



The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

August 2018

Pastor's Corner

Koinonia, Grit, Abundance

This January, Pastor Krin and I picked out three words to guide our community for the year. They were: koinonia, grit, and abundance. They came to us after some time of prayer and discernment, and I have preached on them more than once. I have had the privilege and honor of being your pastor through the first 2/3 of the year, and I've seen each of these words shine brightly in our community. I know God will continue to use these gifts among you for the rest of the year. I'll offer some brief musings on each of them for this, my last "Pastor's Corner" at Northwood Presbyterian Church

Koinonia - Koinonia is a Greek word from Acts, chapter two. Roughly translated, it means fellowship or community. Not just a community that eats together, but a community that shares each other's burdens and strengths, a community that loves together and listens together. True koinonia communities are willing to go the distance for one another, even if it's hard. NPC is a constantly evolving and changing community. People are born, and move in. Others die or move away. In the past six years I've sensed a stretching and a growing as we have received new members and said goodbye to others. Appropriately, we've had both grief and joy as people leave us or join us. I know you want to remain true to your roots and your past while also moving bravely into the future. This is not an easy task, and it requires koinonia community. Listening. Thoughtfulness. You are up to the task.

Grit - This summer I read a wonderful book entitled *Grit* by University of Pennsylvania professor Angela Duckworth. The book is about how important grit is to success. Duckworth defines grit as a combination of passion and perseverance toward a singular goal. Grit, she says, is more important than raw intelligence or natural talent. Gritty people, she argues, achieve their goals. They don't give up. Is Northwood a gritty church, or do we give up at the first sign of trouble? I've seen some wonderful grit in my time here with you. An interim time is often a challenging time for a congregation, but it can yield immense reward. Your grittiness will serve you well in this time.

Abundance - God has given Northwood so many gifts. Gifts of talent, space, time, money, friendship, reputation. You have all of these things, and you have them in abundance. The challenge, then, is how to harness these gifts and to share them, not hoard them.

Koinonia. Grit. Abundance. These things are yours. What will you do with them?

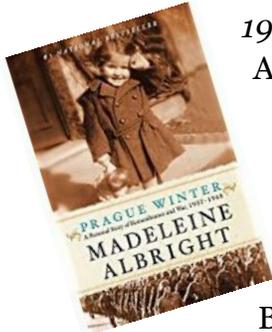
Though I won't be journeying alongside you as your pastor anymore, I am so excited for you and for the ways in which God will be using these gifts in and through you, as you serve Christ in San Antonio.

With grace and peace,
Pastor Traci

Special Summer Reading

The Contemporary Book Club has gone off on a tangent this summer and is reading non-fiction books!

Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948, by Madeline Albright



Meeting starts
at 6:30 pm
for beverages and
potluck dinner.

Book discussion follows.

Sunday, August 12, 6:30 pm
Home of Beverle Grounds,
3328 Green Spring

Join us!

PCHaS Back to School BBQ



Join PCHaS for their

Back to School BBQ

Saturday, August 11, 11:30-2 pm

A free, family-friendly event

Enjoy great food, fun and fellowship.

PCHaS San Antonio Campus
6355 Whitby Road, San Antonio, TX 78240

RSVP to Banner Huggins at 210.634.0799 or
banner.huggins@pchas.org

Mary Middleton has more information.

Financial Update

Our Pledged Giving and Loose Offerings thus far in 2018 are falling short of our budget predictions by over \$9,500 BUT our Non-Pledged Giving and Building Usage are ahead of budget predictions. This is partially due to the fact that some of you who have completed a Pledge Card in past years failed to do so this year but continue to be faithful givers.

Overall we show a negative income of over \$14,000 compared to our budget projections. The good news is that our Session members and the Staff have been doing an outstanding effort in keeping expenses down so our "bottom line" through the first six months of 2018 shows a deficit of only \$185 Income versus Expenses. Thank you for your continued offerings and dedication to reduce expenses.

Even though you may be on a summer break or vacation, our expenses continue, particularly the utilities, so feel free to mail your pledges and support to the church office if not physically present to put them in the offering plate. The second quarter donor statements should have been received by now. If not, please contact the church office. Thanks again for your continued support of time, talent and monetary offerings. Keep up the good work. God Bless.

