



Northwood Presbyterian Church
 2875 State Road 580
 Clearwater, FL 33761
 A Stephen Ministry Congregation

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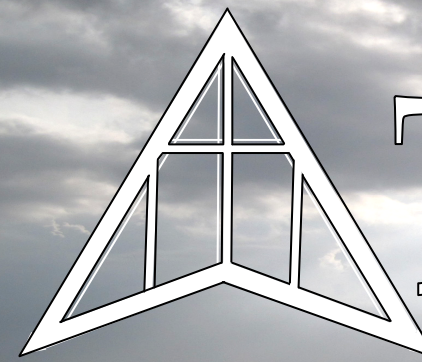
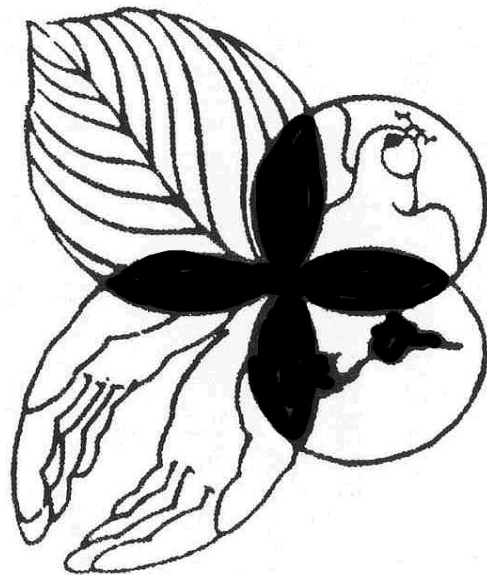
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Sent with Prayer to...

**PW Welcomes New Honorary
 Lifetime Members**

Congratulations to Evelyn Towns and Ellen Stoup who were awarded Honorary Lifetime Memberships at the Gifts-of-Women Sunday service on April 28. They join an esteemed group of women who have faithfully and generously served the church. Each woman was presented with a certificate and pin and their names have been added to the plaque in the narthex.

The symbols on the pins and plaque represent and portray the qualities of persons deserving the honor and recognition of an Honorary Life Membership. The overall design is of a **butterfly**, a symbol of newness in Christ and the emergence of a new creation – Presbyterian Women. The **caring, supportive hands** represent women who seek to build an inclusive community of Presbyterian Women. The **leaf** represents growth of our personal and corporate response to Jesus Christ as we nurture our faith. The **dove** indicates our work for peace in our own lives and throughout the world, shown in the globe. At the center of the design is the **cross**, by which our sins are forgiven and we are freed to live in Christ who is at the center of our lives.



The Window
 Northwood Presbyterian Church

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

May 21, 2013
 Volume 23, No. 5

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



**SonWest RoundUp
 Vacation Bible School
 June 24-28, 2013**

Donations Needed!

Be sure to check out the weekly Bulletin Announcements as well as the bi-weekly electronic Monitor to find out how you can help! We are accepting donations for much needed supplies. If you have any questions, please contact Marcy Kemerer at 727-796-8090.

You can still register. Head to www.northwoodpc.org and sign your child(ren) up today to be a part of this year's Vacation Bible School! The cost is \$10 per child and an optional t-shirt is available for an additional \$5 per child. Children must be 4 years old as of 9-1-13 through 5th grade (2012-2013 school year).

We hope to see you for this Rip-Roaring Good time!

First Quarter Financial Report

To God be the glory for His care and provision!

We all know how difficult the economy has been the last few years but Northwood continues to be blessed by God's call on the lives of her members and friends. In spite of beginning 2012 with a deficit budget and pledge giving that fell short by \$20,000 over the twelve month period, generous non-pledge giving and expense control allowed us to finish the year with a surplus. The surplus was directed to replenish the Maintenance Reserves funds (almost to the dollar) that were used in December for the new Christian Education building roof. Northwood continues to be debt free and investments which have been flat since 2008 are once again beginning to generate a return.

