

PROCLAIM

A publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church

Spring 2020



Does Church Involvement Change the World?

“I got started in all of this as a means to connect with others,” said Carol Frohlich, who has become involved at Northminster by making coffee, joining book discussion groups, sewing banners, walking with the Spiritual Strider group, and more. “Sitting in a pew is not enough. I’ve made some great friends.”

Jeff Schmahl likes singing in the choir and helping with sound-related projects. Because he’s involved in these efforts, he said he’s “sensitive to the extraordinary time and



effort that people can put into preparing a meaningful worship experience, or a musical performance. For me, it’s very rewarding to help an audience fully experience the material in the way the presenter or artist intends, be it music or information.”

Melissa Hopkins, who coordinates the childcare workers and teaches Sunday school, has also felt the personal benefits of being involved at church. “Working with the children makes me happy. I enjoy teaching the little ones about God and the Bible. I love watching them realize how much God loves them and when they connect to the Bible stories.” She serves others as a Stephen Minister, too. “I have deepened my spiritual life as a result of this,” she said.



Through these acts of service, Carol, Jeff, and Melissa speak to the ways they’ve not only served the church, but also developed relationships and grown personally. But is serving the church too inward-looking? How does this work extend God’s love beyond Northminster’s brick walls?

One answer is video streaming. Kevin Zimmerman, who directs the streaming service, said “I enjoy using my talents to get our service out to those folks who can’t make it out of the house on Sunday, or

perhaps want to watch a baptism or music performance from long-distance.”

Many members serve not only on teams or committees, but also through outreach programs. Carol has shopped with children through the Clothe-a-Child program. John Reed, a social worker for more than 40 years, coordinates volunteers as part of Northminster’s partnership with Second Presbyterian Food Pantry. Dolly Craft is Northminster’s coordinator for Interfaith Hospitality Network, which houses families experiencing homelessness.

“Don and I commit financially to Northminster, but I also like the hands-on involvement,” Dolly said. “Northminster is definitely our extended family. I enjoy the people interaction, and I’d like to think it helps me to display Christian love in the world.”

Indeed, involvement in church — and the friends you make in the process — likely has a significant impact on the wider community. In “What’s so Darned Special about Church Friends?” Robert D. Putnam,

a Harvard political scientist whose research focuses on community in America, writes that religious people are significantly more altruistic and share this giving spirit far beyond the church and other members. He wrote: “people with more close friends at church, or more involvement in small groups at church, or more discussion of religion with friends and family—what we generically termed ‘church friends’—were systematically more altruistic than other Americans. Moreover, this strong correlation between

altruism and church friends persists robustly even under stringent controls for other factors—including the respondent’s number of close friends in general. Having more friends is associated with altruism, but church friends matter a lot, even beyond that fact; church friends seem super-charged.”



work and community impact. “I recognize the importance of having a strong administrative support network so that Northminster’s pastors can focus on their work with the congregation and surrounding community.”

Several members noted that the time commitment of volunteering could be a challenge but found ways to include the church among their other commitments. Dolly said, “I first started as an usher, before the concept of HOST. I was still working at the time, so this was something I could do on Sunday.”

Mary Holland said, “I joined the Northminster Chancel Choir when my youngest daughter was old enough to be home alone for the 20 minutes between when I left for choir and my husband got home from basketball.”

Whatever your interests and availability, you make a difference by becoming involved and making friends at church. Putnam notes that “devout people who sit alone

in the church pews are not more neighborly than atheists who never attend church, and conversely, atheists with friends at church (acquired, perhaps, by attending church suppers with one’s more observant spouse) were fully as nice as the most religious person in the room.”

Although Putnam has only been able to show correlation (not causation) between church friends and altruism, the support and encouragement church friends offer might

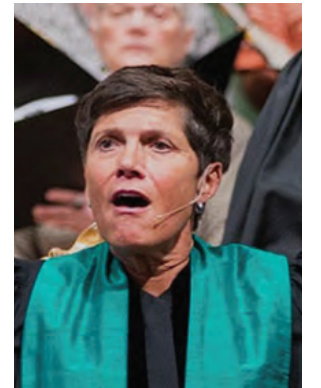
help you share more with others. Reflecting on her service to Northminster, Carol said her friends helped her stretch beyond what she thought was possible.

