



Northminster GAIT

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Children Contribute to Worship!

Submitted by Pastor Stacey Jones

Every one of us, young and old, can assist in the ministry of the church. Indeed, every one of us is called to assist in the ministry of the church. Messages and service do not come only from the pulpit. Nor do they come only from adults.

Every person, including every child, is given gifts to use to enrich the worship of the entire community. Children bring their complete involvement, their eagerness to participate, their laughter, their questions, and their imagination. Involving children creatively in worship can, in turn, cultivate the worship of others. For example, in a congregation of all ages, the use of sign language to interpret a hymn may bring smiles to many faces. People become more animated and more likely to notice their neighbors and assist others as they try the signs.

Children can also minister to adults in worship. First, children contribute by their very presence. Everything is new to them, and they help us see God through their new eyes. They ask questions that help us clarify our beliefs and add energy to our own prayers to God.

Second, when children are included in congregational worship, adults can experience firsthand the strength of metaphors used in the Bible, as mentioned in previous months.

Statements about receiving the kingdom of God like a child have more power when children are present with us.

Remembering Sunday worship service, five-year-old Missy met the pastor in the hall on the following Wednesday.

She grinned and said, "I liked the drama story last Sunday!"

"Wonderful!" the pastor thought. "Real learning must have happened during the Scripture interpretation that the older children presented last Sunday."

"What was the story about?" asked the pastor.

Missy thought a bit and then said, "Ummmmm, I forget. Something about God."

She didn't remember the details, but she did remember that there was a dramatic interpretation of Scripture that included and appealed to children. But there was more that she wanted to say.

"I hope you have another drama next Sunday....because I didn't get to be in the story last time."

Missy wanted to participate actively, to be a part of what happened during worship.

We're FIVE for FIVE!



FIVE for FIVE means that our congregation supports Presbyterian mission around the corner and around the globe through the four church wide Special Offerings and basic mission support. Over one hundred congregations have been recognized as FIVE for FIVE churches this past year, and ours is one of them.

The four church wide Special Offerings include One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy Offering, Peacemaking Offering, and the Pentecost Offering. Basic mission support is the term used for those funds that support the basic mission and ministry programs of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly (also referred to as GASP).

Because we are a connectional church offering mutual support, both spiritual and financial, our brothers and sisters carry out extraordinary ministry in our name around the country and around the world. Disaster victims receive immediate and long-term relief. Clean water projects transform whole communities. The elderly are cared for. Young people are given opportunities to discover their calling in Jesus Christ. Pastors and educators are provided the tools they need to carry out faithful ministry.

FIVE for FIVE is a simple idea. It affirms the ongoing faithfulness of a congregation. It reminds us that others carry out amazing ministries on our behalf because of our support. It recognizes that every church—large, small, and in between—has an important role in making mission happen. Let's rejoice that our congregation's commitment and generosity resulted in a \$936.37 collection for the 2008 Pentecost Offering in June.

Accolytes for July

The upcoming schedule for candle lighters is as follows:

July 6 Nick and Garrett Johnson

July 13 Connor Olson and Andrea Daley

July 20 Tierney and Claire Rogers

July 27 Joint services at Collegiate Presbyterian Church

August 3 Jack Rogers and Ben Sulzberger

THANKS EVERYONE FOR HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES. YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB.

HABITS

Submitted by Karen Thompson

So many times habits are the things we'd rather not have – biting our fingernails, eating too much, or piling our clothes on a chair. BUT, putting 2 cents into a bank at each meal is one habit we can encourage. How is yours growing?



A few coins aren't very much by themselves, but as the numbers of people who get the habit increase, so will the results. Here at Northminster, we have collected \$653.75 so far this year. Pretty impressive habit, huh?

Don't forget to put your **Cents-Ability** donation in a jar or bank each time you eat. Also take time each day to thank God for your food and care, to remember those who do not have enough to eat, and to ask that God to reveal new ways in which you and all of us can respond to the needs of the poor and hungry, here and around the world.

Deacons

“Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord God... and upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.” Psalm 146: 5-7

What Is Dinners With Eight?

Submitted by Greg Daley

It has come to my attention that some people don't know what Dinners with Eight is all about. Here is a brief overview of what it was, and what it is to become.....

The first round was made up of five groups of eight people-couples and individuals-trying to meet once a month for four months. Some groups got to meet four times, while others had difficulty getting together this many times.

Feedback from all who talked to me was that it was very enjoyable and something that they would do again.

This next round will have more than five groups of eight people. I am in the process of asking people if they would like to join in the fun. The “rules” are slightly altered to better meet the requirement of meeting four times in four months. It has been renamed “Dinners with About Eight” (!). This means if you can get at least six people together, that is acceptable. Our group rotated homes each time with the host home providing the main meal, and one couple (or two singles) providing an appetizer, one providing bread and/or salad, and one providing dessert. This is just a suggestion. You may want to meet at a restaurant or at the church to make things easier. The point of these get-togethers is to get to know your congregation members better, and most of all to just have fun!

Please consider joining this opportunity when I ask, as it makes for a good time. The dinners will start up again in August, as I have a number of people to contact on my list of hopefuls.

Church News

Spaghetti Supper Fund Raiser

Come join the Youth Group for a Spaghetti Supper on Saturday July 12th from 5:30-8 p.m. We will serve you up some of Chris's famous spaghetti sauce (just ask his mother-in-law how good it is) along with some salad and dessert. All you have to do is come hungry, give generously, and enjoy hardily. The proceeds will go to fund their mission trip to Flint, MI.

The congregation has been so supportive of the Youth group. We have sold a good number of stocks, but could still use more folks investing in the trip! Look for more information about our trip in the August GAIT!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is quickly approaching and we still need your help. Check out the donations chart as well as the sign up sheet in the gathering space to help us out. You do not need to have children to help with the Christian nurture of our children. Remember that when we baptize children we agree to participate in raising them to love Christ. This is one way we can fulfill this obligation. We really need the entire congregation to participate this year. If you have any questions please see Pastor Stacey or Lori Sulzberger.

CHURCH WIDE POTLUCK

On Sunday August 3rd we will kick off our VBS with a church wide potluck. This is not just for those participating in VBS. The entire congregation is invited to attend and enjoy some fellowship as well as see all the excitement of the beginning of VBS. Everyone needs to bring a main dish. Then, if your last name starts A-L please bring a salad and if your last name starts with M-Z please bring a dessert.

VBS REGISTRATION

Registration forms are now available for VBS in the gathering space. Please fill one out and turn it in by July 29. Be sure to take a couple extra for your friends and neighbors.

Happenings in July

Anniversaries:

July 29th Dennis and Tijana Grove

Birthdays:

July 1st: Ginny Jackson
July 7th: Jerry Parsons
July 10th: Jackie Schmidt
July 13th: Alex Jones
July 15th: Susan Cross
July 18th: Emily Helmer
Linda Meetz
July 19th: Joyce Busse
July 20th: Mack Maffett
July 23rd: Ben Rogers
July 27th: David Briseno
July 31st: Don Goering

GAIT Deadline for August is Wednesday, July 23rd. Please e-mail your articles to rpcykp@msn.com or put them in the GAIT editor's box next to the church office