



The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

February 2019

...from Dick's Desk

Since November, Betty and I have enjoyed getting acquainted and sharing the Advent/Christmas season with you. Some of you may be asking, "but when are we going to get started looking for our new Pastor?" Helping with that process is also an important part of my call as Interim Pastor.

Loren Mead, an Episcopal priest and church consultant, gives us direction with the tasks to be taken by a congregation during pastoral transition. The first two steps are outlined below.

1. Coming to terms with History: *It is important for congregations to know their history so that they can appreciate their heritage and at the same time be aware of the issues and concerns that need to be resolved in order to move freely into the future.* That's not as daunting as it may sound at first. I think of it as knowing, affirming, and telling our story as a church. It may also involve forgiving or encouraging others and ourselves for things done or not done in the past.

2. Discovering a New Identity: *Identity is the task of understanding "who we are now in our present context and what it is we understand God is calling us to be."* It is the task of developing the vision to which a congregation is being called. When I visited with the NPC Interview Team, I asked what was important to them, about Northwood. They all agreed there was a deep and meaningful sense of welcome and family at Northwood. Hospitality, welcoming strangers, and a feeling of family seem to be important values for us as a church. What are some of the other aspects of our (New) Identity?

3 Where do we go from here? Next step will be to begin the MIF (Ministry Information Form) in which we define and describe ourselves as a church. This will involve conversations with members of Northwood, session members, and our COM (Committee on Ministry) contact Lou Williams.

Yesterday, I called a special meeting of the Session for Feb. 5 so our elders and Lou Williams can begin the conversation and determine the next steps in this process. We'll keep you informed and involved.

Great gifts of the Spirit are evident among you and a great spirit for loving and serving our Lord and God's world. I am confident God has someone special in mind to join in leadership and service, as your next pastor.

Blessings,

Dick

Your Time & Talents

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 the gifts God has given you and how you can serve Northwood with those gifts.

What are your gifts? Driving? Cooking? Landscaping? Social media? Administration? Speaking? Praying? There's something for everyone to do at Northwood – let your gifts be shared! Fill out a 2019 Time & Talent form, available in the Narthex, and turn it into the Church office. There's something for everyone to do at Northwood – let your gifts be shared!

News from Presbyterian Women

PW Circles

Our three Presbyterian Women circles continue their studies and fellowship in February. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the three Circles.

The Day Circle will meet Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 10:00 a.m. in the Visions Room at Church. They are using the Horizons Bible Study: *God's Promise, I Am With You*, and this month studying Lesson 6, God with Us as Emmanuel. Circle leaders have copies of the study book.

The Saturday Circle will meet in the Parlor on Saturday Feb. 9 at 9:30 a.m. and will also study Lesson 6 of *God's Promise, I Am With You*.

The Evening Circle will meet for dinner and study on Monday Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Marlann Negron's home. They are studying chapter 6 of *Misreading Scripture With Western Eyes* by E. Randolph Richards and Brandon J. O'Brien.

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



PW Study for 2019-20

Next year's study book for the Wednesday and Saturday circles is *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. Dr. Gamble wrote the study to address three questions: How do we live out our relationship with God and with one another in a world that is often ruled by other standards? What is the pain which God seeks to protect us in the Ten Commandments? How can a fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments contribute to restoration of ourselves and our communities, and the furthering of the gospel in the world?

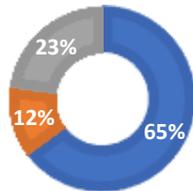
As they do each year, *Horizons* magazine will send the study book to women with current subscriptions on April 1. Other circle members will be able to purchase the book from circle leaders for use beginning in September 2019.

2019 Annual Budget

Northwood's 2019 Annual Budget was approved at the Jan. 22 meeting of the Session and presented to the congregation at the Jan. 27 Congregational Meeting. If you would like to see the raw numbers, copies of the budget are available in the Narthex. The budget shows income and expenses of \$322,306.00. Where does that money come from and where does that money go?

NPC BUDGET INCOME 2019

- Member/Visitor Giving (65%)
- Building Usage (12%)
- Endowment/Reserves (23%)



INCOME:

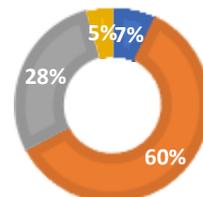
- 65% from you, our members' giving and pledges. Pledged giving is down. One reason is because of the transitional nature of the second half of 2018. Another reason is the loss, through moves and deaths, of past pledgers. If you have not yet made a pledge, it's not too late! Pledge cards can be found in the Narthex and turned in to the church office.
- 12% from building use fees. This is primarily from the Day School but also from other groups such as Junior Players and AA that use our facilities.
- 23% from our Endowment or from our reserves. Our policy is to draw 4% of our Endowment per year. As with most accounts that are tied to the stock market, the balance of our Endowment Fund is down slightly, but we are confident it will rebound.

