

## Pastor's Corner

### Grace to you,

My name is Dick Kreutzer and it's my honor and personal pleasure to serve as your interim pastor. Let me share a few things about myself.

I am a Presbyterian from birth, having grown up in a family of Presbyterian pastors. Yet ordained ministry was not my first vocational choice. I spent about 10 years working as a civil engineer before I answered the call to the pastorate and headed off to Princeton Seminary. In reflection, this call to ministry has been one of the most challenging and most rewarding endeavors of my life.

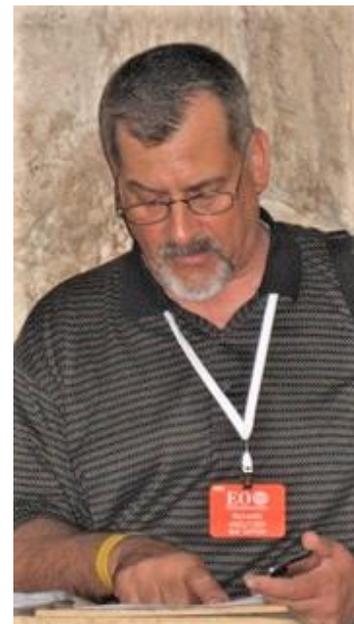
Last year I retired, after serving 28 years in ordained ministry, first at Alamo Heights Presbyterian Church and then at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, here in San Antonio.

My wife Betty and I were getting used to retirement when I received a call from your Interim Search Committee. Several exciting and fruitful conversations followed. Betty and I have two grown daughters. Daughter Kimberly teaches High School English in Plano, Texas. Daughter Kristen works for The Apple Store here in San Antonio. While they both have moved away from home, our two dogs, Bella and Thor, still keep us company.

When not engaged with adventures in ministry, I enjoy traveling with Betty, riding a bicycle or motorcycle, or puttering around my shop. One of my favorite destinations is Big Bend.

I look forward to getting to know each of you, and together discovering what God has in store for Northwood Presbyterian Church, next.

Blessings,  
Pastor Dick



## Stewardship

*Patty Clark, Stewardship and Finance Co-chair*

Every year about this time, we ask the question "What does Northwood Presbyterian Church mean to you?" Some of us have a solid answer, and some of us are still learning our answer to the question. Some of us have been members for decades, and some of us are new to this Northwood church family.

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## **BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!**

### **Fellowship Team Says ‘Here’s Your Invitation!’**

*Jane Wright, Fellowship Chair*

It is that time of year once again. We are coming up on the holidays and that means Thanksgiving, Advent, and **POTPOURRI**. Potpourri is our traditional intergenerational Christmas evening with food, music, stories, and who knows what else. Not all is revealed...surprises are fun! Potpourri will be Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Our invitation is two-fold:

- Come one and all! Plan now! There will be a signup board in the Narthex beginning Dec. 2.
- Any person or group with a talent to share is invited to be a part of the program. All you need to do is notify anyone on the Fellowship Team (Stephanie Balderas, Martha Bruce, Charlotte Canaday, Anne Detweiler, Beverle Grounds, Lisa Mines, Marlann Negron, Norma Roberson, Blanche Ryan or Jane Wright, Chair) of your interest and talent. We do request a five-minute limit in sharing as we don't want the program to be too long and late. The deadline for notifying team members you want to participate is Nov. 30 to allow time to coordinate with our music director and create the program.

If you have any questions, please talk with Jane Wright (jwright27@satx.rr.com or 210-657-0777 or cell: 210-365-8302).

We look forward to a very special evening celebrating the “reason for the season,” the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!!**

## *Stewardship*, cont.

Our theme for Stewardship this year, from 1 Timothy 6:18-19, is **“Live Generously - take hold of the life that really is life.”**

Stewardship is not just about church budgets; it is also about taking care of what God has so generously given to us. Generosity is not just about your treasure, it is also about your time, your energy, your love, your commitment to the ministry of Northwood Presbyterian Church.

In this uncertain time of transition and interim ministry, I encourage you to prayerfully consider what this church, Northwood, means to you. As you live your life in the coming weeks, consider how God has been generous to you and how God is calling you to live generously.

