## Good Tidings

Northminster Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, FL

## **The Pastor's Corner**

Dear Friends,

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

M. Scott Peck tells a story about a woman who was suffering with tremendous depression. Nothing he talked to her about or did seemed to help. One day she had an appointment with him and she needed a ride. So he picked her up and said to her, "I've got an errand to run and while I am on my errand, here are three people in a hospital I want you to go and see, nearby." So while he was doing his errand, she went and visited these three people. When she got back, she was just ecstatic. She was beaming because she had such a wonderful experience. This great psychologist looked at her and said, "Now that we know how to treat your depression, let's set up a regular time to do just this." She looked at him and said, "Do I have to go do it again?" We are all like that sometimes, aren't we? We don't mind serving, as long as there is an end date that when we can be done by and have our life back.

My friends, one of the biggest misconceptions we have is that our lives belong to us. The fact is, our lives are not our own. We belong to God. And one of the reasons God has put us here is to serve him and



others. That doesn't mean we don't take care of our jobs or families. It does not mean we never have fun or take a vacation. We can serve in our jobs, and we can serve him in our families, as well. We serve in all kinds of ways, even taking a vacation. The point is, our lives are about serving. It is our purpose, not a temporary thing we do and, then, get back to living our lives for ourselves.

God has given us everything, and we are to give back. It starts by realizing that life is all about God and loving him. Everything flows from that. If we have that priority, everything else will fall into place. If we don't, our lives will inevitably get off track. So, as you think about your life, think about why you are here: that you are not an accident, that God has placed you here for this time, this place, and his purpose. As you begin a new year, ask God what he would have you be and do and give. Then follow where he leads.

### In His Grip,

Pastor Chris

## SERVICES Sundays at 10:30 AM

**JANUARY** 

Dr. Christopher Carlson,Pastor

#### January 1

Rev. Ray Davies Guest Minister

#### <u>January 8</u>

Five New Years Revolutions John 7:1-13

#### <u>January 15</u>

What Does It Take to Be a Good Brick? 1 Peter 2:1-12; 3:15

#### January 22

Five Great Reasons to Give Matthew 6:19-24

#### January 29

Five More Great Reasons to Give 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

## Each One, Bring One

Northminster has a mission statement. You know it because we sing it often at the end of Sunday services. "God calls us; God sends us; God is the center of our life." But what does God call us to do and where does God send us? The Bible study classes of "Becom -ing a Contagious Church" have tweaked the mission statement to fit their plan for growing worship service attendance, as follows: "God calls us to serve him; God sends us to tell others about him."

By now you have seen several people in the church wearing a badge that says "I Am a Contagious Christian." The badges are being worn by those who have made a commitment to tell others about Jesus by inviting them to a church function. It is a commitment that is well within their ability, but it does require prayer and being in partnership with God. It is based on a simple undertaking: "Each one, bring one." Think of it. If each member of our church would bring just one unchurched person to church over the next twelve months - just one - the snowball effect that that could have on church attendance would be amazing, and it would be a beacon of light to our obedient response to the Great Commission of Matthew 28: *Go! Baptize them! And teach them to obey!*"

Our prayer is that you will join us. If you, too, would like to make a commitment to bring just one unchurched person to a church function sometime over the next twelve months, we will provide you with a badge. The badges are worn at church functions, including worship service, as a reminder to us and the congregation of our commitment. Even if you do not join us, we ask that you pray for us. Only if we are in partnership with God can our campaign be successfuland that means prayer, and lots of it. Please pray unceasingly for those wearing the badge. Pray that God will open a door to an unchurched person; that God will soften the heart of that person so that they are receptive to an invitation; and that God will open our mouths and give us the courage to ask them to come.

Dick Murphy

# Searching for GODD ...And Finding Him! Dick Murphy

## New Bible Study Class: Searching for God

Author and Bible teacher, **Dick Murphy**, will lead a 10-week class on his book *Searching for God... and Finding Him!* beginning Sunday, **January 8**, at 9:00, and repeated on Thursday mornings at 10:00, starting **January 12**.

Searching for God is a book about the very foundations of our Christian beliefs and provides reasons to believe in Jesus Christ. It explains what happened in Old Testament history that caused God to come to earth in the body of a man, to die a death for the sins of the people. This book was written for new believers seeking the truth of God, as well as for mature Christians seeking to understand the connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

All attendees will receive a free copy of the book. So, sign up in the Narthex for the class of your choice. Bring a friend and get ready for a lively discussion on the purpose of life.

