

PROCLAIM

A publication of Northminster Presbyterian Church

— NEW YEAR — NEW HORIZONS

Winter 2022



Our Roadmap to New Horizons

“I have some good news and some bad news: the good news is that we are making great time; the bad news is that we are lost.”

This old joke can be applied in many situations, including organizations whose members are exerting much effort to keep the group vital but without an awareness of where their efforts are leading them. It certainly resonates within faith communities, too.

Churches are often begun by a contingent of faithful individuals who have a clear sense of what they hope their church will become. Historically, the zeal to maintain the church can remain, but the intent of the original sense of purpose has been lost along the way.

This is the point at which the importance of a clear **mission**, **values**, and **vision** become obvious. A church’s **mission** is the call to the timeless purpose

of the particular faith community. A church’s **values** are the core standards by which the community distinguishes itself. A church’s **vision** is the statement that identifies how the church believes God is calling them to respond to the world in “real” time, an understanding of where the church is moving next in its ministry. I believe the vitality of churches today, particularly traditional mainline congregations, hangs on the presence of a fresh, contextual vision.

The good news for Northminster is that this community of faith begins 2022 with a strong awareness of its mission, core values, and a current vision. May our understanding and efforts be aligned so that we may live into the current vision to which God has called us: **Engaging Neighbors Near and Far In Christ’s Love.** ✦



Interim Senior Pastor, Dave Smazik.

Northminster Values

Christ-Centered:
Focusing our hearts and minds on Christ

Grounded in the Word:
Strengthening relationships with God through joyful, passionate and thoughtful preaching, music, and Christian education

Relevant:
Seeking to connect contemporary ideas to our Christian purpose in an evolving world

Inclusive:
Embracing all people with the open arms of Christ

Nurturing:
Supporting all seekers and believers, families of all combinations, and children of every age

Serving:
Bringing the love and grace of Christ to our congregation, our neighborhood, and our world

A Broad Ripple Native Reminisces

Until she moved to American Village in 2018, longtime Northminster member, Eileen Alsop, lived in the same house her whole life: 5927 Primrose Avenue. Her parents bought the property in 1937 for about \$5,000.

The neighborhood was a wonderful one to grow up in. Eileen says there were up to 18 kids at one point; and, since houses were built on every-other lot, they could run freely. The kids played “fifty more,” their own version of hide-and-seek. In the summertime there were treks to Haag’s Drug Store (the northeast corner of Broad Ripple and Guilford Avenues) for ice cream. There were two no-nos: don’t cross Kessler Boulevard East Drive and stay off the Dawson property situated on Kessler Boulevard East Drive between Kingsley and Ralston Avenues.



Eileen’s long-time home on Primrose Avenue.

For Grades 1–8 Eileen walked to School 80 on Guilford Avenue across from the present Kroger store. “The fun years began” at Broad Ripple High School where Eileen recalls goofing off and participating in bubblegum blowing contests. In addition to singing in the choir, she took lots of English and secretarial courses. She was asked to be secretary to the English department, not knowing the experience would lead to her life’s work. Butler University came next. Eileen found dorm life too noisy and confusing, so she completed her college years from 5927 Primrose Avenue. She continued her beloved English courses and majored in secretarial science.



Eileen Alsop filling food sacks at Gleaners Food Bank.

Eileen remembers Keystone Avenue before it was called Keystone Avenue. The two-lane street ran north to River Road where it stopped. That’s where teenagers went to neck. Locals referred to the area bounded by River Road, 54th Street, Evanston Avenue and Central Avenue as “the swamp” because of the high level of ground water. Tons of landfill had to be hauled in so that houses could be built on vacant lots.

Eileen took her first steps in the world of work at Miller Tours, a well-established Indianapolis travel agency. There she learned how to answer the phone in a pleasant voice, cope with airline schedules and deal with immense amounts of detail. Eileen liked helping clients plan their trips and hearing about them when clients returned for repeat business. She worked at Miller Tours for twenty-eight years. After taking a year out to attend to the affairs of her ailing parents, Eileen took a job at Fox Stained Glass Studio (Kessler and College Avenues). She says she was “chief flunky.” Actually, she brought to bear her considerable organizational and secretarial skills and formulated a rule of thumb: “If I saw something that needed to be done, I did it.” Eileen retired in 2009.

From the beginning, Eileen participated in Northminster activities, attending church, Sunday School, communicants class and youth fellowship. Eileen admits to playing hookey from school the day that the steeple was hoisted atop the sanctuary. She joined the congregation in 1953. As an adult she served as deacon, elder and Stephen Minister, but her greatest contribution was to the chancel choir.

