

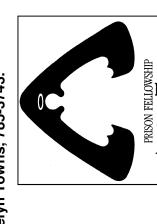
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### Sent with Prayer to...

DeFilippo, 470-9652 continues





# 2013 ANGEL TREE PROJECTS

A Stephen Ministry Congregation Northwood Presbyterian Church

November 19, 2013 Volume 23, No. 11

### **Community Thanksgiving** Service

We want to remind everyone that on Tuesday, November 26th we will gather at 7:00 PM for our community Thanksgiving Service held this year at North Bay Community Church, along with Holy Trinity Episcopal and Heritage United Methodist Church. Our choir will be singing. See you there!

### **Church Office Closed**

The Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th in observance of Thanksgiving. The Office will re-open Monday, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m. Happy Thanksgiving!

### **In This Edition**

- Page 3: Ring, Sing & Mingle
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- Page 9: Many Special Thanks

2875 State Road 580, Clearwater, FL 33761 727-796-8090 Main Office ~ 727-723-7679 Preschool, Before & After Care www.northwoodpc.org

### Thanksgiving, Advent and Martin Luther

Knowing God, loving God, trusting God. These are key focal points as we journey toward Thanksgiving and Christmas with truly thankful and joyful hearts. Martin Luther, the great reformer from the 16<sup>th</sup> century who struggled mightily to know and love God, can provide us with encouragement and inspiration for our upcoming journey through this holiday season.

Luther, at age 21, found himself in a thunderstorm and was thrown from his horse by the force of a lightning strike. He cried out in panic and terror, "Saint Ann, help me, I will become a monk." Out of this life-threatening experience and the seriousness with which he took his vow to become a monk, Luther's spiritual journey became focused on getting close to God. Yet as hard as he worked to establish a loving, close relationship with God, the condition of Luther's soul was one of doubt, despair and desperation. He came to the point where he said flat out, "Love God? No, I hate Him." Thankfully, by God's grace, a turning point came in his life.

Luther began to teach the Bible in 1513, eight years after he had become a monk. We need to take special notice of that; for it was in discovering the Bible that he found the answers to his quest to draw near to the heart of God. Interestingly enough, Luther's first discovery came not in the New Testament but in the Old Testament. He was working through a course in the book of Psalms when the opening words of Psalm 22 first captured his attention, for these were the very words of Christ on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He was stunned. What could this possibly mean? Christ forsaken? Luther felt himself forsaken because he was a sinner before a righteous God. But Christ is the pure One, the sinless One. How is it that He is forsaken by His heavenly Father? The answer came for him from the apostle Paul in the New Testament. The One who was without sin, for our sakes became sin. Indeed, Paul proclaims the inconceivable—Christ became God's curse. What Paul is driving home from Christ's crucifixion is God's holy reaction to sin. For Luther, the cry of abandonment of Christ was real. If anything was real in this world that was it. This had life-changing implications for brother Martin. Luther put it this way: "This hidden God becomes, at the cross, the revealed God."

This was the act of love and grace for which Luther had so longed. What was so freeing for him was that salvation, from start to finish, is an act of God. Forgiveness is not anything we achieve. Forgiveness is a miracle. A person cannot purchase it by doing good things. We cannot earn it by any act of spirituality or religious activity. We cannot claim it as anything that is our due. It is grace, God's pure undeserved favor. It is where God, in Jesus Christ, declares

Continued on page 4...

### This Month at Northwood

Sunday, November 24th: 8:15 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM IGNITE Service 11:00 AM Traditional Service

**Tuesday, November 26th:** 7:00 PM Community Thanksgiving Service at North Bay Community Church

Thursday, November 28th: Happy Thanksgiving! Church Office Closed

Friday, November 29th: Church Office Closed

**Sunday, December 1st:** First Sunday of Advent 8:15 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM IGNITE Service 11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, December 8th: **Second Sunday of Advent** 8:15 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM IGNITE Service 11:00 AM Traditional Service 4:00 PM Ring, Sing & Mingle

Sunday, December 15th: **Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Cantata** 8:15 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM IGNITE Service 11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, December 22nd: **Fourth Sunday of Advent** 8:15 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM IGNITE Service 11:00 AM Traditional Service

**Tuesday, December 24th:** 4:30 PM Family Service & Pageant 7:30 PM Traditional Service 11:00 PM Communion Service

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### The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church Edited by Katie Pacana

If you have information that you would like to be considered for the newsletter, e-mail Katie@northwoodpc.org, or place it in Katie Pacana'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 enews system, please send an email with your name and request to Katie@northwoodpc.org.