Page 2



## Living a Culture of Generosity

Each year, in January, the Finance Committee leads a Stewardship Campaign to fund our church operating budget for the new year.

Stewardship is about the joyous discipline of thanking God for the way we are able to live our lives and spend and share our money.

Living a Culture of Generosity is the focus of our campaign this year. The Bible makes many promises about giving, and each of us must decide what joyful commitment we will make for the stewardship of our church.

Paul, in Corinthians 9:7, tells us that "each one must give as he (or she) has decided in his (or her) heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful Giver." Our 2017 campaign begins January 15, when we introduce *Growing Our Culture of Generosity in 2017*. A few days later you will receive your 2017 stewardship brochure and a pledge card in the mail. We are planning to share information and great experiences church members have had with their giving. The campaign will complete on January 29, our commitment Sunday, when we will prayerfully give our pledges for the coming year.

Please plan to be at church each Sunday of January! If you have questions, after the brochure gets to you, our stewardship team will be there to answer your questions.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21





## On the Road to Finding a New Pastor: The Pastor Nominating Committee

The Northminster Presbyterian Church Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), continues to make good progress in their search for our new pastor. To date, eighty applicants have been thoroughly reviewed by the committee and evaluations were made based on each candidate's merits and compatibility with our church's demographics and goals. The net result of all this work is that we have narrowed down our list to six strong candidates that we would like to interview.

But before the interviews take place, each candidate must be thoroughly vetted by our Presbytery. Once they are approved, our objective is to conduct an interview with each person in a face-to -face situation, or by using an Internet application such as Skype. A carefully prepared list of questions has been tailor – made for each candidate. It should be noted that the interviews will not be a one-sided process. Not only are we looking for the right leader, but each candidate will be looking for the right church.

If all goes well, we hope to have completed the introductory interviews with the top candidates by the time you read this. There is much excitement among the committee members as we try to find the perfect match for our church. We will certainly keep you updated as the search continues.





## **Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry**

Beth-El Mission, located in Wimauma, Florida, was established in 1976, and is a covenant partner of Peace River Presbytery and the Presbytery of Tampa Bay of the PC(USA) and Grace Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Beth-El's mission is to help farm workers achieve self-sufficiency through its open opportunities to worship, its extensive education programs, and the many services

in it provides to meet basic needs. Among its core programs are wornant ship, a food pantry, education, tery meals, camps for children, coun-Bay seling, and much more.

> Please make your contribution by marking the "local mission" line on your offering envelope or by using a white mission envelope.

> We also accept donations of clothing and household items for their thrift store.

## The Presbyterian Church in Kirkuk, Iraq



Syrian refuge camp near Kirkuk.

In 2014, ISIS took the city of Mosul and pressed into the nearby Nineveh Plain. Ahead of them fled tens of thousands of Christians, seeking shelter wherever they could find it. 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. 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.

Though we cannot be there in person, our donations will help this church and, through them, the people to whom they minister. To support this mission, please write "Kirkuk" on your offering envelope, or on the memo line of your check.

## **Other Mission Collections**



#### Box Tops for Thornwell Home for Children

Box Tops for Education are collected for Thornwell Home for Children in Clinton, SC. Each Box Top coupon is worth \$.10. Look for them on General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker baking mixes, Pillsbury refrigerated biscuits, Ziploc storage bags, and more. Pick up a complete list at the Welcome Desk or the Church office.

#### **CELL PHONES FOR SPARCC**

Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center collects used cell phones to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. They are refurbished and programmed to serve as 911 phones to help those in crisis. Phones do not have to be in working order. If possible, please include chargers and clear phones of personal information.

## **Presbyterian Women**

#### **INVITING ALL WOMEN**

Circles started meeting in September, but it is never too late to join. This year, our Bible study books are entitled "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes." If you want a study book, ask one of the Circle leaders for your copy. As usual, they cost \$9.

All women are invited to join one of our 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 to the right. No special invitation is necessary.

