



**Proclaiming God's Grace,  
Creating Community,  
Serving our Neighbors**

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# Northminster News

Volume LVI, No. 3

March 4, 2015

## *Letter from the Pastor*

Dear Northminster Family :

We are on our way to Jerusalem. This is the refrain from a children's story that I used to teach during the time of Lent. We are on our way to Jerusalem. Who will show us the way? Jesus shows us the way.

I haven't told that story for a while, but those words continue to frame my perspective during Lent. Lent can feel endless - but this reminds me that it does have an arrival point. There is a destination. The surprise is that it is the wonder and chaos of Jerusalem. **I find it captivating that a 6 week exercise in spiritual practice ends in the diverse and heavily populated context of a city.** Perhaps Lent is preparing us to enter the gates. The work of Lent brings us closer to our call to be in the city - with all of its diversity, complexity, and surprise.

Lent can take us down the dark roads of grief and remembrance. It can call us to attend to the little ways that God has spoken to us in those places. But yet, still in Lent, we are on our WAY somewhere. We do not do this work in vain. We, too, have an arrival. In the city.

**I am especially thankful to those this month that have contributed to the newsletter.** Jen Oxley and Leslie Duke have shared ways that they have noticed God's presence in their life during Lent. Little stories of attentiveness. But they all add up to something big. Others have shared points of contact with the community and other opportunities in our church. These are the little things that we attend to with faithfulness. And they all add up.

To what, we don't yet know. But let us continue on in this way - and let us see how it leads us deeper and deeper into the city.

I hope that Lent takes us not just into the joy of Easter, but to a commitment to the deep love of the world BECAUSE of Easter. In our spiritual practices, perhaps we may start to see the beginnings of where those conversations can happen, as we discover our own roads into the city.

This is not an endless journey. We have an arrival. It's in the city. Jesus will show us the way.

Warmly,

*Dani*

**News Editor**

Stacy Kern

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“look for us on facebook!”

## READING GROUP

After some fits and starts, we have settled on a new meeting time -- the second Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. This gives us a chance to talk about the book and then move on to dinner and bible study.

Our March 11th meeting with cover Alan Paton's Cry, the Beloved County published

in 1948. It is a moving story about a Zulu pastor and his son, set against the background of South Africa and racial injustice. What changes have there been since 1948?

Hope you can join us. Copies of the book are in the cupboard outside the office door.

By Signa Treat

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS: GOD'S WORK IN MY LIFE

Leslie Duke

When Dani asked me to write a few words about how God has been at work in my life, it seemed like the perfect question for me. Since early November Michael and I have both been faced with a number of challenges...some big and some small. And throughout each of these challenges God has been with us. I have seen Him and heard His voice in the kind phone calls, offerings of prayer support, meals, and someone to come and sit with Michael while I went about shopping and other

errands. Our friends have brought books to lighten our spirits and flowers to brighten our home...our pastors have visited and brought us communion and comforting words of prayer. As the weeks progressed and Michael began to recover, there were some setbacks...and again God was with us in the faces of our family, friends and our wonderful church community at Northminster. In spite of the stress and fear that has accompanied our lives these last months, I have felt God's calming presence, always sure of His love and care.

**Jen Oxley**

*One of the things I love most about being part of a church family is the actual families who participate. It warms my heart to be invited into real-life families as well as fellowship with our Christian brothers and sisters. But, like many of us in Seattle, I'm a transplant from another state, which often leaves me feeling rootless and missing my own relatives.*

*Recently, my Dad traveled from Ohio for a weeklong visit. In addition to making new memories, reminiscing over old ones, and laughing over inside family jokes, we also gathered in the kitchen to try and recreate some of my grandmother's favorite recipes, which to my knowledge, she never wrote down. Spending a week with my Dad did so much to restore me, and I do thank God for that!*

*But it doesn't end there. My Dad was able to join us for Sunday morning worship before he left to return home. At coffee hour, he chatted with many of you and turned up a few small-world connections. In particular, one church member spent part of her childhood in a town neighboring the small town that my Dad's maternal family called home, and another member's husband went to the same small college in Ohio as my Dad, both frequenting a locally-famous small café years apart. Now I have tangible connections between my personal roots in Ohio and my church family here in Seattle! God is good.*

## Thank you notes

**A belated thank you *Kim Owens* for all your hard work at our church. We appreciate the many many times you vacuumed, mopped and moved furniture during your years as our custodian. Having you so close by at the manse also helped those of us who forgot our keys. Thanks for**

**keeping us nicely put together!**

**Thank you to *Sheila Striegl* for our pretty flowers and shrubbery most weeks. It's always a treat to see what you've discovered in various people's yards each week.**

**MARCH 2015**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 am Worship Service	2 Noon AA meeting	3 Noon AA meeting  6 pm Knitting & Crochet group	4 Noon AA meeting	5 Noon AA meeting  7:30 pm Choir Practice	6 Noon AA meeting	7
8 10:30 am Worship Service & kids SS service	9 Noon AA meeting	10 Noon AA meeting	11 Noon AA meeting 5:30 pm Book Cl. 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Bible Study 7 pm Deacons	12 Noon AA meeting  7:30 pm Choir Practice	13 Noon AA meeting	14
15 10:30 am Worship Service & kids SS service 12:15 pm Youth Group	16 Noon AA meeting	17 Noon AA meeting  6 pm Knitting & Crochet group	18 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Bible Study	19 Noon AA meeting  7:30 pm Choir Practice	20 Noon AA meeting	21
22 10:30 am Worship Service & kids SS service	23 Noon AA meeting	24 Noon AA meeting  7 pm Session Meeting	25 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Bible Study	26 Noon AA meeting  7:30 pm Choir Practice	27 Noon AA meeting	28

**FROM THE BOOKSHELF**

*Pius XII has an unfortunate reputation. Pope during World War II, he became known as "Hitler's Pope" for his supposed inaction during the Holocaust. The Pope's*

*Jews recounts the true story of a secret network he established to hide and save Jews from the Nazi's. This is a good read for history buffs and mystery lovers.*

*By Elaine Boehmer*

**LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MARCH**

March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29 ?
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Isaiah 50:4-9a
<i>Psalm 22:23-31</i>	<i>Psalm 19</i>	<i>Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22</i>	<i>Psalm 119:9-16</i>	<i>Psalm 31:9-16</i>
Romans 4:13-25	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 8:31-38	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 13:20-33	Mark 14:1-15:47 ??

***Moving Members***

These 2 moved recently.

Dean Hardy @ Ballard Manor  
1710 NW 57th St #310  
Seattle, WA 98107

Wynona Morrison  
Anderson Plaza  
17201 15th NE Box 242  
Shoreline, WA 98155

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