



The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

December 2018

The Pastor's Corner

Merry Christmas!

As Christmas approaches, Betty and I are feeling especially blessed this year. We are so glad to be a part of the Northwood Presbyterian Church family and looking forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas with you all.

After serving as a pastor in the church for 28 years, I was looking forward to the simplicity of retirement and avoiding all the busy-ness of the Christmas Season in a church. Then I retired. Last year was our first Christmas as a retired pastor and it just didn't feel right. Rather than feeling relieved and free, I felt a little sad and lonely. Something was missing. We missed seeing the familiar faces of our church family. We missed being a part of a specific community of faith. Yes, we went to church, several different churches, actually, over the Advent/Christmas time. But it just wasn't the same for us.

Now that we've been welcomed to Northwood, we are enjoying becoming part of the family here and getting to know so many of you. We look forward to Christmas celebrations, to worship, to carols and communion, and to fellowship with you. I thank God for you and thank God for giving us the baby Jesus, God's beloved son, in a manger.

On behalf of my wife Betty and the staff of Northwood Presbyterian Church, let me take this opportunity to wish you a blessed Advent and Christmas time. See you in church!

Blessings,
Pastor Dick

Updated Contact Information for Pastor Dick Kreutzer

Cell: 210-274-0546

Email: dkreutzer@sbcglobal.net

Schedule:

Mondays, 9 a.m. to noon

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, Study/Sermon Preparation, away from office

Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fridays, day off

Stewardship

Patty Clark, Stewardship and Finance Co-chair

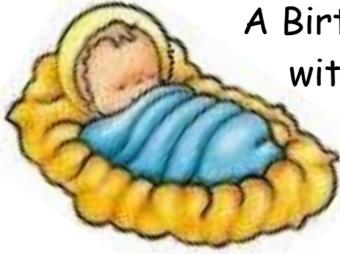
As of Thanksgiving Day, 31 of Northwood's member families have turned in their pledge cards, totaling over \$107,000 – a generous amount! This is a great start, but our church needs all our members to make a pledge!

If you have not yet turned in your pledge card, please prayerfully consider what this church, Northwood, means to you. Northwood depends on pledges to maintain our building and grounds, to provide for our staff, to participate in mission activities and worship activities, and much more!

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Christmas at Northwood



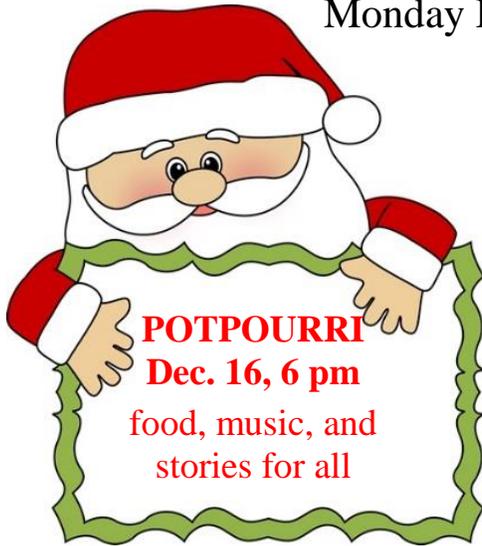
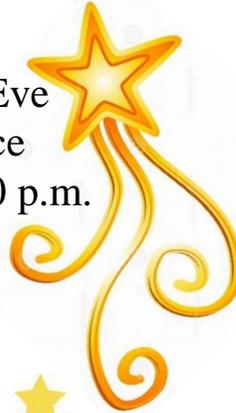
A Birthday Party for Jesus
with food, games, and crafts for kids
Sunday Dec. 9, 9:30-10:45



Book Club Christmas Exchange

Sunday Dec. 30, 5:30 p.m.
potluck dinner
at the home of Patty Clark
Bring a wrapped fiction book
(not one we have previously
discussed)
You are welcome even if you
have not previously attended

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Monday Dec. 24, 6:30 p.m.



POTPOURRI
Dec. 16, 6 pm
food, music, and
stories for all



A Service of Lessons and
Carols for Advent
Sunday Dec. 9, 3 p.m.
Sacred Heart Chapel at OLLU

Stewardship, from page 1

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.