The Vision Task Force completed its work in 2012 in seeking God's vision for Northwood Presbyterian Church over the next 20 years. Since that time the Stewardship, Finance and Property Committee (SFP) has been working on how to best implement that plan with other ministry teams and committees of the Session. (All Ministry Teams and Committees of NPC were charged in 2012 with working to implement the goals established by the Vision Task Force). The SFP has been trying to prioritize those plans and find the resources necessary to make the plan go forward from a budget prospective in matters relating to the vision of updating our church campus.

We are pleased to announce that more steps are in the process of being implemented. Along with the updating of the new sanctuary light and sound system the next stage was to expand the classroom capacity for the Church Day School. Two new classrooms will be available for enrollment in the Fall of 2014. This project will be completed with minimal expense. Due to scheduling difficulties these new facilities cannot be used until that time. Through the leadership of church staff member Katie Pacana, our Director of Communications, the church website has been updated this summer as well. The vision of the Task Force was to continue to upgrade the technology of our ministry together as other leading churches are doing and we continue to do this as appropriate for us as a congregation.

Another important step in implementing the vision for NPC for the future will be a complete upgrade of the men's and women's restrooms which are shared with the Day School in our main building. This renovation of the main restrooms is targeted for completion in the Summer of 2014.

As the SFP committee continues to plan for the future, it is mindful of the financial costs involved in expanding. Of equal importance, the committee must be assured that what ever is done must lead smoothly to the next step. If you have questions or concerns please direct them to either Mike O'Leary, Chair of the SFP Team or to me.

Lou Weislogal Member, Stewardship/Finance and Property Team



**Who: Northwood Presbyterian Church Handbell Ensembles** 

Jubilation Ringers (adult), Celebration Ringers (adult), Westminster Ringers (6th-12th grade), Celestial Ringers (3rd-5th grade)

What: Christmas Handbell Concert and Carol Sing, followed by a reception with homemade goodies!

When: Sunday, December 8 @ 4:00 PM.

Where: Northwood Presbyterian Church, Sanctuary

Why: NPC Music Ministry Christmas gift to YOU! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!** 

**Cost:** Free (free-will offering to cover expenses)



# ristian Education

### Children's Ministry

Thanksgiving, Advent and Martin Luther, cont.

His verdict upon the sin of the world and in the same moment he declares His unspeakable love for the sinner. And if this is true, there is really only one acceptable way for human beings to respond. Luther called it faith. And what was all-important for him was "faith," which meant simply a fiduciary trust. We simply need to trust that what is declared in the gospel is the truth of the human situation before God. Trust God and His Word.

For Martin Luther, this trust was a moment of wondrous transformation. All along he had been trying to earn God's love and win God's favor, while the truth was that God Himself had given His love and favor in the life, death and resurrection of Christ. Now the Christian life for Luther was not about searching for God. The Christian life was embracing the Good News that God had come searching for us, and He had found us.

The following words from the Advent hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" expresses well what I have sought to share, "Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee."

It is my prayer that as we journey to Thanksgiving and celebrate the birth of the Christ Child that we, like Martin Luther, will grow more and more in faith, hope and love.

> In Christ's love, Pastor Paul



### **EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES**

### 8:15 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5<sup>th</sup> Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children's Message.

### 9:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION 3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (13/14 School Year) Room 3

1st & 2nd Grades

Room 16

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Room 8

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 8.

### 11:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5<sup>th</sup> Grade (13/14 School Year) Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children's Message.

The vision for the children of NPC is to attend worship with their parent or guardian, plus one hour of Sunday School. Please see above for the schedule of classes available. All three hours of the Children's Sunday School study the same lesson.

### 9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### **SERENDIPITY—Rooms 13 & 15**

Join us as we open the book of John. Class starts at 9:45, but come at 9:30 for coffee, cookies, and a time to chat. Bibles are provided, or bring your own. Discussion led by Doug Shierling.

### TCI (Today's Christian Issues)—Rooms 9 & 11

The TCI Class continues to discuss hot topics in today's society. Lead by a group of teachers, each class brings to the table current issues with thought provoking questions and great discussion! Join us. Class starts at 9:30.

### 11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### **EXPERIENCING GOD - Rooms 13 &15**

"Christian." Ask 100 people to define what it means, and you'll get 100 different answers. In this series, we will explore the truth and fiction behind one of the most famous brands in all of history. Led by Vicki Krueger.

### King's Kids



November 20 is the last King's Kids! 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 (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders) will continue to meet weekly from 4-6pm in choir.

### **Safety Harbor Holiday Parade**

Come march with us in the Holiday Parade!

Who: Everyone of all ages!

What: March in the SH Parade as part of NPC When: Saturday, December 21 from 12:30-3pm Where: Downtown Safety Harbor on Main Street Why: To invite the community to Northwood!

How: Sign up on the Noah's Ark Bulletin Board in December!