“I was encouraged to try new things,” she said. “Sometimes it helps to have people recognize your ability.”



Thank You, Pastor Teri

Blessings on Your Retirement!



*“But I do not account
my life of any value nor
as precious to myself,
if only I may
finish my course and
the ministry that
I received from
the Lord Jesus,
to testify to the gospel
of the grace of God.”
— Acts 20:24*



...disaster upon disaster... — Moliere

The passage from Moliere's *The Miser* came to mind some ten years ago (2010) when the Mission Team was charged with selecting recipients for mission funds from The Future is Now capital campaign.

Giving away money, as some say, ain't all that easy. The needs are so great, and the Northminster Mission Team so aware of them, that deciding who was to be blessed

*Giving away money,
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with one \$25,000 portion meant others would not. But that year we were considering one program that we were already funding through PC (USA). Indeed, one third of our yearly contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing supports this shared mission work – for 50 years and hundreds of millions of dollars. We were called by the memory of horror and scandals wrought by Hurricane Katrina to support our own Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Years after Katrina, PDA was still on the ground in New Orleans, one of very few assistance programs that stayed.

To give you a picture of what PDA does, let's consider Puerto Rico. After hurricane Maria and the more recent earthquakes, \$2.4 million in initial disaster response grants have gone to the island for church repair, opening food pantries and emergency programs. In addition, more than 3,000 PDA volunteers and staff members were assigned to help assess damage, create short- and long-term response plans, assist with emotional and spiritual needs, and connect with FEMA and other partners. Volunteers have worked toward rebuilding the island since 2017.



In January, when the earthquakes hit Puerto Rico, PDA once again approved two church-damage grants and initial assistance emergency grants for the Presbytery of the Southwest. PDA deployed two National Response Team members, joined by volunteers from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church from Pacifica, California, who were in Puerto Rico when the earthquakes hit. These volunteers were able to help with donations in the immediate aftermath, including helping set up food pantries.

In response to certain disasters, PDA works with the Church World Service to put together Gift of the Heart Kits to churches in a central location. Sometimes we are asked to join bucket lines at Second Presbyterian to

pull together cleanup buckets (most essential after floods), hygiene kits and school kits.

At the time of The Future is Now campaign, we learned that the bucket items were quickly depleting because the worldwide disasters were so great. We learned that items like toothpaste have expiration dates, so some of the hygiene kits in storehouses were already unprepared for distribution.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. Learn how you can help.

This is when the wisdom of giving away money got easy. It's easy to send, store, retrieve and spend on what's needed most.

If you are interested in learning more about PDA, or a good way to make your own personal impact on disaster relief, look for it at pda.pcusa.org because, by the way, there are tornadoes in the Midwest, fires in California, cyclones in Africa, tsunamis in Indonesia, floods in Kerala, India, earthquakes in Nepal, violence in Sudan... God knows you make a difference. ☞

Northminster During the Crisis

- We thought that moving from the sanctuary to Calvin Hall for longer than planned was a significant challenge, but we hadn't seen anything yet.
- We thought that hearing that our beloved senior pastor, Rev. Teri Thomas, would be retiring in March would be more than we could handle, but we moved forward.
- When the coronavirus crisis came knocking, we moved everyone out of the building, and moved our worship to fully online.
- The Word was spoken, with fewer, but still strong and clear, voices.
- The beautiful music kept playing, even without a choir.
- The people continued to show up, in online chat comments during worship, in numbers of "attendees" that kept climbing as worship began.
- The Maundy Thursday service was an at-home opportunity that many used and cherished.
- Good Friday was an online offering of a past worship service we love to remember.
- Easter was a quietly beautiful celebration that included Pastor Ruth Moore preaching her first-ever Easter sermon.
- We have seen a huge upsurge in the number of weekly emails that are opened, and our social media presence is growing quickly, so our congregation and friends are engaging more than ever.
- Staff and NPC Teams have learned to meet virtually – with no makeup and wearing sweat pants, but still finding creative ways to do the work of the church.
- A large number of NPC members have volunteered to call the congregation to check up on them, to pick up and deliver medication and groceries, to offer computer help to those who are forced to learn new technology in order to stay connected, to write notes and letters, and we are all praying for each other much more.
- Everything about this crisis has reminded us of how fortunate we are to have friends and family, a church family, a beautiful place to gather and to sing and worship together.
- We look forward to growing, even in this darkness, and emerging to new life in Christ! ☞



