

Inside This Issue:

From the Pastor	2
Children, Youth & Family Ministries	3
Children, Youth & Family Ministries	4
Music Ministry	5
Outreach Mission	6
Announcements & In Your Words	7
Progressive Dinner	8
NC Preschool	9
Earth Care Team	10
Earth Care Team, Stephen Ministry	11
Calendar Highlights	12

Worship Schedule

December 4
2nd Sunday of Advent
Mark 1:1-8
“Being Prepared”
Advent Festival Activities following Worship-Carols!

December 11
3rd Sunday of Advent
John 1:6-8, 19-28
“Being Prepared”
Advent Festival Activities following Worship-Crafts!

December 18
4th Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols/Children’s Pageant
“Being Prepared”
Advent Festival Activities following Worship-Soup!

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Services 4pm & 10:30pm
Merry Christmas!
Communion
Luke 2:1-22
“Prepared and NOW open to Receive”



SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR ADVENT PREPARATION

Saturday, December 10, 9:30 am-12 noon ~

Pastor David will lead a simple retreat immersing us in Isaiah 40:3-5. Quiet prayer, reflection, and sharing will deepen your heart’s desire for rebirth through Jesus Christ. Coffee, tea, and light refreshments will be offered. Childcare will be available, please RSVP if you will be bringing your children and/or if you will be coming to the retreat to Pastor David by December 6.

From the Pastor

Dear Faith Community,

*The prophet Isaiah proclaims, "A voice cries out: In the wilderness **prepare** the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." Isaiah 40:3-5.*

Advent: the liturgical season that leads us to Christmas. Advent is time set aside for spiritual **preparation** to meet the new born Messiah, the King, the Anointed One, and the Heart of who we are and have our being. Let us explore the many ways we can **prepare** our lives for the birth (rebirth) this holy, beloved season.

The light-rail which is being constructed from St. Paul to Minneapolis has been headline news for the Twin Cities. The **preparation** has been extensive, expensive, hope-filled, and travel altering. Imagine making way for the Messiah like the light-rail construction in your heart and life. What needs removing? What needs altering? How would you travel through your days differently? What is the cost for this **preparation** in your life? Isaiah says, "Make straight a highway"!

Paying attention to the Messiah's Holy Spirit, daily, leads our hearts to an openness longing for the birth of possibilities by living in love and sharing Emmanuel's gift with all we know and meet. Pay attention during our new weekly intergenerational Advent

Festival following worship. Pay attention to the ornaments you remove from boxes to decorate your home. Pay attention to the hymns we sing. Pay attention to the movement of peace in the Middle East, in the nations of the world, in our cities. Pay attention to your gifting, how does your gift signify **preparation** for the receiver to experience the rebirth of Jesus in their lives? Pay attention to **preparing** a highway for our LORD.

Above all, by all means, don't get stressed out and over anxious about your **preparations**. God provides. God **prepares** the way!

In Loving Preparation,

Pastor David



Children, Youth, & Family Ministries



CHRISTMAS: A SEASON OF GIVING

Here are 25 ways to give this holiday season (one for every day of Advent). May it inspire you to include a worthy cause in your holiday shopping!! Pick just one!

1). GIVE LIFE-SAVING MEDS

\$5 to **faceaids.org** will give an HIV affected pregnant mother in Rwanda the drugs she needs to prevent transmission to her baby.

2). SAVE A PET

\$50 to **animaladvocatesalliance.org** bails out a dog or cat from a high kill shelter and provides vet care for the animal until its adoption.

3). TEACH A GEN NEXT

\$25 to **pencilsofpromise.org** sends a child in a developing country to school for 78 days. (\$118 covers a full year)

4). GIVE THE JOBLESS A LEG UP

Give away those dress pants you never wear anymore. **Careergear.org** gives advice on how to land a job, and loans interview clothes, too.

5). DONATE YOUR OLD CELL PHONE

To **ncadv.org**

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence will refurbish and sell it, and use the proceeds to get survivors back on their feet.

6). SEND A TEDDY BEAR TO THE CHILD OF A DEPLOYED MARINE

\$25 to **jonathancollins.org** gives a bear with a voice message recorded by the parent which plays when the paw is squeezed.

7). PICK UP THE GROCERY TAB FOR A SENIOR

\$8 to **drivetoendhunger.org** feeds someone over 50 who doesn't get enough food; it give them healthy meals for one day.

8). PROTECT NEWBORNS IN INDIA

\$50 to **embraceglobal.org** helps keep nine babies alive with a genius incubator-like invention.

