

Northminster News

Volume LVIII, No. 9

September 2017

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Northminster Family,

It might feel like the end of July or the middle of August out there, but it's September! The Seattle School busses will be clogging all the traffic flow on 80th and 85th. Our Jewish friends are getting ready for the high and holiest days of Yom Kippur and Rosh Ha Shana. Here at Northminster, we are delighting in the highlights of summer and preparing for something very special that is coming in the months ahead.

This year we will have the opportunity to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We will begin talking about this in our Fall Preaching Series, which launches on September 17th, to be called "**Reformanda semper Reformata**," which means "Reformed and always Reforming." In the process of recognizing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, we can be tempted to look back and glorify the past. Efforts to simply re-play the Reformation can feel like an exercise in historicism. We learn the "what" of the Reformation without really understanding the "why." The real inspiration behind the work of the Reformers is that they were unapologetically focused not on the past but on the future. They departed from traditions not out of mere disagreement, but out of a conviction that change was necessary for the sake of spiritual nourishment and understanding.

We have much to learn from the spirit of the Reformation. The distillation of the gospel, the inclusion of the common person as herald of the word of God, the thinning out of religious clutter that became an all too practiced distraction, these are just some of the ways that the spirit of the Reformation can help chart our course forward.

Throughout the month of October, we will be building art work throughout our sanctuary that will help to illuminate some of these themes. This collaborative artwork reminds us that the Reformation diminished the idea that clergy alone were the conductors of the word of God. We will also have the opportunity to partner with Woodland Park Presbyterian Church to create a choral experience that walks through the themes of the Reformation (more on this in the newsletter). Throughout this season we continue to seek ways to cross pollinate with other communities, knowing that we understand more of God when we experience diversity.

Reformanda semper Reformata. We will be hearing this phrase again and again this season. Let us remember, above all, that it is a mandate that pushes us not deeper into the past, but out into the Future with hope!

With Love,

Dani



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

Pastor

Rev. Dani Forbess

Organist

Eric Johnston

Christian Ed Director

Ally Pexa

Choir Director

Kevin Gospel

Office Manager

Stacy Kern

Clerk of Session

Ann Wightman

Board of Elders

Myla Belston

Lars Carlson

Tom Haff

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Scott Monrad

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Ben Woldseth

News Editor

Ally Pexa

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What's Coming Up

Re-Discover, Re-claim, Re-form: The Phinney Arts and Music Series with Woodland Park Presbyterian and Northminster Presbyterian Church.

Do you love to sing in a choir? Interested in a short term commitment with some exciting pieces of music that are often too lengthy for a Sunday anthem? This could be an opportunity for you. Woodland Park and Northminster will be partnering in creating a Reformation Experience highlighting the work of Benjamin Britten and Eric Whitaker. There is even a new piece in the process of being written for this event. Rehearsals to begin on Sunday afternoon on September 17th. More information to come. Performance mid-November.

What Happened to Community Night?

Thank you for participating in the ongoing survey dealing with Community Night. The vote was very close, but Thursday Night rose to the top by a hair. We will begin Community Night on Thursday Nights starting October 5th. Dinner to be at 6pm. Adult Education 7:00-7:30pm, Choir Practice at 7:30pm. Youth Group from 7-8pm. Come one, come all! Fun for the whole family! Come for the dinner, stay for the music!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study resumes on September 13th at 10am in the Reception Room. Pastor Dani will be teaching a class called "How to Read the Bible."

Why is That Van Parked in Front of the Church?

Because we bought it! We now have Our Redeemer Lutheran's old van, and we couldn't be happier. Not only can we will pick up the guests that sleep in our homeless shelter, but we might be thinking of other good purposes for the van.

Ballard Homeless Shelter Kick Off Meal

For those that are interested in volunteering with BEM, we meet for a kick off meal on September 18th at 6:30pm. We provide the pizza and offer an orientation to what you can expect over the coming year in serving with BEM. The bulk of our volunteer work is in hosting an overnight shelter in the church. This means that we need volunteers who are willing to sleep at the church. Considering a commitment? Try signing up for a once a month overnight. With an increase in volunteers, we can all share the load.

