



Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL 33761

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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Sent with Prayer to...

Financial Matters

It is always our goal to process your gifts to the church with the utmost accuracy, integrity and confidentiality. Every effort is made to accurately record and report your giving to Northwood. However, near year-end, it can become challenging. For example, during the last six weeks of the year we generally receive the regular tithes and offerings, alternative gifts, the Christmas Joy offering (December 20th) and offerings to the Helping Hands Fund (Christmas Eve). All gifts received on Christmas Eve are presumed to be for the Helping Hands Fund and must be marked otherwise if that is not your intent. We are grateful for your generous giving, and any information you clearly provide will help direct your gift. Always make checks payable to Northwood Presbyterian Church. If your gift/offering is ultimately for a benevolence of the church such as RCS, for example, one check will be sent from the church.

As a reminder, gifts to be counted as 2015 contributions for tax purposes must be received before the church office closes at noon on December 31*. Checks mailed should be dated December 31* or before and should be postmarked no later than December 31*. Contributions made online/electronically must be processed and posted to our account by December 31* to be deductible in the current year and need to be initiated much earlier (probably no later than December 26th). The e-giving option can be found on the NPC website via the "Give" link at the top of the home page. Gifts of stock for 2015 must also be transferred prior to December 31*. Please contact the Church Office as soon as possible if you are planning a year-end stock gift.

Offering envelopes for 2016 are now available in the hall by the kitchen. Boxes are not numbered or labeled; you may take any one. Please remember that when making "Cash" contributions, include your first and last name on the envelope to be sure it is accurately recorded. In our continuing efforts to reduce the number of envelope sets that are wasted each year as more people choose online giving, we are again using perpetual envelopes. The individual envelopes in the box are marked for the 1*, 2*, 3* or 4* Sunday of each month rather than being dated. Envelopes for the 5* Sunday, if needed, are at the back of the box.

Finally, more of you are beginning to give online. If you are interested in setting up online giving, visit the "Give" link to the secure portal at the top of our homepage at www.northwoodpc.org or call the Church Office.

As always, thank you for your continued and faithful support of the ministry and mission of Northwood Presbyterian Church.

Northwood Presbyterian Church A Stephen Ministry Congregation



The Window

December 14, 2015 2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761
Volume 25, No. 11 727-796-8090 Main Office ~ 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care
www.northwoodpc.org



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

From Your Northwood Staff



At-A-Glance

December 14, 2015

This Month at Northwood

Sunday, December 20:
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Thursday, December 24:
4:30 P.M. Family Service & Pageant
7:30 P.M. Traditional Service
11:00 P.M. Communion Service

Church office closes Noon on December 24th and will reopen on Tuesday, December 29th.

Sunday, December 27:
10:00 A.M. One Service Today

Thursday, December 31:
Church office closes at Noon

Friday, January 1:
Church Office Closed

Sunday, January 3:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Sunday, January 10:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Friday & Saturday, January 15-16:
Annual Church Yard Sale

Sunday, January 17:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
10:45 A.M. Discovering Northwood Class
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Friday, January 22-Sunday, January 24:
Cedarkirk Women's Retreat

Sunday, January 24:
8:15 A.M. Traditional Service
9:30 A.M. IGNITE Service
11:00 A.M. Traditional Service

Merry Christmas!	1
At-A-Glance	2
Spotlight on Deacons' Ministry	3
Financial Matters	3
Christian Education	4
Children & Youth Ministries	5
Women's Ministries	5
Get Involved	6
Caring for our Church Family	7
News from the Mission Field	7
Financial Matters	8

The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church
Edited by Tracy Donovan

Submissions:
If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail communications@northwoodpc.org, or place it in Tracy Donovan's box in the church office. The deadline is the 2nd Monday of the month.

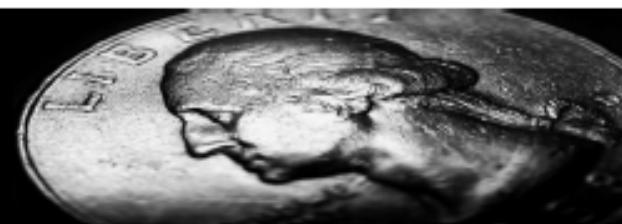
E-News:
If you are interested in receiving the bi-weekly Monitor via our e-news system, please send an email with your name and request to communications@northwoodpc.org.

Spotlight on Deacons' Ministries

God's Toolbox

The Deacons' God's Toolbox Ministry serves the church by assisting members who are unable to perform minor household or yard repairs or tasks as needed. We are in need of a few good handymen (or handywomen). Major skills are not needed, as tasks requiring a professional are beyond the scope of this ministry. To volunteer or learn more about it, contact Sue Miskiewicz at 799-6767 or susan.miskiewicz@yahoo.com.

Financial Matters



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.

2016 Giving/Pledge Envelopes

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.