As we ended the first quarter of this fiscal year in March, pledge giving was on target at 100% and expenses were only slightly over budget year-to-date. A new A/C unit for the Chancel was installed in February at a cost of about \$10,000 and was fully funded from the regular operating account. This was a significant single expense when compared to most items in the budget. We were fortunate to cover it without tapping into the Maintenance Reserves. In addition to the regular operating needs of the church, several special projects have been funded over the last couple of years. In 2011, our members gave nearly \$40,000 in over and above offerings to the Sound and Light Campaign for the Sanctuary. A bequest from the Clarence and Florence Wright Trust of slightly more than this amount provided the funds necessary to complete the project. In December of 2012 and in very short order, \$7,000 was given In Honor or In Memory of Loved Ones to provide new Presbyterian Hymnals for worship. Additionally in 2012, nearly \$70,000 in member-directed gifts, over and above those set aside through the annual budget, was sent to benevolent organizations both near and far. It is true and it is a blessing that when a need is identified, the Northwood congregation steps up in response to all that God has done and is doing in the life of our church.

If you ever have questions about church finances or your giving, please feel free to call me in the church office at 727-796-8090.

Chris Hurst
 Business Administrator

At A Glance

May 21, 2013

This Month at Northwood

Sunday, May 26th:

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Monday, May 27th:

Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day

Sunday, June 2nd:

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, June 9th:

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service
Conyers Mission Team Leaves

Sunday, June 16th: Father's Day

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, June 23rd:

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Monday, June 24th:

Vacation Bible School Begins

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The Window

Published monthly by Northwood Presbyterian Church
Edited by Katie Pacana

Submissions:

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 e-news system, please send an email with your name and request to Katie@northwoodpc.org.

From the PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor

Loving Relationships The 8th Key Characteristic

(A series of articles on the 8 Key Characteristics of the Natural Church Development (NCD) Model for Church Growth and Being a Healthy Church.)

Dear Friends,

I have been writing some time now on the eight key characteristics of the NCD model of church growth. This article focuses on the last important characteristic for church growth: Loving Relationships! This was Northwood's highest score of the eight characteristics surveyed!

I don't know what you think about the term "loving relationships," but one thing is clear from the study of churches around the world: "Growing churches manifest a measurably higher 'love quotient' than stagnant or declining churches." As a church we work hard at reaching out by offering a class called "Discovering Northwood" to welcome new members. In a survey done just over a year ago of the 70+ churches in our presbytery, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, Northwood was ranked the second highest in the number of new members received in one year. (If you find someone visiting, encourage them to attend these new member classes so we can get them involved, engaged, and nurtured in their faith!)

The term "love quotient" may not be an expression that people universally like, so let me explain what is meant by this phrase. The questionnaire that selected members of our congregation took contained a group of questions that allowed the study to "score us" on each characteristic. The questions asked in this characteristic, for example, were "How much time do members spend with one another outside of official church sponsored events?" "How often do they invite one another over for meals, dinner or social groups?" "How generous is the church in doling out compliments?" "To what extent is the pastor(s) aware of personal problems or health issues of members?" And finally the question, "How much laughter is there in the church?"

What were the results for Northwood? We scored very high on all these questions in the survey. Does this amaze you about your church? The truth of the matter is that the Natural Church Development Model correlates such practical understandings of love with a greater magnetic power of attracting people to Jesus Christ and His church than all the marketing efforts of the world. At best, marketing the church has been compared to artificial flowers. They may look deceptively real, but they have no fragrance. Real Christian love, however, spreads that mysterious scent that few can resist in becoming part of such a church family.

This story and I close. I was raised, as many of you know, in a small Presbyterian Church in Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee. I have often felt that it was in that church that I was baptized in a pool of love. It was out of the congregation that I sensed God's strong call to the ministry of Jesus Christ. The people and the relationships there are still a vital part of my faith story even today.

I have found in ministry with you at Northwood, and in my experience of our church staff, that all are committed to being a church where loving relationships are highly valued and cherished. The relationships made and nurtured here and the faith journey shared together with Christian friends is key in our efforts to attract others to become part of the Christian community.

One of the most significant things I have come to learn and enjoy about Northwood first hand is that we are indeed a church filled with laughter and loving relationships! Interestingly, in churches with 1,000 or more members that took the NCD survey, the characteristic of "loving relationships" was the most frequent minimum score.