Eileen lent her clear soprano to the chancel choir for nearly sixty years. That adds up to over three thousand anthems on Sunday mornings. (Eileen says she stayed home the Sunday during the Blizzard of ’78.) But her volunteerism extended even farther; she became choir secretary. Commenting on Eileen’s pleasant and low-key demeanor, John Wright, our Choir Director said, “She did so much I knew about and so much I didn’t know about.” Confronting a decades-old mass of paper music, Eileen established a filing system with sixteen categories such as Advent hymns, African-American spirituals and handbell repertoire. Eileen made sure every week that each choir member had the appropriate music in hand. She was even known to gather up children’s choir robes and folders left behind.

Eileen has settled comfortably into American Village, not far from Northminster and 5927 Primrose Avenue; no longer driving Chestnut, her 1968 Oldsmobile Cutlass, but still living “on the swamp.” ✦



Annual Northminster Pilgrimage to Montreat Worship and Music Conference



WHAT

Presbyterian Association of Musicians
**2022 WORSHIP & MUSIC
CONFERENCE**

WHEN

JUNE 26 - JULY 2

WHERE

MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER
MONTREAT, NC

WHO

All who enjoy great worship and music!

WHY

Great opportunity to learn, grow,
relax and bond
with fellow Northminsters

For more information visit:
www.presbysmusic.org/2022conference
and/or John and Krista Wright



Why Montreat?

By Krista Wright, Co-leader of this year's Montreat Worship and Music Conference

This is a difficult question for me, because I cannot even begin to pretend objectivity about the place or the conference!

Spiritually, it is full of magic: a truly “thin” place. For me, there have never been more fully awake worship experiences than those I have had at Montreat. I learned a long time ago to forgo the mascara! To sit in that stone and wood auditorium that for decades has soaked up the collective spirit of the thousands of souls who have breathed the air blowing in from the creek on one side, the lake on the other, and the mountains all around, and know that I have a share in that energy is a profound experience.

One of the biggest misconceptions about the Worship and Music Conference is that it is a big choir party, and if you aren't a musician, you won't feel included. There is a reason “Worship” comes first in the title. This conference is a celebration and exploration of all the liturgical arts. While music may be the art most prominently represented with vocal and instrumental ensembles and handbells, and class offerings vary year to year, you

may experience drama, dance, visual art, and storytelling. For those who want to dive deeper there are classes in liturgy writing, history of hymnody, and seminars on topics as diverse as social justice and songwriting. Most years there are self-care options such as yoga and chair massage. Or, if you just want a sabbath, you can go for a hike, rent a paddle boat or canoe, read a book, or traipse into Black Mountain for a great craft beer.

There is even a place for your little ones to go if they are too small to register for the conference. (Youngest registrants are rising fourth graders.) The Montreat Conference Center offers “clubs” that you can sign up your youngsters for. They can play in the creek, go for nature walks, enjoy the pool, engage in art projects, and more — fully supervised — while you take in the conference.

Montreat Worship and Music Conference is for everyone who cares about worship as a fully integrated, scholarly, substantive, and deeply spiritual experience. It is a place to get to know your Church better, get to know your fellow church members better, and get to know yourself better. ☞

Reflections on Montreat

By Becky Peterson, member since 2017

The 2021 Montreat conference was my second and it was equally as wonderful and inspiring as my first. Worship was thoughtful and thematically succinct, challenging, and really inspiringly beautiful. The quality of the music — and the music leaders — is among the best I've been around ... and I've sung with three different symphonic choirs around the country. Not only were the directors musically adept but caring, compassionate, interesting, and motivational. Great stories, approachable demeanor, human touch and, as appropriate, humorous stories.

I opted for only one seminar session, to have a bit more downtime, and it was super insightful. Called Poets, Prophets and the People, a young pastor from South Carolina challenged our “normal” thoughts of the old prophets. And introduced us to some new ways to consider being Christ's hands and feet in the world — today's prophets. One particularly moving piece we read was the Theology of the Compost Pile, in which an at-the-time young seminary student argued that God's work in the world is often like a compost pile. He can take rotting, yucky fruit, eggshells and

stinky coffee grounds, and create new life.

Chu (and the young pastor leading the Montreat class) encouraged us to challenge John Calvin's thought that man is “but rottenness and a worm.” In fact, Chu states, “What Calvin had to say about worms was wrong. Worms can be magic. Worms can be engines of redemption. Worms devour things of death and poop out life. And God gave their poop that power.”

