

This month at Northminster

June 2020



Installation of the New Cross

The cross that hangs in the front of the chancel was purchased with funds given in memory of Art Angotti. About a year ago, the Worship Team was asked to investigate the design and construction of a cross that would be big enough to be present but one that would not overshadow the organ casework.

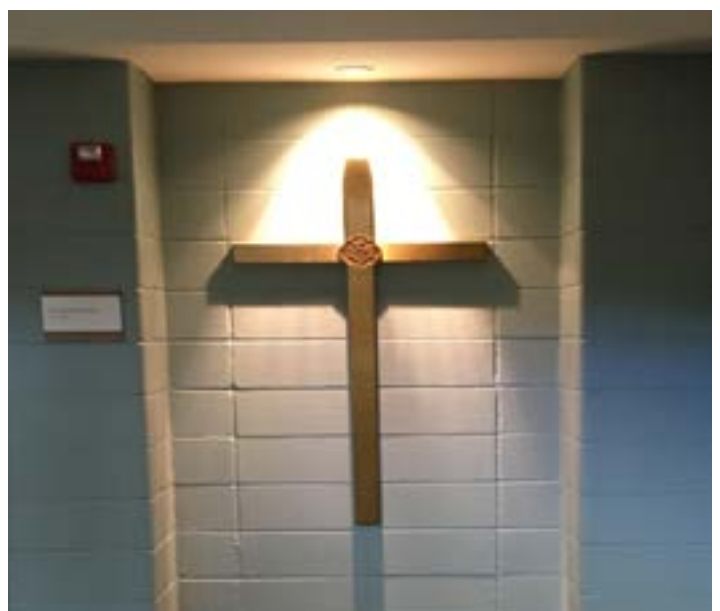
Erich Thompson, of Sacred Spaces, was chosen as the designer and builder. Based in Greensboro, North Carolina, Mr. Thompson constructed other liturgical furnishings at Northminster, namely the pulpit, font, communion table and music stand, in 2009.

The cross is 6 feet long, 3 feet wide. Made of maple wood, it is a Celtic design and incorporates, in the center, the same symbol that exists on our current pulpit – the cross and triangle (representing infinity and the Trinity). It was installed on May 7th.

Special thanks go to Bryan Alexander, the Wurster supervisor for the Chancel renovation, who volunteered to engineer and manage the project. Bryan and John Brooks worked on securing the cross from the attic, while Bob and Will Gudgel maneuvered the cross from the lift. Bill Lord coordinated the lighting changes and John Wright provided transportation for the lift. The cross completes the Chancel renovation beautifully. Thank you to all who helped!

Top: New cross and pipe organ, sanctuary

Bottom: Old cross, now downstairs near Board Room



Message from Pastor Ruth

The month of June brings new hope and new challenges as we contemplate how to safely navigate the re-opening of our nation, state and church building while we are still struggling with the realities of the coronavirus.

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**For more information about these and other events and classes,
go to www.northminster-indy.org and click on Events.**

Getting Involved: Coronavirus Hero Stories

Some of us have been on the “front lines” at hospitals or have been continuing to work in public areas, being considered “essential” employees. Others have worked behind the scenes, volunteering, innovating, being creative and brave. All of us can be heroes as we do our best to battle this virus and the many issues that come along with it. These are some of the ways our congregation has been helping.

Making Face Shields

Dawn Sibley (right) asked if I could 3-D print the visor and chin parts of a face shield. There are numerous designs online, including an approved one from National Institute of Health, so I printed a bunch and Dawn did the clear part, the elastic and the foam cushion. Here she is, wearing the assembled shield! I'll tell you what...it feels really good to contribute to the cause. - *by Mike Boris*



Face Masks

Did you know that some of our church members have been sewing face masks? Here (right) is a beautiful one made by Carol Frohlich.

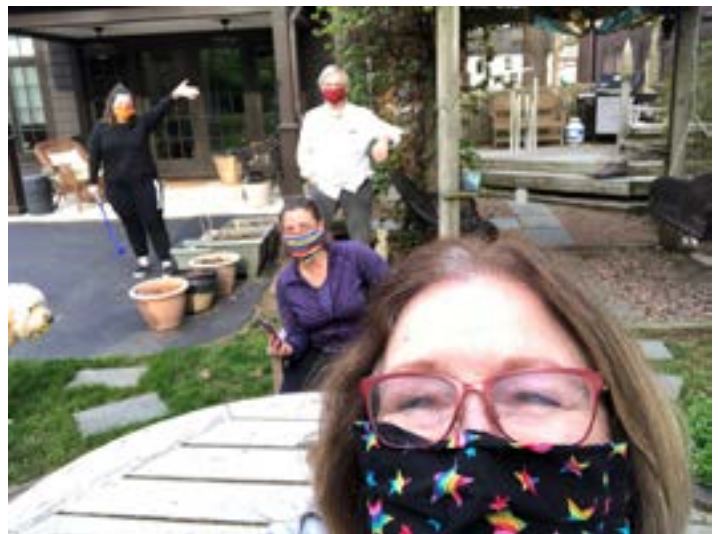


The Shannon's have been busy doing what they can. Julie has been delivering food to seniors and families. Leah has been babysitting for a neighbor and Stella is busy writing letters. Mike has assisted friends with construction projects. He is still working during this time. Julie made some face masks - thanks to help from Carrol Frolick- with fabric and pattern. This is a photo (right) of the Purcells wearing theirs. Julie has been able to give out at least 15 masks.