Good Lord



Some say that whenever you hear a sound coming from the church ceiling, it’s probably not a rodent. It’s Bill Lord. We automatically assume he’s running conduit or installing a spotlight or finessing the acoustics. For those who may not know, Bill is behind the lights, camera and sound on Sunday mornings, Sound & Spirit concerts, as well as the staging of the temporary chancel in Calvin Hall. He’s a Deacon, Elder, a bass singer, also a teacher, author, dad and husband. He’s a Who’s Who, a Hall of Famer, a fraternity brother, president of a company, department chair. When he was in the Army, he designed lighting for Special Service talent shows in Germany. He’s worked in scene design for television and summer stock theaters all over the city.

Bill Lord is a Sagamore of the Wabash. He is definitely not a squirrel in the ceiling.

His father worked for National Cash Register (NCR) and, as a toddler, Bill cut his teeth (and once a lip) on tools. His introduction to stagecraft began when he took the initiative to improve the lighting in Evansville’s Benjamin Bosse High School, in Evansville, Indiana gym/auditorium. Later he got his degree at Evansville College in

secondary education in speech and theater, destined to be teacher like his mother. The Army, in its wisdom, discovered his penchant and sent him to rework a theater lighting system in Frankfurt, Germany. Soon he was lighting designer for the All-Army Talent Show Finals at the Deutsches Museum, in Munich.

Back home in Indiana, Bill settled into life on Indy’s budding northside. Returning to his old job with a company that sold, rented, and repaired all kinds of theater equipment, he was pleased to meet their new secretary, Catherine Ball, a Butler coed who also majored in secondary education in speech and theater. Lifelong Presbyterians, they set their eyes on a new and young church in the area. They married in Northminster’s brand new sanctuary in the fall of 1957.

North Central High School, in Indianapolis, Indiana was just developing its many programs and, after hiring Bill to

teach, encouraged him to pursue his master’s at Northwestern University, in Chicago, Illinois. Over the next 40 years, Bill managed the 1500-seat North Central theater, taught speech and stagecraft, wrote textbooks and manuals, and became Chairman of the very active Performing Arts Department.

Bill and Cathy raised two daughters - Rev Dr Jennifer Lord, who is now a professor at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, in Austin, Texas, and Loui Lord Nelson, PhD who works in special education in Indianapolis - who each shed light on their own callings as innovators, writers and speakers.

Bill has always shared his work with his church because he loves both. He and Cathy created and developed the cozy and complete church library. They both sang in the Chancel Choir for many years. Music director John Wright called on Bill to improve the sound in the choir room, which led to building risers and reconfiguring



Stage VP Peppy Mitchell and Mr. Lord discuss the fall play, *Bell, Book, and Candle*. From the North Central High School 1975 Yearbook, *The Northerner*, Volume 19.

Music Funding at Northminster



choir seating and lighting in the sanctuary. Teacher and friend, John has given voice lessons to Bill, while Bill has guided home improvement projects for John.

It would be hard to calculate how much Bill has saved Northminster. He and his volunteer crew once spent four days relighting old storage rooms only to have one light not work. It frustrated the team, bent

...Bill, in quiet, determined, direct and humorous fashion finally solved the problem. He replaced a light bulb.

on saving the church some \$4000 on rewiring. Bill, in quiet, determined, direct and humorous fashion, finally solved the problem. He replaced a bulb. According to his meticulous records, the project cost \$357.89. And according to Bob Gudgel, paraphrasing 1Corinthians, it was done decently and in proper order.

