

Inside This Issue:

From the Pastor	2
Music Ministry	3
Outreach Mission	4
Announcements & In Your Words	5
Mardi Gras Talent Show, Chain of Lakes	6
Session Highlights	7
Earth Care Team	8
Stephen Ministry	9
Calendar Highlights	10

Worship Schedule

January 1 - *Happy New Year 2012!*

Luke 2:22-40
"Guided by the Spirit"

January 22

Mark 1:14-20
"Immediately!"

January 8

Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11
"Decently and In Order"
Congregational Meeting

January 29

Mark 1:21-28
"Preach!"

January 15

John 1:43-51
"Heaven Opened"
Dan Graham preaching

HOLY LAND

October 16-27, 2012

Pastor David will be hosting a trip to Israel/Palestine October 16-27, 2012. The trip will be a once-in-a-lifetime journey to the Holy Land. The itinerary is amazing! Brochures will be available on the Opportunities Table or talk with Pastor David. An informational meeting will be held Thursday, February 9 at 7 pm at the church if you are in the least bit interested.

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

A blessed New Year to each of you!

“Somewhere, out at the edges, the night
Is turning and the waves of darkness
Begin to brighten the shore of dawn

The heavy dark falls back to earth
And the freed air goes wild with light,
The heart fills with fresh, bright breath
And thoughts stir to give birth to the color of [love].”

John O'Donohue, “To Bless the Space Between Us”

My New Year prayer for all of us is “to give birth to the color of love”. The color of love may be: light, vibrant, dazzling, spectacular, breath-taking, and simply holy. How will we give birth to others seeking God in Christ? How will we give birth to ourselves as we seek God in Christ in the transitions, challenges, and opportunities that come our way in 2012? May we seek God in Christ through faithfulness as we worship, pray, serve, and open ourselves to healthy decisions.

A Blessed New Year Waits!

Pastor David

Music Ministry

Where's Sean? He Just Got Here!

This month, some of you may notice that I am not sitting in the Sanctuary worshipping with you all. My absence is not due to some lengthy vacation in some remote paradise, in fact, I'll be sitting at home recuperating.

Mid-January, I will be having my hip replaced at Woodwinds Hospital because I have had a life-long problem with my left hip. When I was learning to walk, my parents noticed that I seemed to be in pain and walked funnier than most toddlers. Chalking it up to growing pains, they ignored it for a while, but the pain continued. So we went to various specialists until I landed at Shriner's Hospital in Minneapolis where I was diagnosed with Legg-Calve Perthes Disease which means that there is no blood flowing to the ball-joint in my hip. Without blood flow, the bone dies. From ages 6-18, I had 6 hip surgeries at Shriner's to correct various problems and this surgery will hopefully be the last one for quite a while.

In case you are wondering why I chose January for this operation and not wait until summer or some other time, I'll tell you about last summer. Last summer, my beautiful wife and I celebrated her birthday and our housewarming in a joint celebration. I was on my feet for most of those 9 hours, was giving tours of the house, and various other host-duties. I couldn't walk afterwards. My hip had nearly completely seized up.

Pastor David and I had our regular Tuesday meeting that week and it hurt to sit, stand, or walk. He said, "Enough! You are going to call a doctor this week."

After a few more naggings that week, I actually followed his advice, called my GP, and within a week, I had 2 sets of x-rays, a series of MRI's, and 2 appointments with an orthopedist. The surgeon's next available surgical appointment wasn't until November. Pastor David told me to take it, because I was in so much pain. Christmas would still be Christmas without me, he reminded. And, though I agree with that last statement, I decided to wait until after Christmas for my surgery.

I scheduled the surgery date the morning before the first ensemble rehearsal and each of our musicians has been great. You'll notice some different music coming to you, with smaller ensembles, and hopefully you'll enjoy it. We have immense amounts of talent in this church and I am grateful they stepped up to sing or play to the glory of God.

In my absence, I will keep regular updates with Pastor David, Chris, and the rest of the staff. So, if you are wondering how I am doing, please feel free to ask them. Like you do with all of our friends and members who are convalescing, please keep me, Becky, and the rest of my family in your prayers. I cannot imagine how our one-year-old puppy, Woody, will deal with my walker, but it will be fun to see.