Consider how God has been generous to you, and how God is calling you to live generously. You may turn in your pledge card in the offering plate during worship, or to the church office.

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.*



Mission Giving in Advent

The Mission Committee is offering several options for giving during the Advent season, to help people in the community. We hope everyone will participate in these activities!

Vamos Ya!

Several weeks ago, I visited the after-school program at the Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church. This vibrant program provides a safe place for children of all ages to go after school, where they find all types of resources and activities to help them. The teens have special programs to help them, ranging from help with homework to help with post-high school options, including college applications. The younger children have special programs to help with homework and lots of fun activities.



Both groups have small libraries, but the children all told me they are tired of re-reading the same books and would love to have some new books. The church is located in a zip code that has one of the highest illiteracy rates in the entire country. This means that the children don't have books at home and do not have someone to read to them. What better gifts for a child or young adult than books!

We have decided to collect books for the younger children--ages 5-10 for the first two Sundays in December. We have placed a large collection box in the Narthex where you can put new books or "gently" used books. Books can be English- or Spanish-language books, and the children love age-appropriate comic books.

The next three weeks in December, we will collect books for the teen program—young adult books.

These are books appropriate for high-school age readers. The books can be fiction and non-fiction such as resource books. The teens would also love to have some games and puzzles. The day I visited, they were working on a 2,000-piece jigsaw puzzle!



Agape Ministry and Undies Sundays

The Agape Ministry has recently changed the groups to whom they provide service. They no longer serve the homeless but rather families that have registered for services. As a result, the items they need have changed to items for women and children. We will start our season with collecting "undies" and socks for women and children. Later in the month, we will collect personal items as well, such as soaps, tooth brushes, toothpaste, etc. We have placed a collection box next to the food box for these items. Please don't forget to keep bringing food items too. As always, the need is peanut butter, jelly, rice and beans.

Please help us collect these needed items for our community!

Blessings in Christ, Elizabeth





Days for Girls News – Fall 2018

Earlier this year, Northwood's ladies sent kits and supplies to the new Days for Girls Enterprise in Lundazi, Zambia. The Enterprise is a project of the CCAP Zambia Health Department, led by coordinator, Richard Willima and Health Education Programs Facilitator, Melissa Johnson. Four ladies are learning to sew kits and to teach the curriculum to girls. The ladies are Stellah Mwanza, Miriam Nyirenda Phiri, Eunice Zimba, and Cecilia Shawa.

On October 25, as part of Global Girls Festival 2018, the new Days for Girls enterprise team in Zambia traveled to the CCAP/Z Mphamba Secondary School and taught the AWH (Ambassador of Women's Health) curriculum to 60 girls.

On October 31, the girls joined in the Enterprise Grand Opening and received their kits. Melissa reports that the girls had so many good questions and so much excitement about receiving their kits!



The San Antonio North Central Days for Girls team will continue to have a regular work day here on the first Saturday of the month, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. We will be preparing kits and supplies to take to Zambia in April as part of our Northwood Mission trip to Zambia.



Come every time all the time, or for just an hour or two when you can! All are welcome, and there will be tasks for sewers and non-sewers alike. If you have any questions, please ask one of the committee: Patty Clark, Stephanie Balderas, Anne Detweiler, Judy Harris, Blanche Ryan, and Jane Huffstickler.





PW Circles in December

Judy Harris

Our three Presbyterian Women circles are ready to enjoy our fourth meetings and our Season of Advent. The Wednesday and Saturday Circles are using the Horizon Study: God's Promise, I Am With You and studying Lesson 4. Our circle leaders have copies of the study book. Anyone is welcome to join any of our three Circles.

Our Day Circle will meet Wednesday Dec. 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Visions Room at the Church. The Saturday Circle will meet at the home of Lisa Mines in New Braunfels on Saturday Dec. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

The Evening Circle will be meeting for dinner and study Monday Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Patty Clark's home. They are studying *Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien. They will study Chapter 4.

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

Northwood Day School News

Martha Sherrod

During the holiday season, we often pause to reflect on the year that is coming to a close and evaluate and give thanks for all that has happened. We at the Day School do the same.

