



The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

August 2019

Changing Times

Betty and I just returned from a week long seminar on Transitional Ministry. We were reminded that today every church is in transition. The world is changing so rapidly that whether a church has an interim pastor, or a more “permanent” pastor, the church needs to change. Change isn’t always natural or easy. But, churches that can’t adapt to these changing circumstance find themselves struggling and dying.

The changes we face are not just outside our doors either. Changes are constantly occurring within the church as new people arrive and as there is today a wider variety of interests and preferences among congregational members. Take worship for instance. Several years ago Herb Miller gave a seminar on worship styles. It was interesting to learn that, in general, people born before 1947 defined worship as meditation. In general, those born after 1947 (baby boomers and later) defined worship as celebration.

Those who understand worship as meditation expect to come and sit in silent preparation. Those who understand worship as celebration expect to come and greet others, laugh and celebrate. Some people prefer more traditional hymns and a more formal service. Others, want a more contemporary music and an informal interactive format. Who’s right? Both. One of the challenges we face is how to accommodate, at least some of the desires of each group. In worship we try to maintain a balance of worship styles so that people can feel comfortable and close to God. I’m also grateful for our VIBE Service, that offers an alternative form of worship.

But change is not just in worship. How can we accommodate each other’s needs and desires, in other areas, like social witness or outreach, so that Northwood can feel even more like a family to all? How can we help all people grow closer to God.

We are not able to accommodate every whim or desire within the congregation. We can’t be all things to all people, although, that’s what the Apostle Paul apparently attempted to do. I’m not advocating we need to be something other than what the Spirit is leading us to be. Northwood has a wonderful sense of family and a closeness that many other and larger churches don’t. But we can still hear the different hopes, dreams, and desires in our midst. That’s what this time of transition and our discernment process is about.

I hope you have had, or will have, the opportunity to share your hopes and desires at one of the Study Sessions. If there is something that you really like at Northwood, tell us about it. If there is something that you really would like to see at Northwood, let me know that too. In this time of transition, let’s share with each other how and where our faith is calling us and let’s be open to making Northwood even more a welcoming place for all.

Blessings,
Pastor Dick



Toot Your Own Horn

Owen Duggan, Northwood Music Director and lecturer in Sacred Music at Our Lady of the Lake University

Psalm 150:3-5

Praise God with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise God with the harp and lyre,
Praise God with timbrel and dancing,
praise God with the strings and pipe,
Praise God with the clash of cymbals,
praise God with resounding cymbals.

The old-world protestants, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Episcopalians, et al, always seem to be hesitant to toot their own horn. Somehow, we find it distasteful. We're the last ones to get our interactive websites up, the last ones to have dope (great) facebook pages (yes, it's a small 'f'; please don't send us letters), and the last ones to have neon signs visible from the freeway. (OK, maybe that's a good thing.) But yesterday's concert by the talented Nguyen family made some of us begin to rethink.

The exquisite chamber music chosen, the passion of the playing, and the extraordinary virtuosity of the largely high-school-age players was well worth the price of the ticket (our time). But one of the consistent comments I heard from church members and the musicians was, "Doesn't this music sound great in this sanctuary!" It did. It is one of the best spaces in town for music and worship. Only one problem. Who knows about it?



Perhaps it's time to have music on our website and wonderful pictures and descriptions of the great things that go on in our sacred space, along with clips of sermons, anthems, preludes and concerts on our facebook page. The investment is small but think about the potential return. We could all have business cards inviting a friend to visit the website or "like" us on facebook to see and hear. Where does it say in the Bible to not think big—to not spread the Word?

Do we think we have it? I think we all know the answer. So, let's flaunt it. Just a little. Toot away, Northwood! They're not going to revoke our Presbyterian card.

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, August 7 at 7 PM.

All are welcome!



**Blessing of
the Backpacks
August 18**

Bring your backpack
to worship to receive a
blessing for the new
school year.

Getting Ready for a Great Year

The Day School and staff will be taking a brief 2-week break in August before hitting the ground running to prepare for a new school year in mid-August... But First...

Ms. Rebecca attended a PreK-4-SA gathering recently where she and the Day School was publicly recognized and congratulated for our 4 Star accreditation rating by Texas Rising Star!!! The leaders of PreK-4-SA as well as our city leaders were very impressed with our accomplishment. Did you know that only 4 child-care centers in Texas have achieved the 4 Star accreditation since the regulations were updated in 2014??? Wow! We have quite a spectacular program on our hands. Thank you again Ms. Rebecca, for your leadership and vision that makes our Day School among the best in Texas!



