



Northminster News

Volume XLXI, No. 3

March, 2010

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

Pastor

Dennis J. Hughes

C.E. Program Director

Trisha Wirta

Board of Elders

Connie Fraser

Keith Hammer

Jennifer Jensen Juncker

Tim Kern

Scott Monrad

Mark Purcell

Karen Rathe

Melanie Rice

Dawn Thornhill

Lew Witham

Clerk of Session :

Jennifer Jensen Juncker

Board of Deacons

Dana Hammer

Stacy Kern—Moderator

Russ Kintrea

Susan O'Patka

Bonnie Orr

Rufus Orr

Kim Owens

Rachel Peterson

Helen Pheasant

Barb Reinsma

Beth Schmidt

Sheila Striegl

Katy Suchland

Signa Treat

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

"The Valley of Unwilling Care"

When I was in my Ph.D. program at the University of Notre Dame, my favorite professor was Father John S. Dunne, C.S.C. Father John shepherded me through my dissertation and is one of the gentlest souls I've ever known. He used an original parable repeatedly in his "Christian Spirituality" course that went like this:

There once was a man who found himself terribly burdened by the cares of this world. He was surrounded by human need, and found it depressing, tiresome, and frustrating. He yearned to be relieved of having to live in such a miserable place, a place that he came to call "The Valley of Unwilling Care." Every day he was bombarded with images and stories of human suffering. When he didn't think he could stand it any longer he decided to go searching for God to ask why he had to live in such a miserable place where there were so many people needing care. He set out on a journey, and one day, after a long time, he heard someone say that God could be found on top of a nearby high mountain, so he left the valley and began to climb. Higher and higher he went, and the air became thin, and the journey tiring, but he persisted, so great was his need for an answer to his question. Sure enough, when he was very near the top he looked down at the path beneath his feet and saw footprints, and something deep inside told him they were made by God, so he followed them, but now with great energy as he knew he was approaching his goal. When he reached the very top of the mountain, however, the footprints were definitely clearer, but to his

great disappointment he discovered that they led downward. As he followed them he realized that they led back into the valley, but something changed within him, for now he realized God could only be found in the valley, and when at last he arrived, he knew it was, for God—and now also for himself—"The Valley of Willing Care."

On Transfiguration Sunday, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Season of Lent, Jesus was on a high mountain, and there Peter wanted to establish a permanent "retreat center," but Jesus told him that his journey had to go to Jerusalem, to the place where he would surely encounter great resistance, violence, and death. But he went willingly to care for all, even those who would crucify him; even you; even me.

In Lent, we are invited to leave the valley of unwilling care, to be sure, but not to avoid caring. We are invited instead to remember what we already know: God is only to be found here, where care is needed, in the midst of suffering humankind, and invites us to be partners in extending willing care to all God's beloved but hurting children. Ours is a journey of transformation as God works a continuing miracle in us, so that we have hearts of stone turned into flesh and we come to live joyfully, if Christ's Spirit is within us, in this "Valley of Willing Care."

With lifelong gratitude to my teacher, Father John Dunne, for living this parable,

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

www.northminsterpres.org

News Editor

Pam Thompson pam@northminsterpres.org

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

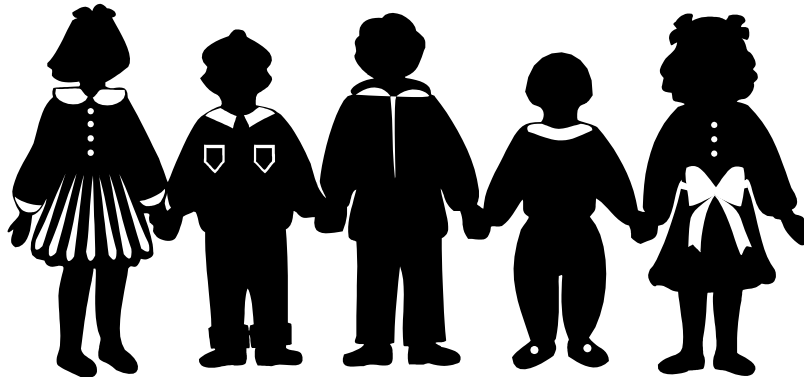
Did You Know that Worship is Good for Babies?

It's true. Baby science has shown over the last decade that many things about church are good for babies and young children. Scientists are reporting that until recently they had no idea that babies and young children could learn as early, as much, and as quickly as they do. Marketing companies are using this knowledge to brand their products to young children and to sell their parents toys, games, and videos that they claim will boost children's learning, memory, musical abilities and social interactions. According to Dawn Rundman, who holds a doctoral degree in developmental psychology, churches are in a great position to respond to this research. Rundman asks, "Where else can babies and toddlers interact with dozens of friendly people of many ages? Where else can they hear so many types of music? Where else do they see vivid colors, images, and symbols that aren't commercial brands or logos? The church is a unique place for development to happen."

