



# The Breezeway

The monthly newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

November 2020

## Thanksgiving

November is the month we focus on giving thanks. I give thanks for the new levels of faithfulness I see at Northwood, which has enabled our ministry and mission to continue and even grow through this time of Coronavirus. Our Caregivers became more intentional about contacting members regularly and reporting their findings so we all could keep in contact even while social distancing. We couldn't safely meet in person for worship, so several people stepped forward to enable Facebook streaming of worship services. Now, it looks like we are touching more people with our the worship service each week, than before the COVID crisis. Though we have distanced ourselves from each other, the Pastor Nominating Committee was elected and has begun their good work in seeking a new pastor for Northwood. Some of us have endured financial stress and loss of work or income, yet overall financial support of Northwood's ministry and mission has remained unexpectedly strong. Northwood operates on your generosity and I commend you on that. The Session and other groups have continued to meet via Zoom or by socially distanced outdoor meetings. The Women have stepped up their drive-by birthday and graduation celebrations. I was both surprised and grateful when they sang a most impressive version of "Get Out on the Highway, Lookin' for Adventure..." to me for my birthday. In response to General Assembly's call, we began to study and reflect upon areas of racial justice, through classes being offered by Mission and Service. Sometimes life doesn't bring us what we really want. We certainly would never have chosen Covid 19. Yet, given this unexpected challenge and change, the People of God at Northwood have raised their level of faith and action. I believe it's a sign of the Spirit's work in us, and a reminder that God has good things in store for us. I recognize that I have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving. Near the top of my list, I will give thanks for you!

Blessings,

*Pastor Dick*

### What are your WORDS of GENEROSITY?

As we move forward into 2021 together, consider your financial pledge. Please bring your pledge cards to worship on Consecration Sunday, Nov. 22, or send your pledge card to the church office.





# Fill An Advent Box with Needed Food for Agape Ministries

*Elizabeth Hewins, Mission and Outreach chair*

For many years, Northwood has contributed food (and other household items) to the Agape Ministries. Although they are close by and serve the 09 zip code, they provide services for people in other zip codes and reach as far north as Cibolo. Our little blue food box in the

Narthex has been empty for many months now—no services meant no food collection. Agape was forced to close for several months as well, and sales from their thrift store—a major source of income for them—dropped during the closure.

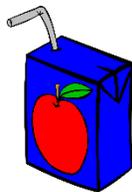
So Northwood—let’s help out for Advent! Find a big box for your family! In the 21 days starting Nov. 22, place one item from the list below in your box—you will need a big enough box to hold all 21 items (and a few extra if you are so inclined).

On Sunday Dec. 13, bring your box to church! Volunteers will be there from 10:30-2:00 to take your box and we will deliver them to Agape on Monday, Dec. 14. We want to get the food to Agape early so they can distribute it before they close for Christmas on Dec. 18.

Agape helped develop this list, based on items they know their customers will want for Christmas. Everything is “shelf-stable” and nutritious, and they are big hits for Christmas meals. In the meantime, don’t forget the little blue box in the Narthex for other items. Shelf-stable foods as well as household items and clothing are always welcome. Every Sunday is “undie Sunday”!

## Agape Shopping List

- Cranberries (canned whole or jellied)
- “Stove Top” stuffing
- Potato Flakes
- Potatoes (white or yams)
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Canned pumpkin
- Canned beans
- Canned corn
- Canned vegetables
- Bread mixes
- Cake mixes
- Rice
- Beans (canned or packages)
- Cereals
- Dried/powerd milk)
- Cat/dog food (don’t forget the pets!)
- Peanut butter
- Macaroni and cheese (boxed)
- Canned fruits
- Canned tomatoes
- Canned tuna
- Crackers (boxed)
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Spaghetti sauce (canned)
- Canned or packaged soups
- Mixed nuts



If you wait until the last day, you can add fresh apples or oranges!

Be creative – if you think of other items, add them in – just be sure they are shelf stable and nutritious. If you are interested in volunteering to collect and/or deliver the boxes, let us know.

Thank you Northwood for your generosity and love!

# What Was Important to Northwood Youth in 2000?

In September 2000, Northwood's youth filled a time capsule (actually a popcorn can) with things that told about them, their gifts, and their dreams. They also made some predictions about things to come. Here are the items those young people chose to send into their futures.



**Meagan Johnson:** I brought a bell from Midwinters 2000 when the theme was “I am a sheep, I am a shepherd” because the youth group always goes to Mid-Winters and when we do service projects, we are like shepherds and we are the sheep of the church. It also represents the fact that I am on MPT this year.

