

Northminster News

Volume LIV, No. 5

May, 2013

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

"The Music of our Lives"

I was interested to read in the New York Times yesterday [4/21/13] the essay by Stanford University anthropology professor T. M. Luhrmann called "The Benefits of Church." Prof. Luhrmann recently published a book, *When God Talks Back: Understanding the American Evangelical Relationship with God*, which I had seen reviewed and planned to read because of his intriguing findings, which I see as relevant whether we style ourselves "evangelical" or "mainline" or simply Christian. He has discovered numerous scientifically measurable health benefits that we receive from regular participation in worship and congregational life, including a boost to the immune system, lowered blood pressure, reduced stress, and greater longevity. He attributes this, in large part, to this: "Any faith demands that you experience the world as more than just what is material and observable . . . To know God in an evangelical church, you must experience what can only be imagined as real, and you must also experience it as good." Then he goes on to say that he believes this is a skill that can be learned. "We call it absorption: The capacity to be caught up in your imagination in a way that you enjoy." He says, "Increasingly, other studies bear out this observation that the capacity to imagine a loving God vividly leads to better health."

And that leads me to speak of the new hymnal that our Session had decided to place in the middle of our worship life. I firmly believe singing hymns, psalms, and songs of praise is the most vivid shared

religious experience we have, the place where our imagination is fed with images, words, and music that work together to convey to us the joyful experience of the loving God we worship. It is really the only place where most of us sing in public, in a community, bringing our whole body into it as our eyes read and our lungs fill and our throats and mouths sing and our ears hear the music and voices joined with our own. There are things that cannot be expressed in words alone, ideas that cannot be expressed in print or speech alone, images that are better sung than painted, reverberations that course through our resonant bodies to carry us into territories otherwise uncharted. While I haven't read the book yet, I can only hope Prof. Luhrmann paid attention to this phenomenon, but whether he did or not, we know it to be true.

Finally, I would go so far as to say that hymnals are the primary source of theological education for most Christians. In a very real sense, we are what we sing. We have the opportunity to minister to ourselves and to coming generations through the gift of a hymnal, or two or three, to Northminster. I invite everyone to join me in helping to provide the new Presbyterian hymnals in memory of loved ones or as a simple gift to the church.

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

Pastor

Dennis J. Hughes

Christian Ed. Director

Elyse Fairweather

Choir Director

Kathryn Smith Derksen

Organist

Ah-Ra Yoo

Board of Elders

Nancy Ingle

Jennifer Jensen Juncker

Bronwen Matthews

Scott Monrad

Jen Oxley

Antonio Rufin

David Rufin

Rodney Schmidt

Liz Tennant

Ben Woldseth

Clerk of Session :

Jennifer Jensen Juncker

Board of Deacons

Carol Charles

Sandy Coyer

Vera Crooks

Polly Etling

Dana Hammer - Moderator

Russ Kintrea

Georgia Kurtz

Jeremy Rice

Beth Schmidt

Katy Suchland

Signa Treat

Rachel Van Noord

David Voyles

Northminster Presbyterian Church ■ 7706 25th Ave. NW ■ Seattle, WA 98117 ■ 206(783-3402)

www.northminsterpres.org

News Editor

Pam Thompson

pam@northminsterpres.org—News deadline is the 20th of the

GLORY TO GOD! THE NEW PRESBYTERIAN HYMNAL

After years of hard work by the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, it is time for the next hymnal. To be published in September 2013, it will have approximately 850 hymns, psalms and spiritual songs. In a concerted effort to provide variety and diversity, as well as maintain traditional hymns, this new hymnbook will be a great asset to our musical mission as a church.

What kinds of hymns will be in it? According to promotional material, music covering all major historical and contemporary sacred genres will be included: about 35 African American/Gospel hymns, traditional hymns, older hymns that have never been published in a Presbyterian hymnal, global music from 6 continents, and more than 20 Taizé songs. And yet the book will be approximately the same size and weight of our 1990 Hymnal.

