

GOOD TIDINGS

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Sarasota, FL

September 2015

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Over ten years ago, Presbyterian Pastor and writer Robert Henderson wrote about a Presbyterian preacher in Pennsylvania 250 years ago, "who stirred up a 'hornets' nest' by going around preaching on 'The Dangers of an Unconverted Ministry.' According to church historians, he wasn't too polished or gracious in the way he preached this, but he got results in the form of an 'awakening' and new life into the moribund Presbyterian family."

Henderson goes on to say that it is still not a theme that is cordially received in many "clergy circles." It is as though such talk is sheer pietism or unacceptable evangelical judgmentalism, or something equally beneath us. But, he asks, "How does one deal with scripture, with the teachings of Jesus and the apostles apart from the reality that there is an invitation into the reality of Christ and the salvation he brings, and into the family of faith?" Indeed!

Even more, how does a pastor lead God's flock and not be

able to describe his or her own personal relationship with Christ? "I have found that it is somewhat adventuresome (fun?) and fascinating to sit over coffee with a group of seminary students, or faculty, and ask one of them, 'Tell me how you came to know Jesus? How did you come to follow him?' If they are living 'in Christ' they will light up and tell you their interesting story. If they are not, they will register dismay or anger or non-comprehension. If the pastoral leadership of the Church is not excited about Jesus (translate: unevangelized), then we can hardly expect the people whom they lead to be very much of a help in the mission of God either."

Henderson's comments are still relevant for both Presbyterian (and many other denominations) clergy and its members as well. In many ways, everything boils down to the question: Do you know Jesus? It is not just a question for fundamentalists, evangelicals or even Baptists. Nor is it a reflection of a particular form of pietism or spiritual su-



SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at
10:30 AM

Christopher Carlson,
Pastor

September 6

Guest Minister
Rev. Grant Lowe

September 13

*Trusting God When the
Writing Is on the Wall*
Daniel 5

September 20

*Trusting God When
the Lions Roar*
Daniel 6

September 27

*Trusting God
with Your Future*
Selections from
Daniel 7-12

Continued on page 2

Pastor's Corner—from page 1

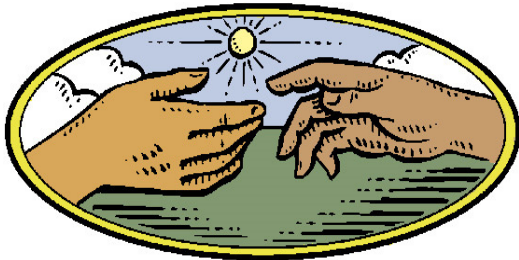
periority. It is the most vital question for each person to answer personally. It not only addresses one's eternal destination, but what life is all about and how one lives it. It is also crucial for denominations (including ours) which have memberships that are declining in huge numbers and churches that are closing almost as fast. Without knowing Jesus, churches become akin to social clubs, political organizations, or just places for people to find self-

fulfillment. Life, for a Christian and for any Christian church, begins with Jesus and goes on from there.

So, how did you come to know Jesus? If you don't know or you are unsure, I would love to talk with you about it.

In His Grip,

Pastor Chris



Dick Murphy will begin an adult Sunday school class on *Creationism and Genesis* beginning **Sunday, September 13**, at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The Sunday course will be repeated every Thursday morning at 10:00, starting on **September 17**, so that those who are unable to attend on Sunday may attend on Thursdays.

The course will start with an in-depth look at how the world was created, why the world was created, what was actually created, and how

CREATIONISM AND GENESIS CLASS Sundays or Thursdays

the creation of humankind came about and fits into God's purposes. We will explore the answer to the question, "Is the scientific theory of creation compatible with the Bible truth?" That will follow with the study of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

The class is available for members and guests—so bring a friend. It will be helpful, but not mandatory, if you sign up in the Narthex, so that we can anticipate the seating requirements, number of handouts, and the amount of coffee.

ADD YOUR VOICE!



Can you sing la-la-la-la? Do you enjoy praising the Lord through song? Are you uplifted by the music you hear during the Worship Service? Great news! Our choir has begun rehearsing for another wonderful year of music-making and we'd love to add your voice. Join us on Thursday evenings, at 6:45, in the Sanctuary as we begin our new season of praising the Lord through song! Try it, you'll like it!

MISSION MINISTRY



SAFE PLACE AND RAPE CRISIS CENTER: 3RD QUARTER MISSION

SPARCC provides services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Sarasota and DeSoto counties. Their programs and services include an emergency shelter, a 24-hour hotline, counseling, children's services, transitional housing, and community education. SPARCC is state certified and operates 24 hours a day/365 days a year. All their services are offered free of charge.

You can support this agency by making a donation using the white and blue Mission Envelope or by checking the Local Mission space on your buff pew or offering envelope.