This has been a multiple-year, New Year's Resolution and, thanks to David, the Personnel Committee, and Becky, I'm finally fulfilling it in 2012. I guess we sometimes need a push to do what's best.

Blessings to you this New Year!
Sean Johnson

Outreach Mission

Northside Women's Space a Reality!

You can help! – see below

The healing ministry of Northside Women's Space at Kwanzaa Community Church in northeast Minneapolis is up and running, providing a supportive path for women to positively transform themselves, their families, and the community. It is truly an investment in the future health of our Twin Cities community. Our Presbyterian brothers and sisters at Kwanzaa are grateful for our support and prayers as they reach out to women who have been exploited by sex trafficking to provide them a safe place to rest, think, and connect to support and services that will help them get to where they want to be in their lives.

Staff is in place. Volunteers are being trained. The space has been lovingly prepared – moving worship including their organ to another building, tornado repair including a new roof, electrical work, kitchen update, sanding, painting, new floors, cabinets, furnishings, doors and locks, etc.

One amazing story is the removal of the 75-yr-old stained glass windows in the sanctuary. Persons familiar with the women to be served recommended this to make the space more welcoming. Kwanzaa came to understand that Jesus would rather be walking among the women than staring down from the windows. A New York City philanthropist learned of it and was led to purchase and replace all the windows with plans to donate them to another church. Funds from the sale will help replace the building's heating system. A decommissioning service for the windows was held; professional photos will be stored at the Presbytery; when possible, the dedication plaques were returned to the families who donated the stained glass windows those many years ago.



The NWS ministry has a 3-pronged approach:

- 1) Prevention – An art-based sex trafficking prevention project with youth has been launched.
- 2) Care – Outreach has started, women have stopped in, and support groups are meeting.
- 3) Public Policy – There are plans to recruit and train volunteers as public policy advocates for prevention of generational poverty and decriminalization for victims of sex trafficking.

Our ongoing **gifts and prayers** are greatly appreciated to help continue this ministry of hope. During January there will be a collection site in the atrium for the following helpful items:

- Soap (small motel-sized)
- Lotion (small motel-sized)
- Women's gloves & socks
- Portable non-perishable healthy snacks (granola bars, etc.)

Monetary gifts can be made to North Como Presbyterian Church marked for Kwanzaa Northside Women's Space special fund, or made and mailed directly to Kwanzaa Community Church, 2100 Emerson Ave N, Mpls. 55411. Loose change in the offering plate and Bowl of Abundance during January will go toward this life-changing ministry. Thank you for making a difference!

Announcements & In Your Words

Join the Snow Shoveling Team!



Volunteers needed to keep our sidewalks and entrances clear of snow. Great pay (our gratitude for your help), medical benefits (exercise), and retirement plan (plan to get tired over and over). Contact

Chris at 651-488-5581 or email admin@northcomochurch.org to join the team!

There will be a Special Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, January 8, 2012 for the purpose of voting on Pastor David Maghakian's terms of call for 2012. The congregational meeting is in accordance with Book of Order (G-2.0804) which states, "The session shall review annually the minister's terms of call and shall propose for congregational action such changes as the session deems appropriate...." All active members of the congregation present at the meeting are entitled to vote.

Pastoral Care

While Pastor David is on vacation January 9-17 pastoral care will be offered by Rev. Dan Graham, our Parish Associate. Please contact the church office if you need help and Dan will contact you.

All About North Como

A gathering for people who are interested in joining the church will be offered Sunday, January 22nd at noon in the Memorial Lounge. Pastor David and Ruling Elder, Nancy Holt are leading the discussion. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions or would like to attend, please RSVP to Pastor David via email or a call by Friday, January 13.

NCPC Operating Fund through November

	Actual	YTD Budget	Actual minus Budget
Current year contributions & other income:	145,672	150,154	-4,482
Ministry expenses:	115,070	127,281	-12,211
Total income - expense:	30,602	22,873	7,729

Mardi Gras Madness “Talent” Show

Saturday, February 18—7pm



Dust off your tap shoes, drag out that top hat, dress up for a great party night!

