

## Stirrings

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

Ding! The little light just went off. You are now free to move about the cabin. Well almost. You still have to do it with masks on!

In over 25 years of music ministry and directing, I have never experienced such a thing as COVID 19, and hope to never again.

At least we had the internet to teach, play, and sing, but so much was missing. All of a very sudden, gone was the jocular banter of the UTSA men's choir I directed last spring, the angelic strains of the NPC and MSSA choirs wafting to the dizzying heights of Sacred Heart Chapel during Advent, and the warm candlelight glow, fellowship, and gentle, worshipful grooves of Vibe at Northwood.

To say singing together this month, even in a scaled-down, fully-vaccinated group of choir members, was an epiphany is an understatement. Not to mention an actual congregation! I mean the 8 x 10 glossy photos of Nicki, Patty, and Linda propped up in the front pew were lovely, but "there's nothing like the real thing!"

Worship can be private and singular to be sure, but when it is corporate it is always greater than the sum of its parts. "Where two or more are gathered..." Many thanks to the officials and dedicated healthcare workers for getting so many of us vaccinated, allowing us to be in some proximity with confidence. It's like taking a long cool drink of water after coming in off the West Texas range.

The only thing we are lacking is more cowpokes to join the rodeo. I know there are some lights hiding under a few bushels out there, and we would so greatly be blessed by your joining us in voice, bells, and/or other instruments. Yes, it may mean dusting off the pipes or the strings, but we promise to welcome you with open arms to a unique, praying, seeking, supportive community that is the Northwood music ministry.

Find that you have a hole in your tune bucket? Well then maybe there's a friend or relative out there who might be looking for the healing, uplifting experience of worshipping the Almighty with one's heart, mind, body, and soul! (And our choir potlucks are pretty darn good too!)

All kidding aside, don't be shy. Talk to one of us. We won't laugh *at* you but we will laugh *with* you! Come and help us "make a joyful noise unto the Lord!" It's easier than you think. Yes, I know you all are Presbyterians. So are we!

# Session Report for April



Session met April 27, moderated by the Rev. Dick Kreutzer for Mission Presbytery.

**Clerk's Report**, presented by Jane Mannock. There are concerns about a lack of reports from the Day School to the Session and lack of an approved budget from the finance committee of the school board. More church members are needed to serve on the Day School board.

**Day School Report**, presented by Director Rebecca Cranfill, guest. Last year's fundraiser was cancelled because of Covid restrictions and an in-person event is not possible this year either. The Day School requested approval for an online auction with the goal of raising several thousand dollars for improvement of the infant playground. Approval was given for auction items to include donated gift baskets that contain wine.

**Budget Report**, presented by Bob Lord. At the end of this quarter, expenses exceeded income by about \$4,500. The Day School is paying their portion of the shared expenses and doing so consistently. Loose plate offering and fees from building usage fees are down. Interest income is strong. There are coming expenses including security on the doors, trimming of trees, and repair or replacement of the freezer and refrigerator.

**Team updates.** Cotton Clark reported for Personnel & Administration that computers will be purchased for Pastor Jon Watt and for the choir room. Anne Detweiler reported for Worship that the new communion set will be used for the service on May 2. Vanessa Nyquist reported for Christian Education that she is working on Youth Sunday, outdoor Sunday School for children during May, and Vacation Bible School this summer.

## Original Art Communion set created for Northwood



Commissioned by the Worship Committee, a new addition to the sanctuary has arrived. A beautiful, new communion set will be used for the first time on May 2. Then it will grace the communion table to become a permanent art piece during worship services.

Inspired by the abstract stained glass in the sanctuary, artist Barbara Francis created a custom communion set that will reflect the beauty of the stained glass back on the communion table. Barbara has been creating fine ceramics for more than thirty years and teaches from her home studio in Waco. She was chosen to create this permanent communion set after a search by the committee that involved traveling to observe other Texas artists. The committee felt that she was the perfect fit to realize this vision for Northwood.

As we return to worship in the Sanctuary, please feel free to come up for a closer look as we celebrate being together once again.