Reconsider Your Baptismal Promises to the Children in Our Church

Rundman goes on to encourage us to be a child-loving church. She affirms that the most important reason for us as a congregation to respond to the birth to age-three research is because of baptism. She declares that "a congregation needs to support parents in fulfilling the

promise they make at their child's baptism. Those three splashes of water signify the beginning of a wondrous journey as a child of God." Parents and members of the congregation make a promise at baptism to love and support each child and his or her family. We are all encouraged to support our children through prayer, guidance, and involvement in their lives. How can you support each child's baptism in our church? How can you assure that each child is prayed for and taught about Jesus and shown God's love?



New Christian Education Director at Northminster

As the new Christian Education Program Director at Northminster, I will be looking

for people and resources to support our children and their parents. Soon, I will be asking many of you parents, kids and committee members to complete a needs-assessment so that we can determine how our children can be nurtured, guided, engaged in church and prayed for at Northminster. I would very much appreciate your suggestions and involvement. Please email me any suggestions at

trishaw@comcast.net or call me at 784-6703.

- Trisha Wirta, CE Program Director

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER AT COMMUNITY NIGHT!



Come and join us for supper on Wednesday, March 17th, St. Patrick's day evening, for a delicious corned beef and cabbage meal. If you would like to make Irish soda bread for the occasion, please sign up in the reception

room after church. Your chef for the evening will be our own "cooking pastor" Dennis, ably assisted by the kitchen crew. We thank Bob Colfelt for his generous donation of the corned beef for this meal. Mark your calendar so you can plan to come that night!

SERVICE FOR WHOLENESS

There will be a service for wholeness on Sunday, March 21st during worship with opportunity for prayers for healing for individuals or family/friends and anointing.

BOOK GROUP FOR MARCH

Northminster Book Group will meet March 26th at 10:30 in the Reception Room. They will be discussing *The Voyage of the Narnhal* by Andrea Barrett. You can get a copy of the book from Dick Brooking (206-784-8574). Everyone is welcome!

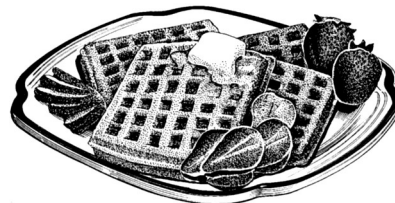
BREAKFAST COUPONS FOR BALLARD ECUMENICAL MINISTRY

One of our Easter traditions is to offer people the opportunity to dedicate funds in honor or memory of loved ones. Once again, the deacons and elders have decided to direct the funds to the purchase of \$1.00 breakfast coupons for our homeless shelter*. Each of our guests receives several coupons in the morning to use for breakfast. The names of loved ones or persons being honored in this way will be listed in a bulletin insert for the Easter Vigil and Easter Morning services. (Flowers will be in the sanctuary for the Easter Vigil and Easter Morning, but will be purchased from a different fund.)

To make a contribution, please seal your cash or check (made out to Northminster and note "breakfast coupon books" on checks) in one of the specially marked envelopes in the pew envelope rack, *fill out both the envelope*

front and the slip attached to it (we need to know how many coupon booklets you're purchasing and in whose memory of honor we should list on the insert. Envelopes may be put into the collection plate, mailed to Northminster or left in the office by Sunday, March 28th. Thank you.

**The Ballard Ecumenical Ministry (BEM) provides home-cooked meals, companionship and overnight shelter for mentally ill people who are homeless. Northminster and several area churches provide volunteers for this ministry.*



ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Ushthe title of this U gPlease plan to attend – the class features time for reflection and lots of discussion. These sessions will be less focused on things like carbon footprint and "eating local" and more on taking a look at God's creation in broader terms.

four-week session, which includes video clips from the critically acclaimed PBS series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea." The film, directed by Ken Burns, made a big splash when it first aired in the fall of 2009.

March 7: Made In the Image of God

March 14: A Covenant with Every Living Thing

Do you have ideas for further Adult Education classes? Please contact Tim Kern at 781-5078 or timksea@gmail.com.

DEACON COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Compass Center is a local organization that provides shelter, day services, and transitional and longer term housing placement for homeless men and women. We at Northminster have supported them through the Alternative Christmas Fair for many years, and our own Stacy Kern is an active Board member at the Compass Center.

During Lent, the Deacons are sponsoring a collection of hygiene items to donate to the Compass Center. All-ways needed items are travel-size shampoo, conditioner

& soap; razors and shaving cream; toothbrushes and travel-size toothpaste; feminine hygiene items; deodorant; fingernail clippers and nail files; new or gently used bath towels and washcloths; and makeup/travel bags. There will be a collection box in the Narthex through March 21 for your contributions. If you would prefer to make a cash donation, put it in a green Deacon envelope, mark it "Compass Center", and place it in the offering plate. Thanks for your help!