EXPENSES:

- 7% for Mission. Northwood continues to move towards dedicating 10% of income for Mission.
- 60% for personnel. Our pastor and staff keep the church running Monday – Sunday. We are blessed to have capable and dedicated staff.
- 28% for our building. Northwood's building was built in the 1950s and requires quite a bit of maintenance and utilities! In addition to the budget, the Session in 2018 approved up to \$200,000 from Endowment/Reserves for deferred maintenance projects.
- 5% for our programs. This includes Christian education, worship, fellowship, pastoral care, and so on. Our programs depend on you. Volunteers to keep them going!

NPC BUDGET EXPENSES 2019

- Mission (7%)
- Personnel (60%)
- Building (28%)
- Programs (5%)



What Can Death and Dying Teach Us About Living?

Join a conversation about various aspects of something that touches all of us on Feb. 17 after worship.

What this is: Dr. Martha Atkins and others with Abode Contemplative Care for the Dying will facilitate a conversation about death as a beautiful journey filled with opportunities. Come learn a new perspective and, if you choose, share about your own experiences. You can expect to receive resources for various aspects of death and dying. We may also begin to develop our own community around helping others.

What this is not: Abode's focus is on the living, so this is NOT a grief support group. This is not about hospice. It is also not a fundraiser or sales event.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall, and a light lunch will be provided, so please sign up so we can plan accordingly. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex.

Any questions? See Angela Barrientes or call her at 210-259-3995.



Report from the Day School

The Spring semester has gotten off to a busy start! The biggest addition has been new materials and equipment for our outdoor learning environment. Come by in the next few weeks to see how the play yard is being transformed into a fun and busy learning environment!

We want to highlight our **READING BUDDIES** program— Wait, I thought babies and toddlers and Pre-Schoolers couldn't read...and they like to chew on books 😊 Well, all that is true, but listen to just a few of the reasons it is so

important to read to infants and young kids:

- It helps them learn that pictures and words have meaning and can be interpreted.
- It introduces them to new words and increases their vocabulary.
- They begin to learn the conventions of print.
- They learn it is fun to play with language and explore rhythm, sounds, and humor.
- They learn that when an adult reads to them, they are valued and loved.

We would love for you to come and be a **READING BUDDY**. No experience required and it takes just a short time out of your day whenever you are available. We can also help you find books to read to the kids. Please contact David Middleton. The rewards and the hugs you will get from the kids are priceless!!

In January our students celebrated and showed their love to the Grandparents with special treats and art work on Grandparents Day. The students continue to attend Chapel daily and learn about God's love for them.

Registration continues! Please pass on to anyone who may be looking for quality faith-based child care and education to contact the Day School office as soon as possible. Space is filling up!! Always, please come on down and see the great things happening in your Day School!

Northwood Women's Spring Retreat

Regarding the Journey

Saturday Feb. 23, Canyon Lake Presbyterian Church

Carpools leave Northwood at 8:30 sharp. Lunch is provided. Retreat ends at 3.

A description from Presenter Jan Williams:

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. –Psalm 90:12

As modern women, we know that our lives are made up of hours and days, yet we too often move through time without fully noticing what is around us. After all, we have responsibilities, deadlines, family commitments, appointments. Because we are so busy, it can take a jolt—a loss, a birth, an emergency—to bring us fully into the moment. This familiar verse from the Psalms, though, reminds us to number our days, by which is meant to *consider*, rather than to count. Moreover, the verse promises that doing so may lead us to a heart of wisdom.

As Plato said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Personal memoir is a process that allows for a gentle probing into one’s life *as she is living it*. Women of every age can benefit from this quiet examination of self. I have seen memoir expressed through art, photography, music, and of course writing. What is your way of marking your days? How do you keep alert? Please join us as we consider this essential question posed by poet Mary Oliver:

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?”

About Our Presenter: Jan has written—and sometimes ghost-written—eleven biographies, stories ranging from the narrow escape of a WWII combat cargo pilot to the advice of a major philanthropist on combining philanthropy and entrepreneurship. She is married to San Williams, a retired Presbyterian minister. San and Jan have a new grandbaby who lives in Santa Fe, so they spend lots of time in New Mexico.