During the last calendar year, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to several of our Day School families thanks to the great success of the silent auction at the end-of-the-year dinner in May. Our PreK-4-SA grant has allowed our teachers to have new curriculum and top-notch professional training. Most recently some of our teachers spent a day learning about enhancing our outdoor learning environment. (Nope. Not just a playground anymore!! 😊) Our parents have had an opportunity to participate in a survey where they are involved in evaluating our School and offering ideas for improvement. We have had several Spirit Nights at local restaurants where the Day School gets a portion of the proceeds and we are able to share information about the School with the community. Our kids have participated in numerous enrichment activities from the Tooth Fairy, Scottish Dancing, a Magician, and firefighters, to service projects like collecting food for the San Antonio Food Bank. (Thanks, David Middleton, for all you do to plan these events!) There is also a task force of church members and board members who are evaluating the physical security of the Day School.

We are grateful that Northwood has this Day School ministry.

Please plan to attend the Day School Christmas program and sing-a-long on Monday, December 3 at 6:00!!

Merry Christmas from the kids, families and staff of the Day School! Come visit anytime!!



Clerk of Session Report, November 2018

Ellen Patterson, Clerk of Session

Greetings, All:

The Session of NPC met for the first time with our new interim pastor, Reverend Richard “Dick” Kreutzer, on Tuesday night, November 20, 2018, at 6:30 pm, and the following action items were passed by the Session:



1. Transfer of Membership for the Clapp Family: As you may know, the Clapp family has moved to El Campo and has joined First Presbyterian Church there. The Session voted to approve the transfer, with the hopes that we will continue to stay in touch with them.
2. Team Reports:
 - a) Larry Finkel from Building and Grounds Committee made the following motions, which passed: update our Emergency EXIT signs at a cost of approximately \$1,200. The work involves four doors on the east and west sides of Fellowship Hall. The Building and Grounds Committee will move forward on this with funds coming from the Designated Restricted Building Fund. The Building and Grounds Committee also successfully moved that NPC give the riding lawn mower back to Jay Maust, who had originally donated it to NPC.
 - b) Mission and Service: Elizabeth Hewins successfully moved that NPC support the “Vamos Ya” after school program at Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church and will collect items for them, including children’s books, games, and puzzles. The Session also voted to support Agape ministry in their efforts to help families by collecting women and children’s underwear. Joy Gift and other offerings will also be taken.
 - c) Personnel and Administration: David Middleton successfully moved that the proposed holiday schedule, as referenced in the handout available in the office, for Northwood PC be adopted by the Session. The schedule follows that of Northeast Independent School District. In addition, it was agreed that during the Christmas holidays, Rev. Kreutzer will be available for emergencies. The office will be open regular hours Christmas Eve day and then closed Christmas Day plus two days afterwards. These will be discretionary days off according to the Pastor. Voice mail messages will be retrieved from the office voice mail.
 - d) Stewardship and Finance: Patty Clark and Bob Lord reported that 31 pledges were received during Stewardship Sunday, totaling \$107,061. Pledge cards go directly to Scott Shepherd. The committee will follow up with those who need to pledge still and send thank-you notes to those who have. All-Committee Sunday Lunches were also discussed, and it was agreed that NPC pays for the food and the nursery care. The following schedule was agreed upon for the third Sunday of every odd month: January will be covered by Mission and Service; March: Congregational Care; May: Personnel and Administration; September: Christian Education; November: Membership. The following locations will be reserved for team meetings: Parlor: Christian Education; Libby’s Office: Finance; Library: Personnel and Administration; Activities Room: Fellowship.
 - e) Worship Team: Vanessa Mueller presented the following holiday schedule for NPC: Sunday Dec. 9: Lessons and Carols; Sunday Dec. 16: Potpourri, 6:00 p.m.; Sunday Dec. 23: Children’s activity before worship; Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 p.m., Nursery Care will be available.
3. The Session also voted to approve the hours and weekly schedule proposed by Rev. Kreutzer, which will be available in the church office.
4. Finally the motion carried that the Session approve the Congregational Meeting to present the budget of NPC to the congregation on January 27, 2019.

Best Wishes to All this Holiday Season.