

THE

Narthex

NORTH PARK COVENANT CHURCH

February 2011

Help Needed for 125th Annual Meeting

Jan Olson for the Annual Meeting Steering Committee

For the past two months, you've seen this Central Conference Annual Meeting logo in *The Narthex*, with the reminder to save the dates of April 28-29 for this event. It is our church's privilege to host the first portion of the 125th anniversary of our conference, and it will require the help of many to make it happen.

We will need greeters and hosts to make the delegates feel at home and familiarize them with our facility. There will be opportunities to set up and serve refreshments after the worship services on Thursday and Friday evenings, as well as a continental breakfast on Friday morning. Extra help may be needed to set up tables and equipment for the historical displays that will be part of the weekend experience. At a festive Anniversary Worship Service on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., President Gary Walter will preach, and a combined choir will sing. All are invited to attend this service with fellow Covenanters from our Central Conference.

If you are asked to participate, our steering committee hopes you will generously agree to help in whatever ways you are able. But don't wait for a call! If you would like to offer assistance, you may contact Chuck or Jan Olson, Pete or Lynn Pearson, Larry Knipp, Sig Hulburt, Glenn or Nancy Murakami, or Les Carlstrom or Cheryl Borgeson. Any one of us will gladly find a spot for you.

Let's work together to make everyone feel welcomed and cared for as they gather for this special celebratory occasion.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

In the Bleak Midwinter

Judith P. McCullough, Interim Senior Pastor

Outside the windows, snow is whirling and dancing in the wind . . . grass, shrubs, and the Epiphany Star in the south garden are covered with snow. White crunchy snow, masking sharp corners in soft, silent curves. It reminds me of the beautiful poem by Christina Rossetti:

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

And so we find ourselves in the midwinter time . . . a time of curling up with mother's afghan, of staring into candle light in the dark, of going deep within. Just as animals burrow deep within in the winter, something deep inside calls us to go deep as well. Somehow in this Epiphany time, God calls us to shine our lights into the deepest, darkest places of who we are.

The silence of winter snows gives us the gift of time we need to go within, but as well as a hunkering-down time, winter is a hard time. Life is hard in winter. It takes a lot of work to keep roads and walks and runways clear of all this snow. It's hard to get around, taking a lot of extra effort to manage in the winter-time of our lives.

And isn't it uplifting to realize that right in the middle of the coldest, most frozen time, everywhere we look we see hearts? Red hearts, lace edges, gold bows . . . all symbols of the heart. Even as we face the cold of the bleak midwinter, so we are warmed by the flow of heart-songs.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him; give him my heart.

Valentine's Day can be about romantic love, but that just scratches the surface of possibilities of what a time "of the heart" might be in this deep midwinter. So cozy down, go deep within, listen to your heart-songs. Who needs to know you love them? Who needs a long overdue letter? Who needs words of encouragement? Are there relationships that need your time and attention? What questions do you need to ask yourself?

I remember a time many years ago when I was complaining to a friend about something Tom, my husband, had done (or maybe not done). I just went on and on. My friend looked at me and said, "Judy, how would it feel to love yourself less and Tom more?" It was a hard question to hear; harder yet to act on. And yet, years later, it is a question that often gives me guidance.

It is the question of the heart and begs us to look deep within and ask it of all of our relationships with those closest to us. It certainly is the way of Christ—loving self less and others more. As we ponder and dream in the winter darkness, what will it mean in my life with those I love? What will it mean in yours? "For God so loved all his children, that he gave his only son."

- John 3:16

See you in church!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Judy" in a cursive style. To the right of the signature is a simple smiley face drawn with a circle and two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION



Sabbath-Keeping

Matt Kennedy, Youth Minister

For a while, I was kind of getting tired of the Ten Commandments. Don't hear me wrong, I wasn't necessarily tired of following them, I just didn't want to think about them very much. You remember a few years ago when there seemed to be lots of controversy over their public display in government? Being one who tries to steer clear of controversy, I tuned out the argumentative voices and unintentionally put the whole matter of the Ten Commandments out of my mind a little bit.