Reflections on My Vacation in England

Peter and I recently took a walking trip with friends in the English countryside. First we visited Oxford. Then we walked 32 miles through the Cotswolds (a rural area of south central England). Finally we toured the cities of Bath and Salisbury.

During our trip we saw a Neolithic burial barrow from 3,700 BC (Belas Knap), prehistoric Stonehenge (started about 3,100 BC), and Roman baths built in 60-70 AD during the Roman occupation of Britain. We also saw churches and castles dating back to the 900 ADs, medieval churches and the ruins of abbeys that were destroyed during the dissolution of monasteries ordered by King Henry the VIII starting in 1536.

It was amazing to see such old buildings and ruins and to think about the layers of history underlying them. During the Middle Ages, the Cotswolds became prosperous from the wool trade with the continent, with much of the money made from wool directed towards the building of churches, some of which are still preserved. The wealth of the area played a role in the development of the area abbeys and in Henry VIII's desire to divert their wealth to the English crown.

It also was interesting to see churches in existence today that have survived the political and religious changes that took place around them and throughout have continued to be places of worship of worship and service. It is interesting to see some of the approaches that they are taking to meet the needs of today.

I was particularly drawn to **Bath Abbey**, which currently is an Anglican church housed in a medieval building. It was originally established as a Saxon Church and convent in 676. It evolved into a Benedictine monastery in 781. Edgar, the first King of all England was crowned in the Saxony Abbey in 973.

In 1090 the Saxon church was replaced by a Norman cathedral. Over time it fell into disrepair. The present Abbey was built in 1499. Shortly afterwards, in 1539, the Abbey was dissolved by Henry VII its riches for the crown. Later (1572-1618) it was repaired and became a parish church for Bath where it continues today.

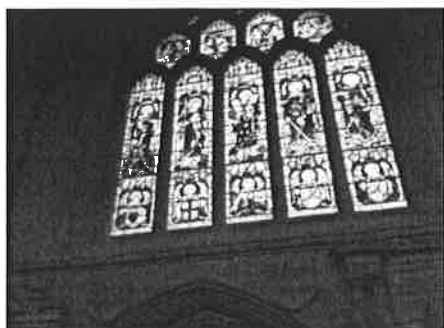
The brochure handed out to welcome visitors today says: "In the 8th century after Christ, Bath Abbey was founded as a Benedictine monastery. Its community was committed to worshiping God, Justice for the poor and hospitality to all people. The Abbey is now a parish church, still guided by the same values"

Volunteers welcome the many tourists who visit the Abbey. They provide visitors with brochures and answer their questions. One helpful brochure lists 12 things to see in the beautiful building and summarizes the Abbey's history. The brochure also emphasizes that the community is "a people and place fully alive" and offers a prayer "Loving God, as we find your welcome here, inspire us by the beauty of this holy place, that we may go on our way with faith and hope made new. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen."

The Abbey also encourages sacred reflection by offering a prayer trail, and regular services including choral evensong. It encourages people to take a copy of the prayer trail brochure, follow the trail and place a written prayer in a basket to be offered up at the next service.

I enjoyed the beauty of the building, including stone angels climbing up ladders at the front of the cathedral and stained glass windows and angels inside.

I also was impressed by the ways that Bath Abbey is engaging with the world in 2017. I will write about that next issue.



Liz Tennant

Youth and Children's Happenings

9/3 -There will be no Sunday school on this day, so children are invited to worship with their families. The balcony will have space and activities for children to play with during the worship service.

9/10- Creative Camp music in Sunday Worship. Children are invited to lead the congregation in songs from camp. Don't miss out!

Choir is Back!

The first choir practice will be on September 7th at 7:30pm. If you have any questions or are interested in being a part of the choir, contact Kevin at kevin.gospel@northminsterpres.org

Final Summer BBQ

Join us at the Hammer Household on September 7th at 6pm for our last summer BBQ. You can find their address in the directory or call the office. Please bring a side dish or dessert!

