

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

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Bronwen Matthews

Antonio Rufin—Clerk of
Session

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Liz Tennant

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Northminster News

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June 2015

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family -

In June, we join up with Ordinary Time again - and I could not be more ready for it. The idea of just being ordinary and taking each day as a full gift of grace seems more than enough in a season that is so full of life. Truth be told, when we immerse ourselves back into Ordinary Time, it's usually hard to pay attention to the little ordinary things in life because we have lists as long as our arms for summer and late spring preparation. So, what a wonderful reminder to slow down and enter into just plain old ordinary time with spirits that are ready to receive from God and to follow God's lead.

At Northminster, we've chosen to see the summer as a time to experiment and to draw deeper into community. We will be meeting at various homes through out the summer for potlucks and BBQ's. We have a trip to the Mariners Game planned, a picnic at Carkeek, and a concert at the Ballard Locks just to name a few of the places where we will be joining together and celebrating ordinary time. For experimentation, we're bringing VBS into a themed Creative Camp, and we are looking forward to seeing what unfolds.

Ordinary Time helps us to release the intensities of celebrations and rituals and gives us permission to JUST BE TOGETHER. Whether we are in the building of Northminster, at the Locks, at the park, or out camping, let us make every effort to build and strengthen our community this summer. Let us simply give thanks for the long evenings of being present with one another.

When fall comes back too soon, we will find ourselves surprisingly nourished by the ordinary.

Very Warmly,
Pastor Dani

Thanks to our Wonderful Teachers and Volunteers!

A heartfelt thank you to our Sunday school teachers **Cathy Linder, Ally Pexa, and Sharon Steenrod**. Thank you for *all* of the hours that you planned great lessons and activities and then shared them with the kids on Sundays. Thank you for your commitment and creativity! The kids love you!

And thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. Without you, we wouldn't have a successful program. We had lots of volunteers helping out in many different ways this year including **Sandy Coyer, Dana Hammer, Jenny Lai, Julia Miller, Ben Peterson, Rebekah Rice, Kathryn Smith Derksen, Rachel Van Noord, Katherine Voyles, and Szuyu Huang Wu**. You are all great!

Trisha Wirta, CE Chair



Parents Night Out To Return

It's time to get the word out that we are hoping to launch Parent's Night Out in the Fall of 2015. This is a co-op model of childcare that provides parents with one night out a week and provides their children with a wonderful and reliable community to have fun with. Parents serve by taking a turn watching all the kids with a reasonable ratio of adults to children. Parents Night Out can be a **win-win for the entire family**. It's good for parents and the kids have a wonderful Saturday night with friends.

Share the possibility with a minimum of 7 families to register in the fall. We will hold registrations, and then we'll start!!



friends. We will need a minister in order to launch in the fall. Questions? Contact Dani.

My Return to Sri Lanka

In 1981 I was sent as an education missionary to Sri Lanka for the United Church Board for World Ministries. I continued in this work until 1998. I returned this year for a grand visit with former students, colleagues and friends. I went to the 190th anniversary celebration of Uduvil Girls College, where I had helped with music. I had a bad fall and hurt my knee, but still managed to have a good time. I stayed with a new friend who I'd met in Seattle. Jaffna was much changed since I'd left a ruined city in 1998. Now it's busy and jammed with vehicles and stray dogs and quite hazardous. There's a rail line now to the Bay of Bengal and air-conditioned train service to Colombo. We dedicated a small new school in the Vanni, the scrub jungle area south of the Jaffna Peninsula and crossed a new bridge over the lagoon. A Dutch fort long occupied by the army is now accessible by tourists. Side trips included a long drive to beautiful Batticaloa on the southeast coast and a reunion with old friends in Kandy, the big city of the tea country.

I had a lovely fish lunch on the beach opposite my hotel the last few days in Colombo. I lost my wallet, but while I was contacting the bank to report it lost 3 young burly guys, local police, knocked on my door and returned it! More significantly, I had a good visit with my former student Vasuki Rajasingam and her father, the Vice Principal of Jaffna College during my first years. Vasuki gave me the beautiful program for the 25th anniversary of the death of her sister Dr. Rajani Thiranagama. I had been there in 1989 when Dr. Rajani was killed by the Tamil Tigers for her work on human rights abuses.

Also in Colombo, I was able to obtain some accounts of events that transpired while I was stationed there. It was a tumultuous time with the ongoing violence between the Tamil Tigers, the government and the Indian Peacekeeping Force. They filled in many of the facts of the situation I had not known at the time. One particularly interesting book, [Palmyra Fallen: From Rajani to War's End](#) by Rajan Hoole, is available on Amazon.com and is an up to date account of the destruction of the Tamil Tigers in early 2009.