Hymnal Samplers are already available at church; just ask Kathryn if you would like a preview. Several songs

were used from it in our February Hymn sing, and it appears that many songs we liked from other supplement books have been incorporated into this new hymnal. The Early Payment Price is just \$15 for the pew edition, and there will be opportunities to make memorial or honorary gifts, as well as general contributions towards this important project. The price will jump to \$20 on June 1, so we are hoping to place our order in advance, and we will be asking people to commit to purchasing hymnals, either simply for the congregation's use, or in memory of loved ones, before that cut-off date. Watch for more information very soon on ordering one or more hymnals.

For more information about the Hymnal Project, visit www.presbyterianhymnal.org. Some new hymns and songs are demonstrated on the hymnal Web site. News and resources are also available on the blog (blog.presbyterianhymnalproject.com).

- Kathryn Smith Derksen

BREAKFAST CLUB WRAPPING UP ANOTHER SUCESSFUL YEAR



Since 2006 the youth of Northminster Presbyterian Church have met at NPC at 8am on Sunday mornings during the school year. This year a new team of hard-working kids have joined "The Breakfast Club." Delaney, Karina, Ellie and Abbie have donned aprons, set out recipes, gathered ingredients and cooked! Over catching up on current events, school, and pop culture and prayer, these kids have prepared a delicious and (mostly) healthy meal that's served at Adult Education. But why did they do this? Why are they eager to get up so early on a Sunday morning and cook? Because they want to make a difference!

Because of your generous donations from the free-will breakfast offering, The Breakfast Club has been able to partner with Kiva, a micro-lending program. Through Kiva, we've loaned to 20 individuals around the world! From helping fund better homes, to start-up companies, to education, these kids through your donations are truly making a difference! Over the last two years alone, loans from The Breakfast Club have gone out to Albania, Bolivia, Jordan, Kenya, Mongolia, Palestine, Peru, the Philippines, Uganda, and Ukraine.

We've loaned to help farmers buy seed, grocery store owners stock shelves, herders acquire goats and seamstresses purchase cloth. We've seen 100% payback on the loans we've made in the past. Wait to you hear what our new borrowers are doing with their capital! We'll keep you posted on our NPC Facebook.

Our last breakfast for the season will be on May 19th. As we end another year, it is important to reflect on the blessing it has been to grow closer as a community, to serve those around us, and to help those we have never even met! Finally, the Breakfast Club wishes to thank all its supporters, from our families, to our volunteers, to those in Adult Education! It has been a great year and we have been blessed by each of you.

- Elyse Fairweather, Michelle Euster and Bret Wirta

FROM YOUR CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE

As I'm sure many of you have heard already, the Celebrations Committee is planning to put together a church-wide scrapbook in honor of Dennis' retirement later this year. We're hoping to have pictures from Dennis and Ann's time at Northminster, as well as favorite recipes, Bible quotes, childrens' drawings, and whatever else we can turn up for inclusion in this. It's meant to be a multi-faceted memento of many years spent together as a community, and with Dennis at the helm.

Over the next weeks, please be thinking of any items you might have that would be good to include in a scrapbook. It could be anything that relates to Northminster, from Sunday morning breakfast to special holiday memories, from church retreats to volunteering at the BEM. We'd especially love photos!

Also as part of this, we're hoping to include personal writings -- stories, memories, maybe even poems -- written by YOU! It doesn't have to be anything fancy, just a few lines or a few paragraphs to share a favorite memory, or a funny story, or whatever it is that you think of when you think of Northminster Presbyterian and/or Dennis Hughes. And, coincidentally, our current adult ed program on Sunday mornings is focusing on writing! If you'd like to explore writing, especially as it relates to faith, in more depth be sure to attend those sessions, too.

If you'd like to contribute something in this format and would like a little help getting started, we've gathered a few writing prompts to get those creative juices flowing. Many writers will settle down with pen and paper, or a

keyboard, and a good old-fashioned kitchen timer and simply free-write on the topic for a set amount of time -- usually five minutes, or 10. Don't worry about it being polished and ready to go from this timed writing -- you can always edit it or rewrite it later; this is just an exercise to get you started. Here are a few of those prompts to get you thinking!