Joe Montagna & Jay Maust; Finance Team

Northwood Day School News



Summertime and the living is easy...except Northwood Day School has been in full swing all summer!! With almost full enrollment, students and teachers have continued to get their learning on! Our first summer theme was SPORTS. The name of the game was TEAMWORK as the students enjoyed literacy and math activities with a fun sports twist. The next theme was SCIENCE. Lots of fun activities involving experiments, books and art was enjoyed by all. I believe you can even see a Potato Clock and a Space Capsule if you wander the halls 😊

The teachers and staff will have a couple of weeks off at the beginning of August before they return August 20 for a week of Staff Development and preparation for the new year that begins August 27. Fall enrollment is already almost at capacity as well. Summer at the Day School has been full of fun and learning. We are already looking forward to a great new school year!

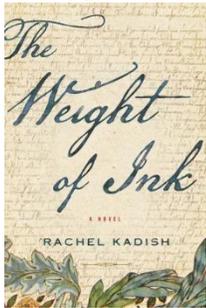
Martha Sherrod

Book Club

Mary Middleton

The book for the September meeting of the contemporary literature group is *The Weight of Ink* by Rachel Kadish.

We typically meet on the fourth Sunday of the month.



That means the September meeting will be September 23. Book Club will begin at 5:30 so that those off us who are not very good night drivers can get to the meeting and home before it is dark, dark.

David and I will host the first meeting.

In the past, the book titles have been selected democratically. The person suggesting a title should have already read the book and can give a brief description of the work; then the group votes on whether or not to read that title. Non church members are welcome to attend.

Contemporary Book Club: *The Weight of Ink*

Sunday, September 23, 5:30 pm

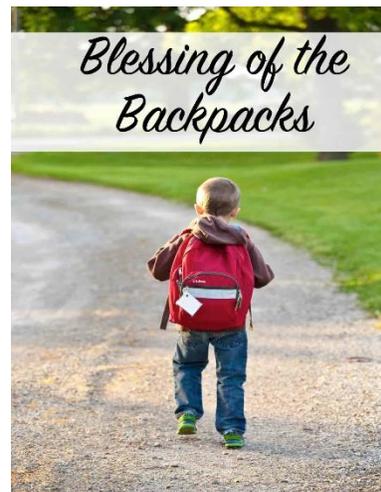
Home of David and Mary Middleton
218 Oakleaf

Come to the Blessing of the Backpacks!

Sunday, August 26, 2018,
11:00 am

All Are Welcome!

Bring your backpack and
start the school year off right!





Days for Girls

The Days for Girls Team has taken a break over the summer but will be back at work on Saturday, September 1, at 9:00 in the Activities Room.

Worship Team

Worship will resume in the Sanctuary August 12. August 19 we will begin to bring pastors to lead our worship until an Interim pastor is called. We also welcome members to deliver a message during worship. Choir practice resumes Wednesday, August 8 at 7:00 pm. If you feel a call to sing with us, just show up.

We are always seeking new members!! The Worship team will have new leadership after August 12. If you feel called to serve on the team or participate during worship in any context, please contact Vanessa Mueller.

Judy Harris, Team Chair

Beach Retreat

26 women from Northwood have signed up to attend our Women's Retreat in Port Aransas this October 5-8. We had such a wonderful, relaxing time last year that we are thrilled that even more women have signed on to join fun in the sun and spiritual growth at 11th Heaven in Port A.

See Beverle Grounds or Lisa Mines if you are still interested in attending this retreat. Only top bunks remaining!

Checks are to be made out to Northwood PW. We will be sending out reminders for the final payment due Sunday, Sept. 2. Total cost for the retreat is \$200.



IPNC

In light of Pastor Traci's recent announcement that she has accepted a new call, the Session of Northwood Presbyterian Church has formed a committee tasked with the search for our interim Pastor. This Interim Pastoral Nominating Committee (IPNC) is working closely with Mission Presbytery to assess potential candidates for the position. As we move deliberately through the process, our priority is to find the right person for our church family, keeping in mind the common values and welcoming spirit of Northwood.

Bob Lord, Committee Chair

Theatre is alive and well at Northwood: *Floozies on Fire!*

The Women of Northwood Players aka "The Sinful Sisters and Fallen Floozies of the Bible" are currently in rehearsal for their newest original play focusing on New Testament women.

Working on the idea of all those Marys having the opportunity of meeting some of the women surrounding Peter and Paul, we hope to show women who were truly human and truly committed to spreading the word and work of Jesus.

Look for future performance dates this Fall!!



Interested in *Zambia*?

Charles and Melissa Johnson are our PC(USA) mission co-workers in Zambia. Several from Northwood visited them on a Mission Outreach and Justice Committee trip in May 2017. A return trip is being considered for 2019.

Are you interested? If so, plan to attend an exploratory meeting...

