

GOOD TIDINGS

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Sarasota, FL

July 2016

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

As you know, in March 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. Since then, your Session has been working with the Peace River Presbytery to get organized and plan the next steps. The Session formed a Transition Preparedness Team, which has been working long and hard to develop a process that will allow me to remain as your Pastor until the church finds a new Pastor, which normally takes about a year.

Three things had to take place for this to happen. First, the Session, through the work of the Transition Team, had to decide that this was the best direction for the church. After much work and discussion, it was concluded it would be less stressful for the church to only have one transition, from me to the next pastor, rather than from me to an interim to new a Pastor.

Second, I had to agree that this is what I believe God wants me to do. I do agree and think it would be best for you, and also for Cyndi and myself, for us to stay. As I have said on a couple of occasions, a long view is important to me because I want to do what it takes to help Northminster make a successful transition. I care very much about

what happens to you in the future and think it will help if I stay.

Third, the Presbytery has to approve. The normal process is for a church to obtain an interim and then begin looking for a Pastor. The problem with this method is that the process often becomes much longer. Having me stay as your Pastor not only takes one transition out of the picture (from me to an interim), it will hopefully make the process shorter and smoother.

The Transition Preparedness Team is finalizing the request to send to the Presbytery and the process is moving along as we hoped. Again, 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. I want to thank you again 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, once more, 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



JULY SERVICES

Sundays at
10:30 AM

**Dr. Christopher Carlson,
Pastor**

July 3

Who Do You Say I Am?
Matthew 16:13-17
Dick Murphy
Guest Speaker

July 10

Gasping for Air
Matthew 5:1-12
Rev. Dr. Paul Eckel
Guest Minister

July 17

*The Ten Commandments
Part 3: What the Sabbath
is About*
Exodus 20:8-11

July 24

*The Ten Commandments
Part 4: Honoring Begins
at Home*
Exodus 20:12

July 30

*The Ten Commandments
Part 5: God is Pro Life*
Exodus 20:13

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

HOT DIGGETY DOG!

On **Sunday, July 3**, celebrate Independence Day a little early with your Northminster family. Nothing says "Happy 4th of July" like a hot dog, a glass of ice cold lemonade, and a slice of apple pie. So, come over to the Fellowship

Hall after church and have a hot dog, piled up with your favorite fixin's. It's

free, but please sign up in the Narthex so we know how much to prepare.

God bless America!



PRESBYTERIANS EATING OUT

Hate to eat alone? Join us for great food and fellowship **Tuesday, June 19th at 5:00**, at the **Anna Maria Oyster Bar**, 6909 14th St. W. in Bradenton. Choose off the menu and "pay-as-you-go." Bring your friends, but please be sure to sign up in the Narthex so we can make appropriate reservations. See you there!



COFFEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to make/serve coffee after Sunday worship services. We will train you. If you are interested, please contact **Mark Goslin** or **Gene Colter** for more information.

ARE YOU CREATIVE? ARE YOU AN ORGANIZER?

The Fellowship committee needs you! Anyone who likes to help plan outings or fun functions for the congregation, we welcome your expertise. If you like to make/serve food, or just help with set-up or cleanup after functions, we need you too!

Our next meeting is **Monday, July 11th, at 5:30** in the Library. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact any Fellowship Committee member: **Nancy Haas, Mark Goslin, Robin Sutcliffe, Wayne or Cora Lee Cain, Mary Ann or Gene Colter, Bob or Jan Gubrud, Dave Messinger, Bill Marvin, or Bill and Marty Manning**. Come work with a great team on a wonderful committee.

CONNECTIONS CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a member of Northminster Presbyterian Church, or in finding out more about us, this class is for you! You will find out about what Presbyterians believe and how our church government compares to other denominations. We will find out about YOU and introduce you to some of the programs here.



The Connections Class will be held on **Sunday, July 31**, in the Fellowship Hall, following the worship service.

A light lunch is included. Please sign up in the Narthex.

WORKING WITH THE PRESBYTERY TO FIND A NEW PASTOR

Transition Preparedness Team Report



This is our second monthly report to the congregation about our work with the Presbytery to find a new pastor before Pastor Chris leaves next year. The role of the Transition Preparedness Team, Co-leaders **Tom Latimer** and **Bob Price**, and members **Sally Kirby**, **Barry Ladd**, **Mary Stoltie**, and **Mary Ann Colter**, is to work with the congregation, session and the Presbytery to develop and use this new method of finding and calling a new pastor and reducing the time required by a year or more.

Several questions have been asked about why does calling a pastor take such a long time? The Presbyterian method for calling a new pastor is different from other denominations. For example, in the United Methodist Church, clergy appointments are made annually by the Bishop, who has the responsibility for setting all the pastoral appointments in the Conference (churches in a region, similar to our Presbytery). This unique system of assigning clergy dates back to John Wesley. Catholic and Episcopal processes, although different, are similar.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes in these denominations since the congregation is not involved in the process.