What I'll miss most about Dennis is ... / What I'll miss most about Ann is ...

Think about what first drew you to Northminster and imagine telling that to a friend from another church.

Presbyterians like to laugh. Tell us about the funniest thing that ever happened in church.

What is it that really makes a church a home?

My favorite sermon I ever heard Dennis give was when he preached about ...

My church family is important to me because ...

My favorite memory from my time at Northminster is ...

Let's face it, sometimes it's all about the food. What sticks most in your mind from the many meals we've shared together at Northminster?

Because of time needed to compile the book and get it printed, we are asking for all materials to be turned into us by the end of June. You can give any items to Bret Wirta or Jen Oxley. Thanks so much, and have fun with it! This should be a good trip down memory lane.

- Jen Oxley

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

While I recovered from my surgery in April we did not lack for flowers.

They were provided by: Bonnie and Rufus Orr, May Ekemo, Carol Charles and Polly Etling.



Do you want to provide flowers one Sunday? Just sign up on the clipboard in the narthex. If you would like the flowers to be delivered to a shut-in after the service, please mark a "D" afterwards. Thank you,
- Sheila Striegl

HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY

Please join us on Wednesday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m. for the LAST Horizons Bible study that Dennis will lead at Northminster. After the study, we will share a salad luncheon. You won't want to miss this springtime event!

NORTHSTAR POTLUCK LUNCH

On May 17th at 12:00 p.m., NorthStar will have a potluck lunch in the Reception Room. Please bring a main dish, salad or dessert to share. NorthStar is a group of mature adult singles and couples that meet several times a year for fun, food and fellowship. Please join us!

THANK YOU



Dear Northminster Family,
Thank you all for your prayers and cards and kind thoughts and visits. I'm doing very well after my second hip surgery on March 18. I'm back at church and choir and driving. It's wonderful to know that I'm part of such a loving church family.
-Ann Wightman

Dear Northminster,
There are no words to express my thankfulness for all your prayers, cards and flowers. Our church communi-

ty is God's love in action and I am humbled in its presence. - Sheila Striegl

Dear Northminster,
Thanks for your patience and understanding during the time I was away on vacation. Thank you especially to Dennis, Elyse, Kim, Signa Treat and Vera Crooks for "holding down the fort" in the office during my absence. Bob and I had a wonderful and memorable trip.
Sincerely, Pam Thompson

FROM THE BOOKSHELF



New in the library: *Beyond Tolerance* by Gustav Niebuhr—subtitled “searching for interfaith understanding”, the author is advocating going beyond merely tolerating those of other faiths to joining with them in shared con-

cerns. Note: Do not skip the Introduction! It is a good summary of the main thesis. The rest is commentary.

- Elaine Boehmer, church librarian

CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS



Norma Allison [mother of Lisa Horowitz]	Wendy Ekern Bev and Eldon Engel [parents of Trisha Wirta]	Adrienne Haslet-Davis and husband, Adam Davis injured in Boston bombing	[daughter of Vivian Boller Karen Marty Mike McLain [nephew of Phyllis Kintrea Wynona Morrison	The Rev. Rick Russell [friend of Bob Porter] Maya Schlosser-Hall [daughter of Adrienne and Cory Schlosser-Hall] Gordon Stavig [father-in-law of Sylvia King's son] Sheila Striegl Joanne Thorliefson [cousin of Karen Marty] Grace Weaver Wayne Wynne.
Evelyn Bohrer	Kurt Engel [brother of Trisha Wirta]	Trish Hughes [friend of Jen Oxley]	Merle Niehaus [friend of Sheila Striegl]	
Terry Branca [friend of Sandy Coyer]	Pam Fulthorp [sister-in-law of Karen Marty]	Laurine Ingebright	Jane Olson Scott Oxley Dennis Pickell Bob Porter	
The Rev. Karen Breckenridge	Sam Gladstein [friend of the Wirta family]	Dorothy Jensen	JoAnne Reno [cousin of Jen Oxley]	
Dick Brooking	Duane Glasscock Kay Glasscock Lovell Glasscock [brother of Duane]	Betty Jespersen	Allene Robson	
Randy Burluson [correspondent of Bob Porter]	Aurelia Hansen	Mike Johnson [friend of Bret Wirta] Family and friends of Betty Kelly [neighbor of church]	Betty Jo Rogers	
Amanda Donnelly [daughter of Kevin]	Lena Harms	The family of Marjorie Kern [mother of Tim Kern] Gaye Markland		