Be looking for your stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail in early November. Please be considering your pledge for 2019 and plan to turn in your pledge card on or before worship on November 18, when we will be dedicating the pledges.

### **1 Timothy 6:18-19 (NRSV)**

**They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,  
thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future,  
so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.**



## ***The What, When and Why System for Picking Hymns***

*Owen Duggan, Music Director*

*Owen is also lecturer in Sacred Music at Our Lady of the Lake University.*

Most folks who come Sunday morning have an idea that the music is chosen to fit the day. But not everyone knows how it gets picked. When choosing hymns or songs for worship, we often use the What, When, and Why system of finding just the right one.

The What is probably the fun part, but it's also a challenge. Think of yourself as a little kid in a big candy shop. In one of the big online sheet music stores, there are 396 choral and 307 solo vocal arrangements of "Amazing Grace." And that's not counting the thousands of other old or new hymns, anthems, or worship songs out there.

My favorite way of dealing with the veritable galaxy of titles and arrangements is to pay close attention to what the pastor, lay leaders, myself, our pianist-organist Deborah, or the choir members hear at other churches and on the radio. When we hear something that speaks to us, we write it down or save the bulletin. Eventually all of it ends up in my head—in a big cage-like drum like one uses for old-fashioned lottery ticket drawings. From there it tumbles around indefinitely, and individual songs occasionally fall out and get hummed as I'm walking around or driving.

Also, the When part of music selection is important. For instance, on Hallowe'en (a.k.a. All Saints Eve), if we had a service, Deborah or regular guest organist Margaret might be tempted to play Bach's dark and stormy organ Toccata and Fugue in D minor. (By the way, Toccata is Italian for a crazy number of fast notes flying in all directions.) And of course, the wisemen might be heard from at Christmas time, except for the fact they came to visit Jesus a couple of years later, but that's off the topic.

You get the idea. Fortunately, there is never a shortage of holy or saints' days and church and national festivals, spurring us to pick and send our selections on to Libby who does the bulletins. Answering the Why, however, may be the toughest step of all. Normally the answers range from "we like it" to "we know it" to "it fits the When so well we have to do it." Sometimes the right piece just presents itself. Ultimately, all of you all (is that Texan?) can and should play a part in that process. What works for you? What songs make the scripture of the day or a life situation stand out or stick with you?

Yes, I understand we don't always agree on what we want to hear, but if we "approach the bench" with love and respect for each other, the verdict may surprise you. All kinds of music can fit the service in different places at different times and be at once relevant, prayerful, spiritual, enjoyable, and memorable.

Bring your own favorite hymns and songs forward, or that great new setting of the Sanctus you heard while visiting your cousin at that little church out there. I can't count how many times we have benefitted from such an organic, authentic way of making music choices. But please don't ask us to do "Onward Christian Soldiers" on International Peace Day.



## PW Circles in November

*Judy Harris*

Our three Presbyterian Women circles are ready to enjoy our third meetings. The Wednesday and Saturday Circles are using the Horizon Study: *God's Promise, I Am with You* and studying Lesson 3. Our circle leaders have copies. Anyone is welcome to join any of our three Circles.

Our Day Circle will meet Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Visions Room at the Church. The Saturday Circle will meet at Mary Middleton's home on Saturday, Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m.

The Evening Circle will be meeting for dinner and study on Monday, Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at a place yet to be determined. They are studying *Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien. They will study Chapter 3. This book is available on Amazon for \$13.43.

Questions? Call Judy Harris, 210-602-7992.

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## Northwood Day School News

*Martha Sherrod*

On Columbus Day while the students enjoyed a day off, the teachers and staff of the Day School were getting their learning on with an exciting and full day of Professional Staff Development. Janet, our PreK 4 SA coach, spent the morning with us helping us learn about two important topics.