We also collect used cell phones, cell phone chargers, and accessories for SPARCC. These are given to women in crisis who can use them, even without a service contract, to call 911 in event of an emergency. Phones may be left at the Welcome Desk or the church office.

ROMANIAN MISSION

Recently we received a letter from Pastor Linda and the Romanian Mission Team of First Presbyterian Church, Howell, MI. They appreciate the donations from members of our congregation and the check for \$677 that we sent from our special offering. They relate that the total annual expenses for this mission project is \$30,000. This includes support for the Christian pre-school, a winter food bank, construction, over-the-counter medicines, and incidentals, such as van repair and shipping expenses. Thank you all for your generosity.

LABELS FOR THORNWELL HOME

We collect **the UPC codes (bar codes)** from several foods, such as: Campbells, V-8, Franco-American, and Swanson, to send to Thornwell Children's Home. They redeem them for a variety of supplies. A complete list of eligible product is available in the office. *Please cut out the bar code only*—we can't use the whole label.

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

From All Faiths Food Bank's Website: "Recent research on child hunger in Sarasota and DeSoto counties reveals that alarming numbers of children are food insecure and worry about the source and quality of their next meal. Commissioned by All Faiths Food Bank and Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the new study is one of the most comprehensive child-hunger studies ever conducted and gathers information directly from the perspectives of children. The most shocking information we learned is that third-graders are the most concerned about going hungry, worry about the next time they might eat, and what kind of food it will be."



Please remember to bring food donations (*no glass containers please*) and place them in the yellow barrel in the Narthex or the box outside the offices.

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 hundreds of thousands of disabled people, providing not only the gift of mobility, but of dignity, independence, and hope.



It costs \$77.88 to construct and ship the durable all-terrain wheelchair, invented by Dr. Don Schoendorfer, to a disabled person in a developing nation.

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.

NPC FELLOWSHIP

ALL CHURCH BREAKFAST

Join us for a home-cooked breakfast, sponsored and prepared by the men of Northminster, on **September 12**, at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend and hear a wonderful speaker, James Davis. Jim is the author of *Rules of Civility for a Modern Society*. The Fellowship Committee encourages you to bring a friend. The cost is \$5 to cover the cost of food.



PRESBYTERIANS EATING OUT

Presbyterians Eating Out will be dining at Gecko's Grill & Pub on **Friday, Sept. 18** at 5:30. Gecko's is locally owned and operated, with six locations in the area. We'll be visiting their restaurant at 351 Cattleman Road, just north of Fruitville Road.

Gecko's uses locally grown produce to bring the freshest and tastiest veggies to the table and support the local economy. Enjoy their gourmet pub fare and nightly chef's specials. Sign up in the Narthex. If you have any questions, call **Susie Smith or Ron Handwork**.

FREE TECH HELP

Do you need help with your smart phone, tablet, or laptop? Bring your device to the Fellowship Hall on **Mondays from 1:00 - 3:00** for help from David Stoltie, "the patient trainer." David can help train you and troubleshoot problems, free of charge. If you have any questions, please call **Cora Lee Cain**.



FELLOWSHIP IDEAS

Do you have any ideas for fun programs or trips for our congregation? Please volunteer to help with a project or arrange a *Presbyterians Eating Out* activity. The Fellowship Committee is open to all help and ideas. We want to make this a year of fun activities that helps us all get to know one another better. Please contact **Cora Lee Cain**.

SUBSTITUTE BRIDGE PLAYERS ARE IN DEMAND!

Would you like to play Marathon Bridge this fall? Although the tables are full, we are still in need of substitute players. The group plays once a month, on Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-4:00 in the Fellowship Hall, beginning on **Sept 9**.

Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If you have questions, please contact **Bob Price**.

The Upper Room



Copies of the September-October *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 contributions are welcome, if you wish to assist in paying for the subscription.

Welcome  *New Members*



ELIZABETH (BETSY) LANGE has joined NPC by transfer of membership from Crossroad Methodist Church in Sarasota. Betsy grew up in Elgin, IL. She and her husband of 47 years, Gary, moved to Sarasota in 2000 from Portage, MI. They have a son, a daughter, and three grandsons who all live in Michigan.

Betsy worked from 2000 to 2012 as a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade paraprofessional at Kinnan Elementary. At the American Baptist Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Betsy taught 4th and 5th grade Sunday School, as well as helping in the church library and nursery. She keeps busy gardening, reading, going to the gym, and babysitting.

DOROTHY (DOTTIE) HERNDON attended Northminster for several years before moving to Pennsylvania. She has returned and joins the church by transfer of membership from Christ Community United Methodist Church, Selinsgrove, PA.

Dottie was active in her former church by helping with church dinners, yard sales, and putting together the church newsletter.