NORTHWEST CHORALE CONCERT

On May 11, 2013 at 7:30 PM, Northminster will host the Northwest Chorale as they present their spring concert, "Ballads to Broadway: A Tapestry of 20th Century Music." In a departure from the Chorale's traditional repertoire, the concert is composed entirely of secular pieces, and includes works by such American composers as Randall Thompson, Eric Whitacre, and Samuel Barber, as well as a selection of Broadway tunes from shows such as "Les



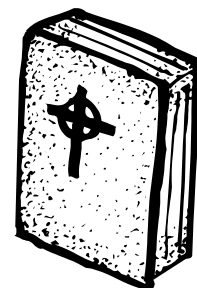
Miserables, "Rent," and "Into the Woods." Northwest Chorale is a community choir with many ties to Northminster, and we last hosted them this past Christmas. Admission to the concert is FREE, and a free-will offering will be taken to benefit Northwest Harvest. The concert will also be presented on May 18 at 7:30 at First Christian Reformed Church, 14555 25th Avenue NE in Shoreline.
Everyone is welcome to attend, invite your friends!

May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p><u>1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group • 6:00 Dennis Cooks! Supper/Community night/youth group 	<p><u>2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter • 7:30 Choir 	<p><u>3</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter 	<p><u>4</u></p>
<p><u>5</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •9:00 Breakfast club •9:15 Adult Ed. • 10:30 Worship Coffee Fellowship 	<p><u>6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group 	<p><u>7</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •1:00 Lively laughter Yoga •7:30 Building and Grounds 	<p><u>8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •11:00 Horizons Bible Study/salad luncheon prepared by Pam and Dennis! •12:00 A.A. group • 6:00 PIZZA Supper/Community night/youth group •6:45 Deacons 	<p><u>9</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter • 7:30 Choir 	<p><u>10</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 2nd Fri. reading group •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter 	<p><u>11</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:30 Northwest Chorale Concert
<p><u>12</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •9:00 Breakfast club •9:15 Adult Ed. • 10:30 Worship Coffee Fellowship 	<p><u>13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group 	<p><u>14</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •1:00 Lively laughter Yoga 	<p><u>15</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group • 6:00 Potluck Supper/Community night/youth group 	<p><u>16</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter • 7:30 Choir 	<p><u>17</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •12:00 NorthStar Potluck lunch! •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter 	<p><u>18</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00 Virginia Westberg memorial service/ reception
<p><u>19 Pentecost</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •9:00 Last Breakfast club •9:15 Adult Ed. • 10:30 Worship Coffee Fellowship 	<p><u>20</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group 	<p><u>21</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •1:00 Lively laughter Yoga 	<p><u>22</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group • 6:00 Dennis cooks! Supper/Community night/youth group This is the last community night! 	<p><u>23</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter • 7:30 Choir 	<p><u>24</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter 	<p><u>25</u></p>
<p><u>26 Trinity Sunday</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 Worship Coffee Fellowship 	<p><u>27</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group • all day office closed for Memorial Day 	<p><u>28</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •1:00 Lively laughter Yoga • 7:00 Session 	<p><u>29</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group 	<p><u>30</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •12:00 A.A. group •5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry Shelter • 7:30 Choir 		

