

# GOOD TIDINGS

Northminster Presbyterian Church  
Sarasota, FL

April 2016

## Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

For the last several months, I have felt that God was saying to me that my time at Northminster is drawing to a close. I have always found this process personally difficult because you always second guess yourself and you want to make sure what you are thinking is of God and not just you. After a long while, I have become convinced that this sense of call is real and our time together is ending. At the same time, I have also felt a strong desire to make sure things keep going in a positive direction for Northminster and minimize the disruption which leaving might cause. Not long ago, I spoke with Graham Hart, the General Presbyter of Peace River Presbytery, about my thoughts. He told me the Presbytery is working on a plan which would give a church several options, one of which can be that a current Pastor can remain while a church goes through the process of looking for a new Pastor. The Presbytery's new plan seeks to keep disruption at a minimum and help the church go through the transition, from one Pastor to another, as smoothly as possible.

At the last Session meeting, I announced that I believe God is calling me to do something different in ministry in the not too distant future, perhaps semi-retirement or an interim ministry. I also presented this new plan from the Presbytery, and it was agreed that we would explore it as a real option, as soon as possible.

I don't know where God is leading Cyndi and me, but I believe he will make it clear within the next one to two years. This long view is important to me because I want to do what it takes to help Northminster make a successful transition. If that means staying while the church looks for a new Pastor, I am willing to do that, if the church so chooses and the Presbytery approves.

What happens next? Very soon, your Session will begin working with the Presbytery to get organized and plan next steps. Please understand that this is not a top-down process. It is the congregation's responsibility to choose its leaders and the Session will make sure you are kept informed and involved.

continued on page 2



### APRIL SERVICES

Sundays at  
10:30 AM

**Dr. Christopher Carlson,**  
Pastor

#### **April 3**

*Seven Words from the Cross:  
The Word of Love*  
John 19:25-27

#### **April 10**

*Does God Help Those Who  
Help Themselves?*  
John 5:1-15

#### **April 17**

*Choosing Leaders in  
the Church*  
1 Timothy 3:1-13

#### **April 24**

*Why Does It Matter  
What I Believe?*  
1 John 4:1

Pastor's Corner—from page 1

I want to thank you, in advance, for your patience, understanding, and involvement, as we work on this important activity in the life of Northminster. In the meantime, I am still your Pastor, and we will continue together with the ministry of Northminster Presbyterian Church. Also, please remember that God is

in charge. He has a path for all of us and we are called to walk that path with courage and trust.

In His Grip,

*Pastor Chris*

## FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

*The third time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." John 21:17*

Thanks be to our Lord for sending his sheep to be fed. We have been blessed by the addition of new members into his flock here at Northminster. Your deacons are prayerfully mindful of Jesus' command to feed his sheep. Please call upon your deacon for fellowship, spiritual food, and prayer.

A Reminder: In the church Narthex, there is a binder titled "Who is my Deacon." Please check occasionally to verify the name of your deacon and his/her phone number.

**J.B. & Frances Donaldson**



## PEACE RIVER PRESBYTERY MEETING: All Hands on Deck

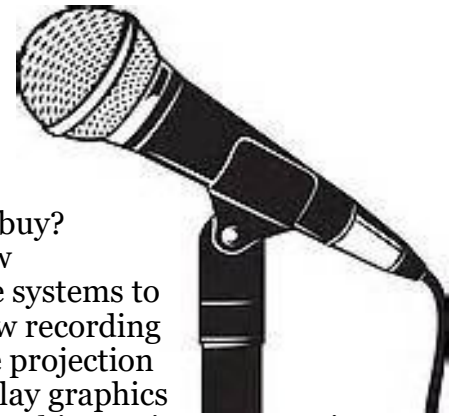


On April 28<sup>th</sup>, Northminster will be hosting 150-200 members and Pastors of the churches of Peace River Presbytery for their Quarterly Stated Meeting. This is the first time that we have been able to do this in the history of our church (our new Sanctuary is large enough now).