In the evening of September 10<sup>th</sup> one **Jackson Albracht** deposited a pair of drumsticks and the copy of a playbill into the time capsule.

**Aldon Mines:** a Pez dispenser which holds candy and when u pull the head back the candy comes out. It has Bart Simpson from the hit comedy “The Simpsons.” He is the cool, rebellious son of the Simpson family. I also put a wood circle with a cross on it and also has a feel good phrase (The Cross in my Pocket).

**Molly Montagna:** I brought a cross because it reminds me about all the fun I have at church activities. I brought the paint brush because I am creative and artistic.

**Brian Kendall:** Sept 10, 2000

16 years old

Junior

Hey what's up

Cross from Easter activities

Lyre for music

Mo arm band from Mid-Winters

**Nick Roberson:** My first award in H.S. from What I Did Last Summer Honorable Mention

**Kayla Reyes:** Cross showing my church life

Cowboy/Boot/Saddle – me and some of my friends have a joke about “cowboys”

**Sarah Little:** I put my least favorite paintbrush in the time capsule because painting is my passion. I hope I will be painting still. I also put in this fabric from my 1st mission trip.

**Tyler Andrew Shepherd** brought a cd of his recital held in the sanctuary of Northwood Pres.



**Julia Gregory:** I put in a dance shoe! I've danced all my life and this shoe is the shoe that I've used to dance with in church plays and productions! I L♥VE to dance, anyone that knows me knows that I dance all the time. So this one shoe represents both me and part of the church!

**Anonymous:** A dime for me and the church

**Other items** included without explanation: a clothespin doll, toy bear, hackysack, pick, beaded cross, Sunkist soda can crushed for recycling

## What were the Youth predictions for years since 2000?

### Predictions for 2005

GOP in office  
Uniforms and security (metal detectors, police) in schools  
Sarah Little will be an aunt  
Justin Montagna will be in Youth Group  
No water in San Antonio  
Religion more suppressed  
Anne Little will have a great new job

### Predictions for 2010

Minority presidential candidate  
Internet schools  
Tyler Shepherd in Boston symphony  
Nicolas Roberson – big-time movie producer  
Cancer and AIDS abolished  
Meagan Johnson living in New York City  
United Nations runs world government  
Kayla Reyes will be A&M grad teaching high school  
Brian Kendall will be graduating from med school as a pediatric surgeon  
Julia Gregory will be a graphic design engineer and married  
Affirmative action will be expanded to government jobs

### Predictions for 2015

Woman presidential candidate  
Won't say the Pledge to the Flag in school  
Gini and Wes will have a child  
Molly Montagna will be in investing  
Jesse Montagna will be a karate teacher  
Polar ice caps will be melted  
Soviet Union will be reestablished  
Record high San Antonio temperature will be F125°  
People will live on Mars  
Life expectancy will be 100  
Jurassic Park will be real  
There will be Big Brother like 1984  
There will be a world currency  
Presbyterian Church will ordain gays  
Northwood will be remodeling again

### Predictions for 2020

None. They never could have guessed!



## Contemporary Book Club

Sunday, Nov. 22,  
6 PM on Zoom

*Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen*

by Sarah Bird

Everyone is invited.

Judy Harris is the contact if you have questions.

# Keeping In Touch While We're Distant

## Linda Kendall

Several years before my marriage ended, when in pain, our previous pastor, Francois, gave me a little kaleidoscope, filled with brightly colored broken glass.

His message to me was that the broken remnants of something once beautiful can still be beautiful. When swirled together, those shattered pieces created something so gorgeous... ever-changing and completely new.

When asked to write about my own 'Day in the Life of Covid' experience, that kaleidoscope came to mind.

I'd thought about literally typing out my daily 'routine'...my altered schedule in light of this quarantine, but that would probably be pretty boring. We are certainly living through an 'interesting' time!

BUT, when seen 'all together', these past seven months have created their own version of 'new' and even beautiful, at times. Flashes of highs and lows come to mind...



