

THANK YOU from the Music Ministry

Such a busy season, but a joyful one for me. I am grateful. The bell ringers, the choir singers, the praise band, the children and youth, all preparing music announcing the birth of our Savior. Everyone volunteering of their time, week after week, with joy in their hearts to lift voices in song. Many, many thanks to all of you. Special thanks to Tom Huffman for his leadership and collaboration. To Mark Johnston, who makes things run seamlessly with his technical leadership and team. To Tracey Birch and Melanie Brown, for going above and beyond in their help to me, almost daily. Sometimes things drop from my plate and I left Dawn Winder's name off of our soprano list for the cantata, and I'm sure I have made other mistakes this season. I appreciate you Dawn and any others I have forgotten! I pray it was a Merry Christmas for all of you and I look forward to an exciting 2016!

-Stephanie Carson

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by



Hugh & Margie Gott
In Honor of our 46th wedding anniversary



Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2015 Flower Reservation Chart" on the bulletin board across from the kitchen. Thank you to those providing flowers each week In Honor/In Memory of someone or an anniversary/birthday!

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....

Sunday, December 27th: Barbara Stone, Sally Uhler
Monday, December 28th: Charlotte McQuown, Emma Heycock
Tuesday, December 29th: Carolyn Voytko
Wednesday, December 30th: Doug Winder, Kaleb Adkisson
Thursday, December 31st: Mark Johnston, Nancy Turner
Friday, January 1st: Jacob Mattheus, Evan McLendon
Saturday, January 2nd: Cambia Catarelli, Vicki Stedman, Sheena Watkins, Robert Wood

If you see someone whose birthday is listed and you haven't seen them in church recently, give them a call!

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

ACOLYTE:
(10:00) Nadia Rodewald



GREETERS:
(10:00) Cookie Roffey
Don Morrison

USHERS:
(10:00) Youth



VAN DRIVER: Cynthia Lawrence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Memorial Service celebrating the life and faith of Larry Cornillaud will be held on Saturday, January 9th at 11:00 am with a reception to follow in the Christian Education Building. There will be a time of visitation with the family in the sanctuary from 10:00- 11:00 am, prior to the service. We extend our Christian sympathy to Larry's wife, Elaine; his son, Jason; and granddaughter, Ava.

YOUTH UPCOMING EVENTS

Confirmation Class 2016

Calling all seventh graders and older who have not been Confirmed. We will be holding an organizational meeting for the students and the parents or guardians on **Sunday, January 10** at 9:30 in room 18 to discuss the details for this year's Confirmation class. Please let me know if you and your child are interested in this year's classes.

If you are not receiving my email messages and would like to be added to the parent contact list please email me at:

Troy Harris, Director of Youth & Young Adults
troyharris1962@yahoo.com, 727-366-7762

CHILDREN'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Bash 2016

Children grades 3rd - 5th are invited to Cedarkirk, **April 15th - 16th**. If you are interested in sending your child(ren) or for more information contact Justine Ruisz.

VBS June 20-24

Parents, save the date for Vacation Bible School. More details to come in 2016.

TCI Class

Today's Christian Issues has invited the Imam of the Islamic Society of Pinellas County, Sheikh Saad Slaoui, to present the theology of Islam on **January 3rd**. On **January 10th**, Imam Sheikh Saad will return to answer our questions about his faith. All are welcome to attend either or both presentations.

Garage Sale Donations

Are you saving all your treasures that you want to donate to the church for the annual Garage Sale? Hold on to them just a little longer. We will begin collecting items at the church starting **January 3rd**. Thank you in advance for your generosity. This fundraiser benefits the Music Program all year. Please no old tvs, heavy exercise equipment like treadmills or entertainment centers. We will be picking up furniture and other heavy items on **Saturday and Sunday, January 2 & 3** and **Saturday and Sunday, January 7 & 8** only. We can pick up any other items whenever it's convenient for you. Please call Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 to arrange for pick-up or if you have any questions about an item you would like to donate.

Cedarkirk Women's Retreat- January 22-24

Leave your worries and your chores (and your husband!) behind. Join the women of Northwood for a spirit-filled weekend of fellowship, games, crafts and canoeing, while staying in air-conditioned lodges. Put in your deposit now!

Welcome To **Northwood Presbyterian Church**

A Stephen Ministry Church

December 27, 2015



Merry Christmas!

Ministers: All Members of the Church

E. Chris Curvin, Pastor
Paul Means, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care & Mission

Northwood Presbyterian Church
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(727) 796-8090 Fax (727) 797-8276
www.northwoodpc.org



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facebook.com/npc.clearwater

Order for the Public Worship of God
December 27, 2015
First Sunday after Christmas Day
10:00 AM Worship Service

WE GATHER

*(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.
Please silence electronic devices.)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNARY “Carol of the Bells” arr. Mark Kellner

(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Paul Means, Associate Pastor

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET”, and pass it toward the center aisle.)*

***CAROL MEDLEY** (147) **“The First Nowell”** THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *(Refrain)*

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. *(Refrain)*

(145) **“What Child Is This”** GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this who, laid to rest
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

(132) **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

When Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, he became like us in all things but sin. May we who have been reborn in him be free from our sinful ways.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard to take notice; We are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. *(Continue in silence.)* ... Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Responsive)*

One: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

One: God is at work in us even now, bringing Good News to the world through us.

All: Let us glorify and praise God for all we have received in Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8-20 (KJV)
Garry Justice

ANTHEM

“While Shepherds Watched” Joseph M. Martin
(the text is mainly from stanzas 1,2 and 6 of Hymn #117)

FAITH SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

Justine Ruisz,
Director of Children’s Ministries
(Children will sit with their families during the entire service as there is no Children’s Worship today.)

WE SHARE

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “Go Tell It!” Jack Schrader
Gemma Briggs, Carissa Johnston, Robert Wood

***DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION** THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

AN ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS STORY

“One Small Light” Janet Winder, Storyteller

(Congregation, seated) (123)

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, From Heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, They bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

(Youth Choir) “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

(Congregation) (144) **“In the Bleak Midwinter”** CRANHAM

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

(Solo) “Away in a Manger” arr. Dennis H. Avey
Cindy Huffman, Alto

(Congregation) (121) **“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** ST LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv’n;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

(Duet) “Mary Did You Know” Lowry/Greene
Barbara Jordan and Larry Stephen

WE UNITE IN PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

“Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

***CLOSING CAROL #134 “Joy to the World”** ANTIOCH

***BENEDICTION**

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

“Festal Flourish on ‘Ding Dong! Merrily on High’” David Lasky

Stephanie Carson, Music Director
Tom Huffman, Organist and Associate Music Director

**Congregation will stand. If standing is difficult for you, feel free to remain seated.*