Sunday, August 19

12:15 pm, after church

Northwood library

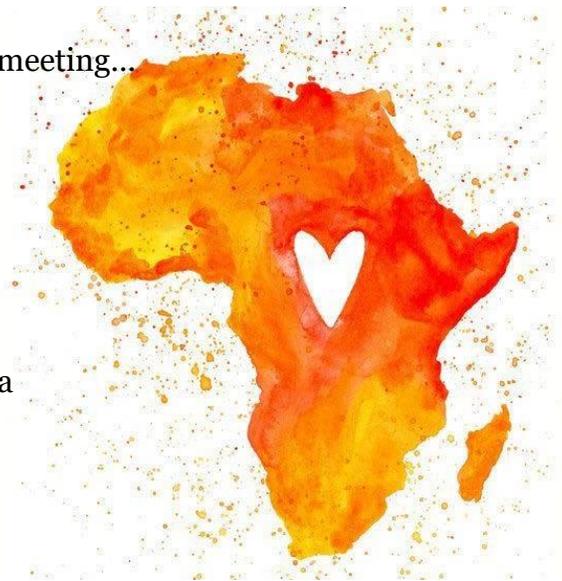
We will discuss who, what, when, where and how...

When is the best time to go?

What would we do while there?

How much would it cost? What are the logistics?

No decisions have been made, everyone going to Zambia will be involved in the decisions and in the work!



A letter from Charles and Melissa

Charles and Melissa Johnson are Mission Co-workers serving in Zambia at the invitation of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), Zambia Synod

July 11, 2018

I hope all of you are well. Like many of you we were sad to hear of Traci's coming departure, but happy for them that they'll be closer to her family. It's clear God's hand was, and will be, guiding the process, for Traci and Elias and the kids as well as Northwood. Still, Melissa and I feel a sense of loss as I'm sure many of you do. We'll look forward to following the process of finding a new pastor for NPC and will keep you in our prayers.

We want to thank everyone there for the partnership between NPC and our ministry here. We also want to thank you for your recent gift in support of our work here. Your prayers are always appreciated, but financial support is also necessary for us to do the work we've been called to do here.

We are nearly finished with this year's harvest at Chasefu, and all in all, it's been a pretty good year. We are already planning for next year's crops and hope to begin preparing the land soon. Melissa's work with the women's hygiene sewing program is going well. The four women selected for the program are eager learners and are doing extremely well. It is particularly exciting to be working on a project which in many ways began with NPC's involvement with Days for Girls.

We'll be coming to the U.S. to attend Brien's graduation from the University of Alabama (Roll Tide!) in December, staying through Christmas to be with him, Meagan, Eric, Lucy and Max. We are extremely proud of Brien. Despite some setbacks along the way, after a little time off from school, he's been doing great since returning last year. I keep telling him everyone loves a comeback story.

We are going to try to make a very rushed trip to SA to see my mom while we're there, over one day and back to Atlanta the next. We will try to plan to meet up somewhere for Mexican food.

Thanks again for all the love, prayers and support. Please greet everyone for us and express our gratitude. We look forward to your next visit.

Blessings, Charles Johnson

Northwood Summer Drives

Over the next two weeks, you are encouraged to give items to one or more of three different charitable drives. Donations can be dropped off at Northwood until August 19.



Interfaith Welcome Coalition Welcome Home Backpack Kits

The US Health and Human Services Department's Office of Refugee Resettlement has a total goal of reuniting 1500-2000 children with parents in San Antonio. This began July 15 through Catholic Charities and supportive partners, including Interfaith Welcome Coalition. You can help the children and families being reunited by providing fully stocked backpacks or items to assemble. Pack all items in a new 17-inch zipper type backpack and label each backpack with Bus Station or Airport (Indicate any missing items.)

Bus Station Backpack Kits

Toiletries

In gallon-sized Ziploc bag

2 toothbrushes
1 travel size toothpaste
1 small deodorant
1 package hand wipes
1 pack travel size Kleenex
1 small hairbrush
2 hair bands or scrunchies
Small fleece blanket 4x6

Optional:

1 small English-Spanish dictionary
2 pens and 1 small note pad

Food/Drinks:

2 bottles of water

In gallon-sized Ziploc bag:

3 bags trail mix
4 soft granola bars
3 packages fruit snacks
3 packages animal crackers
2 packages non-salty snacks (cheese/peanut butter crackers)
2 packages cheese bit crackers

Optional:

Coloring book & crayons
Stuffed animal

The need is great for funds for IWC to purchase in bulk backpacks and supplies. Please send monetary donations to University Presbyterian Church, in memo line: IWC/Backpacks:

University Presbyterian Church, Attn: IWC
300 Bushnell Ave, San Antonio, TX 78212



Agape Ministries Undie Sunday

Agape is a Christian organization dedicated to providing emergency assistance to local families and serves in our neighborhood. The Agape Ministry is primarily supported by member churches of numerous denominations and individual donations.