Baptists have long held the principles of congregational self-governance, self-support, and self-propagation. Local churches select their own staff, ordain their own ministers, adopt their own budgets,

organize their own ministries, and establish their own membership requirements, so they have a more rapid process.

In the Presbyterian Church, the process guidance for calling a pastor is set by the PCUSA - Office of the General Assembly. The local Presbytery is responsible for managing the process and working with our church Pastor Nominating Committee. The Pastor Nominating Committee will be elected by the congregation, giving it permission to search for a new pastor, using the processes set by the Presbytery.

With that congregational approval, the Pastor Nominating Committee will work with the Presbytery to find and evaluate potential pastors who are interested in the call. When the Pastor Nominating Committee finds the pastor who they wish to call, the Presbytery must first approve the call, then we, the congregation, will be asked to approve the call. Only then will the call for the new pastor be made.

We hope these examples might help you understand why our process seems longer, but in reality, may not be.

So, where are we now in our process? In May, we told you that the Presbytery agreed with our approach, but identified several areas in our plan that needed to have more detail addressed in some parts of the work. We have written the proposed process details and reviewed them with the Session. After final approval of the Session, we will send the information to the Presbytery for their review.

MISSION MINISTRY

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN KIRKUK, IRAQ



In addition to our four local missions, **Resurrection House, Bible Mission USA, Beth-El, and SPARCC**, Northminster supports two international missions: **Free Wheelchair Mission** and the **Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk**. For the first half of 2016, we emphasized **Free Wheel Chair Mission**. Beginning on July 1, we will be emphasizing the **Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk**.

The **Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk** was founded by a Presbyterian minister and his wife in the 1930s. It is about 100 miles from Mosul in a stable Kurdish-controlled area. The church has always been involved in a vibrant ministry to the people in the area, but in 2014 everything changed. It began with a persistent knocking at the church's gate late one night. The change was soon inescapably evident, in the streets around town, as entire families stood dazed and bewildered, clutching small parcels and, for the fortunate ones, a suitcase containing a few changes of clothing and their important documents.

ISIS had taken Mosul in June 2014 and by August had pressed on into the nearby Nineveh Plain, which was dotted with many small towns. Ahead of them fled tens of thousands of Christians – by car, by bus, on foot – who sought shelter wherever it could be found. More than 70 of them ended up living in the Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk, where every classroom and office became a small apartment. They are all still there and, with the help of other Christians all over the world, the church

continues to help them, as best they can.

Although the tragic events in Iraq from the summer of 2014 have mostly faded from our daily news cycles, the past is very much present for Rev. Haitham Jazrawi and his congregation at the Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk. As summer sets in, the Church hopes to distribute small refrigerators, mattresses, and portable air conditioners to other displaced families around town, who are living in fairly raw circumstances.

What can we do to help? Though we cannot be there in person, our gifts go a long way to help this church and, through them, the people to whom they minister. It is on the front lines of God's work in that area and is doing magnificent work there responding to the needs of Christians and Muslims who fled their homes when ISIS invaded.

In addition to supporting refugees, the church runs a full time school, which is attended by Christian and Muslim children, and is a great witness for Christ to the Muslims in the whole area.

SARASOTA ISN'T PARADISE IF YOU'RE HUNGRY

All Faiths Food Bank is the hub of hunger relief in Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. They pick up donated food, sort it, fill partner agency orders, deliver to 184 agencies and programs that distribute the food, and host mobile pantries that give food directly to clients in need. AFFB provides food for 51,000 residents every year; families with children, the elderly the unemployed and the low-income earners.

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.*

Some of the most needed items are:

rice	dried beans	canned fruit
pasta	tomato sauce	canned meat & tuna
nuts	peanut butter	canned spaghetti



SAFE PLACE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER

Instances of sexual violence have been among the top news stories recently. We have heard the grim statistics that one in four women will be touched by domestic violence in her lifetime. SPARCC is the only state-certified center for domestic violence and sexual assault services for Sarasota and DeSoto Counties. They provide a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, and multiple services for survivors of abuse. In addition, SPARCC is actively engaged in addressing and changing social norms that support violence against women in Sarasota & DeSoto counties. Last year they expanded their male engagement program which seeks to educate and empower men and boys to be part of the solution in preventing domestic violence, sexual assault, and all forms of violence and discrimination.

All of SPARCC's programs and services are provided free of charge. These programs cannot exist without the support of the community. From July 1 through September 30, SPARCC is featured as NPC's local mission emphasis. Please make your contributions by using the mission envelope found in your bulletin, checking "local mission" on your offering envelope, or writing SPARCC on the memo line of your check.