9). HELP WOMEN GET FREE MAMOGRAMS

Just click the pink button at **thebreatcancersite.com**. Last year they funded 2,112 screenings for needy women.

10). PROVIDE CLEAN WATER

\$30 to **wellsbringhope.org** gives one villager in Africa access to safe water and good sanitation for more than 30 years. (that's a dollar a year).

11). SHOP FOR ART'S SAKE

Hearts of Haiti gifts (from \$10 to \$120) at **Macys.com** provide steady income for the workers of Haiti. And what woman doesn't love jewelry at Christmas!

12). START A READING CHAIN

\$10 to **readingvillage.org** helps pay school fees for rural teens in Guatemala, who in turn teach younger children in their village to read.

(cont. on pg. 4)

Children, Youth, & Family Ministries (cont.)

13). CLEAR THE AIR

20 million Americans suffer from asthma. A donation to cleartheair.edf.org helps defend our breathing supply from polluters.

14). HELP SHARE A NEW EGYPT

A gift to vitalvoices.org will support the Egyptian women who have fought for change, and help give them a voice in their country's future.

15). MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR ZIP CODE

Go to volunteermatch.org which can connect you to ways to volunteer right in your own community.

16). PREVENT BLINDNESS

Buy Tom's glasses (toms.com) and a portion of your purchase will go to help someone in Asia receive sight-saving treatments for their eyes.

17). PASS ON YOUR FAVORITE BOOK

Give a book to globalliteracyproject.org and your used books will go to help youth deprived of reading materials so they can learn to read.

18). HELP STOP SEX ABUSERS

\$10 to equalitynow.org helps provide legal support for victims who are pursuing cases against their assailants.

19). SAY 'HATS OFF' TO POVERTY

\$35 (& under) will buy you a cute crocheted cap and keep women in Uganda working and educated. [www. Krochetkids.org](http://www.Krochetkids.org)

20). PRESERVE OUR OCEANS

\$38 will save half a mile of ocean from overfishing and pollution. www.conservation.org

21). BUY A COUNSELING SESSION FOR A RETURNING SOLDIER

\$17 to www.giveanhour.org will help a soldier with 1 hour of time to process his/her experience.

22). CARE FOR A CHIMP HARMED BY HUNTERS

\$10 to janegoodall.org buys 22 pounds of food for her renowned chimp clinic in the Republic of Congo.

23). HELP GIRLS GROW AND STOP DEFORESTATION

\$2 to the greenbeltmovement.org pays a disadvantaged Kenyan girl to plant a tree and care for it as she grows.

24). PAY A STUDENT'S BUS FARE

\$40 to artistforpeaceandjustice.org gets bus fare for a child in the slums of Haiti to go to school for two months.

25). BUY A SALAD; HELP AN AT-RISK TEEN

\$25 to whyhunger.org helps needy kids grow produce both for their family's fridge and to sell at farmer's markets.



Music Ministry

As we prepare for Christmas, I thought it might be interesting to write a little about where Christmas comes from...

Christmas, of course, is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It wasn't always the highlight of the Christmas season, though. Epiphany, with its gift giving and start of Jesus' public ministry was considered to be the culmination of the season.

The day of Christmas (December 25) was the first feast day in medieval times and on the twelve days that followed a simple gift was given each day, similar to Hanukah. Twelve days later, we have "Twelfth Night" or Epiphany and give more gifts. Epiphany seemed to be the logical time to give gifts, because that was the celebration of the Magi giving gifts to Jesus.

Traditions vary from place to place, of course, but many believe that we got to our current situation of celebrating one day for Christmas instead of all those days was due to the Industrial Revolution. When people moved from subsistence farming to town and had jobs, owners didn't like 13 days of downtime every winter, so things started shifting towards a Christmas-only celebration.

And that's one part of how we got to our current Christmas celebration.

Come Sing on Christmas!

Come be a part of a great group of singers, just for the holidays. Rehearsals are fun and the choir is a warm, welcoming group who treats everyone like part of the family. Try us out!



Rehearsals

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals
Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Lessons & Carols Rehearsal and Potluck
Saturday, December 17, 10:00-NOON

Christmas Eve Rehearsal
Saturday, December 24, 10:00 PM

Worship

Lessons & Carols
December 18th, 9:45 AM Service

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 10:30 PM Service

Outreach Mission

Advent Mitten Tree – Plus PJ's!