>>>There is a particular need in the summer for new socks and underwear for men.



House of Neighborly Service

House of Neighborly Service 2018 Back to School Drive

House of Neighborly Service is once again hosting a school supply drive for the children we serve in San Antonio’s Westside community. They are collecting the following items:

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|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Backpacks | Colored pencils | Spiral notebooks |
| Jumbo crayons | #2 pencils | Notebook paper |
| Crayons | Erasers | Scissors |
| Markers | Rulers | Kleenex |
| Bottle glue | School supply boxes | Toothbrushes |

You can donate money and they will go shopping for you!

The money you donate will be used to buy additional supplies to ensure every backpack we give is full. You can donate securely at hns today.org/2018backtoschool/. Be sure to write 'School Supplies' in the notes section. Checks can be mailed to House of Neighborly Service, 407 N. Calaveras, San Antonio, TX 78207

Day School Reading Buddies Program:

If you love books and children, you can be a Reading Buddy

David Middleton

A hands-on, uplifting way to support the Day School—and show your love of the nearly 100 children we support there—is to become part of the Reading Buddies Program.

You can sense whether you might be emotionally rewarded by serving as a RB if you remember, and miss with something of a misty ache, the snuggly pleasure of reading to children in your family. Do you like to read aloud? More importantly, perhaps, is it still a secret pleasure to be READ TO?

The RB program gives a chance to be pleased and proud of yourself, and to provide this church’s youngest seekers high quality, memorable experiences with engaging examples of the written word.

Briefly, how does the program work?

We ask our adult volunteers to agree to read at least twice during the school year, on the same or different days of the week (excluding Thursday).

On each of her/his chosen days, the RB brings to class three or four book selections on different reading levels: ONE appropriate for infants and toddlers; ONE appropriate for 2’s and 3’s; and ONE OR MORE appropriate for 4’s and early 5’s.

A reading session usually takes about 45-55 minutes.

Readers may select books from their own homes, or chosen from the children’s library at church, or checked out from the public library.

Should you have questions or comments, bring such up to David Middleton at any time.



Mission Presbytery Offers an Adventure for Men

Presbyterian men:

Are you searching for adventure?

Would you like to be involved in a fellowship of faithful men?

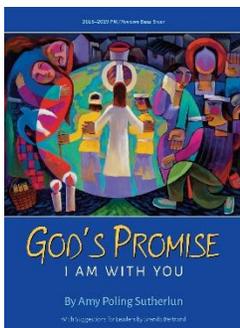
Is growing in faith one of your goals?

The Education & Congregational Nurture Committee of Mission Presbytery is offering Narrative Discipleship—A Fellowship of Men this fall. All men who are members or regular attendees of a Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) are welcome to attend.

Narrative Discipleship has nurtured men in faith through participating in communal adventures, sharing personal faith stories, and reflecting on them in fellowship with other Christian men.

If you are interested, plan now to attend one of the Orientation Meetings on Friday, September 7 or Saturday, September 8 at Grace Presbyterian Church (950 Donaldson, San Antonio). Participants in the Orientation Meeting may or may not choose to continue the Fellowship.

Watch for a link soon on mission-presbytery.org or contact Dick Kreutzer so we can plan for your arrival: phone 210-657-7522 or email dkreutzer@sbcglobal.net.



2018 San Antonio Cluster of Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Saturday, August 25, 9:30-noon

Speaker: The Rev. Amy Poling Sutherland

Author of the 2018-19 PW/Horizons Bible Study

God's Promise: I Am With You



Cross Roads Church (formerly John Calvin Presbyterian Church)

8102 Midcrown at Walzem, San Antonio

Reservations: Barbara Froebel, 210-649-8547 or cinnamontwist32@yahoo.com

Cost is \$5 and refreshments will be provided.

The 2018-19 PW/Horizons Bible study, *God's Promise: I Am with You*, by the Rev. Amy Poling Sutherland, takes readers on a nine-lesson journey through scripture to consider how God's promise ("I will be with you"/ "I am with you") speaks to our circumstances, as individuals and a community. We will also consider Jesus' own promise of presence to his followers as he sends us into this world. As we explore the many facets of this profound gift, we will ask, how does God's promise of presence change us and the way we live?