- My own bout of Covid-19, in March, and my scary night at University Hospital ("CLEAR THE HALLS!") Back then, and at the beginning of it all, nobody knew what to do with me...so utterly caught off-guard and unprepared.
- The 100+ mostly 'feel good/happy ending' movies seen with Sarah, my wonderful friend and roomie, at the time. Goosebumps, and SUCH a 'God-thing' that we would be roomies during those first few scary months of isolation!
- The realization that I really DO love to cook! Such fun to cook for appreciative Sarah and forced to forego restaurants for the time.
- New skills, galore – lol! Had never heard of a ZOOM (what is that?!), or a shared screen or a break-out room. What a treasure to get to know my various groups of Zoom friends even better!
- Facing a sudden business downturn, decided to finally apply for/obtain an advertising credential that I'd always been 'too busy' to pursue.
- SO enjoy chatting with various caregivers from NPC...their weekly calls have brightened my life.
- Learned to safely travel from one family member's home to another. Treasured those visits probably even more than ever. Such precious moments.
- AND, precious PATIO times...never thought I'd fall in love with patios, but so appreciate them...at church, at my favorite restaurant, at friend's homes. They enable a safe visit and much needed catch-up time and have added so many swirls of color to this new way of life!
- Moving! And all that it entailed...and all of the God-moments within that process. Lemons (Sarah's decision to move out of state) to lemonade (discovering that Judy's condo had been sold to the Finkels who needed a renter within two weeks...AND, they wanted suggestions re final paint colors/décor/fixtures!) HOW else could that have happened?! (xoxo)
- Faith! Every morning, I put my feet on the floor and do the "Traci", as I call it :) "God, be in my head, be in my heart, be on my lips, and help me spread your Love" (complete with stretching arm gestures... lol!) I've found that, during these Covid days, I've had to FULLY Rely On God (Anne Little's F.R.O.G. from our Beach Retreat).

I'm sure you might be able to relate to all/some of this, as well. We will probably all look back on this period of time with a mixture of emotions. But, I have to say, I am so very grateful for the many ways in which God has swirled the broken glass, revealed to me in little colorful miracles, day by day, during this challenging time.

Blessings to you, and here's to finding and seeing the color!

Xoxo  
Linda



# PW Circles in November

*Judy Harris*

Presbyterian Women Circles will be meeting in November. The Monday evening circle will meet Nov. 9 via Zoom at 6:00 PM for fellowship followed by the study of First and Second Thessalonians by Max Lucado. They will be studying Lesson 6, led by Anne Detweiler.

The Saturday circle will meet via Zoom at 9:30 AM on Nov. 14 and study Lesson 3 in our study of Lament, led by Anne Little.

The Wednesday circle will meet on Nov. 11 at 10:00 AM on the lawn at church. They also are studying Lesson 3 in our study of Lament.

All women are welcome at any of our circles. Contact Judy Harris for information or questions.

## Highlights of the October Session Meeting

**Day School Board Report given by Kate Carey.** The Day School Board received approval to increase tuition by 5% for new families immediately. The increased rates will go into effect for families currently enrolled in summer of 2021.

**Finance Report given by Bob Lord, chair.** There was a large shortfall in September. Endowment income will help but will not cover it completely. Discussion continues on appropriate payments from the day school, based on enrollment and the school's ability to pay. Quarterly statements have been delivered so that every pledging unit can be aware of where they are with regard to their pledge for the year. Stewardship season begins with consecration Sunday on Nov. 22, and session committees are advised to begin consideration of next year's budget.

**Interim Pastor's Report given by Interim Pastor Dick Kreutzer.** An outline of responsibilities of the congregation, session, and session committees will be added to Northwood's Session Manual. Some of the responsibilities are set by the PCUSA Book of Order and others by the Session Manual. Due to the threat of contagion associated with Covid, a moratorium on new requests for baptisms and wedding was suggested and received session approval. A neighborhood resident called to applaud our sign with its racial justice message. Pastor Dick will take the first few minutes of each monthly session meeting for officer training on what it means to be an elder and how we carry out our calling. Lessons will fall into either a spiritual (prayer, scripture, etc.) or practical (polity, resources, etc.) track.

**Christian Education Report given by Vanessa Mueller, co-chair.** Curriculum for two classes was approved. The once-a-month Family Fun Fridays will use the PRAY program "RP3" (Read, Picture, Ponder, Pray). Also approved curriculum for a book study of *Good White Racist?: Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice* by Kerry Connelly

**Mission and Service Report given by Elizabeth Hewins, chair.** Northwood will have an Advent Food Drive for Agape Ministries. Food will be collected daily in boxes at home beginning Nov. 22, and people will bring their filled boxes to the church on Dec. 13.

**Safe Church Team Report given by Tommy Moreno, chair.** The team continues to be cautious and carefully watch signs of increasing community spread, but for now, in-person worship continues.

