

## —Get Involved—

### Alternative Gifts for Christmas

Today is the last day to shop for an alternative gift. Honor your loved ones with a donation to eight local, national, and international benevolences. The women of Lydia Circle will be available in the narthex today to help you choose the right benevolence and give you a lovely card to announce your thoughtfulness. Questions? Contact Barbara Englehart (727-743-4886 or [waspfifi-nella@yahoo.com](mailto:waspfifi-nella@yahoo.com)) or Nancy Johnson (727-366-7705 or [john-so1472@gmail.com](mailto:john-so1472@gmail.com)).

### 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.

More tickets still available! A group from the Kitchen Krew will be going to see **The Lion King** on January 21st. Please contact Charlotte McQuown at (727) 669-2571 as soon as possible so you can get the group rate of just \$52.00.

## Christmas Services

### Thursday, December 24th - Christmas Eve

*Three Candlelight Services*

**4:30 PM Family Service**

Children's musical, "An Unplugged Christmas"  
(childcare available)

**7:30 PM - Traditional Service with Choirs & Carols**  
(childcare available)

**11:00 PM Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion**

### Sunday, December 27th— One Service Only

**10:00 AM Lessons and Carols**

A service for the whole church family in the form of a Lessons and Carols Service. This will be our only service this Sunday.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—December 20, 2015

### WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship and service here. To learn more about our church we have our Discovering Northwood class on **January 17 in room 4** of the Christian Education Building **from 10:45AM-12:00PM**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pastor, Rev. E. Chris Curvin, at [ChrisCurvin@Northwoodpc.org](mailto:ChrisCurvin@Northwoodpc.org) or 796-8090 or you may contact our Membership Coordinator, Tracy Donovan, at [communications@northwoodpc.org](mailto:communications@northwoodpc.org) or 796-8090.

## —Coming Events—

### 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

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 see you get this great gift rolling!!

**TODAY** 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.



### Use of the "Bidding Prayer" in Worship

**Bidding-prayer** (O. Eng. *biddan*, "to pray", cf. Ger. *beten*) is the formula of prayer or exhortation to prayer said during worship in churches and is a form of intercessory prayer. A bidding prayer is offered at the beginning of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols observed at King's College, Cambridge University or during other Christmas musical and worship events like cantatas and Christmas Eve. This prayer, whose text has remained largely unaltered since the Festival's inception in 1918, has been heard annually in radio broadcasts of the Lessons and Carols Service since the 1930s.

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



*In Memoriam of Stuart Ward Acker,  
Brother of Phyllis Acker Donnelly*



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!

### FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

#### **ACOLYTE:**

(8:15) Kathryn Birch  
(11:00) Kylie Crossley

#### **GREETERS:**

(8:15) Don Morrison  
Lorrie Janusik  
(11:00) Ann & Spencer Briggs

#### **USHERS:**

(8:15) Fred Heider, Ellen Stoup  
David & Suzanne Hamilton  
(9:30) Kim, Morgan & Lindsey Peterson  
(11:00) Pete & Evelyn Towns  
Ed Puschmann  
Jon Mills

**VAN DRIVER:** Ed Puschmann



**Ushers & Greeters**



### BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....

**Sunday, December 20th:** Jacqueline Cole-Graziano, Sandy Seckel, Jere Gunderman, Karen Gipson  
**Tuesday, December 22nd:** Sharon O'Donnel, Steve Rickrode, Jonathan Luther  
**Wednesday, December 23rd:** Larry Grennan, Greg Brinkman  
**Thursday, December 24th:** Keith Kelly  
**Friday, December 25th:** Jane Urban, Bill Bitner, Bobbi Hunt, Patty Martin, Jesus Christ  
**Saturday, December 26th:** Jim Warren

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



### Christmas Eve Offering

This year's Christmas Eve Offering is for the **Helping Hands Fund**. Gifts given this evening are used to help those in our community with significant needs who come to our church office during the year. Thank you for your generosity in the spirit of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-46.

### 2015 Contributions

Giving intended for 2015 must be received in the church office by noon on December 31st or postmarked no later than December 31, 2015. 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 2015.

### Get Involved

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](mailto:troyharris1962@yahoo.com), 727-366-7762



### Children's Upcoming Events

#### Spring Bash 2016

Children grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> are invited to Cedarkirk, April 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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

