who have not already attended) are invited to this class. Worship Preparation Class is designed to help children feel more at home in the worship service. God created us to be in community with each other and worship is the place we unite together in praise and prayer and hear the word proclaimed. We need to encourage our children that worship is for them as well as adults. We can do this by teaching them the different parts of the worship service and its significance. We want our children to take an active role in our worship and this class gives them the information and confidence they need to fully participate. The class schedule is as follows:

- Sunday, February 15, 10:30-11:00 am, Room 10 Parent Mtg
- Sunday, February 15th & 22th, 10:30–12:00 am, Rooms 4-6
- Sunday, March 1st, Children Recognized

On the Sunday they are recognized in their worship service, they will receive an Adventure Bible, which is the New International Early Reader's Version (ages 6 through

9). The Adventure Bible is colorful and offers many pictures and explanations to help children understand the Scriptures. If a child already has this Bible, we can either give them an older version of this Bible, the Adventure Bible Devotional Book, or some other age appropriate devotional book.

If you would like your child to attend this class, please RSVP to Justine Ruisz and choose which Bible or devotional book you prefer your child to receive:

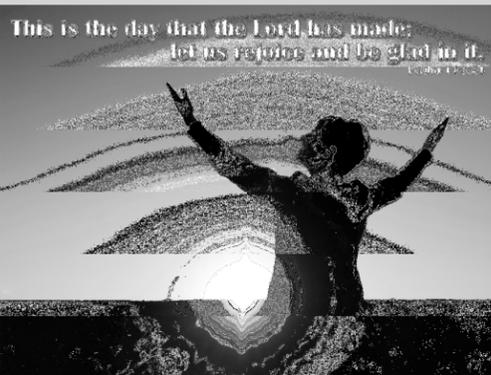
1. Adventure Bible Early Reader Version (ages 6-9)
2. Adventure Bible (ages 9-12)
3. Adventure Bible Devotional Book

King's Kids:

We are looking for help with our King's Kids mid-week program which will resume in the New Year, on January 21st. If you can help do crafts, play Bible games or assist with the children from 4-6 please contact Justine Ruisz.

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

The Window, January 20, 2015 | 5



This is the day that the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Around Northwood

Building Renovation Pledge Update

Campaign Goal: \$80,000.00
Pledged to date: \$62,293.00.
Received \$44,784.53.

2015 Envelopes

2015 Giving/Pledge Envelopes are available in the hall by the kitchen. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. When making "Cash" contributions, please include your name on the envelope to ensure it is accurately recorded. If you wish to set up online giving, go to www.northwoodpc.org and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

Youth Choirs

This would be a great time join the youth vocal choir or youth handbell choir (grades 6-12). Singing begins at 4:50 p.m. followed by handbells from 5:30-6:15 p.m. each Wednesday. Call or text Tom Huffman if you want to join the bell group (727) 409-8726.

Stephen Ministry: An Active Caring Ministry

Our Stephen Ministry program consists of church members who have been equipped with 50 hours of training to provide confidential, emotional, spiritual, one-to-one Christian care to individuals who are experiencing struggles in their lives. These difficult circumstances include loss of a loved one, illness, aging, spiritual crisis, a lay-off, relocation, divorce, single parenthood, loneliness, or discouragement, as well as many other life challenges. A Stephen Minister is a caring, Christian friend who will walk beside a person who is hurting and listen, pray, support and encourage them. Typically, a Stephen Minister will meet faithfully with his or her care receiver for about an hour each week, for as long as there is a need. To learn more about how you, a family member or a friend can benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Paul at 727-796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.

Kid's Corner Registration for 2015-16

In-House: February 2-6 (currently enrolled students/church members)

Public Registration: February 9-12

Registration Fee: \$100.00 (VPK/church members exempt)

Supply Fee: \$15.00 (for 2's and 3's, requested donation for VPK)

VPK: Free

Private Pay for 5 day 4's and 3's: \$275.00 a month

3 Day program: \$200.00 a month

2 Day Programs: \$150.00

There is a Lunch Bunch Program that is optional and those prices are in addition to the above mentioned tuition. VPK Lunch Bunch is not free.

