

The Breezeway

The Winds of the Spirit

In a few weeks we will celebrate Pentecost, the day when we remember the Spirit descending upon the unwitting disciples in wind and flame. Pentecost is always a fun day, but as it approaches this year, I find myself asking, “How are the winds of the spirit moving us today?”

I know that many of us are feeling worn out; the demands of work and home life are often overwhelming. Stressors seem to be piling on from all angles, as is a feeling of simply being burned out: we are tired of doing the same chores, fighting the same fights, and not getting the results we worked so hard to get. From this place, it can be hard to feel the winds of the spirit blowing, or even to know which way we should turn to feel the breeze.

If this sounds familiar, you are not alone. The disciples were in a similar place shortly before the Spirit descended upon them, propelling them out of their place of comfort and into life-giving ministry.

This same spirit is still blowing all around us, though often not quite so dramatically. It may be that feel caught up in it now. However, if you do not, a couple of things for you to consider:

Sometimes we are running ahead of the wind and need to stop, or slow down, to feel it. If this is you, consider carving out some sabbath time to pause and listen. Rest, meditation, and prayer are equally important as our work, though they rarely receive the same attention.

Sometimes winds shift. We might be sailing along happily, perhaps for quite some time, until one day we discover we are dead in the water, uninspired by that which had kept us going for so long. It is good and natural to change and grow over time, and to investigate new ways of serving. What ministries are you being invited to lay down, that you might venture in a new direction?

Sometimes we are, without knowing it, hiding from the wind. The Spirit is wild and unpredictable, and it can feel scary to lean fully into your calling. If you find you are seeking shelter, consider – what am I really sheltering from? What am I worried about? Who might help distinguish if this is a true calling?

Sometimes the Spirit is blowing so strongly that we cannot hold our sails against the gusts. If this is the case, remember even Jesus didn't do ministry alone and the same question as before is relevant – who might help me with this? Who might like to sail alongside me?

The Good News, for all of us, is that the Spirit is loose and active in the world. You have been given amazing gifts and are, even now, being invited to use these gifts to serve God and one another. More than that, we are called to do this together as the Body of Christ. I am grateful for all of you, and the ways you are using your gifts are Northwood. And, I am looking forward to seeing how we might serve together this summer.

Rev. Jon Watt

Change Is' a Coming!

April 28, 2022

Prepared by: John "Cotton" Clark

Hello Northwood. This message is long overdue, but Beverle Grounds, Jennifer Rivera, and I need to update you on changes... and then there have been changes to the changes!

First and as you may know, Northwood Session has gone through some restructuring. Really, what that means is that we've reformulated committees in new ways that will – hopefully – jive and coordinate better with each other. To wit, as Ruling Elders Bev and Jennifer led what we previously called the Building & Grounds Committee, while I led the former Personnel & Administration Committee. In December, we experimented with these by merging them together, along with the Finance function, and created a rather bland sounding team that we called the Business Committee. There was a lot of right reasons to do this; however, it became a bit unwieldy. Because of that, we recently reconstituted ourselves one more time, but back into more familiar configurations. Bev and Jenn will now lead the long familiar Building & Grounds Committee, while I will lead the Personnel, Finance, & Administration function.

No doubt, these combined committees comprise the vast majority of Northwood's budget (some 80-85% of the church's annual budget), and we will continue to operate and coordinate closely with each other as there are many intersecting projects which both groups will need to manage together.

Which leads to the real change afoot: Northwood will be is getting a new roof!... well, major parts of it, that is. (Some of you may recall that we re-roofed a few sections of the church after the big storm in 2016, but this project is bigger... *much* bigger.) It's been a long process getting here, and we still have a ways to go. Just know that we are now underway.

Why the delay?... as far as insurance claims go, this one has been odd from the get-go. First, you must understand that the damage we incurred happened sometime during the pandemic shutdown that lasted from late March 2020 through mid-year 2021. Truly, we had no one at the church for some 15-16 months, and even when we started allowing folks back on-site it was only in certain, quarantined areas. Meaning, there was no one to witness any damage or problem as it happened for an extended period.

Now, here's the rub: typically, insurance companies will want to connect potential damage claims to a particular storm event, damage for which they would expend monies in what is called a "net claim." Guide One is and has been Northwood's insurer for decades, and in eschewing long-held tradition in the insurance field it finally and graciously accepted our claim for damage that was not connected to a specific storm, but instead it accepted a claim for damage incurred *sometime* during that protracted year+ vacancy. Indeed, we are grateful for their indulgence.

Here's the important part, though: this project is "bigger than a breadbasket," as the saying goes. Much bigger. In fact, it will be the single largest project/expenditure that Northwood will have undertaken in many, many decades. The initial damage claim amount as identified by Guide One Insurance is over \$263,000, but as in almost all roofing projects we anticipate the final bill to be higher once the old roof is removed and the whole substrate can be fully inspected (where more damage will most likely be found). As with all forms of insurance, Northwood is responsible for its deductible, which is some \$47,000, and we will work smartly to keep our financial exposure to just that amount. (To be clear:

that money will be taken out of our reserve accounts, much of which was originally gifted for large, non-recurring expenses like this.)

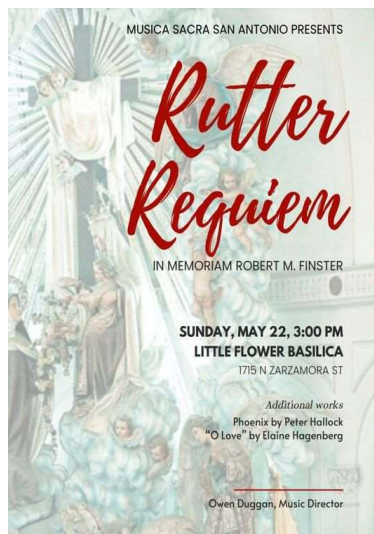
Getting the insurance agreement and discovering the claim amount is one thing; finding a reputable company to do the work is something completely different. Because of the scale and scope of this project, our joint committee spent a great deal of time just trying to comprehend it and prepare for it. We sought bids from three different roofers, all with substantially different approaches on how they would repair our roof. None of us have any expertise in how to discern such a variety of large-scale work, but we were fortunate to have one of our newest members, Harvey Juarez, help us sort through all this as he is retired from a long career in large-scale facility project management (at local universities, no less). Result: we have now identified and engaged a contract with a local company that has a long and commendable record of serving San Antonio's roofing market, Holden Roofing.

Bottom-line: we are underway on getting a new roof! Just know that there is much to be done, and there are myriad project milestones before us. You will first start seeing roofing material being delivered and temporarily stored on-site in coming weeks, followed by workers coming to start the demolition phase. Temporary orange fencing, large refuse containers, hammers banging, etc., etc.... it's coming soon. We are doing our best to schedule work to minimize interference with church and day school schedules. So, stay tuned!

PENTECOST COMMUNION IN JUNE



Communion in June will be by Intinction. You will have your choice of the bread and cup from a gloved hand or the prepackaged serving that we have been using during Covid days.



Rutter Requiem – Musica Sacra

Sunday, May 22 at 3 PM, at Little Flower Basilica, 1715 N. Zarzamora St., Musica Sacra San Antonio will present *Requiem* by John Rutter in memory of the organization's founder Robert M. Finster (1939-2020). Dr. Finster formed Musica Sacra in 2010 and had previously founded the Texas Bach Choir as well as similar ensembles in New York, Denver, and Chicago.

Requiem is an Anglican choral work loosely based on the Roman Catholic burial rite. The music is both modern and traditional, with hauntingly beautiful themes interlaced with ethereal, meditative solos by soprano, oboe, cello, and harp.

The concert, directed by Dr. Owen Duggan, will also feature choral works by CV Stanford, Peter Hallock, and Elaine Hagenberg. Admission is by donation and is open to all faiths.

Contact:
Owen Duggan
210-241-5589

News from the Day School *by Martha Sherrod*

Day School Spring Fling Fundraiser Family Picnic is back in person!!!



Friday, May 13 5:00 – 7:00 is the date and time of the Day School's annual Spring celebration and fundraiser. It is a time for our families to get together and celebrate and wonderful year, have some fun and food and raise money for the school. There are many awesome items to bid on. Beginning May 6 anyone can bid on the items by going to www.biddingowl.com/NorthwoodSATX. Take a look, make a bid and maybe you will be winning bidder on the item of your choice!!

This is one of our biggest fundraisers, the money going to all kinds of needed items for the classrooms and the school. We appreciate all your support! This has been a great year for our school in many ways. We look forward to our summer sessions. Open enrollment is on-going. Please pass the word to anyone you know who is looking for high-quality, faith based child care. Thanks for all your support of your Day School!!



PW Circle Meetings in May

Circles are meeting in May.

The Wednesday and Saturday Circles are using the PW Study ***What My Grandmothers Taught Me.***

All women are welcome!

The Wednesday Circle

will meet May 11th at 10:00 am

We will meet at church in the Fellowship Hall

- contact Judy Harris for information

The Saturday Circle

May 14th at 9:30 am We will meet at church in Nancy's home

The Monday Evening Circle

May 9th at 6:30 pm We will meet at Stephanie's home

- contact Sherryl Walsh for information

Contemporary Book Club

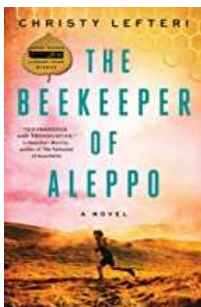
Sunday, May 29th at 6:00 pm

we will be hosted by Gayle Millard. Our book is

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Bring a potluck dish or hors d'oeuvre or dessert. The hosts will provide beverages.

Friends are welcomed, and even if you did not read or finish the book, you are welcome to join!







Happy Easter from Northwood Presbyterian

Spring Clean Northwood !!



YARD WORK DAY, MAY 14TH



**Bring your chain saws and tools to
Tame our flower beds and those tacky shrubs**

CLEAN UP, CLEAR OUT IN HOUSE DAY, MAY 21ST



**Come prepared to dust, trash, and paint, showing pride in our
Northwood Church**