Many thanks to all who have responded to the call to volunteer to help on that day. Special thanks to the Fellowship Committee for the preparations for coffee and goodies as people arrive and the luncheon preparations.

We will need the help of everyone to be able to present our church in the best way possible. If you would like to be a greeter/guide please contact **Sally Kirby**. There will be a meeting for ALL volunteers on Thursday, **April 21**, at 1:00 to answer questions and discuss logistics. Please save the dates.

## CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW? Audio Upgrades for the Sanctuary



We have a major challenge with our Audio Visual System at Northminster. Most of our system dates back to 2006 and was moved over from the old Sanctuary. Its components are beginning to fail one by one, and we believe its days are numbered. For example, last fall we had failures three weeks in a row. Two things were eventually patched up, but one (a microphone system) simply had to be thrown out. These failures have been part of an increasing ongoing pattern for the last few years.

A total system upgrade is recommended, which is designed for this new sanctuary to support all activities conducted in it. Replacing things piecemeal, that is combining new equipment with our old equipment, is not an option and will make a bad situation much worse. Ten-year-old analog equipment is simply not compatible with the new HD equipment.

The cost of the proposed upgrade is estimated to be \$12,000. This may seem like a lot, but not in the scheme of things. Electronics are like automobiles these days in terms of cost. Like an automobile, \$12,000 is very modest compared to what it could be, and that amount will enable us to meet our needs for another ten years or more.

What will \$12,000 buy? Microphones, a new computer, interface systems to amplify sounds, new recording capabilities and the projection systems which display graphics in support of the worship service, to name just a few things. We have sources from which we will get things at a reduced cost. The objective is to have the completed system easy to operate and will include installation, testing, and training.

The goal of this effort is to honor God by insuring the excellence of the worship experience of all who attend Northminster. That goal also includes the very practical goal of helping our congregation hear the worship service better.

Members are asked to give special consideration to support this effort financially. You may do this by making checks to Northminster Presbyterian Church with memo marked AV SYSTEM. We hope to raise the necessary funds over the next few months with a completion date in the fall.

---

## SUNCOAST CONCERT BAND: UPCOMING CONCERTS

Suncoast Concert Band's fourth season at Northminster has been very successful, with most concerts sold out.

All concerts are on Sundays at 3:00. Tickets are \$5; reserve yours early by calling 941-907-4123.

April 3 - April and Music  
April 17 - Patriots and Taxes  
May 1 - Across the USA



## FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

### PRESBYTERIANS EATING OUT



Please join us on **Friday, April 8**, at 5:00 at the Olive Garden Restaurant, 4900 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota (near the Landings). This fun event is a good way to meet folks and enjoy a meal with your Northminster friends. You order from the menu and pay your own way. Everyone is welcome!

Our host and hostess for the evening are **Ariane and Richard Dahlem**. If you need to contact them, please call 309-3250. Also, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, so we can reserve enough seating

**Hosts Needed:** We need hosts for the May Presbyterians Eating Out. Please contact **Cora Lee Cain**, if you would like to find a restaurant and help.

### PINOCHLE ANYONE?

Are you interested in playing Pinochle with a group of casual players? We are considering having games twice a month, on Wednesday afternoons, in the Fellowship Hall. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and let us know if you'd like to play Pinochle!

### FREE TECH HELP



**David Stoltie**, "The Patient Trainer," will meet you at the church on **Mondays, at 1:00**, to help you with any of your "devices." This is free of charge and can help you learn to use your cell phone, your iPad/tablet and even your computer. Just bring your device to the Fellowship Hall, no appointment needed.

## MISSION

### BIBLE MISSION USA A Life-changing Ministry



You are great supporters of Beth-el, that vital hub of active ministry among Hispanic farmworkers. Kathy Dain, their new

Executive Director, confided "We need a Spanish Gospel that's easily understood and easily carried."

