

New Paraments

Have you noticed the beautiful new paraments in the sanctuary? Paraments are ornamental cloths used in a worship space that serve as a symbolic proclamation of faith. The colors used in the paraments have meaning, too. Green is the color seen most often. It represents "Ordinary Time." It symbolizes our ongoing need for spiritual growth. White is used for days which require purity, respect or reverence. Flame Red is used to represent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We're currently in the time of Advent, which is symbolized by Purple. Purple is the liturgical color of preparation. Each of these is intended to provide a visual element to our worship space.

Coming in 2015

Church-wide Yard Sale

Please be saving your items for the Church wide yard sale that will be held Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17. Please save your items to drop off between January 4-16. If you have need of an earlier drop off time, call Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 for off-site storage.

Grief Recovery and God's Grace

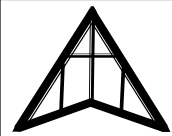
Beginning Wednesday, January 7 and continuing through Wednesday, February 11, Pastor Paul will lead a six-week educational seminar and support group for persons who are experiencing grief due to death, a life-threatening illness or some other life circumstance. This is not a group therapy program, so while active participation is encouraged, it is not required. The cost for materials is \$25. For more information, please contact Pastor Paul at (727)796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.

Acclaimed Handbell Choir Here

The world famous Westminster Choir College Handbell choir will be in concert here at Northwood on Thursday, January 15, 2015. This group plays the largest set of handbells in the world (from C1 -C9). You will not want to miss this! If you would be willing to house overnight at your home two or more of the student ringers, please contact Stephanie Carson or Tom Huffman.

Women's Retreat

Does simply thinking about chocolate bring a smile to your face? Then join us and our speaker, Jennifer Weldon, at Café Chocolat for the 2015 Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk on Feb. 6-8. Info can be found on the bulletin board across from the water fountain. Mark your calendars and sign up TODAY!



"Taking the Next Step
of Faith"

ANNOUNCEMENTS—December 14, 2014 WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship and service here. We invite you to our Discovering Northwood class **Sunday, January 18 in room 4** of the Christian Education Building from **10:45AM-12:00PM** to learn more about our church. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pastor, Rev. E. Chris Curvin, at ChrisCurvin@Northwoodpc.org. Chris can be reached at 796-8090.

Important Publication Submission Reminder

Please continue to send all Announcements and publication information to Katie@Northwoodpc.org with a subject line indicating for which publication and what dates the information is to run. Thank you!

This Month...

Poinsettia Orders

Today is the last day to sign up for Poinsettias in Honor or in Memory of loved ones. A sign up is available on the bottom of the Sunday Friendship Sheet. The cost is a \$9 donation for each poinsettia ordered. A listing of those who gave in honor or memory of their loved ones will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Daily Advent Devotionals Available

Devotional books can be found in the racks outside the sanctuary. We hope these daily readings add to the excitement and preparation of the birth of the Christ child.

2014 ANGEL TREE PROJECTS

Beth-El Migrant Workers: Please drop-off your unwrapped gifts TODAY in the library where they will be picked up after the 11:00 service. Thank you, again, to everyone who participated in this ministry of sharing God's gift of love! .

Ring, Sing & Mingle Is Today at 4:00 p.m.

All four bell groups (children, youth and 2 adult) will be performing and everyone will have the chance to sing Christmas carols and songs to bring us, and ring us, into the Christmas Season. The concert will be followed by a reception of homemade goodies and treats. The cost? FREE! Our gift to you. Please bring your friends, relatives and neighbors for a fun and festive afternoon!!

This Month, continued

Christmas is Coming!

Are you challenged to find the affordable perfect gift? Consider an Alternative Gift! For as little as \$5.00 you can honor a special person with a donation in his or her honor to one of eight local, national or international charities. The women of Lydia Circle will be in the narthex each Sunday through December 21 to help you select the perfect benevolence and give you a beautiful card to announce your gift. Questions? Contact Barbara Englehart (727) 743-4886 or Nancy Johnson (727) 366-7705.

Christmas Cantata is Next Sunday, December 21, 2014

The Chancel choir will present "Darkness into Light" by Mary McDonald at the 8:15 and 11:00 services. The choir will be joined by soloists and instruments presenting the journey and joy of the Christmas experience through beloved carols and exciting new songs.

Christmas Joy Offering, December 21

Next Sunday we will receive the annual Christmas Joy Offering. Your gifts make a difference in providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and in opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racially ethnic colleges and schools. Your generous support of the Christmas Joy Offering will make a difference in shining the One True Light of Christ's love.



CHRISTMAS
EVE
WORSHIP

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Wednesday, December 24, 2014

4:30 pm Children's Pageant with Puppets (nursery available)
7:30 pm Choirs & Carols (nursery available)
11:00 pm Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed the following days in December:

- Wednesday, December 24, 2014 at Noon
- Thursday, December 25, 2014
- Friday, December 26, 2014
- Wednesday, December 31, 2014 at Noon
- Thursday, January 1, 2015
- Friday, January 2, 2015

NPC Food Pantry

Requests are high for food pantry items and supplies are low. Please help by donating canned or jarred food like meats (especially ham and chicken), beef stew, corned beef hash, chili, spaghetti sauce, canned pastas, fruit, vegetables, baked beans, chunky soups, peanut butter, and jelly. Donation baskets are located in the hallways. To make a monetary donation, please indicate "Food Pantry" on your check.

Youth Events

Sunday, December 14: Youth Christmas Party following 4:00 p.m. "Ring, Sing, Mingle" Handbell concert. Come for pizza, drinks, a Christmas Challenge, and our White elephant Gift Exchange. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift for the exchange.

Friday, December 19: Game Night, 7:00-10 p.m.

Sunday, December 21: No Youth Group

Sunday School

Join us for combined middle/high school Sunday school at both 9:30 and 11:00. We will be studying the "Elements" of our faith.

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

Children's Ministries

Sunday School Classes

See back of bulletin for Sunday School information!

11:00 Adult Sunday School:

Parents did you know that you can attend the *Experiencing God* class at 11:00? While you are experiencing God, your children will be busy bringing the Bible to Action through games and activities in room 3. Come check out what the 11:00 hour has for you and your children.

Do you play a Musical Instrument?

Children and youth are invited to play a sacred piece at the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. Contact Justine Ruisz no later than tomorrow if you are interested.

King's Kids

We will be taking a break from November 26 – January 14, 2015, and will resume on January 21st.

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry
Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org, 796-8090/ Cell- 641-8140

Building Renovation Pledge Update

Pledged to date: \$62,293.00. Received \$39,193.25

2015 Church Budget - Pledge Update

As of Tuesday, December 9, we have received 181 pledge cards totaling \$474,411.00. Additional pledge cards are available.