Bob Porter

Garden Corner

Thanks to all those who have contributed flowers: Signa Treat, Steven Sill, Georgia Kurtz, Helen Pheasant and Elsie Wassenaar. You help to keep our sanctuary beautiful. It looks like it is going to be a very dry summer. If you live near the church and might be available to turn on the soaker hoses from time to time let me know. Thanks, Sheila

MEET SOME OF THE NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS

ELDERS:

Becky Rufin: Becky has attended Northminster for several years. She sings in the choir and composes music. Many will remember that she put music to a poem by our previous pastor, Dennis Hughes, for his retirement service. She has three sons including David who attends UW.

DEACONS:

Sheila Striegl: This is not my first term as a Deacon so most people know all there is to know about me. I joined the church in 2006 after moving from Fairfax, Virginia and settling in Ballard. I have three children and six grand children. My contribution to Northminster has been, along with Signa Treat, the planting and care of the church gardens. Not only do I get much pleasure from this but we end up with flowers for the

sanctuary.

In my past life I worked for a mortgage broker, sold real estate, ran a Cadet Scout troop of 60 girls and was an active member of my former church.

Jennifer Jensen: Everyone knows Jennifer for her beautiful voice as a soloist and in Choir. She frequently shares her vocal gifts with us on Sundays and sings in the Northwest Chorale. She's traveled in the US and Europe in choirs as well. She's been a part of Northminster all her life, including many years as Clerk. While she's served as an elder, this is her 1st time as a Deacon.

Sandy Coyer: I've attended Northminster for 4 years and lived in Seattle for 7. I moved here from Denver, CO after retiring from teaching Kindergarten. I love to read and to hike.

SUMMER FUN

ACTIVITIES THERE'S LOTS OF FUN AND COMMUNITY TIME SCHEDULED FOR THIS SUMMER! WE'LL HAVE OUTINGS TO DUNN GARDENS, THE MARINERS AND THE LOCKS. WE'LL HAVE BBQS AT PEOPLE'S HOUSES AND A PICNIC AT CARREEK PARK YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS. WE'RE GOING TO FLY KITES. WE'VE PLANNED SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE. WE'LL SOON POST A SCHEDULE IN BROCHURES YOU CAN PICK UP AND SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.

MUSIC: IT'S TIME TO PLAN SUMMER MUSIC AT NORTHMINSTER! AS ALWAYS, WE WILL HAVE A COUPLE PICK-UP CHOIRS THAT ANYONE IS WELCOME TO JOIN. BUT WE ALSO NEED SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE REST OF THE SUMMER. DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN YOU WANT TO SING WITH A

COUPLE OF FRIENDS? A FLUTE-PLAYING COUSIN COMING TO VISIT THAT COULD SHARE THEIR TALENTS WITH THE CONGREGATION? MAYBE YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO PUT SOMETHING FUN TOGETHER? WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! ALSO, OUR ORGANIST ERIC WILL SHARE HIS SHEET MUSIC LIBRARY FOR SOLOISTS AND SMALL GROUPS - FEEL FREE TO ASK HIM FOR IDEAS. KATHRYN IS COORDINATING THE SCHEDULE - PLEASE CONTACT HER AT SMITHDERKSEN@GMAIL.COM OR [206-271-5245](tel:206-271-5245).



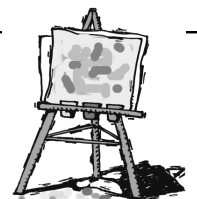
THIS YEAR, THE SUMMER PICK-UP CHOIRS WILL BE THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH: JULY 5 AND AUGUST 2. PLEASE JOIN OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR, KATHRYN, AS WE PREPARE A COUPLE PIECES FOR THE SERVICE, STARTING AT 9:30 AM. NO ROBES, NO EXTRA REHEARSALS, NO CHOIR EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. JUST THE FUN OF JOINING OTHERS IN SONG!

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 Kindergarten" and 6 to 8 "early elementary" from

August 31 to September 4th. Camp will run from 9 am to 11:30 am.

There'll be: Stories, Crafts, Gym time, Music & Worship—don't miss it!



June 2015

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

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN JUNE

June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
1 Samuel 8:4-11	1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	1 Samuel 17:32-49	2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27
<i>Psalm 138</i>	<i>Psalm 20</i>	<i>Psalm 9:9-20</i>	<i>Psalm 130</i>
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	2 Corinthians 5:6-10	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 3:20-35	Mark 4:26-34	Mark 4:35-41	Mark 5:21-43

Graduates!!! *Liam and Garrett Kern* graduate this year from Ballard High School. Be sure to congratulate Fred Kern on his grandkids graduation success!

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 Oxlgy.

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

In June we're reading The Awakening by Kate Chopin. Our next book will be The Painter, by Peter Heller. This book was the Seattle Reads book this year. It's about a man facing the consequences of his actions both internally and externally. It's a "masterful novel in which love (parental and romantic), artistic vision, guilt, grief, and spine-chilling danger propel a suspenseful plot." Publishers Weekly. Signa Treat