See more information on page 8!

Per-Capita Apportionment

Every church shares in the administrative costs of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through the annual per capita assessment. Northwood's per-capita assessment for 2015 is \$25.00 per every active member and confirmed youth (communicant member). Please consider paying this administrative cost above and beyond your annual pledge/offering. You can contribute to the per-capita apportionment at any time during the year. To do so just write "per-capita" on the memo line of your check or mark an envelope accordingly. Thank you for your gift.

Building Renovation Pledge Update

For the latest update on the Building Renovation Pledge, see the weekly Bulletin!

Christian Education

Bailey Shields, Christian Education Team Chair

Women's Ministry

Bible Study

Start the new year spending time
in God's Word!

Come to the Waters,
the 2015-2016 Presbyterian Women's
Bible Study:

Tues, January 5, 9:00am, rms 5-7

Mon, January 11, 1:00pm,
member home

Tues, January 12, 9:30am, rms 5-7

Mon, January 18, 7:00pm, rms 5-7

One Simple Act, Discovering
the Power of Generosity,

by Debbie Macomber

Fri, February 5, 10:30am, rms 4-6
Valentine's Day Tea will follow study

Questions? Contact Patty Martin
(813)855-0851 or
bill.martin2@verizon.net

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

8:15 AM Children's Christian Education

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (15/16 School Year), Room 3.

Join us in the multi-age Sunday School worship class after the Children's Message.

9:30 AM Children's Christian Education

3 Yr. Olds-VPK (15/16 School Year), Room 3

Kindergarten- 2nd Grades, Room 4

Students will start and stay in their classroom for the Sunday school hour.

3rd- 5th Grades, Room 12

Students gather to worship at the beginning of the service with their teachers, in the front Sanctuary rows, closest to the band. After the Prayers of Joys & Concerns, they will move to room 12.

11:00 AM Children's Christian Education

3 Yr. Olds-5th Grade (15/16 School Year), Room 3.

Join us in room 3 for a time of worship or you may remain in service with your parents.

9:30 AM Middle & High School Christian Education

Middle and High Sunday School will be in the Youth Room on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays. On the 1st Sunday we will meet in the Ignite service to enjoy worship and communion together.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Serendipity Class- Sundays at 9:30 AM

Will meet in rooms 13 and 15. Led by Bob Meier and Jeanette Holloway.

TCI Class- Sundays at 9:30 AM

(Today's Christian Issues)

Will meet in rooms 9 and 11. As always, we will have coffee and cookies.

Experiencing God Class- Sundays at 11:00 AM

Will meet in room 15 led by Vicki Krueger.

Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry



King's Kids

Will resume on January 13th.

This is a mid-week program to help build friendships in a Christian environment and strengthen faith, bringing children closer to God. The program includes rotations through Bible lessons, music/choir, guided activities (crafts, organized games) & free playtime. The success of this ministry is based on our volunteer teachers and assistants. We ask parents to volunteer monthly to help sustain this wonderful program held on Wednesdays, 4:00-5:45, for children ages 3 through 5th grade.

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children's Ministry
Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org (727)796-8090
Cell- (727)641-8140

Crafts - Project Day

Our crafty women are grateful to everyone who has given time, money and materials to this ministry! In 2015 these ladies sent 127 dresses to For Haiti with Love. They have also distributed adult bibs, prayer shawls and walker cadies to area nursing homes. If you need any of these items - or if you want to help - see them on Thursday, January 28, at 9:30am in room 14. If you want to contribute materials and/or money, please contact Evelyn Towns (785-3743 or puson@aol.com).

Women's Retreat

Join the women of Northwood for an amazing weekend of fellowship, inspiration and crafts at Cedar-kirk on Friday, January 22 through Sunday, January 24. Information and sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Annual Gathering

The Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay will be held on Saturday, February 20, at St. Andrew's in Dunedin. For more information or to make a reservation to attend, contact Patty Martin (813-855-0851 or bill.martin@verizon.net).

Youth & Young Adults

Troy Harris, Director of Youth & Young Adults

Youth Events

Calling all seventh graders and older who have not been confirmed. We will be holding an organizational meeting for the students and their 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 youth email messages and would like to be added to the parent contact list please email Troy Harris.

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

Women's Ministry Events



Get Involved

Fun! Friends! Friday! The Ren Crew

The Ren Crew is a group that delights in sharing fun with friends, old and new, on the second Friday of the month (September – May). We gather at the church from 10:30 to 11:30 for presentations and conversations that are entertaining, educational and inspiring. Following the presentation, the group enjoys going to a different restaurant each month.

For more information, contact Pastor Paul Means at 727-796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.

Grief Recovery and God's Grace

Beginning Monday, January 25 and continuing through Monday, February 29, 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. The time of the seminar is from 1:30 to 3:30. This is not a group therapy program, so while active participation is encouraged, it is not required. The cost for materials is \$15.

