

A View from the Hills

“I lift my eyes to the hills, from where comes my strength?” These words open Psalm 121, one of my favorite Psalms. I love the hills and the mountains. As I write these words I am seated in Taos, having driven this afternoon through hills and mountains of the Carson National Forest. Sitting at the motel this evening, I could see the mountains surrounding us. When I head for the hills, I discover a new perspective. I am reminded of my place in creation and my mind is opened again to the Great Creator of it all.

Coming up the mountain, I was reminded of how much I have, for which to be thankful. I’m thankful for time to get away to the mountains for reflection and renewal. I’m thankful for a motorcycle which brings me freedom and, for me, is a form of spiritual discipline. I’m thankful for my wife. Betty is such a special gift to me. In just a few days we will celebrate our 42nd anniversary and I can’t even imagine what my life would be like without her. I’m thankful for and proud of our two wonderful daughters, who have grown into beautiful and competent women. I’m thankful for our family dogs. What a blessing it is to come home after a long day and have them run to the door just to say hello and welcome.

On this trip I have also been thinking about my time at Northwood Presbyterian Church. I’m thankful for you. I have so enjoyed getting to know so many of you. Betty and I feel welcomed and appreciated here. When I look out at the Northwood Family on Sunday mornings (as well as on other occasions) I see a family of people who are filled with faith, hope and love. You are also a people with great gifts and talents. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for us next. We are moving ahead, through this transition time, and expectation of your next permanent pastor. While at the Transitional Pastor Seminar, back in July, I was reminded that for Presbyterians this process is intentionally slow. It’s better to wait on the Lord and get the right person, rather than rush through, just to find mistakes were made. I thank you for the time spent in prayer (40 Days) as we navigate this transition. The average time for a church to discover and call a new pastor is 18 - 24 months. I think we are still on track for that to happen.

Meanwhile, let me just say my life has already been blessed by you, and I look forward to continuing to share in ministry and mission with you in the months that remain.

Blessings,
Pastor Dick



News from Northwood Presbyterian Day School

Martha Sherrod

Day School teachers and staff spent Saturday Oct. 28 at the San Antonio Childcare Training Conference. It was wonderful to spend time learning with other child-care professionals from around the city. Sessions included The Importance of Play, Music and Movement, Toddler Tantrums, and Creative Positive Relationships with Parents.

To attend a conference like this and listen to a nationally renowned speaker was truly a wonderful professional treat!

Soon work will be underway to expand and improve our infant and toddler play yard. (Yep, even our littlest ones enjoy a wonderful outdoor learning space!) One of our church members mentioned that seeing our wonderful play yard makes her want to go out and play and learn. 😊

Enrichment events continue to be scheduled and enjoyed by our students. They have included Love of Drums and African Drumming, SAPD and Fire Department, the Tooth Fairy, Story Time with Ms. Anastasia, and Spikey Mikey.

You are always invited to come on down and visit us and see the great things happening at our Day School!



Schedule for PW Circles

Our three Presbyterian Women circles are into their second meetings. The Morning Circle will gather at 10:00 AM in the Visions or Activities Room at church on



Wednesday Oct. 9 to study Lesson 2 of the Horizons Bible study book *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*. The Saturday Circle will meet Saturday, Oct. 19 at 9:30 AM for breakfast in the Church Parlor and study Lesson 2.

The Evening Circle is studying C.S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*. They will meet Monday Oct. 14 at 6:30 PM for dinner and discussion at Gayle Lord's home, 13835 Shavano Ash, 78230.

All women are welcome to join any of the meetings!

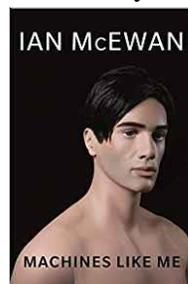
If you would like a copy of the Horizons study book, call Judy Harris, 210-602-7992.

Contemporary Book Club Oct. 27, 6 PM

The book club will meet Saturday Oct. 27 to review *Machines Like Me: A Novel* by Ian McEwan. A potluck dinner opens the meeting at Patty Clark's home at 2422 Rim Oak.

We welcome new members!

Questions? Call Judy Harris.



fellowship fun

So the 20-to-40 age group doesn't feel abandoned, there will be an event especially for them shortly after Christmas.

The Fellowship committee will host a Bunco get together for the Cane and Able group (50 years and up) on Oct. 27 following worship. The committee will provide a light lunch.

HEADS UP! POTPOURRI IS
SUNDAY, DEC. 22.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW.
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Session Meeting Notes

Complete copies of Session minutes are available in the church office after approval.



Sept. 24

Northwood's Safe Church policy will be included in the Session Handbook being revised by Patty Clark.

Each committee will generate a wish list of items. Stewardship and Finance chair Bob Lord will meet with each committee to find out what funds will be requested and to discuss budget allocations, including appropriate use of restricted funds.

Session approved a Day School fundraiser for the taking of family photos.

Volunteers are needed to help run monitors recently installed in the sanctuary. The monitors will be used for short videos and visuals but not to replace the bulletin.

Northwood's online presence is supported by Patty Clark who is coordinator for our Facebook page and the weekly eNotes. Jessie Davilla is coordinator for our website.

Session approved Jane Mannock as Clerk of Session, Scott Shepherd as church accountant, and Kate Carey as chair of the Nominating Committee.

Aug. 27

Session approved a new curriculum, "Feasting on the Word," for elementary Sunday School classes.

Building and Grounds Committee will develop a job description for a church attendant and investigate the possibility of hiring one.