She contacted some Spanish friends of hers and then helped to arrange a get-together at Beth-el last month. I met with Julio Travieso, the retired pastor who served the Beth-el community for years, and Walter Chuquimia, their present Pastor. Together, we explored the possibility of translating our *Gospel of John* into "conversational Spanish" and making it freely available to the thousands of hard-working Latino farmworkers served by Beth-el.

Imagine – *John's* Good News about Jesus in the natural everyday tongue of laboring Latinos! Translators, who do their work freely, will make this possible. Printing, of course, will be the big expense.

BIBLE MISSION USA seeks to support local churches in their mission priorities and commitments. Then we attempt to provide ways to enrich their witness through God's Word.

Scripture changes lives. God has promised: "My word will prosper everywhere I send it." (Isaiah 55:11) Through your continued generosity and prayers, in support of BIBLE MISSION USA, lives are being changed.

Paul T. Eckel, *President*  
BIBLE MISSION USA



## MINISTRY

### CROP WALK RESULTS

On Sunday, March 6, NPC was represented by **Rolf Samson, Mark Goslin, and Robin Sutcliffe** in the Sarasota CROP Walk to End Hunger. Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$1,220! Twenty-five percent of this will go directly to Sarasota's All Faiths Food Bank; the remainder will help thousands of people feed their families all over the United States and the world. God bless you!

### FREE WHEELCHAIR MISSION

Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) works around the world in partnership with a vast network of humanitarian, faith-based, and government organizations, sending wheelchairs to disabled people, providing the gifts of mobility, dignity, independence, and hope.



It costs \$77.88 to construct and ship the durable all-terrain wheelchair, to a disabled person in a developing nation. Please make your check out to Northminster and note "FWM" on the memo line or on your envelope.

### MEDICAL OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Dr. Barry Ladd, a retired family physician, is available Tuesday mornings, by appointment, to see parishioners who have questions about their illnesses and treatment. Dr. Ladd does not diagnose or prescribe treatment. All conversations are free, private, and confidential. Please call the church office for an appointment.

### CELL PHONES FOR SPARCC

The Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) provides a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, and counseling for victims of sexual assault and abuse. We will donate your **used cell phones**, chargers, and accessories to SPARCC, to be given to women in crisis who can use them to call 911 in event of an emergency. Please leave your phones at the Welcome Desk or the Church Office.

### ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

Northminster supports All Faiths Food Bank year round. Please remember to bring donations of canned or boxed food staples and place them in the yellow barrel in the Narthex. *Please do not donate anything in glass containers.*

### PHYLLIS MAISEL, MISSIONARY

For over ten years, Phyllis Maisel made an annual mission trip to Romania, working closely there with Pastor Alex Stroie and his wife, Rody. Alex sent the following tribute to be read at her memorial service, but it arrived too late. The Mission Committee would like to share it with you now.

*We live in a selfish world, in fact in a very selfish world. Many times our egocentric life style can be observed easy from Mars. Yet other times it is a polished, educated, diplomatic, or rationalized selfishness, but is there, filling our lives. We live for us.*

*Not so with Phyllis. She lived for Him and for us. Many wonderful things can be said about her, but this is one nobody can deny: Phyllis showed us how to have the mind of Christ, putting others before her, consuming her life, health, and wealth for others.*

*I can easily prove this with many, many stories from my personal family and ministry here in Oradea, Romania. But I don't need to prove it. It's a fact that Phyllis touched unselfishly for years and years of our lives. Instead of proving, I will address the challenge to imitate her, and live less concerned for us and more concerned about our God and others, until that amazing day of reward when we will see her again. Some in English, as they did during the conversational English classes here in Romania*

*Thanks,  
Alex, Rody, Reby, Aby, Raya*

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS



### COORDINATING TEAM HAS OPEN POSITIONS

The Coordinating Team for the Presbyterian Women is in great need of someone to fill two positions that are empty. We need new people and fresh ideas to keep this group going. If you think you might be able to help us, please talk to **Evelyn Gale, Barbara Clark, Val Wilde, Jane Clark, Joan Melnick, or Debbie Latimer** for more details. Interested women are welcome to attend our Coordinating Team meetings to see what we do.

