Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL 33761

A Stephen Ministry Congregation

We Have A New Tree!

Some of you noticed the dead tree on the pre-school playground. We had been watching it for more than a year with the hope that the downward trend it appeared to be on would reverse itself. But as our winter began to turn to spring it was apparent that even the smallest sign of life was gone. Since licensing for the school requires a certain amount of shade, either another tree or something manmade was required. While the children were on Spring Break, March 24-28, the dead tree was removed, a hole was dug and a new 24 foot, 10 inch caliper tree with a fourteen foot spread was planted. The entire process was fun to watch with special equipment being brought on campus for each of the steps. Now the time of care and nurturing for the tree that started at the nursery will be continued with us. Be sure you take a look at our beautiful new tree when you pass by the playground. Thank you for your generous support of the ministry and mission of our church. Your gifts make projects like this possible.

A three and a half minute video of the project is available on the church website if you would like to see clips of the three day project. Just go to www.northwoodpc.org/tree.

PW Welcomes New Honorary Lifetime Members

Congratulations to Janet George and Barbara Schlerf who were awarded Honorary Lifetime Memberships at the Gifts-of-Women Luncheon on March 9th. These two outstanding women have been active and unselfish servants of the church. Each woman was presented with a commemorative pin and their names have been added to the new honorees section of our permanent display. The symbols on the pin and plaque represent and portray the ordinary heroines receiving the honors and recognizing the particular group of women who have faithfully and generously served the church. Each woman is presented with a commemorative pin and their names have been added to the permanent display.

The symbols on the pin and plaque represent and portray the qualities of Presbyterian Women. The butterfly—a symbol of immortality in Christ and the emergence of a new creation—a symbol of Presbyterian Women. The caring, supportive and nurturing hands represent women who seek to build an inclusive community. The wings represent the wings 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 which displays the truth that we are all part of the Church who is at the center of our lives.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Justine Ruisz, Director of Children’s Ministry, at 727-796-8090 or at childrensministry@northwoodpc.org.

Vacation Bible School
June 23-27, 2014

Who? Children 4 yrs. old (as of 9/1/14) through 5th grade (2013-2014 school year)

When? Registration is now open to everyone

Where? Northwood Presbyterian Church
2875 State Road 580
Clearwater, FL 33761
(1 mile E of Countryside Mall)

How Much? Registration is $10 per child, $15 day of. (Optional VBS t-shirts are $5.00 per child) Note: Registration fee is waived for children of full-time VBS volunteers and for children registered for the Northwood Child Care Summer Camp.

How Do I Register? Register online at www.northwoodpc.org. Click on the “Register for VBS” link and follow the instructions provided.
Sunday, April 20th: EASTER SUNDAY
8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service, Outside
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, April 27th: YOUTH SUNDAY
8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, May 4th: SCHOOLS SUNDAY
8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, May 11th: Mother’s Day
8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Sunday, May 18th
8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service
11:00 AM New Member Class

Sunday, May 25th:
8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM IGNITE Service
11:00 AM Traditional Service

Monday, May 26th:
Memorial Day, Office Closed

Register for VBS!
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Pastor’s Desk

Dear Members and Friends of Northwood,

I write this letter to you after having just returned home this Palm Sunday from a full day of three morning worship services and a wonderful afternoon Lenten Cantata. (By the time you receive this letter, the worship we enjoyed during Holy Week and Easter will be over.) However, today was a wonderful Sunday of worship at Northwood in which palm branches were waved to welcome Jesus Christ as Lord and King of our lives!

Let me first say a good word about the cantata. The interaction of the cantata’s drama, lighting, narration, nails, instruments, organ, and the choir under the leadership of Stephanie Carson and Tom Huffman was truly outstanding! So many people said to me how beautiful the cantata was this year, and it was beautiful.

The Palm Sunday Cantata, the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services as well as Easter worship always remind me of how music is such a gracious gift of God. Both traditional and contemporary music helps us to express the inexpressible; it lifts our spirits when our spirits need lifting; it strengthens faith and most of all enables us to give glory to God for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ.

I’m especially reminded that the music we hear and sing at Easter helps us to meet the highest and deepest in our lives, namely God and God’s promises. The music of the hymn, song or anthem combined with instrumental music and drama are “signing points” beyond themselves to the One we have come to honor and praise.