You’ll need to bring:

- A notebook and your favorite pen or pencil
- Art supplies if you are a sketcher
- Your camera and some hand-picked photos if you are a photographer
- One or two evocative items from your life. By evocative I mean memory-inducing. Perhaps a gift or a piece of jewelry or a rock or book—anything with a story attached.

To Register: Return the form below along with a check for \$15 payable to NPC PW to Marilyn Grogan, Gail Clowe, or Anne Little or to the church office no later than Sunday Feb. 17.

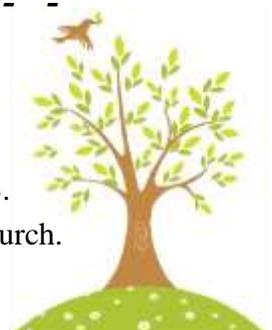
Regarding the Journey

Saturday, Feb 23, Canyon Lake Presbyterian Church

Cost: \$15 to include lunch

Carpools leave the Northwood parking lot at 8:30 sharp. Retreat ends at 3.

Indicate if you can help with carpooling or if you will need a ride from the church.



Name: _____ I am willing to drive carpool _____ I will need a ride _____

Looking Back and Looking Ahead at Mission

Elizabeth Hewins, Mission Committee chair

Northwood's Mission Committee was busy over the Advent Season, and we are hoping the momentum will continue into the new year. Here is a brief review of what we have done, and what we will continue to do with everyone's help.

Divine Redeemer Vamos Ya!

Vamos Ya is the afterschool program at the Divine Redeemer Presbyterian Church. The church's local community wanted a safe afterschool program for their children, and Divine Redeemer answered the call. The program has two buildings at the church—one for younger youth through grade school age and one for teens. When I visited the two programs, I was struck by how vibrant and alive they are. Children of all ages were involved in various activities. The teen building smelled wonderful as they were cooking afterschool snacks. A group was putting together a 2,000-piece puzzle, while others were doing homework, and some had earned special points to have access to tablets. Across the street in the building for the younger youth, the children were also doing homework, various art projects and reading. While this building had a good-sized library, the children told me they are all tired of reading the same books over and over and wanted some new books to read. This desire for new books and new games and puzzles gave the Mission Committee their impetus for Northwood's Advent giving projects. During the first three weeks of Advent, we collected new and "gently-used" books for the younger children. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our congregation. We quickly filled up the box—several times over! For the remainder of the month of December, we collected young adult books and games and puzzles for the teen group at Vamos Ya. It will be so much fun to deliver all these goodies to the children!

The Mission Committee had some money remaining from our 2018 budget, so we gave extra funds to the Vamos Ya program to help them acquire other much-needed items, such as basketballs for the outside courtyard.

Mission Co-Workers

We were so fortunate to see Charles and Melissa Johnson, even if it was just a quick dinner with them. We listened to all their wonderful stories about their experiences in Zambia, and we hung on to every precious moment we had to share with them. We had quite a turnout for the dinner. Many thanks go to Patty Clark for arranging the dinner. Charles and Melissa packed a bunch of activities into their brief trip back to the US—a wonderful graduation for their son, a quick trip to San Antonio to visit Charles's mother, and a trip to Atlanta to spend Christmas with their grandchildren—just the best! They plan another trip stateside next summer, so we look forward to seeing them again.

Charles and Melissa are such a blessing in Zambia. Charles is helping to build an agricultural facility to store grains and other crops. The bricks for the new facility are entirely handmade! Melissa continues her work with women's health issues and has been actively teaching young women to sew for the Days for Girls program. They have gotten very good at sewing, and to prove it, Melissa brought some of their wares to sell for the women. They made such beautiful items, such as aprons and tote bags—all made with beautiful, vibrant fabrics. There are still some items available. You can view them on Melissa's FB page. If you did not purchase any of the items, let's help make these women successful in their sewing!

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Again the Mission Committee had some money left in our 2018 budget, so we sent some funds to help Charles with the agricultural facility. Please don't forget Charles and Melissa and their wonderful activities in your 2019 giving plans.