**Our Vision:** A Northwood banner will lead our group, followed by the children and families walking (with puppets, signs of kid's programs, optional dressed in church costumes, giving out candy canes). Christmas music will play from a CD player on a wagon in middle of the group. The church van will follow at the rear of the group.

### **Important Dates:**

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

### 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 preservice concert at 4:10pm, please contact Marcy Kemerer.

### **Sunday School Classes**

### 8:15 AM

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5<sup>th</sup> Grade (13/14 School Year), Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children's Message.

### 9:30 AM

### CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- 3 Yr. Olds-Kindergarten (13/14 School Year), Room 3
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Grades, Rooms 16
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grades, Room 8 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 8.

### 11:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3 Yr. Olds-5<sup>th</sup> Grade (13/14 School Year), Room 3, dismissed to the multi-age Sunday School class after the Children's Message.

The vision for the children of NPC is to attend worship with their parent or guardian, plus one hour of Sunday School. Please see above for the schedule of classes available. All three hours of the Children's Sunday School study the same lesson.

Marcy Kemerer, Interim Director of Children's Ministry Marcykem07@gmail.com 727-455-2583 cell/text



### **Youth Events**

### Sunday, November 17th:

- Sunday School 9:30 AM
- Sunday School 11:00 AM
- Youth Group 5-7 PM

### Friday, November 22nd:

• Game Night 7-10 PM

### Sunday, November 24th:

- Sunday School 9:30 AM
- Sunday School 11:00 AM
- Youth Group 5-7 PM

### Friday, November 29th:

NO GAME NIGHT

### **Sunday, December 1st:**

- Sunday School 9:30 AM
- Sunday School 11:00 AM
- Youth Group 5-7 PM

### Friday, December 6th:

• Game Night 7-10 PM

### Sunday, December 8th:

- Sunday School 9:30 AM
- Sunday School 11:00 AM
- Youth Group 5-7 PM

### Friday, December 13th:

• Game Night 7-10 PM

### Sunday, December 15:

- Sunday School 9:30 AM
- Sunday School 11:00 AM
- Christmas Party 5-7 PM

There will be no scheduled weekly events through the remainder of the year. Youth Group will resume January 5th. Check in the weekly bulletin, bi-weekly Monitor, and your e-mail for more youth news.

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

### **Bake Christmas Cookies**

On Friday, December 5th, join us at 7pm as we bake some delicious Christmas cookies to help ring in the season. Feel free to bring a friend! Participants will have the chance to make three different cookies: baked, no bake and to decorate one already made. What cookies are not enjoyed by our group will be taken home by those who made them. If you have any questions, contact volunteers Marcy Kemerer or Kim Blackmore.

### **Christmas Party**

It's almost time for the annual Youth Christmas Party. This year it will Sunday, December 15th from 5-7pm. Remember to bring a wrapped White Elephant Gift to the party. Purchased gifts should be no more than \$5 or you can re-gift something from home. Gifts should not be perishable, half eaten or inappropriate in nature. If you have questions about your gift, please contact Troy Harris. Following the White Elephant there will be snacks.

### **Sunday School**

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

### Confirmation

Calling all 7th graders or older who have not been through confirmation! 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!



# Why Not Get Involved?

### **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.)

### **Blood Drive, 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!

### Northwood Photo Group, December 9th

We meet on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 13 & 15. All ages and experience levels are welcome. For more information contact David Lawrence at david@dlawrence.com or 727-734-3884.

### **Newsletter Assemblers Needed!**

We usually gather the third Tuesday of each month early in the morning to assemble newsletters. For December only, we'll meet the second Tuesday to assemble the Newsletters. Contact Betty O'Shea at 784-1148 if you'd like to help!

### Seasonal Bulletin Assemblers Needed!

As we get closer to the Holidays, we will need extra help Assembling Bulletins. Bulletins are typically assembled Friday mornings. We meet at 7:00 a.m. in Room 5. If you are interested in helping a few Sundays this Holiday season, please contact Katie Pacana at 796-8090.

### 2014 Women's Retreat!!

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Women's Retreat at Cedarkirk the weekend of Feb. 7-9! Leave your worries (and your husband!) behind and join the women of Northwood in fellowship and fun. We promise this will be "A Journey Worth Taking" and a weekend you will not want to miss!

### **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.

### **Poinsettia Orders**

Poinsettias sales in Honor or in Memory of loved ones will begin Sunday, November 24th and will continue through Sunday, December 15th. A sign up will be available during this time on the bottom of the Sunday Friendship Sheet or in the Monitor. 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.