Love on a Leash

Even though our *Love on a Leash* visits are pretty shut down we have received a special invitation from Westminster Village North to visit residents there. This is a photograph of four of us as we peeked into windows at Assisted Living and Rehab Units. We did this visit in April and May 27. With good weather we hope we will be able to expand our visit to include the independent cottages and apartments.

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Getting Involved: Coronavirus Hero Stories

Love On A Leash - continued

We plan to visit in this manner once a month until things open up enough for us to do person-to-person visits. The dogs had a hard time understanding why they weren't getting any pat-pats and why we were behind those funny looking face masks!

— by Marilyn Baumgardt



Thank You from the Northminster Foundation Board

The Northminster Foundation exists to support the church. Gifts from faithful church members are actively invested and then the Foundation uses those funds to help support the yearly budget of the church and also to periodically support special projects. Due to the generosity of church members, the Foundation was able to do amazing things during this past year. The Foundation Board wanted to take a moment and celebrate those gifts and their impact on the church.

This year, as it does every year, the Foundation provided around \$125,00 to support the yearly budget of the church. Recently, the Foundation was able to give an additional \$50,000 for the organ project. Also,

this spring, thanks to a generous gift from the estate of beloved church member, the \$200,000 balance on the loan for the Gathering Space construction has now been fulfilled. What an incredible difference this makes in the financial health of the church and in our ability to fulfill the mission of Northminster!

We are so grateful for the generosity of those who have already given, and for those who have made a commitment to Northminster in their estate planning. Thank You!

*Gratefully,
The Foundation Board of Directors*

Message from Pastor Ruth (continued from page 1)

I want you to know that from the perspective of your Session, Board of Deacons, and your staff, your safety and well-being are our first concern as we plan for the future. Frankly, we are still in a wait and see mode, as Indiana phases in its opening of businesses, restaurants and other venues that are re-opening to in person gatherings. Since more than 50% of our parishioners are over the age of 65, it is imperative that when we do gather again in person, that we do it safely and with the most vulnerable among us taken into account. And we want to protect our neighbors as well, because that is a tenant of our faith.

So as this newsletter goes to print, your Session has decided that we will not meet in person for worship any earlier than the 1st week of August. That gives us time to see how the re-opening around the state and city affects our residents, and it gives us time to plan and implement safety measures for when we gather

again in the building. A re-opening task force has been established by the session and they are gathering information from the state, the CDC, the PCUSA and other official entities to plan for our safe return to worship and other gatherings. More detailed information will be available in the July newsletter.

Also in this newsletter is information about the Smock Deacon's Assistance Fund, how you can apply for assistance and how you can contribute to the fund if you are able.

Thank you for your continued support of Northminster's ministries, our worship and our staff. I am personally grateful for your messages of encouragement to me.

You are all in my prayers as we continue to discover new ways to be the church in these challenging times.

Ruth

75th Anniversary Celebration Revised Schedule

The 75th Anniversary Celebration Committee is changing the date of our all church 75th Anniversary Celebration! The original date was to be June 28th, 2020. Since these are uncertain times and for the safety of our congregation, the event has been changed to May 16th, 2021. It will now be a 75th + 1 Anniversary Celebration!!

We plan to have brunch and family activities. The celebration will follow a 10:00AM worship service at Northminster. We will be Embracing our Past with Don Durrett leading worship on April 18th, 2021. On

the following Sunday, April 25th, 2021, we will be Embracing our Future. We will hear from three of our members on their hopes and visions for the future of our church.

Be sure to send your favorite Northminster memories to John Purcell: john.purcell@faegredrinker.com, Sally Gray: sallygray1949@gmail.com or Barb Stayton at barbarajstayton@gmail.com.

Please update your calendar and join us as we celebrate the continuing life of our beloved church!

Smock Emergency Assistance Fund

What is the Smock Emergency Assistance Fund? Thanks to the generosity of Frank and Laura Smock, the PCUSA Smock Church Deacon Funds established grants for PCUSA churches in the State of Indiana to assist their Presbyterian church members who require emergency assistance as a result of the COVID-19 crisis in the areas such as: medical, utilities, rent, etc.

The NPC Deacons will administer this assistance fund. A committee has been established to review and select submissions. Applications will be assigned a number and reviewed anonymously to ensure the privacy of individual families as well as the equity and fairness of the distribution of funds. Understand, this a one-time gift, to support you at this difficult time.

First round of applications deadline is June 30, 2020.

If funds remain after the first distribution, another application due date will be set. Apply online at <https://bit.ly/SmockEmergencyForm> or contact Aimee Rust-Scheuermann at 317-619-2692 if you require a paper-based application.

How can you help? If you are able, consider sharing some of the CARES stimulus check you received from the US Treasury by making a gift to the Deacon Assistance Fund for COVID-19 relief. Some of us desperately need those funds, but others of us are still working and have even reduced our spending and may be able to help our congregant members in this crisis. Can you Share Your CARES? If so, send the gift to NPC and write "Deacon Assistance Fund" on the memo line. Thank you!



Vacation Bible School 2020

Bible School is not canceled! We will be having a **Staycation** Bible School this summer. Watch for more information in the future. - *Melissa Hopkins, Interim Christian Education Director*

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Northminster Online - How We Are Staying Connected

It's not the same as meeting in person, but we are learning how to connect, even online! The Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast group recently began meeting again online (an option open to any church group using one of NPC's *Go To Meeting* accounts).

While working through a few technical challenges each meeting, the men have been able to see, speak to, and support each other while performing their most important task: praying together.

While we look forward to gathering together in-person in the future, these virtual meetings have allowed us to welcome back and add in some new members who were not able to attend in person - a silver lining to this overcast time. Thanks be to God!



(If you need help setting up a Northminster group virtual meeting, call the church at 317-251-9489.)