I oddly really loved that thought. So Montreat for me was a week of spiritual and musical challenge. I was exposed to new ways of thinking and prayed with different people who have different ideas. It was a time when I could visit and relax (rocking on the front porch in the North Carolina mountains) with friends I knew well and those I got to know much better. We ate together, laughed together, and rested together. We walked to “classes” and worship and evening concerts together. And I especially like that there's freedom to pretty much make your own schedule — including lap swimming — yes there's a 25-yard pool at Montreat! I plan to go again. ☞

Passage from worship sermon at Montreat, July 2021

By the Reverend Cecelia (CeCe) Armstrong, Charleston, South Carolina

We say - It's impossible.
God says- All things are possible with Me.

We say - I can't do it.
God says - You can do all things through Christ.

We say - I'm too tired.
God says - Come to Me, I will give you rest.

We say - I'm always worried and frustrated.
God says - Cast all your cares on Me.

We say - I can't go on.
God says - My grace is sufficient for you.

We say - I can't figure things out.
God says - I will direct your steps.

We say - I'm not able.
God says - I am able.

We say - It's not worth it.
God says - It will be worth it.

We say - I can't manage.
God says - I will supply all your needs.

We say - I'm afraid.
God says - I have not given you a spirit of fear.

We say - I don't have enough faith.
God says - I've given everyone a measure of faith.

We say - I'm not smart enough.
God says - I give you wisdom.

We say - I feel all alone.
God says - I will never leave you or forsake you.



A Chamber Choir of selected singers participates in worship at the 2021 conference.

My Montreat Testimony

By John Wright, Director of Music since 2000

One aspect that makes Montreat so meaningful is the whole church gathers — young and old, northerner and southerner, people from urban and rural churches, and from large and small churches — to join together in song, Word, and sacrament. When the congregation gathers for worship at Montreat, it is representative of the whole church.

When children and youth attend Montreat conference, they participate deeply in liturgies that are at once ancient and modern. We join our voices with hymn writers, composers, liturgies, and prayers that span the history of the church — a history that encompasses a rich and wide variety of cultural expression. New hymn texts and compositions find their place alongside the songs that have been sung by Christians for hundreds of years. Through liturgies that respond afresh to the Word proclaimed, we hear God's voice in ways that are as varied as the voices that sing God's praise.

Montreat has been described by some as a "thin place" — a place where the barrier between heaven and earth is felt

to be so narrow that communication with God is easier than in other places.

This June marks the 25th summer I have attended the Montreat Conference on Worship and Music. These conferences have shaped my faith and the faith of countless children, youth, and adults from the churches I have served over the years, as well as provided creative and innovative resources for the worship life of those same congregations. ✦

Montreat is to me

- An environment that is restorative — physically, mentally, spiritually
- Engaging and vital worship
- Multi-generational worship and conference in general
- Incredible preaching, organ playing, congregational singing, choral singing — children, youth, and adults
- Opportunity to learn
- Opportunity to get to know Northminster children, youth, adults
- Year after year I have returned to receive renewal, knowledge, and deeper understanding of the gospel.



Socializing, art workshops, hiking, yoga and fun are all part of the Montreat experience.

Montreat Youth Conference 2022, June 12–18



A Montreat Youth Conference affirms youth in their calling to be and to shape the church of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to help youth come to know and believe that they are the beloved of God and to be a place where authenticity, community, connection, and God's truth thrive. We seek to be an inclusive space where each voice can be heard and where each heart can be molded; where change is invited, challenge is expected, and where all are embraced.

We have spent the last year, and more, in a season of disconnect through our challenges and circumstances. God calls us to be connected in all aspects of life. Through the stories of Mary and Martha, Jacob and Esau, Jeremiah, and many

others, we are reminded that we are all inter-connected in God's intentional actions. I invite Northminster youth to join us as we explore the many ways that we can reconnect to live out God's call.

Youth leave Montreat knowing that: Their faith matters. They are loved as they are. They are part of a community of faith.

Taking our Senior High youth to the Montreat Youth Conference, June 12-18, will be a valuable time for us to connect to each other, to other Presbyterian youth, and to the God that we love and serve. This is something new for this group.

For the first time, they will be attending the Youth Conference that Montreat offers. While many have attended the Music & Worship Conference, it has been some time since our youth program has participated in this portion of the Montreat programming options. It will be an experience through traveling, speakers, worship services, games, activities, meals, small groups, and the evening "home groups" to learn, grow, and have fun! All of these things are valuable for their spiritual development. We often talk about how important youth are to the future of this church and this community. By investing our time and money in these opportunities, we are investing in who they are now and who they are becoming. We invest in their future, the future for this church, and future for this community! Please pray now and in the coming months. Pray they will hear God's voice and will apply it to their hearts and minds. Pray that they will come to know that each of us can live out God's call...that we are "More Than Enough". ✦



Nancy Fortenberry, Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Questions & Anne with the PNC Chair

How well do you know Anne Ricchiuto, chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee? (Extra credit if you can pronounce her last name.) Two days last summer should tell you a lot.