### APRIL LUNCHEON CANCELLED

Our spring luncheon, which is usually scheduled for April, is canceled this year due to the church-wide Presbytery meeting and the PW Synod meeting, both in April. Everyone will be working very hard to make these two events successful. We look forward to our luncheon next spring.



## Thank You Notes

### MARCH'S PW PROGRAM

At the age of 81, Rhana Bazzini walked 435 miles, from Sarasota to Tallahassee. On March 14th, she spoke to a group in the Fellowship Hall, telling us about her experiences on her walking adventure. We enjoyed hearing her upbeat and energetic stories.

### PW CIRCLES OPEN TO ALL WOMEN

The Women's Circles will continue their Bible studies through May. All women are invited to join one of the three Circles to share Bible study and fellowship. Being a member of a Circle can provide friendship and support in your faith journey. You are welcome to attend any of the dates and times listed below. No special invitation is necessary.

### APRIL PW MEETINGS

(all meetings in the Library)

**PWCT:** Monday, April 4, 10:30

**Esther Circle:** Thursday, April 7, 12:00  
Leader—**Joan Melnick,**

**Ruth Circle:** Monday, April 18, 10:00  
Leader—**Valerie Wilde**

**Mary Circle:** Wednesday, April 27, 10:00  
Leader—**Debbie Latimer**

To Everyone at Northminster,

I would like to thank you for your prayers, your kindness and your thoughtfulness. This is truly a wonderful church.

Love for all,  
**Lois Anderson**

Dear Friends of Northminster,

On behalf of myself and nephew, Scott, we sincerely thank you for your thoughts, cards, and prayers on the recent loss of my terrific brother and Scott's dad. Now Duke is pain-free and at peace. And we are, too.

Thank you,  
**Eileen McKenzie**

## FINANCIAL UPDATES



### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: YEAR ONE

Early last year, we started a Capital Campaign to pay down the NPC mortgage. At that time the mortgage was \$1,104,000.

During the campaign, you pledged over \$850,000 to accomplish that goal and, during the first year, you have provided a marvelous outpouring of funds. Thanks to a number of very generous one-time gifts and a significant amount of money being received weekly, monthly, and yearly, we have made a major reduction in the outstanding mortgage principal. By the time you read this, the **mortgage will be less than \$570,000.**

This is a wonderful accomplishment and, with the continuation of your pledges over the remaining three years, we will be in a position to handle our mortgage within our operating budget for the future.

Thanks to all of you who are participating. If you are not participating, please contact us and let us help you make a pledge.

**Bob Silver and Jack Tibbets**  
Capital Campaign Bridge Committee

### 2016 PLEDGE RESULTS AND MONTHLY UPDATE

We have Good news and some not-so-good news. The Stewardship Pledge program ended with total pledges to the operating fund exceeding those of last year. GREAT NEWS! Thank you for your support.

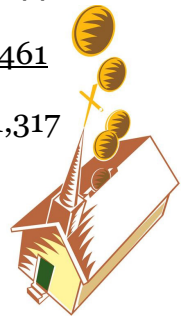
However, our February pledge income was only 78% of the pledged amount. Please make every effort to catch up with your pledge and to stay current through the year.

#### February Operating Fund Results

	<u>Feb 2016</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$24,144	\$54,144
Expense	\$27,857	\$55,461
Net Income	\$ -3,713	\$ -1,317

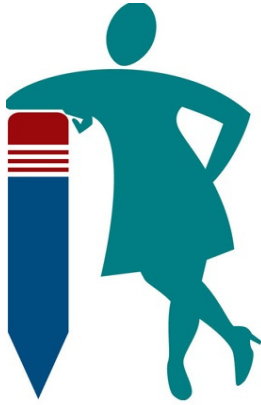
Mortgage Balance as of 2/29/16  
is \$631,087.

