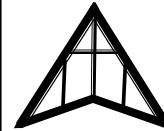


MUSIC NOTES:

Joseph Martin published today's cantata, "The Voices of Christmas," in 2004. The story of Christmas unfolds through the "voices" of witnesses (heard in narration) and is echoed in the voices of the choir as they sing both familiar and new carols and anthems. Martin writes, "In this cantata, our goal is to convey the message that because Christ was born to everyone (past, present, and future), we are all, in some sense, connected to the manger. We are all witnesses to and voices of the Good News of his birth.

The number "The Promise Is Near" was commissioned by his former church to honor Tom Huffman for twenty years of musical leadership and was subsequently included in this cantata.



Loyal to His Church
"Count on Me!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS—December 15, 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 10:45am-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.

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



*Bert McCormick
In Memory of
My Wife, Lucille & Sister, Maxine*



*The Birch Family
In Memory of
Tracey's Father, Donn Baker*

Flower orders & donation costs for flowers ordered for worship are made using the "2013 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!

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

Christmas Joy Offering, TODAY

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.

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 be found in the Christmas Eve bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Feller at lpf1967@yahoo.com.

THE BLOOD DRIVE IS TODAY

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

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 through December 22nd. If you have any questions please contact Barbara Englehart (791-4648) or Nancy Johnson (366-7705).

Library News!!! We encourage you to take a look at our libraries during the Advent/Christmas season. No time to read or view before Christmas? How about after? We hope you'll stop in. Check It Out!

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS TO....

- Sunday, December 15th:** Lois Marsh, Christy Rickrode, Stephanie Rickrode
- Monday, December 16th:** Cheryl Roberts, Bailey Shields
- Tuesday, December 17th:** Melanie Brown, Chris Curvin
- Wednesday, December 18th:** Helen Burke, Barb Finn, Carol Hersh, Nicole Makal, Kelsey Propst
- Thursday, December 19th:** Jan Risberg, Stephen Williams
- Friday, December 20th:** Jacqueline Cole-Graziano, Karen Gipson, Jere Gunderman, Sandy Seckel



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

News About Our Children's Ministries

Sunday School Classes: We invite those who would like to assist in the classrooms once or twice a month to please contact Justine at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org. Please see the back panel of the bulletin for information about our Sunday School Classes.

King's Kids: *King's Kids resumes* on Wednesday, January 15, 4–6 pm.

December Choir

December 18th is the last meeting for the Angels (3rd-5th graders) from 4-6pm for choir. Choir will resume on January 15th.

Family Christmas Eve Service at 4:30pm:

We are looking forward to your musical performance. All participants need to arrive at church by 3:00pm for rehearsal. Please wear sandals (no crocs or flip-flops) & comfortable clothing for under your costume.

Justine Ruisz, 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. Sign up on the Noah's Ark Bulletin Board!

Our event, sponsored by the Children & Youth Ministries, will be open to anyone who wants to participate. An adult needs to accompany all children in the 2nd grade and younger. **All participants must sign a waiver. Children in 3rd grade through 12th grade must sign an additional waiver if marching without parents. Waivers are available online.**

*There is available seating on the Church Bus for those unable to march but would like to participate. Please sign up today in rooms 12/14 at 10:30-10:55.

Important Dates:

Friday, 12/20 - 7-9pm, Make signs, pick up costumes, prep candy canes
Saturday, 12/21 - 12:30pm Meeting Time for the 1pm Parade

2014 Giving/Pledge Envelopes will be available in the hall by the kitchen. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. When making "Cash" contributions, please include your name on the envelope to ensure it is accurately recorded. If you wish to set up online giving, go to www.northwoodpc.org and click the "Giving" link to our secure online portal. Thank you for your faithful support.

2013 Contributions—Giving intended for 2013 must be received in the church office **by noon on December 31st** or postmarked **no later than December 31, 2013**. 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 2013.

Youth Events

- **Sunday, December 15:** Christmas Party 5-7pm
- **Friday, December 20:** No Game Night
- **Sunday, December 22:** No Youth Group

Christmas Party December 15th, 5-7pm: Come join us as we enjoy pizza, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. All youth should bring a wrapped gift valued at \$5.00 to the party. (Please make sure your gift is appropriate for the exchange.) There will be a prize for the most creative holiday outfit.

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 those who have not already been confirmed. Confirmation will begin in January. If you are interested in participating, please contact Troy Harris.

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

FAITHFULLY SERVING NORTHWOOD CHURCH TODAY

ACOLYTES:

(8:15) Kayla Dabbs (11:00) Ethan Crossley

GREETERS:

(8:15) Don Morrison & Sue Walker(11:00) Pamela Peters

USHERS:

(8:15) Ellen Stoup, Patty Martin, Dennis & Betty O'Shea
(9:30) Kim, Morgan & Lindsey Peterson
(11:00) Brooke Allison, Nancy Johnson, Dane & Vicki Phillips

VAN DRIVER: Ed Puschmann

2013 Pledge Update

	Expected 2013 Amount	Received To Date*	Balance Outstanding
Pledge Contributions	\$520,000.00	\$497,465.00	\$28,535.00
Non-Pledge Contributions	\$110,000.00	\$88,212.00	\$21,788.00
2013 Balance Outstanding			\$50,323.00

*Data as of December 10, 2013. If you believe you are behind on your pledge or giving, please note that all giving intended for 2013 must be received in the Church office before Noon on December 31, 2013 or post-marked that same date.