CLAUDE A. THOMAS comes to us by Transfer of Membership from First Presbyterian Church of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA.

Born in Tallahassee, FL, Claude grew up in Coral Gables and Kendall, FL. He served his country for 4-1/2 years in the Air Force. He retired from Trans World Airlines after 37 years of service. Claude's hobbies include golf and fishing.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

COME TO THE WATERS



This year's study, which starts in September, is the Horizons Bible study, *Come to the Waters*. The Bible has 800 references to water. These lessons will focus on some of the stories in the Bible where water plays an important role. **All women of our church and friends** are encouraged to participate in a Circle group, where we support each other in our faith journey by learning more about God's Word in the Bible. The Bible study books for 2015-2016 are here. Get your copy from one of the Circle leaders for \$9.

PW COORDINATING TEAM

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the first PWCT meeting for this year will be on Tuesday, September 8, at 10:30, in the Library.

SEPTEMBER LUNCH & SPEAKER

Our first PW general meeting will be September 14 at 11:30. Come hear Tim Dutton speak about his experiences in the Peace Corps. One of the Circle groups will prepare lunch for us. All church members and friends are invited. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

SEPTEMBER PW MEETINGS

PWCT: Monday, Sept. 8, 10:30

Esther Circle: Thursday, Sept. 3, 12:00
Leader—**Joan Melnick**,

Ruth Circle: Monday, Sept. 21, 10:00
Leader—**Valerie Wilde**

Mary Circle: Wednesday, Sept. 30, 10:00
Leader—**Debbie Latimer**



Please accept my humble thanks for all the kind words of condolences and support for the loss of my wife Lois J. Harvell. I am very proud to be accepted as a member of Northminster.

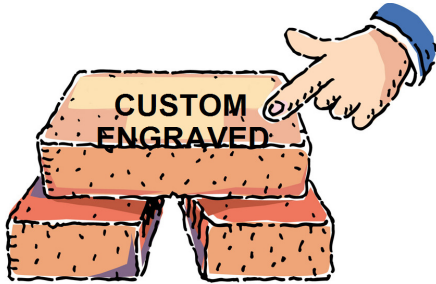
Larry Harvell

While the loss of Marilyn was so devastating to me, I have never seen such a complete outpouring of love by a church family. All of my personal family and close friends, from outside the church, remarked that they have never seen such love and support. You have truly exhibited, for all to see, the Holy Spirit through your love. My gratitude will have no end.

Bill Marvin

Words cannot express what your prayers, well-wishes, flowers and visits have meant to us during Jan's illness. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Jan and Herb Rand



Memory Walk Pavers

Have you visited the Memory Walk on the north side of the Sanctuary? You'll see all the pavers that have been purchased and dedicated to NPC members, their families and friends. You'll also notice the many blank pavers which are still available to be engraved.

What a great way to honor a friend or loved one, celebrate a wedding or the birth of a grandchild, or memorialize loved ones no longer with us.

Engraved pavers are \$85 each. Sample pavers and order forms are available in the Narthex and the Church office. Or call Isabel in the office for more information.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Operating Fund:

July Expenses exceeded Income by \$9,162, bringing our YTD Net Income to \$-7,705.

	July	2015 YTD
Income	\$20,587	\$198,578
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>\$29,750</u>	<u>\$206,289</u>
Difference	\$- 9,162	\$ - 7,705

Our Committees continue to control expenses, as much as we can, during the normal summer reduction in giving. As reported before, we are operating on a budget that has reduced our planned maintenance expenditures, our support to Peace River Presbytery, and numerous other expenses. Please continue to review your planned giving and, if possible, add to your gifts to our operating fund.

Our Online Giving Program is growing as more and more of us find it a convenient way to insure our gifts arrive each month. We are now receiving 24% of our operating fund pledge money ONLINE! This is \$1 out of every \$4! Participation in our Online Giving Program is easy. 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 a problem, feel free to call Isabel Oake or Jack Tibbets, at the office, for help.

Vision 2020 Capital Campaign: Our Capital Campaign Bridge Team reports that we are continuing to reduce our mortgage principal each month. As of August 16, our mortgage principal is down to \$765,344. By the time you read this report our balance should be below \$666,000, with a planned payment of approximately \$100,000. God is continuing to bless our efforts.

Thanks, keep up the GREAT WORK!

Harry Wilde, Treasurer

Bob Silver, Co-Treasurer

Jack Tibbets, Business and Ministries Administrator





OFFICE HOURS:

Mon—Thurs: 9:00 - 3:30
 Fri: 9:00 - 2:00
Closed Monday Sept. 7

DEADLINES

- **Sunday Bulletin announcements** are due in the office by **noon every Wednesday**.
- **Good Tidings:** The deadline for the September issue of the *Good Tidings* is **Tuesday, September 15**. Please email your articles and announcements to office@npcsarasota.org. Or bring legible hard copy to the office.
- **Session Committee Reports** are due in the office by **Wednesday, September 9** for the September 16th meeting.