### Thanks From the Mission Field

### R.C.S.

Dear Northwood, Thank you for your thoughtful donation of \$250.00 to RCS

Food Bank. Your commitment to helping feed hungry people here in Pinellas county is

deeply appreciated. Sincerely,

Drina Meyer Chair, RCS Board of Directors

### R.C.S.

Dear Northwood,

Thank you for your thoughtful donation of \$190.00 to RCS Food Bank. On behalf RCS staff. Board members, volunteers and individuals/families served by RCS, thank you.

Sincerely, Drina Meyer

Chair, RCS Board of Directors

### Thornwell

Dear Northwood.

Your gift of \$250.00 makes so many wonderful aspects of the ministry to our children possible. We thank God for you! Thank you for your support and compassion that provides children who need us a home and a future with hope.

For All God's Children, Louise Cooper

VP for Mission Advancement

### **Beth-El**

Dear Northwood, Thank you for your donation of \$250.00. We appreciate your support of our farmworker community. Blessings,

Dave Moore **Executive Director** 

For Haiti with Love Dear Northwood,

Thank You! We really appreciate your support of the Lord's work! In His Love, Eva

### **FFIM**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your faithful contributions to the Foundation for International Missions. We have received your September contribution of \$250.00. We are so grateful for your steady stewardship and contribution to this ministry. It provides stability for this special expression of Christ's love.

Thank you! Sincerely,

Ellen Stoup, Presbyterian Women Moderator

Beth A. Houghton, Treasurer

### **Food Pantry Request**

Due to increased requests and the holidays, we need (cans & glass jars only, please) tuna, meats, pasta (such as ravioli or spaghettios), 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.

## Alternative Gifts

### **Christmas is Coming!**

Are you challenged to find the prefect gift for someone you love? Consider an Alternative Gift! For a donation of as little as \$5.00 you can honor a loved one by contributing to the ministry of one of eight local, national and international missions—The Alliance for International Reforestation, Beth El, For Haiti with Love, The Foundation for International Missions, Heifer International, Religious Community Services, Thornwell Home for Children, Women on the Way. The Presbyterian Women will be available before and after each worship service each Sunday during Advent (December 1, 8, 15 and 22) to help you choose a wonderful alternative gift. If have any questions about the ministries we support or how to contribute, please contact Barbara Englehart (791-4648) or Nancy Johnson (366-7705)

# Caring for Our Church Family

### PRAYER MINISTRY

Ken Andreassen; Babs Avery; Larry Cornillaud; Doris Croasmun; Jean Dayes; Dorothy Dykstra; Barb Finn; Hugh Gott; Rees Heycock; Lou Hortobagyi; Barbara Hunt; Kelly Jordan; Jane Kaempfer; Bea Kimball; Diane Luke; Mildred Martin; Robin MacLennan; Annie McElveen; Curtis McLeod; Helen Meier; Melissa Mortin (Daughter of Pamela Peters); Pamela Peters; Nancy Phillips; Norman Phillips; Marian & Walter Rather; Barbara Smith; David Smith; Charline Snow; Gene Snyder; Lucille Talbot; Alice Wilson.

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.

Capt. Daniel Doverspike 2044 Pratt Court Evanston, Illinois 60201-3116

### **Prayer Chain**

(A Deacon Ministry)

This is a network of members who are committed to prayer who intercede on behalf of others in need by lifting up requests or concerns. You may call the church office with your request or you may contact the chairperson, Mary Jane Redpath, at 940-7042.

### **MEMORIAL GIFTS**

In Memory of: Given by: Pat Thygerson Bob Thygerson Doreen Skantze Alan Skantze Sean Stover Lorrie Janusik Dixie Walker Jean Swintek Jane Wagner Bill & Bunny Bitner

### Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

- Alan Skantze and family on the death of his mother, Doreen Skantze, on October 10, 2013.
- Shirley Walker and family on the death of her husband, Dixie Walker, on October 25, 2013.
- Katie Pacana and family on the death of her father, Bill Kopp, on November 5, 2013
- The family of affiliate member, Betty Funkey, who died November 10, 2013.

### Weather: Partly Cloudy

**November 10, 2013** (8:15)126

127 (9:30)160 (11:00)413 Total:

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the prayers, food, shopping, cards, phone calls, and transportation to my doctor's appointments that I have received during my fight with cancer. God bless you all. Jean DeFilippo

A huge thank you to the NPC family for all your thoughts, cards, & prayers for Art during his time of illness.

The Holloways

Just a quick note to let you know I am home and so happy to be here. Your cards, visits and flowers meant so much to me while I was in the hospital and Westchester Gardens. Most of all thank you for your powerful and heartfelt prayers. Jim and I are both grateful to be a part of such a caring church family and so appreciative for all you've done to nurture and encourage us both during my recent illness.

Bobi Hunt

Katie & Eric Pacana

Thank you all so much for the out-

pouring of support shown through

hugs, cards, phone messages and

kind words during the loss of Katie's

father. It means so much. Thank you!