Sunday, July 18

That morning, the Northminster congregation named Anne to chair the PNC that would find a new senior pastor. Anne then left to drive son Keane to a YMCA camp in northern Indiana. And just before midnight, now back home, she learned that she had successfully defended Indiana University’s COVID-vaccination policy before a federal judge appointed by Donald Trump—the first court test of such a mandate in American higher education.

Friday, August 27

Having run the PNC’s second meeting (in-person) the previous night, she got the news that nobody wanted: COVID tests for husband Tony and son Keane (both fully vaccinated) had come back positive. Emailing PNC members with what she called a “crummy update,” she closed with “I will be praying that we did no harm to any of you or your families.” Two days later, while quarantining with son Wade, she was hired by Michigan State University to defend its own COVID-vaccination policy.

Two chapters don’t make a whole book, of course, but those two scenes suggest that Anne lives where three passions converge—her faith, family, and profession.

Anne Kramer (“that’s ‘remark’ spelled backwards”) was born and raised along the Mississippi in Rock Island, Illinois, to the most Presbyterian of families. Both parents and all four grandparents were practicing Presbyterians, all attending



Anne Ricchiuto with husband, Tony, and their two boys, Wade and Keane, in 2018

the church that Anne’s Dad’s great aunt helped found. On overnight stays with her father’s parents, Grandma Kramer would start her prayers with a cheerful “Hi, God” and end them with “Good night, God,” helping Anne to see God as “a companion you could just talk to whenever you wanted.” She carried those lessons even to Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism, pleasantly surprising her mother by seeking out a Presbyterian church and actually attending, “usually the only one at the Tri Delt house to get up on Sunday and go to church.”



Ash Wednesday 2021

Before her final college year, she spent a summer in Chicago as an intern for Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, and there she met fellow intern Tony Ricchiuto, from the south side of Chicago and Cornell College (the one in Iowa). They married a few years later, in the same Presbyterian church as her parents, and moved to Indianapolis in time for Anne to start at IU’s McKinney School of Law (where she finished second in her class). They shopped churches for a while, but eventually settled on Northminster, drawn in part by Teri Thomas’s sermons. After attending for a couple of years, they joined in 2006 and soon brought sons Keane and Wade onto the rolls and into the life of Northminster. Debbie Bulloff, then Christian Ed director, took notice that Anne and Tony were raising “two really smart, thoughtful sons who are a credit to their parents and NPC.” Debbie also detected Anne’s “deep faith and abiding love for NPC.”

At Northminster, Anne has taken on several tasks, including serving as an elder and as the trustees’ president during the organ construction and chancel redesign. She was also co-chairing the worship team (with Lisa Longo) when Teri announced her retirement at the 2020 leadership retreat. Stunned, Anne sobbed intermittently through the rest of the meeting. And then things got worse. The pandemic struck, the church building closed, Pastor Ruth Moore was sidelined with health issues, and Anne and other lay leaders had to play expanded roles, including with the design and delivery of virtual worship services. “It was like a palate cleanser. Suddenly nothing was the same. But we had to make church.”

Given those NPC stresses, along with the



Anne with some of her friends from the Mom-to-Mom group

other pandemic disruptions to a crowded work and family life, why did she agree to take on the PNC assignment? “It was something important and personal to me—not for the law firm or my career, but for me.”

Anne has led the PNC with skill and style (as captured in the committee member descriptions quoted elsewhere on these pages). She likes to start every PNC meeting with a warm-up question, such as the one asking for members’ “thin places”—where they feel closest to God. Anne, herself, identifies two thin places in her Northminster world. First, in the pews and thrilling at the soloist’s rendition of the soaring spiritual, *Give Me Jesus*. And second, about anywhere when she’s together with Northminster’s Mom-to-Mom group. Launched years ago for mothers with young children, the group started with weeknight gatherings at church, relocated to the wine-friendly environs of members’ homes, then decided they liked each other enough to be “weekend friends,” traveling companions, and an all-purpose life-support network. It was after one of the Mom-to-Mom getaways that Julie Shannon and Jill de las Alas were seriously injured in an accident,

and both valued the special comfort Anne provided at crucial times during subsequent legal proceedings—not as their lawyer, but as an experienced friend.