# Day School Silent Auction

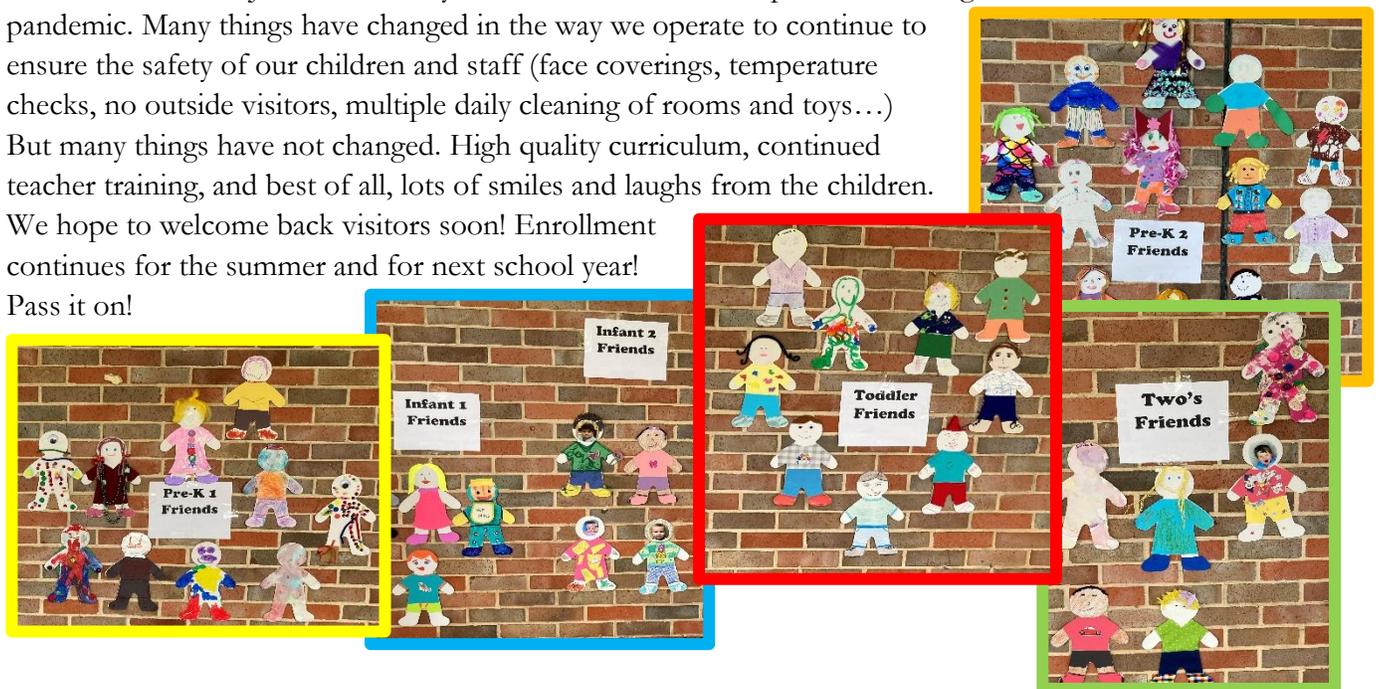
by Martha Sherrod

The SILENT AUCTION is Back!! After being sidelined last spring due to the pandemic, our **Spring Silent Auction** is on! It will be an on-line event this year so everyone can get in the game! During the weeks of **May 10-21**, you will be able to access the auction and bid on many wonderful items. Be looking in the Bulletin, eNotes and Day School Facebook page for information on how to access the auction. Our annual Silent Auction is one of the Day School's main fundraising activities and allows us to purchase much needed supplies and resources. Check it out and may the highest bidder win! 😊



In April, we celebrated the Week of the Young Child. It is a way to show our community and nation the importance of early childhood education. The children made some wonderful self-portraits for the occasion! Aren't they the cutest!!

It is hard to believe June 1 marks a year that we were able to open after closing for 12 weeks due to the pandemic. Many things have changed in the way we operate to continue to ensure the safety of our children and staff (face coverings, temperature checks, no outside visitors, multiple daily cleaning of rooms and toys...) But many things have not changed. High quality curriculum, continued teacher training, and best of all, lots of smiles and laughs from the children. We hope to welcome back visitors soon! Enrollment continues for the summer and for next school year! Pass it on!



## Ushers Needed

As we plan our return to full attendance at our services and welcome our new pastor, it is time to plan ahead and organizing our Usher Teams is a vital part of that planning. If you have previously served as an usher and are willing to continue to serve, please let us know. We would also like to recruit new folks to our Usher Teams . If you are willing to serve on a team of four, please let Libby know or contact Anne Detweiler or Jay Maust. Thank you and God bless.



# PW in May

The Saturday Circle meets May 22, 9:30 a.m. They conclude the study of *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*. Elizabeth Hewins has the Zoom link.

The Wednesday Circle also continues to study *Into the Light*, May 12 at 10 a.m. Contact Judy Harris for information about the meeting at Northwood.

The Monday Evening Circle meets via Zoom for fellowship and their study of Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from 1 & 2 Thessalonians*. Contact Sherryl Walsh for information.

All women are invited to attend any circle.

## Yay! Libby's back in the office!

If you've been at Northwood even a couple of times, you know Libby Overholt, officially our church secretary. Over the years, she has kept adding to her original phone-calls-and-copies job description. And Libby says she strives to be the welcoming face of Northwood. You know Libby, but did you know all this about her?

Libby was a member of Northwood from sixth grade through college. She first joined when her family moved to San Antonio. She spent a number of years at San Pedro Pres.

Libby was married here by the Rev. Dr. Robert Bullock in 1969 and left Northwood soon after. She rejoined in 1999.

Libby retired from Lee High School in 2004. She didn't take another job but got busy making sock monkeys –that's Randolph the Reindeer she's holding in the picture. Every monkey is special and individual, and they are treasured by the people she has made them for.



Libby was asked to cover the office temporarily by Pastor Francois LaCroix in 2009. She says she knew the people of Northwood and the relationships, but she had to learn the office.

Libby describes her job has “no boundary.” People call when she is at home, at the doctor's office, or in a car lot, needing to know the code? the phone number? the birthday? “They make me crazy,” she says. “And I love ‘em.”

### May Celebrations

#### Birthdays

- 1 Sandeen Finkel
- Betty Hurt
- 3 Jay Maust
- 5 Joseph Sottile
- 16 Eleanor Dibrell
- 20 Dick Kreutzer
- 25 Jamie Johnston
- 27 Jane Maust
- 28 Allison Kendall
- 30 Jesse Davila

#### Anniversaries

- 8 Lisa and Robert Mines
- 18 Charlotte Canaday and Raymond Tolbert
- 21 Jennifer and Nicholas Roberson
- 25 Sarah and Eric Esparza