Calling all musicians, actors, puppeteers, dancers, speakers, mimes, storytellers, and stand-up comics. Sign up at the Opportunities Table to provide entertainment for an evening of talent, food, and fun to fatten up the Blue Barrel.

Admission: a donation of non-perishable food for Minnesota Foodshare. There will be a prize for the person or family that brings the most food. All ages are welcome!

Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church

Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church is a new church development the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has prayerfully launched in the Lino Lakes community. A Presbyterian congregation being planted in Lino Lakes is cause for celebration because people who are seeking a faith community can learn theology and community through our reformed tradition as we serve Christ. North Como has supported Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church - over a year ago, by sending funds to help them purchase chairs for their worship space. During the November Presbytery meeting Chain of Lakes was approved to purchase property to eventually build a facility to reach out to the community. Our session was visited in November by Pastor Paul Moore and a Ruling Elder to share their dynamic ministry. They challenged North Como to pray for their outreach and support them with at least a \$500 donation. The session has invited Chain of Lakes to send a representative to share their ministry with us on Sunday, January 29th. A special offering will be taken at that time; special envelopes are going to be provided. Please pray for this new faith community and consider a gift for their ministry (which is also our ministry!).

Session Highlights

November 2011

The Session voted to provide the new Chain of Lakes Presbyterian Church financial support in the amount of \$500. The money will come from special fundraising efforts, rather than taking the money from our current budget.

It was decided that the strategic planning emphasis for the month of January will be to revisit our vision statement. Also in January, the Stewardship Committee will be communicating more information to members about our *per capita* contribution.

A Congregational meeting will be held following worship on January 8, 2012 to consider and vote on Pastor David's Terms of Call for 2012.

Earth Care Team

Thoughts for the New Year!



Here are some ideas from the book *"True Green Life in 100 Everyday Ways"* by Kim McKay & Jenny Bonnin:

1. We have a brand new year ahead of us so a lot of people are thinking about things they would like to accomplish and making New Year's Resolutions. "What's your plan for the planet (for 2012)? We all know that our modern lifestyle is jeopardizing the future of our planet, but what can we do? Well, alot - you just need a plan! We plan for our retirement, our holidays, and even our weekends, so why not plan to lead a more sustainable life? Change your behavior to think climate-friendly and low-carbon instead of convenient and disposable. You, too, can make a difference. Make a decision to be part of the solution...make a plan".
2. This is the cold and flu season so we thought you might be interested in this article: "Bless you and gesundheit! The environmental impact of disposable facial tissues is nothing to sneeze at. Support tissue manufacturers with high recycled (paper) content and clean manufacturing processes. Make sure your next box is unbleached and 100 % recycled – otherwise you'll be contributing to the destruction of virgin or old-growth forests. Look for products labeled totally **chlorine-free (TCF)** or **processed chlorine-free (PCF)**. Consider blowing your nose with recycled content toilet paper to save more packaging - it's ultimately all the same paper, anyway...use 100 percent recycled tissues".
3. Wouldn't it be fun to have a crystal ball so we could see what is going to happen in 2012? One thing we can be sure of is that our actions will make a difference. "One of the simplest and most effective things you can do to address climate change is to become energy efficient in all aspects of your life. Start by switching to renewable energy and always switching off unused lights. Earth Hour, run by the World Wildlife Fund, is an initiative that calls on individuals and businesses to turn off their lights for one hour of one day once a year. Earth Hour 2008 united more than 50 million people across seven continents, which demonstrated our power to do something about our planet's future. It was the biggest power-down in history. By being energy efficient and making small changes every day, not just during Earth Hour, we can each do our part...show you care with one simple action".

Healing Hummingbird Habits

Consider including the environment and creation care in your prayers. Here is one that is a table grace from a collection called *Thanking God With Integrity*:

"God, every breath we take is evidence of Your loving mercy. And every meal we eat is evidence of Your nurturing care. Help our gratitude and love for You to be equally evident. Not just in the words we speak, but also in our care for the environment, and with lifestyles that can be easily sustained by an earth we share with others.
Amen."

Did you know that currently each person in the Twin Cities metro area generates 7 pounds of waste each day? That's enough to fill the Metrodome 11 times a year! Nearly 30% of our trash is packaging. Much of it is cardboard that can be reused or recycled. Food waste accounts for 11% of the garbage we throw away.

Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry Program is Christ Centered



The members are trained and organized to provide Christian caregiving to the congregation and community. Our team of skilled caregivers are equipped to bring Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, in crisis, or experiencing other stresses in life.

For people of faith, our work as Stephen Ministers is at it's best when motivated and animated by our faith. A strong spiritual foundation is crucial to our well-being as caring helpers.

The following are time-honored practices we can all use to sustain and enrich us spiritually:

*Be a person of prayer. Begin your day with praise to the creator expressing joy for a new day, life, work, health, family, friends and colleagues.

*Don't let being busy crowd out prayer. Prayer connects us to a power greater than ourselves. Through prayer our energies can be replenished, our vision restored, our anxieties eased, hope refreshed, and confidence renewed.

1. Observe a Sabbath day of rest. Turn off cell phones, computers, TVs and radios. Make yourself unavailable to work demands.

2. Restore laughter. "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22)

3. Practice meditation. A few minutes of regular meditation is effective in easing anxieties and bringing peace of mind. Follow the three S's. **Silence. Stillness.** Close your eyes and embrace the silence. **Simplicity.** For a minute or two repeat the phrase from Psalm 46:10; "Be still and know....."

4. Recite affirmations. Affirmations are short, positive statements to ourselves.

5. Put the serenity prayer into practice. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

I am calm; I am capable; I am filled with joy; My cup runneth over; This is the day that God has made—I will rejoice in it and be glad.



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RULING ELDERS: Bobbie Bigwood, Ann Bursch, Wendy Griffin, Luke Heikkila, Nancy Holt, Jan Hubbell, Susan Kachel, Tasha Miller, Manley Olson, Ardys Randall, Darroll Skilling, and Craig Sulzdorf.
(If you have ever been ordained as an Elder, you are always an Elder!)

The People of North Como Presbyterian Church are a Christian faith Community, a family glorifying God through worship, prayer, study, and loving service throughout God's world.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:45 am

OFFICE HOURS: 8 am-4:30 pm Monday-Friday ~ Closed 12:30-1 pm for Lunch

Teaching Elder, Head of Staff, Pastor: David Maghakian, ext. 15
davidm@northcomochurch.org; 651-269-8593

Parish Associate: Rev. Dan Graham, dan.graham5@gmail.com; 651-481-3950

Business Administrator: Steve Klein, ext. 20 stevek@northcomochurch.org

Coordinator of Children, Youth & Family Ministries: Cathy Kolwey, ext. 11
cathyk@northcomochurch.org

Music Ministry Director & Communications Specialist: Sean Johnson, ext. 17
seanj@northcomochurch.org

Administrative Assistant: Chris Schoonover, ext. 10 chriss@northcomochurch.org

Preschool Director: Jennifer Henriksen, ext. 19 director@northcomopreschool.org

Custodian: Jerry Martin (In building M-F 9:30 am – 3:30 pm)

Organist: HyeonJeong Lee; jeong5977@aol.com

Nursery: Rachel Avenido, Ahnnica Lambrides, Amber Miller, Shanda Lillehei

January Calendar Highlights

Monday, January 2

Saturday, January 7—11:00 am

Sunday, January 8—11:00 am

Saturday, January 14—7:00 pm

Monday, January 16

Sunday, January 22—12:00 pm

OFFICE CLOSED—Happy New Year!

Phyllis Fleming Memorial & Luncheon

Congregational Meeting

Spectrum/Boomer Game Night

OFFICE CLOSED—Martin Luther King Jr.

All About North Como

- Sunday bulletin submissions due by noon on Wednesdays
- February Notes articles due the 2nd Thursday of the month – January 12 by 3pm

Please email your submissions to: chriss@northcomochurch.org