- 5 days \$110.00 a month
- 4 days \$100.00 a month
- 3 days \$90.00 a month
- 2 days \$75.00 a month
- 1 day \$50.00 a month

Kid's Corner Pre-School will not have a Summer camp this summer due to the construction.

With Thanks!

Dear Northwood Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers, flowers and visits during my illness. It is greatly appreciated and warmly felt! Thanks again, Lois Marsh

A Food Pantry "Thank You"

"Thank You" to everyone who helped to make the NPC food pantry a success in the past year. Thank you to the King's Kids, the Kid's Corner Preschool, the TCI Class, the NPC Angels and everyone in the congregation who contributed or served in this local community mission. The need in 2014 far exceeded that in any previous years. We distributed approximately 337, which represents an increase of more than 50% over 2013. Donations of both food and money are appreciated, as the money is needed when the donations of specific food items does not keep up with the demand. While the periodic food drives by various church groups are very significant, the need continues on a daily basis, so your regular contributions are vital. Again, thank you for your support of this important mission.

Attention Youth & Adults

Are you interested in joining the puppet ministry group? We are re-starting the program, so no experience is needed—only your enthusiasm and interest in learning! Join us on Monday, January 26th at 6pm. If you are interested and can't attend the first meeting, send an email to kscheuerman@tampabay.rr.com.

Kay Scheuerman & Pam Wood

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:

- Gail & Lou Weislogel and family on the death of Gail's sister and Northwood Member, Kate Pfifer, January 2, 2015 in Clearwater, FL.
- Barbara Henry and family on the loss of her Uncle, Eugene Miller, on January 2, 2015 in PA.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of:
Jean DeFilippo
Bea Kimball

Given by:
Lorrie Janusik
Lloyd Kimball

In Honor of:
Bill & Charlotte Douglas
Tim & Karen Dickson
Jane Sutton

Given by:
Lorrie Janusik
Lorrie Janusik
Bill & Patty Martin
Harriett Jackson

Becky Sharp & Bob Walker Jane Urban

VITALS

Weather: Cloudy & Cool
Sunday, January 11, 2015

(8:15)	99
(9:30)	116
(11:00)	<u>146</u>
Total:	361

Congratulations!

We celebrate the birth of Evelyn JoAnn Cox, daughter of Chris and Debra (Musgrave) Cox, granddaughter of Sam and Barbara Musgrave, who was born January 1, 2015 weighing 4 lbs, 10 oz at 17.5 inches long! Congratulations!

"THANKS" FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Beth-El

Dear Northwood Presbyterian Church,

Through donations such as yours we are able to assist the local Hispanic farmworker community. Thank you for your donation of \$525.00 along with hundreds of blankets. our educational programs on campus continue to grow with partnerships with Redlands Christian Migrant Association and the Hillsborough County School District. Well over 350 children and adults are being educated each day on our campus. Once again thank you for your donation, it is quite important to those we serve.

Blessings,
Dave Moore, Executive Director

RCS

Dear Northwood,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$250.00 to Food Bank-General Food. Your commitment to helping people right here in Pinellas County is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jeff Muller
Chair, RCS Board of Directors

Habitat for Humanity

Dear Northwood,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$1,920.04. Your investment helps families in our community achieve what they thought was just a dream. Thanks to you, we will hand the keys to 40 struggling families by the end of 2014.

To date, Habitat Pinellas has completed 318 safe, affordable homes in our community. Your support allows us to remain focused on our mission to promote family stability through innovative housing solutions. Our overarching goal is to eliminate substandard housing throughout the county.

Let's build!
Mike Sutton, Chief Executive Officer

For Haiti With Love

Your loving support of the Lord's work is so very much appreciated.

God Bless You,
Eva L.

Thornwell

Dear Brothers & Sisters:

How grateful to you we are for your gift of \$250.00 to Thornwell in partnership with our ministry for children and families in distress! Your gift, along with those of other compassionate supporters, means that the children living here can have the kind of Thanksgiving holiday that includes a wonderful traditional meal and the gather of a loving family.

For all whom we serve, we hope to promote healing that will last far beyond the holidays.

Just as you support Thornwell with your prayers, as well as your gifts, we pray for you with gratitude for your generosity. May you be blessed as you have blessed children and families in need.

With a grateful heart,
Chandra Coleman,
Mission Advancement Officer