Those who know Anne invariably cite her intelligence and sense of humor. As Jill describes it, “as soon as she starts speaking, you understand that she is processing on a level that you are not, so keep quiet and keep up. Next is her humor: she is lightning quick, and you want to hear the sly asides, but you definitely don’t want to be their object. Anyone is fair game, herself very much included.”

And there’s one new piece of information: the Ricchiutos have onboarded what Anne describes as a “preposterous dog,” a Shih Tzu/Bishon Frise mix named Desi.



Desi

So how do you pronounce Ricchiuto? When asked, Anne writes it out with characteristic clarity: “Rick-Q-Toe,” with the accent on the Q. Now you know. ♦

A little about Anne according to her fellow committee members

Open-Minded

Iconoclast

Down-to-Earth

Focused

Inclusive

Sincere

Sharp

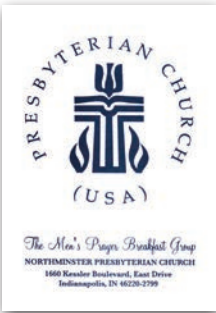
Wickedly Funny

Men’s (and everyone’s) Prayer (and study and socializing) Breakfast (and dinner)

For several years, I was the Tuesday morning receptionist at Northminster when the desk was just inside the entrance to the education wing. My desk was small, and that made collating, labeling, and stamping tricky. More than once, I spread some of the tasks on the floor.

There were guest chairs in the corner of the dark room, but most often people chose to sit in the chair directly across from the receptionist. Everyone who knows me knows I am easily engaged in conversation. Tuesday mornings brought in, by phone or in person, some of the great old guys of the Greatest Generation and members of the Men’s Prayer Breakfast. In preparation for their next-day gathering at 6:30 a.m., those next on the cooking rotation wanted to make sure the custodian had set up the tables and chairs so they could lay out the placemats and table service in advance. Every now and then, a funeral or other large gathering would thwart their plans for early set-up, and when it did, they lingered at the reception desk and we talked. That is how I got to know such lates-and-greats as Jack Anderson and Damon Auble.

The Men’s Prayer Breakfast is one of the longest-running fellowship groups still meeting at Northminster, something like 65 years! They met in Calvin Hall before heading to work. Two would fix breakfast, some would lead bible study, and all would share what was happening to church members and the community at large. They knew who had a new baby, who had lost a parent, who had lost a job or landed a new one, who had recently received a bad diagnosis, and who had come home from the hospital. As *Northminster: Celebrating Fifty Years* described the tradition in 1995:



They pray for hospitalized church members, for hurting families, and for others who have special needs. They also offer thanks for happy outcomes and send

cards of sympathy and cheer.

Probably many of you have received unexpected but welcome notes by mail, written and signed by all members



Ned Edington (left, new NPC member) and Bob Bowers listening to the discussion.

attending that Wednesday’s prayer breakfast.

In recent years, as the Greatest Generation moved on, dietary habits and lifestyles have changed, and Prayer Breakfast attendance has dropped in sync with church attendance. Fewer members have felt comfortable with and capable of preparing and presenting sophisticated Bible study topics. And most recently, pandemic-spawned concerns have closed meeting spaces and cooking facilities, replaced in-person meetings with first virtual and then hybrid ones, and pushed the group’s technology capabilities to and sometimes beyond their limits.

By late 2021, the Prayer Breakfast settled into hybrid meetings, with some members gathering in the Board Room around a 360-degree Owl Camera and others Zooming in from home or on the road. Members have been taking turns buying and delivering a light continental breakfast (typically bagels, pastries, fruit), and programming has turned to studying



and discussing a book, one chapter per week, on a faith-based theme. Recent book examples: *The Making of an Ordinary Saint* (Nathan Foster), *Holy Envy* (Barbara Brown Taylor), and *The Lord Is My Shepherd* (Harold Kushner). In keeping with the key traditions, the group has continued to share joys and concerns, to pray openly according to individual desires, to close collectively with the Lord’s Prayer, and to send those personalized “cards of sympathy and cheer.”

In addition, the Prayer Breakfast began a kind of self-study mid-year. Members shared their own candid views of Prayer Breakfast strengths and weaknesses,

discussed programming and technology options with church staff, and polled other men in the congregation—all to assess whether and how they might reconfigure this venerable fellowship form to enhance its reach and impact in a changing environment. Now mostly made up of aging Boomers (I can claim it myself), the group—including current regulars Bob Bowers, John Brooks, Don Craft, Dick Dunbar, Bill Dynes, Tony Dzwonar, Ned Edington, Jerry Gray, Rod Mail, Jim Mann, and John Purcell—has decided to shift focus and revise its name in the process.

