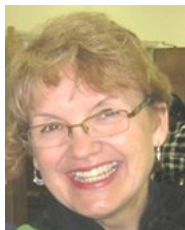


# Newsnooes from Norothwood

*The Newsletter of Northwood Presbyterian Church*

## From Rev. Maggie



As we approach the New Year with some excitement and some trepidation I share a favorite poem of mine that has often afforded me great comfort in the face of the unknown. It is entitled **At the**

**Gate of the Year.** Written by poet Minnie Louise Harkins, it was recited by King George VI in his 1939 broadcast.

*I said to the man who stood at the  
gate of the year*

*"Give me a light that I may tread  
safely into the unknown."*

*"Go into the darkness and put your  
hand into the hand of God  
That shall be to you better than light  
and safer than a known way!"*

*So I went forth and finding the Hand  
of God*

*Trod gladly into the night  
He led me towards the hills*

*And the breaking of day in the lone  
east.*

*So heart be still!  
What need our human life to know  
If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife of things  
Both high and low,  
God hideth his intention.*

With new enthusiasm for ministry Northwood is on the cusp of a new beginning. I believe an exciting year of spiritual and numerical growth is coming your way! Yes, all is yet unknown, yet all is within the hands of God.

I ask you to plan to attend the Annual Meeting and New Beginnings discussions on Sunday, January 22 immediately following worship. This gathering will be very informative and important. Our discussion will give us a very realistic picture of Northwood's, both its present and its future hope.

Rev. Maggie

### This Month's Highlights

- Guest Pastor—Jan. 8th
- Choir Christmas Party—Jan. 8th
- Bible Study—Jan. 11th and 22nd
- Annual Meeting and New Beginnings Discussion after worship—Jan. 22nd

### Inside this issue:

The Northwood Family	2
See What's Happening The Hope Ministry	3
Calendar	4
In Memoriam	4
Thanks to the Children	5
The Love Ministry	5
Daily Bible Readings	6

## In Memoriam - Rev. Sharon F. Peters

It is with sadness that we share the news that Rev. Sharon F. Peters passed away suddenly at her home in Sharpsburg, MD on December 18. Sharon is survived by her loving husband Dave, and children Todd, Laura and Mindy and several grandchildren.

Sharon was a long-time member of Northwood Church. The church helped her to get her divinity degree, after which she became a Parish Associate at Northwood for a few years and also served as pulpit supply on many oc-

casions. Sharon was the Executive Director of The Pathways Schools for over 20 years and retired a few years ago.

A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 22, 2011 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 10813 Donelson Drive, Williamsport, MD. A memorial service will be held at Northwood Church in January, date and time to be announced.

Please keep Dave and the rest of her family in your prayers.



God  
Answers  
Prayers

Please pray for each other

## THE NORTHWOOD FAMILY

### PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

#### Those who are sick

Henriette Brown; Jim McGeogh; Bob Wright; Grace Aaron's friend; Elizabeth Puwo's mother and friend's son; Nick Cavaris' wife; Evelyn Wall's daughter; Monroe Galloway; John and Dottie Slavcoff's son-in-law; Rev. Maggie's brother-in-law; and all friends and relatives who need our prayers.

#### Ongoing Prayers

Anne Kihui; Emma Hart; Gene Weithoner; Al and Fran Minnigh; Paul Brumfield; Elizabeth Puwo's mother; Clara Kennedy's sister; Dave Ellis's family; Brenda Stidham's parents and cousin; Betty Newton's son-in-law; Grace Aaron's sister; Sharon Ludwig's father; Doris Cotts' son; Louise Lawson's son; Brenda Stidham's parents; Bob Lawson's cousin; Judi Poppo's brother and sister-in-law; 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 Mbangwah.

**Suffering Loss** - Dave Ellis on the loss of a friend. The Peters family on the sudden loss of Rev. Sharon Peters.

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

**Prayers of Thanks**—For the Pastor Nominating Committee as they near the end of their search; thanks for the choir. For Dylan Bodkin's safe return from Afghanistan. Alexandria Monroe finished first year of graduate school. For Larry Malloy's 94th birthday.

**Missionaries**—Rev. Alice Winters (Colombia), and Ginger Boyd in Cameroon. The International Children's Center in Ghana (Grace Aaron).

#### 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. 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](http://www.northwoodchurch.com) where you can find the church calendar, photo albums and other information.

#### Holiday Schedule for the Church Office.

The Church Office will be closed on December 26 and 27th, and on December 30th and January 2nd. In case of an emergency, please contact Rev. Maggie or Nancy May, Clerk of Session.

#### January Birthdays

2. Gene Weithoner
10. Dottie Whitt
12. Lynn Dusingberre
14. Pamela Monroe
15. Betty Barnes
15. Gregory Catrett
19. Louise Lawson
30. Alison Barrat

#### CALL FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

*The Session of Northwood Presbyterian Church calls the Annual Meeting of the Congregation for Sunday, January 22, 2012, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service, for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report, presentation of the Budget for 2012, and any other business which may properly come before the congregation.*



## SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NORTHWOOD

### Horizons Day Bible Study

We will meet the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Media Room. The next gathering will be January 11, 2012. Gloria Pendleton is leading a study on the Beatitudes found in Matthew and Luke. Please come and join us.

**Book Discussion Group** - The next meeting is on Tues., Jan. 10, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

**Scrabble Players** get together on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in Make-mie Hall, so will meet again on January 24th. Come and join us.

**Prayer Group** - The Prayer Group meets each Friday at 10 a.m. at the church, to pray for those who are on our prayer list and other requested prayers. On Sundays you may put a written prayer by placing it in the offering plate.

**The Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet again in Knox Hall on Sunday, January 22nd 2012 following the worship service. Please come and see what others are knitting.

**The Prayer Shawl Express** arrived in early December with 19 colorful prayer shawls on board. Fritzie Rohlfings, the women who knitted them, is from North Carolina and is blind.

She is a friend of Sally and Don Rishebarger, who veered off their beaten track coming from Florida in order to make this pick up.

Fritzie and her husband have three grandsons who are in the Marine Corps, so she specially wants her shawls to go to wounded troops. This arrangement has been working for several years now, with Northwood as the conduit. Brenda Stidham and Grace Aaron have also assisted in this prayer shawl operation.

The present head of Trauma in Bethesda Naval Hospital picked all 19 shawls up on December 9th. She was elated, as were all the members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. All knitting efforts are appreciated, whether they land in our own back yard or elsewhere. We keep our needles clicking.

Eleanor McIntire

**Angel Tree Gifts** - Parish Care wants to thank all you angels, who cared above and beyond your personal space. Fifty-four people benefited from your generosity, including the ten tardy angels that arrived December 8th. Goodness, even angels can be late! Northwood has once again extended Christ's love to all both known and unknown. Thank you, thank you!

Eleanor McIntire and Parish Care



## FROM THE HOPE MINISTRY

The Hope Ministry would like to give a big **thank you** to Byron Wong and Gail McGuire for all their work in preparing the budget. This is a difficult and time-consuming task and we appreciate their time and effort on behalf of the church.

Peter McPhie

**Financial Report.** Our updated pledge count is sixty pledges for \$202,177. Thanks to those who have pledged. If you aren't one of them, please consider doing so. I will be putting the envelopes for 2012 on the table in Makemie Hall. If you cannot find one with your name on it, you haven't given me your pledge card yet, so see me. The yellow envelope is for Initial Offering, which just helps pay for the enve-

lopes. The blue envelope is for Per Capita, which is \$36.00 this year.

"Per capita is a set amount of money per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system." In future Newsnotes I will list some of the things it is used for.

Please get those pledges in, in person, by phone or by e-mail and don't use the 2012 envelopes until 2012.

Happy New Year, Gail McGuire, Fin. Sec.



Please don't use the new envelopes until 2012

# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Holy Communion</i>	2 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3	4 <i>Taking down the Greens</i>	5 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	6 <i>Prayer Group</i>	7
8 <i>Baptism of our Lord Choir Party</i>	9 <i>Crosswood Board Meeting</i>	10 <i>Book Group</i>	11 <i>Bible Study</i>	12 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	13 <i>Prayer Group</i>	14
15 <i>Worship Ministries</i>	16 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday</i>	17 <i>Child Care Board</i>	18 <i>Session Meeting</i>	19 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	20 <i>Prayer Group</i>	21
22 <i>Annual Congregation Meeting</i>	23	24 <i>Scrabble Players</i>	25 <i>Bible Study</i>	26 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i>	27 <i>Prayer Group</i>	28
29 <i>Worship</i>	30	31				

## Schedule of Events

- **Jan 4**— Taking down the greens, 10 am
- **Jan. 5** — Choir rehearsals resume 7:30
- **Jan. 6** — Prayer Group meets each Friday at 10:00 a.m.
- **Jan. 8** — 4:00 p.m. Choir Party
- **Jan. 9**— Crosswood Board Meeting 7:30
- **Jan. 10**—Book Discussion Group, 10:00 a.m.
- **Jan. 11 & 25**— Bible Study meets at the church at 11:30 a.m.
- **Jan. 15**— Sacrament of Baptism and Reception of a New Member.
- **Jan. 18**— Newsnotes Deadline. Mark your calendars
- **Jan. 22**— Annual Congregational Meeting and New Beginnings Discussion.

## IN MEMORIAM

**James G. Buffington** passed away on Tuesday, October 25, 2011. Jim joined Northwood Church in 1998, became an ordained elder and served on the session from 2001-2003. He was an active member of the congregation and everyone knew they would hear a good joke when they saw Jim. He could be found sitting at the signup table talking to everyone who passed by.

Unfortunately, Jim lost both his sons not long before he died. He is survived by his daughter-in-law, five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. We miss Jim at Northwood. Please keep his family in your prayers.

**Abbadean Brown Robertson** passed away on November 1, 2011. On November 8th a memorial service followed by a reception, was held for Abbadean and Northwood Church was full to overflowing with relatives and friends who came to remember and honor her.

Abbadean grew up in Washington, D.C. and received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Winston Salem State University and two Master's degrees from Howard University and George Washington University. She was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. and other professional and civic organizations. Abbadean is survived by her husband Myron of fifty years, her daughter, Kendra and her husband Vincent, and granddaughter Vierra.

Abbadean always put God first in her life and attended Asbury Methodist Church and Park Road Community Church before moving to Maryland when she joined Northwood Church in 1974.

Abbadean was active in organizing trips and outings for the congregation, especially trips to New York to see the shows. We keep Myron, Kendra, Vincent and Vierra in our prayers.



## THE PATHWAYS SCHOOLS

The Christmas season is traditionally one in which we think about gifts and giving. At Pathways certainly we think of what a gift it is to be able to work with our students and see them overcome barriers to learning and go on to graduation and life success. The November issue of *The Pathfinder* included some words from a Pathways parent that echoed the feelings of many of our families about the gift of having found our school for their child and gratitude they have for the dedication, expertise and compassion of our staff and the effectiveness of our individually oriented school programs.

This dynamic exchange of giving and receiving at the heart of our school is supported by gifts we receive from the wider Pathways community. They enable us to provide many of the programs that make education a rich and exciting experience for our students. Programs like Alternative Therapies, which brings the arts into our classrooms; or HoopEd, which uses basketball to teach life lessons; or therapeutic riding, which encourages confidence and responsibility in our students; and a host of other programs, including wilderness education, would not exist.

Lindsay McLaughlin



## THANKS TO THE CHILDREN

### Generosi-Tea

The children of Northwood Church provided a delightful "Tea" to the congregation during the fellowship hour after church on Sunday, December 11th. They had set up tables and when everyone was seated, they served sandwiches and delicious goodies, including drinks to the adults.

The children traveled from table to table with trays, serving everyone individually. It was

wonderful to see them in action and to get to know them better.

Thanks to all the young people who participated and to the teachers, Alison Crichton, Mellissa Duru and Stacey Sharpless, who coordinated it all.

This event was part of their Enrichment study of the stewardship of time, talent and treasure, learning by giving back to their church and community.



## FROM THE LOVE MINISTRY

### Thanksgiving Baskets

We have received many notes of thanks from those who received Thanksgiving Baskets from Northwood. The following note shows how much they mean to those who receive them:

*"Dear Blessed People: I enjoyed my holiday very much. Thanks for your kind thoughtfulness towards me and others. There should be more people like you. It would be a better world. You are the sunshine that chases away the clouds of darkness. You always bring on daylight in these dark days all year round."*

### Christmas Advent-ure

December 18 was filled with lovely music, delicious food and good fellowship. The

Chancel Choir, accompanied by a trio of string players, provided the congregation with beautiful music. The two pieces they sang were uplifting. The Joy Gift was received totaling \$1,640. Thanks to all who gave.

Following the worship service we were treated to a reception of sandwiches and homemade cookies. There were crafts for the children. It was a day filled with joy and it gave us all time to think of the real meaning of Christmas.

The Love Ministry wants to thank all those who baked cookies and who helped with set-up and clean-up. The old adage "many hands make light work" is still true today.



Growing in faith, hope and love ...



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**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  
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**DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR JANUARY**

**Sun. Jan. 1 - New Year's Day**

*Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8*  
*Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:15-21*  
Mon. Leviticus 12:1-8  
Tue. Exodus 13:11-16  
Wed. Matthew 13:46-50  
Thu. Isaiah 49:5-15

**Epiphany of our Lord - Isaiah 60:1-6**  
*Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 2:1-12*  
Sat. Psalm 145:1-13

**Sun. Jan. 8 - Baptism of Our Lord**

*Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29*  
*Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11*  
Mon. Genesis 17:1-14, 23-27  
Tue. Exodus 30:22-28  
Wed. John 1:29-34  
Thu. Isaiah 41:14-20  
Fri. Acts 22:2-16  
Sat. Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36

**Sun. Jan. 15 - 1 Sam. 3:1-20, Ps. 139:1-6,**  
*13-18, 1 Cor. 6:12-20, John 1:43-51*

Mon. 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8  
Tue. 1 Samuel 15:10-31  
Wed. Luke 18:15-17  
Thu. Genesis 16:1-14  
Fri. 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1  
Sat. Psalm 86

**Sun. Jan. 22 - Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm**  
*62:5-12*

*1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20*  
Mon. Genesis 12:1-9  
Tue. Genesis 45:25-46:7  
Wed. Mark 3:13-19  
Thu. Genesis 45:25-46:7  
Fri. 1 Corinthians 7:17-24  
Sat. Psalm 46

**Sun. Jan 29 - Deut. 18:15-20, Psalm 111**  
*1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28*

Mon. Numbers 11:1-21  
Tue. Numbers 122:22-38  
Wed. Mark 5:1-20