All of this reminds me of one of the important reasons people should seek membership in a local church. **By joining a church as a member we experience the joy of serving alongside others.** The fruit of the Spirit is primarily manifested in our relationships with others (Gal 5:22-23). God never intended for us to live our lives independent of others, or "above" them.

How we should all hope that when God calls us to serve Him we do so by being part of a group of loving Christians, who help us find where our great joy meets the world's great need.

Your Pastor and Friend,

Chris



Christian Education

Joan Baker, Christian Education Team Chair

Thursday Morning Prayer Group

Thursday morning prayer group begins at 10 a.m. in the church parlor. New participants are always welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Holloway at 786-9440.

Fresh Brewed Woman's Bible Study

This Group of women meet the first Friday of the month at 10:30am in Room 15. We're reading Dramatic Encounters with God: Seven Life-Changing Lessons of Love, by Nicole Johnson. Consider joining! *Contact: Sally Uhler, 796-7563, Barbara Englehart, 791-4648, or Sandy Seckel, 787-1667.*

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

(minimum part time)

Responsible for caring for babies and children up to five years of age. Must have experience and pass a background check. Hours vary on Sunday mornings between 8 a.m. and noon and on some Wednesday afternoons and evenings between 3:45 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Other events of the church may require additional hours.

SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The committee has been reviewing applications and conducting interviews. Updates will be communicated as we proceed with this search. Joan Baker, Search Committee Chair.

2014 WOMEN'S RETREAT!!

Be sure to put this date on the calendar for next year's Women's Retreat – February 7th – 9th!! More info to follow at a later date!!

EDUCATION MINISTRY FOR ALL AGES

8:15 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children's Church will not meet during the summer, beginning 6/2.

Children over three may remain with their parents in worship.

9:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

3-5 Yr. Olds Room 3

1st & 2nd Grades Room 16

3rd – 5th Grades Room 8

11:00 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Children over three may remain with their parents in worship.

Middle & High School Christian Education

No Sunday School after June 2nd. Summer Sunday School will be starting the end of June, once we return from Conyers and after Vacation Bible School. Be on the lookout for more information.

9:30 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUMMER SERENDIPITY– Rooms 13 & 15

Summer Serendipity is offered for all ages. Join us for a weekly video or DVD from our library. Coffee will be provided. Led by Bill and Jane Sutton. Give it a try - starting Memorial Day Sunday.

TCI (Today's Christian Issues): Rooms 9 and 11

TCI Class is on summer break. We'll resume our always engaging and lively discussions, fueled by coffee and cookies, on Sunday, September 1. We look forward to welcoming you then!

11:00 AM ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

EXPERIENCING GOD – Rooms 13 & 15

If you are interested in joining our class, stop by! Please contact Vicki Krueger if you have any questions.



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

Troy Harris, Interim Director of Youth & Young Adults ~ Ken Andreassen, Team Chair ~ Gene Weitz, Elder

All About Conyers

On June 9th, twenty-two youth and adults will be heading up for the 12th annual Conyers Mission Trip. During this week, youth and adults are split up into different work groups and sent to the houses of the elderly and poor to complete pre-arranged projects. These projects range from roofing, building decks, flooring, painting, building ramps, plumbing, replacing doors & door frames and much more. Amidst the hard work is the opportunity to reach out to the members of the community with daily lunch devotionals and time spent with residents. After a long day of work, participants head back to the camp site. Each evening the group gathers for worship in the tabernacle. It's a week of hard work and service, and well worth the time! Please pray for our participants: Troy Harris, Joyce Curvin, Chris Curvin, Ally Wolf, Brianna Winder, Carissa Johnston, Alex Booth, Shaun Flaherty, Scott Curkan, Alyssa Bates, David Robicheau, Robert Robicheau, Alec Harris, Blake Harris, Nicole Cody, Gemma Briggs, Eric Briggs, Will Curvin, Ben Curvin, Kelsey Propst, Will Allen & Ben Cernansky.

YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

- **Sunday, May 26th:** 5-7pm Youth Group
- **Friday, May 31st:** 7-10pm Game Night
- **Sunday, June 2nd:** 5-7pm End of the Year Banquet! Bring you family to this potluck dinner and celebrate another great school year. The youth team will provide some baked chicken. Bring a dish to share!
- **June 9th-15th** Conyers, GA Mission Trip

Keep an eye out for information about our summer activities after we get back from Conyers!



Children's Ministry

Acolytes:

Congratulations to our four (4) new Acolytes joining the team: Elias Jeffre, Isaac Jeffre, Bryce Fulford, Kylie Crossley

Our current team of Acolytes, who serve at the 8:15 and 11:00 services, include: Douglas Caccamise, Ethan Crossley, Sarah Flaherty, Kurt Kemerer, Garland Pelham, Emily Pursley, Aly Tobiassen, Ty Wade and Heather Wood.

Thank you to these members who will be rotating off the Acolyte team at the end of the summer. Thank you for your service! David Hamilton, Lindsey Peterson, Brandon Strelcheck & Jaedon Wade.

Vacation Bible School:

1. All Staff & Youth Guide Meeting on **Sunday, June 2, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.** Theme overview, Safety Instructions, T-shirt pick-up, & Team Meetings
2. SonWest RoundUp VBS, June 24-28, 2013 **Registration is open for all!**
3. Would you like to make or donate food for the Volunteer & Youth Guide Lounge? Please contact coordinator Melanie Brown by June 13th at 727-515-4947 or melanieb49@verizon.net

*If you have any questions about VBS, please contact Marcy Kemerer at (call/text) 727-455-2583.

New Contact Person for Children's Ministry: Beginning June 1, Marcy Kemerer will no longer be volunteering as the Children's Ministry point person. Please direct all questions regarding children's programs to Susan Curry (susankcurry@verizon.net) or Pastor Chris Curvin (chris@northwoodpc.org).

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP!!

Who: Kids rising into 3rd grade thru kids rising into 6th grade

What: We learn and perform a Christian musical, play music games, snack!

When: 8/12 – 8/16

Time: M-F 9-12:00 + Friday evening dinner/performance, 8/16 (extra nominal cost for dinner)

Cost: \$25 for the week

How many: Limited to 25

Why: Cause it's fun to perform and give our gifts back to God!!

How: Email or call me to reserve your spot!
stephanie@northwoodpc.org; 796-8090

Why Not Get Involved?



Caring for Our Church Family

Northwood Photo Group

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.

Flower Sign-Up Sheet

Flower sign-up sheets for all of 2013 are available on the Bulletin Board across from the Kitchen. The cost is \$27.50 and after the service, the flowers are arranged into small vases and distributed to those in the hospital or sick at home. Please be sure to fill it out completely and write legibly. Thank you!

We're Still Collecting Pull Tabs

Presbyterian Women are collecting aluminum pull tabs/pop tops for the Shriners. Please carefully pull tabs from empty cans and place only tabs in the labeled basket in the collection center in the South narthex. The profit from recycling is used to purchase hospital equipment. For questions contact Loisanne Bilka.

Northwood Meals on Wheels DRIVERS NEEDED!

Have you been looking for a way to share God's love with your fellow neighbor? Currently, we have an opening for a driver on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information call Blanche Parsons, 813-814-0818.

RENAISSANCE CREW

The Renaissance Crew will be taking a short break and will resume meeting after Labor Day.

WE NEED VAN DRIVERS!!!!

We are in need of van drivers to serve in either a monthly rotation or as substitutes. Van drivers are responsible for picking up church members from around the area, bringing them to the 11:00 AM Service, and taking them home. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact Cynthia Lawrence at 736-3919.

Collecting School Supplies

We are collecting school supplies for the kids in Honduras. Our goal is to collect 1500 school kits so that every child we minister to receives one. We need crayons, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, and children's scissors. There is a blue bin in the entryway by the bookshelf to drop donations in if you'd like to participate. Thank you!

Deacons Hurricane Ministry Hurricane

Season begins June 1. Go to www.baynews9.com & click on "Weather", then under "Hurricane Center" you will find all the information you need to prepare. If evacuation is necessary, the NPC Hurricane Ministry is asking for volunteers who would like to share their homes. If you are willing to make this kind gesture, please contact Ed Puschmann at (727)773-0764 or email him at edjudi@tampabay.rr.com, and type in the subject "Hurricane Request." Please include your name, address, phone number and how many people you can accommodate.