But the work is not over. After our brief break, the staff will return on August 12 for a week of training and learning in preparation for another year. More on that next time. ☺

As we prepare for a new year, we invite anyone who would like to be a Reading Buddy or has a fun and interesting hobby or talent to share with the kids to contact the Day School. We would love to have you be a part of our enrichment activities!

Thursday, Aug. 15, 6 PM Parent Orientation

Friday, Aug. 16, 9 AM – 12 NOON Meet the Teacher

Did You Know?

A Heads-Up for Everyone from Libby Overholt

Things I learned at the Department of Public Safety (DPS) while trying to replace a lost driver's license. Back in 2005, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began requiring that citizens obtaining or renewing a drivers' license to present proof of U.S. citizenship such as a certified state birth certificate or a current passport. This law goes into full effect 2020. The DPS has started to ask for these documents.

The Customer Service Representative (CSR) will verify the citizenship or lawful presence of different immigrant statuses, whether or not they are eligible for a driver's license or ID card, and what documentation they need. Applicants who are not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, refuge, or asylee may be eligible for a nonresident license.

I am now sending for a certified state birth certificate (cannot be a copy, must be original) because I am soon to renew my license. I hope this will save you time and grief when you go to the DPS for your driver's license.

2019
Back-to-School BBQ

Groundbreaking
Celebration

 Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

**Join us for fellowship and fun at our annual
Back-to-School BBQ event that includes a
Special Groundbreaking Celebration for
our San Antonio Campus Expansion.**

Saturday, August 10 from 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

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

Three Circles Plan for Fall

Our three Presbyterian Women circles look forward to beginning new studies in September. Monthly circles meet for study and fellowship, one on Wednesday mornings, one on Saturday mornings, and one in the evening. The daytime groups will study the Horizon's Bible Study, *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by the Rev. Eugenia Gamble. The Sol Center at University Presbyterian Church is offering a three morning preview with Rev. San Williams, Aug. 6-8, 10 AM until noon. Cost is \$40.00 per person. You may register on line or by calling UPC at 210-732-9927.

The Evening Circle is studying CS Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*, which was adapted from a series of BBC radio talks made during World War II. They will begin with an overview in September. The book is available from sale at Amazon or Barnes and Noble.

If you would like a copy of the Horizon study book, call Judy Harris, 210-602-7992.



VBS is going to be great!

More than 30 children – ages 3 years through 5th grade – have registered. All staff positions are filled but very welcome are "neighbors" who can work as floaters and assistants at any time during the week.

Everyone is invited to the closing program on Friday, Aug. 9 at 6 PM. There will be a dessert bar afterwards, and donations of desserts are sweetly invited.

This is our opportunity to welcome the parents of our VBS students and introduce them to the Northwood Community. Please plan to attend.



Youth

Youth will be meeting for an end of Summer get together on Sunday, Aug. 11 following worship

On September 1, youth will be participating in the Presbytery Dodge Ball Tournament. More details to follow from DOFF Debbie Owen.

Regular youth meetings will resume on Sept. 8

Sunday School

Open House Aug. 25, 9:30 AM

See the Classrooms

Meet the Teachers

View Curriculum

Share a time of Fellowship

Classes begin Sept. 1

Keeping Up with Northwood News

There's always lots to read about each week in the Sunday bulletin, but there are also other ways to find out what is happening at your church.

- ✓ Check the website at npcsa.org for news, prayer ideas, and the church calendar.
- ✓ eNotes is a weekly update on all things Northwood that arrives by email. Be sure eNotes comes to your Inbox by visiting npcsa.org and entering your email address.
- ✓ The Breezeway is available for download the first Sunday of each month, also from npcsa.org. Paper copies are on a table in the Narthex.
- ✓ Northwood Presbyterian Church and Northwood Presbyterian Day School both have Facebook pages.

There's still room for you!! at the BEACH re-TREAT



October 11-14, 2019

**Friday evening through Monday morning
Columbus Day Weekend**

**3 days and nights of relaxation at the beach
in Corpus Christi with your Northwood sisters.**

Bring a friend, bring a sister, and enjoy fun in the sun!

Hi All Beach Lovers,

We are planning another Northwood PW retreat this October to Island House in Corpus Christi...just steps away from the beach. We went there in 2017 and loved that the condos are beach side. There is a big, lovely pool, and we will be renting two-bedroom, two-bath condos with full kitchens. Cost is \$185 per person.

The dates are Columbus Day weekend, Friday, October 11 thru Monday, October 14. We're hoping this will allow everybody to enjoy a three-day weekend. If you have to be back on Monday, you will be able to stay late on Sunday and enjoy the day without having to leave Monday at 11:00 checkout time.

Pick up a registration form from the poster in the Breezeway and give it with your check to Beverle Grounds, Lisa Mines, or Anne Little.