The winter of 2022 will open with an adjusted name, the Men’s Prayer and Study Group, revised to include its emphasis on book study and to reduce its historical ties to the breakfast hour. The Group will now have 8:00 a.m. meetings on only the first and third Wednesdays, in much the same format it has used in recent months. And the Group will add some

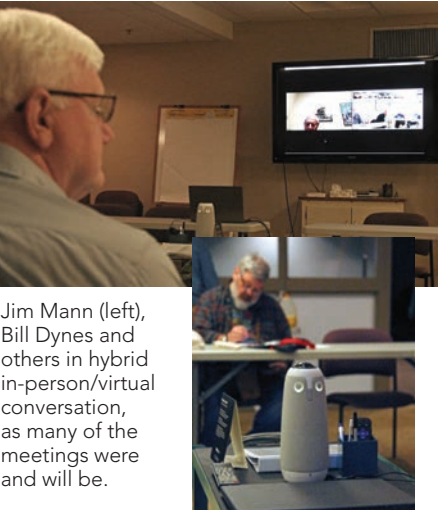
Prayer and Study

8 a.m.

First and Third Wednesday
of each month
Men’s Prayer and Study

6 p.m.

Second Wednesday
of each month
**Program presentation —
Everyone invited**



Jim Mann (left), Bill Dynes and others in hybrid in-person/virtual conversation, as many of the meetings were and will be.



Rod Mail (left) and Jerry Gray enjoy a Prayer Breakfast conversation.

Chancel Choir: New Faces, New Opportunities

Much of 2021 was a new musical horizon at Northminster. The pandemic crushed the ability of choirs to gather and sing, online/livestreamed services saw choir section leaders shouldering the responsibility for leading music in worship, and anticipated concerts and other arts events had to be rescheduled or cancelled altogether.

By mid-fall, the arrival of mask mandates, vaccines, and boosters meant that singers could finally begin to gather again cautiously, re-tuning rusty vocal cords and rediscovering the joy of singing together. John Wright, Northminster’s director of music ministries, also saw this as an opportunity to add a unique, new element to the Chancel Choir.

John explained that the prior Northminster model of Wednesday evening rehearsals for middle high singers was no longer working, as the Bel Canto choir (grades 6-10) had dropped to 4 participants. Knowing the musical and vocal abilities of these youth, John followed a tradition of having youth sing with adults — begun in the Anglican Church of England and still practiced in many U.S. Episcopal churches — and invited the young voices to sing with the Chancel Choir for most of this past fall.

John understands that organizations which include youth *and* adults typically thrive, as younger individuals can learn from their older peers, and as the more experienced individuals appreciate the fresh energy, vitality, and determination that their younger counterparts offer. This particular choir interaction proved very beneficial. Given that these younger voices already had been singing at Northminster for several years, accustomed to challenging music and the culture of reformed liturgy in worship, they seemed unfazed by the large amount of diverse repertoire presented in the Chancel Choir.

Adding these younger voices and faces also resulted in a more vibrant-looking and sounding choir this year.

The welcome addition of some younger voices also sends an attractive message to visitors to Northminster who see a successful choir with a unique blend of younger and older singers. Much like our church itself, the Chancel Choir welcomes people of all backgrounds. Along with worship, it is one of the few activities where all generations can gather to share and experience something meaningful together. This choir sings music of various styles, ages, and cultures because of the diversity we see both in the sanctuary and the choir room. “The beauty of singing in a choir is the act of bringing together diverse voices and making ONE unified sound to the glory of God,” said John.

As to his thoughts on what we might do differently next time to make the experience even more successful: “I would want to make sure we share with younger singers the opportunity to sing with orchestra as well as the chance to sing some pieces by themselves.”

Some of the younger participants were kind enough to share their thoughts on this year’s experience as well. Jackie Gritton really enjoyed being a part of



Jackie Gritton

the choir and looks forward to singing again in the spring. She liked the idea of a new challenge, and she found the Chancel Choir very welcoming. Jackie also enjoyed being able to participate this fall with Kate Ronco and Hannah Hittle. She commented that “it was interesting to compare my school choir to the Chancel Choir, exploring the similarities and differences.” Although Jackie didn’t always have as much practice time as she would have liked, she really enjoyed the music that the choir sings.



Hannah Hittle with her brother, Jameson

Kate Ronco also was excited about participating, interested in what it would be like to sit up front with all of the adults. She found the music challenging, too. “The music is at quite a high level, but we move through it all very quickly, and it only took a couple of times before we were able to perform it,” she said. Kate noted that there are many strong singers in the choir, and that it was really easy to listen to the altos around her and match their pitches. She added, “Singing with such a highly-talented choir makes the whole experience much easier. It has been a very fun and enjoyable experience.” While Kate currently doesn’t plan on pursuing music as a full-time career, she continues to sing

at her high school and looks forward to continuing to expand her vocal abilities. She believes this experience will allow her to impress her teachers at Carmel High School. “The choir department at CHS can be really competitive for young, aspiring singers,” she said.



