



# Northminster News

Volume LIX, No. 7

July 2018

## *Letter from the Pastor*

**Dear Northminster Family,**

The word neighborhood has perhaps never been as important as it is right now. Neighbor is an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning “near to our dwelling.” It’s a simple word about geography. Neighbors are the ones with whom we share common space. There’s nothing built into the word itself that includes the scope of the relationship. In other words, the word neighbor itself, both in the Anglo-Saxon and in the Greek, simply means near ones.

Over the last six months, we’ve had a small group at Northminster pay close attention to our neighborhood. The Strategic Planning Team, as they have been called, has been listening to those in our immediate surroundings. They have been coming together asking about needs, about hopes, about possibilities for partnership, and about ways to work together towards the common good. Through this process, they have achieved a renewed commitment to serving our neighborhood.

I hope that over the next few weeks you have a chance to talk with this team. They will be hosting a question and answer time on July 15th at 9am to help share the stories that they’ve learned. The delight of these listening sessions is that they did more than convey information. They began to build relationships, to establish trust, and to begin to create the sort of culture we want to nourish in those who are “near to us.”

The work of the Strategic Planning Team will begin to expand and develop over the coming weeks and months. We will begin talking about mission, vision, and values. We’ll start talking more about outreach, desire to communicate with others about the gospel, and the relentless pursuit of the common good. We’ll start talking about a mission that we can all feel strong about, so that we feel like we have a needed message of hope for the world. Because the truth is, we do!

Maybe you had a chance to see the joy in people’s faces as they served over the last weekend in the Rummage Sale. Did you catch the glimmer of hope, the new relationships being forged, the ways in which people were reaching out to one another? I did! And I think that was just the experience we needed to get a taste of what it is like to dive head first into serving our neighborhood. This doesn’t mean Rummage Sales every week (our team can assure you!). But it does mean working together, partnering with others, finding a common need in the world, and working to support it.

I personally want to thank those who offered so much of their time, effort, sweat, and creative skills in the execution of this Rummage Sale. I think you’ve showed us the way forward. Thank you! Over the next year, you can expect that we will be looking to find more ways to connect, serve, and offer good in our neighborhood. This is how we can share the gospel -with our actions.

It’s no mistake that Fred Rogers was a presbyterian pastor who continually offered the world one question, “won’t you be my neighbor?”

Warmly,  
Dani

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

### **Pastor**

Rev. Dani Forbess

### **Organist**

Eric Johnson

### **Christian Ed Director**

Ally Pexa

### **Music Director**

Miriam Anderson

### **Board of Elders**

Myla Belston

Lars Carlson

Saskia deVries

Tom Haff

Dana Hammer

Stacy Kern

Jan Olson

Becky Rufin

Rod Schmidt

Katherine Voyles

Ann Wightman—Clerk of  
Session

Rachel Van Noord

Trisha Wirta

### **Board of Deacons**

Caroline Alben

Delaney HAMmer

Lisa Horowitz

Nancy Ingle

Jennifer Jensen

Julia Miller

Robert Porter

Jeremy Rice

Antonio Rufin

Beth Schmidt

Sheila Striegl

Liz Tennant

Dawn Thornhill

David Voyles

Northminster Presbyterian Church • 7706 25th Ave. NW • Seattle, WA 98117 •

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[www.northminsterpres.org](http://www.northminsterpres.org)

“look for us on facebook!”

**Q & A with the NPC  
Strategic Planning  
Committee  
July 15th  
9-10am**

### **Creative Camp!!**

Join us for a two day full day camp  
full of art, stories, music, and fun!

July 23rd and 24th

9:30-4:30

More info on our website.

### **Adult Education Discussion**

July 29th, 9-10am

Join us as we continue our  
Living Micah 6:8 conversation

### **Movie at the Mural**

***The Princess Bride***

**July 28th at dusk**

**Join us at the Seattle  
Center for a family  
friendly movie. Bring a  
blanket, some snacks,  
and enjoy the show!**



### **Summer BBQs**

**One of our favorite summer traditions here at Northminster is our community summer BBQ's. All BBQs are potlucks, so bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share! Check out the July schedule below:**

**July 4th**

4pm at the Schmidt House

**July 11th**

6pm at the Carlson House

**July 15th**

6pm at the Roop-Karasch House

**July 29th**

3-7pm Open House for Ally at the  
Forbess House

## *Rummage Sale Success!!!*

*Last w weekend, Northminster's Neighborhood Rummage Sale made ~ \$4800 o be shared with Bridge Care Center Ministries in Ballard, and the NPC Youth Group! That's a fantastic yield for a 10-hour sale, considering we hadn't had one in 4 years! This year we made a concentrated effort to advertise to our neighbors that we accepted their contributions, then to come back and shop when we were open for business. That outreach brought some new people through our doors, some of whom were curious about worship and other activities of the church.*