SOUP LABEL PROGRAM ENDS

For many years we have collected the UPC (bar code) from Campbell's Soups and other products for Thornwell Home for Children. Campbell's is ending this program in July. If you have been collecting labels, please bring them to the church by **Sunday, July 10**, so that we can process them and get them to Thornwell before the end of the program. Labels can be left at the Welcome Center in the Narthex on Sundays or at the church office.



We will continue to collect **Box Tops for Education**.

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

Keep your eyes open for God, watch for his works; be alert for signs of his presence. Remember the world of wonders he has made, his miracles, and the verdicts he's rendered.

Psalm 105:4&5 (The Message)



Brothers and Sisters in Christ, our God is gracious and provides for his own by miracles. We should always approach him and petition his miracles. But in the asking, we should be careful to refrain from "designing" those miracles.

He is the Miracle designer. Praise and adore him in all things.

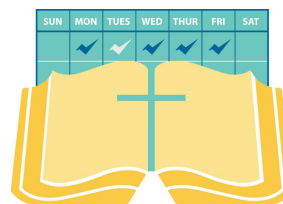
Remember, Northminster has deacons that can help with your spiritual needs. Call upon your deacon in your times of need.

JB Donaldson, Deacon Moderator

THE UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Copies of the July-August *Upper Room* are now available in the Narthex, including a limited number of LARGE PRINT copies. Please take one home and experience the positive effect this daily devotion can have on your life.

The Upper Room is provided without charge, but envelopes are available, if you wish to assist in paying for the subscription.





FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30
 Fri: 9:00 - 2:00
Office closed on July 4

DEADLINES

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

QUARTERLY PLEDGE STATEMENTS

Watch the mail for your quarterly pledge statement which will be mailed out in July. These are for the church operating and building fund pledges only and will not include gifts to missions or other categories.

Please review your statement immediately and call the office if you have any questions



1	Vicky Urban
2	Helen Healy
3	Mary Ann Landis
9	Ginny McIntire Harry Wilde
10	Jim Stoltie
14	Jean Johnston
15	Marge Rowe
17	Della Lycan
20	Karen Cox Dick McGuire
22	Lorayne Ohlson
24	Barbara Neale
26	Larry Brown Jane Mather
29	Carol Brown

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Through April our Operating Fund is in the black. Your attention to your pledges has helped, and a one-time gift of \$9,000 has put us in the black for the month and year-to-date.

April Operating Fund Results:

	<u>Apr 2016</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$35,015	\$115,551
Expense	\$25,805	\$111,498
Net Income	\$+9,210	\$+4,053

Our Mortgage Balance as of April 30, 2016 \$619,370

Harry Wilde, Treasurer
Bob Silver, Co-Treasurer
Jack Tibbets, Business and Finance Manager





Northminster Presbyterian Church ☩ 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Locations EB=Education Bldg. FH= Fellowship Hall L= Library PS = Pastor's Study S= Sanctuary					<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
3 10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Hot Dog Lunch-FH 7 Iglesia*	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 9 Med Ombuds 12 Worship-L 1 Transition Prep Team-L 7 Rose Group Women's AA (FH)	6 10:30 Artists-EB	7 1:30 Finance Committee-L	8	9
10 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*	11 1 Tech Help-FH 1 Discipleship Square-L 5:30 Fellowship Committee-L 7 Boy Scts	12 9 Med Ombuds 10Staff-L 1 Transition Prep Team-FH 2 Deacons-L 7 Rose Group Women's AA	13 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Mission Committee-L 1 Pinochle-FH Session Committee Reports Due	14 1 Transition Prep Team-FH	15	16
17 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia* Good Tidings Deadline	18 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scts	19 9 Med Ombuds 10Staff-L 1 Transition Prep Team-L 5 Presbyterians Eating Out 7 Rose Group Women's AA	20 10:30 Artists-EB 7 Session-L	21 1 Transition Prep Team-FH	22	23
24 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*	25 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scts	26 9 Med Ombuds 10Staff-L 1 Transition Prep Team-L 7 Rose Group Women's AA	27 10:30 Artists-EB 1 Pinochle-FH	28 1 Transition Prep Team-FH	29	30
31 10:30 Worship 11:45 Connections Class-L 7 Iglesia*					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> * The Spanish speaking congregation of Iglesia del Redentor, led by Pastor Daniel Rosales, meets on Sunday evenings in the Fellowship Hall. </div>	

GOOD TIDINGS

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

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"In God we trust"

CURRENT RESIDENT

PLACE LABEL HERE

Northminster Presbyterian Church
"Called by Christ. Sent by Christ."

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Sally Kirby, Clerk of Session
clerkofsession@npcsarasota.org

Edward L. Stiles, Jr., Music Director

Jay Snyder, Organist

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:30 a.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

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9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday

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**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.