Since 1961, Bill has consulted on over 550 projects designing space and systems for theatrical lighting and control, and stage curtains and rigging for churches, schools, arenas, indoor, outdoor and experimental theater. He gives that to us. He has been here for every evolution in this church for the last 63 of its 75 years. He knows Northminster like a cardiologist knows the heart. He keeps it beating



With so many options for high-quality music programming at Northminster, we strive to allocate funding as best we can. However, with a decrease in our 2020 music budget, which impacts our ability to invite guest musicians—from solo instrumentalists to occasional orchestra members (typically \$200 for one musician), we’re hoping to find new and healthy methods of securing funds for our music ministry. We also encourage interested parishioners and friends to support music programming by making contributions to Northminster’s Music Ministry. Please see John Wright if you have questions.

Puzzle (page 14)

Crazy, Stupid, Love; Love with the Proper Stranger; Stranger than Fiction

A Star Is Born; Born Free; Free Willy

North by Northwest; Northwest Passage; (A) Passage to India

Twelve Angry Men; Men in Black; Black Beauty

How to Steal a Million; Million Dollar Baby; Baby Boom

It's a Wonderful Life; Life is Beautiful; (A) Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

It Happened One Night; Night and Day; (The) Day of the Locust

The Sound of Music; Music Man; Man of La Mancha

Favorite Magazine Answer: Proclaim

Meet Northminster’s Chancel Choir Section Leaders!



DOUGLAS (Doug) JOHNSON

Bass

From: Munster, IN

University: Bachelor’s in Voice and Master’s in Choral Conducting, Butler University

Current occupation: Music faculty at Earlham College

Involvement at Northminster: This is my fourth year as a section leader singing with the chancel choir and chamber ensemble. I also served as Interim Choir Director during John Wright’s 2018 sabbatical!

Music background: I’ve been singing in choirs since elementary school and knew in high school that I wanted to pursue a career in classical singing.

Pros about Northminster: John holds his choirs to very high standards, and choir members take pride in being treated like professionals. Extra refreshing is that NPC singers are so familial and warm with each other while upholding these standards. Musical aspirations are at a professional level, but there are no egos. Singing here each week is a joy!

Favorite hymn: *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

Favorite composer: Herbert Howells

Favorite choral piece: Howells’ *Take Him Earth For Cherishing*

Hobbies: Listening to music (choral, musical theatre, pop, EDM), cooking, hiking, napping, Netflix

What people may not know about you: During her live show with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in 2015, I sang backup for Kristen Chenoweth!

From: Goshen, IN

University: Bachelor’s in Vocal, University of Indianapolis Master’s in Vocal Performance, University of Texas

Current occupation: Adjunct Voice Teacher at the University of Indianapolis and Rescue Partner Coordinator at IndyHumane

Involvement at Northminster: Chancel Choir soprano section leader and chamber ensemble member

Music background: I played piano from age 5-14. In high school, I found that singing is where I found my joy. I began private voice lessons at age 15.

Pros about Northminster: Northminster’s choir repertoire range is incredible and singers grow to appreciate different musical styles. Singing with people who enjoy learning together makes all the difference. And the warmth and kindness from Northminster is unlike any other church choir I have been a part of.

Favorite hymns: *The King of Love, It is Well with my Soul* and *Of the Father’s Love Begotten*

Favorite composers: J.S. Bach and Ralph Vaughan Williams

Favorite choral piece: *Dona nobis pacem* by Vaughan Williams

What’s up next? Private lessons this summer with Krista Wright, a solo recital at NPC featuring Art Songs of Schumann, Schubert, Fauré, and more. Heading to Scotland for a cousin’s wedding over Thanksgiving.

Hobbies: Traveling is my biggest hobby. I have seen and experienced different cultures in many countries. I’m also a full-time and foster cat mom, fostering feral kittens and senior cats alike.

What people may not know about you: I played volleyball for almost 12 years. Before focusing on music, I was devoted to my life as an athlete.