Since our confirmands are studying the Old Testament this year, the time came last month for me to prepare a lesson on the Law and Commandments given to Moses. Revisiting the Ten Commandments in my study and preparation reawakened me to the importance of God's Law as means for flourishing life. That's how some Rabbis would translate the Hebrew word for law, Torah. Torah is not so much understood as rules. Torah is life.



As the confirmands and I discussed and reflected on the Ten Commandments, one we kept on coming back to was the command to "Remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:18). We discussed how God's design for human life included a rhythm of work and rest, and that though we can worship God in all times and places, there is something special about the community that gathers regularly to pray, sing, and read the scriptures together. I was struck at how much

curiosity the students had about the Sabbath. I realized that, as a culture and even as a church, we not only fail to teach our children about the Sabbath, but sometimes we even encourage our children to break the commandment!

Think about it. You're not likely to hear people brag about committing adultery or murder, but the phrase "I'm so busy!" gets worn like a badge of honor! The pressures we place on our young people with school, sports, and extra curricular activities must certainly perpetuate our proclivity for busyness.

Now Jesus made a clear case that the Sabbath is not meant to be an inflexible law without room for mercy, yet he still affirms the gift God gives his people in Sabbath (Mark 2:27-28). It's simply the case that sometimes Sunday is not a restful day. Still, we should make the effort to find that rhythm of work and rest where we can. We should never be so eager to fill up our schedules that we leave out time for worship, reflection, and communion with God and one another. Lots of God's laws are countercultural, and keeping a Sabbath is ever more so. Its time we stopped encouraging one another to break the commandments. It's time we lived life as life's author intended.

PASTOR MATT



From Libby Piotrowski, Children's Minister

Living Between Two Advents

As we relish now the season of light that is Epiphany, I am reminded of a recent class I had with Doreen Olson, the executive minister of the Department of Christian Formation for the Covenant. As she spoke about the role of Christian Formation in the lives of our churches, she spoke of the two candles that sit atop the communion table each Sunday. In our church, they are lighted by robed acolytes each Sunday, symbolizing the light that is Christ. Further, that light is symbolically carried out into the world at the end of each worship service; symbolizing that we might be Christ's light to a broken and hurting people. But what of those two candles? The imagery Doreen used suggests the first candle signifies the first coming; the birth of the baby Jesus in the most mundane and ordinary of places. The second candle symbolizes the second coming; the coming we await. What is the call on our lives as we seek to be God's people; as we seek to live between the two advents? As God's people today, we live in a world

where many know of Jesus and so many more do not. We live as a part of the kingdom that is both here and not yet and we are called to be the bearers of light as we look back on the birth of our Savior and look forward to his return. In this epiphany season, let us remember the light that is Christ, and let us seek to be the bearers of this light for all the world. Grace and peace to you all.

Dates to Know

February 25-27
WinterFest at Covenant
Harbor (3rd-6th graders)

March 6
Intergenerational Sunday
School Class (9:45 hour)

A Huge Thank You

A very special thanks goes to Naomi Jackson, Minister to Toddlers, for three years of dedicated ministry in service to the toddlers in our church family. Naomi recently resigned from her position with the hope of further involvement in other areas of church ministry and life. We extend our appreciation to her for the love and care shown to the youngest among us.

Mark Your Calendars!

Vacation Bible School 2011, June 20-24
for children in preschool through 5th grade
(those in 6th grade are invited to be on staff)

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. with an optional afternoon trip to the Field Museum of Natural History for those in kindergarten and older

Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. with lunch and additional activities offered





Removed for Privacy



CHURCH REPORTS

Looking Ahead to the 2011-2012 School Year

Julie Faude for the Preschool Committee

We had an overwhelmingly positive response to the changes we made to our preschool program this year. The new Young 3s class is full, and the additional days for the 3s and 4s classes were well-received too. We'll continue with all three class options for the upcoming school year. Our preschool program will remain grounded



North Park Church
Cooperative Preschool

ed in play-based exploration and learning. We'll also maintain the cooperative nature of our school, with parent volunteers assisting in each class and getting involved on committees.

Registration for the 2011-12 school year will take place for NPCC church families during coffee hour on Sunday, February 13. Current preschool families may register the following week. A Registration Open House will be held for new families on Saturday, February 26, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the preschool room. Please help us spread the word by mentioning our preschool to friends and family with young children! For more information, please contact Teacher/Director Laura Taglioli through the church office or northparkpreschool@gmail.com.

2011-12 Preschool Schedule

Young 3s

Tuesday and Thursday, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Preschool 3s

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Preschool 4s

Monday - Thursday, 12:45 - 3:15 p.m.;
Add-on optional Friday enrichment day

Visit www.nppreschool.com for more details.

The Narthex Is Now Online

David Frisk

Starting this month, *The Narthex* will be available on the church web site. This is an exciting opportunity to expand our methods of informing friends about the life of our church!

In an effort to reduce printing and postage costs, we will soon offer the opportunity for congregation members to elect to receive *The Narthex* electronically instead of in paper form. Stay tuned for instructions on how to do this.

To address privacy issues, two versions of *The Narthex* will be created for electronic distribution—one public and one private. Congregation members will have access to the private version: a full electronic copy of the printed version. Anyone visiting our church web site will have access to the public version: an electronic copy with sensitive personal information (such as the member profile section and address changes) removed.

For now, you can see the public version of *The Narthex* online at www.npcovenant.org/narthex. Again, keep an eye and ear out for how to select the electronic version of *The Narthex*.

Progressive Dinner Raises Money for Retreat Scholarships

Christine Olfelt



A good time was had by all on January 8 at the Epiphany Progressive Dinner. We followed our star (leaders) from home to home, eating delectable food, having interesting conversation, and enjoying the homes of nine host families. I was in a home that I had last been to some thirty years ago when I was hired as a college student to wash windows! At that time



One of the nine Progressive Dinner groups, made up of Barbara Hunt, Krista Olson-Brady and Mark Brady, Axel and Anders Olson-Brady, Aiden Hunt, Anders Johnson, and Mary Chase-Ziolek, spent one portion of their evening in the home of Jay and Krystyna Nordstrom

I was grateful for church family who provided me with pizza money, and this time for yummy lasagna from the same. We returned to the star-studded church parlors for dessert and a time to continue getting to know each other better. Thanks to all who hosted and conversed.

Besides abetting the goal of hospitality and fellowship, this night raised considerable funds for scholarships and added extras at our upcoming All-Church Retreat.

Put March 18-21 on your calendars for our second annual All-Church Retreat, to be held at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. We have accommodations and meeting space for all in the Geneva Bay Center, and we have plans for the same blend of active times and relaxation; the same chances to interact through worship, conversation, art, music, drama, and physical activities;

and the same combination of nature and civilized drinking of coffee.

Cost and registration will be accounced soon, but don't let the price stop you. That's why the scholarships were raised!

Music Experiences Enrich Our Church Life

Sharon R. Peterson for the Music Committee

Thanks to all who participated in the Music Appreciation Day—teachers and students alike. It's fun to see musical interest developing and to see our fellowship enriched in the process. Talent needs to be recognized and fostered. Thanks for sharing in this special time together.

We have good memories of the annual Coffee House as well. Thanks to Charley Peterson for organizing and leading the evening along with Fred Erickson and Peter Olfelt. It's such fun to simply enjoy each other's company. What better way to become a more complete church family than by supporting each others' efforts? We look forward to next year as well.

Make note: On Sunday, February 27, there will be a lunch after the 11:00 service, followed by a concert at 1:30. Keep your eye on the bulletin and the web site for more details.



A WORD ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Shaped by Generosity

Gary Walter, President,
the Evangelical Covenant Church

January is the time for resolutions, even though someone wryly observed that resolutions are simply things that go in one year and out the other.

If I could pronounce a single resolution for the whole Evangelical Covenant Church it would be to make 2011 the Year of Living Generously.

Superintendent Mark Novak of the North Pacific Conference recently convened a “Generosity Summit” attended by some 125 people from two dozen area churches as well as other superintendents and Covenant leaders. It was facilitated by Generous Churches, a group working to promote generosity in congregations. The purpose was not to talk about fundraising but about living a life that reflects the essential character of God.

John tells us that God is love, and quite simply love reveals itself through giving. It is intrinsic to the Trinity. For God so loved the world he what? He *gave* his one and only son, Jesus. Ephesians 5 reminds us Jesus in turn so loved the church that he *gave* himself up for it. There are different spiritual gifts operating in the church, but 1 Corinthians 12 tells us the same Holy Spirit *gives* them.

God is a giving God. Generosity helps us reflect that very character. No wonder Jesus tells us freely you have received, freely give.

Generosity carves an ever-deepening channel in our lives through which the heart of God flows to the world. For a more adventurous life with God, quicken the current by pouring out over more of every good thing. By being generous with your time, aptitudes, affections, graciousness, forgiveness, appreciation, and helpfulness your own world feels more aligned because you are indeed more aligned

with the character of God.

Generosity clearly encompasses more than finances, but finances are an important dimension. Jesus says where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. As we invest in the things of God, our heart follows.

James Amadon, pastor of Highland Covenant Church in Bellevue, Washington, the congregation that hosted the Generosity Summit, shared how his young family downsized their home in order to have more financial capacity to be able to respond to more God-driven opportunities. It’s countercultural to lower your standard of living to increase your standard of giving, but I have other friends intent on doing the very same thing.

In Congo, a place of grinding poverty, generosity abounds. I noted there is a big attitudinal difference between *having to give something* and being grateful for *having something to give*.

Covenanters are ahead of most in this area. The organization Empty Tomb does studies of giving patterns among denominational groups. The ECC is almost always in the top five in per capita giving. Even so, I often hear people longing to be freer to do more for the kingdom.

If that is you, here are three simple concepts from the summit to be moving in the direction of greater generosity: be a percentage giver, a priority giver, and a progressive giver.

Percentage giving is the biblical principal of proportionality. Convert your current giving to whatever percentage of income it represents, and use that percentage as a baseline moving forward. If you keep the percentage the same, your giving capacity will rise if your income rises. Should your income decline, you are still faithful because you are giving a percentage, not an amount.

Priority giving is the biblical principle of giving

of the first fruits of the harvest to God, not the last. We honor our giving first, then shape the rest of our spending rather than vice versa.

Progressive giving is about moving forward. Progressing to a tithe (10 percent) is a worthy goal, but the tithe is never presented in the Bible as an end in itself. Indeed, for some it can even be an excuse preventing them from being as fully generous as God is inviting them to be.

Covenant pastor Craig Groeschel has said sacrifice is when we give up something we love for something we love even more.

More than our own self-interest, may we love living from the posture of radical generosity in every way. May we love a holy imagination for how God can bless others through our open hands. May we love being people of character shaped by the generous character of God.

As we move toward more generous living, may we hear the words of martyred missionary Jim Elliott, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

Originally appeared in the January 2011 issue of the Covenant Companion. Used with permission.



My Stewardship Journey

Barbara Johnson

I was raised in a home where the church was central to our lives, and we were present whenever the doors were opened. But I never heard my parents talk about tithing or giving to the church. I have no idea what they did. And I don't recall hearing sermons on the subject, either. But somehow, as I grew up, I knew that “tithes and

offerings” were part of the Christian life—giving back to God what he blessed us with.