*MANY MANY THANKS to those of you who volunteered in big and small ways, whether that was via donations of items, money and /or your time and energy! Your contributions were incredibly important to the sale's success—we couldn't have done it without you! You might have also met Pat Dow, the amazing woman who puts on the West Seattle Presbyterian Church annual rummage sale that nets ~\$30K/yr!. She devoted 3 days to our sale out of the goodness of her heart. I hope all of you will make an effort to support the West Seattle PC sale every March—It's quite impressive!*

*Please be sure to give all these folks a big pat on the back for their generosity:*

*Ally Pexa, Ben Peterson, Beverly Engel, Bob Porter, Bret Wirta, \*Bronwen Matthews, Camille Peterson, Carol Charles, \*Caroline Alben, \*Dana Hammer, Dani Forbess, \*Darian Pina, Dawn Thornhill, Delany Hammer, \*Georgia Kurtz, Fred Kern, Harold Hughes, \*Jan Olson and friends, Janelle Walhout, Jean Hughes, Jim Lady, Jonna Reeder, Karina Hammer, Keith Hammer, Kim Owens, Kim Wagoner, \*Leslie Duke, Lisa Snow Lady, Liz Tennant, Mark Roop-Karasch, Myla Belston, Nancy Ingle, Nicola Forbess, Patrick Noonan, Poe Pina, Rachel VanNoord, Sharon Steenrod, \*Sheila Striegl, Shirley McCarter, \*Signa Treat, Stacy Kern, Stan Steenrod, Tom Haff, Trisha Wirta.*

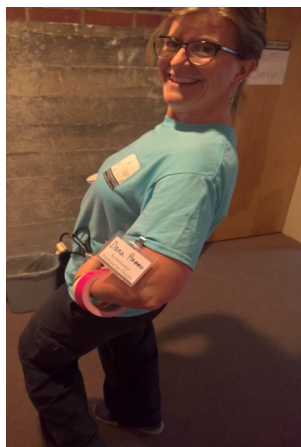
*\*indicates members of planning team.*

*The Bke Sale, Garden Sale, and Hot Dog/Snow Cone Sale were also big successes, so extra special thanks to those folks who helped out with those.*

*A few other items of note:*

*Items not sold were donated to several other organizations, including: YouthCare, Books for Prison, Hope Creek CF Ministries/ Everett YMCA, Friends of Library, DSHS Children's Programs, King County Juvenile Detention Center, Other Ballard homeless services via NPC member Janelle Walhout, MD.*

*If you loaned us a card table, you will find them in the right-side narthex coat hanging area.*



Dear Northminster Family,

Greetings to you from the other side of the world! We think of you often, wish we had more of your water, and are forever grateful for the prayers and support you regularly send our way. It's been over two years since we moved to the Cape Town area, South Africa, and a year since our visit. With another year and a half to go, we want to personally say "hello."

For those who don't know us, I (Kathryn) was the choir director at NPC for nearly six years and my husband (Dan) sang bass – which hardly describes the lovely relationships we built and the joy in music and worship we shared with this special congregation. However, we were both born in Africa, and share a call to work at the brokenness on this vast continent with the reconciling love of God. We followed that call here at the beginning of 2016 with Mennonite Mission Network, after a year of raising support at NPC and other churches. We are both Mennonite, one of the historical peace churches, and this is our third time serving as peace workers in Africa. The first was Uganda, where we lived in the north and did human rights work with the Anglican church in response to the Lord's Resistance Army, then we did another three years in Chad working with the Muslim-Christian conflicts/dialogue.

South Africa has been very different from these places, and we had a steep learning curve. In many ways, South Africa has a lot to teach the rest of the world. With its four-hundred-year history of constant immigration, amalgamation of several different cultures and languages and then the fifty-year experiment of racial segregation that was apartheid, there is a lesson for everyone on how to live together with unequal privilege in a modern economy while dealing with past harms.

