

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias sales in Honor or in Memory of loved ones have begun and will continue through Sunday, December 15th. 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 be found in the Christmas Eve bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Feller at lpf1967@yahoo.com.

Pledge Update

The end of the year is catch up time for a lot of things and some of you have called the church office to inquire about the status of your pledge. Thank you for your faithfulness to this commitment to Christ's church at Northwood. Pledges received so far this year are down by approximately \$7,000 and contributions from those of you who do not pledge but make regular gifts are down almost \$20,000 for the year. At the same time, the Ministry and Mission of Northwood has remained unchanged. Your financial support to this ministry is both needed and valued. If you need information regarding your pledge or yearly giving, please call the Church Office at 796-8090 and ask for Linda or Chris.

WOMEN'S RETREAT 2014

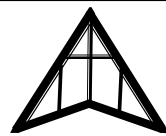
Ginger Renfro, a gifted Christian speaker, gospel singer and teacher, will lead us on "A Journey Worth Taking" at the Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk on Feb. 7-9. Info can be found on the bulletin board across from the water fountain. Mark your calendars and sign up TODAY!

Christmas is Coming!

Looking for gifts? Consider an Alternative Gift! For a \$5.00 donation you can honor a loved one by contributing to one of eight local, national and international missions. The Presbyterian Women will be available before and after each worship starting TODAY through December 22nd. If have any questions please contact Barbara Englehart (791-4648) or Nancy Johnson (366-7705).

It is that time of year again!! Please begin saving your items for the Church wide yard sale that will be held Friday and Saturday January 10 and 11. There will be a two week period prior to the sale for items to be dropped off. Sign-up sheet on the music bulletin board to volunteer to help with this fun event! More details later!

Dinner for 6, 7, 8 Christmas Brunch The annual Christmas Brunch will be held at 12:30 on Dec. 8, 2013, at the home of Ken and Martha Tobiassen, 2727 Westchester Dr. S., Clearwater. Please call Martha at 727-669-5517 by Dec. 5 to determine what you should bring.



Loyal to His Church
"Count on Me!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS—December 1, 2013

WELCOME GUESTS

We invite you to participate in the many opportunities for worship and service here. Our Discovering Northwood class is for newcomers as well as those of us who have been around awhile to simply learn more about us or to become a member of our church family.

The next Discovering Northwood class is **January 19th in room 4** of the Christian Education Building **from 11:00 am-12:00pm**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the pastor, Rev. E. Chris Curvin, at ChrisCurvin@Northwoodpc.org or Membership Coordinator, Katie Pacana, at Katie@Northwoodpc.org. Both Katie and Chris can be reached at 796-8090.

Daily Advent Devotionals Available Last year our staff took turns writing a daily advent devotion that we posted on Facebook. This year we'd like to offer them to you in print. 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.

It's the most wonderful time of the year... for gathering friends and family to light the Advent Candles! The worship team is seeking groups of two or more to light the candles on the Advent Wreath and provide the readings for this annual Northwood tradition at all three morning services on Dec. 8, 15 & 22, and at all evening services on Dec. 24. Please contact Susan Gajentan at pgajentan@juno.com or 727-481-3635 to reserve your spot!

Ring, Sing, Mingle!! Our Christmas handbell concert is Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 PM. All 4 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 at NPC!!

Philippines Typhoon Haiyan One of the worst recorded typhoons in history, Haiyan has left many dead, hundreds of thousands displaced, and extensive damage. The initial response includes provision of non-food items, drinking water and emergency shelter kits. All PC(USA) mission workers are reported safe. The Presbyterian Church (USA), our denomination, is currently responding with One Great Hour of Sharing funds and an appeal for assistance is issued. If you would like to give over and above your regular gift to Northwood simply mark on your additional gift for "Typhoon Victims." (You can read more about the PCUSA response at www.pcusa.org.)

News About Our Children's Ministries

Sunday School Classes: Please see the back panel of the bulletin for information about our Sunday School Classes.