Music certainly helps us to express what we cannot express with words alone. I’m mindful every Sunday of this as I know people bring with them sorrows as well as joys to worship. I often hear from those leaving on Sunday saying worship helped them to be re-charged for what they face ahead. I hear almost every Sunday someone say, “This is just what I needed!” Worship and Music is such a gift from God.

With all this said, I remember leaving church tonight after such a full day and there on the ground lay Sunday’s palm branches. The castaway palm branches tell us that worship and praise and parades can become, if we are not careful, only frivolous moments; matters of habit only. Some years ago a man I met on a trip said to me, “Pastor, you religious people worship Jesus, but I don’t often see that loyalty in the world of business where I live.” I agreed with him that sometimes we honor Christ as our King with our lips but not with our lives. When that happens our praise to Him becomes like castaway branches; ground under foot.

One of the challenging words which Jesus said was this, “Not everyone who says, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom.” That should strike at our hearts on Palm Sunday and our Easter celebrations. The castaway palms remind us that some people come to cheer Jesus only on special occasions, the up-times like Easter, but they don’t honor our Lord as King during the ordinary times of the year.

As you come to worship now after Easter I encourage you to note the birthdays listed in the bulletin. If it has been a while since you have seen or spoken to someone on the list, give them a call and let them know that you have missed seeing them in worship. Worship is God’s gracious gift to us and we don’t want anyone to miss out on this great gift! And all God’s people said, “Amen!”

Chris Curvin, Pastor

The Castaway Palms

Rev. E. Chris Curvin, Pastor

Visit us at www.northwoodpc.org

The Window, April 15, 2014
Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children’s Ministry

VBS Donation List
This year we’re spending a week at the Workshop of Wonders to answer important questions kids have about Jesus. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a total church ministry, and we still have several needs. Please read over the list and pray about how God would have you help!

Paper Goods:
1500 Paper/plastic plates
2000 4oz paper cups
250 8 oz plastic cups
1000 plastic spoons
2000 paper napkins
10 rolls paper towels
250 12 oz plastic cups
200 wooden craft (Popsicle type) sticks
200 4” wooden skewers

Non-Perishable Needs:
5 #10 size cans vanilla pudding (avail @ GFS on Gulf to Bay Blvd)
12 cases (24 each) bottled water
8 2 liter bottles mixed diet soda
8 2 liter bottles mixed soda
6 large bags mixed snacks (Chex mix)
75 individual package potato/corn chips
8 Gallon size boxes of Goldfish crackers
2 large bottles Ranch Dressing

Crafty snack needs:
5 810 size cans vanilla pudding (avail @ GFS on Gulf to Bay Blvd)
20 pkg Oreo type chocolate cookies
4 Gummy Worms (avail in bulk candy case @ Publix)
10 lg bottles of sprinkles, jimmies, or nonpareils
10 pkgs fruit roll up snack
10 lg boxes of Rice Krispies
10 cans of mixed colors frosting (no chocolate please)

Please check the bulletin and Monitor for updated lists.

VBS YOUTH GUIDE REGISTRATION

Spring Bash at Cederkirk
We had a blast a Spring Bash. The Bible lesson was on the commandment to love one another, and what traits make a good friend. The highlight was zip lining over the river and the rock wall…oh and the food! Thank you for your prayers. We look forward to doing it again next year!

Summer Music Camp for Rising 3rd-Rising 6th Graders
Reserve your spot for Summer Music Camp! It takes place the week before school resumes, August 11-15, 9-12. The cost is $25 for the entire week. We learn a Christian Musical and perform it, play music games, have snack and fellowship. There will be auditions for parts as we get closer and the cast is limited to 25 children, so sign up now by emailing Stephanie Carson.

*If you have any questions or would like to help with Sunday School, King's Kids, or VBS, please contact Justine Ruisz at Childrensministry@northwoodpc.org, or call 796-8090.