**Harry Wilde**, Treasurer  
**Bob Silver**, Co-Treasurer



Have you considered using our online giving option to make your regular pledge payments?

Just go to our website, NPCSarasota.com, and select the *Giving* button on the right side of the home page. It will take you to the link for our Online Giving Program with easy-to-follow instructions. If you have problems, feel free to call **Isabel Oake or Jack Tibbets** at the office for help.



## FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### OFFICE HOURS:

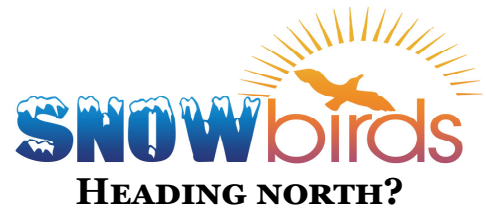
Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30  
Fri: 9:00 - 2:00

### DEADLINES

- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** are due in the office by **noon every Wednesday**.
- **Good Tidings:** The deadline for the May issue of the *Good Tidings* is **Sunday, April 17**. Please make sure your articles and announcements are submitted to [office@npcsarasota.org](mailto:office@npcsarasota.org) on time.
- **Session Committee Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, April 13**, for the **April 20** meeting.

### QUARTERLY PLEDGE STATEMENTS

Watch the mail for your first quarter pledge statement, which will be mailed out in April. These are for the church operating and building fund pledges only and will not include gifts to missions or other categories. If you have any questions about your statement, please contact Isabel in the church office.



Please remember to contact the office to update your mailing address so that you can continue to receive your *Good Tidings* throughout the year.

### CALLING ALL OFFICE ANGELS!

Thank you to all those who have expressed an interest in becoming an "Office Angel." Three people have completed a short orientation and two more are scheduled!



I'll be taking a few days off this month, **April 14-19**, so please check your calendars and let me know if you're available for a morning (9-12:15) or afternoon (12:15-3:30) shift.

Thank you!

*Isabel Oake*

Office Administrator

- Lloyd Behmer  
Carl Rowe
- Jeanne Peters  
Bob Price
- Arianne Dahlem
- Ken Dotzour  
Barry Ladd  
Sandy Stiles
- Jan Gubrud
- Earl Buell  
Elaine Hart  
Bess Mitchell
- Mary Stoltie



- Joyce Menk
- Cora Lee Cain  
Sally Hough
- Joanne Brainard  
Allen Williamson  
Mary Winkle
- Chris Carlson
- Bob Olson  
Jim Pinson
- Ed Grempe  
Dick Robley
- Betsy Lange
- Bob Gubrud





## Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Locations</b></p> <p>EB=Education Bldg.            FH= Fellowship Hall            L= Library            PS = Pastor's Study            S= Sanctuary</p>		<p>The Spanish speaking congregation of <b>Iglesia del Redentor</b>, led by Pastor Daniel Rosales, meets for worship on Sunday evenings in the Fellowship Hall.</p>			<p><i>1</i></p> <p>2 Line Dancing -FH</p>	<p><i>2</i></p>
<p><i>3</i></p> <p>9 Sunday School - FH            10:30 Worship/Communion            3 Band Concert            7 Iglesia</p>	<p><i>4</i></p> <p>10:30 PWCT-L            1 Tech Help-FH            5:30 Fellowship            7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><i>5</i></p> <p>9 Med Ombuds            10 Bible Study-FH            11:15Staff-L            12 Worship-L            4 Bible Study-FH            7 Rose Group AA</p>	<p><i>6</i></p> <p>10:30 Artists-EB            1 Bridge-FH</p>	<p><i>7</i></p> <p>10 Bible Study (Murphy)-FH            12 Esther Cir-L            1:30 Finance-L            6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>8</i></p> <p>2 Line Dancing -FH            5 Presbyterians Eating Out</p>	<p><i>9</i></p>
<p><i>10</i></p> <p>9 Sunday School - FH            10:30 Worship            3 Jazz Concert            7 Iglesia</p>	<p><i>11</i></p> <p>1 Tech Help-FH            1:30 Disciples Square-L            7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><i>12</i></p> <p>9 Med Ombuds            10 Bible Study-FH            11:15Staff-L            2 Deacons            4 Bible Study-FH            7 Rose Group AA</p>	<p><i>13</i></p> <p>10:30 Artists-EB            10:30 Mission-L</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session Committee Reports Due</b></p>	<p><i>14</i></p> <p>10 Bible Study (Murphy)-FH            1 Membership-L            2 Liturgists-L            6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>15</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Good Tidings deadline</b></p> <p>5-9 PW Synod Dinner-FH</p>	<p><i>16</i></p> <p>8-12 PW Synod Meeting-FH            8:30-3 Officers' Training-L</p>
<p><i>17</i></p> <p>9 Sunday School - FH            10:30 Worship            3 Band Concert            7 Iglesia</p>	<p><i>18</i></p> <p>10 Ruth Circle-L            1 Tech Help-FH            7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><i>19</i></p> <p>9 Med Ombuds            10 Bible Study-FH            11:15Staff-L            4 Bible Study-FH            7 Rose Group AA</p>	<p><i>20</i></p> <p>10:30 Artists-EB            7 Session-L</p>	<p><i>21</i></p> <p>10 Bible Study (Murphy)-FH            12:30 Daytimers Square-L            1 Pres. Mtg.            Volunteers Mtg.            6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>22</i></p> <p>2 Line Dancing -FH</p>	<p><i>23</i></p>
<p><i>24</i></p> <p>9 Sunday School - FH            10:30 Worship            7 Iglesia</p>	<p><i>25</i></p> <p>1 Tech Help-FH            7 Boy Scouts</p>	<p><i>26</i></p> <p>9 Med Ombuds            10 Bible Study-FH            11:15Staff-L            4 Bible Study-FH            7 Rose Group AA</p>	<p><i>27</i></p> <p>10 Mary Cir-L            10:30 Artists-EB</p>	<p><i>28</i></p> <p>PRP Meeting-all day (FH/S)            6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>29</i></p> <p>2 Line Dancing -FH</p>	<p><i>30</i></p>

***GOOD TIDINGS***

**Northminster Presbyterian Church  
3131 61st Street  
Sarasota, FL 34243-2542**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #526  
Manasota, FL

“In God we trust”

**CURRENT RESIDENT**

*PLACE LABEL HERE*

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**  
*“Called by Christ. Sent by Christ.”*

**STAFF:**

**Dr. Christopher C. Carlson**, Pastor  
*pastorchris@npcsarasota.org*

**Isabel Oake**, Office Administrator  
*office@npcsarasota.org*

**Jack Tibbets**, Business & Ministries Admin.  
*jack@npcsarasota.org*

**Sally Kirby**, Clerk of Session  
*clerkofsession@npcsarasota.org*

**Edward L. Stiles, Jr.**, Music Director

**Jay Snyder**, Organist

**Mike Large**, Audio/Visual Operator

**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.**

**OFFICE HOURS:**

9:00 AM - 3:30 PM Monday—Thursday  
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday

**PHONE:** 941-355-4729

**FAX:** 941-351-2162

**E-MAIL:** [office@npcsarasota.org](mailto:office@npcsarasota.org)

**WEBSITE:** [www.npcsarasota.com](http://www.npcsarasota.com)



**Northminster Presbyterian  
Church Sarasota Florida**

Northminster Presbyterian Church ***Good Tidings*** is published for members and friends of the church to promote its programs and the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

**Please notify the office of any address, phone, or e-mail changes.**