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Dear Northminster friends, Thank you for the cards and notes many of you sent after learning about my mother's death. Your thoughtfulness touched me deeply. I remember my Northminster years with fond gratitude and much appreciation. Thank you for your kindness, Mimi Dixon

A special thanks to the Staff and Deacons for their expert help in our preparation for and participation in a very comforting Memorial Celebration of Jean Carey's life. Also thanks to many other for your expressions of comfort , cards and contributions in her memory to the Speech, Hearing and Deafness Center.



Eidell Dennis's address is incorrect in the directory. Please change her listing in the directory to:

- Glen Carey, sons Ross, Drew and our extended families

9921 Riverside Dr. #2104, Bothell, WA 98011

FROM THE BOOKSHELF



New in the library: *Jesus Freak* by Sara Miles. This is a continuation of the author's first book, *Take This Bread*, describing her experience at a San Francisco Episcopal church and its food bank. Also, for youth, *Who Am I?* by noted author Katherine Paterson.

Be sure to check the display for books for Lent and Easter.

- Elaine Boehmer, Librarian

CONTINUING PRAYER CONCERNS

Siani Beck [daughter of Shannon Parks-Beck]
Evelyn Bohrer
Louisa Cryan [friend of Kern family]
Bernice Ekern
Jane Ekrom [mother of Stacy Kern]
Kurt Engel [brother of Trisha Wirta]
Winnie Fairlamb
Anne Ficken

Nancie Fulthorp Duane and Kay Glasscock
Carolyn Gould
Aurelia Hansen
Lena Harms
James Hughes
Laurine Ingebright,
Dorothy Jensen
Deene and Jennifer Jensen Juncker
the family of Rick Kern [son of Fred and Arlene]

Jesse King [grandson of Sylvia King]
Betty Marty
Carolyn Merritt [daughter of Ann Ringstad]
Wynona Morrison
Jane Olson
Dennis Pickell
Betty Jo Rogers
Rev. Jennifer Russell [friend and colleague of Bob Porter]

Mary Segall [mother of Will Segall]
Isabel Thompson
Sean Timmons
Marian Timo
Maas VanderBilt [father of Monty VanderBilt]
Grace Weaver
Jan Whitman [daughter-in-law of Pauline]
Lillian Wooley [friend of Pat Breckenridge]

Eric Yorlano [family friend of Sylvia King].





TRIP TO SEDRO-WOOLLEY


Motor-coach ride to Sedro-Woolley High School will be Tuesday, May 11th starting about 2:00. We'll have a coffee break (with cookies) along the way; then attend the Drama production of Final Vinyl: A Rock Invasion. After the performance we'll have dinner served by the cast and a



time to visit with the students. The cost for the entire afternoon and evening will be \$ 39.00 each. Please sign up in the Reception Room or call Janet Brooking at 206-784-8574; the "Early Birds" have the bus half full, so be sure you're on the list before it fills up completely.

MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> j 9:30 Bridge • 7:30 Building and Grounds	<u>3</u> j 6:00 Supper/Community night/MS and HS youth group	<u>4</u> j 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight • 7:30 Choir	<u>5</u> j 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> j 9:00 Breakfast club• 9:15 Adult Ed./M.S. and H.S. Sunday school • 10:30 Worship Service Coffee fellowship	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> • 9:30 Bridge	<u>10</u> j 11:00 Horizons Bible study/Holiday luncheon! j 6:00 Supper/Community night/MS and HS youth group	<u>11</u> j 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight • 7:30 Choir	<u>12</u> • 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> • 9:00 Breakfast club • 9:15 Adult Ed./M.S. and H.S. Sunday school • 10:30 Worship Service Coffee Fellowship	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> • 9:30 Bridge • 5:00 Presbytery at Newport P.C.	<u>17</u> j * . \$ \$ ' G h " Day Corned Beef Supper!/ Community night/MS and HS youth group 	<u>18</u> • 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight • 7:30 Choir	<u>19</u> • 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> • 9:00 Breakfast club • 9:15 M.S. and H.S. Sunday school j 10:30 Worship Service for wholeness Coffee fellowship Meeting of Session! lunch provided.	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> • 9:30 Bridge	<u>24</u> • 6:00 Supper/Community night/MS and HS youth group	<u>25</u> • 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight • 7:30 Choir	<u>26</u> • 5:00 Ballard Ecumenical Ministry and overnight	<u>27</u>
<u>28 Palm Sunday</u> • 9:00 Breakfast club • 9:15 M.S. and H.S. Sunday school • 10:30 Worship Coffee fellowship	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> • 9:30 Bridge	<u>31</u> No community night tonight			

March. 7	March 14	March 21	March 28	
Isaiah 55:1-9	Joshua 5:9-12	Isaiah 43:16-21	Luke 19:28-40	
Psalms 63:1-8	Psalms 32	Psalms 126	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	
1 Corinthians 10:1-13	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 2:5-11	
Luke 13:1-9	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32	John 12:1-8	Luke 22:14-23:56	