**January PW Meetings** All meetings in the Library

**PW Coordinating Team:** Tuesday, January 3, 10:30

Esther Circle: Thursday, January 5, 12:00 Leader: Joan Melnick and Jane Clark

Monday, January 16, 10:00 Leader: Valerie Wilde

Mary Circle: Wednesday, January 25, 10:00 Leader: Debbie Latimer

Ruth Circle:

### **Fellowship Activities**

#### **PRESBYTERIANS EATING OUT**

Back by popular demand, our next PEO dinner will be held at Perkins Restaurant, 921 Fruitville Rd., on Friday, January 20, at 5:30.

A free slice of their famous pie is offered with every dinner order! You can choose from lemon meringue, chocolate, and apple pie. Please indicate your choice on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

#### **FREE TECH HELP**

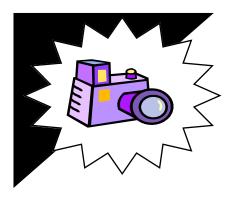
If you wish you knew how to use vour iPhone, computer, or tablet, and don't know who to ask, this individual training is for you!

Just bring your device to the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 on Monday afternoons and David Stoltie will be glad to help you.

#### **SUNDAY COFFEE Fellowship**

Coffee and refreshments are served outside, in front of the sanctuary, after the Worship Service. Stay for a while, enjoy a cup of coffee, and connect with your fellow worshipers.





## 2017 Photo Directory

When Pastor Chris first came to Northminster, he found the Photo Directory an indispensable aid in learning the names and faces of the congregation. As we enter the search for a new pastor, we are preparing a new photo directory to welcome him/her to NPC.

If you missed the photo sessions in October, LifeTouch professional photographers are returning on **February 3 and 4** to photograph the remaining members and friends who want to be included in the directory. Volunteers will begin making appointments for photo sessions on **January 15**. Appointments can also be made online by clicking the LifeTouch link on the church website, NPCSarasota.com.

If you cannot make an appointment on one of these dates, there are some alternate methods to be included in the directory. Please contact **Isabel Oake**, in the church office, as soon as possible to make arrangements.

There is no cost to our church, and no obligation to purchase anything. Each participating family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and a copy of the directory. We will receive only enough directories to give to those who have their pictures included.



## From the Deacons' Bench

#### A CHRISTMAS THANK YOU

It is so great to end the year with such good news about the love that is shown to our sick and homebound mem-We, the Parish Life bers. Committee and Deacons want to say thank you, to everyone who baked or purchased cookies and candy to fill the Christmas Bags that were delivered before Christmas. Eight Deacons and Parish Life Members delivered 43 bags filled with sweets and visited with those who need some extra love during the holidays. Your caring and going the extra mile, to show that Northminster is a caring church with lots of love to share, is so much appreciated. Again we thank you and wish you a Happy New Year.

#### HAPPY NEW YEAR

God has called the Deacons to serve his flock. They can help you with your spiritual needs. Just call upon your Deacon in your times of need.

Who is your Deacon? There is a notebook in the Narthex that lists all NPC members and their assigned Deacons.

The Deacons wish everyone a Happy New Year!

J.B. Donaldson (Moderator) Cyndi Carlson Mary Ann Colter Arianne Dahlem Helen Healy Fran McGuire Eileen McKenzie Martie Myers Jeanne Peters Robin Sutcliffe

## **Connecting at Northminster**

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**, **January 22**, in the Fellowship Hall, following the worship service.

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

Like us on

facebook

Are you on Facebook? You'll find Northminster there.

Friend us at:

**Northminster Presbyterian** 

You'll be kept up to date on NPC's activities -

another fun way to keep

in touch!

Church Sarasota Florida.



## Flowers for the Sanctuary

Celebrate a birthday or anniversary, remember a loved one, or commemorate any special date with flowers.

Look for the Flowers Clipboard at the Welcome Center. An arrangement costs **\$25.00** and you can pay for it by putting your check or envelope, marked "flowers" in the offering plate.

**Donna Bagnall** will contact you the month before to remind you, and write down your dedication for the bulletin.



## **Hearing Assistance**

Northminster's Sanctuary is equipped with a **Hearing Loop** which magnetically transmits sound to hearing aids and cochlear implants with telecoils (T-coils). Talk to your hearing aid provider about installing a T-coil in your hearing aid - *OR you may already have a T-coil that only needs to be activated!* 

A limited number of headphones, for use with the Hearing Loop system, are available from the ushers.