Clerk of Session Report, July 2018

Ellen Patterson, Clerk of Session

The Session of Northwood Presbyterian Church met on July 10, 2018, and approved the following action items:

- The Baptism of Eli and Desmond Esparza, children of Sarah Little Esparza, for July 22, 2018.
- The new sound system for the fellowship hall and sanctuary proposed by worship team member, Judy Harris, was approved.
- Introductions were made of the newly nominated Session Members: Helen Smith, Elizabeth Hewins, Bob Lord, and Vanessa Mueller. Elders Gayle Millard, Joe Montagna, Robert Mines, and Jay Maust will be rotating off Session.
- Northwood Presbyterian Church and Day School health insurance through Humana was approved to be offered to employees of NPC or NPCDS who work 20 hours per week or more for a 12-month period. Monthly premiums will be offered to the employees; no premiums will be paid by the church or day school.
- Zabrina Marchant-Laughner & Aaron Laughner, and their 5-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn, were approved by the Session as new members. Zabrina is a phlebotomist, and Aaron works for Southwest Airlines, while Kaitlyn will be entering the first grade.
- The NPC Welcome Statement was adopted:

Northwood Presbyterian Church, as a community of believers who love and worship Jesus Christ as Lord, welcomes and celebrates people of every age, sex, race, color, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, socio-economic status, political affiliation, disability, family and marital status, sexual orientation, and gender identity into full participation in the church, including membership, leadership, the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and the rites of marriage.

- Lou Williams, Mission Presbytery Committee on Ministry reported to the Session that August 12 is Pastor Traci's last Sunday. Executive Presbyterian Sally Watson will preach on August 19 and thereafter we will have pulpit supply.
- Those selected by the Session to serve on the interim pastor search committee are Sarah Clapp, Patty Clark and, Bob Lord. Two additional people will be chosen from the congregation at large.



NPC Youth: The annual Dodgeball Tournament at Cross Roads Church is coming!

What: 2018 Youth Dodgeball Tournament

When: Sunday, September 2, 3:30 (registration) to 7:00 pm

Where: Cross Roads Church (formerly John Calvin Presbyterian Church), 8102 Midcrown

Who: Presbyterian Youth and Friends!

Why: To start the school year with fun and fellowship with old and new friends!

- ✓ Complete and turn in a Permission Form
- ✓ We need a head count (for t-shirts, food planning, and team-size planning) by Friday, August 17 but the sooner the better
- ✓ Cost is \$10 per person– cash is great or check made out to Cross Roads Church

YCC: Save the Dates	<u>Main Event for Youth: September 21-23</u> This weekend retreat at John Knox Ranch is open to all 6th-12th grade students and their adult leaders.	<u>Midwinter Youth Retreats: January 11-13 and January 18-20, 2019</u> Annual midwinter retreats at Mo-Ranch, combined for junior and senior high.
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P&A Input about Director of Faith Formation

With the changeover in church staff this past spring, the Personnel & Administration Committee researched and submitted to Session a plan to pursue a new type of position at Northwood, a part-time Director of Faith Formation (DOFF) (part time = 25 hrs/week). In our past, we have had both ordained and lay people focus on "Christian Education," most often thought of as a Director of Christian Education (DCE). Both the DCE and DOFF positions involve systematic learning and religious teachings, which are most often thought of in the form of Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Ministry, Vacation Bible School, intergenerational events, mission trips, Bible Studies, camps, etc. Within this realm, the DCE engenders a personal exploration of the Christian faith. The DOFF, on the other hand, takes a similar approach yet adds a more dynamic, evangelistic element to it. A good example of this difference is the Joshua Build that Northwood engaged earlier this year. That project clearly had Biblical teachings as its foundation, but it expounded on the mental learning of Christian faith by incorporating a physical and spiritual component through the shared exertion with others that at the end of the day produced something of genuine value, i.e., a frame to a house to be used by someone else.

We expect that much of the DOFF activities and focus will be primarily on the children and youth of the church, but it will also incorporate the whole family unit as well.

Northwood Session approved this approach, and a search committee was formed. That DOFF Search Committee recently met for the first time, and its immediate goal is to publish the DOFF job description. Once done, the next milestone will be to start the interview process, after which the committee will make its recommendation to Session for the 25-hour a week position.

Indeed, this is a new direction for Northwood, and even though the church is actively seeking its next Senior Pastor, the P&A Committee urged the Session to commence with this job search immediately.

Cotton Clark & Helen Smith, Co-Chairs