Let's really spread the warmth this season! During Advent our Mitten Tree will be in place in the atrium, ready to be decorated with colorful **mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves for children** in our community. Last year we supplied mittens, etc. to the children in our transitional housing family, to children at Community of Peace Academy, and to children living at Liberty Plaza. Let's cover the tree again this Advent in warmth and love! And UNDER the tree this year, we will collect **new pajamas for men, women, boys and girls in all sizes** for guests at Project Home family shelter. Nothing like cuddling up in warm clean pajamas after a long and tiring day! Thanks for thinking of families in need this holiday season by giving the gift of warmth.



2012 Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study *a Christmas gift idea...*

Bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God - that's the theme for this year's Mission Yearbook. It's a wonderful resource for every Presbyterian - for personal devotion, to follow the daily lectionary, to read about and connect with what your church is doing in almost every corner of the globe - bearing the fruit of the Spirit in so many wondrous ways. Books will be available on the Church and Society table in the atrium during December, at a cost of \$11 each. Check it out! - It might just be the perfect gift for a Presbyterian on your Christmas list, and/or for yourself.



Christmas Joy Offering - Good News of Great Joy! *Sunday, December 18th*



As we celebrate the good news of great joy - God's love in human form is now among us! - may we open our hearts and may our gifts bear joyful witness to that uncontainable love. The Christmas Joy Offering supports scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges, helping students develop their gifts and find their calling. It also assists families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Your gift to this offering helps sisters and brother in Christ at times of great promise and time of great need. There are special envelopes in the pew, or mark your check or envelope for Christmas Joy Offering. Thank you for your generosity!

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!



Thank you for the beautiful flowers delivered to my home last Sunday after church. I want to thank all of my friends at North Como for their thoughts and prayers.
June Gabel

SEASONS GREETINGS! Have a Blessed Holiday Season



Christmas Eve Services
December 24
4:00 pm & 10:30 pm
(no worship on Christmas Day)

Grounds Care Help Needed

After a long and faithful service keeping North Como plants, shrubs and grass in good condition, Roger Seaborg will be "cutting back" his efforts. Corporation Committee is looking for volunteers who would be willing to pick up the load. Training will be available. Specific jobs include 1. mowing the grass in areas the tractor can not reach, 2. grass trimming in the same areas, including the preschool enclosure, 3. Maintenance of that mower. Please leave a message with Chris in the office or in the Corporation mail drawer.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

For 2011 tax deductibility, your contribution must be received in the office, or postmarked by December 31. This is a requirement of the Internal Revenue Service that the church follows. To ensure your church contributions are tax deductible, do not file your 2011 income tax return until you have received your year-end contribution statement.

2011 statements will be mailed from the church office by the end of January.



NCCPC Operating & Cornerstone through October

	Actual	YTD Budget	Actual minus Budget
Current year contributions & other income:	119,910	119,352	558
Ministry expenses:	85,088	95,524	-10,436
Total income - expense:	34,822	23,828	10,994

Progressive Dinner

You are cordially invited to the:

North Como Presbyterian
Annual Adult
Progressive
Dinner



Saturday

December 10, 2011

Appetizers ~ 6:00 pm

Dinner ~ 7:30 pm

Dessert ~ 9:15 pm

\$15.00 per person
(plus you will be asked to bring a salad or appetizer)

Reservations are necessary!!

RSVP with check by December 5th to Bob Jensen.

Questions...feel free to call Syd Jensen.

A sign-up sheet is available on the

Opportunities Table in the Atrium.

Please consider hosting dinner for
6-10 people.

It will be wonderful!



North Como Preschool



Greetings from North Como Preschool!

The preschool has been busy with conferences, pictures and Grandparent's Day. We are also gearing up for our Winter Program and gingerbread home making with our families in December. There are still a few openings in our four year old class on Tuesday and Thursday. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer at 651.488.7137 or director@northcomopreschool.org

Earth Care Team

Happy Green Holidays to Everyone!



Just A Reminder

“Recycle Your Holidays” is a non-profit run holiday light recycling program in its 3rd year. You can drop off any unwanted holiday light strands for FREE at one of over 400 locations in Minnesota between November 15 and the end of January. This program employs over 200 individuals with developmental disabilities at vocational centers throughout the state. Every bulb of the light strand is dismantled by vocational center clients and then properly recycled in MN. The program can help you, the environment, and provides jobs, too. How great is that! **Just a few of the locations are:** all Frattalone’s Ace Hardware stores, Ace Suburban of Roseville, Macalester College Sustainability Office, St. Paul Dept. of Natural Resources, St. Paul Pollution Control Agency, and Como Park Zoo & Conservatory. P.S. - Don’t forget if you need to get new lights, be sure to buy LED’s. They are safe, energy-efficient and will pay for themselves in one season!

