

### Christmas Eve Offering

This year's Christmas Eve offering is for the Helping Hands Fund. All gifts given on Christmas Eve will be used to help those in our community with significant needs who come to our church office during the year. Thank you for your generosity.

### 2016 Pledge Giving

If you are behind on your 2016 pledge, please catch up as soon as possible before the end of the year. The operating budget is based on your faithful giving and church expenses do not stop. Thank you for your faithfulness. If you have any questions about your giving, please call the church office at 796-8090 and speak to Linda O'Leary or Chris Hurst.

### IRA Distributions

As of December 18, 2015, the IRA Charitable Rollover was passed by Congress and signed into permanent law by the President. If you are 70 ½ or older and own an IRA, this new law allows you to avoid taxes when you transfer funds from your IRA directly to a qualified charity. You can transfer up to \$100,000 annually without recognizing the distribution as income. To benefit, you must make your gift before December 31. For more information, please contact Chris Hurst, Business Administrator, at 727-796-8090 or your IRA administrator.

### 2016 Contributions

Giving intended for 2016 must be received in the church office by noon on Thursday, December 29 or postmarked no later than December 31, 2016. Contributions which are processed electronically through your bank's online bill pay or via our website must be initiated much earlier (probably no later than December 26) so that the transaction will fully process and qualify for deduction in 2016.

**Please send articles for all publications to Tracy Donovan at [Communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:Communications@northwoodpc.org).**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS- December 11, 2016

### WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship and service here. Each week's sermon is available for you in a printed booklet in the narthex as well as a video on our website at [www.northwoodpc.org](http://www.northwoodpc.org).

## Upcoming Events

### Ring, Sing & Mingle

Join us for a free handbell concert and carol sing TODAY at 4:00 P.M. Pick up flyers in the narthex to invite friends, family and neighbors. It will be a evening full of great music, carols, snacks and more! A freewill offering will be received.

### The Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering will be received next Sunday, December 18. It supports the development of future racial ethnic leadership of our church and aids church workers and their families in times of need, answering a faithful call to enrich lives and ease burdens.

### Traditional Services Cantata

Join us next Sunday, December 18 in the 8:15 & 11:00 services for our traditional cantata, "Morning Star" by Joseph Martin featuring the choir and instruments.

### Saturday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

Come join us for one of our three candlelight services at 4:30 P.M. (Family service with childcare available), 7:30 P.M. (Traditional Service with choirs & carols with childcare available) and 11:00 PM (Lessons & carols with Holy Communion, no childcare available). We will receive an offering for the Helping Hands fund.

### Sunday, December 25

We will be having one service on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25 at 10:00 A.M. We will then resume our normal three services (8:15, 9:30 & 11:00) on Sunday, January 1.

### Youth Ministry

- Sun, Dec. 11:** Sunday School 9:30-10:30 A.M.  
Youth Group Christmas Party 6:00 P.M.
- Mon, Dec. 19:** Middle School Event
- Tues, Dec. 20:** Young Adult Event 5:00-7:00 P.M.
- Wed, Dec. 21:** High School Go-Karting Trip 2:00-4:00 P.M.
- Sun, Jan. 8:** Youth Group Family Dinner Kick-Off  
5:00-6:30 P.M.
- Wed, Jan. 11:** High School Bible Study 6:15-7:15 P.M.
- Fri, Jan. 13:** Off-Campus Game Night 7:00-10:00 P.M.
- Sat, Jan. 14:** Winter Jam 3:30 P.M.

*Jon Drawdy, Director of Youth & Family Ministries*  
[youthdirector@northwoodpc.org](mailto:youthdirector@northwoodpc.org) (813) 624-2593

### Children's Ministry

#### Kids & Youth: Do you play a Musical Instrument?

Kids and youth (ages 1st grade through 12th grade), come play your instrument on Christmas Eve...your gift to the Lord! If you have a sacred song to play during our pre-service concert at 4:00 P.M. please call Justine Ruisz at (727) 796-8090 or email her at: [childrensministry@northwoodpc.org](mailto:childrensministry@northwoodpc.org).

#### King's Kids

King's Kids is on a break for the holidays until Wednesday, Jan 25th.

*Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry*  
[Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org](mailto:Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org) 796-8090/ Cell- 727-641-8140

### Alternative Gifts for Christmas!

For as little as \$5.00 you can honor a loved one with a donation to a local, national or international benevolence. The women of Lydia Circle will be in the Narthex before and after each worship service during Advent (Today and December 18) to help you select a PERFECT alternative gift.

Contact Barbara Englehart (743-4886 or [waspfinella@yahoo.com](mailto:waspfinella@yahoo.com)) or Nancy Johnson (366-7705 or [njohnso1472@gmail.com](mailto:njohnso1472@gmail.com))

### Our Sympathies

We extend our prayers and Christian sympathy to Katie and Eric Pacana and their families upon the news of the death of Eric's father, Ron Pacana, on December 6.

### VIP Members performing "The Call of Christmas"

- Vocals: Emily Cantin, Stephanie Carson, Dan Jeffre,  
Cindy Huffman, Will Parker, Janet Winder
- Guitars: Lex Long and Larry Stephen
- Bass: Gary Granata
- Drums: Dave Basti
- Keyboard/Director: Stephanie Carson

### Poinsettia Orders- Deadline TODAY

Do you have someone you'd like to honor or remember with a poinsettia in the sanctuary this Christmas? For just \$9, you can make that happen. Place your check designated "Poinsettia" and the completed sign-up form from Sunday's friendship sheet (deadline is TODAY) in the offering plate or drop off in the church office.

### Cedarkirk Women's Retreat - January 20-22

Need a gift idea for a special woman in your life? How about a relaxing weekend at our Women's Retreat? We'll make up a special gift card, and wrap it for you as well. Grab a brochure or simply ask Sharon Brown, Jeanne Stephen or Diana Fisher. We'll be glad to help you get this great gift rolling!

### Beth-El Angel Tree



Northwood will be supporting the **Beth-El Farm-workers Ministry** in Hillsborough County again this year. The gift requests will be on multi-colored angels on the Christmas tree. Please bring unwrapped gifts and place under the tree by TODAY. For information contact Evelyn Towns 727-785-3743.

### Annual Garage Sale- January 13 & 14



Save your treasures to donate to the church for the annual garage sale. We will begin collecting items at the church starting Saturday, December 31, 2016. The fundraiser benefits the Music Program all year. Please no old TVs, heavy exercise equipment like treadmills or entertainment centers. If you have a question about an item you would like to donate call Susan Curry, (727) 709-8237.