## Midday Music Presents Mindy Simmons in Concert

Northminster will present its second season of Midday Music, with folk and classical music performed by outstanding local musicians, as well as others returning to Sarasota.

First up, on Friday, **January 13**, is "Sarasota's Songbird," Mindy Simmons. A dose of "Mindy Music" is just what the laugh doctor ordered. She is truly a genuine performer who guides her audience down the bumpy road of life, smiling all the way. Mindy combines quick wit and charm with a voice that moves flawlessly from satin smooth to gutsy, creating a memorable performance that feels like spending time with your best friend. A favorite among local audiences, Mindy entertains with a variety of folk, pop, and spiritual songs.

Concert pianist Yi-heng Yang will return to Sarasota after an enthusiastic response to her spectacular performances in 2014. She will perform selections of the Great Classical Masters on **February 10, 2017.** 

David Davani, a professional singer from New York, has placed in several national vocal competitions. He will be joined by pianist, Joseph Holt, in a performance featuring songs of English and French composers, on **March 3**.

All concerts are held in Northminster's sanctuary and last one hour, beginning at noon. They are free and open to the public. A Meet-the-Artist reception, in the Fellowship Hall, will follow each performance.

## More Music at NPC

#### SUNCOAST CONCERT BAND AND JAZZ AMBASSADORS

The Suncoast Concert Band and Jazz Ambassadors make their home at Northminster from November—April. All performances are at 3:00 on Sunday afternoons and tickets cost \$5.00.

The Suncoast Concert Band will play on January 8, February 5, March 5, and April 2 & 23.

The Jazz Ambassadors will play on **January 15, February 12, March 12, and April 9.** 

To reserve tickets, please call **907-4123.** 

#### THE ANNA MARIA ISLAND CONCERT CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

AMICCO will move out of Manatee County for the first time, with a concert at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Saturday evening, **February 11, 2017** at 7:00. The concert will feature Brahms's "Nanie," Borodin's "Polovtsian Dances," and outstanding young performers from AMICCO's 10th Annual Young Artists Solo Competition, who will perform works by Bruch, Weber and Haydn.

## Two Ways to Give to Northminster

#### **ONLINE GIVING**

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

Just go to Northminster's web page at www.npcsarasota.com and click the Online Giving tab at the top of the page. There you can print easy instructions on how to sign up or go directly to the Online Giving page to register.

Online Giving helps make sure your pledge, building fund payments, and mission gifts are received regularly, on the schedule you designate. You will be able to check the status of your giving at any time, from the comfort of your home.

If you have any questions, please call the office.

#### **2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Boxes of offering envelopes are available for pick up after the Sunday worship services this month. Using the numbered offering envelopes is a great help to our volunteer counters and facilitates the keeping of accurate records of your contributions.

Northminster has envelopes for both monthly and weekly contributors. You will receive monthly or weekly envelopes, depending on your previous giving pattern. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please contact **Isabel**, in the church office.



## **Financial Update**

Although, as we go to press, we do not have final numbers for the year, the partial information we have gives us confidence that we will finish 2016 in the **BLACK!** 

Not only that, by the time you read this, our mortgage principal balance will be less than \$500,000. Remember, in 2015 as we started our capital campaign, our balance was \$1,104,000. We are right on target and should wind up our campaign in 2018 with a balance of less than \$300,000.

Thank you all for your wonderful and generous support of God's work at and through Northminster.

#### November Operating Fund Results

Income	<u>Nov. 2016</u> \$27,685	<u>Year to Date</u> \$302,429
Expense	<u>\$26,372</u>	<u>\$304,036</u>
Net Income	\$+1,313	\$ - 1,607

Mortgage Balance as of 12/30/2016 is less than \$500,000

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



## **Office Notes**

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30 Fri: 9:00-2:00

The office will be closed on Monday, January 2, For New Year's Day.

#### WELCOME BACK WINTER FRIENDS!

Please update your address with the office when you return to Florida. Call, e-mail, or look for the address-change clipboard in the Narthex.

#### LOST AND FOUND

Have you lost an umbrella, glasses, keys, or other items? Be sure to check the Lost and Found box behind the counter in the Narthex.

#### **ANNUAL STATEMENTS**

Annual Giving Statements will be mailed out in January. These are suitable to be used in filing deductions for income taxes and will list all tax deductible donations made in 2016. Please call the office if you have any questions about your statement.

