

NORTH

NOTES



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FEBRUARY 2010
NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WHERE SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS MEET

NORTH NOTES

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SUNDAYS AT NORTH

Worship: 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Our Mission:

*North Church invites, welcomes, and encourages all people
to become deeply committed Christians who witness God's
transforming love at home and in the world.*



NORTH STAFF

Senior Pastor:
Kevin R. Armstrong

Pastor of Discipleship &
Formation: Lisa D. Schubert

Pastor of Care & Nurture:
Richard L. Pickering

Pastor of Children's Ministries:
Janet Lilly Wanner

Pastor of Mission & Outreach:
Brian K. Williams

Pastor of Stewardship &
Administration:
James R. Martin

Minister of Youth:
Anne Moman

Director of Music:
Mark Gilgallon

Organist & Assistant Director of
Music:
Martin Ellis

Faith Community Nurse:
Pat Thorlton

Assistant to the Senior Pastor:
Nancy Fykes

Financial Secretary:
Dolores Heaton

Lead Office Assistant:
Nancy Sala

Office Assistants:
Karen Kenyon & Marcia Lurie

Facilities Staff:
James Fields, Derric Gearlds,
Estell McAllister

Building Engineer:
Dave Damin

INTERSECTIONS



Searching for lost coins, lost sheep, and lost children seems to be the Gospel's reminder that sometimes we become inattentive and neglect the people, places, and events that matter most to God and to each of us. After twenty-five years of ministry, I recognize I sometimes lose focus, overlook the obvious, and neglect what is directly in front of me. The vision blurs, the mission becomes unfocused, and relationships once at the center of my attention become peripheral.

Photography and poetry have been helpful companions to nudge my inattentiveness and point out what – and whom – I've passed by. When busyness and carelessness reduce the Word to wordiness, poetry points to the spaces between the words where I'm most likely to see what's worth saying. Photography's wisdom also helps me frame and focus the familiar in a way that offers a different point of view, an unexpected glimpse of beauty, or an otherwise overlooked epiphany concealed in the shadows.

Photography and poetry have been passions for as long as I can remember. I have cassette tapes of my grandparents and me reciting (or making up) poems. I've been taking pictures since the days of flashcubes (remember those?). I'll never make a living at either but both have enriched my life. Looking through a lens and listening to a poem have kept me focused and imaginatively engaged with God and others during the best and worst times of my life.

Thanks to a generous grant from Lilly Endowment and the careful planning of this congregation's leadership, I have the opportunity to rekindle my photographic and poetic interests through a Clergy Renewal Leave from April 12th – August 9th of this year. Nancy and I will travel to North Carolina, Barcelona, and Wyoming for rest and renewal while I learn from teachers and mentors who have agreed to share with me their wisdom and experience in these arts.

While we're away, activities are planned for you and other North members and neighbors to explore or

expand your interests in poetry and photography. We'll be taking photos of our church and neighborhood as a way of sharing stories with one another. If you have a favorite poem or have written a few lines yourself, you'll be invited to share those with others. We're not out to make professional poets or photographers of one another. We simply hope to enjoy a time of renewing our own lives by focusing on who and what matters most.

As time apart from the congregation allows me to cultivate new skills in reading and writing poetry and in photography, I anticipate this time and these skills will renew my relationships with family and friends as well as refresh and refocus my ministry for another season of pastoral ministry. I hope you'll also enjoy some of that same refreshment and renewal.

Lisa Schubert will serve as our Lead Pastor during my absence. Other teams and individuals will assist while I'm away. A brochure describing this renewal leave and responding to your questions will be available in early March.

Turning fifty in 2010 seems less significant to me at the moment than the fact that in the same year I will have devoted half of those fifty years to ordained ministry. As I look back, some of the most important lessons and moments have become a bit blurred. Some of the important, life-giving people and possibilities have been pushed to the edges by the urgent. Some pastoral practices are lost or out of the picture completely. I'm very grateful to you and this congregation for this extraordinary gift that will provide renewal, refreshment, and refocus as I prepare for our journey together in years ahead.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Jefferson Awards Certificate Winner – Rosie Jordan

Rosie was recently recognized with a Jefferson Award. Someone at Eli Lilly, where Rosie works knew of her ministry with North's Children's Choir (The Choristers) and nominated her for this award. Listed below is information about the award.

In 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and U.S. Senator Robert Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard co-founded the Jefferson Awards for Public Service to create a Nobel Prize for public service.

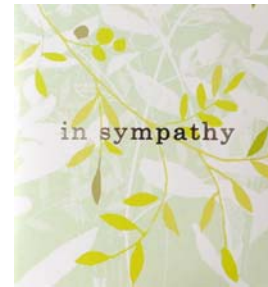
The Jefferson Awards recognize both ordinary people who do extraordinary things and individuals whose public service has had a broad national impact. The Jefferson Awards are a prestigious national recognition system honoring community and public service in America. The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. Today, their primary purpose is to serve as a "Call to Action for Volunteers" in local communities. The selection criteria for the national and local Jefferson Awards winners are parallel.

There are two basic considerations:

- Outstanding personal acts
- Community impact

First, the selectors review acts of courage, vision, dedication, and tenacity. Is there anything outstanding, unique, heroic about the nominee and his or her character? Second, they review the impact on the community. Public service is about serving people and communities. As the nominee addresses important issues facing local communities or the country, has the nominee had a measurable impact?

Through corporate champions like Lilly and media partners, the Jefferson Awards applaud "Unsung Heroes." Eligibility includes volunteers as well as paid professionals who go well above and beyond their expected service. "Unsung" means not normally in the media. Congratulations to Rosie!



Sympathy to the family of Jack Youngman who died January 9th. Jack was a long-time member of North Church.

Family Retreat

March 20-21 at Camp Tecumseh

A fun-filled family weekend! Look for sign-up information in now.

For more information, contact Joel O'Neil at 926-6623.

Health Fair Coming Soon!

Join our Health Ministry team for the annual Health Fair on Sunday, March 7, from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. A healthy lunch prepared by Chef Marion Redstone will be available first-come, first-served. We are pleased to welcome nursing students from Indiana University School of Nursing who will provide blood pressure screenings and help us to identify risk factors related to cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Alongside you will find familiar faces from our congregation, neighborhood, and healthcare providers supporting our journey to wholeness: Body, Mind and Soul. And you will find presenters here for the first time! Most of these offerings will be in Fellowship Hall. Locations for other screenings will be posted in Fellowship Hall.

Bread For The World

HAVE FAITH, END HUNGER

In the budget of a low income family, food is often the most flexible item. People can't choose to pay less for rent, child care, or transportation - so food is one place where a struggling family cuts corners.

We know that food assistance to hungry people is vital, but it is not enough. Progress against hunger requires broader efforts to reduce poverty. Low-income families live on the edge of a financial precipice. The car breaking down, a parent being laid off from a job, a child getting sick – any of these can mean the difference between having enough food or not.

The emphasis of Bread for the World for 2010 is lobbying Congress to make changes to tax policy that will help low-income working families make ends meet. Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

The chapter that formerly met at North Church now meets at the Broad Ripple MCL Cafeteria, 2121 East 62nd Street, at 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Everyone with an interest in working to end hunger is encouraged to join the group at the February 16th meeting to learn more about the organization and the issues concerning hunger. Please join us there in the west section of the cafeteria with or without a tray of food.

If a midday meeting is more convenient, another chapter meets at Bazbeaux Pizza, 334 Massachusetts Ave., at 11:30 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. It is easy to grab a piece of pizza and join the group downstairs, but it is good to arrive by 11:15 a.m. before the line forms.

Please call Bob or Anne Nation at 927-8942 for any questions. Hope to see you there!

School #43 Update

When we ask volunteers to tutor at School #43 we know that it evokes many reactions. Kathy Beck answers many questions and encourages folks to give it a try. Hearing from current tutors is a good way to get a feel for the job. Below is a report by Ed Alley about one of his sessions:

“I am tutoring two 4th grade boys in math and reading. The second time we met, we read aloud (I mean ALOUD) a kind of rap poem from their reading book. Something like, “Let me introduce myself, I’m a slam jammer....”

It was fun. Then, they decided they would write a poem of their own. They got busy for a few minutes. When they finished, they each wanted to sing to me. There was a “dead” microphone in the room that seemed alive to them. While one of them rapped his poem, The Tutoring at School 43, the other pounded out the rhythm with a pencil in one hand and the palm of his other hand on a school desk. Then they switched roles.

I’m not sure what was learned, but I hope we got a good relationship going. And it shows learning can be fun.”

A classroom teacher can tell Ed the multitude of things the boys learned that day! Mostly they are learning that applying themselves at school is fun and is important. Important enough for a man that they didn't even know to come spend time with them to help them. Thanks Ed!

So You Think We're Immortal?

Watch for future announcements about this Eastertide program series.

CHILDREN'S NEWS



A Look at Sunday School!

Toddlers

Kelly McKee plans special activities for the two year olds every week!

Preschoolers and K Kids

Your child will hear that God loves us and this means we can show love to others. They will meet some friends who showed God's love. There's Ruth, The Good Samaritan, and the four friends who carried their sick friend to Jesus. We can be this kind of friend, too!

Elementary Kids

Did you know that children can learn who Jesus is through the parable of the Good Shepherd? First graders will hear the parable and begin the stories of Jesus on the Road to Jerusalem. What kind of people did he meet along the way?

Second and third graders will hear new stories about Jesus as he healed the paralytic and talked to tax collectors! How did Jesus relate to others? How should we?

Four new Lenten stories of Jesus await fourth and fifth graders! Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and a woman anoints Jesus before he is arrested and goes on trial. I wonder what it was like to be with Jesus during these last days?

If your child attends a Godly play class, remember that the story will begin no later than 10:0 a.m.! You don't want to miss the story! We hope to see children in the story circle by 9:55 a.m.!

Children's Ministry Pages Get a New Look

Do you have pictures of North Kids we can use on our new children's pages? Send them to Janet or to Nancy Fykes at nfykes@northchurchindy.com.

Alternative Worship – AW-K and AW-1,2,3 AND MORE!!

4-5 Year Olds Invited to Come Soon
Parents, read on for details!

Our new AW-K program just started in November! This new time of learning for kindergartners has been received exceptionally well and parents are asking questions like, "Can my 5 year old come? Can my 4 year old come?" Stay tuned! We plan to extend the invitation to 4-5 year old children to come and participate in the activities. We encourage parents of younger children, especially 4 year olds, to visit one Sunday with your child and see how your child enters into the experience. Volunteer to help and see how your child adjusts to this more "mature" setting! Your preschooler is welcome to engage in play in the preschool room during this time as well if this is most beneficial to him/her and to others in the program. The preschool room will still be open and childcare offered during this time!

We will announce the beginning date soon! Watch for an email from Pastor Janet!

Parents of Kindergarten Age Children

If you attend second service, instruct your child to follow the banner bearer during the doxology as usual. A leader will take the kids to the K room – the kindergarten room (104) – and you can pick up your child there after the service.

CHILDREN'S NEWS

AW-1,2,3 is for 1st-3rd graders!

February will be full of surprises! Cassie Craig, Pastor Janet, and Alan Archibald will lead this month. Remember we meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month. Enjoy sharing communion as a family on the first Sunday of the month.



A Note about Preschoolers and Music

Have you heard? We are offering a new musical experience for children ages 3-5 years! Contact Pastor Janet or Mark Gilgallon if you have questions or want us to know that your preschooler is interested!

A New Look and A Big Thank You!

