



The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

January 2020

Happy New Year!

It was a great Christmas for Betty and me. We enjoyed being a part of the Northwood family and all the Christmas celebrations. Potpourri was extra special for us, as was sharing communion with you all on Christmas Eve. We also treasure your Christmas cards and words of appreciation that came to us during this season of giving.

I have come to know the Northwood family, as a gifted and talented group of people. We have so many people with such a variety of gifts. For a church our size we are a very active congregation. A group of churches in Mission Presbytery are involved in the Vital Congregation Program, which is intended to build up the ministry and mission of the church. Last year, I was excited about the possibility of Northwood Presbyterian being a part of that program and brought the program it to the Session for consideration. The Session had some questions and concerns. I finally realized we already are a vital congregation, involved in worship and spiritual growth and mission to the world. The Session decided not to join Vital Congregations, since our primary challenge is finding a new pastor. As much as I love you and enjoy serving as your interim pastor, I too hope we will focus our efforts (in prayer and in action) on the search process for finding a new pastor in 2020.

Several of you have expressed how meaningful the “40 Days of Prayer” program last summer was for you. Wouldn’t it be great to renew our prayer groups, maybe form some new ones, and maybe produce another prayer guide for Lent? I will be sharing this idea with the Session.

When I was about 12 years old. I sat next to my beloved grandmother, Nana, at the Christmas table. I had overfilled my plate with Christmas turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and all the fixings. Nana, looked at my plate, laughed, and gently told me my eyes were bigger than my stomach. She was right that day. I ate until my stomach hurt. Unfortunately, she is still sometimes right. There are often so many good entrées on the menu of life, that I fill my plate too full. So this year I’m going to practice saying “no” to some things so I can focus on and enjoy some other things and take better care of myself. One of my resolutions is to be better at carving out time to be alone with God in contemplative prayer. That may mean some personal retreat times for me.

As we enter into the year 2020, may God bless us, our families, and the times we share with each other.

Blessings,

Pastor Dick

Session Leaders and Ministry Teams

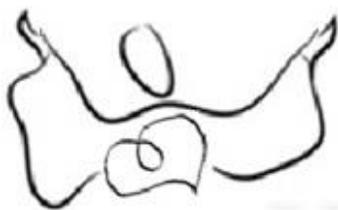
Session members are each assigned to one of the Ministry Teams that carry on the work of the church. Every Northwood member is encouraged to be part of a Ministry Team. Talk with the team chair if you want to join.

Building & Grounds	Ryan Grogan, chair
Christian Education & Youth	Nick Roberson & Karissa Arnett, co-chairs
Congregational Care	Sheron Antczak, chair
Fellowship	Nancy Byers, chair
Finance & Stewardship	Bob Lord, chair
Membership	Linda Kendall, chair
Mission & Service	Elizabeth Hewins, chair
Personnel & Administration	David Middleton, member (Cotton Clark, chair)
Worship & Music	Vanessa Mueller, chair
Day School Board Reps	Kate Carey & Tommy Moreno

Annual
Congregational
Meeting
immediately
following
worship on
Sunday,
January 26

Coming Soon: A New Look for Northwood Online

The Northwood website will soon have a new look, thanks to Jesse Davila, who is designing the site, and other members of the communications team. The updated site will include an online directory accessible only to members. This will allow you to change your own information as needed so that it remains current. If you prefer, you can still report changes to the church office, and print versions of the directory will also be available. Communications team members are Jesse, Patty Clark, Anne Little, and Libby Overholt. More details will be shared at the Congregational Meeting on Jan. 26.



Wisdom of the Heart

a one-day retreat for the women of Northwood

led by Robin Atiyeh

Saturday, Feb. 22

to examine and celebrate three gratuities:

Gratitude to God for Jesus

Gratitude to God for ourselves

Gratitude to God for others in our lives

Registration begins Feb. 1. \$25. Childcare available on request.



You know –
it's White Elephant Bingo!
After Worship on Jan. 19

Following church service on Jan. 19, we will play "White Elephant" Bingo. Bring a wrapped item that is attractive or useful or both – just not for you. Then in February we plan to have a Valentine's pot luck lunch after church on Feb. 16.