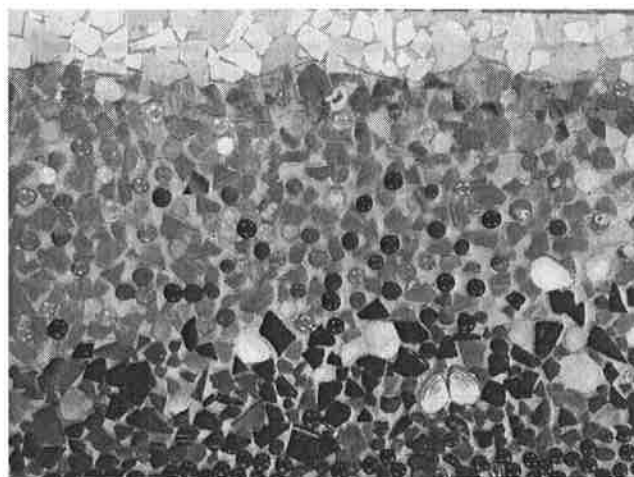
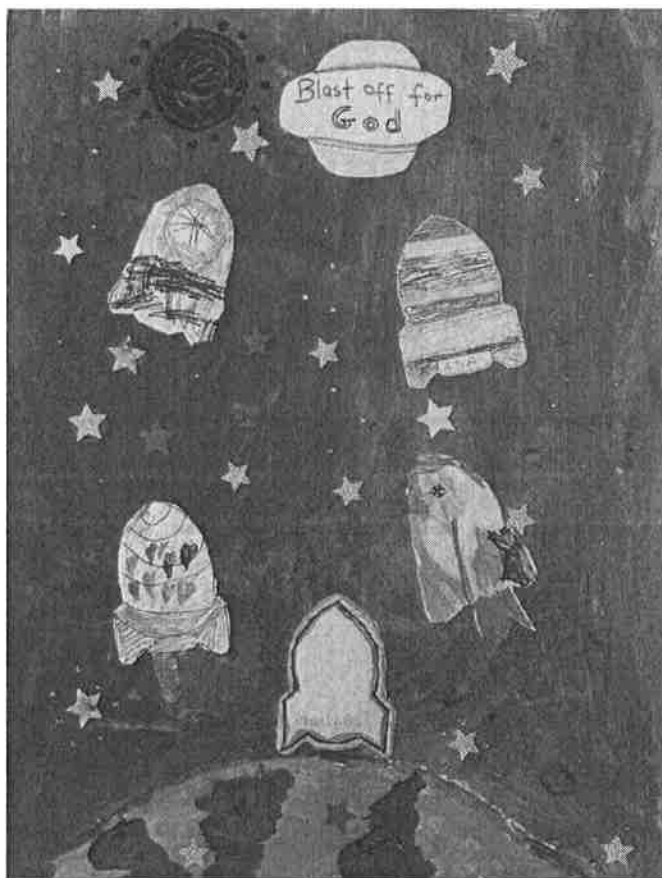


Mark your calendars for Trivia Night @

The Dane

September 20th, 7:30pm

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED AND HELPED WITH CREATIVE CAMP! WHAT A WONDERFUL WEEK. JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 10TH DURING SUNDAY WORSHIP TO HEAR SOME OF THE SONGS WE LEARNED AT CAMP!



LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Matthew 19:16-30	Matthew 22:34-40	Phil. 1:1-11	Phil. 1:12-26
Exodus 33:12-23	Exodus 34:1-9	Matthew 18:21-25	Matthew 20:1-16

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

September Schedule

- | 9/3- All Age Worship**
- | 9/7- 6pm Last Summer BBQ at the Hammer House**
7:30pm Choir practice
- | 9/10- Creative Camp music in Sunday Worship**
- | 9/13- 10am Bible Study, meets every Wednesday**
- | 9/18- 6:30pm BEM Volunteer Orientation**
- | 9/20- 7:30pm Trivia Night**
- | 9/26- 7pm NPC session**
- | 10/5- 6pm COMMUNITY NIGHT RESUMES!**

