

Newsnotes from Northwood

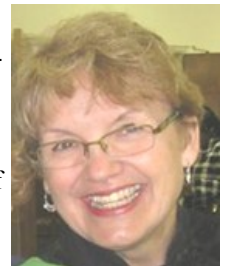
The Newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church

From Rev. Maggie Hayward

Throughout These Forty Days...

Ash Wednesday on February 22 ushers in the season of Lent. This period of forty days is actually a period of 46 days that leads us through the days of Jesus' ministry culminating in his arrest, trial, conviction, crucifixion, and death. The six Sundays in Lent, like every Sunday, remain as reminders that resurrection is a reality. Death does not have the final say in Jesus' life or in our own. In Jesus Christ, the anointed of God, the Creator of all things gave up all things for you and for me. In the human death of God on the cross, once and for all, we are being delivered from sin—"the anything" that keeps us from "the everything"—that God continually desires to offer. Yet, in this one death and the events of Jesus' life that led toward the crucifixion, the Lord of All clothed in human flesh, experienced all that we as humans experience. Identifying with us in fear, rejection, abandonment, sorrow, torture, trauma, suffering and the finality of human death—God knew and God still remembers that we are dust.

the children act out the nativity story, every time we recognize that "we are there when they crucify my Lord." The past and the present are always intertwined in the acts of worship.



But something else is happening in the repeated and ritual acts of worship. *God's future is brought into the present.* This process known as *prolepsis*, is also a gift of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate in our present experience what we trust will happen in our future, *what is coming toward us from God.* In the Old Testament book of Job, the author quotes the battered and beleaguered Job as saying, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God." Even as in the midst "of change and decay in all around we see" we boldly sing "Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!"

So as not to miss any moment in the worship of God I invite you to be present and on time every single Sunday in worship as we travel our 40 days plus 6 through the liturgical season and journey of Lent. In Christ we live, and move, and have our being in the acts of worship. The *anamnesis* and *prolepsis* we "practice" in worship heals us from our past and redeems us for God's future, unfolding within us and around us day by day.

With all joy and peace in believing,
Rev. Maggie, Interim Pastor

Lent, as other seasons of liturgical observance such as the recent seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, is a period of *active* remembrance. The acts of worship are not just a mental process, but a ritual process in which we not only think about God, but do what God did through Christ. Remembrance *by doing* recalls us to God and God, in turn, to us. This bringing of the past into the present is called *anamnesis*. This is what is occurring every time we share the Lord's Supper, every time we hover over the font to baptize an infant, every time

Services at Northwood

Sunday, February 5
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Rev. Laurel Underwood will give the sermon

Sunday, February 12—Scouting Sunday
Rev. Maggie Hayward, Interim Pastor

Sunday, February 19
Transfiguration of The Lord
Rev. Henry Ferry in the pulpit

Sunday, February 26—1st Sunday in Lent
Rev Bob Harris in the pulpit

This Month's Highlights

- Reception to meet Rev. Laurel Underwood, Feb. 4th, 2-4 p.m.
- Rev. Underwood in pulpit, Feb. 5th
- Scouting Sunday, Feb. 12
- New Beginnings—Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m.
- Chinese Dinner, Feb. 26

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THE NORTHWOOD FAMILY

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Those who are sick

Evelyn Wall; Emma Hart; Bob Wright; Elmer Lantz; Mort Rian; George Brown; Grace Aaron's niece; Rev. Henry Eiland; and all friends and relatives who need our prayers.

Ongoing Prayers

Anne Kihui; Al and Fran Minnigh; Paul Brumfield; Elizabeth Puwo's mother; Clara Kennedy's sister; Dave Ellis's family; Brenda Stidham's parents; Betty Newton's son-in-law; Grace Aaron's sister; Sharon Ludwig's father; Doris Cotts' son; Brenda Stidham's parents; Bob Lawson's cousin; Louise Lawson's son; Dottie Slavcoff's son-in-law and grandson; Judi Poppos' brother and sister-in-law; Evelyn Wall's daughter; Gail McGuire's brother-in-law; The Beinsu Family; Ernie Leach's brother; Sahr Bockai's son; Audrey Norris' son and son-in-law; the Puwo family; Maggie Ndi's sister and children in Cameroon; Rose Mokom's mother; the family of Vivian Mbangowah as they travel from Cameroon.

Suffering Loss - Betty Weithoner and family on the loss of her husband Gene. Betty Barnes and her family on the loss of her brother.

Home Bound—Henriette Brown; Jim McGeogh; Larry Malloy; Willena Allen; Peg Magner; Keziah Ogundipe; Carrie Hughley; Barbara Callis; Piorja Mojani and all nursing home residents.

Prayers of Thanks –For work of the Pastor Nominating Committee; for the Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve; for the baptism of Winona Peace and reception of Leon Peace and Lydia Owusu as members.

Missionaries—Rev. Alice Winters (Colombia), and Ginger Boyd in Cameroon. The International Children's Center in Ghana (Grace Aaron). For all who work in world mission.

Other Prayers

Our nation; peace justice and mercy in the world; the military personnel serving overseas for their safe return; for wounded service

members and their families; comfort for those with mental disease; those in need of life's necessities; all who are looking for jobs; those who are losing faith in Jesus; those suffering from natural disasters here and around the world; for improvement in the economy and Therese Taylor's son-in-law to find work.

Written prayers may be submitted on Sundays and put in the offering plate to be passed on to the Prayer Group. Forms may be found in the black sign-in pads at the end of each pew.

Recordings of the services are available in the church office on CDs. Just ask Judy if you'd like to borrow one. You can also hear the sermons on the church website, www.northwoodchurch.com where you can find the church calendar, photo albums and other information.

February Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2. Marquessa Brown | 16. Tim Balfour |
| 2. Doris Cotts | 16. Vadne Henline |
| 3. Barbara Marker | 16. Vierra Queen |
| 7. Henriette Brown | 16. Bill Rothrock |
| 8. Eva Barrat | 17. Dorothy Bradley |
| 9. Priya Dadlani | 17. Nana Opoku |
| 10. Mac McIntire | 19. Anne Kihui |
| 14. Evelyn Wall | 11. Stacey Sharpless |

Thank you for the Angel Tree Gifts

How much your kindness to the residents of Arcola Health and Rehab Center means to all of us. Your generosity year after year is much appreciated. Thank you all for all that you do and for bringing so much joy to our residents.
Sincerely, Kathleen Carroll, Activity Director

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session of Northwood Presbyterian Church calls a congregational meeting for Sunday, February 5, 2012, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, for the purpose of acting upon the report of the Pastor Nominating Committee and any other business which may properly come before the congregation.



NEW BEGINNINGS UPDATE

On Sunday January 22, immediately following the Annual Meeting we gathered in Room 8, with our bag lunches (prepared by the Love Ministry), for the third session of New Beginnings. Rev. Maggie led us in a review of the program and of where we, at Northwood, have come so far.

She began by asking “Who do we say Jesus is?” With those answers, she asked “How does our understanding of Jesus impact all aspects of Northwood’s life?”

She explained further why Northwood had agreed to become involved in The New Beginnings Program and the possible outcomes we might expect from our participation in it. Those include making no changes, redefining our mission, redevelopment, closure or something completely unique to Northwood.

Together we reviewed the summaries of the first two sessions and looked a bit more into Northwood’s history, its changes, challenges and trends, our community, our financial patterns, our membership, our facilities, and our programs and mission activities. We spent some time on the subject of the “sacred walk” that time between the car and the entrance to Northwood. Is the entrance easy to find? What are people thinking when they enter the build-

ing? How do visitors feel when they walk into a sanctuary that has few worshippers shortly before the service?

Rev. Maggie gave attendees much to think about before the next New Beginnings meeting on Sunday, March 11. We hope that many members of Northwood will participate in this important program for our future meetings as we move in 2012 toward the changes we will experience with the arrival of a new Pastor.

There were quite a number of bag lunches, with sandwich, chips, fruit and cookies in each one, left over and they were carried to a homeless shelter in Silver Spring and to Inwood House. Thanks to all those who put the bag lunches together.

Nancy May

Thank you from Inwood House

On behalf of the residents and staff of Inwood House we would like to thank you for your kind donation of the bagged lunches. Inwood House Residents are low-income and most cannot cook for themselves, so your thoughtful donations are needed and much appreciated. Because of your goodwill, residents will be able to save their money on lunch today.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Northwood Presbyterian Church was held in the sanctuary on Sunday January 22, 2012 at the end of the 10:00 worship service. At this meeting there were no actions to be taken but it gave the congregation a chance to see all that happened at Northwood last year and where we are heading in 2012.

This will be a year of change for the congregation as we sadly bid goodbye to our Interim Pastor Maggie and install our newly called Pastor. Our Interim Minister, Maggie Hayward, served as Moderator for the meeting and read the statistical report. Clerk of Session,

Nancy May, pointed out the minutes of the Congregational meetings held in 2011 and encouraged members to read the entire annual report containing reports of all the activities occurring in 2011. Treasurer Byron Wong gave the financial report for 2011 that showed a surplus of \$11, 293.04. He also presented the budget for 2012 which includes a deficit of \$19,960.

If you were not able to be at the meeting and would like a copy of the Annual Report, they are available on the table in Makemie Hall, or from the Church Office.

Nancy May, Clerk of Session



February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 <i>Choir Practice</i>	3 <i>Prayer Group</i>	4 <i>Reception to introduce Rev. Laurel Underwood</i>
5 <i>Rev. Laurel Underwood Confirmation Class</i>	6	7	8 <i>Bible Study</i>	9 <i>Choir Practice</i>	10 <i>Prayer Group</i>	11
12 <i>Scouting Sunday</i>	13	14 <i>Book Discussion Group</i>	15 <i>Rev. Maggie away</i>	16 <i>Choir Practice</i>	17 <i>Prayer Group</i>	18
19 <i>Rev. Henry Ferry in pulpit</i>	20 <i>Presidents' Day, Church Office closed</i>	21	22 <i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>	23 <i>Choir Practice</i>	24 <i>Prayer Group</i>	25
26 <i>1st Sunday in Lent Rev. Bob Harris</i>	27 <i>Crosswood Board Meeting</i>	28 <i>Scrabble Rev. Maggie back</i>	29 <i>Session Meeting</i>			

Schedule of Events

- **Feb. 4**—Reception to meet Rev. Laurel Underwood, 2-4 p.m. at the church
- **Feb. 5**—Rev. Underwood in the pulpit. Confirmation Class meeting
- **Feb. 8**—Bible Study, 11:30 a.m.
- **Feb. 12**—Scouting Sunday
- **Feb. 14**—Book Group, 10:00 a.m.
- **Feb. 15**—27 Rev. Maggie on vacation
- **Feb. 19**—Rev. Henry Ferry in pulpit
- **Feb. 22**—Ash Wednesday Service
- **Feb. 26**—1st Sunday in Lent
Rev. Bob Harris in pulpit.
Chinese Dinner, 5:30 p.m.
- **Feb. 28**—Scrabble, 1:00 p.m.
- **Feb. 29**—Session Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NORTHWOOD

Horizons Day Bible Study will meet the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Media Room. The next gathering will be February 22, 2012. Gloria Pendleton is leading a study on the Beatitudes found in Matthew and Luke and also *Confession of Faith in the Face of Economic Injustice and Ecological Destruction* by Margaret Aymer. Please come and join us.

Book Discussion Group will meet on Tuesday, February 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the Connie Gordon Lounge to discuss "The Tiger's Wife" by Tea Obreht. In a Balkan country mending from war, Natalia, a young doctor, is compelled to unravel the mysterious circumstances surrounding her beloved grandfather's recent death. Please come and join us, men and women, for an interesting discussion.

Scrabble Players will get together at 1:00 p.m. in Makemie Hall on February 28th. Come and join us.

The Prayer Group meets on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. at the church, to pray for those who are

on our prayer list and other requested prayers. Come and join us in this meaningful time.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet again on Sunday, February 26, 2012 following the worship service, in Knox Hall. Please come and see what others are knitting and enjoy some fellowship.

Chinese Dinner: Sunday, February 26th. The social hour will begin at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:00 p.m. Again we are returning to Far East Restaurant at 5055 Nicholson Lane, Rockville, MD. There will be appetizers, a five course dinner and dessert-\$25.00 per person including tax and tip. Cocktails and soda are extra. , **PAYMENT MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF RESERVATION**, cut-off date February 22nd. Make checks payable to Northwood Church, earmarked Chinese dinner. Children are welcome, but babysitting will be available at the Church if needed. If you have any questions please call me at 301-661-9063.

Louise Lawson. Chairperson



FROM THE PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) invites the Northwood family and friends to attend an Open House on Saturday February 4, 2012 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Makemie Hall (child care will be available). This is our first opportunity to introduce to you the Rev. Laurel Underwood, our nominee for the next solo pastor here at Northwood. A letter to the congregation and biographical information on the nominee was sent to all members on record at Northwood, and additional copies will be available on Sunday, January 29.

We are excited and pleased to host this event so that you can meet and chat with Rev. Un-

derwood on Saturday, Feb. 4. She will deliver the sermon on Sunday, Feb. 5 at 10:00 a.m. Immediately following the service there will be a meeting of the congregation, and members will vote by paper ballot to accept Rev. Laurel Underwood as our next installed solo pastor.

We hope that all members and friends will come to these events so that Rev. Underwood can meet us at our home, which we hope will soon be hers, too.

Doris Goodlett, Chair,
Pastor Nominating Committee



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Selection of a new Pastor

MISSION REPORT

From Ginger Boyd in Cameroon

The big news is that I succeeded in getting my plane ticket to return to the US for a short furlough. I will arrive at Washington 11 Feb. Since I can only plan on being in the US four months and I would really like to see as many of you as possible, please contact me. I'll be staying at my folks' place and can be reached at 410-266-0733 or of course by e-mail.

Thank you for your continued prayers for my leg. It is doing better, and I can walk with a cane (except if the ground is too rough or I go longer distances, then I still use a crutch).

Concerning work, I was able to finish the last linguistic sketch of 10 for my thesis (a goal I

had before returning to the US). I am working with Pastor Houlmaka Marcel, a Moloko speaker. They have two trained translators and have printed the Gospel of Mark. Pastor Houlmaka would like prayer for his ministry as a pastor and evangelist in a region dominated by Islam, and for him as he begins to teach himself linguistics so he can analyze Moloko to help with the translation of the New Testament.

Thank you for your prayers. Ginger

The Christmas Joy Gift: The total amount received from the congregation was \$2006. This has been forwarded to Presbytery. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

“I would really like to see as many of you as possible”

FROM PATHWAYS SCHOOLS

Dear friends of the Northwood Church Community,

We at Pathways want to express our gratitude for your ongoing support, particularly in recent weeks when all of us have grieved the loss of Sharon Peters. We sense your continuing care for the work of Pathways and the students we serve in many ways. A very tangible one is the nutritious food your members regu-

larly provide for the breakfast program at Pathways Northwood at Hyattsville. Thank you.

Please know that you can stay up to date with our students' growth and successes by signing up to receive our email newsletter, *The Pathfinder*, at www.pathwayschools.org

Lindsay McLaughlin



IN MEMORIAM—REV. SHARON F. PETERS



Rev. Sharon Fitch Peters,

Rev. Sharon F. Peters passed away suddenly at her home in Sharpsburg, MD on December 18, 2011. She is survived by her loving husband Dave, and children Todd, Laura and Mindy and several grandchildren.

Sharon was born in Wellsville, New York, and her family moved to Valparaiso, Indiana. After college Sharon moved to Washington DC to teach at a junior high school. She met Dave in DC and together they raised their three children. She worked part-time for the county school system teaching students who were hospitalized or homebound for emotional or physical reasons.

Sharon was ordained at Northwood Presbyterian Church in 1984. Upon completion of her residency she served as a Parish Associate at Northwood and was interim director of pastoral care at Children's Hospital Center.

From 1985 until her retirement in 2007, Sharon served as Chief Executive Officer of the Pathways Schools. Under her leadership the school was a pioneer in special education both regionally and nationally and she won several achievement awards. After retirement, Sharon served as Chaplain at Fahrney-Keedy

Home & Village in Boonsboro and at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown.

A memorial service was held in loving memory of Sharon at Northwood when many of her family, friends and colleagues came to remember her. Several spoke of the impact she had on their lives and on the lives of the students at The Pathways Schools. After the service there was a lovely reception provided by Parish Care.

Please keep the Peters family in your prayers.

Dear Northwood Family

Thank you for the beautiful flower arrangement and comforting words. It's hard to convey how important the Northwood Church community was to my mom and family. We have so many wonderful memories and lifetime friends that it will always be a powerful presence in our lives.

Love Dave, Todd, Laurie and Mindy.

Thank you so much for the beautiful memorial for Sharon on Wednesday. Our family really appreciated all that you and the Northwood family did for us, and our beloved wife and mother.

Love Dave Peters

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT



FINANCE REPORT

Lots of important things are happening. We will soon have our new pastor and can begin to carry out some of our New Beginnings activities. We will need to offer all kinds of support - financial, talent related and spiritual. Since the financial part is my area, I am once again asking you to please consider making a pledge and getting it to me as soon as possible. We now have 63 pledges for \$203,957.

In case you missed my first ten explanations of the yellow and blue envelopes - the yellow one is for Initial Offering which helps pay the stationery costs and the blue one is the Per Capita assessment decided on by Presbytery.

That one is \$36.00 this year. Per Capita is what keeps Presbytery in business. It is used for many things, such as publication printing and distribution, participation in the ecumenical world as in missions, church leadership connections such as referrals and matching, preserving the history of the presbytery, developing leadership and many others services that you probably never think about, but which make the church what it is.

Please pick up your statements and check them for errors. The sooner I know about them the easier it is to fix them.

Gail McGuire, Fin. Sec.

FAITH MINISTRY REPORT

The 5:30 pm Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services were very well attended. The children enhanced the Christmas Eve candle-light service of Lessons and Carols with their Nativity Tableau. The cast: Angel Gabriel, Elena Taylor; Mary, Kelsie Robinson; Joseph, Peter Sharpless; Shepherds, Anikwe Duru, Matagi Vitolio; Star in the East, Vierra Queen; King Herod, Joseph Vitolio; Wise Men, Kenayo Duru, Matthew Sharpless, Alexander Taylor; Camel, Ta'Quan Crichton. Visitors Madison and Troy Alexis were the donkey and the sheep. Following the Christmas Eve service many lingered in Makemie Hall to munch cookies and sing Christmas carols accompanied on the piano by Byron Wong.

Communion by intinction was served on Christmas Day and Rev. Maggie's niece, Caroline Ramirez provided a beautiful liturgical dance.

Several willing hands helped to take down and put away the Christmas decorations: Vadne Henline, Louise Lawson, Ernest Leach, Nancy and Fred May, Mac and Eleanor McIntire, Gail Oakes, and Sharon Snodgrass.

The Easter season begins with the Ash Wednesday service on February 2.