You already may recognize the section leaders in our Chancel Choir and Chamber Ensemble by their faces and/or voices. Indeed, they support our 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship and blend seamlessly in the Chancel Choir at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday service. I thought it would be fun to introduce you to some of these individuals on a closer level...☞



KELLY LYNNE CASSADY

Alto

From: Elkhart, IN

University: Bachelor’s in Choral Music Education and Minor in History, Butler University

Current occupation: Choir director at Decatur Central High School

Involvement at Northminster: Chancel and chamber choir member, alto section leader

Music background: I’ve always loved to sing and was active as a child in community theater and dance classes. I fell in love with choral singing in middle and high school. Favorite childhood roles: Oliver in *Oliver*, Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Elle in *Legally Blond*, Sergeant Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls*.

Pros about Northminster: I admire John Wright as a director. He teaches me how to have high expectations and I love how you can feel his passion for the music in every rehearsal. I also appreciate the rewarding opportunity to sing difficult music with very qualified and talented singers.

Favorite hymns: *Abide With Me* and *Here I Am, Lord*

Favorite composer: Ticheli

Favorite choral piece: Stravinsky, *Symphony of Psalms*

What’s up next? Getting married in October! I’ve been cast as Amneris in an Athenaeum production of Aida, I sing with the Circle City Chamber Choir, and I direct two competitive show choirs at Decatur. The mixed ensemble (Goldenaires) recently won Grand Champion at Franklin Community Showfest.

Hobbies: Baking, blogging, quilting, taking baths, reading, worrying, cat-petting and the Pacers

What people may not know about you: I was in the NFL Super Bowl halftime show in 2012 as part of Madonna’s backup choir. I climbed the Inca Trail to Machu Piccu in 2013.

From: Bloomfield, IN

University: Bachelor’s in Vocal Performance, Indiana State University Studying for Master’s in Choral Conducting

Current occupation: Graduate Assistant

Involvement at Northminster: Tenor Section leader in the chancel choir, tenor/alto in chamber ensemble

Music background: I began singing in church at age five and studied piano in the 5th and 6th grades. I started private voice lessons in the 6th grade.

Pros about Northminster: The welcoming atmosphere, strength of the liturgy, and church leadership. I enjoy the level of singing and commitment of the choirs, the diversity and quality of singing in worship, and the opportunity to sing major works with professional chamber instrumentalists.

Favorite hymn: *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

Favorite composers: From the past: Palestrina, William Byrd, J. S. Bach, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Gerald Finzi Current composers: Jake Runestad, Dan Forrest, Elaine Hagenberg

Favorite choral piece: *Sing Joyfully* by William Byrd, Mozart’s *Requiem*, and Handel’s *Messiah*

What’s up next? Concerts, solo appearances, travel, life event, etc. I’m working toward my Conducting Master’s recital as well as traveling to NYC to sing in Carnegie Hall with a group from ISU.

Hobbies: Spending time with my daughter, playing sports recreationally

What people may not know about you: I have never broken a bone.

Northminster's New Music Studio



Did you know that Northminster houses a new music studio that's just getting off the ground? There currently are 3 teachers who provide instruction in voice, flute, piano, violin, viola and organ five days a week, and we have the potential to add a 4th teacher in 2021. Our teachers possess the experience and training needed to provide professional instruction for all ages. And in addition to regular music instruction, occasional studio recitals are offered throughout the year—soon to be held in our renovated chancel. We are thankful to have 3 pianos (Steinway, Yamaha grand, Yamaha baby grand) and, soon, a wonderful new pipe organ! It's been encouraging to see visiting parents and youngsters waiting in the Gathering Place, and it's yet another way that we can open our doors to the local community and capitalize on our reputation for quality music programs. ♦



by John Wright—Director of Music since 2000

Lending a Hand



Puzzle

Triple Features

A retro movie house in your hometown likes to show triple features, which it advertises on the original marquee with hand-affixed letters. Over time, though, the theater has run low on undamaged letters, so the manager has come up with a shorthand solution. For each triple feature, the theater runs only movies with overlapping titles, and for the marquee, the manager leaves out the overlapping words and everything in between. As a result, the entire name of the second feature is only implied, not stated.

Next week, for example, the theater will be showing these three films: *My Fair Lady*; *Lady Sings the Blues*; and *(The) Blues Brothers*. On the marquee, the manager will post just *My Fair Brothers* and let the intuitive fans figure it out for themselves.