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN MAY

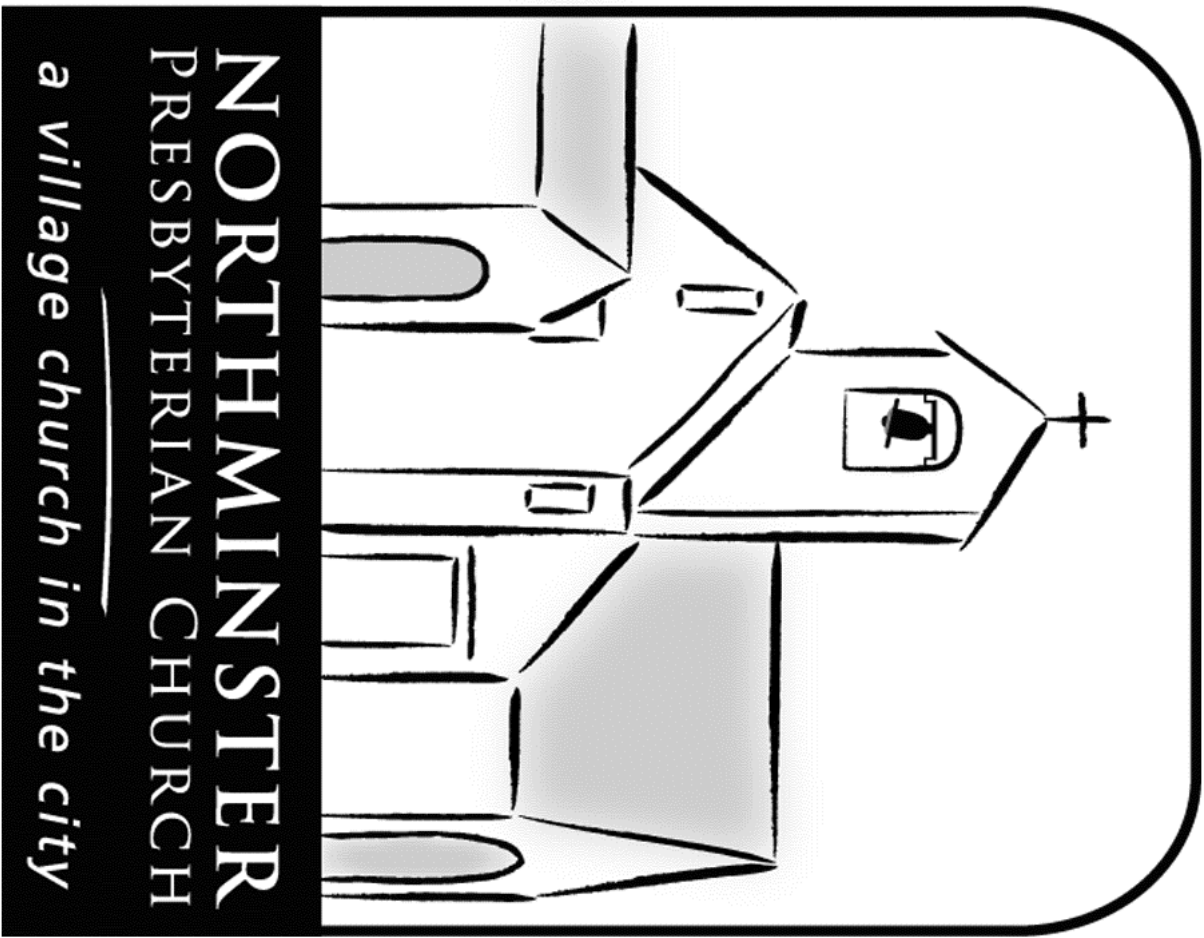
May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Acts 16:9-15	Acts 16:16-34	Acts 2:1-21	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
<i>Psalm 67</i>	Psalm 97	Psalm 104:24-34	Psalm 8
Revelation 21:10, 21:22-22:5	Revelation 22:12-14	Romans 8:14-17	Romans 5:1-5
John 14:23-29	John 17:20-26	John 14:8-17	John 16:11-15



2ND FRIDAY READING GROUP

Please come to our discussion of *When the Emperor was Divine* by Julie Otsuka at 10:30 on May 10th. Our book for June will be a classic—*The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins. This book is considered to be the first detective

novel written in the English language and was written in the 19th century. You will be able to pick up the next book at the book discussion or from the book group mailbox.
- Signa Treat



NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

a village church in the city

7706 25th Avenue NW

Seattle WA 98117

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID