



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

Pastor

Rev. Dani Forbess

Choir Director

Kathryn Smith Derksen

Organist

Eric Johnson

Board of Elders

Keith Hammer

Nancy Ingle

Bronwen Matthews

Antonio Rufin—Clerk of
Session

David Rufin

Liz Tennant

Signa Treat

Ann Wightman

Trisha Wirta

Ben Woldseth

Board of Deacons

Vera Crooks

Polly Etling

Dana Hammer

Lisa Horowitz

Sylvia King

Georgia Kurtz

Stan Linder

Kim Owens

Jen Oxley

Jeremy Rice

Katy Suchland

Dawn Thornhill

David Voyles, Moderator

Michelle Watters

News Editor

Stacy Kern

Northminster News

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May 2015

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family -

We are now halfway through the season of Eastertide and May 24th will bring the celebration of Pentecost. During the season of Eastertide, the disciples are becoming aware slowly but surely that they are encountering Jesus in new ways. Then Pentecost will surprise them again. Just when they finally say good-bye on the mountain of Ascension, they will experience a whirlwind of new life with the wind and fire of Pentecost.

That is so often the rhythm of the Christian life. We see God. We follow God. And then suddenly, something changes. Perhaps we don't lose our way, but we need new words and new ways to express the difference. Perhaps we even do get a little lost, waiting for God to find us again. And then when God does, it's new. It's different. It's good. Like Lucy in the Chronicles of Narnia when she finally sees Aslan again.

"Aslan" said Lucy "you're bigger".

"That is because you are older, little one" answered he.

"Not because you are?"

"I am not. But every year you grow, you will find me bigger."

Prince Caspian

This is a little bit of what it was like to feel the winds of Pentecost. Not that God changes, but that time brings changes for us. And with that, God can seem bigger, more exuberant, and surprisingly powerful. On Pentecost, the church experienced God with a renewed passion for the world. They found that God did not want to take them out of the world, but the wind of God was actually pushing them deeper into the world.

That same wind is still blowing here at Northminster, and leading us into known places in new ways. As we nominate new officers for Northminster, we are calling people into the ministry and mission of the church. We are giving them permission to stir us up, to lead us, and to help us forge the way into the life of being a current disciple of Jesus.

The same wind is blowing and bringing new meetings. We have some special new items upcoming this month—be sure not to miss them. John Skans of Crown Hill Methodist is going to join us for a Sunday morning to talk about what it is like to cultivate hospitality. We'll also have a few SERMON RE-MIX hours. This is a chance to bring a friend and ask questions about something that you heard in the sermon.

The wind is blowing and bringing new people. We have two upcoming introductions this month! Rev. Dr. Lars Rood will be our visiting pastor on May 17th. And our locally based Neuroscientist, Dr. Saskia deVries will lead us in a time where we explore the connection between faith and neuroscience.

So, as we embrace Pentecost this month of May, let us wait for the wind to come and see where it pushes us.

Very Warmly,

Pastor Dani

Delicious Easter Breakfast!

Once again, our fabulous kids and their parents and youth leaders prepared a delicious Easter Breakfast to benefit children and youth programs at NPC.

A huge thanks to **Ally Pexa** and her lovely, hard-working SPU housemates, **Katie Thomas and Abby**



Larreau. They cut up all the fruit and made all of the pancakes in addition to providing expert leadership and ideas for the kids.

Thanks also to all of the kids who helped out: **Seth Forbess, Ellie Knapp, Abbie Knapp, Timo Forbess, Andy Voyles, Nicola Forbess, and Camille Peterson**.

They set and decorated the tables, made the artwork, and served the breakfast. They also helped clean up.

And another huge thanks to all you parents: **Katherine Voyles, Julia Miller, Dorrie Guy, Ben Peterson, Rachel Van Noord, and Dani and Doug Forbess**. We very much appreciate the lessons in hospitality and service that you are providing for our children! Trisha Wirta

WORD IN COMMUNITY

Did you know that Scripture is a gift to build community? Want to talk more about it? Have some ideas that feel “different” to you and you want some space to think it out? Come to the **SERMON Re-MIX!** Bring your questions and your friends!! Two times and locations this month:

May 10th 9-10am: in the Fellowship Hall

May 27th 7:00pm **BALLARD TOUR:** Maritime Pacific Brewing Company and Jolly Roger Taproom. All are welcome!

NEW NORTHMINSTER FRIENDS

On May 17th, we'll have a chance to hear from one of our new Northminster friends, Rev. Dr. Lars Rood. Lars grew up on Whidbey Island and attended Seattle Pacific University. The last 20 Years he has been blessed to pastor in some amazing churches like Bel Air Presbyterian, Highland Park Presbyterian and Bellevue Presbyterian. Along the way God has shaped, molded and refined him in ways he never imagined. Lars and his family live in Redmond, WA. This year he has felt the LORD calling him to a new season of ministry outside the walls of the local church and is enjoying that path. He does however love the local church, teaching, preaching and being in community. It is a blessing to be given an opportunity to do that here.

Alignment Team formed to Support Our New Pastor

The Alignment Committee was formed to ensure that the new pastor and staff are bringing alignment between the congregation and the Vision and Mission Statement of 2014. We are serving under the Personal Committee in which Liz is chair. On Sunday 4/26 the Alignment Committee had its first meeting. Attending were **Rev. Forbess, Jen Oxley, Russ Kintrea, Liz Tenant and myself**. We opened the meeting with prayer. We met with Dani in a spirit of co-operation and collaboration - our goal is to be a sounding board. We reviewed the components of the Vision and Mission Statement, and we considered ways to better embody those ideas within the congregation. Dani said her main goal is to understand and stabilize, but she also had plenty of new ideas for service and engagement such as a summer VBS, morning-out for Parents, bringing back Adult-Ed, outings for seniors, un-packing the Sunday Sermon discussion group, and the development of deacon spiritual practices. Stay tuned!

There were many compliments from the committee on Dani's smooth transition into our congregation and our community. One of the goals of the New Pastor Hiring Committee was a pastor who would live among us and that's what Dani and her family are doing in a big way! Already, Dani is working with Loyal Heights School, the Crown Hill Cooperative Pre-school in our basement, and the BEM Board, among other neighborhood organizations. Other outreach opportunities? How do we connect with the Twenty and thirty-something age group for example? Bring us your ideas!

Another goal of our committee is to ensure that our energetic new pastor stays healthy and grows! We discussed the parts of the pastor compensation package related to this. Since our Pastor and her family are living in the Manse, right next door to our church, it's important that Dani take all the paid time off to which she is entitled and not live the job every day of the year. We also discussed opportunities for personal development and education. Dani is taking a week in October on Conflict Management Training. She is looking at other opportunities too.

We are excited to be working with Rev. Forbess and together we are hopeful that we are serving our congregation wisely as we attempt to discern God's mission for our church here in our Ballard community. Bret Wirta

What's New for NPC Kids?

Have you noticed all of the new and great things for kids at Northminster? From the moment you walk into the Narthex, they are visible! Look at the cute white activity bags hanging from the nametag boards. These were made by the kids with the help of their **wonderful teachers, Cathy Linder and Sharon Steenrod**. The kids fill their bags each Sunday with whatever they would like to do during Worship. **Szu-Yu Wu** compiled a wonderful booklet of puzzles, games, and coloring sheets for kids to work on.

If you look to the left wall inside the Narthex, you'll see a **brand new bulletin board** that shows all the fun that the little kids are having in Sunday school. They are doing arts and crafts, playing instruments, and learning Bible stories with the help of a squirrel-puppet named Skitter!

Inside the sanctuary, **Pastor Forbess** is engaging the children in hands-on experience with the Bible's stories. And **Kathryn Smith-Derksen** is teaching them songs to sing on Palm Sunday and on May 2nd.

In the Reception Room, the Deacons have helped to connect the children with projects to serve Mary's Place, with your help and contributions.

And downstairs and in the gym, our dedicated youth leader, **Ally Pexa**, is guiding our older children in learning how Bible stories speak to them and in having a lot of fun.

A huge THANK YOU to each of you for all that you're doing for our NPC kids! Trisha Wirta



Garden Corner

Thanks to Georgia Kurtz for her help with the Easter flowers. Most of the flowers in the pots found a home in our Church garden. April flowers came from the gardens of Nancy Ingle, Myla Belston, Georgia Kurtz and the church. We wel-

come flowers from members gardens and will cut and arrange them. Just call Sheila at 206.781.4192 to donate your flowers to the church! Sheila Striegl

MEET SOME OF THE NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS *MORE TO COME NEXT MONTH!***ELDERS:**

Katherine Voyles is from Washington, D.C., and grew up spending summers and school holidays in Ballard before attending the UW for undergrad. She holds a PhD in English from the University of California, Irvine and currently teaches at the University of Washington, Bothell. Serving on Session will be joyful and rewarding.

Scott has been **attending Northminster for the past sixty years**, and has been an Elder for the past twenty. He is our church Treasurer and also the Treasurer for Ballard Ecumenical Homeless Ministry. An avid baseball fan, he has been a Seattle Mariners season-ticket holder since 1985. When not attending Mariners' games, he enjoys volunteering as an umpire for local Little League Baseball and Softball games.

DEACONS:

David Voyles has been a member of Northminster Presbyterian since 2012. He is beginning his second term as a Deacon, and is thankful for this church and the deacons with whom he gets to serve.

**BOOK SALE WRAP-UP**

THE TWO SUNDAY BOOK SALES RAISED APPROXIMATELY \$300 FOR MARY'S PLACE, THE CHURCH LIBRARY AND SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS. THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL DONATIONS AND ALL THE PURCHASES.

BOOKS ARE STILL ON SALE IN THE COFFEE ROOM BOOK NOOK (BY THE REFRIGERATOR). CHECK OUT THE FREE MAGAZINE EXCHANGE AS WELL.

FUTURE BOOK SALES ARE IN THE WORKS. DETAILS TO COME. ANY HELP WITH THE BOOK SALE WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. DONATIONS OF GENTLY USED BOOKS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. FOR QUESTIONS OR PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT JAN OLSON AT 206.629.4482 OR YAKOVKAT@HOTMAIL.COM

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

SAVE THE DATE! WE'RE HAVING A CREATIVE CAMP ON THE CORNER OF 25TH AND 77TH NW FOR AGES 3 TO 5 "BEFORE KINDERGARDEN AND 6 TO 8 "EARLY ELEMENTARY" FROM AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 3RD. CAMP WILL RUN

FROM 9 AM TO 11:30 AM. THERE'LL BE: STORIES CRAFTS GYM TIME MUSIC & WORSHIP—DON'T MISS IT!



May 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Noon AA meeting	2
3 10:30 am Worship Service & kids stay in service	4 Noon AA meeting	5 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Knitting & Crochet group	6 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Bible Study	7 Noon AA meeting 7:30 pm Choir Practice	8 Noon AA meeting	9
10 10:30 am Worship Service & kids SS service	11 Noon AA meeting	12 Noon AA meeting	13 Noon AA meeting 5:30 pm Book Cl. 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Bible Study	14 Noon AA meeting 7:30 pm Choir Practice	15 Noon AA meeting	16
17 10:30 am Worship Service & kids SS service 12:15 pm Youth Group	18 Noon AA meeting	19 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Knitting & Crochet group	20 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Deacons Mtg	21 Noon AA meeting 7:30 pm Choir Practice	22 Noon AA meeting	23
24/31 10:30 am Worship Service & kids SS service	25 Noon AA meeting	26 Noon AA meeting 7 pm Session Mtg	27 Noon AA meeting 6 pm Comm Night 7 pm Bible Study	28 Noon AA meeting 7:30 pm Choir Practice	29 Noon AA meeting	30

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY

May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Acts 8:26-40	Acts 10:44-48	Acts 1:1-11	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Isaiah 6:1-8
<i>Psalm 22:25-31</i>	<i>Psalm 98</i>	<i>Psalm 1</i>	<i>Psalm 104</i>	<i>Psalm 29</i>
1 John 4:7-21	1 John 5:1-6	1 John 5:9-13	Acts 2:1-21	Romans 8:12-17
John 21:15-19	John 20:20-24	John 17:6-19	John 15:26-27	John 3:1-17

UPCOMING ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES: *May 10th 9-10 am Sermon Re-Mix* with Pastor Dani Forbess
May 31st 9-10 am Cultivating Hospitality with John Skans
June 7th and June 14th Faith and Neuroscience with Dr. Saskia deVries.

Want to **help Nepal** after the earthquake? There's many great agencies out there. One to consider is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which partners with local agencies to help. You can donate online at www.presbyterianmission.org and click on the red banner at top of the page for Nepal or you can place a donation in the offering plate designated for PDA and we'll forward it on.

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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Please notify us with corrections if needed, or if you wish to stop receiving the Northminster News.

Ways to Serve . . .

We need COFFEE HOSTS! Please sign up for a Sunday to make and serve coffee!! You'll get training and a helper!

We also need COOKIES! Questions?
Call Jen Oxlley.

READING GROUP NEWS—Meetings the 2nd Wed. @ 5:30

In May we're reading Ruth Reichl's Garlic and Sapphires. Our next book will be The Awakening by Kate Chopin. When first published in 1899, charges of sordidness and immorality seemed to damage the author's literary and social reputation. It is now widely regarded as Chopin's greatest achievement.

Chopin shows the transformation of a young wife and mother who refuses to be caged by married and domestic life. Signa Treat