Here are eight of the upcoming triple features. Are you a sufficiently intuitive movie fan to know what three movies will be showing?

[Editor’s note – to make the overlap links work precisely, disregard any introductory articles (like “a” or “the”), just as “The” is disregarded above in *(The) Blues Brothers*.]

For each of the triple features, enter the name of the middle movie, letter by letter, in the spaces below:

1. *Crazy, Stupid, Than Fiction*
_ _ _ _ _ [] _ _ _ _ _
2. *A Star Is Willy*
_ _ [] _ _ _ _ _
3. *North by to India*
_ [] _ _ _ _ _
4. *Twelve Angry Beauty*
_ _ _ _ _ [] _
5. *How to Steal a Boom*
_ _ _ _ _ [] _ _ _ _ _
6. *It’s a Wonderful Day in the Neighborhood*
_ _ _ _ _ [] _ _ _ _ _
7. *It Happened One of the Locust?*
_ [] _ _ _ _ _
8. *The Sound of La Mancha*
_ _ _ _ _ [] _ _

Now combine the eight bracketed letters to identify your favorite magazine.
_ _ _ _ _

Answers on page 9.

Good News

From a Mission Partner

As it turns out, 20 years is NOT enough. Not for Joy’s House.

You’ve probably seen it driving by on Broad Ripple Avenue (north side, just east of Evanston). Or maybe when you were dropping off and picking up a loved one there. Or when you were attending a caregiver-support group or a health-related educational event.

The “Joy” part, by the way, isn’t a person’s name. It’s a state of mind.

In essence, Joy’s House is a day care center for adults. Its daytime guests are experiencing different challenges—dementia, MS, Parkinson’s, strokes, other health or aging issues—but all share a common need for a safe, caring, friendly, and stimulating place to visit from time to time. Like most at-home caregivers, the Joy’s House staff provides services that are non-medical, but vitally important to the physical and emotional well-being of its guests.

And at the same time Joy’s House provides those direct services to its guests, it also gives badly needed help to the guests’ regular caregivers. Caregivers need care, too—temporary relief from care giving responsibilities, access to accurate information and experienced professionals, and someone to talk to. In other words, Joy’s House is, among other things, a care-giver’s caregiver.

Northminster has a special stake in Joy’s House. As part of our Open to the Future capital campaign that brought us our Gathering Place, north parking lot, elevator, and other church upgrades, Northminster contributed \$25,000 of the campaign proceeds to Joy’s House’s own capital campaign to expand and improve its Broad Ripple facilities. We’ve also partnered with Joy’s House on our Day of Caring projects.

But last fall, that Care-giver’s Caregiver announced that it needed some special caregivers of its own. After 20 years of operation in Broad Ripple (plus five years in a newly acquired location near the University of Indianapolis), Joy’s House spread the troubling news that, facing reductions in government reimbursements and private giving, it was running out of



money. Using terms like “at risk” and “financial crisis” and “forced to close,” the not-for-profit launched what it called a Critical Fundraising Campaign. It established a goal of raising \$559,000, in just eight weeks, “to keep our doors open and to keep serving families in our community.” Northminster, and probably some of you as individuals, heard the call and made gifts to the Critical Fundraising Campaign.

Although many had considered the campaign goal unrealistic, the needed caregivers came forward with the needed care. And then some. By early November of last year, Joy’s House was able to report to its friends and family that the campaign had raised \$719,827!

Not long ago, we heard a rumor that Joy’s House had closed. We’re happy to pass on the news that Joy’s House is alive and out of critical condition. It’s always happy to receive new gifts, and to turn them into needed services, but it’s moving ahead... joyfully...into its next 20 years.💎





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Proclaim is a new quarterly publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church celebrating the stories, people and work of our church. It features more human interest than timely information. Let us all Proclaim the good news! Please send interesting story ideas and photos to sglant@northminster-indy.org. We cannot guarantee publication of all submissions, but we appreciate recommendations. Thank you for reading and for all you do to support Northminster.

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