OFFICE ANGELS



Many thanks to **Mary Lou Jefferson, Bill Marvin, Betty Miller, and Joan Thomas** for their assistance in the office while I was away in July. Also thank you to **Joan Melnick**, and her team of summer bulletin collators: **Gene & Mary Ann Colter, Karen Cox, Helen & Richard Healy, Deb Latimer, Bill Marvin, and Jane Mather**.

Isabel Oake, Office Administrator

Planning Ahead for 2016 Presbytery Meeting

On Thursday, April 28, 2016, Northminster has the honor of hosting Peace River Presbytery for the all-day Stated Presbytery Meeting. Approximately 150 people will be here from the entire Presbytery. We have never been able to do this much before and it is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together to welcome church members from Naples to Palmetto.



Much help will be needed from everyone. We need volunteers to staff the registration tables, help with parking, serve as greeters and guides, serve coffee etc. before the meeting, serve lunch, run the sound system and audio tape the business meeting, serve as temporary clerks, usher and serve communion during the worship service, sing in the choir, and more.

At this point, we are asking everyone to save the date and think about how you might be able to help. For more information, contact **Pastor Chris or Sally Kirby**.

2 Ardis Haist
 4 Joan Gale
 Ann Lassig
 6 Barbara Clark
 8 George Hagen
 George Thomas
 9 Jean Wadsworth
 11 Donna Bagnall
 15 Jackie Conner



16 Trudy Grempp
 18 Jim Shirey
 19 Bette Pickett
 21 Ted Moltz
 22 Lillian Quigley
 23 David Cushman
 26 Bill Post
 27 Carol Tibbets
 Jerry Roth
 30 Connie Buell



september



Northminster Presbyterian Church † 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Locations EB=Education Bldg. FH= Fellowship Hall L= Library PS = Pastor's Study S= Sanctuary</p>		<p><i>1</i> 9 Med Ombudsman 12 Worship-L 5:30 Fellowship Committee 7 Rose Grp</p>	<p><i>2</i> 6:30 Girl Scouts -FH</p>	<p><i>3</i> 12 Esther Cir-L 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>4</i></p>	<p><i>5</i></p>
<p><i>6</i> 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia-FH</p>	<p><i>7</i> OFFICE CLOSED in observance of Labor Day</p>	<p><i>8</i> 9 Med Ombudsman 10:30 PWCT-L 2 Deacons-L 7 Rose Grp</p>	<p><i>9</i> 10:30 Mission-L 1 Bridge-FH 6:30 Girl Scouts -EB Session Committee Reports Due</p>	<p><i>10</i> 1 AIM Com-L 2:30 Liturgists-L 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>11</i></p>	<p><i>12</i> 9 Fellowship Breakfast-FH</p>
<p><i>13</i> 9 Sun School-FH 10:30 Worship/ Communion 7 Iglesia-FH</p>	<p><i>14</i> 11:30 PWCT Lunch-FH 1 Tech Help-PS 6 Cub/Boy Scts</p>	<p><i>15</i> 9 Med Ombudsman 11:15 Staff-L 7 Rose Grp Good Tidings deadline</p>	<p><i>16</i> 6:30 Girl Scouts -FH 7 Session-L</p>	<p><i>17</i> 10 Bible Study -FH 1:00 Communi- cations Com-L 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>18</i> 5:30 Presbyterians Eating Out</p>	<p><i>19</i></p>
<p><i>20</i> 9 Sun School-FH 10:30 Worship 11:45 Connections-FH 7 Iglesia-FH</p>	<p><i>21</i> 10 Ruth Circle-L 1 Tech Help-FH 6 Cub/Boy Scts</p>	<p><i>22</i> 9 Med Ombudsman 11:15 Staff-L 7 Rose Grp</p>	<p><i>23</i> 6:30 Girl Scouts -FH</p>	<p><i>24</i> 10 Bible Study -FH 12:30 Daytimers Square 6:45 Choir-S</p>	<p><i>25</i></p>	<p><i>26</i></p>
<p><i>27</i> 9 Sun School-FH 10:30 Worship 7 Iglesia-FH</p>	<p><i>28</i> 1 Tech Help-FH 6 Cub/Boy Scts</p>	<p><i>29</i> 9 Med Ombudsman 11:15 Staff-L 7 Rose Grp</p>	<p><i>30</i> 10 Mary Cir-L 6:30 Girl Scouts -FH</p>	<p>The Spanish speaking congregation of Iglesia del Redentor, led by Pastor Daniel Rosales, meets for worship on Sunday evenings in the Fellowship Hall.</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:

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

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.