Our partner is SADRA Conflict Transformation, directed by Oscar Siwali, a black South African. He has been a peace-maker for decades, and SADRA specializes in mediation training and crises intervention. We train high schoolers in Peer Mediation, community and church leaders in mediation and crises management, and are actively preparing for what will be a contentious presidential election in 2019. This young democracy, built on a ground rich with ubuntu (the spirit of forgiveness) but also strife with division and corruption, is struggling to define itself politically. The ANC, Nelson Mandela's ruling party, continues to splinter, disillusioned with how difficult it is to govern and not just rebel.

It's hard to feel like one can make a difference in this setting, but we focus on the small steps and changes. One area we work in has a high gang/crime rate and training these young people in conflict has been very rewarding. For example, at our last training in April, they described violence in their neighbourhoods. Oscar kindly asked how many had lost an immediate family member in the last two years – 8 of the 56 teenagers stood up. My heart breaks in those moments, and the chance to smile into these faces, hug their thin shoulders, praise them for working hard, and see the changes that happen in their lives over five days are an immense blessing to me. The fact that they leave invigorated with new skills to better understand and interact with their complicated lives means we are doing the right thing. The fact that they are now mediating conflicts on their campuses means there is literally less violence in their lives: amazing. I will include some more personal stories in our next update.

We write updates about every other month – you're added to an email list to receive that; I post regularly on Facebook, and you can see past updates and pictures on our blog, <http://smithderksen.blogspot.com/>. (Or google "Smith Derksen" and "blog.") Our family includes two teenage boys – John-Clair and Jacob, and we also talk about their experiences. We have a young dog, an old cat, and an outdoor bunny, and love to host visitors – just ask Nancy Ingle and Jenn Juncker! We continue to do music – I've directed several cross-community performances as my contribution to positive community building.

Please feel free to write us any time and share your news, or your questions about what we are doing and learning. We pray for you, and the US situation, regularly. Miss you; thank you.

Peace,

Kathryn, Dan, John-Clair and Jacob

**Solo Art Show at Harris Harvey Gallery**  
**Lisa Snow Lady**  
*Urban Landscape: Paintings and Collages*  
**July 5-28**

**Reception for the Artist: Thursday, June 5, 6-8pm**

“In her newest body of work, Lisa Snow Lady continues to examine the urban landscape while paying particular deference to that which Seattle may be losing in the face of such rapid development.

Themes include tranquil, expansive vistas in city parks, the increasing density of the downtown neighborhoods, and the distinctive residential neighborhoods in between. The artist sees these spaces as sacred; older homes, gardens, and ordinary sidewalk and streets where the city’s denizens have lived, worked, and played for over a hundred years. As a native Seattleite, Snow Lady is especially familiar with the impact of the recent uptick in modernization and seeks to capture and preserve some of the area’s original character in her paintings and collages. The artist’s work transcends description through a lush palette of colors, a painterly approach, and a keen understanding of light.”

### **Job Opening at the Washington National Park Fund**

Do you know any Event Planners looking for a job? The Washington's National Park Fund has an outstanding full-time employment opportunity and is seeking that “just right” enthusiastic event planner extraordinaire. We are looking for someone who is highly skilled and passionate about his/her work. If you bring a sincere sense of joy to the office environment for the work that you do, we want to meet you today. And if you have a small dose of experience with corporate giving and would like to sprinkle this into this position as you grow, we REALLY want to meet you today. Salary is around \$50,000. Contact Bret if you are interested

### **Stewardship Update**

A word about Stewardship as we look to the last half of the year. Our income currently runs behind expenses. This is to be expected at this time of year given a number of factors, including **seasonal expenses that come in the beginning of the year and the cyclical nature of giving**. Many more details and discussions will happen in Fall, a busy time of Stewardship at NPC, with announcements and numbers and pledges and lunch. Until that time, thank you for your ongoing generosity

### **LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN JUNE**

July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29
Revelation 1:1-8	Revelation 1:9-20	Revelation 2:1-11	Revelation 2:12-29	Revelation 3:1-13

## NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*a village church in the city*

7706 25th Avenue NW

Seattle WA 98117

206.783.3402

### ***RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED***

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

### ***Garden Update***

The new garden is doing well and given time and water should reward us this summer and fall. There are many people that helped to make this happen. First would be Signa Treat, who from the original concept to the daily care kept things moving. Second would be Fred Kern who helped with the planning, digging and forever keeps the hoses working. Stan Steenrod helped with creating our garden soil by digging in much compost, Patrick Noonan pruned the, Kim Waggoner helps weed, spread mulch and pots up plants or brings some from her yard, finally Steven who cleaned all the weeds between the cement in front of the church. The help of all these people made the new garden and patio happen. THANK YOU !!!!!