The Fellowship Committee is working toward events that everyone in the congregation can enjoy. If those two ideas don't "float your boat," talk to one of the committee members with further ideas! We strive to please!!!

PW in December

Our three Presbyterian Women circles wish everyone a Happy New Year and invite all ladies to participate in our circle gatherings.



The Morning Circle will gather at 10:00 AM in the Visions or Activities Room at church on Wednesday, Jan. 8 to study Lesson 5 of our book *Love Carved Out of Stone*. The Saturday Circle will meet Saturday, Jan. 11 at 9:30 AM for breakfast and study Lesson 5. Judy Harris still has copies of the study book.

The Evening Circle is studying C.S. Lewis's book *Mere Christianity*. They will meet Monday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 PM for dinner and discussion at Stephanie Balderas's home.

All women are welcome to join our meetings!



News from Northwood Presbyterian Day School

Martha Sherrod

Happy New Year!! That means a couple of things in the "school world." First, we are actually about half-way through our school year and we are already counting our blessings: our 4 Star TRS Accreditation, new curriculum, materials, and equipment that are making this year so wonderful for our students. Second, we are already looking forward to our 2020-2021 school year! (What? Already??) Yep. In-house registration begins Jan. 21. We will begin to call our waiting list families on Feb. 3. **Open Registration begins Feb. 18!** If you or a family you know is looking for a high-quality, faith-based school for their young child, please call soon!!

You may have noticed an update to our Day School security system. We have updated our security system so that all doors into the Day School must be accessed by a security card or a code. The update also includes cameras in the entrances, hallways and outside playground. The Day School Board continues to work very hard to make sure our children are safe and secure when here at school.

Upcoming events: Parent Appreciation Coffee, Jan. 14 and 15; Grandparent's Day!! Jan. 21

As always, please come on down, visit, and see all the great things happening in your Day School!!



Joy to the World!

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

A shout out to all the talented Northwooders for sharing their talents with the church and community in December! Special thanks and appreciation go to:

The Choir, which continues to grow, for a worshipful Advent season, including a splendid Lessons and Carols at NPC and at OLLU and a moving Christmas Eve.

The Graytones (choir men) for a rousing, old-fashioned Bluegrass "Mass."

The choir women for a fruity "Fruitcake" at Potpourri.

Our Bells Angels, for a successful high-wire, hand-bell act at Potpourri, including our "bell captain," Tim Lee.

Our vocal soloists, including Sherryl Walsh (also our flutist), Mackenzie Walsh Stern, Cotton Clark, and Bob Sharpley.

Vanessa Mueller, for the joyful Christmas band at Potpourri and for riding herd over the myriad of moving parts at worship on Sundays.

Our Pageant kids, and all the helpers, including Norma Roberson (costumes), Jesse Davila (children's shepherd), Jennifer Roberson (baby duty), and our inspired and inspiring readers, Hayden Davila (narrator) and Martha Sherrod (angel).

Our intrepid and gifted pianist-organist Deborah Rhine Bading.

Glen Bading, for keeping all of our pianos beautifully tuned and ship-shape.

Our sound and AV wizards Ray Tolbert and Ron Prichard, without whom everyone would be wondering what was being said and sung.

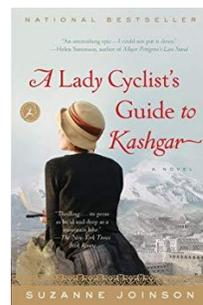
Our music librarian Elizabeth Hewins, the "mom" who picks up after us and puts it all away neatly so we can find it the next time.

Our church secretary, chorister, and "mother superior" Libby Overholt, for keeping us all marching ahead and spending countless extra hours making us all look like we know what we're doing.

And last, but certainly not least, you all for being faithful attenders and worshippers, as we praise God together in this wonderful fellowship, singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will to all people!"

Book Club Note

The book for January is *A Lady Cyclist's Guide to Kashgar* by Suzanne Joinson. Watch the calendar and eNotes for date and location.





Potpourri 2019

thanks for photos to Gayle, Jamie, Nicki, and Vanessa





By being a part of activities at Northwood Presbyterian Church, you may find your image, voice, or quotes used in our social media, website, or publications.