Agape Ministries

As you may know, Agape Ministries serves the community in the Northwood neighborhood/zip code. The community that they serve are families that need extra help with household and personal items, such as clothing, personal items, and food and household items. Northwood always maintains a food bin for Agape, and as always, the staples of peanut butter and beans are welcome. Next time you are grocery shopping, pick up a few extra items for the food bin. The Mission Committee wanted to do something extra for this important Northwood neighborhood resource, so we collected some additional items. The first three weeks of Advent, we had "Undie Sundays" and collected underwear for people in the community that Agape serves. The last two weeks of December, we collected personal items, such as soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. Once again, the Mission Committee has been overwhelmed with the Northwood generosity in giving. All the items collected will be taken to Agape in early 2019. Let's keep up the giving into 2019, because the need does not go away in the new year.

Your Part

Finally, if you are moved to get involved or God is working in your life to help out with Northwood's mission activities for 2019, please come join us—we could use your ideas and inputs. Committee Sunday was Jan. 20 but there will be another in three months. The meeting starts with lunch for everyone, and then each of the Committees meets. Plan to attend the next meeting. Please come out and get involved!

We're Watching for Wildflowers!

Carol Patterson, Building and Grounds Committee

Have you noticed red bows around an oval area in the grassy area between the NPC office parking lot and Pike? That's where seeds from Wildseed Farms in Fredericksburg are scattered. The brightly colored mix of 18 types of flowers is called "Firecracker Mix" and includes Cornflower, Five Spot, Scarlet Flax, Rocket Larkspur, Baby's Breath, Yellow Cosmos, Indian Blanket, Cosmos, California Poppy, Baby Blue Eyes, African Daisy, Lemon Mint, Corn Poppy, Black-Eyed Susan, Plains Coreopsis, Claspig Coneflower, Sweet Alyssum, and Spurred Snapdragon!



The 625-square foot grassy oval is surrounded by red ribbons to let you know where the seeds have been sown. We hope we can train everyone to walk elsewhere before the seeds start to sprout in the next few weeks.

We hope they all sprout and flourish!

Session Report, January 2019

Ellen Patterson, Clerk of Session



The Session of Northwood Presbyterian Church met on Jan. 22 in the Activities Room of the church at 6:30 p.m. Motions that passed and business conducted included welcoming Nancy Nagel as a new member pending her baptism and Donald Morrison as a member who is becoming active again. In addition, the Day School received safety recommendations, which are being implemented and which include four cameras at points of entry, in addition to considering a system to buzz parents and visitors into the building, along with a keypad and code system for restricted access into the Day School Wing. The Day School teachers will continue to use approximately 21 spaces in the church's Pike Place parking lot to alleviate congestion during Day School drop-off and pick-up. More solutions are being explored. The Session also approved the Nominating Committee's selection of Jane Mannock (formerly Huffstickler) to replace Ellen Patterson.

The Mission Committee's motion passed to create a new Agape donation station in the Breezeway, as well as a temporary donation station for the Wall of Welcome/ Interfaith Caravan of Hope trip to McAllen on Feb. 21-23 by Mission Presbytery. Congregational Care is hosting a luncheon, led by Angela Barrientes, attorney and intern for Abode, an end-of-life care home, to discuss end-of-life care issues, on Sunday Feb. 17 following worship. The Session also approved a motion from the Christian Education Committee to approve the Director of Faith Formation job description so that the position may be posted and candidates considered. A motion from Stewardship and Finance passed that a donation of \$1000 from The SPR Family Charitable Giving Fund in honor of the Bryan twins be transferred to the Day School account for use at their discretion. In addition, the motion passed from the Stewardship and Finance Committee that the budget for 2019 be approved and presented to the Congregation at the Jan. 27 Congregational Meeting. A motion was made and passed that the Session ask the standing Nominating Committee to form the Pastor Nominating Committee to be composed of five regular members plus two alternates, and that at least two of the five members be current session members or those coming on. A motion was also made that we approve Dick Kreutzer be a part of Men's Fellowship in Mission Presbytery for the rest of the year. Also, for informational purposes, Saturday Sept. 7 shall be reserved for discussions led by Charles and Melissa Johnson for the San Antonio cluster of Presbyterian Churches to meet at Northwood PC.

Finally, the Congregational Meeting was held on Jan. 27 after worship, and items that were discussed included the process for finding a new permanent pastor by Committee on Ministry liaison to NPC, Lou Williams; the church's proposed operating budget of \$322,306, which was approved by the congregation; introduction and recognition of committee leaders, staff, and the outgoing Clerk of Session Ellen Patterson. In addition, the annual meeting of the corporation of NPC was convened, and a motion was made and passed to accept the officers, activities, and leadership of NPC.

On behalf of the congregation,
we sincerely say

thank you, Ellen

for your excellent and dedicated
service as Clerk of Session and

thank you, Jane

for taking on this important task.