On my first job after graduating from nursing school, I knew I wanted tithing to be part of my life, but I hadn't done it before. Now I would start (I proudly said to myself!). However, the tithe came after everything else was paid for—rent, car, food . . . and, yes, fun. And somehow, by the end of the month, I didn't have enough left over to pay my tithe. But I'd catch up!

I very carefully kept track of what I “owed God” and added to it every month. As the months went by, I soon realized I'd never be able to pay God what I owed him. I know this isn't the right vocabulary to use in talking about our gifts to God in thanks for the gifts he gives us, but it was what I was saying at the time.

I finally realized I had to change the order of things and put the tithing first. And so I began to take my tithe out at the beginning of the month. And a strange thing happened. When the end of the month came, all the bills were paid, and I hadn't missed out on anything important in my young life. I never looked back.

I don't believe God promises us we'll have everything we want if we give him the first fruits of our financial life. But I do believe he helps us to be content with what we have after we've given him our gifts and tithes in return for all that he has done, is doing, and will continue to do for us. Give it a try!

Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.”

Put God to the test. He gives us permission to do so!

The Year Ahead

Bill Werner, MD, MPH

Just as 2010 was a landmark year for health care reform with the passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 2011 promises to be a time of challenge to the legislation both from legal and funding perspectives. But other health care trends and issues will also continue into the new year that can affect the health of you and your family. Some areas to be aware of include:

Health Care Reform Some 20 preventive health services such as screening for colorectal cancer, mammography, and smoking cessation counseling will now be covered under Medicare without a co-payment or deductible. Medicare enrollees will also get some relief if their drug expenses fall into the “donut hole.” Those with a drug cost between \$2,840 and \$6,448 will get a 50% discount on brand-name prescriptions. Some higher-income seniors, however, will see a decrease in the subsidy they get for Medicare Part D drug coverage.

With pressure on all health insurance payers, whether private or governmental, to contain costs and expand coverage, you will see new models for health care delivery. Expect to hear about pilot studies of medical homes and accountable care organizations. Advance practice nurses and physician assistants will play a greater role in providing primary health care.

Drug shortages We will continue to see short-

HEALTH MINISTRIES FORUM



ages of a variety of medications. This is due to a combination of greater demand for certain drugs than pharmaceutical companies can supply, shortages of essential ingredients, drug recalls for safety reasons, and manufacturing production problems. This will likely affect prescription and over-the-counter medications but is especially severe in hospitals.

Food Safety 2010 saw several food recalls over food related illness. According to the CDC, one in six Americans get sick from food-borne illness each year.

Congress recently passed legislation that empowers the FDA to police both domestic and international food production and importation.

Obesity Despite more public awareness and attention to the importance of diet and exercise, we, as a people, keep getting fatter. I have devoted several articles to the importance of maintaining a healthy weight to avoid developing the chronic diseases related to obesity including diabetes, high blood pressure and osteoarthritis. Expect there to be more attention to the medical management of obesity through new drugs and weight control surgery.

Mergers and acquisitions Health care reform will put

pressure on doctors and hospitals to provide more economical health care services. Expect to see more mergers of hospitals into larger systems that can bring economy of scale to purchasing, staffing, and management.

*... 2011 promises
to be a time
of challenge
to the legislation ...*

WORDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



You Are Vital to Missions

Ralph Athey for the Missions Committee

As we at North Park have worked to re-define ourselves, as we seek fresh leadership and new directions, and as we deal with the stress of an economic downturn, the Missions Committee has seen an opportunity to refocus on our mission to “. . . propagate the Gospel through . . . local, regional and global missions”*, and reformulate ourselves to best perform that mission. We ask ourselves: What does it look like for missions to “. . . unite Christians in worship, fellowship, and service”? How can we inform and inspire the congregation?

The Moment for Mission is a regular part of our Sunday service. Mission people or events are frequently featured at Faithbuilders. There is a Missions bulletin board in the parlors. We are sponsoring a mission trip to Oaxaca, Mexico, in August. We are seeking young adults for this trip.