Kate Ronco

Both girls look forward to rejoining the choir in the spring, spending time together with other singers, enjoying their company, and being able to perform some really wonderful pieces. And they would recommend the experience to their fellow youth with an interest in singing. As busy high schoolers, time is precious and they do devote a good amount of it to the Chancel choir each week, so we “older” choir members definitely recognize their commitment and dedication, a sign of their increased overall involvement at Northminster.

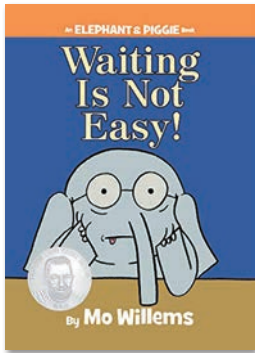
It was also a pleasure to hear this comment from Kate: “I have learned that it makes the church service a lot more enjoyable when I am sitting up front in the choir. When seated in the pews, I can sometimes get distracted and bored, but sitting up in the Chancel makes for an improved worship experience.” Hard to argue with that! ❖

Kid Lit Reviews*

Waiting Is Not Easy!

By Mo Willems [a Theodor Suess Geisel Honor]

Piggie has a surprise for Gerald. But there’s a catch – Gerald has to wait for the surprise to appear. And Gerald, like most of us, is not patient when it comes to waiting. He even begins to doubt that the surprise is worth the wait. Gerald is not the only one who must be patient; Piggie KNOWS what the surprise is, and yet, if he tells his friend, it won’t be a surprise. Knowing is not always the best. But knowing your friend usually is.



God’s Dream

By Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

The late Rev. Tutu takes whatever our dreams are and turns them into a simple gesture of sharing and loving through God. Even when we’re not at OUR best, God is showing us the way to accepting and forgiving. And He even gives us a special sign to look for when we fulfill God’s dream.



Happy Right Now

By Julie Berry

We all have choices we can make. And choosing to be happy no matter what is going on around us is one way to be. Even when we’re NOT happy, like when someone we love goes away, or we’re sick, or the weather turns yucky, even then, we can find a way to get happy—or at least be happy-er.



*Recommended for all ages. All are available on shelves, to order or online at Kids Ink Children’s Bookstore, 5619 N. Illinois Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208, <https://www.kidsinkbooks.com>, Email: kidsink@indy.net, Phone: 317-255-2598

Answers to Word Scramble on page 15:
1. Lord’s prayer, 2. Children’s Time, 3. New Revised Standard Version, 4. Choral Response, 5. Sanctuary, 6. Prayer of Confession, 7. Sharing the Peace, 8. Scripture, 9. Postlude, 10. Anthem 11. Communion, 12. Doxology

Unheralded Angels:

The Heart, Mind, Hands, & Spirit of a Servant

The first discovery I made when I recently sat down with long-time Northminster congregant Bob Gudgel is that we both attended the same “stately school high above” the Ohio River in southern Indiana (Hanover College). A week after Bob graduated Hanover, he and his lovely wife Cheri (she of wondrous millinery displays, i.e., hats, on Sunday mornings) married. Our lives intersected obliquely again when Bob got his first job out of college working for Proctor & Gamble as a food case rep and resided for a short time in my hometown in Northwest Indiana. In short, he stocked the grocery shelves of our local Buy-Low with the staples in my mother’s cupboard—Crisco shortening, Jif® peanut butter and Duncan Hines cake mixes. Very quickly, however, Bob’s timeline deviated sharply when he went to work for Builder’s Hardware. He and Cheri migrated to Indianapolis in 1968, where they promptly joined Northminster Presbyterian Church.

What a coup that was! You see, Bob is also an entrepreneur, an inventor, a businessman, and a willing volunteer on just about every Northminster committee there is. Yes, Bob Gudgel not only holds two U.S. patents for fire safety products; he designed and improved upon (this will date me) the grocery store mats I used to jump on as a kid to “magically”



Bob worked to create what we now use as common automatic door activation plates



Bob and Cheri Gudgel at Gleaners Food Bank

open the ingress/egress doors. Thanks to a partnership with Purdue University, Bob was able to get his “handicapped” door openers tested, manufactured, and installed across the country; first, in hospitals, eventually catching on to be installed in many commercial buildings built in the past four decades as Sedco door-activating switches. He even started his own company, MS Sedco, Inc., which his son runs today. Check it out: <https://mssedco.com/>