You won't want to miss this sight! Take a walk through the second floor children's corridor and see the new banners and bulletin boards! Thanks to Lela Russell we have banners and a visual feast of colors and words that children love! Come see the race tracks, dogs, cats, birds, trucks and cars, and African prints! Be inspired by these words: PRAY, CREATE, LOVE, CARE, PLAY, IMAGINE, and WONDER.

Posting Your Child's Picture

May we use your child's picture on the church website, bulletin boards, or classroom door? This year we are asking each parent/guardian to let us know your wishes about photo uses of your child. No names will be used on the website. If you have not indicated your wishes on the "Children and Family Info" sheet, please contact the church office. We must have your signature! We plan to update the children's ministries website and need your help!

Are You New to North Church?

Please complete a "Children and Family Info" sheet and help us know current information so we can give the best care to your child. We use the info for mailings, to comprise the Sunday School attendance sheets, and to order curriculum and materials. We also find out contact and allergy info and the names of those you approve to pick-up your child. We create a card for each child and keep these in the appropriate classroom so that teachers and providers have access quickly to information.

If you have not completed an info sheet, you may access one on the church's website and follow directions there. Forms are located at the sign-in tables on the main floor and at the info table by the bulletin board on the second floor. If your child's classroom is on the main level, just ask a teacher or childcare provider for a form.

Connecting By Email – Parents and Guardians Get the News!
Communicating by email saves a lot of paper! Email news to your family about special events and opportunities, schedules, updates and changes will keep you informed! Make sure we have your current email address!
Thanks!

YOUTH

Meet Dani Diehl - Our Youth Intern!!

Name- Dani Diehl

Age-22

Hometown- Fort Wayne, Indiana

High School- Fort Wayne Northrop

I absolutely love to travel. I have been to 28 states and to France and Canada. This summer I will travel to Berlin, Germany for the Global Convocation and Legislative Assembly as well as get to see some of the sights of the beautiful city. My favorite city to visit is Nashville TN or Nashvegas. I am on the Division of



Ministry with Young People which is a part of the General Board of Discipleship so I get to travel to Nashville quite

often and I have family who live there. I am a senior youth ministry major at University of Indianapolis so yes I have taken classes with Dr. Perry Kea and Dr. Austin Ritterspach. They are great professors and even though they may not think so, I really do enjoy their classes. I live off campus with my roommate Des and my cat Mollie. My favorite color is pink and my favorite number is 34.



To the Ends of the Earth – 2010 Youth Lenten Retreat

“As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is God’s love for those who fear God. And as far as sunrise is from sunset, God has separated us from our sins.” (Psalm 103:11-12).

Forgiveness... it’s hard to understand sometimes. It makes us feel better holding onto grudges or getting back at someone who has hurt us. How often do we really say “I forgive you”? As the psalmist tells us, God forgives us to the ends of the earth and even beyond that. In Romans 8, we read that there is nothing, and I mean *nothing*, that can separate us from God’s love. With the help of awesome adult leaders, creative activities and wonderful friends from North, we will explore this idea of Forgiveness on the Youth Lenten Retreat. All youth are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Date: March 12-14

Location: Camp Allendale (Trafalgar, IN)

Cost: \$95 by Feb. 21 and \$115 after that. Scholarships are available.

Contact: Anne Moman

NORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Meditation/Contemplative Prayer Tuesdays, 5:30-6:15 p.m. In the Chapel

This is an opportunity to develop a practice of meditation/contemplative prayer by participating in silence with others. A goal is to keep coming back to the present moment, time after time, without judgment. The silent time is preceded by a short reading, an explanation of methods if needed, and any questions you might have. Three gongs initiate and end the silent period. You may practice as you are familiar or try something new. You do not need previous experience to participate. “The root of prayer is interior silence,” said Thomas Keating. In a society of much noise and distraction, this is an opportunity to go inside and experience the power of a voice within.

If you have a submission for North Notes, please send the article electronically to Nancy Fykes at nfykes@northchurchindy.com by the 10th of each month. Not all articles will be published, and all articles are subject to editing and review.