First, we learned the importance of outdoor learning environments. (Huh? Don't kids just run around and play outside?). Outdoor learning environments can help children grow in the areas of reading/writing and dramatic play. Gardening areas can teach children about science. Raised/stage areas can teach dramatic play. Other outdoor items and activities can help children with movement, music, and sensory awareness. Thanks to our PreK 4 SA grant, we are in the process of obtaining items to enhance our outdoor learning environment.

Next, we spent time learning about diversity and an anti-bias approach to early childhood education. The goals of this approach are for each child to demonstrate self-awareness, confidence, family pride and positive social identities. Also, it is important for each child to express comfort and joy with human diversity, accurate language for human difference, and deep caring human connections.

Finally, we took an afternoon field trip to a La Petite site that also has received a PreK 4 SA grant. We had a chance to see what they have done and brought back ideas for our school.



**Fall Book Fair** is Nov. 12-16. Come by and shop for awesome books for the kids in your life. Great early Christmas shopping opportunity!

The Day School will be closed for the **Thanksgiving Holiday** on Nov. 19-23.



Come visit your Day School! Lots of quality education and wonderful faith formation going on for all our children!

# Clerk of Session Report, October 2018

Ellen Patterson, Clerk of Session

Dear Congregation of Northwood Presbyterian Church:

The Session of NPC met on Tuesday evening, Oct. 9, 2018, and the following action items were discussed and passed:

The Session empowered the Director of Faith Formation search committee to negotiate with Mr. Brandon Morgan and work with him in offering the position to him, given the parameters in the job description that have already been agreed to by Session.

David Middleton will be replacing Helen Smith as co-chair with Cotton Clark, of the personnel and administration committee. Helen will be chair of the membership committee.

The Session passed the motion that the NPC Session call a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, October 28, 2018 for the purpose of filling the vacancy on the NPC Session created by Elder Sarah Clapp. The proposed elder substituting in for Sarah Clapp will be David Middleton.

The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, composed of Bob Lord, chair, Patty Clark, Sarah Clapp, Anne Little, and Tommy Moreno, shared with the Session their recommendation to hire the Rev. Richard (Dick) Kreutzer as the new interim pastor for NPC. The Session approved of this motion, and Rev. Kreutzer will start on Nov. 5, 2018.

Mission Presbytery commissioners for the Presbytery meeting on Oct. 26-27 in Mission, Texas, will be Norma Roberson and Nicki Roberson. Judy Harris has also signed up to be a commissioner.

The Session also discussed the process needed to be put into place to replace Ellen Patterson as clerk of session, as Ellen has expressed the desire to rotate off. Jane Wright, chairperson of the nominating committee and Ellen Patterson will work together on this process.



## Adult Opportunities for Growing Our Faith

### Faith Café

Sundays at 9:45 a.m., Parlor

With the lectionary as a guide, this class uses scripture and related questions as we gather to share our lives and explore the ways God is working in us. The scripture and the "food for thought" for the upcoming week are posted on the Faith Café Facebook page.

### Seekers Class

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.,  
Activities Room

*Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness*, by Amy G. Oden, a biblically based examination of the roots and development of Christian mindfulness practices as found in the Old Testament, teachings of Jesus, and Christian history. The book is available in class.

# Fun and Friendship in the Sun at Women's Beach Retreat Beverle Grounds

This year the Women's Retreat found 25 Northwood women exploring the beach and wonderful town of Port Aransas. New and old friends had leisurely time to visit, shop, stroll the beach in the early dawn hours, and challenge the waves. There was also time to sample the seafood in various restaurants around town, and a discovery of ice cream shops and candy stores (so much candy so many calories) certainly added a sweet note to a fun-filled weekend. Craft making was a big hit, and a session on Mindfulness made us more aware of ourselves and our surroundings. An on-going jig-saw puzzle challenge kept some up 'til midnight thirty, but Sunday found many of us at the Presbyterian Church service. A rush to see rehabilitated turtles returned to the ocean sent some knee high into the waves to watch, and all in all, a most successful, joyful time for all to be together.



Lunch, lunch, and another lunch.  
Not shown: snacks!



Beach looks including great glasses, birthday tiara, super stripes, and caught in the rain

Itty bitty pieces and late hours but the puzzle was fun