The very fabric of North Park is woven with missions. The coffee hours after services are filled with mission people of all types. Opportunities for mission involvement abound at North Park. The model we seek already exists, and it functions very well. Look around! Inform yourself! Be inspired!

Missions are the lifeblood of North Park and of the Covenant. Please help our church maintain its healthy circulation. If you are interested or have ideas, please contact me at rrathey@gmail.com or (773) 469-7488.

**Article IV, Constitution of North Park Covenant Church*

Missionary Update

Here is a brief update on what our church’s missionaries are doing and how you can best pray for them and their work:

Eugenio and Pia Restrepo are still working in Malaga in southern Spain

Paul and Sheryl Noren anticipate some language study before visiting the Fulani in Eastern Central African Republic and then on down to Congo.

Peter and Anna Kim returned from the U.S. to their work at Kernel of Seed in East Asia. They were glad to be welcomed by one of their new believers.

John and Letha Kerl, Regional Coordinators for Europe, Russia, and Africa, made a trip to Congo in October after being away for 27 years. They have hosted numerous travelers who come through their home in Lyon, France. They especially enjoyed a visit from their daughter, Katy, now serving in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Tom and Janice Kelly remember with gratitude their visits to so many ministry partners during their time of home assignment. We at North Park Covenant Church were especially honored to see them when they were in Chicago and able to attend NPCC. They ask for prayer for the Central District Council as they choose a new president for the next two-year term. We are invited to visit their newly established blog at <http://blogs.covchurch.org/kelly>. We were also made aware of a significant shortfall in their monthly support and ask for your prayers and your thoughts on actions we can consider for this missionary couple who have served so faithfully in Mexico for the past 28 years and for whom NPCC is their home church.

Bob and Janet Thornbloom’s work was featured in the December issue of *The Narthex*.



OUR MINISTRIES

Women Ministries to Host WM Sunday

Laurie Rizzo for Women Ministries

Happy New Year! The first Women Ministries meeting of 2011 will be on Tuesday, February 1, at 7 p.m. in the parlors. All women are welcome.

Women Ministries Sunday is February 6. Join us after the 11:00 service for a special coffee hour with special treats provided by Lucille Anderson and Ingrid Bergstrom and served by the Women Ministries committee.

Thanks to all who made our November event at Sig Hulburt's house a big success. We'll have another event in April; more details will be forthcoming.

Charley Peterson shows children from our church how to play the autoharp during the January 22 Musical Appreciation Day.



This young man strums out a few chords taught to him by Choir Director Chuck Olson

OUR WORSHIP IN MUSIC



From the Organ Bench: Being Christ to Others

Sharon R. Peterson, Organist

Jesus, Lord, our true example, you have shown how we must live.
Teach us how to share with others ev'rything we have to give.
Let our days be spent in service; bring us by your grace to know
healing is the church's calling, and the path that we must go.

- "Jesus Heard with Deep Compassion", verse 3, *The Covenant Hymnal: A Worshipbook*, #205

During Epiphany I like to think of the symbolism of the star. Guiding light. Hope in the darkness. These are just a few images that come to mind.

Perhaps a more powerful Epiphany image is thinking about Jesus' life among us. God's own son living among us as a normal human. Jesus touching the lives of friend and stranger. More images that come to mind.

Bell Choir Needs Subs

The Chancel Bell Choir is looking for more substitute ringers to play in the event of a regular member's absence from rehearsal. Please contact director Linden Christ at linden.christ@gmail.com if you are interested in being on the contact list. Thank you!

The hymn above reminds us how we can be Christ to friend and stranger. As Libby highlighted in her Word for the Children on Sunday, January 16, we are God's light in the world. We cannot shine (or minister to others) without the fuel of God's presence in our lives. As we sang on that Sunday, we need "oil in [our] lamp." We need God's Holy Spirit giving us direction and strength.

As we're well on our way in a new year let's contemplate how we can spend every day in service. Let us be generous with God's gifts to us and be vessels of healing. If we ask, God will provide the ability to show himself through us.

Children's Choir Learns to Sing *and* Ring

Linden Christ, Director, Children's and Chancel Bell Choirs

The Children's Choir is now splitting their one-hour session between singing and bell and chime ringing. The children are excited about this new opportunity to learn together the art of bell ringing. Instead of singing a musical on Mother's Day, the children will "Sing & Ring". Remember: All children from 2nd grade up are invited to participate regularly with the Children's Choir on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!



OUR PEOPLE

Stina Peterson recently completed her M.A. in International Education from New York University and was promoted to full-time Program Manager in the Office of Academic Initiatives and Global Programs at NYU's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development. She had been working part-time in the same office since 2009 while completing her Master's. As Program Manager, Stina will assist with course development and manage several study abroad programs and conferences hosted at NYU.

On October 2, 2010, **Janet and Bob Thornblom** were named North Park University's Distinguished Alumni for their work as career missionaries to Congo, a 44-year vocation to which they remain highly devoted. The Thornblooms were featured in the Winter 2011 issue of *The North Parker* magazine.

Linden Christ will be singing at Monastero's Restaurant (Devon just east of Pulaski) on Friday, February 4, and Saturday, February 12, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Come enjoy a nice Italian dinner and lovely music!

Letters to the Congregation

I want to thank the North Park congregation for the many prayers and cards I received regarding my recent oral cancer surgery. I really appreciated your thoughtfulness. Unlike my brother, Dave, who died in September from the same type of cancer, I was very fortunate that they discovered mine at a very early stage. The cancer was cut out and no further treatment will be necessary. After I completely heal, I'll just need a few new front teeth. Thanks be to God for the miracle of modern medicine. I realized that being on the prayer chain at North Park Church brings calls from many old friends from around the country—it was amazing! Thank you again for your caring.

- Craig Johnson (Libby Piotrowski's Dad)
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Members and Friends,

The entire staff joins me in saying "thank you" to each one who shared in our monetary gift this past Christmas. We are blessed to be remembered in such a generous, tangible way! We covet your prayers as we anticipate a year full of God's possibilities among us, "abounding in hope" as we wait for the Spirit's leading and direction for our church.

With gratitude and prayers
for God's blessing,
Terri VanDerVeer,
for the entire ministry staff

COVENANT HOME OF CHICAGO

CUSTOMIZED SUPPORTIVE LIVING

* Home Care is also available through
Methodist Senior Home Care

2720 West Foster Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625

Please call (773) 506-6900 to schedule a visit.

Covenant Retirement Communities does not discriminate pursuant to the Fair Housing Act subject to any exemptions that may apply.

February Birthdays



Can You Help?

A Chinese female exchange student, studying at Northeastern Illinois University, needs a room or to share an apartment until mid-May. She's a charming young woman who will spend most of her time studying at the university. Her budget is not large. Call (773) 267-3233 if you can help.

Removed for Privacy

FOR SALE:

Portable sewing machine
in good condition.

\$50

Please contact (773) 267-3233.

Find us on Facebook!

Keep current on what's going on at church, see pictures of events and activities, let us know what you're up to, and get back in touch with past members and friends.



Just go to www.facebook.com/npcovenant and click on the "Like" button.



NORTH PARK COVENANT CHURCH

5250 North Christiana Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60625
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Office Phone: (773) 463-0055

Message & Prayer Line: (773) 463-0077

Fax: (773) 463-0099

Email: npcc@npcovenant.org

Web site: www.npcovenant.org



PASTORAL STAFF

Judith P. McCullough, Interim Senior Pastor
Matt Kennedy, Interim Youth Minister
Libby Piotrowski, Children's Minister

NORTH PARK FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Joanne Ekberg, Executive Director

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday School for All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship Services 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Ann-Marie O. Frisk, Editor & Designer • Terri VanDerVeer, Office Manager

Submit your news for the March newsletter to narthex@npcovenant.org by February 15.