Garage Sale Dollars at Work

Thanks to the garage sale success, we were able to help send 16 members to a statewide handbell workshop in Palm Harbor. The purpose was to increase their bell skills so they would enhance our worship of God. We attended classes on various aspects of ringing i.e. coordination, techniques and even bell repair classes. We all came back with a renewed enthusiasm and desire for excellence in our ringing which has already translated into a prelude by the Celebration Ringers called 'Blessed Are They' (with flute) and our Easter anthem 'Now the Green Blade Riseth.' Below is a comment from one of the attendees:

"Ringing, ringing and more ringing! What a blessing it was for all of us from Northwood's Celebration and Jubilation bell choirs to be able to ring with 300 other bell ringers. We made beautiful music to our Lord while learning and crafting our skills and techniques. The bell classes and the excellent leadership gave us a truly educational experience that we will be able to incorporate into Northwood's wonderful music program."

Susan Curry

Northwood's music ministry and our worship is blessed by your generosity! Keep watch for more info on your garage sale dollars at work in future notices.

Stephanie Carson

PRAYER MINISTRY

Ken Andreassen; Larry Cornillaud; Doris Croasmun; Jean Dayes; Dorothy Dykstra; Barb Finn; 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); Ron Nisk; Pamela Peters; Norman Phillips; Marian & Walter Rather; Karen Russell; Don Simcoe; Barbara Smith; Betty Smith; David Smith; Charline Snow; Gene Snyder; Lucille Talbot; Pat Thygerson; 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

Our prayers and sympathy go out to:

- The family of Ginny Drawbaugh on the news of her death on April 24, 2013.
- Marty Raiche and family on the news of the death of her husband, Leo Raiche on May 13, 2013.

VITALS

Weather: Beautiful
May 12, 2013
(8:15) 122
(9:30) 109
(11:00) 154
Total: 385

MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Memory of:
Alex Archibald
Diana Murray

Beverly Hanson

Alex Archibald

In Honor of:
Michael Cromwell

Barbara Englehart

Loisanne Bilka

Given by:
Barbara Englehart

Barbara Englehart
Judy Peterson
Lorrie Janusik
Bill & Loisanne Bilka
Bill & Bunny Bitner
Bill & Jane Sutton
Art & Jeanette Holloway
John & Janet George
Barbara Schlerf
Morelli Hair Designs
Nancy Johnson
'61 Tarpon Springs HS Class

Jean Defilippo
Jane Urban

Bill & Loisanne Bilka
James & Barbara Hunt
Barbara Englehart

Bunny Bitner

Given by:
Jean Swintek

Bunny & Bill Bitner

Bunny Bitner

PLEASE REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL.

THANK YOU'S FROM THE MISSION FIELD

HEP

Dear Northwood,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors at Homeless Emergency Project, In. (HEP), I gratefully acknowledge the gift of \$250.00, Northwood Presbyterian's quarterly benevolence donation. We appreciate the confidence you have in HEP's mission.

Sincerely,
Barbara Green
President and CEO

RCS

Northwood,

Thank you for your thoughtful donation of \$1,655.00 to the RCS Food Bank. Your commitment to helping feed hungry people right here in Pinellas County is sincerely appreciated, and your gift will be used to make sure families and individuals do not go without.

Sincerely,
Caitlin Higgins Joy
President/CEO

FFIM

Dear friends,

Thank you for your faithful contributions to the Foundation for International Missions. We have received your contribution of \$250. We are so grateful for your stewardship!

Sincerely,
Beth A Houghton
Treasurer

For Haiti with Love

Dear Northwood,
A Belated Thank You! We really appreciate your support of the Lord's work in Northern Haiti!

God Bless,
Eva

Beth-El

Dear Northwood,

Thank you for your donation of \$250. We appreciate your donation that will assist Hispanic farmworkers that we serve. Thank you again!

Blessings,
Dave Moore
Executive Director