On January 15, Lydia Owusu and Leon Peace were received into membership of Northwood Church and Winona Peace, a member of the Confirmation class, was baptized. Rev. Maggie led the congregation in reaffirming our baptismal covenants and Winona assisted Rev. Maggie as the congregation came forward to the baptismal font to receive a baptismal stone of remembrance and renewal. This was a beautiful and meaningful experience.

Christian Education: The children are exploring Genesis in Enrichment class with Alison Crichton as the leader. The Adult Class under the leadership of Therese Taylor-Stinson is studying **Living the Questions** "Saving Jesus: A revolutionary exploration of Jesus Christ for the third millennium." Copies of lesson 1 and 2 are available from Therese. All are welcomed!!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that Northwood Church finished 2011 in good financial condition. For the first time since 2007 we ended the year with a surplus of \$11,293.04; however, this was due primarily to higher than budgeted receipts for loose offering and building use along with expense savings in the Pastor and Pastor Nominating Committee line items.

While this is refreshing news for 2011 the expense savings will not be realized in future years and the good news does not hide the fact that income is a continuing problem for Northwood as it is for many other churches. Envelope (Pledge) offering, our primary source of income, continues to decline and the Session has had to make difficult decisions about the budget for 2012 resulting in a deficit of \$19,960. Fortunately, the Church has a strong balance sheet with reserves and adequate cash flow. Our challenge continues to be to find ways to increase income.

As I assumed the Treasurer's role this past October I found that many people have been involved in the Church finances over the past year. Thanks to Karen Maisto our previous Treasurer, Julie Hendricks, the Church Accountant and to Judy McPhie, Bookkeeper, for the outstanding job they've done keeping the finances in order on a daily basis, and to the Budget Committee of Gail McGuire, Peter McPhie, and Fred May for their help in putting together the 2012 budget. A special thank you to Doris Goodlett and Dave Ellis of the PNC for their input during the budget process.

Finally I greatly appreciate the wonderful support I received throughout from Rev. Maggie, Nancy May, and the Session over the past few months.

The complete financial report for 2011 along with the 2012 Budget is published in the 2011 Annual Report which is available on the table in Makemie Hall.

Please feel to contact me with any questions that you may have.

Byron Wong, Treasurer



Treasurer's Report



BAPTIZED
into the
FAITH
Renewal of Vows



Growing in faith, hope and love ...



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.NORTHWOODCHURCH.COM

Northwood's Staff:

Interim Pastor—Rev. Maggie Hayward
Clerk of Session—Mrs. Nancy May
Music Director—Gregory Catrett
Office Manager—Judy McPhie
Newsnotes Staff—
Judy McPhie
Don Newton
Carl Johnson

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DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY

Wed. Feb. 1 - Mark 3:7-12
Thu. Job. 6:1-13
Fri. 1 Cor. 9:1-16
Sat. Psalm 102:12-28

Sun. 5 - 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30
1 Cor. 9:24-27, Mark 1:40-45

Mon. Leviticus 13:1-17
Tue. Leviticus 14:1-20
Wed. John 4:46-54
Thu. Job 30:16-31
Fri. 1 Cor. 10:14-11:1
Sat. Psalm 6

Sun. 12 - Isaiah 43:18-2, Psalm 41,
2 Cor. 1:18-22, Mark 2:1-12

Mon. Isaiah 30:18-26
Tue. Micah 4:1-7
Wed. John 5:19-29
Thu. Acts 14:8-18
Fri. 2 Cor. 1:1-11
Sat. Psalm 38

Sun. 19 - The Transfiguration of Our
Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6
2 Cor. 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9
Mon. Exodus 19:7-25
Tue. Job 19:23-27

Ash Wednesday - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17,
Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10,
Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

Thu. Daniel 9:1-14
Fri. Daniel 9:15-25a
Sat. Psalm 32

Sun. 26 - 1st Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22, Mark 1:9-15
Mon. Job 4:1-21
Tue. Job 5:8-27
Wed. Matthew 4:1-11