Session approved use of the Northwood parking lot by the Day School for the St. Jude's Trike-a-Thon fundraiser on October 23-25. Also approved was expansion and enhancement of the infant playground to more closely align with Texas Rising Star criteria.

Session approved Pastor Dick to lead the Men's Narrative Discipleship for Mission Presbytery. Groups will meet at Northwood.

Sept. 15 is approved for All Committee Sunday.



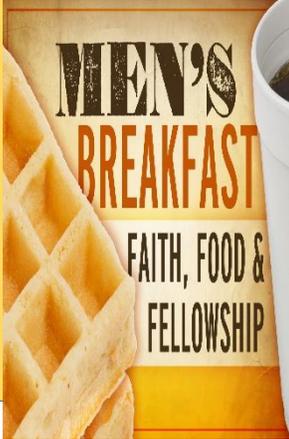
World Communion Sunday

Each year the first Sunday in October is celebrated as World Communion Sunday. It celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world.

World Wide Communion Sunday, as it was first known, was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Today, World

Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world.

On this day, as a way to demonstrate the sharing of God-given goods, we receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of the offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace.

A sign for a men's breakfast event. The sign is white with a waffle pattern on the left side. The text on the sign reads: "MEN'S BREAKFAST" in large, bold, black letters, followed by "FAITH, FOOD & FELLOWSHIP" in smaller, black letters. The sign is set against a yellow background.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Oct. 12, 8:00 AM

All men are invited!
Come for faith, food, and fellowship



PCHAS News and Annual Luncheon

Presbyterian Homes and Services is holding its Annual Luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at the Austin Country Club in Austin. Registration begins at 11:30 AM followed by lunch at noon. If you would like to attend, RSVP by email to Reagan.Stone@pchas.org or by phone to 512-489-1846.

This informational and fundraising event will be a time to share children's stories, hardships and triumphs, and be one of the few opportunities to meet PCHAS client families. Additionally, attendees will have the first formal opportunity in Austin to meet PCHAS' new President, David Thompson.

PCAHS was featured in the September edition of *Presbyterian Outlook*. The article, "Stronger Together: How Two Presbyterian Agencies Negotiated a Healthy Merger," was written by the Rev. Peter Crouch, Senior VP of Development, and examines the merger of PCHAS of Texas and Louisiana with PCHAS of Missouri. The new agency offers 12 programs across three states and serves approximately 5,000 clients. In an email, he notes, "Our administrative, programmatic and funds development efforts are streamlined to increase our operational capacity and expand our reach to target audiences. We are financially secure, thanks to the generous philanthropy of a combined donor base that has been supporting the agency since 1903. And we continue to grow — perhaps the most reliable indicator of success."

Donation Box in the Narthex

Have you noticed the large wooden box beside the Narthex entrance? Donations placed there go to Agape Ministries, a local charity that provides emergency assistance of food and clothing for families and individuals in crisis. While requests change, the need for staple foods, socks, and underwear is unending. Having the box in the Narthex serves as a reminder for us to donate whenever we can.

The box also serves another purpose: teaching our children. A Northwood member shared this story about something that happened when she was shopping at HEB with her young son. As they filled the cart, he told her, "Mom. The food box at church is empty. We need to get some food for them, too." The mother helped him choose tuna, rice, and peanut butter. But since this was a little boy doing the shopping, he insisted they add some applesauce.



Blended Worship

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

The trend across denominations seems to be toward blended worship—not my favorite term, but here we go. Blended worship is where old meets new, candles meet computers, bowties meet bell bottoms, and Bach has a beat.

The non-denoms keyed into the fact that younger folks (parents, not kids) wanted something new. They may not have grown up in the church at all, or if they did, they slept through most of it. They looked to where these young adults were spending their time – coffee houses and concerts, and they decided to redo church. To say they’ve succeeded by numbers is an understatement.

A few mainliners followed along blindly. Concordia Lutheran, to name one in town, moved to the growth area and brought out the stage lights, giant screens and a 1000-watt sound system. Some of us who ventured out to see what all the fuss was about felt a disconnect between the new worship and worshipping. We noticed among other things what had been lost was the act of meeting in a sacred space in the neighborhood.

At NPC where “y’all means all,” generations support the next generation. We like to sing with the piano and the organ, and we like communion Sunday in the sanctuary. But that doesn’t mean we don’t also like the guitar and the djembe (the deep, resonant drum pronounced JIM-BAY). We like Bach (“A Mighty Fortress”) but we also like John Bell (“Will You Come and Follow Me”).

In the ‘olden days,’ there was one creed, one book of order, one hymnal, and boxes of old choir anthems that smelled funny. Our pastors now incorporate a mix of new and old prayers and liturgies, using culturally relevant prayers and preaching, the purple hymnal runs the gamut from chant to light rock, and the choir can turn on a dime from Pachelbel to Praise and Worship with a good dose of bluegrass and Southern Gospel thrown in.

We might ask what the objective to blended worship is. For me it is the continually renewed expression of our faith, life and trials – a repertoire that moves across and through boundaries just as our Lord moved through classes and neighborhoods, delivering the core message: that no one is lesser in God’s eyes

At Northwood we are privileged to express that message through inclusion and fellowship, prayer and song, while following the Spirit in an ardent desire for worship and our outreach to those less fortunate than us.



You should know...

The Mission Presbytery newsletter is an easy way to keep up with events in the presbytery that directly affect Northwood. To subscribe, access mission-presbytery.org, scroll to the bottom of the page, and enter your email address. The newsletter will land in your inbox every week.