The Window, April 15, 2014

Children's Ministry

Justine Ruisz, Director of Children’s Ministry

VBS +Workshop of Wonders
Registration is now open.
The Director Team: Justine Ruisz & Marcy Kemenker

The important dates for your calendar:
Sunday, June 1, 12-2: All-Staff luncheon & Meeting
Saturday, June 21, 9-12: Room decoration & set-up
Mon-Fri, June 23-27, 8:30-12:30 VBS (Friday until 1:30 for clean up; lunch provided)
Thurs, June 26, 6-8pm VBS Closing Program

VBS Donations
Items to be collected:
fruit and soup cans- emptied, cleaned and wrappers off.
Tuna cans – emptied, cleaned and wrappers off.
Duct tape – decorative and colorful
Old hardware- nuts, wing nuts, electrical wire (multicolored), metal shower rings and wire nuts.

Donated items can be placed in the collection box by the robot in front of the Noah’s Ark table.

More Donation lists still to come!

King’s Kids
This is the last month for King’s Kids. End of the year party on April 30th from 4:30-6pm. (Church from 4:30-5:00 & Party from 5:00-6:00)

VBS Donations
Crafty snack needs:
5 810 size cans vanilla pudding (avail @ GFS on Gulf to Bay Blvd)
20 pkg Oreo type chocolate cookies
4 Gummy Worms (avail in bulk candy case @ Publix)
10 lg bottles of sprinkles, jimmies, or nonpareils
10 pkgs fruit roll up snack
10 lg boxes of Rice Krispies
10 cans of mixed colors frosting (no chocolate please)

Perishable goods:
5-7 packages of cubed cheddar cheese
2 lg bags baby carrots
Fresh fruit daily, watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew melon, strawberries, grapes, etc.
Monetary donations (or gift cards @ Aldi or Publix) for fresh fruit used daily. Please put in envelope and designate for VBS, and place in collection plate.

Please check the bulletin and Monitor for updated lists.

The Window, April 15, 2014

Northwood Presbyterian Church

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Christian Education

Susan Curry, Christian Education Team Chair

Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Sunday, April 27th:
Youth Sunday, lunch at Jason’s Deli

Friday, May 2nd:
7-10 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, May 4th:
4-15:5pm Middle School Youth group
5-6pm Combined Middle & High School
6-6:45pm High School Youth Group

Friday, May 9th:
7-10 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, May 11th:
No Youth Group, Happy Mother’s Day

Friday, May 16th:
7-10 p.m. Game Night

Sunday, May 18th:
Seniors Recognized in Worship
End of the Year Banquet

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

Conyers Registration
Conyers is June 8-14. Registration forms are now available in the youth room and on the youth bulletin board. The cost is $200 per person. Sign up and place your deposit TODAY!

VBS YOUTH GUIDE REGISTRATION
Look for forms on the Bulletin Board or sign up online: www.northwoodpc.org

Scholarship Application Time
NPC members who are high school seniors, college/vocational students or grad students are encouraged to pick up guidelines/applications from the church office now. Applications are due June 1, 2014. See form for requirements.

End of the Year Banquet
Mark your calendars for the End of the Year Banquet on May 18th from 5-7pm at church. This is for all Youth including graduation 5th Graders! See you there.

Attention Graduating Seniors
Please submit your pictures and post graduation plans to Katie Pacyna by May 4th. Pictures can be dropped off in the office or e-mailed to Katie@Northwoodpc.org
Presbyterian Women
Everyone is invited to the PW Installation Service, Covered Dish Luncheon, and Annual Birthday Party on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, starting at 11:30 am in the Sanctuary. Luncheon follows the ceremony. Bring a dish to share. Beverages and Birthday cake are provided! Questions? Contact Ellen Stoup, 415-6585.

Blood Drive, May 4, 2014
Mark your calendars for the next blood drive. Donate blood and save lives! And remember, May the Fourth be with you!

Church Website
The staff would like to remind you to continually check back to the church website for information on upcoming events! The website is constantly changing and updating! Have something you’d like to put on the website? Contact Katie: Katie@northwoodpc.org.

Recycling
The proceeds from paper recycling via the blue dumpster at the church are still used to fund college scholarships. We welcome your newspapers for this worthwhile project!

GOD’S TOOL BOX
God’s Tool Box is willing to assist you with minor household repairs or errands. If you are in need of a helping hand, the ministry of God’s Tool Box would like to help. Contact Sue Skiewicz to request some assistance.

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.