#### DEADLINES

- Announcements for the Sunday Bulletin are due in the office by noon every Wednesday.
- Good Tidings: The deadline for the February issue of the Good Tidings is Sunday, January 15. Submit your articles and announcements to office@npcsarasota.org.
- Session Committee Reports are due in the office by Wednesday, January 11, for the January 18 meeting.
- Committee Chairs: Please send in your Annual Reports by Friday, January 20. If you have not written an Annual Report before, ask me for a copy of last year's for reference.

#### **OFFICE ANGELS**

Many thanks to Barbara Clark and Pat Patterson for their help in the office during December.

Office volunteers are needed for January 16-18. Please call or e-mail me if you can help. Thank you!

Isabel Oake



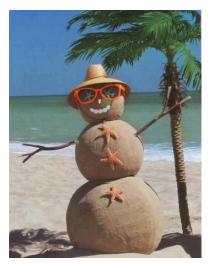
## January Birthdays

- 1 Merry Haberkorn
- 2 JoDell Hawthorn
- Inga Larsen
- 4 Dorothy Garboczi
  - Connie Eastburn Tom Latimer
- 9 Gerry Mead

7

- 10 Wally Hough
- 11 Richard Dahlem

- 12 Fran McGuire
- 17 Yvonne Farquhar
- 19 Sanford Mullet
  - Mary Smith
- 20 Bill Low
- 27 Loy Sedlak
- 29 Jack Kirby
- 30 Pat Patterson





## Northminster Presbyterian Church 🕆 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*	2 New Year's Day observed Office Closed 9:30 Band	39 Med Ombuds. 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 10:30 PWCT-EB 11:15 Staff-L 12 Worship-L 3 Midday Music (L) 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	4 10:30 Artists-EB 1 Bridge-FH	<i>5</i> 9:30 Band 12 Esther Cir-L 1:30 Finance-L 6:45 Choir-S	6 2 Line Dance-FH	7 11:00 Remove Christmas Decorations
8 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship/ Communion 3Suncoast Band 7 Iglesia*	9 1 Tech Help-FH 1:30Discipleship Square-L 5:30 Fellowship-L 7 Boy Scouts	109 Med Ombuds. 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 2 Deacons 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	11 10:30 Artists-EB 10:30 Mission-L 1 Pinochle-FH Session Committee Reports Due	12 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 1 AIM-FH 2 Liturgists-L 6:45 Choir-S	13 10:30 Bible Study at Desoto Palms 12 Midday Music 2 Line Dance-FH	14
15 9 Sunday School -EB 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Ministry Fair 3 Jazz Concert 7 Iglesia*	16 9:30 Band 10 Ruth Cir-L 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts Good Tidings Deadline	179 Med Ombuds. 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	18 10:30 Artists-EB 12:30 Daytimers Square-L 7 Session	19 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S	20 10:30 Bible Study at Discovery Vlg 2 Line Dance-FH 5 Presbyterians Eating Out Annual Reports Due	21
22 9 Sun School-FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 11:30 Connections-L 7 Iglesia*	23 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts	249 Med Ombuds. 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	25 10 Mary Cir-L 10:30 Artists-EB 1 Pinochle-FH	26 9:30 Band 10 Bible Study-FH 6:45 Choir-S	27 2 Line Dance-FH	28
29 9 Sunday School -FH 9:45 Choir-S 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia*	<i>30</i> 9:30 Band 1 Tech Help-FH 7 Boy Scouts	<i>31</i> 9 Med Ombuds. 9:30 Jazz Band 10 Bible Study-FH 11:15 Staff-L 4 Bible Study-FH 7 Rose Group Women's AA-FH 7 Iglesia-L*	Loca EB=Educati FH= Fellow L= Library PS = Pastor S= Sanctuar	ship Hall 's Study	* The Spanish congregat <b>Iglesia del R</b> meets Sunday evo Fellowship Tuesdays in th	ion of edentor, enings, in the Hall &



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."

#### **STAFF:**

Dr. Christopher C. Carlson, Pastor pastorchris@npcsarasota.org Isabel Oake, Office Administrator office@npcsarasota.org Jack Tibbets, Business & Finance Manager jack@npcsarasota.org 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:** 

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 WEBSITE: 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.