Reuse and Recycle through Kaposia this Christmas Season

As you clean for the holidays, keep this list handy. There might be some things on it that you could give away to be reused and that would make some people in the Kaposia program very happy:

GENTLY USED CLOTHING - Kaposia is looking for gently used, everyday clothes (especially sweatshirts & sweatpants) for men & women in sizes L & XL.

OLD MAGAZINES - These can get used twice: once when someone looks at pictures & articles and the second time to cut up for scrapbooks & crafts.

CALENDARS - The pictures from old calendars are prized for scrapbooking and new calendars (in case you’re given a few too many) are given as gifts to the people Kaposia serves.

CHRISTMAS CARDS - Both used & new cards are accepted for reuse.

CRAFT STUFF - The people in Steve Sarrazin’s group love getting old stickers, crayons, pencils and, of course, things like glue, glitter, etc. for scrapbooking & crafts. If you find that you have any old supplies you would like to get rid of just bring them to church because Kaposia will be happy to take them!

Please leave any items for Kaposia in the hallway under the coat rack near the office & label it “Kaposia” or “Steve Sarrazin” throughout the month of December. *(cont. on pg. 11)*

Earth Care Team (cont.)

HEALING HUMMINGBIRD HABITS

Between Thanksgiving & New Year's Day, household waste increases 25% because of the extra food waste, wrapping paper, packaging & decorations. However, there are many things you can do during the holidays to reduce waste, such as:

1. Giving a gift that conserves natural resources such as memberships, fun experiences, energy efficient household items, handmade gifts made with materials you already have, or a loving gift of service like babysitting or fixing something.
2. Use alternative gift wrap like old newspapers/comics, posters, maps, or sheet music, a bit of yardage, reused gift boxes or bags, reusable cloth bags, plus saved and reused bows & ribbons.
3. I make split pea soup with my leftover ham bone and New Year's Day the relations get together to bring leftovers to share. We not only freeze extra food but send home "care packages". Is there anyone you know who might enjoy an extra meal or left over dinner rolls & homemade soup? May your Christmas season be "green" and full of both joy and hope!

Stephen Ministry — Keeping Confidences

Confidentiality, as you may have read or heard before, is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry. What a care receiver says to his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strictest confidence. Even the identity of a care receiver is kept secret (unless the care receiver chooses to tell someone).

Confidentiality gives care receivers the reassurance they need so that they can risk revealing to their Stephen Minister their deepest thoughts and feelings, details they might not be able to discuss with anyone else. It is through the sharing of innermost feelings that God can work the miracle of healing, restoring faith and hope to care receivers' lives. Without the assurance of confidentiality, most care receivers would have a difficult time opening up, which would impede the healing process.

How does this relate to you, as a member of North Como? Even if you are not a Stephen Minister, think about the importance of confidentiality in your day-to-day relationships. Consider how you can improve relationships and help people's personal healing by maintaining confidentiality when something is told to you.

When someone shares a personal feeling, a thought that is troubling them, or something for which they might feel guilty, it can be very tempting to pass that information along to someone. Even when motives are noble (for instance, wanting to pass the info along as a prayer request), could be damaging or painful to the person who first shared the information.

If you really believe it is something that needs to be passed along-to a prayer chain, pastor, Stephen Leader, or someone else-tell that to the person who shared it. Explain why you believe others should know, and encourage him or her to pass it along to the appropriate person(s), or get permission from the individual for you to share the information yourself.





North Como Presbyterian
965 Larpenteur Ave West
Roseville, MN 55113

p: 651.488.5581
f: 651.488.3590

www.northcomochurch.org

facebook.com/
northcomochurch

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.

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage PAID
St. Paul, MN
Permit No. 3712

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 *chris@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

December Calendar Highlights

Sundays, Dec. 4, 11, 18—11:00 am

Saturday, Dec. 10 — 8:00 am

Saturday, Dec. 10 — 6:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 15 — 7:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 18 — 9:45 am

Saturday, Dec. 24 — 4 pm & 10:30 pm

Monday, Dec. 26

Advent Festival Activities

Spiritual Retreat

Progressive Dinner

Session Party @ Pastor David's

Lessons & Carols / Children's Pageant

Christmas Eve Services

(No worship on Christmas Day)

OFFICE CLOSED

- E-Note submissions due by noon on Tuesdays to: seanj@northcomochurch.org
 - Sunday bulletin submissions due by noon on Wednesdays
 - January Notes articles due the 2nd Thursday of the month – December 8 by 3pm

Please email your submissions to: chris@northcomochurch.org