For more information, contact Pastor Paul Means at 727-796-8090 or paul@northwoodpc.org.

Annual Report Deadline

To the Session, Committees, Pastors & Staff: Please note that the deadline to submit your Annual Report is **Monday, January 4th** by noon. Please submit your electronic copy to Tracy Donovan (communications@northwoodpc.org). If you have any questions, please contact the church office. Thanks!

Garage Sale

Our Music Ministry program needs your help in making the annual Garage Sale the biggest one ever. It can only happen if you donate your no longer needed/wanted items to the sale. Also, ask your family and neighbors if they have any items they would like to donate. All funds raised go towards supporting the many music programs our church supports. The Garage Sale is scheduled for January 15 & 16, 2016 with donations being accepted at the church starting January 3, 2016. We will be picking up furniture and other heavy items on Saturday & Sunday, January 2 & 3 and Saturday & Sunday, January 7 & 8 only. We can pick up any other items whenever it is convenient for you. Please call Susan Curry (727) 709-8237 to arrange for pick-up.



Cedarkirk Women's Retreat– January 22-24

Join the women of Northwood for an amazing weekend of fellowship, games, crafts and canoeing. Enjoy the great outdoors while staying in air-conditioned lodges. Info can be found on the bulletin board directly across from the kitchen. Sign up TODAY!

Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck Lunch January 31st at Noon

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 31st. It's the Annual Congregational Meeting and Church-wide Potluck. The Meeting starts at 12:00 pm and the Potluck lunch will follow. At the meeting we will hear reports from the Session, the Deacons and their Ministry Teams. We will also be electing new officers, as the Officer Nominating Committee brings its nominations. Look for luncheon sign-up in upcoming bulletins & on the bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Caring for Our Church Family

Memorial Gifts

In Memory of:
Betty Smith
Lora Drummond
Drew Carathanasis

Given by:
Gwen & Gary Reefer
Thelma Canter
Janet Hewlett

Prayer Ministry

Ken Andreassen; Burt & Dottie Benziger; Doris Croasmun; Shirley Gleason; Hugh Gott; Howard Green; Fred Inkles; Rees Heycock; Lou Hortobagyi; Kelly Jordan; Jane Kaempfer; Diane Luke; Lois Marsh; Mildred Martin; Robin MacLennan; Curtis McLeod; Helen Meier; Norman Phillips; Marian Rather; David Smith; Charline Snow; Gene Snyder; Lucille Talbot; Al & Ethel Holden; Alice Beck; Bill & Jane Sutton; Bonnie Beyer



Weather: Cool and Sunny
Sunday, December 6, 2015
(8:15) 162
(9:30) 149
(11:00) 122
Total: 433

Dear Church Family,
I can't tell you how much your care and concern meant to me after my accident. Your prayers, phone calls, emails, cards and delicious meals lifted my spirits and helped heal my broken body. What do people do who have no church family? The outpouring I received from you was unlike any other. Please continue to pray for healing, I still have a little way to go!

Thank you,
Chris Hurst

Please keep the following who are serving in the military in your prayers. Addresses have been included should you wish to send cards of support.

Erik Desilets
342 Birdie Ct.
Alamogordo, NM 88310-7710

Eric Gajentan
2520 Atlantic Palms Lane, Apt. 624
North Charleston, SC 29406

Benjamin Cernansky
11311 Pocket Brook Drive
Tampa, FL 33635-1507

News From the Mission Field

Thornwell Home For Children

Thank you to the Northwood Presbyterian Church Women. Your gifts and prayers for Thornwell make possible the loving homes for hurting children as well as caring assistance for families in need.

RCS

Thank you for your generous donation of \$621.20 to The Haven of RCS. Your commitment to helping people right here in Pinellas County is sincerely appreciated. Your gift will be used to feed hungry people, help families facing homelessness return to self-sufficiency and empower the survivors of domestic violence.

Homeless Empowerment Program

We gratefully acknowledge your generous gift of \$250 as a quarterly benevolence donation. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of hundreds of low income and homeless families and individuals.

Beth-El

Thank you for your donation of \$960 and \$250. We could not assist the local farmworker community without wonderful supporters like you!

Homeless Empowerment Program

We gratefully acknowledge your generous gift of \$621.20 as a 2015 Peacemaking Offering. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of hundreds of low income and homeless families and individuals, including veterans, living at HEP. We thank you for your unbounded support and generosity to help less fortunate individuals in our community.

Isaiah's Inn

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your gift of \$250. We greatly appreciate your generous gift that helps us provide Christmas gifts and meals for families in need.

Clearwater Free Clinic

Thank you so much for your recent gift to the Clearwater Free Clinic in the amount of \$250.00. Your gift provides comprehensive health care services to those in our community who do not earn enough to afford personal health insurance but too much for governmental assistance.