King's Kids:

- **Teacher Meeting** on Wednesday, December 11, from 4-5pm in rm 8.
- **King's Kids resumes** on Wednesday, January 15, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

December Choir

During the month of December (Dec. 4, 11 & 18), the Angels (3rd-5th graders) will continue to meet weekly from 4-6pm in choir.

Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:30pm: Kids & Youth Wanted!

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 4:10pm, please contact Marcy Kemerer.

*Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry
Marcy Kemerer, Interim Director of Children's Ministry
Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org 796-8090*

Safety Harbor Holiday Parade:

Everyone of all ages, come march with us in the Holiday Parade on Saturday, December 21 from 12:30-3pm in Downtown Safety Harbor on Main Street. An adult needs to accompany all children in the 2nd grade and younger. Third through 5th graders may walk without parents. All participants must sign a waiver. Sign up on the Noah's Ark Bulletin Board. Questions? Contact Justine Ruisz, 796-8090.

Important Dates:

Sunday, 12/8, 10:30-10:55am Adult & Children's Meeting (sign waivers)
Friday, 12/20, 7-9pm, Make signs, pick up costumes, prep candy canes
Saturday, 12/21, 12:30pm Meeting Time for the 1pm Parade

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed in worship today as communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday each month at Northwood. All are encouraged to prepare through prayer and the reading of scripture prior to sharing in this meal with our crucified and risen Lord. (Parents who are nurturing children in faith and want them to participate in communion are asked to prayerfully consider having their children remain with them in worship at their discretion.)

Renaissance Crew 2nd Friday Fellowship will meet on Dec. 13 at 10:30 at St. Marks Village. We will gather in the chapel where Northwood's Associate Director of Music/Organist, Tom Huffman, will present a delightful Christmas music program, "Christmas Carols through the Ages." Following the program we will have lunch at St. Mark's. The cost is \$10 for non-residents and reservations need to be made with Becky Sharp (464-1331) by Dec. 1. Contact Pastor Paul at 796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org if you would like to take the church van, which will leave at 10:00.

Youth Events

- **Sunday, December 1:** Air-Heads Trip 5-8, \$16 a person
- **Friday, December 6:** Game Night 7-10pm
- **Sunday, December 8:** Youth Group 5-7

Christmas Party: It's almost time for the annual Youth Christmas Party. This year it will Sunday, December 15th from 5-7pm. More information to come.

Sunday School: Every Sunday at 9:30am and 11:00am in the Youth Room. Join us before or after the service you worship!

Confirmation: Calling all 7th graders or older who have not been confirmed! If you are interested in participating in the 2014 Confirmation Class, please contact Troy Harris. An organizational meeting will be held in January for more information, but in the meantime a list of those interested is being compiled. It is the church's sincere hope that if you have not already been through that you will consider doing so!

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

Food Pantry Request - Due to increased requests and the holidays, we need (cans & glass jars only, please) tuna, meats, pasta (such as ravioli or spaghetti), chili, beef stew, chicken and dumplings, pasta sauce, fruit, and chunky soups. We also need peanut butter and jelly which may be in plastic containers. Monetary donations are also accepted. If you have questions please call Pat Rabenstine at 727-785-5080. Thank you for your help.

THE BLOOD DRIVE IS DECEMBER 15th

The Blood Mobile will be here at church **Sunday, December 15th** from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Give Blood and help save lives!

2013 ANGEL TREE PROJECTS

PRISON FELLOWSHIP: Give gifts between \$15-20 for kids whose parents are in Prison. The tree will be up **TODAY** for you to take an Angel (be sure to sign it out). Wrapped Gifts should be returned by **December 4th**. We Need Deliverers! **Contact Jean DeFilippo, 470-9652.**

BETH-EL MIGRANT WORKERS: Please bring unwrapped gifts to be donated to migrant workers. These gift requests will be on **multi-colored angels** on the Angel Tree and are \$1.00 up. The requests will be available **TODAY**. Gifts are due **December 11th**. For details, contact **Jean DeFilippo, 470-9652 or Evelyn Towns, 785-3743.**