In addition to serving as a Deacon, then several terms as a Session Elder, Bob also spent many years on the Building and Grounds committee, chairing that group through the Gathering Place addition, then the Columbarium Project, and most recently, the installation of Northminster’s Fisk organ. As a servant, Bob has also been a church Trustee, a member of the Northminster Foundation for two terms, and as its President. He can relate, in vivid detail, other NPC improvements, including but not limited to: the paneling of Calvin Hall, TWO kitchen renovations, the remodeling of the church offices,

and the transformation of an outdoor courtyard into the present-day choir room. In 2000, as a Trustee, Bob happened to be in the right place at the right time when he saw a homeowner start to put up a “For Sale” sign on Kingsley Avenue one Sunday after church services. Subsequently, three homes were purchased by the church, allowing Northminster the opportunity to make room for our Gathering Place and much-needed additional parking.

And it should come as no surprise, really, that Bob’s second passion is woodworking. Truly, he has the heart and hands of a servant leader.



Bob at Northminster’s Clothe A Child event

So, the next time you enter a hospital, school, retirement center, office building or industrial plant, or if it’s just to pop into Northminster with an armful of supplies or goodies, or youngsters; or you’re recovering from a recent surgical procedure and moving a bit slowly with a cane, a walker, or a wheelchair; or even if you’re just in a hurry and you hit a Sedco switch or a Safepath sensor (see accompanying photos) to clear the way — send up a brief prayer of gratitude and appreciation for your safety and for our very own Unheralded Angel Bob. 🍷

Word Scramble

SUNDAY MORNING AT NORTHMINSTER

Listed below are scrambled words having to do with Northminster on Sunday morning. Can you unscramble them?

1. SDORL YRAREP

2. NSDELICHR IEMT

3. EWN RVESEDI DDRNSAAT IROVNES

4. AHOLCR PRNOSEES

5. RUYTACSNA

6. REAYPR FO ONSEIFCNOS

7. RANHGSI HET CEEPA

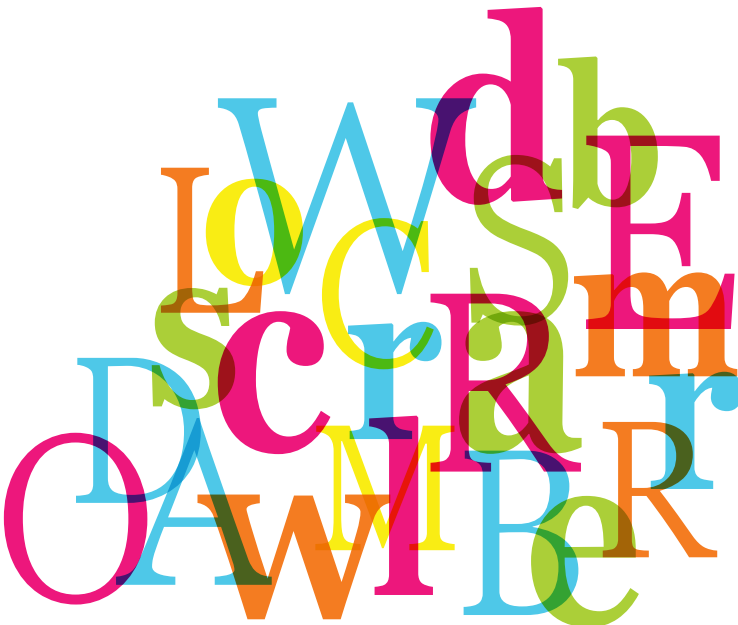
8. RUICSETRP

9. LSEPUDTO

10. TEAMNH

11. MONIONUMC

12. GOYXODLO





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Paving the Way

You may have wondered what those lovely pastel rectangles were displayed on the windows of the Gathering Place in October and November. As part of Northminster's 75th Anniversary Celebration the Northminster Foundation invited members and friends to make contributions in honor of someone who has made a difference in their faith journeys or who has significantly helped Northminster in its mission — who has “paved the way” so to speak. Fifty-two donors responded, giving \$6305.

The Foundation, currently valued in excess of \$3 million, invests funds to provide for the future of the church, supports the church budget on a monthly basis, and helps fund special projects like the Gathering Place in 2011. Northminster members and friends may contribute to the Foundation through gifts, capital campaigns, annual pledges, and bequests in their wills. In the case of bequests, no funds exchange hands until the death of the donor.

For more details, visit northminster-indy.org/about/foundation, or contact Lori Schlabach in the church office.



Proclaim is a 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 jennifer.dzwonar@borshoff.biz. 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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